

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN





THE 2019 TRIENNIAL PHILADELPHIA





Original Members of the Society of the Cincinnati gathered in Philadelphia for the first Triennial Meeting in 1784. In the two hundred thirty-five years since, Philadelphia has been the setting for more Triennials than any other city and the Pennsylvania Society the host for more important gatherings than any other constituent society. The 2019 Triennial joins that list, renewing our appreciation for historic Philadelphia, for the mission of the Society's American Revolution Institute, and for the dedication, energy, and creativity of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati.

The festivities began on Wednesday evening, May 8, and continued through the morning of Sunday, May 12. On Wednesday evening, early arrivals, including the French delegation, joined the General Officers and our Pennsylvania Society hosts at Carpenters' Hall, one of the city's most historic buildings. Completed shortly before the Revolution by the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia—an early craft guild—the hall is still maintained by the company. The Library Company of Philadelphia (the private library established by Benjamin Franklin) occupied the second floor of Carpenter's Hall during the Revolutionary era. The American Philosophical Society met there. So, too, did the First Continental Congress.

On Thursday morning participants set off for Valley Forge, while old and new friends met at the official hotel—the Hilton at Penn's Landing, located on the historic waterfront where vessels of the Continental Navy commanded by Original Members of the Society once tied up. The Triennial was already in full swing by the time the “welcome reception” began at the new Museum of the American Revolution a few blocks from the hotel.

The entire museum was opened to our members

for the evening, providing a special opportunity to view the museum's many treasures and to celebrate the completion of a museum promoted and supported by many of our members, including the late Gerry Lenfest (Penn.), the leading philanthropist and driving force, Bo DuBose (Mass.), the member of the museum's board who guided construction and completion of the museum, and John Harvey (N.J.), a member of the museum's board and liaison between the Society and the museum's leaders. The museum has a special relationship with our own American Revolution Institute, symbolized by the special exhibition of the Diamond Eagle at the museum during the last Triennium.

The first of two formal Triennial Meeting sessions convened on Friday morning at the spectacular Masonic Temple adjacent to City Hall. The temple is a remarkable building—built in 1873, it is one of the grandest Masonic buildings in the country. The officers, delegates and alternate delegates met in the Corinthian Hall. Marshal Charles Middleton led the officers into the hall at nine o'clock and the first Triennial Meeting session—which included reports of the six General Officers—was completed in ninety minutes. President General Jonathan Woods expressed his gratitude for the support of the Society and for the remarkable growth of the American Revolution Institute over his three years. During that time, the Institute had developed from an idea to an aspect of the life of our Society in which every member can take pride. He also thanked the other five General Officers for their support and for the help of a remarkable group of member leaders and an equally remarkable staff.

While officials of the Society gathered at the Masonic Temple, other members, wives and guests took advantage of special arranged tours of historic Philadelphia—including visits to

Independence Hall, historic homes in the heart of the eighteenth-century city and Fairmount Park, and the opportunity to see the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Barnes Foundation, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and Bartram's Garden. These tours continued through Friday afternoon and on through Saturday. The Pennsylvania Society welcomed the participants for lunch at the Union League of Philadelphia, one of the country's most historic and well-appointed city clubs. The Union League was founded by supporters of the Union cause during the Civil War, and it displays an extraordinary collection of portraits and other works of art reflecting its rich history.

Friday evening's festivities began with a solemn ceremony in Washington Square, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution. Thousands of Revolutionary War soldiers who died from wounds or disease in the city during the war were buried in the square. Pennsylvania Society President Jim Pringle explained the importance of the square and Executive Director Jack Warren shared the story of one young Pennsylvania soldier who wrote to his family about the army's commitment to the cause a few weeks before his own death and burial in an unmarked grave. President General Jonathan Woods, Vice President General Pless Lunger, and French Society President Bernard, marquis de Montferrand, laid a wreath at the monument, which bears the words "Freedom is a light for which many men have died in darkness."

