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# The Work of the Hereditary Patriotic Societies

*REPRINTED FROM THE FIRST  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OHIO  
VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION*

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Addresses on the Work of the  
Hereditary Patriotic Societies

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RECEPTION BY THE HEREDITARY PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES.

Saturday, 3:00 P. M.

Presiding Officer, GENERAL BENJAMIN R. COWEN.

Introductory Address,

HARRY B. MACKOY.....Chairman Reception Committee

Addresses on the Work of the Hereditary Patriotic Societies:

Society of Colonial Dames.....MRS. HERMAN GROESBECK

Society of Colonial Wars.....ROBERT RALSTON JONES

Daughters of the American Revolution.....MRS. JOHN A. MURPHY

Sons of the Revolution.....JOHN A. BLAINE

Daughters of the Confederacy.....MRS. JOHN J. SHEARER

COMMITTEE ON MEETING OF PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES.

HARRY B. MACKOY.

MRS. J. A. BECHTEL.

MRS. W. D. WARREN.

ROBERT RALSTON JONES

HERBERT JENNEY.

MRS. J. C. HOSEA.



# Addresses on the Work of the Hereditary Patriotic Societies.

## I.

### SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES.

MRS. HERMAN GROESEBECK, *Honorary President National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Ohio.*

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the Hereditary Patriotic Societies:

I have construed your very kind invitation for a short report from the National Society of Colonial Dames in America as a wish to learn something of the nature of the work that has been accomplished by this Society. The time allotted me is short and my paper will bristle with statistics and necessarily be stripped bare of much interesting detail.

The work of the National Society of Colonial Dames may for brevity be classified as follows:

The marking of places of historic interest:

The printing and preservation of valuable Colonial and other records;

The holding of expensive and interesting loan exhibitions;

The giving of prizes for essays on Colonial or early American history.

Landmarks of historic interest threatened with destruction have been purchased and restored and preserved for future generations. Colonial study classes have been formed in many states with excellent results. Essays written by members of these classes are sent to the Reciprocity Bureau and circulated on request.

A National Relief Association that may be called upon in time of war or in time of any national disaster has been organized.

In Pennsylvania the Society has purchased, restored and furnished the home of James Logan—Stenton. James Logan was the friend and secretary of William Penn, and Stenton is now in all its beauty the center of the social life of this Society. The Elizabeth Gillespie Memorial has taken the form of an annual scholarship of \$1,500.00 at Bryn Mawr College. Prizes are offered to the graduates of the Girls' High School and School of Industrial Art in Philadelphia for essays and also to the girl students of the Thurston School at Pittsburg.

The Maryland Society gives its third course of lectures to the trustees of Johns Hopkins University; it has held interesting exhibits of family portraits and armorial bearings of Maryland families and photo-

graphs of Colonial homes in the State still standing. This Society was financially crippled by the fire.

The New Jersey Society has marked the First Presbyterian Church with a bronze tablet: "In memory of the first settlers who founded the town upon ye Pasayake in 1666." This Society has also furnished part of the old barracks with rare bits of historic furniture.

The Delaware Society has placed a monument to mark the spot where was planted the first Swedish colony in America, where stood Fort Christina on the banks of the Christiana. They have also unveiled a boulder in memory of the occupation of Delaware by the Dutch, which bears this inscription: "Fort Casimir was built by the Dutch in 1651, and recaptured by them from the Swedes in 1655."

The Virginia Society has undertaken to copy the journal of the House of Burgesses, 1773-1775. They have finished their sixth record of church vestry books, Christ Church, Lancaster Co. being the last. In Co-operation with the Richmond Educational Society they are making a model of one of their public schools. They support a fellowship at the University of Virginia, they care for the graves of the Washington family at Wakefield, and they offer many prizes for essays in the schools.

The Massachusetts Society gives an annual prize of \$100.00 to the American Art Association in Paris for a painting on some subject of Colonial interest. Classes have been formed among the Russian and Italian emigrants in the north end of Boston. Many prizes for essays in the schools have been given and loan exhibitions of old silver and furniture have been held. Of great interest is their purchase of the Quincy House, at Quincy. The wing of this house was built by William Coddington in 1636 and the front of it in 1687 by Edmund Quincy. This house is replete with historic associations and is now completely restored and furnished in the quaintest and most charming manner. The paper on the walls of one room was imported from Paris in anticipation of the wedding of the charming Dorothy Q. to John Hancock. The house is low pitched and wide spread with grounds and shrubberies about it and presents a perfect representation of the homes of gentlefolk of Colonial days.

