

CINCINNATI

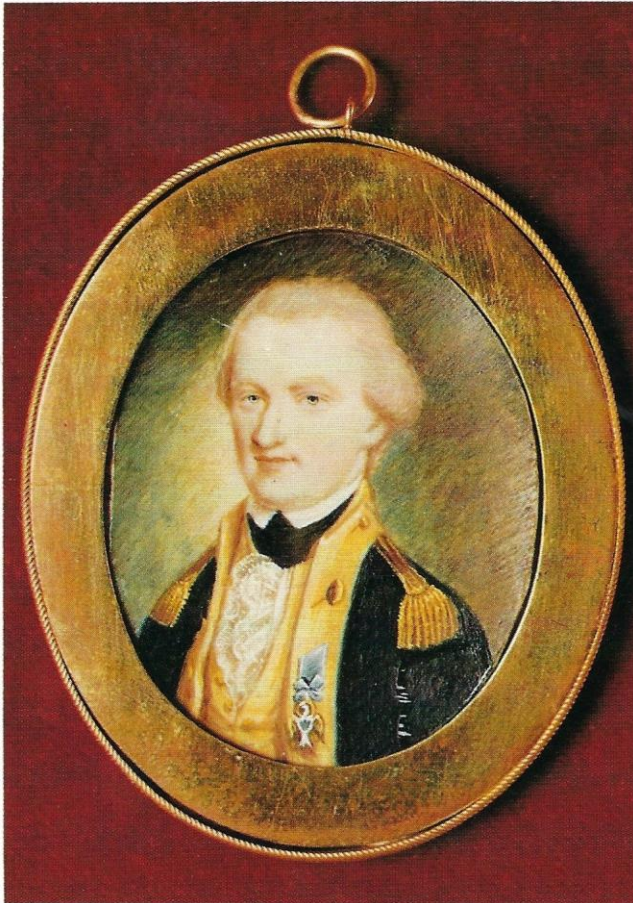


FOURTEEN

Newsletter of the Society of the Cincinnati

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Actual Size: 1 3/8" x 3/4"

From a Private Collection

**Miniature Portrait
Unidentified Subject
Member of the Society of the Cincinnati**

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

The Cincinnati highlight of the spring was, of course, the superbly planned and run Triennial Meeting in Baltimore, May 7-10. The planning and operation of these meetings and social events was a great tribute to Chairman Nick Sellers and his very able committee. Certainly, the detail and official substance of these meetings will be noted elsewhere in this *Cincinnati Fourteen*, - hence, we are noting here just the excellent " support arrangements " provided by the committee. The Maryland Historical Society, where we held our opening meeting, had a superb special Cincinnati exhibit in our honor in its galleries. Our committee also arranged tours of handsome and historic houses,

Perhaps the highlight of this notable Triennial was the afternoon and evening celebration at Fort McHenry. There we had an account of the unsuccessful British attack on the Fort, and a drill, 1812 style, by the honor guard at the Fort. This was followed by a superb cocktail and buffet supper party under a huge tent right on Baltimore Harbor. The tent fended off a heavy thunderstorm (only the late comers got wet!) which stopped in time for a stupendous display of fireworks in the harbor after dinner.

At the Saturday night formal dinner we witnessed the always impressive-and more than 200-year-old ceremony-of passing the Diamond Eagle from the outgoing President General to the new and honored incumbent. Pennsylvania was honored and pleased to have its member Philipus Miller V become Secretary General.

Sunday morning included services at St. Paul's and at the Basilica where Delaware's popular member Father William Davis said the mass. A reception at St. Paul's Parish House concluded a very happy and well planned Triennial.

Clifford Lewis 3rd
Contributing Editor

Recent Gift

The Pennsylvania Cincinnati has just been given an extraordinarily rare Cincinnati letter signed by George Washington. This letter, dated October 31, 1786, states that he, Washington, will refuse renomination at the May 1787 Triennial to continue as President General of the Cincinnati. It is believed Washington signed and sent out just 14 of these letters-13 to the State Societies and one to the French Society. Currently we know the locations of only two-one in the New York Historical Society and one in the Rhode Island Historical Society. It is well known that Washington was "talked out" of his refusal to be renominated as President General, principally by his great friend and Cincinnati organizer, General Henry Knox. (For details, see *Cincinnati Fourteen*, October 1987, pp. 9-10.) The Pennsylvania Cincinnati will be grateful to *Cincinnati Fourteen* readers and friends for information as to the current location of other copies of this letter. Please advise Pennsylvania President Lawrence C. Murdoch, Jr., 112 Hilltop Road, Philadelphia, PA 19118