The evening concluded with a banquet at the nearby Curtis Atrium, during which President General Woods discussed the achievements of the last three years and thanked the many people who made them happen. Among these he singled out the Society's solicitor, William Polk Skinner, who, the president general explained, has "an

extraordinary ability to discern the important facts in every issue and an extraordinary ability to reason through the legal challenges involved in creating and shaping the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati—legal challenges involving corporate organization, finance, development, insurance, trademarks and other intellectual property issues"—service of the highest distinction to the Society. "It is my honor, he concluded, "truly one of the highest honors that have fallen to me as President General—to present to you the Washington-Lafayette Eagle for Service of the Highest Distinction to the Society of the Cincinnati." Like the eleven other Laureates of the Washington-Lafayette Eagle announced since the honor was created in 2008, our solicitor was surprised, but the standing ovation he received suggested he ought not to have been. Many, many members understand what a valuable role he has played in our success.

The second session of the Triennial Meeting convened at the Museum of the American Revolution on Saturday morning. The delegates and alternate delegates heard reports from the committees of the General Society—including reports on the extensive work completed at Anderson House over the previous three years, the strong condition of the Society's finances, and the growing importance of the mission of the Society's American Revolution Institute, reflected in the activities of the education program, the library, our exhibitions and our extensive array of public programs. These reports concluded with a report from the Society's executive director, who focused on the Society's commitment to renew popular appreciation of the remarkable soldiers of the Revolution—including those whose memory has never been honored as it should have been. The highest aim of the Institute, he explained, is not just a revival of old ways of thinking about the Revolution. Instead we seek to foster new





ways of thinking about—and appreciating—the central event in our nation’s history.

The meeting concluded with the election of new officers and expressions of gratitude to retiring ones. Nominating Committee Chairman Ross Perry (Conn.) presented the slate of nominees for five of the six General Officers—Robert Mosby Turnbull (Va.), assistant treasurer general; William Postell Raiford (N.C.); assistant secretary general, Francis Ellerbe Grimball (S.C.), treasurer general; Joel Thomas Daves IV (Va.), secretary general; and Frank Keech Turner, Jr. (Md.), vice president general. These gentlemen were unanimously elected.

President General Woods called on Dr. Gil Baldwin (N.C.) to formally present the nominee for president general. Gil paid tribute to Pless Lunger, whose quiet leadership in both the North Carolina Society and in the General Society has won him the admiration of many hundreds of our members. The delegates voted unanimously to elect him president general. He responded with characteristic modesty. “I am humbled by what you have just done,” he said, “humbled and honored. I promise to do my best to be worthy of your choice. Your new officers and I need your support to succeed. I don’t ask you to follow us. I ask you to JOIN us, because the work we have to do is important to the future of our country and it will take many hands and the energy of many people to succeed.”

From applause for the new officers the meeting turned with equal enthusiasm to gratitude to the three outgoing officers. William P. Raiford, the new assistant secretary general, presented a resolution of appreciation to his predecessor, Peter Mapes Dodge. Incoming Secretary General Joel Daves paid tribute to former Secretary General John Christopher Harvey. And finally, Pless Lunger paid a final tribute to Jonathan Woods—the longest serving General Officer of

the modern era and still the youngest man to serve as president general since Alexander Hamilton.

That evening nearly five hundred members and their guests gathered at the Constitution Center to celebrate the beginning of a new Triennium. The Diamond Eagle passed, as it has passed for more than two centuries, from one president general to the next. The new president general quoted his predecessor George Washington in accepting the Diamond Eagle:

“When George Washington accepted command of the Continental Army in this city 244 years ago, he said: ‘I am truly sensible of the high Honor done me—yet I feel great distress, from a consciousness that my abilities and experience may not be equal to the extensive and important Trust. . . . However, as Congress desires it, I will enter upon this momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service, and for support of the glorious cause.’ If a man as capable as George Washington worried about meeting expectations, you can imagine how I must feel in accepting a position General Washington first held. I thank you the entire Society for this honor, and I promise to exert every power in support of our glorious cause.”

