

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “9/05/74 - Manuscript Society” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

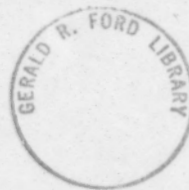
August 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Clem Conger

FROM:

Susan Porter



Mrs. Nixon has agreed to receive the Manuscript Society on Thursday, September 5, 1974, and I suggest 2:00 p.m. Per our conversation, we will let you be in communication with Mr. Steven Carson to this effect.

I shall transfer the file on this to Lucy Winchester and Susan Dolibois who will be working on arrangements.

Thank you.

c: PN In-House Pending
Social Office
Rex Scouten
Mike Farrell

The Manuscript Society

An International Organization of Collectors

TO FOSTER THE GREATER USE OF ORIGINAL SOURCE MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL IN THE STUDY, TEACHING AND WRITING OF HISTORY TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE AMONG RESEARCHERS, SCHOLARS AND COLLECTORS . . . TO ENCOURAGE THE MEETING OF COLLECTORS AND STIMULATE AMONG THEM IN THEIR VARIOUS COLLECTING SPECIALTIES.

914 Eye Street S.E.
Washington D.C. 20003
July 17, 1974

Mrs. Richard M. Nixon
First Lady of the United States
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mrs. Nixon:

The White House Curator, Clement E. Conger, has delighted the Society with the news of your interest in our proposed plans to hold a session of our annual meeting in the East Room of the White House. We are hoping to hold this session on Thursday, September 5, 1974.

Your invitation and your presence would be nothing less than overwhelming, and we are, to say the least, deeply grateful that you may be able to honor the Society by allowing this unusual event. To my knowledge, this would be an historic first for the White House. What we hope to do with your kind permission is to have a series of readings by a number of presidential descendants from their ancestors works. While descendants have gathered in the White House before, I do not believe they have ever formally read or discussed the works of their presidential ancestors. So far the Presidents represented include Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, William Henry Harrison, Benjamin Harrison, and Theodore Roosevelt. There is a very good chance others will respond affirmatively, especially, of course, if you grant us permission to make the White House our setting.

I am enclosing a descriptive leaflet about The Manuscript Society including a copy of our Constitution. I am also enclosing a copy of our quarterly journal, Manuscripts. You might be especially interested in the article beginning on page 88. Former Presidents and current directors include the Librarian of Congress, L. Quincy Mumford, and the recent biographer of Mary Todd Lincoln, Justin Turner. Our membership includes authors, writers, scholars, collectors and businessmen. Please let me know if there is any further information you might like. Mr. Mumford is also available should you wish to contact him.

I hope 2-5p.m. on September 5 are good hours for you. By allowing us to meet in the White House, and with your presence, the occasion will be ever more memorable. With all good wishes.

Sincerely,

Steven Lee Carson

Steven Lee Carson
Chairman,

Local Arrangements Committee



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914 Eye Street S.E.
Washington D.C. 20003
June 21, 1974

Mr. Clement E. Conger
Curator
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Clem:

I am glad we were able to speak yesterday on the telephone before I leave tomorrow for a week's vacation. I will be back June 29th. If you have any questions beforehand you can contact the Librarian of Mount Vernon, John Castellani, at 780-2000. I mention this as we really have to know and firm up the details before July 9th when the program must go to the printer.

The names and addresses of our speakers that you requested are:

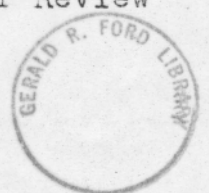
Mr. John Augustine Washington
6801 Delaware Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Mr. Thomas B. Adams
Room 418
50 Congress Street
Boston, Mass. 02109

Mr. Thomas Jefferson Eppes
5413 Williamsburg Blvd.
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Mr. William H. Harrison Jr.
Deputy Director-Office of Review
U.S. Renegotiation Board
Washington D.C. 20446

Mr. Kermit Roosevelt, Jr.
5501 Hawthorne Street N.W.
Washington D.C.



They will represent seven Presidents. I may also ask Sue Roosevelt if we can get one of her daughters Nancy or Laura Delano. We deeply appreciate your offer of assistance here and in getting other presidential descendents to read from their ancestor's works which we can supply if they wish. We are trying to keep our list down to the early leaders and if you could help us with the following it would be most helpful: Tyler, Grant, Hayes, Cleveland, and Senator Robert Taft Jr.

The day we are aiming for is Thursday, September 5 at 2p.m. and we hope this is suitable for Mrs. Nixon. This is after Labor Day. Would you be interested in chairing this session? We would certainly be honored and all you need do is coordinate their speaking and introduce them from brief biographies they can supply you. I hope I may hear from you soon, and again, with many thanks,

Sincerely,

Steven Lee Carson
Chairman, Local
Arrangements

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Steve Carson
546-1854

MRS. FORD:

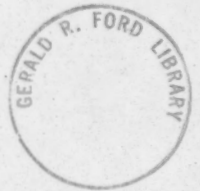
Event: Manuscript Society

Date/Time: Thursday, September 5, 1974 2:15 p.m.

Place: Executive Office Building Briefing Room

Number of Attendees: 240 persons

Schedule of Events:



2:15 p.m.

Lucy Winchester will escort you to the Executive Office Building Briefing Room. The members of the Manuscript Society will be seated in the room and the Presidential descendants who will be the speakers will be seated on the stage.

As you enter the room you will proceed to the microphone and make brief welcoming remarks. (Mr. Conger will send you suggested remarks and background information.)

Following your remarks, photographs will be taken as you greet each Presidential descendant. (Note attachment)

2:30 p.m.

Lucy Winchester will escort you to the Family Quarters. Their program will continue.

