

CINCINNATI



FOURTEEN

Newsletter of the Society of the Cincinnati

October 1993

Volume XXX, No. 1



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**Tadeusz Kosciuszko at West Point**

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

This Pennsylvania report with our usual lively news also echoes our sadness over the death of our much beloved and admired Jim Denny. He died on May 29, 1993. He not only had our admiration but also our affection. We will miss his warmth, spirit and enthusiasm.

We held two very successful functions: one in the winter and one in the spring. We had on February 15th, now called "Friendship Holiday, " a very successful "Washington Birthday" luncheon at the Philadelphia Club. We were glad to see members coming from a distance, most notably Joseph Massie, Esq, who came from Winchester, Virginia , and Bart and Hannah Cox from Fort Washington, Maryland.

Our spring outing this year was on May 22nd at "Waynesboro ," the notable historic house of our Original Member General Anthony Wayne. Here we were divided into four groups, each with a knowledgeable docent, and were taken through the house. This was followed by cocktails and a good lunch at the nearby Waynesboro Country Club.

*Clifford Lewis, 3rd Contributing Editor*

**Eulogy for  
James O'Hara Denny III**

It is with great sadness we report the death on May 29 , 1993, at Hilton Head , SC, of our much beloved and very active member Jim Denny. He died of cancer. His funeral, very well attended, was in Pittsburgh on June 4th at the Shady Side Presbyterian Church.

Jim was a gifted individual, with a well-stocked, widely-informed mind, and logically effective but pleasant presentation of ideas. Thus, modest as he was, it is no surprise to us that he became a leader not only in business and teaching but also in his social organizations. This, of course, includes the Cincinnati.

He was a very active member of the Pennsylvania State Society, to which he was elected in 1966. He was soon elected to the Pennsylvania Standing Committee, then as Vice President ( 1981-1984) and President ( 1984- 1987). He was a Pennsylvania Delegate to the General Society from 1977 until he died.

In the General Society he also served on the Museum and Library Committee (1980- 1986). In 1986 that committee was divided and two new committees formed from it- one for the Museum and one for the Library. Jim continued on the Museum Committee until he died.

Jim was the distinguished descendant of an equally distinguished Cincinnati ancestor, Lieutenant Ebenezer Denny. Ebenezer, born at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1761, was present at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. He then served with Generals Harmar and Sinclair in their unfortunate campaigns against the Indians in the 1790's. Soon after that, in 1795- 1796, he resided with his family on

a farm six miles out of Pittsburgh. In 1796 he was elected a Commissioner for Allegheny County, after which he made his home in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh was incorporated in 1816, and Denny was elected its first mayor. Denny died in Pittsburgh in 1822.

Jim may well have inherited Ebenezer's leadership skills. Jim was not only outputting but also an extraordinary organizer. Here two Pennsylvania Cincinnati examples come to mind, both occurring when he was Pennsylvania President. On one occasion he set up in Pittsburgh the May meeting of our Standing Committee. Yes, indeed, we had our meeting there and later, with our wives, a boat trip around Fort Pitt Point on both rivers, complete with picnic lunch on shipboard. That evening there was a handsome banquet for the picnic lunch on shipboard. That evening there was a handsome banquet for the Standing Committee and ladies. (One of the things Jim said last winter was we should do it again!) The second example occurred when, during his Presidency, our Pennsylvania Society hosted the Triennial meetings. His wonderful wife, Marion, was critically sick in Pittsburgh during this period. Jim flew back to Pittsburgh every night. Four people in Philadelphia carried on for him: Hobie and Addie Lou Cawood ran the historical tours, and Binny and Wistie Miller arranged for the seating for a big luncheon and equally big formal dinner.

Outside the Cincinnati Jim's organizational abilities showed in everything he touched. This included instructing Boy Scout leaders, Sunday school leaders, and Air Force design engineers and crew members. It continued right through his business career with H. H. Robertson and J. S. McCormick, and culminated as Professor for 13 years at the University of West Virginia. There he taught a wide range of business management courses and organized conferences and seminars. He was also Acting Dean of the Industrial Engineering Department.

Jim was a devoted family man and was always there when needed. Some five years ago, after the death of Marion, his first wife, he married again. This is the delightful Lee, now so well and happily known to many of his Cincinnati friends. Jim and Lee were each blessed with "second homes," his in Canada and hers in Hilton Head, SC. Besides this, they enjoyed travel and so were often abroad and in the Islands.

Jim is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth M.P. Saxmon of Coopville, Whidbee Island, Washington State, and Mrs. Anne B.D. Angus of La Tijola, Spain; by two sons, Herbert T.H. Denny and Harmar D. Denny IV, both of Pittsburgh; and by three grandchildren, James O.H. Denny V; Janette M.L. Denny, both of Fort Collins, Colorado; and Harmar D. Denny V of Pittsburgh. Jim had many stories and he told them well. What follows is the one that stands out. In World War II his bomber was shot down over enemy territory. He reached the ground safely, tried to hide but shortly was found by an enemy search squad. He merely had to look at the muzzles of their guns to realize he had no choice but to surrender and go with them. Fortunately, he told us, the war ended about 10 days after that and he was soon released.

He showed the same bravery and resignation in his last illness and is now with the Lord.

*Clifford Lewis, 3rd*