

CINCINNATI



FOURTEEN

Newsletter of the Society of the Cincinnati

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Courtesy of Lee Chapel Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia

George Washington
Painting by Charles Willson Peale, 1772

THE STATE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI OF PENNSYLVANIA

We must begin on the saddest of notes: William Richard Gordon died late last December. An honorary member, Dick was historian, financial manager and advisor, churchman, teacher, tireless worker and fast friend. He was the closest thing to a Renaissance man we are likely to see in this day and age. His monument will remain in the hundreds of lives he touched, and he will leave a very big gap in our Society.

Bart Cox was elected Society President at our annual meeting on October 1, 1993, succeeding Larry Murdoch who had completed his term. Bart had been Vice President and, as Chairman of the Archives Committee, was instrumental in relocating the Society's records to safer, more accessible space. He also is working with John Kilbourne who, at our request, is writing a history of the Pennsylvania Cincinnati, with biographical notes on our original members.

Bob Sproat was elected Vice President at the same meeting. He served long and well as Chairman of the Entertainment and Budget Committees and directed planning for the 100th Anniversary of the Washington equestrian statue in front of the Philadelphia Art Museum.

All other officers and Standing Committee members were reelected with two exceptions. Peter Muhlenberg, M.D., became Assistant Secretary, replacing Bill Chapin who retired. Bill held many key positions in the Society over the decades, and we will miss his wisdom, humor and advice on fly fishing. Philippus Miller VI begins his first term on the Standing Committee. He is the son of Binney Miller, Past President of the Pennsylvania Society and currently Secretary General. Larry Murdoch will be the new representative on the Standing Committee of the General Society, with John Tuten the alternate. Tom McGuire was a most entertaining speaker at the annual meeting. His speech was titled "Music and Musicians of the American Revolution," and he punctuated his remarks by playing the fife. The meeting was held at the Philadelphia Club because our long-time site, the City Tavern, was closed due to a change in management. The Tavern, at 2nd and Walnut Streets in Philadelphia, is an exact reconstruction of the original City Tavern, where the Pennsylvania Cincinnati held its first meeting.

We end on a happy note: Henry Miller Watts, Jr., one of our two revered patriarchs (Clifford Lewis is the other), celebrated his 90th birthday in March. Henry still plays a leading role in our Society's affairs and seldom misses a Standing Committee meeting. Among the milestones in his active life was being on Wall Street during the crash of 1929 and on the Normandy beaches during World War II. Until recently, Henry was a regular commuter to New York City.

Lawrence Corlies Murdoch, Jr.
Past President