

**THE INSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF
THE CINCINNATI: TOGETHER WITH THE
ROLL OF THE ORIGINAL,
HEREDITARY, AND HONORARY
MEMBERS OF THE ORDER, IN THE STATE
OF NEW JERSEY, FROM 1783 TO 1866**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649614486

The Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati: Together with the Roll of the Original, Hereditary, and Honorary Members of the Order, in the State of New Jersey, from 1783 to 1866 by The Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ALBANY, N. Y.:
PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,
BY J. MUNSSELL, 63 STATE STREET.
1866.

*Extract from the Report of the Standing Committee of the
Society of the Cincinnati of New Jersey, 4th July, 1862.*

"The Committee report that MR. SIMS has prepared a list of the original members, and their successors, and other matters of interest to the Society, and they recommend that the same together with the Rules and Bye Laws be printed at the expense of the Society for distribution among the members, and that a Committee be appointed to superintend the same, with power to revise, alter, and amend the said Rules and Bye Laws, and that each member at his earliest convenience forward to any member of the Committee all the information he can obtain concerning his own Revolutionary ancestor, or any deceased members of the Society."

In compliance with the recommendation contained in the Report of the Standing Committee, the Chair appointed JOHN McDOWELL, CLIFFORD STANLEY SIMS, and WILLIAM B. BUCK, a Special Committee to whom was referred the papers prepared by MR. SIMS, containing the list of original members and their successors, and other matters of interest to the Society, with direction to report such alterations and additions to the present Rules and Bye Laws as they shall deem expedient.

At the Annual Meeting, 4th July, 1866, the Special Committee reported certain alterations and additions to the Rules and Bye Laws of the Society, which amendments were adopted, and WILLIAM B. DAYTON was added to the Committee.

THE INSTITUTION
OF THE
SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI.

CANTONMENT OF THE AMERICAN ARMY, }
ON HUDSON'S RIVER, 10th *May*, 1783. }

PROPOSALS for establishing a Society, upon principles therein mentioned, whose members shall be officers of the American army, having been communicated to the several regiments of the respective lines, they appointed an officer from each, who, in conjunction with the general officers, should take the same into consideration at their meeting this day, at which the honorable MAJOR GENERAL BARON DE STEUBEN, the senior officer present, was pleased to preside.

The proposals being read, fully considered, paragraph by paragraph, and the amendments agreed to, MAJOR GENERAL KNOX, BRIGADIER GENERAL HAND, BRIGADIER GENERAL HUNTINGDON, and CAPTAIN SHAW, were chosen to revise the same, and prepare a copy to be laid before this assembly at their next meeting, to be holden at MAJOR GENERAL BARON DE STEUBEN'S quarters, on Tuesday, the 13th instant.

Tuesday, 13th May, 1783.

The Representatives of the American army being assembled, agreeably to adjournment, the plan for establishing a Society, whereof the Officers of the American army are to be members, is accepted, and is as follows, viz:

“It having pleased the Supreme Governor of the Universe, in the disposition of human affairs, to cause the separation of the colonies of North America from the domination of Great Britain, and, after a bloody conflict of eight years, to establish them free, independent, and sovereign states, connected, by alliances founded on reciprocal advantage, with some of the great princes and powers of the earth.

“To perpetuate, therefore, as well the remembrance of this vast event, as the mutual friendships which have been formed under the pressure of common danger, and, in many instances, cemented by the blood of the parties, the officers of the American army do, hereby, in the most solemn manner, associate, constitute and combine themselves into one SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, to endure as long as they shall endure, or any of their eldest male posterity, and, in failure thereof, the collateral branches who may be judged worthy of becoming its supporters and members.

“The officers of the American army having generally been taken from the citizens of America, possess high veneration for the character of that illustrious Roman, LUCIUS QUINTIUS CINCINNATUS; and being resolved to follow his example, by returning to their citizenship, they think they may with propriety denominate themselves, THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI.

“The following principles shall be immutable and form the basis of the Society of the Cincinnati.

“ An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.

“ An unalterable determination to promote and cherish, between the respective States, that union and national honor so essentially necessary to their happiness, and the future dignity of the American empire.

“ To render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers. This spirit will dictate brotherly kindness in all things, and particularly, extend to the most substantial acts of beneficence, according to the ability of the Society, towards those officers and their families, who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving it.

“ The General Society will, for the sake of frequent communications, be divided into State Societies, and these again into such districts as shall be directed by the State Society.

“ The Societies of the districts to meet as often as shall be agreed upon by the State Society, those of the State on the fourth day of July, annually, or oftener, if they shall find it expedient, and the General Society on the first Monday in May, annually, so long as they shall deem it necessary, and afterwards, at least once in every three years.

“ At each meeting, the principles of the Institution will be fully considered, and the best measures to promote them adopted.

“ The State Societies will consist of all the members resident in each State respectively; and any member removing from one State to another, is to be considered, in all respects, as belonging to the Society of the State in which he shall actually reside.

“The State Societies to have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, to be chosen annually, by a majority of votes, at the State meeting.

“Each State meeting shall write annually, or oftener, if necessary, a circular letter, to the other State Societies, noting whatever they may think worthy of observation, respecting the good of the Society, or the general union of the States, and giving information of the officers chosen for the current year: copies of these letters shall be regularly transmitted to the Secretary-General of the Society, who will record them in a book to be assigned for that purpose.

“The State Society will regulate everything respecting itself and the Societies of its districts consistent with the general maxims of the Cincinnati, judge of the qualifications of the members who may be proposed, and expel any member who, by a conduct inconsistent with a gentleman and a man of honor, or by an opposition to the interests of the community in general, or the Society in particular, may render himself unworthy to continue a member.

“In order to form funds which may be respectable, and assist the unfortunate, each officer shall deliver to the Treasurer of the State Society one month's pay, which shall remain for ever to the use of the State Society; the interest only of which, if necessary, to be appropriated to the relief of the unfortunate.

“Donations may be made by persons not of the Society, and by members of the Society, for the express purpose of forming permanent funds for the use of the State Society, and the interests of these donations appropriated in the same manner as that of the month's pay.

“Moneys, at the pleasure of each member, may be subscribed in the Societies of the districts, or the State Societies, for the relief of the unfortunate members, or their widows and orphans, to be appropriated by the State Society only.

“The meeting of the General Society shall consist of its officers and a representation from each State Society, in number not exceeding five, whose expenses shall be borne by their respective State Societies.

“In the general meeting, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer-Generals, shall be chosen, to serve until the next meeting.

“The circular letters which have been written by the respective State Societies to each other, and their particular laws, shall be read and considered, and all measures concerted which may conduce to the general intendment of the Society.

“It is probable that some persons may make donations to the General Society, for the purpose of establishing funds for the further comfort of the unfortunate, in which case, such donations must be placed in the hands of the Treasurer-General, the interests only of which to be disposed of, if necessary, by the general meeting.

“All the officers of the American army, as well those who have resigned with honor, after three years service in the capacity of officers, or who have been deranged by the resolutions of Congress, upon the several reforms of the army, as those who shall have continued to the end of the war, have the right to become parties to this Institution; provided that they subscribe one month's pay, and sign their names to the general rules, in their respective State Societies, those who are