A few minutes later, as his first official act as president general, Pless Lunger singled out for a special honor “one of our own whose entire life has been dedicated to the service of this great republic—who has served in uniform to defend it against enemies of freedom, and has spent decades as a leader in preparing our military to meet the challenges of the modern world. As a member of our Society he was among the first to support the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati with his time, talent and treasure, and in a decade of determined advocacy he has inspired us to work with greater and greater urgency to renew popular

Special thanks to Joel Daves, Peter Van Demark and Joe Cutalo Photography for documenting this event.

appreciation of our heroes and the ideals of liberty and freedom we cherish.”

Most of the members and guests present had little idea who the new president general was talking about. “For those of you who don’t know him, I am proud to introduce you tonight to Dr. J. Phillip London—graduate of the United States Naval Academy, naval officer, entrepreneur, chairman of the board of CACI (one of our nation’s great defense firms), patriot, father, and friend—a member of the Massachusetts Society in the right of Captain Samuel Nicholson, and a member of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati Board of Overseers

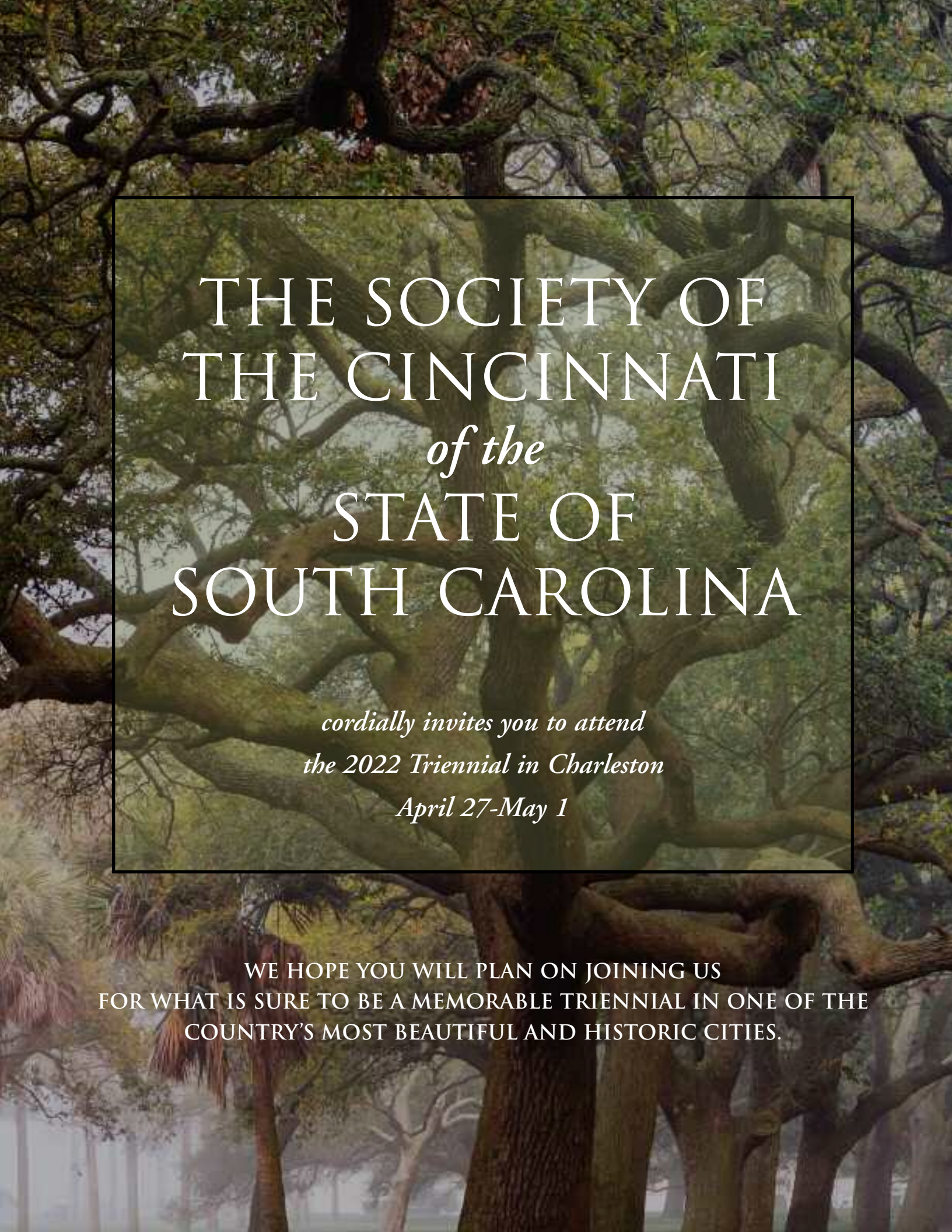
whose dedication to our mission knows no rival—except perhaps at home, where he competes with his wife, Jennifer, who is leading a national effort to establish November as National American History and Founders Month. Jack, as a member of the Board of Overseers I have been inspired by your patriotism, your commitment, your determination and your generosity. You lead by deeds and bring out the best in our Society.