The New York Society has also its beautiful and interesting home in the Van Courtland Manor House, which is also a museum of Colonial relics. Special exhibitions of china, plate and furniture have been held, and more than one hundred thousand visitors pass through its doors each year.

Prizes are offered to teachers' colleges for essays, and to the University of Rochester, and six classes in the various industrial schools are supported. This Society continues its work of publishing the minutes of the Orphans' Court of New Amsterdam, the second volume of which is now being translated from the Dutch.

South Carolina has restored the old powder magazine, which is now

the scene of social entertainment and business meetings. They offer prizes for essays to four girls' colleges with excellent results.

The Connecticut Society report their traveling libraries amongst country schools as numbering fifty, whilst forty-eight portfolios of historical pictures go with them. Many prizes for essays are offered to high schools and grammar schools throughout the State. They have devoted much time and money to the restoration of the old stone house at Guilford, built by Henry Whitfield in 1639. They have copied and still are copying church records and they are writing the histories of Colonial houses in the State, of which 174 are standing.

New Hampshire offers prizes for essays to students in the public schools and is making an effort to induce the Legislature to create the office of Commissioner of Records in the State of New Hampshire. A fine old house in Exeter, built in 1708, has been recently purchased, restored and furnished, and is the home of the Society.

In Georgia the work has been chiefly in the line of preserving and restoring the ancient landmarks which were rapidly falling into decay, such as the restoration of the citadel of the old town of Frederia on St. Simons Island, and they have also erected a monument to Oglethorpe.

North Carolina reports the unveiling of tablets to Cornelius Harnett and other Colonial patriots.

The Rhode Island Society has published the correspondence of Colonial Governors of Rhode Island, 1723-1775. They have successfully restored the Bishop Berkeley House and have established the Roger Williams Memorial Fund at Brown University.

Of the Associate Societies in the non-Colonial States it is needless to say that they cannot purchase and restore Colonial buildings. They are all, however, doing active and useful educational work, offering prizes for essays in different schools and supporting scholarships in colleges.

The Illinois Society has been for years doing an admirable educational work amongst the immigrants in Illinois. They have finally educated a young Bohemian and prepared him for work amongst his own people. He is to instruct them in the history of this country and in the duties of citizenship.

Florida is preparing to place a bronze tablet with a suitable inscription upon the old gates of St. Augustine.

Alabama has erected a superb wayside cross in memory of the Sieur de Bienville.

Kentucky is doing fine educational work.

The Michigan Society has unveiled a tablet in Detroit and presented it to that city, bearing this inscription: "Here encamped the Fox Indians Outagamies during the siege of Detroit in 1712. Here also are buried the soldiers killed in the battle of Lake Erie, 1813."

The Ohio Society has purchased and restored the Land Office of the Ohio Company in Marietta. This little relic is frequently open to the school children and to the general public. Our custodian reports

many visitors and great interest shown. They have also published a volume of the correspondence of Rufus Putnam from the manuscript in possession of the Marietta College, and they help support a fellowship in the University of Cincinnati. This fellowship is for the research and study of the early settlement of the Ohio Valley.

I must close my paper by giving a short account of the National work, aside from the State work, to which all the States have the privilege and the honor to subscribe. This was to begin with the Relief Association for the Spanish War sufferers, which Association raised and spent under the guidance of the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy over \$50,000. Then later came the erection of the beautiful monument at Arlington in memory of those who perished during the war.

There was an appeal to Congress for the preservation of Niagara, one for National Forest reservations, and one for the preservation of historic sites in Washington. These appeals were pleasantly received by influential members of Congress and of the Senate and did their share of work in influencing public opinion.

As is fitting our last two efforts crown our years of work. First of these was the rebuilding of the ancient church at Jamestown, which was first built of wood in 1617, then rebuilt of brick in 1640. Nothing however was left standing of either building but the tower. Both foundations were unearthed in making necessary excavations, and slates from the old roof, tiles from the chancel, bits of leaded glass from the windows, and bolts and hinges were found, all sure guides for our skillful and enthusiastic architect in his reconstruction. New brick walls enclosing the exterior foundations of 1640 were built, and the old brick used as an inside facing. Several memorial tablets of bronze are now on these walls, the old tile is replaced in the chancel and the little church after appropriate ceremony was handed over to the Virginia Society for the preservation of Antiquities by our National President and the Dames attending her.

The last great work of the National Society is the publication of the letters of William Pitt, Lord Chatham, to the Colonial Governors and Military Commanders of North America. Our Committee on Historic Research, through the kindness of Mr. Hubert Hall, of the Record Office and Royal Historical Society, received permission for the transcription of these documents, and at his suggestion employed an expert copyist at the Record Office in London. The book was published by the MacMillans and is considered to be an invaluable addition to the history of that time.

