

# CINCINNATI



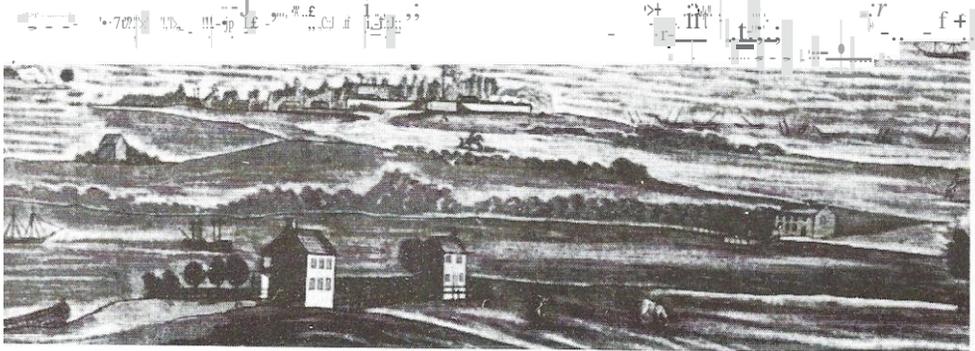
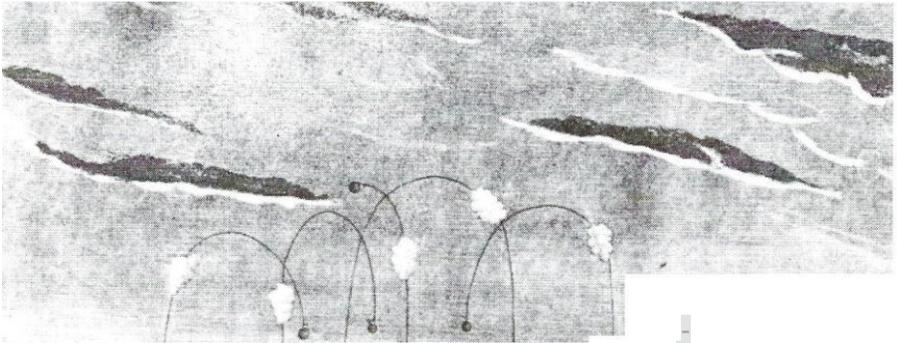
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# FOURTEEN

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A view of the bombardment of Fort Mifflin, near Baltimore, by the British Fleet taken from the observatory on the morning of the 13th of Sept., 1814, which lasted 24 hours, during which from 1500 to 1800 shells were thrown. In the night an attempt to land was forced, but was repulsed with great loss.

Aquatint engraving by J. Bower of Philadelphia. Through the courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society which holds the copyright.

## **THE STATE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI OF PENNSYLVANIA**

The Pennsylvania Cincinnati has had an extraordinarily interesting time since our last C-14 report. We start with the Anderson House house party, for our Standing Committee and their ladies, September 13-15, just past. There were four notable highlights. Two had been arranged, by our Secretary, Lewis Graham; one was a tour of the gorgeous Diplomatic Entertainment Rooms of the State Department and the other was a similar tour of the formal Reception Rooms of the White House, including the State Dining Room. The third highlight was our handsome dinner at Anderson House, a tribute to Bob Sproat's excellent work as Hospitality Chairman. The fourth was on Sunday, as the weekend windup, a beautiful luncheon graciously hosted by Bart and Hannah Cox at their lovely house on the Potomac River at Fort Washington, Maryland. The Standing Committee is very much indebted to all those who had part in the arrangements.

We held our Annual Meeting on October 4th at the City Tavern. The election of Officers and Standing Committee members made only these changes: Bart Cox for Vice President, replacing Hobie Cawood, who had resigned this office when he left Philadelphia to become president of Old Salem, Inc., in North Carolina; A. Sidney Williams who replaced John Hannum recently fully retired as a Federal Judge. We also elected to the Standing Committee Dr. John P.G. Muhlenberg.

Our speaker of the evening, obtained by our Ann Arbor member, Donald Thurber, was Dr. John C. Dann, director of the William L. Clement's Library at the University of Michigan. He was most interesting as he gave his talk with slides on the rare Americana in the Clement's Library.

The most interesting single item mentioned by Dr. Dann was his Library's copy, bound in red morocco, of the 1808 New Jersey Cincinnati Rules, By-Laws and Roster. We have learned that when New Jersey issued this Roster, that Society gave a red morocco bound copy to each of the existing State Societies- and we are happy to state, the Pennsylvania Cincinnati still has its copy! A special article in last May's C- 14 makes it clear this is a very rare book. From my own knowledge Anderson House had three red morocco bound copies! Our Washington Birthday Luncheon was a very great success. Held at the City Tavern, with some 80 in attendance, we not only had a good luncheon but an excellent talk. The speaker was Mr. Frank Williams, whose speech assisted with slides was on the little known but very important Moland House in Bucks County, near Hatboro. Here George Washington established headquarters for his 10,000 man army during the summer of 1777 while waiting for the ships of Howe and his army to reappear after they left New York. It was a long frustrating time and tested Washington' extraordinary leadership. When at last the ships appeared in Chesapeake Bay Washington marched his army south and met Howe at Brandywine.

