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From the Committees

Development Committee

The Development Committee has had a very successful triennium. The annual giving for the fiscal year 2002 set a goal of \$240,000 and exceeded the goal by 65% attaining over \$398,000. The year 2002 was the highest year on record for the annual giving campaign. For fiscal 2003 the bar was raised to \$360,000 and the goal was once again exceeded by 5% achieving \$378,000 for the annual giving campaign. As of December

31, \$145,000 has been raised towards the goal of \$375,000 for annual giving in fiscal 2004.

The Development Committee is sanguine about the prospects for once again exceeding the annual giving in the 2004 fiscal year ending on June 30.

The Development Committee was able to introduce several improvements to the annual giving campaign. In prior years many members have requested a credit card payment option to facilitate contributions.

The committee felt that

it was extremely important to make it as easy as possible to contribute and now accepts credit cards for all annual giving gifts. The committee also felt it important to establish the Benefactor level, which recognizes those members who have contributed in excess of \$2500 to annual giving. The Benefactor level now includes over fifteen members.

While the Development Committee is extremely pleased with the tremendous increase in annual giving in this triennium, it is important to note that the average annual gift is only slightly above \$100 per member. This does not even begin to cover the operating expenses at Anderson



Development Committee Vice Chairman William Hoyt Olinger (PA), Chairman Brian Wesley Brooke (MD) and Vice Chairman Frederick Mitchell Bell (NC) at the fall meeting flanking newly acquired bust of John Paul Jones.

House not to mention the panoply of worthwhile programs and activities the Society promotes. The last few years have seen an expansion in the mission of the Society, through the Museum, Library and Education Committees. In order to continue expanding the impact of these programs it is incumbent upon the Development Committee to significantly increase the average gift to annual giving. The committee also feels it is extremely important to broaden the base of support by asking all members to contribute to annual giving on an annual basis.

In the area of planned giving the Development Committee established the George and Martha Washington Planned Giving Circle. This is a means by which members can be recognized for including the Society of the Cincinnati in their estate plans. The George and Martha Washington Circle has had a very auspicious beginning, with nearly 27 members remembering the Society in their estate planning. Last fall the Development Committee sponsored a reception at Anderson House for members of the George and Martha Washington Circle.

It is important to note that none of these fine accomplishments would have been possible without the perseverance and dedication of all of the members of the Development Committee. Special thanks should be extended to Committee Chair Brian Wesley Brooke (MD); Dr. Frederick Mitchell Bell (NC), co-chair for annual giving; and Robert Gage Davidson (GA), co-chair for planned giving.

William Hoyt Olinger (PA)



Education Committee

The expiring triennium has been a remarkably productive and important one for the Society's education program. In October 2002 the Society secured the services of Jack D. Warren, Jr. as our organization's first Director of History and Education. With a full-time member of the professional staff at its disposal, the committee has been able to expand its efforts to promote

Education Committee meeting, October 2003, with Mrs. Jan Smulcer, Chairman Christopher Moffitt and Mrs. Donna Passmore after presentation on the Values through History program showing materials that connect their curriculum to the Society's book Why America Is Free.

appreciation and understanding of the revolutionary achievement in our nation's schools.

Promoting the use of *Why America Is Free*, the Society's textbook on the revolutionary era, continued to be an important focus of the committee's work. The first printing of the book sold out early in the triennium, and a second, corrected and improved printing was published in cooperation with the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which handles fulfillment. As the triennium draws to a close, supplies of the second printing are dwindling. A new printing will be required soon.

Why America Is Free has been widely praised as an outstanding book for young readers, but teachers, the committee has found, need a manual to go with the book. Thanks largely to the industry of committee member Dr. Preston Russell, two outstanding educators from Houston, Donna Passmore and Jan Smulcer, were recruited to write a teacher's manual to accompany the text. Their outstanding manual is completed and will be available this spring.

Through the leadership of committee member Charles L. Coltman, the committee has forged a broader partnership with Mrs. Passmore and Mrs. Smulcer, whose Values Through History non-profit education program promotes the use of *Why America Is Free* as part of a comprehensive curriculum on the American Revolution. The curriculum is now being used in schools in Texas. With the assistance of the Society, Values Through History is developing a DVD to promote the program and introduce teachers to the importance of focusing attention on the high ideals and accomplishments of the American revolutionaries, with the expectation that this tool will help broaden interest in *Why America Is Free*. A grant of \$150,000 was awarded by the Houston Endowment in March, influenced in part by our earlier seed money contribution.

Teaching teachers is a second focus of our effort. Starting in 2002, the committee has cosponsored a summer teacher institute on the American Revolution in partnership with Gunston Hall, the historic plantation home of George Mason, father of the Bill of Rights. The institute brings together teachers for a three-day program of lectures and workshops on teaching the American Revolution. The sessions are held at Anderson House and at Gunston Hall, with Director of History and Education Jack Warren delivering the opening and closing lectures and guiding the teachers in coordination with the education staff from Gunston Hall. We will hold the third in this series of institutes this summer. Supplementing these efforts, Jack Warren has lectured on George Washington, the accomplishments of the revolutionary generation and founding of the



(l. to r.) John Whitehead, Margaret Whitehead, Nicholas Gilman and Deborah Gilman at Anderson House for the annual meeting, October 3 and 4, 2003.

the third floor landing at Anderson House. A full report of this may be found in the spring 2003 issue of *Cincinnati Fourteen*.

A portrait of General Joseph Bloomfield, second president of the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati, has been hung with an identifying plaque in the New Jersey rooms at Anderson House.