In closing I wish to say that the Dames of Ohio are complimented and pleased to be included in this distinguished company and have every wish to work in harmony and sympathy with all other Hereditary Patriotic Societies.

## II.

THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS; ITS AIMS AND ITS  
ATTITUDE TOWARDS HISTORIC RESEARCH.

ROBERT RALSTON JONES.

The English Settlement at Jamestown, three centuries ago, followed by similar beginnings at Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, and in the valleys of the Hudson and Connecticut, stands as the Genesis of our Colonial life; it marked the implanting of a vital germ, which, growing with ever increasing fruitfulness, has overtopped the Alleghenies, descended into the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, spread out upon the broad prairies of the West and crossed the Continental Divide to the seas of the Orient.

The formative period which elapsed between 1607 and 1775, was of incalculable importance to the land and its people. It was a period which may be likened to that epoch through which our planet passed, when chaotic nebulae became consolidated and formless elements took on stability and system. Our Colonial period was truly the creative one during which many essential and characteristic forms of local self government were evolved; the expression of popular opinion was unrestrained, but freedom of speech and action was so tempered with prudence, that the excesses which marked the great political upheavals in France, were unknown to the colonists of our Atlantic seaboard; we might, even now, with advantage turn back to some of the primitive methods of government which were in use from 1608 to 1775.

The principles developed during the Colonial period have at all times exercised a powerful influence upon the destinies of our country; sometimes indeed amid storms which threatened the very life of the Republic, but for the most part advancing quietly, solemnly, yet irresistibly, towards their final consummation whatever that may involve.

For more than a century and a half following the earliest settlements, we looked across the broad sea for commercial aid and military assistance, learning all this time, however, to forget the prejudice born of conflicting religious creed, and the indifference due to race stock and diverse political system. The whole colonial period was a gigantic training school. Political acumen and military prowess are not born of the instant, both involve preliminary training; statesmen were developed as a result of the Town Meeting, the Provincial Councils and the Legislative Assemblies of the various colonies; so too the soldier was educated and toughened in the campaigns against the Indian and the even more strenuous wars with the French. Who can for one moment imagine that mere untrained mobs of patriotic men could for long have opposed successfully the trained veterans of Great Britain? To account for Lexington, Bunker Hill, and Saratoga, we must look back to the Pequot War, to the capture almost unaided of Louisburg in 1745, and to the long

border warfare with France extending from Maine to the Carolinas. From the very beginning our people possessed self-reliance and courage, but the separate colonies contained little cohesive power until many crudities in life and government had become refined by trial and suffering; until the dross had been melted out in the crucible of life; then, when the fateful moment came and the colonial period ceased to exist, the people rich and poor alike were in some measure fitted for self-government.

Granting these premises, and no candid person can deny them as a whole, we have good reason for studying closely the men, manners, and achievements of Colonial times. We find much to applaud and imitate in the vigorous manhood of those days; much to profit by in the examples of sturdy honesty and self-denial then exhibited; much to excite our sympathy and arouse our admiration in the conduct of these *founders of our nation*.

Our indebtedness to the founders of our social and political structure was duly recognized at the organization of the Society of Colonial Wars in the following terms:

"The Society of Colonial Wars has been instituted to perpetuate the memory of those events, and of the men who in military, naval, and civil positions of high trust and responsibility, by their acts of counsel, assisted in the establishment, defense and preservation of the American Colonies, and were in truth the founders of this nation. With this end in view it seeks to collect and preserve manuscripts, rolls, relics, and records; to provide suitable commemorations or memorials relating to the American Colonial period, and to inspire in its members the fraternal and patriotic spirit of their fore-fathers, and in the community, respect and reverence for those whose public services made our freedom and unity possible."

With the aims and desires I have just enumerated, the first State Society, that of New York, was instituted August 18, 1892. Similar societies were soon formed in other states: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Maryland in 1893; New Hampshire, Virginia and New Jersey in 1894; Georgia, 1896; Rhode Island and Delaware, 1897. Before, even all of the original thirteen Colonies had been thus represented, the states carved out of the "Territory Northwest of the River Ohio" had begun to organize, and even some from the newer region yet—the old Louisiana Purchase. Our own society, that of Ohio, was organized May 13, 1895, less than three years after the movement was first inaugurated. At the close of 1906 there were twenty-seven branches of the General Society, inclusive of that formed in the District of Columbia.