## **ANTHONY WAYNE RIDGWAY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CINCINNATI**

Anthony Wayne Ridgway, a graduate of the Episcopal Academy, has been an outstanding teacher of senior English at that school for many years. Thus, when he turned 75 the School gave him a handsome dinner. Tony is much beloved by his students. He may also have inherited from his Cincinnati ancestor, General Anthony Wayne, skill at "Taming Indians," but he does it in a very different way!

Clifford Lewis, 3rd *Contributing Editor*

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**THOMAS BARCLAY, THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
AND THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR REPUBLIC**

Thomas Barclay was an outstanding patriot of the American Revolution. The writings of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, Morris and others contain a great deal of material on Barclay and his official letters and papers are preserved at the Library of Congress and the Archives. Yet today Barclay is virtually unknown. The Society of the Cincinnati and the Tangier American Legation Museum Society decided to do something about this. Together the two societies with the help of the Library of Congress, the Archives and the U.S. Naval Historical Center, put together an exhibition which has been on display at Anderson House during the Winter of 1991-1992.

Barclay was a selfless person who devoted the best part of his life, interests and personal fortune to our independence effort and the establishment of the new American Government. The fact that the treaty he negotiated with Morocco in 1786 is now the oldest treaty of the United States still in force attests to his merit and foresight. While there is ample official material on Barclay, there is very little about his personal life. After a ten year search, no likeness of him has ever been found. Few of his personal papers are available. His house in Philadelphia burned which probably accounts for the absence of his personal effects, except for his portable writing desk given him by Thomas Jefferson and which was part of the exhibit. For this reason, some of this account deals in part with the organizations in which he participated rather than his specific actions.

Coming to Philadelphia from Ireland at an early age, Barclay began to work for his merchant uncle, shortly afterward becoming a merchant on his own. This was at the time of the beginning of discontent with the British. As John Adams later said the American Revolution was completed before the War of Independence began. After the British drove the French out, the area between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi was reserved for Indian tribes. The Molasses, Sugar Billeting, Currency, Tea, Stamp and other Parliamentary acts intended to raise revenue and integrate the Colonies into the British empire were very abrasive and resented by many groups in the Colonies, particularly the merchants. Thomas Barclay was pre-eminent during this period in creating support for the movement to have colonists direct their own affairs. In 1774 he was named a member of the Pennsylvania Committee of Correspondence to coordinate the convening of a congress of all the colonies. The same year he became a member of the Committee of Inspection and Observation for Philadelphia.

A Parliament standing between the Colonies and the King was not acceptable to the Colonies. To assuage this feeling, in 1770 Parliament repealed the most onerous acts except the tea tax, preserved to uphold the principle of the right to tax. Too little and too late it was, except for the conservatives, insufficient to mollify the colonists. In due course the protests, riots and other public demonstrations began to turn into armed conflicts. The Continental Congress, previously a coordinating body, became, in effect, a government. With the Declaration of Independence and warfare underway in the north, defenses against the British became urgent and especially in Pennsylvania with the specific need to defend the Continental Congress sitting at Philadelphia. Several councils and other elements sharing responsibility for this defense had become ineffective due to civil and military overlap, poor organization and conflicting ideas of defense. To supersede them, Pennsylvania established a Naval Board in February 1777 which was given full authority for the naval defenses of the Delaware Bay and adjoining waters. Thomas Barclay was one of

its members. The short time remaining before the Howes' descent upon Philadelphia made effective defenses impossible. Washington kept his forces mobile and the Congress moved to York, Pa. Philadelphia was taken in September 1777. There followed a series of engagements in which the British reduced American defenses along the river and bay. Still, the British suffered serious losses, such as the **Augusta**, in the campaign which was particularly fierce in October and November 1777. The departure of Admiral d'Estaing's fleet from Toulon for America changed the balance, forcing British withdrawal to the New York area in June 1778. The Navy Board then resumed rebuilding the defenses in the Delaware area which had taken such a fierce drubbing.

The Continental Navy, formed on October 13, 1775, never grew much and had no ships of the line. Its largest vessels were frigates. During the war its ships never numbered more than 27 while the British ships increased from 270 to 500. Our Navy, however, conducted some notable naval actions such as in the Bahamas and John Paul Jones' exploits with the *Bon Homme Richard*. Its services were essential in providing communications with our European allies, and transferring gold and supplies to America. Also a very profitable role was filled by our privateers who by the end of the war had taken 1500 ships and about 12,000 British sailors as prisoners. A good part of these operations took place at sea off the European coast and in the English Channel. Spain and the Netherlands had joined the French and Americans giving them pretty much control of the seas off England and Europe. Thus prevailed a strange situation where the British blockaded America, while America and the allies were predominant around Britain, an important fact rousing British merchant opinion against continuing the war.

