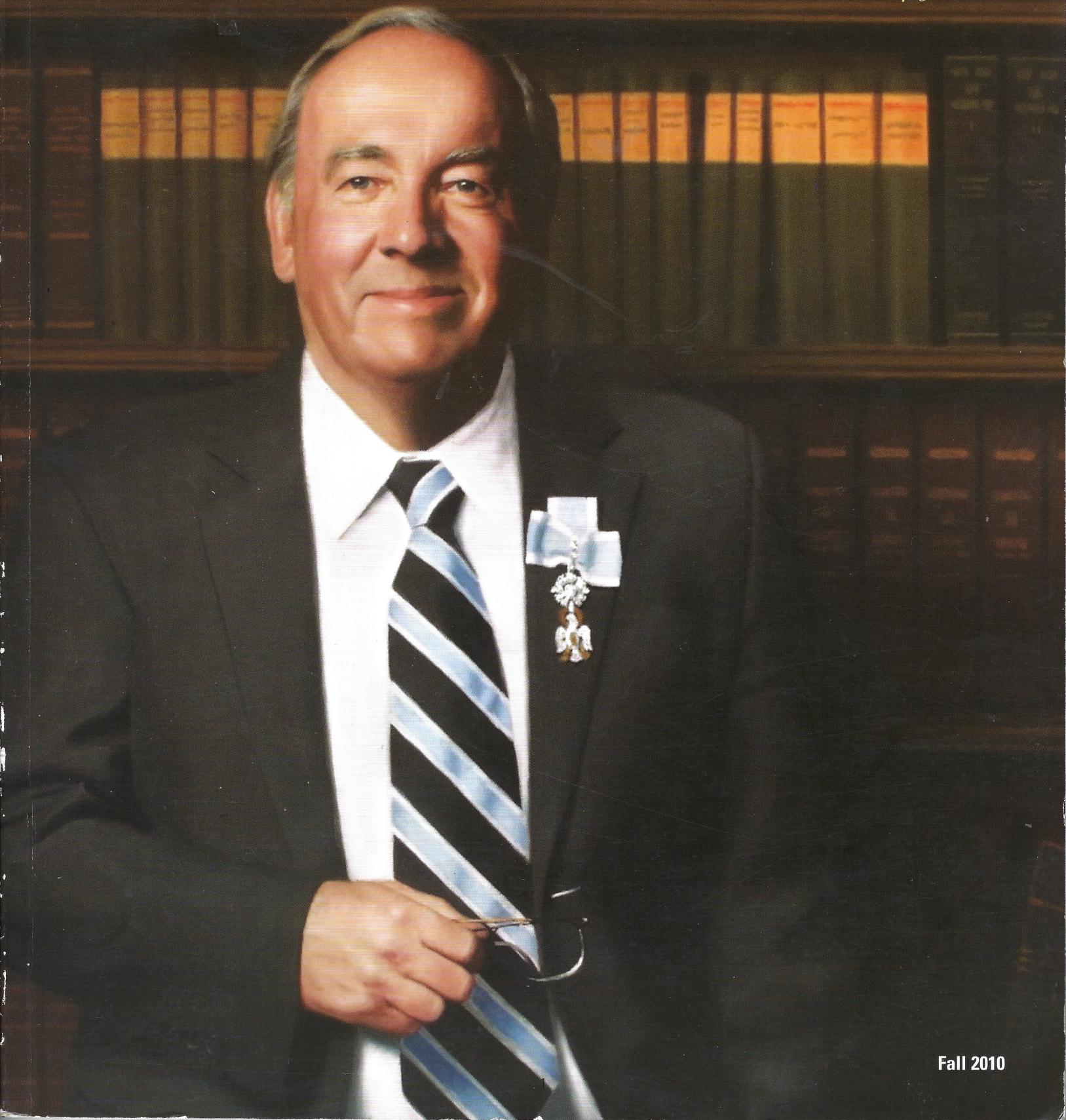


# CINCINNATI FOURTEEN

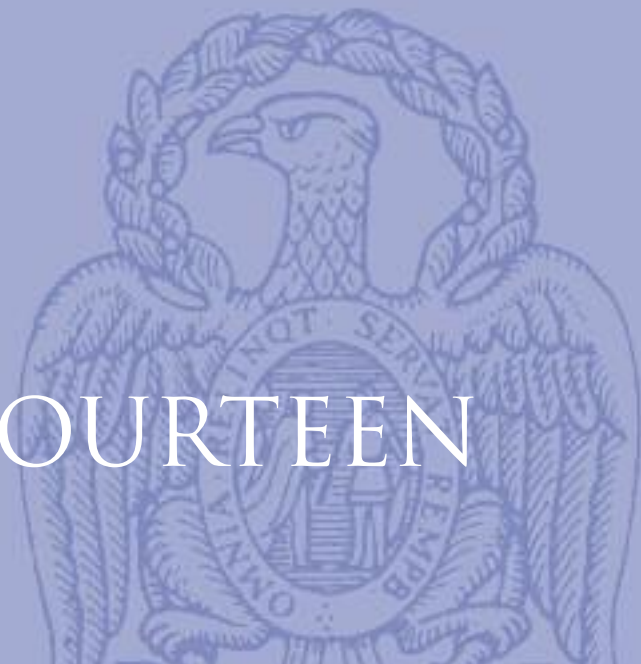


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# CINCINNATI FOURTEEN



**The Society of the  
Cincinnati  
of Pennsylvania**

On Monday, February 15, the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati held its annual George Washington Birthday luncheon at the Philadelphia Club. Members and their ladies who attended, who braved prodigious quantities of snow, enjoyed a hearty repast and the opportunity to further the bonds of fellowship with members from the Delaware,

Maryland and New York societies. We were pleased to welcome President General Forrest Pragoff and his wife Page. President General Pragoff reminded the assembled members that in our “One Society of Friends . . . membership is a birthright but leadership is a privilege.” He expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the honor of serving the Society as president general. The featured speaker, John H. Pollack, of the Rare Book and

Manuscript Library at the University of Pennsylvania, followed the President General’s remarks. Mr. Pollack is the editor of a book entitled “*The Good Education of Youth*”: *Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin*. Mr. Pollack’s remarks explored the effect of the American Revolution on the organization of schools in Pennsylvania. The Revolution, he explained, compelled Americans to consider how young people should be educated in a free society.

A good-looking crowd represented Pennsylvania at the Triennial (and brought some members of the Pennsylvania Society with them, too).



Educational reform was a source of considerable controversy in revolutionary Pennsylvania, particularly at what became the University of Pennsylvania. That institution was the brainchild of Benjamin Franklin, and at the outbreak of the Revolution it was led by Provost William Smith, an Anglican minister with whom Franklin frequently clashed. The Presbyterian leaders of Pennsylvania’s radical revolutionary government suspected Smith of Loyalist sympathies and stripped him of his authority, naming a Presbyterian minister to lead the renamed University of the State of Pennsylvania—an institution they expected to keep in step with the democratization of Pennsylvania public life. The assembly later declared the prior acts unconstitutional and restored Smith and the original trustees, leading to a split; the new provost and faculty simply moved their institution down the street. The two schools finally merged in 1791 to become the University of Pennsylvania.