NOTES:

A copy of their program is attached.

Susan L. Dolibois
September 4, 1974

PRESIDENTIAL DESCENDANTS

* in the order in which they will be seated - left to right

John Augustine Washington

Great, great, great grand nephew of Washington's brother

Thomas B. Adams

Great, great, great grandson of John Adams

Great, great grandson of John Quincy Adams

Thomas Jefferson Eppes

Great, great, great, great, great grandson of Thomas Jefferson
(The Treasurer of the American Academy of Arts and Science)

William Henry Harrison, Jr.

Great, great, great grandson of William Henry Harrison
(His father was a congressman from Ohio and served with
President Ford.)

John Scott Harrison

Great, great grandson of Benjamin Harrison

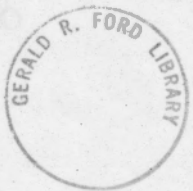
Webb Cook Hayes, III

Great grandson of Rutherford B. Hayes
(President Ford was his football coach at Yale.)

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves

Oldest grandchild of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt
Daughter of Anna

Also, Steve Carson, Chairman, Local Arrangements Committee will
be seated on the stage.



* in the order in which they will be seated - left to right

John Augustine Washington
Great, great, great grand nephew of Washington's brother

Thomas B. Adams
Great, great, great grandson of John Adams
Great, great grandson of John Quincy Adams

Thomas Jefferson Epes
Great, great, great grandson of Thomas Jefferson
(The Treasurer of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences)
WH photographs -
Sampling of photos

William Henry Harrison, Jr.
Great, great, great grandson of William Henry Harrison
(His father was a congressman from Ohio and served with
President Ford.)



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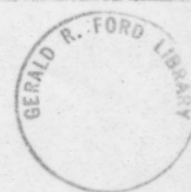
John Scott Harrison
Great, great grandson of Benjamin Harrison
W.C. Hayes
Great grandson of Rufus B. Hayes
(President Ford was his football coach at Yale.)

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Daughter of Anna
Mrs. Lee Carson

The Manuscript Society
914 Eye Street Southeast
Wash DC 20003

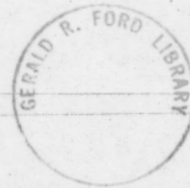
IT IS SUCH A PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO MEET WITH YOU THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTINGUISHED MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY. I KNOW THAT YOURS IS A MOST IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE IMPORTANT CAUSE OF PRESERVING AND SAFE-GUARDING THE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS OF AMERICA. I KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT AN EASY TASK, BUT IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THE MAINTENANCE, TEACHING AND RECORDING THE ACCURATE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY AND ITS MOST IMPORTANT CITIZENS.

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IT IS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE FOR ME TO MEET SEVEN DISTINGUISHED DESCENDENTS OF EIGHT FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE SEATED HERE ON THIS PLATFORM. IT IS A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME PERSONALLY, THAT THIS UNUSUALLY INTERESTING MEETING COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE AS I HAD PLANNED. AS YOU HAVE NO DOUBT LEARNED BY NOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE ON INFLATION WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN THE EAST ROOM ALL DAY TODAY.

THIS GROUP OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS ARE HERE TO HELP RESOLVE THE GREATEST
PROBLEM FACING THE COUNTRY TODAY -- INFLATION. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU
ALL UNDERSTAND THAT EXCEPT FOR THIS IMPORTANT MEETING OF ECONOMIC
EXPERTS, YOUR GROUP WOULD BE ASSEMBLED IN THE EAST ROOM AT THIS MOMENT.
I WISH TO ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT ALL OF YOU ARE INVITED TO COME
TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A SPECIAL PRIVATE VISIT THIS SATURDAY AT 1:⁴⁵~~30~~
IN THE AFTERNOON.



I WISH YOU GREAT SUCCESS, NOT ONLY FOR THIS MEETING BUT FOR THE
FUTURE WORK OF SAFEGUARDING AMERICA'S DOCUMENTS AND HISTORIC HERITAGE.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



Suggested remarks for Mrs. Ford on the occasion of the
27th Annual Meeting of the Manuscript Society - President's
Briefing Room - Executive Office Building.

Thursday, September 5, 1974 2:00 P.M.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Manuscript Society. What a pleasure it is for me to have the opportunity to greet the membership of the distinguished Manuscript Society here today. I know that yours is a most important organization devoted to the important cause of preserving and safe-guarding the historic documents of America. I know that this is not an easy task, but it is so important for the maintenance, teaching and recording the accurate history of our country and its most important citizens.

It is a particular pleasure for me to meet seven distinguished descendents of eight former Presidents of the United States who are seated here on this platform. It is a great disappointment to me personally, that this unusually interesting meeting could not have taken place in the East Room of the White House as ~~planned~~ I had planned. As you have no doubt learned by now, the President has called a meeting of the Economic Conference on Inflation which is

taking place in the East Room all day today. This group of economic experts are here to help resolve the greatest problem facing the country today - inflation. I am confident that you all understand that except for this important ^{of economic experts} meeting, your group would be assembled in the East Room at this moment. I wish to assure you, however, that all of you are invited to come to the White House for a special private visit this Saturday at 1:30 in the afternoon.

I wish you great success, not only for this meeting but for the future work of safeguarding America's documents and historic heritage.

(C.E. Conger September 4, 1974)

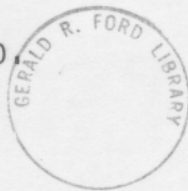


27TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1974 2:00 PM

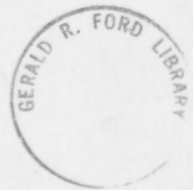
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Historical Society - Sept 5, 1974 -
-2-

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