I shall not exhaust your patience by the presentation of mere statistics relating to membership. Our Society, and I use the expression in its broadest meaning, includes a very large number of representative men; in our membership may be found clergymen, statesmen, lawyers, physicians, educators, military and naval officers, bankers, and business



men. Some of these have themselves been makers of history during the Civil and Spanish wars. I think we may modestly claim to commemorate the past, its trials and its triumphs, and we also claim to have developed among our own members that fraternal and patriotic spirit of our forefathers, so earnestly commended in the constitution of the General Society. Our Society lends its hearty support to the preservation of objects having historical interest, and to the proper identification and marking of spots once famous, from which the original old landmarks have fallen away. Appropriations of money are made from time to time for the purpose of erecting monuments on Colonial battlefields, and placing tablets on buildings now occupying historic sites. Much has been done also in the way of preserving old public records, muster rolls, diaries, maps, and books; also warrants, wills, deeds, and other legal instruments. In this way we give practical support to the expression of documentary history.

We bear in mind also that West of the Alleghenies, the period immediately following the close of the American Revolution, corresponds closely with that similar formative period in the older colonies, between 1607 and 1775. Indeed the Great West lay in a state of retarded or suspended development from 1607 until the passing of the Ordinance of 1787 and for the most of this vast region, for all practical purposes, the period corresponding to that called Colonial, did not close until some time after the several states of the West and Northwest had been admitted to the Union.

We therefore welcome a movement to arouse greater interest in American history, and especially in the history of that vast region, the great continental basin of North America, whose primeval forests and sun-lit prairies, two centuries ago, were untrodten save by the wild animal, or his scarcely less savage foe, the Indian.

We welcome a movement to illumine the dark spots of mere tradition, and blazon them with the beacon lights of true history. The materials for such illumination are varied but greatly scattered; many an abandoned graveyard, shadowed by pines and cedars and carpeted with myrtle, contains precise information as to men and events, now otherwise remembered only by tradition; the early records of church societies are filled with discussions of questions which may to us appear non-essential, but which were living issues to the active participants and exercised a powerful influence upon their lives and conduct; the family records, portraits, letters and journals of public men are becoming more and more widely scattered and as time passes their recovery will be attended with increasing difficulty. More than one instance has come to our knowledge where valuable manuscripts, public and private, were consigned to the paper mill for want of proper appreciation of their contents.

The Society of Colonial Wars will cheerfully lend its assistance to this Historical Conference in its effort to remedy existing conditions

to the end that the records of the present and the past may be preserved for future generations.

### III.

#### OBJECTS AND WORK OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

MRS. JOHN A. MURPHY.

This Society was founded in the year 1890, in the city of Washington, with Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, wife of the then President of the United States, as its first President General. It was incorporated in February, 1896, under the United States Government, the Act of Incorporation being signed by the President, Grover Cleveland, and the Vice President, Adlai Stevenson, and the Speaker of the House, Thomas B. Reed. It is made up of Chapters, at present numbering nearly seven hundred, which are the active units through which the objects of the Society are carried out. The purposes of this Association cannot be told better than in the words of its National Constitution, Article Second, Sections 1, 2 and 3. "The objects of this Society are:

(1) To perpetuate the memory of the spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence by the acquisition and protection of historical spots, and the erection of monuments; by the encouragement of historical research in relation to the Revolution; by the preservation of the records of the individual services of Revolutionary soldiers and patriots, and by the promotion of celebrations of all patriotic anniversaries.

(2) To carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge, thus developing an enlightened public opinion, and affording to young and old such advantages as shall develop in them the largest capacity for performing the duties of American citizens."

The Thirteen Original States had naturally a greater opportunity to carry out the first section of Article Second of our constitution as read above, because in these states were the homes of our Revolutionary fathers. In them were the scenes of the local disputes between the colonists and British; in them were the battlefields of the Revolution. The eastern Daughters, by their untiring efforts, have created an undying history of the Revolution in bronze and stone from Maine to Georgia by the monuments they have raised, the tablets they have placed, the Revolutionary houses they have bought and preserved, and the impetus they have given to research and study of American history. Many of the sites so rescued would otherwise have been lost to history and become mere matters of tradition.

As a condition of admission to this Society, each applicant must

show authentic record that she is a lineal descendant of a man or woman who rendered aid to the Cause of our Independence. This necessity naturally stimulated research into family history, and the resulting records of ancestral patriotic services are yearly printed in lineage books published by the National Board. This has resulted in a great genealogical library, now considered the best reference library on that subject in the country. The chapters of the Middle and Western States having no battlefields or Revolutionary sites to mark naturally turned for their objects to the second section of our constitution as read above.

