HONOR ROLL OF MASSACHUSETTS PATRIOTS HERETOFORE UNKNOWN: BEING A LIST OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO LOANED MONEY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DURING THE YEARS 1777-1779

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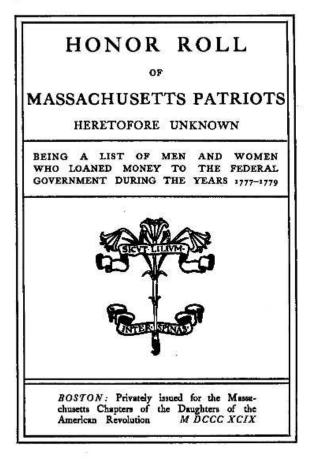
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HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY BIFT OF DAVID HELL COOLIDEE W May 25,1923



902 F St., Washington, D.C., Jan. 31, 1899.

Mrs. Amos G. Draper, Kendall Green, Washington, D.C.:

Dear Madam :

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of January 30, and in reply would say that the descendants of those who loaned money to the Government during the Revolutionary War are entitled to membership in this Society.

> Yours very truly, (Miss) Susan Riviere Hetzel, Reg. Gen., N.S., D.A.R.

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PREFACE.

WHILE it is a well-known fact that a preface is seldom read, a few words stating who the men and women were whose names appear on the following Roll of Honor, what service they rendered their Government, and why their names have not been published before, seem necessary for an intelligent appreciation of this book.

At the time of the American Revolution, far more even than in the days of Cicero, the truth of the adage "Money is the sinews of war" had been proven. As civilization advances, implements of warfare become more numerous and intricate; more importance is attached to the quality and effective force of the machine, and a correspondingly less degree to mere brute strength. How best to obtain these "sinews" was one of the most important questions brought up for consideration by the early Continental Congresses. As early as May 20, 1777, and again on April 11, 1778, bills of credit were issued "for the redemption of which the faith of the United States was solemnly pledged," and all persons throughout the country were exhorted to show their patriotism by taking them.

Very soon the country was flooded not only with these, but with counterfeits, "issued by our enemies at New York," who doubtless felt that "all things were fair in love and war." After a long discussion, Congress passed on Jan. 2, 1779, a resolution (the full text of which is given later) withdrawing from circulation the whole emissions of the above-mentioned dates, and providing that all such bills deposited in the various loan offices before the first of June of that year be redeemed. This date was afterwards changed to Jan. 1, 1780, by Resolve of Congress July 2, 1779, chiefly on the representation of the Legislature of North Carolina, "that from the difficulties of communicating intelligence in that State, and the remote situation of its inhabitants, it was impossible that they should receive seasonable notice."

It was ordered that the names of each person depositing bills at any of the loan offices be registered, together with the amounts deposited, and that these names and amounts be forwarded to the Treasury "immediately after the first day of June." On June 29 it was resolved that the owners of these bills of credit might have them exchanged for certificates in a new loan to be negotiated, and many of them did as desired.

About two years ago, while I was examining some of the many articles of interest in the Treasury Department, the clerk in charge said : "Here is a book in which you, as a Daughter of the American Revolution, may be interested." It contained, among other papers, --- such as "Account of Sales No. 4, of 29,105 Mexican Dollars in Bills of Exchange drawn on the Hon. Benj. Franklin Esq. Minister Plenipotentiary at the court of Versailles at 90 days sight," "Receipts of Interest paid by Commissioner of Mass. to settle the public accounts,"-three accounts which especially attracted my attention. They were the " indented receipts" forwarded to the National Treasury by the loan offices in Massachusetts, which had been discovered about twenty-five years before while the office was undergoing repairs, and bound for the sake of preservation. I at once recognized their value as a means of establishing a claim for entrance into the