

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1934

My dear Doctor Dodd:

It was with a sense of pleasure that I received the invitation to speak at the Founders' Dinner of the American Historical Association. It is with an equal sense of regret that I find it impossible to be present and personally pay tribute to the small band who remain of those forty-one historians who themselves made history on September 10, 1884.

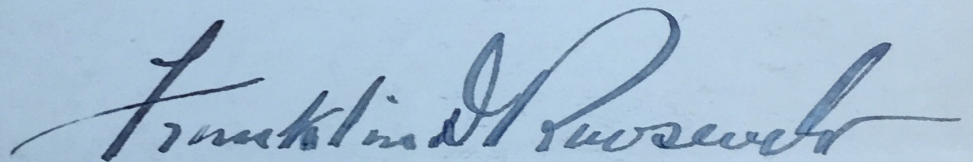
We like to commemorate the deeds of the patriots who founded and developed this great nation. When we honor these men we reconsecrate ourselves to the traditions by which they were guided and pledge ourselves to cherish the liberty they established and maintained. It is well to do this, but it is also fitting that we should remember those who have recorded the events of our history.

Due to the efforts of the American Historical Association, we know more now about the history of the United States during the Revolutionary period than was known fifty years ago. It has magically eliminated time and made our ancestors living, breathing realities instead of dim historic figures. We cannot overestimate the value of the study of the past in America in its relation to good citizenship and as an aid to the determination of the policies of the future.

The American Historical Association, however, has not confined its efforts to this

country alone. We are grateful to it for the special contributions made to the study and development of civic education throughout the world and for its distinguished aid, through history, to the wider and deeper knowledge in the whole field of social sciences.

It is therefore with appreciation that I send greetings to the American Historical Association and congratulations to those five eminent scholars to whom we are today paying homage.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'F' and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Honorable William E. Dodd,
President, American Historical Association,
Washington, D. C.