That is, by any definition, Service of the Highest Distinction to our One Society of Friends, and so it is with pride that as my first act as President General I present you with the Washington-Lafayette Eagle for Service of the the Highest

Distinction. This is our Society’s Medal of Honor. It is meant to honor you, but in truth it is *you* who have honored *us*, and the great past we share and cherish. Thank you for inspiring us.”

The moment was a fitting climax to four days of celebration of the American Revolution, the Society’s past, and the remarkable people and achievements that are creating an even more important future for our organization.





THE SOCIETY OF
THE CINCINNATI
of the
STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

*cordially invites you to attend
the 2022 Triennial in Charleston
April 27-May 1*

WE HOPE YOU WILL PLAN ON JOINING US
FOR WHAT IS SURE TO BE A MEMORABLE TRIENNIAL IN ONE OF THE
COUNTRY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC CITIES.

After the annual meeting ended, Robin Martin, Jocelyn Martin, Juliette Lloyd and Chuck Coltman socialized during a convivial cocktail hour.



Washington's Birthday Observed in Philadelphia

The State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania

The annual meeting was held Saturday, October 13, in the Anderson House library followed by a dinner for couples in the ballroom. Elected to the standing committee were Charles Lily Coltman IV, Channing Moore Hall III and Lt. Taylor Cromwell Kellogg. President Jim Pringle reported on the state's annual giving effort to the General Society, which raised \$10,000 more in 2018 than the Society's goal and saw an eight percent increase in the number of members who donated.

In February, four dozen Society members, spouses and guests attended the luncheon for Washington's birthday at the Union League of

Philadelphia. Members from five different state societies joined the Pennsylvanians for the luncheon. Special guests included Cynthia MacLeod, superintendent of Independence National Historical Park in historic Philadelphia, and President General Jonathan Woods and his wife, Alice.

Guests were treated to a lecture by Matthijs Tieleman, a Dutch doctoral student, who focused on the connections between Dutch and American revolutionaries and the aid Dutch smugglers and spies gave to the Americans. Tieleman explained that the debts Great Britain owed to the

Austin Hepburn welcomed guest speaker Matthijs Tieleman, who delivered a fascinating lecture on Dutch involvement in the Revolutionary War.

Netherlands at the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763 led to the taxes that seeded our revolution. Dodging British tariffs led to an increase in Dutch smuggling of goods, including Dutch tea during the boycott of British tea, helping sustain the American boycott. During the war, the illicit trade between the Dutch and the Americans involved guns and ammunition.

The most fascinating tidbit in Tieleman's talk involved the February 1781 capture of St. Eustatius, the famed smuggler's nest in the Dutch Caribbean. British Admiral George Brydges Rodney spent so long looting the island and its inhabitants that he failed to show up on time to support Cornwallis in Yorktown. The Pennsylvania Society is



partially funding Tieleman's dissertation research.

Randolph Smith
Secretary



Pennsylvania Society President Jim Pringle proudly presented newly inducted members Daniel Basset, Robert McMordie, Baird Standish, Page Teer and Robin Martin with their diplomas.