It would be impossible in the brief time allotted me to enumerate all the things done by this great society. In brief I will say that it has lent its aid to all legislation in direction of good citizenship, and it has certainly been a powerful agent in healing the animosities between the Northern and Southern sections of the country, caused by the Civil War; because yearly women who from all quarters of the Union meet in Washington at the D. A. R. Congress, learn to know each other, to understand and respect each other's points of view and to lay the mantle of their common proud inheritance, Revolutionary ancestry, over the graves of the past.

But one thing I can tell you that only a few here know, namely, that our Society is required by the United States Government as an incorporated part to render to the Government through the Smithsonian Institution, a yearly account of all work done by it. This report is published by the Government in one volume of the Smithsonian Reports. In it are found records and photographs of all monuments erected, of tablets placed during the year, of all moneys expended for patriotic purposes, and of all patriotic educational foundations created; and I am proud to tell you that any one incredulous of our usefulness can turn to these pages and be convinced of his error.

In 1893 our National Board appointed Mrs. A. Howard Hinkle of this city as the first State Regent of Ohio, for the purpose of founding this Society in our State. Mrs. Hinkle began her work at once by forming chapters throughout the State. On April 27th, 1893, eleven women whose admission papers had been verified and signed by the National Board met at Mrs. Hinkle's residence and organized a D. A. R. Chapter, electing our late much beloved Mrs. Arnold as its first Chapter Regent, and called it the Cincinnati Chapter. The work of organizing Chapters has been carried on until now there are forty-one in our State. But it was not until October, 1899, that Mrs. Granger, the then State Regent called the first Ohio D. A. R. Conference to meet in Zanesville. By this movement she became the first agent towards unifying the work of the state. She appointed the first two state committees, one of which was on "Historic Sites of Ohio." Through this committee many interesting facts of local history were revealed; among others, the existence of graves of Revolutionary soldiers who had emigrated to Ohio after the war and died here. This committee still exists and yearly does good

work, chiefly in the direction of verifying and marking these graves in a suitable uniform manner. The second was a committee on the "Manila Free Library," of which committee Mrs. James Kilbourne of Columbus was appointed and still remains chairman. Through its agency, the Ohio Alcove in this far off Manila library was founded and is still supported by our State. Mrs. John A. Murphy, when State Regent, added committees on the Smithsonian Report, on the Continental Memorial Hall, on Patriotic Education, and lately the present active State Regent, Mrs. Edward Orton, has added committees on the Juvenile Court, on the Children of the Republic, U. S. A., and one on Child Labor. Good work has been done by all of these committees. But to go more into detail is impossible and so I again refer you to our Smithsonian volume.

I will now ask you to consider with me the more special works of our own chapter. I find in reading the records that its history in its first years is identical with that of all other new chapters. It occupied itself in recruiting new members, in learning how to conduct meetings, in the study of ancestry and in reviving its own knowledge of our national history. But it was not until the Spanish War came that our chapter sprang up out of its self-absorption into the most enthusiastic patriotic work. In May, 1898, news was received that our soldiers in Florida were suffering from climatic conditions and asking for flannel bandages. On the instant fifty dollars were subscribed with which to buy material. A committee with Mrs. Judkins and Mrs. Herbert Jenney at its head, was appointed in charge, and in the short space of three days 400 bandages were made and delivered at the Army Post in Tampa. In June, 1898, our then Chapter Regent, Miss Annie Laws, called a special chapter meeting to consider a call from our National Board to assist in forming a plan to aid the Government in caring for the soldiers. The National Board had organized the D. A. R. Army Hospital Corps, and the Cincinnati Chapter immediately appointed a Cincinnati Chapter Army Hospital Corps Committee, of which Mrs. Wm. Judkins was made Chairman, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Arnold, Chairman of Transportation and Mrs. Disney, Treasurer. All during the hot summer this committee was untiring. It sent medicines, money and delicacies to the soldiers and made garments to the number of 2599 and delivered them to army posts. At this time also the chapters called the attention of the mayor to the necessity of providing food for sick and wounded soldiers on trains passing through our city. Through the unflagging efforts of Mrs. Frank Wilson during this hot season, aid and comfort were afforded one thousand sick soldiers at the railroad stations. Through our chapter, Miss Laws the Regent, proposed eleven trained nurses to the National Hospital Corps, nine of whom were accepted.

On October 23d, at a chapter meeting, the then Chapter Regent, Mrs. John A. Murphy, presented through the Recording Secretary, her plan of work for the chapter. It was as follows:

That one-half the income from annual dues be held by the Treasurer as a patriotic work fund. That two committees be appointed by the Regent; the first committee to be on Patriotism in Schools and Colleges; the second committee on Neighborhood Patriotic Meetings. The object of the first committee shall be to promote patriotism in colleges and schools by offering prizes, by founding scholarships and fellowships and by other means that it might devise that the chapter will approve.

