

U.S. Continental Congress

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WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD
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That the several deputies account quarterly with the general post office, and the postmaster general annually with the continental treasurers, when he shall pay into the rec^t of the s^d Treasurers, the profits of the Post Office; and if the necessary expence of this establishment should exceed the produce of it, the deficiency shall be made good by the United Colonies, and paid to the postmaster general by the continental Treas^r.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the postmaster general to establish a weekly post to South Carolina.

That it be left to the postmaster general to appoint a sec^y and comptroller.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of a postmaster general for one year, and until another is appointed by a future Congress, when Benjamin Franklin, Esq^r was unanimously chosen.

Adjourned till to Morrow at 8 o'Clock.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1775

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on establishing an hospital, and the same being debated, was agreed to as follows:

That for the establishment of an hospital for an army, consisting of 20,000 men, the following officers and other attendants be appointed, with the following allowance or pay, viz.

One Director general and chief physician, his pay per day, 4 dollars.¹

Four surgeons, per diem each, one and one third of a dollar.

¹The original plan provided for a Director general and a Physician, each to receive four dollars a day.

One apothecary, one and one third of a dollar.

Twenty [surgeons'] mates, each, two thirds of a dollar.

One clerk, two thirds of a dollar.

Two storekeepers, each four dollars per month.

One nurse to every 10 sick, one fifteenth of a dollar per day, or 2 dollars per month.

Labourers occasionally.

The duty of the above officers: viz.

Director to furnish medicines, Bedding and all other necessaries, to pay for the same, superintend the whole, and make his report to, and receive orders from the commander in chief.

Surgeons, apothecary and mates,	}	To visit and attend the sick, and the mates to obey the orders of the physicians, surgeons and apothecary.
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Matron. To superintend the nurses, bedding, &c.

Nurses. To attend the sick, and obey the matron's orders.

Clerk. To keep accounts for the director and store keepers.

Store keeper. To receive and deliver the bedding and other necessaries by order of the director.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the sum of twenty five thousand dollars be paid by the continental treasurers to Reese Meredith, George Clymer, Samuel Meredith and Samuel Mifflin, Merch^{ts} of the city of Philad^a, and that the like sum of twenty five thousand dollars be paid by the s^d Treasurers to Philip Livingston, John Alsop and Francis Lewis, Merch^{ts} of New York, to be by them applyed to the purpose of importing gunpowder for the continental armies, and that they be allowed out of the same five p^t cent: for their trouble and expences therein, that they keep all their proceedings as much as possible a

secret from every other person but the Congress and the general of the continental forces for the time being; that they keep up a correspondence with the s^d general, and make such dispositions of the powder they may import as he shall order.¹

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of officers for the Hospital, when,

Benjamin Church was unanimously elected as director of, and chief physician in, the hospital.

Resolved, That the appointment of the four surgeons and the Apothecary be left to Doct^r Church.

That the Mates be appointed by the Surgeons;

That the number do not exceed twenty; and

That the number be not kept in constant pay, unless the sick and wounded should be so numerous as to require the attendance of twenty, and to be diminished as circumstances will admit; for wth purpose, the pay is fixed by the day, that they may only receive pay for actual service.

That one Clerk, two storekeepers, and one nurse to every 10 sick, be appointed by the Director.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That the paymaster give bond, with two sureties, in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his office.

That the bond be made payable to the same persons, as the bonds of the continental treasurers are payable to.

James Warren, unanimously elected pay master general.

Resolved, That the pay master in the New York department give bond to the same persons as above directed, with two sureties, in the sum of twenty five thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his Office.

Adjourned till to Morrow at 8 o'Clock.

¹On the margin is written "This most secret, not to be published"