In 1780, Barclay subscribed 5,000 pounds to help establish a bank for handling supplies for our Continental forces. In 1781, there was a mutiny among American Forces in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania area to which British Gen. Clinton sent two spies to encourage the mutineers to defect. A trial of the spies was held at Barclay's house, Summerseat in Morristown, Pennsylvania, north east of Philadelphia (now a national historic landmark). As an act of charity, Barclay read the Bible to the condemned spies before their execution.

By this time, with a few exceptions, pretty much of a stalemate had developed in the northern sector of the colonies while the British occupied Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington where the primary military action lay, in the South. Barclay, in the meantime, had developed close associations with the principal leaders of the Revolution. The Franklin-Jefferson-Adams team in Europe was having remarkable success in intelligence reporting, getting political and military support, supplies, and financing, not to mention the income and help from our privateers. Assistance to these diplomatic agents was sorely needed and William Palfray was chosen for this job but, unfortunately, was lost at sea. Thus in 1781 Thomas Barclay was appointed our first Consul and sent to France to assist them. In contrast to Palfray, Barclay and his family made it to France although the outward passage just managed an escape from the British blockade after a fierce fight. In France he quickly became involved in many aspects of promoting and administering the American war effort in France and was frequently in both Paris and Lorient, the latter a port much used by the American Navy. His duties included assisting and administering the American Navy and settling accounts of ships taken as prizes. He was primarily responsible for settling the prize accounts of the frigate, *Alliance*, commanded by Captain John Barry. Settling prize accounts of John Paul Jones was never satisfactorily completed although Jones, himself, came to France to help in this struggle with the French bureaucracy.

Concurrently with Barclay's work in Europe a situation of concern had developed in the Mediterranean where American ships had been subjected to seizure by Barbary ships

following the loss of protection previously provided by the British. In 1777 when completing a document to interest Europeans in trading with Morocco, and assuring their shipping, the Sultan heard of the independence movement in America and added our Confederation to the list of countries invited to trade in Morocco. This was the first formal recognition of our independence by a foreign government. The Sultan requested us, through our Agents in Paris, to send a mission to Morocco to negotiate a treaty of friendship and commerce. Dr. Franklin forwarded this request to the Congress with a favorable recommendation. In due course the Congress approved such negotiations some years after the Sultan's request. Later the Sultan had the American ship Betsy seized at Tangier which, he said, he would hold until negotiations for the treaty began. This got the American's attention and in 1785 the bee was put on Jefferson and Adams (Franklin was away) to take care of the matter.

Neither felt that he could leave his post at this crucial point for an unpredictable amount of time. Their trust and confidence in Barclay was such that they believed that he could carry out this mission fully in their stead. Barclay set off in 1786 with a draft treaty and stopped in Spain, our ally best acquainted with its neighbor, Morocco. After spending some time there briefing himself, he sailed to Mogador and then overland to the temporary capital, Marrakesh. After making contact with the Sultan, the negotiation of the treaty was begun immediately. They were completed in about two weeks at which time the Sultan gave his authentication to the Arabic version of the treaty. To carry out this mission, Barclay had spent only 5000 pounds. In spite of the fact that he believed that this sum was rather excessive, Adams commended this negotiation to the Congress.

Barclay was also able to get the Sultan to agree to suggest to Tunis, Algeria and Constantinople that they might follow his action in regularizing their relations with our fledgling nation. The treaty documents were forwarded to Jefferson and Adams who in turn sent them to Congress where they were accepted and published in *The New York Advertiser* on July 21, 1787. The treaty provides for maintaining peaceful relations between the two countries including periods when either the U.S. or Morocco might be at war with third parties. It spelled out various guarantees to citizens of one in the country of the other; American Consuls were given jurisdiction over American in Morocco and the right to participate in other actions affecting American citizens. Commercial relations were to be conducted on the most favored nation basis. Protection was provided for American shipping and arrangements for carrying this out were detailed. The Congress was exceptionally pleased with Barclay's fast and competent handling of the treaty and other matters by officially complimenting his work.

Barclay then journeyed to the diplomatic capital, Tangier, from whence he returned in Spain to deliver communications from the Sultan to Charles III. Eventually he returned to Lorient and took passage back to the United States. There he sought compensation for various financial undertakings he made on behalf of the Confederation (which were not satisfied until after his death). Not too long thereafter the Sultan of Morocco died and a long and bitter fight developed over the succession. Again in the interest of protecting our shipping in the Straits area, Barclay was commissioned as Consul in 1791 to represent the United States in Morocco and to seek reaffirmation of the treaty by the new regime in Morocco. The fighting was so severe in Morocco, that his attempts to get there from Gibraltar and Cadiz failed. Toward the end of 1792 he traveled to Portugal where he died shortly after arriving and was buried there.

Ben Franklin Dixon III (N.C.) *Chairman, Museum Committee*