The object of the second committee shall be the establishment of patriotic meetings among the foreign or uneducated classes of the city for the diffusion of knowledge of our history and Government.

This plan was immediately adopted by the chapter and the Regent appointed Mrs. Brent Arnold, Chairman of the College and Schools Committee, and Miss Annie Laws, Chairman of the Patriotic Meetings Committee.

Mrs. Arnold and the Regent, Mrs. Murphy, had an interview with the then President of the University, Dr. Ayres, and made a proposition to found a Fellowship in American History in the University. It was received with enthusiasm, not only because it would be the first fellowship of the University, but because the Daughters would by this movement give an impulse in this direction for others to follow. This prediction has been fulfilled. Mrs. Arnold told the chapter that our Fellowship would be a Post Graduate one in American History and it would be honorary until we had paid in sufficient capital to earn the honorarium for the fellowship. So she said, "It behooves us to be up and doing," and our chapter was up and doing and worked four years to pay in the requisite capital to the Endowment Board of the University. But ever since 1900 our University has had in it a D. A. R. Fellow. Mrs. Arnold and Mrs. Murphy also had a meeting with a delegation from the Association of Principals of the Public Schools. Mrs. Arnold regretted to report that our proposal to offer prizes in the Public Schools for good Scholarship in American History did not meet with the approval of the principals, therefore it had to be abandoned.

From this year, 1900, patriotic meetings were held among the uneducated women of the city. They were taught by maps, by talks, and addresses, and, we think, gained much profit and exercised a good influence over their sons. It was the idea of Miss Laws, the Chairman, that through these women we could reach the boys, which supposition proved ultimately true. These meetings still continue, although the great interest now in this patriotic education work centers in the boys.

In May, 1899, Mrs. Cadwallader presented the chapter with a map showing the authentic site of old Ft. Washington. It was taken from a map made by the United States Engineer of that period, which was found among her great grandfather's papers. The finding of this authentic site gave rise to a movement brought forward by Mrs. E. Wilson to invite other patriotic Societies to join with us in erecting a monument on this the early site of our city. Mrs. Wilson eventually accomplished

this and a monument was erected on this site, through the combined efforts of The Daughters of the Revolution, The Colonial Dames, The Daughters of the War of 1812, The Sons of The Colonial Wars, The Sons of The Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Descendants, and the Loyal Legion. It stands in East Third Street, where it was unveiled June 14, 1891.

In May, 1899, through the initiative of Mrs. Herbert Jenney, the chapter published a collection of patriotic songs for the purpose of using them at our park concerts, hoping by means of open air singing to stimulate greater love of these beautiful songs. Fifteen thousand of these song books were printed, four thousand of which were given to the Superintendent of Parks for the purpose mentioned, one thousand to the Superintendent of Schools, on his request, and many hundreds and dozens were given away in quarters where we thought they would be of use. Many were sold to Daughters of the American Revolution all over the country for their meetings. The last hundred of the fifteen thousand were ordered only two weeks ago by a chapter in Rochester, New York.

October 19th, 1897, Mrs. Murphy now State Regent of Ohio, was able at last to realize her long cherished plan of forming a club of children of the less fortunate classes for the purpose of developing in them a high order of patriotism and civic virtue. On this date Mrs. Murphy and Miss Burkam quietly collected thirty-five children in the McFarland Street school house and organized them into the first club of The Children of The Republic, U. S. A. This work was continued without much help until the D. A. R. State Conference met in Cincinnati in October, 1902. Here a stirring paper was read on the need of educating foreign children in American patriotism by Mrs. Knight, of Columbus, and our modest effort on this line was used by her as illustration. The Conference was greatly impressed and moved to adopt this work as a "common duty for Ohio Chapters." Our Chapter immediately thereafter adopted it as its special work, appointed a local C. R. Committee, and has from that time continued its protection and support. From this small beginning have grown seven clubs of Children of the Republic in this city. During this year the ladies on this C. R. Committee saw that the boys who had been in our clubs six years were outgrowing the younger and newer members. They therefore resolved to form a Senior Club of all the boys who were sixteen years old, from these C. R. Clubs, and to call it The Sons of the Republic. This is to be a sort of post graduate club, to which all boys of C. R. Clubs, when reaching sixteen years of age and being recommended by the Directors, can hope to be promoted. No boy, however, who has not been a member of some C. R. Club can be admitted to the "Sons of the Republic." This Senior Club was organized June 24th of this year and has had weekly meetings ever since. It has, as expected, proved a tremendous stimulus. Our methods, though various, follow a certain system. Each Club is organized by adopting a

