

# CINCINNATI FOURTEEN





## JAMES PEALE BY CHARLES WILLSON PEALE, 1822

Oil on canvas

Detroit Institute of Arts

Charles Willson Peale and his younger brother, James, were two of the most important American artists of the Revolutionary era, creating portraits and other paintings of the war's participants and major events. They were also soldiers themselves. James Peale served as an officer in the Maryland Continental Line for more than three years and became an original member of the Maryland Society. At age seventy-three, James sat for this portrait by his brother, showing the retired miniaturist gazing fondly at a family portrait miniature and wearing a Society insignia. This is the second portrait of James Peale that depicts the Society Eagle.

## JAMES ST. CLAIR CALDWELL BY AN UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN ARTIST, CA. 1826

Oil on wood panel

The Society of the Cincinnati,

Gift of Dr. and Mrs. William R. Baker, York, Pa., 2009

The son of Revolutionary War officer Andrew Caldwell, James St. Clair Caldwell became a hereditary member of the Pennsylvania Society in 1826 and had this portrait painted showing him wearing the Eagle insignia. James St. Clair Caldwell—possibly given his middle name in honor of Pennsylvania general Arthur St. Clair—studied medicine and was among Philadelphia's wealthy elite.



# Reflecting on the Propositi of Pennsylvania

## The State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Society had a virtually perfect annual meeting on October 10. Attendance and participation were robust and lively via the Zoom video conference platform that enabled members who normally would not be able to travel to Philadelphia or Washington to be part of the proceedings.

New officers who will serve until October 2023 were elected and standing committee members were also elected or reappointed. Outgoing President Jim Pringle reflected on his three years as head of the Pennsylvania Society, which included the successful May 2019 Triennial celebration in Philadelphia. Dr. Pringle also led the Society's annual giving campaign, which topped its fundraising goal for 2020 even with the cancellation of in-person events due to the pandemic.

Oliver Picher gave members a preview of the soon-to-be-revamped website. The current website has been hacked into several times and the new site will have many more security features. It will be divided into a section for the public and a secure section for state members. The website will feature descriptions of battles involving Pennsylvania troops and biographies of the Society's founding members, including photos when available. It also will feature a list of unclaimed officer lines for those seeking membership.

New vetting standards for organizations receiving donations from the Society were unveiled by Bill Olinger, head of the charitable giving committee. Organizations requesting funds must submit their institutional mission statement to ensure it aligns with the Pennsylvania's educational focus and demonstrate financial viability. Three organizations were awarded grants, including The Gen. Henry Knox Museum, which maintains Montpelier, the reconstructed three-story mansion of Gen. Knox in Thomaston, Maine. As chief artillery officer of the Continental Army, Knox was involved in many of the war's major battles. His original home fell into disrepair and was rebuilt in 1929. The Pennsylvania Society fully funded a structural engineering assessment of the mansion, which now needs major repairs.

The Museum of the American Revolution received a grant to completely underwrite the cost of creating a virtual tour of Gen. George Washington's campaign tents. The original tent is protected in the museum's climate-controlled exhibition hall in downtown Philadelphia. Replica tents crafted by Colonial Williamsburg are set up outside at special events and a virtual presentation has been created to allow the public to explore the tents online. Pennsylvania members were given a sneak peak of

the interpretive virtual tour this February in lieu of the customary luncheon honoring Gen. George Washington's birthday.

The third grant approved by the members went to repair a gate at the Hill-Physick House in Philadelphia's historic district. The home serves as the Pennsylvania Society's headquarters.

Eight members were inducted into the Pennsylvania Society. Two were brought in under the Rule of 1854, which allows descendants of all eligible Pennsylvania officers to join the Society. Until 2013, Pennsylvania had limited membership to descendants of officers who had joined immediately after the war or died in service.

Membership Chairman Taylor Kellogg announced the certification of four new officer lines available under the Rule of 1854 and reported a strong group of future members in varying stages of the verification process. He also urged hereditary members to apply for their sons to be their successors in the Society. This February, Kellogg identified eight additional officer lines available to Pennsylvania officer descendants under the Rule of 1854, bringing the total number of known officer lines certified for membership to twelve.

Following the business meeting,

eight members shared fascinating stories of their Revolutionary War ancestors. The brief biographical sketches were well received, and most members remained in the Zoom room to the end of presentations by Jim Pringle, Shepard Smith, John Gosselin, Tom Coughlin, Ray Wess, Austin Hepburn and Taylor Kellogg. Rather than focus on his propositi, Oliver

Picher told the story of Col. Benjamin Flower, who is credited with saving the Liberty Bell from Independence Hall before the British captured Philadelphia.

Looking forward, President Mark Ward said his focus is on increasing member engagement. “The future of the society is through an engaged and vibrant membership,” he said. Ward already has

created new committees “to give our members a chance to volunteer or become involved.” The newest committee is working to establish a social media presence to engage younger members and keep Pennsylvania members virtually connected.

Randolph Smith  
*Secretary*

## “Esprit de corps”

### Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland

The Maryland Society is alive and functioning with esprit de corps—a feeling of pride, fellowship, and common loyalty shared by its members—in spite of the current adversities. Our 2021 annual meeting was held on February 25 via Zoom and hosted by Andy Morse. All our members were invited and over seventy had signed up by the time of the meeting. We are thankful for Andy’s technical expertise which allowed us to record all attendees.

#### *Maryland Joins Forces with Virginia in the Education Alliance Outreach Pilot Program*

Concerned about our American educational system’s loss of focus on the American Revolution, several members of various Society Education Committees sought to undertake a new project. Early in 2020, Chip Bragg and John Douglass, chairman and vice-chairman of the General Society’s education committee, teamed up with Rob Lyon, chairman of the education committee of the Virginia Society, and Peter Wyrrough,

chairman of the education committee of the Maryland Society, to determine the feasibility of an alliance.

The program’s goals were to reach out to like-minded cultural, historical, and patriotic organizations and educational institutions in Maryland and Virginia. They intended to cultivate relationships and disseminate ARI classroom materials. Based on the results of the outreach, the pilot program participants concluded that establishing education alliances is a worthwhile and realizable goal for all constituent societies and metropolitan committees. So far, fourteen Cincinnati volunteers in Maryland and Virginia have reached out to over fifty organizations.

#### *Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland Commodore Joshua Barney Award*

During the summer of 2020, at the suggestion of President Crocker, the Maryland Society began to discuss instituting an annual academic leadership