Schools at every level, the revolutionaries believed, needed to form students into virtuous republican citizens. Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, proposed a system of statewide education, including free schools coupled with four

colleges for mathematics and science and a university for philosophy and professional training. Rush, much like Thomas Jefferson, felt the highest aim of education was to mold a virtuous citizenry.

The Pennsylvania Society was represented at the Triennial Meeting in New Haven by Lowell Davis, Thomas Etter, James Pringle, William Olinger, Clifford Lewis, Robert Sproat, John Tuten, Lewis Graham, Mark Lloyd and Mark Ward. The Pennsylvania Society was also represented by Charles Coltman, assistant treasurer general, who was honored as an outgoing General Officer with a formal resolution presented by Past President General Frederick Lorimer Graham, who paid tribute to Chuck’s dedication to the historic mission of the Society to perpetuate the memory of the heroes of the Revolution through education. Executive Director Jack Warren, in his report to the Triennial, paid a special tribute to Chuck’s extensive contributions to the Society’s Strategic Vision and development programs.

The Pennsylvania Society held its fall meeting at the Philadelphia Club on the evening of Friday, October 1. The speaker for the evening was Jack Warren, who addressed the group on the career of Alexander Graydon, a captain

in Magaw’s Batallion of the Pennsylvania Line who was captured at Fort Washington in the fall of 1776. In 1811 Graydon published his *Memoirs of a Life Chiefly Passed in Pennsylvania Within the Last Sixty Years*, a witty, caustic autobiography widely used by historians of the Revolutionary War. Jack’s remarks focused on the forty-two year correspondence between Graydon and his childhood friend, John Lardner, a member of the Philadelphia City Troop who served at Trenton and Princeton. Graydon, he contended, was highly skeptical about the outcome of the Revolution. While he fought to secure independence and supported the establishment of a republican form of government, Graydon—like many Original Members of the Society—was not a friend to the democratization of public life in the decades after the Revolution, a process he believed coarsened and degraded American life. The life and thought of Alexander Graydon, he concluded, reminds us that their enthusiasm for independence and an American republic did not necessarily mean that former army officers were happy with the dramatic changes that followed the American Revolution.

*William Hoyt Olinger,  
Assistant Secretary*