short constitution made for all C. R. Clubs. It is officered by its members and its business meetings are conducted by these officers. But its programs are its means of development toward good citizenship. These vary. They have speeches by the boys, debates on public matters, history, games and guesses, mock court trials, drills in parliamentary usage, military drills, subjects assigned on which to hunt up information, current events, public questions, addresses from outside men and anything the directors and the Club can devise to help attain the Club object, which is, "To study the underlying principles of our government and all that pertains to promotion of good citizenship." On the last Saturday night of each month the eight Clubs hold a mass meeting in the Lecture Room of the Public Library. At these mass meetings, lectures illustrated by stereopticon views are given by eminent citizens on valuable subjects. These are not only a source of enjoyment and improvement to our boys, but it serves to make them realize that each club is one unit in a real association, though each bears a special name of some dead American hero or statesman. We have now eight clubs in Cincinnati, one large one in Cleveland, two in Columbus, one in Youngstown, one in Springfield, one in Lima, and one in Sandusky. The movement was made National by our D. A. R. Congress and a National Committee on Children of The Republic created, of which Mrs. Murphy was made chairman. The National C. R. Chairman has requested the other states to follow Ohio's lead and appoint State Committees on Children of The Republic to prosecute this movement in their states. Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, the two Virginias, Washington, The District of Columbia and Colorado have complied. So we feel that even though slowly, this teaching of true civic honesty and honor to our poorer boys will eventually become a national work. If the 60,000 Daughters in our Union should finally unite in doing this work, it can be well believed that a great and beneficial impression would be made on our body politic.

Our chapter contributes yearly \$100 to the Memorial Continental Hall fund. This is a fund for building a beautiful Memorial Building in Washington to the memory of the soldiers and sailors who died in the war of the Revolution. It is half finished now and its completion is considered a sacred obligation by all our old chapters. It is of white marble, is of Grecian architecture and will be a great ornament to our already beautiful Capitol. In it will be placed our splendid Genealogical Library and our already very considerable Museum of Revolutionary relics. I am glad to tell you that the Congress of the United States three years ago remitted all taxes on this building on account of its purely patriotic character and uses. It is impossible to tell you today of all our contributions to good objects, of all our efforts to secure good legislation and of private donations. Only in conclusion I will again refer you to our annual Smithsonian report.

## IV.

## SONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

JOHN A. BLAINE.

The Society Sons of the Revolution, while occupying a position peculiarly its own, by reason of its requirements for eligibility to membership, very properly belongs to the class of organizations that have to do with the social life of the present day. The betterment of American citizenship, with its responsibilities, and the education of the great masses coming to us from foreign shores in the value of American Institutions, are the supreme questions that command the attention of many of these organizations, and embrace the great social problems, to which has been given the most profound thought of American scholars and statesmen.

"America," to quote from my distinguished kinsman, the late Hon. James G. Blaine, "America justifies her birthright as she uplifts, enlarges, strengthens, the individual man in the widest organized community. Her peculiar glory is in the masses, their intelligence and dignity, their recognition and due discharge of responsibility, their freedom from unworthy ambition, their adoption of intellectual, moral and spiritual aims—if in this she does not excel all other nations, America will have been discovered in vain and Christopher Columbus might well have died in the little gray house at Genoa. What our fathers delivered to us, that should we deliver to our children, not only undiminished, but increased and enriched by our own experience. Every man who falls below his highest, harms not only himself, but lowers the standard of his country, and to that extent falls short of the perfect citizen."

Organizations and societies without number have been established, whose supreme object is to make American citizenship higher and nobler than the citizenship of any other country on the globe. Organizations for the improvement of civic conditions for the correction of evils and abuses that have crept into the body politic, and, in a word, for the furtherance of every project that promises a betterment of life among all classes, by establishing higher ideals and promoting education in the pure, true, and noble things that make for character and lead to good citizenship. Patriotism, loyalty, and reverence for the worthy deeds of worthy ancestors are but synonyms of good citizenship, and as these virtues embrace the cardinal principles on which rest the foundation of the Society Sons of the Revolution, I deem it an honor to speak to you this afternoon of the purposes of that Society and of what it has accomplished.

In a speech delivered shortly after its organization, the Hon. Hamilton Fish conferred upon the Society Sons of the Revolution the honorable title of "Younger Brother" to the Society of the Cincinnati, a



most appropriate title, for the younger is practically an outgrowth from the older.

May I ask your indulgence while I briefly mention the conditions that led to the organization of this magnificent younger Society, a Society whose membership extends into every state of the Union, with State Societies in the District of Columbia and thirty-one of the States?