*John Van Dyke Saunders,
Secretary*

The State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania

British naval impressment was the topic at our 2003 annual meeting. Our speaker was Denver Brunsman of Princeton University, studying at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Following are pertinent extracts of that presentation.

Beginning in the Middle Ages, press gangs seized thousands of British seamen to serve in the Royal Navy. The institution was especially unpopular in Britain's colonial territories, including America. When the Royal Navy continued to capture American seamen after the American Revolution, the practice helped to cause the War of 1812. But I have always wondered why it did not play a bigger role in causing the American Revolution.

One reason is that few people ever knew about Benjamin Franklin's opposition. He believed that the unfair burden impressment placed on seamen meant that the British Constitution "is yet Imperfect, since in so General a Case it doth not secure Liberty but destroys it." At his most devilish, Franklin offered a way to make impressment more fair: impress

naval officers, civil officials, and judges! "Lastly," Franklin suggested, "I think I would Impress the King, and confiscate his salary." Unfortunately, the world did not see Franklin's views on impressment until a London magazine published them in 1788.

John Adams always wondered why impressment was not a major issue of American independence. He believed that a trial in 1769 in which he defended four sailors accused of murdering a press gang officer had the potential to ignite the Revolution. Adams won the case and the sailors went free, but it was his most painful victory as a lawyer. He thought that if the judges had declared that impressment was legal in America, it would have caused huge protests against British authority. Instead, the bench let the four sailors go free. According to Adams, the case could have "accelerated the revolution," but it didn't.

There were several reasons. The judges in Adams' 1769 case were smart not to pick a fight with the American colonists over impressment. The Royal Navy was also very cautious when it captured American seamen in the 1760s and 1770. The last thing naval officers wanted was to inflame an already tense situation. But in my opinion the most important reason is that more colonists did not attack impressment the way Franklin did. Whereas Adams saw impressment as a legal violation in America, Franklin believed the fact that impressment existed at all meant that the entire British Constitution was corrupt. In other words, Adams thought that impressment in America was a mistake that could be easily remedied, while Franklin worried that any country that manned its navy by stealing men had problems that could not be easily solved.

To be fair, it must be pointed out that many Britons despised impressment as much, if not more, than Americans in that period. The practice inspired riots and petitions throughout Britain and the influences of these protests should not be underestimated. We know the British war effort collapsed as much from waning morale as outright defeat. So if impressment did not cause the American Revolution, it certainly helped to end it.

In reviewing the past three years, we find that the outreach of the Pennsylvania Society encompasses a broad spectrum.

The website, with over eighty-eight thousand visits this past year, continues to serve as a focus for worldwide interest in the Society, with many questions and each potential member being referred to the appropriate constituent society.

Our ongoing annual award to the Outstanding Cadet at the Valley

Forge Military Academy denotes excellence of character and academics.

The original certificate of one of our members is on loan to the York County Heritage Trust for long term exhibit. York County is the county in which the original member lived.

We continue our scholarship program for the children and grandchildren of our members, maintaining the tradition of beneficence to those who need it.

Our school education program, performed by the American Historical Theater, takes General Washington for one-hour visits to the classrooms of twenty middle schools of Philadelphia County and Delaware County each year.

We extend our traditional grants to historical houses in the Philadelphia area that have connections to the Revolution. We currently support the Hill-Physick-Keith house, our state headquarters; the Caleb North house; Moland House, where General Washington stayed during the Neshaminy Encampment and where he first received Lafayette; Fort Mifflin; and *Cliveden*, where the Battle of Germantown was waged.

**Lawrence Corlies Murdoch, Jr.,
Past President**

Delaware State Society of the Cincinnati

The Delaware Society held its annual fall outing on Saturday, October 4, 2003, at the home of member Edward Webb Cooch, Jr., Newark, Delaware. Mr. Cooch resides in and maintains the house the family has lived in since colonial days. It is located on the site of the only battle of



Three generations of the Schnure family at the 220th annual meeting (l. to r.) Matthew Selin Schnure, grandson; James Purdy Schnure, son; and, Howard Hopkins Schnure, father.

the Revolutionary War to be fought in Delaware, the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, which took place on September 3, 1777, between Continentals and forces under General Cornwallis. It is claimed that the Stars and Stripes were flown in battle for the first time at Cooch's Bridge. Many magazine articles, newspapers, maps and pamphlets regarding the battle were displayed for members to view, together with artifacts from the battle (cannonballs, etc.) that have been found on the property. The battle is described in detail in the May 1995 *Cincinnati Fourteen*.

The State of Delaware had, shortly before the fall outing, purchased 170 acres of surrounding land and twenty acres of land belonging to the Cooch family to preserve it as a site of unique historic interest. Under the agreement, the state gets first right of refusal if the Cooch family ever sells the house, which was built in 1760 by Colonel Thomas Cooch. The



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Webb Cooch, Jr., hosts of the Delaware Society fall outing, on October 4, 2003, are shown in their home at Cooch's Bridge.

house has been in the Cooch family for eight generations.

While showing the house during the fall outing, Mr. Cooch remarked that the attic was stuffed with over 200 years of family memorabilia that his children would have to go through some day.

The major project of the Delaware State Society since the 2001 Triennial was to assist in the preparation of the exhibit *Delaware in the American Revolution*. The exhibit was produced by the library and museum staff at Anderson House, with



Among those attending the fall outing at Cooch's Bridge were (l. to r.) Mr. and Mrs. John Eager Bacon, Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Turpin and William Frazier Baldwin (VA).