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GOVERNOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE The Honorable GERALD GETTYS TYRRELL

We All Lost a Friend – Timothy Field Beard



Tim Beard died on February 13, 2015 and across the country he left a multitude of friends from the Society of Colonial Wars as well as many other heritage organizations. He was 84. Tim joined the Society of Colonial Wars in 1966, became Deputy Registrar General in 1991 and Registrar General in 1996. He approved over 3,000 new member applications from 1996 until 2015 and almost as many supplemental applications. Most of our current members were approved by Tim who also served as Governor of the New York Society and the Connecticut Society.

He was considered to be one of the leading genealogists of his day and in 1997 he was elected as a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, one of only 50 Fellows who can serve at the same time. His book *How to Find Your Family Roots* was published in 1977 and has become a classic in the field. Besides his work with us he has served with eight other heritage organizations and led six of them according to our 2013 *Yearbook*.

In a 2010 interview Tim was quoted in the *Register Citizen* of Torrington, Connecticut when asked about history, "...when you teach history without names it becomes just dry facts. People were the ones who lived history. When people say they don't like history, well, it's the way they teach it." This quote reminds me of our *Purpose* which includes "...the memory of those events and the men who by their acts or counsel were in truth the founders of this nation. Tim Beard's life work can be likened to putting people back into history.

Tim made many friends throughout our Society as he performed his great service for us. Part of this was his willingness to repair errors in membership applications rather than return them. His support of State Societies registrars and sharing of aspects of genealogy with them was a vital part of Tim Beard's service. Those practices will be continued by his successor.

Jesse Louis Hagan became our fifth Registrar General in February 2015 by succession. Since then he has approved 40 applications and is currently up-to-date. Jesse, who has been a professional genealogist for 30 years, has done in excess of 200 membership applications for the Kentucky Society, as well as applications for S.A.R., D.A.R., Mayflower and many for the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Before Jesse became Registrar General he also did applications papers for the New York Society and the New Jersey Society. New Jersey asked Jesse to do the application for Mayor Graeme Outerbridge of Hamilton, Bermuda who joined the New Jersey Society in a special ceremony during the meeting in Bermuda.

Jesse will be an industrious and knowledgeable Registrar General who has already jumped into the breach left by Tim's demise. However, we will all miss Tim Beard, his wit, his counsel, his friendship and his countless and most effective wisdom that enabled him to influence those around him in ways that are evocative of the colonial gentleman of yore; the true founders of our nation.

Remember the *Purpose* and have a Jolly Good Time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Gettys Tyrrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.