The Society of the Cincinnati, as is no doubt well known to all present, embraced in its membership only the officers of the Revolutionary Army and their oldest male descendants. It was instituted at the Cantonment of the patriot army on the Hudson River, May 13th, 1783.

General Washington, the first President of the Society, in an address to its members, closed with the eloquent words, "Let us, then, prosecute with ardor what he have instituted in sincerity; let Heaven and our consciences approve our conduct; let our actions be the best comment on our words, and let us leave a lesson to posterity, that the glory of soldiers cannot be completed without acting well the part of citizens."

The Cincinnati, for many years, occupied the foremost place in the country's celebration of Revolutionary events and anniversaries, but after a distinguished existence its membership became greatly depleted, the Society ceased to exist in many of the original states, and its members no longer took an active part in the affairs of the country.

The centennial of the Boston Tea Party, celebrated December 16th, 1873, inaugurated a notable sequence of official and public celebrations commemorating the heroic occurrences in our great struggle for independence, which aroused to activity the hearts of those who cherished the deeds of their ancestors. The inactive condition of the Society of the Cincinnati made a deep impression upon the minds of many who were jealous of the brilliant fame of that Society, and it was hoped that the advent of centennial years would be propitious for restoring that organization to its original position of ascendancy; to secure that end an effort was made to have its doors opened to all male descendants of Revolutionary officers. The suggestion was received in a kindly spirit, but received no further consideration, as Mr. Fish, the President General, stated that the sentiment of the Cincinnati prohibited any departure from the precedents of nearly a century, and no change could be made from the established rule of eligibility.

Mr. John Austin Stevens of New York, by whom the matter was presented, was gravely impressed by these conditions. Endowed with a spirit of patriotism, he felt that the time was ripe for the organization of a great patriot society upon the broadest foundations, catholic as to its membership in right of ancestors of the Revolution, and which might be made a factor for good in the direction of public affairs and the inculcation of principles of honor and patriotism in the hearts of the people of the Nation. With faith in the goodness of his cause, he presented the matter to those of his associates whom he knew to be in full

accord with his sentiments. His proposition was heartily endorsed, a Society was organized, and, by a happy inspiration, a name unique and descriptive was selected for the new Society.

In 1765, on nearly the same spot, and under the vows of Masonic secrecy, was organized "The Sons of Liberty," whose purpose was resistance to the Stamp Act, and the insidious encroachment of England upon the rights of the Colonies. The movement spread rapidly from Boston to Savannah, and its members were the leaders in all those aggressive acts of opposition which finally compelled a repeal of the law.

In adopting the name, "Sons of the Revolution," the committee chose an appellation significant of its purpose to conserve those eternal principles of honor, patriotism, liberty and justice, the heritage from "The Sons of Liberty," and which name we most devoutly believe will endure until time shall end.

Public attention was immediately attracted to this new Society, and an increase of membership followed, not alone from New York, but from the adjoining States. Its increase was so rapid that, at the time of the centennial celebration of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, it had upwards of four hundred members, and the material of which this membership was composed was of such substantial and good standing in the community, that when a committee of two hundred was appointed by the Mayor from among the citizens of New York to take the management of the magnificent celebration, thirty-six of its members were found to be members of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution. A number of them were again placed upon the most important sub-committees, and were entrusted with the most responsible and laborious duties. The Society itself was given the highest place of honor next to the Society of the Cincinnati, and paraded as an escort to the President to their full number.

Just here permit me to refer to the unjust criticisms, that have, from time to time, asserted that the Society Sons of the Revolution represented only an exposition of sentimental ideas; that its dominating principles were pride of ancestry and class exclusiveness; that its most important work was devoted to the establishing of a genealogical descent through four or five generations of American progenitors, that its members may say "We are not as this publican whose father came to us in the stercor."

Such criticisms, if made at all, have been made by those who have no conception of its purposes. That one should not take a reasonable pride in a worthy ancestry, indicates that such person is possessed of a perverted mind, or, at least, an utter indifference to the higher ideals of life. It is true, the millionaire, the political leader, or the social autocrat cannot be enrolled in the membership of this Society unless he is descended from a participant on the Colonial side in our war for independence, and unless he is a man of integrity and respected by his neighbors; but every man, whatever his position, even the laborer, who

earns his bread by the sweat of his brow, if a good citizen and qualified, is as welcome to its membership as he who sits in the executive chair or presides in our courts of justice. As to its patriotic character, an eminent member of the Society, the late William Leverett Chase of Massachusetts, in an address, said: "The only good from such orders as the Sons of the Revolution may be the highest good, if we realize the sacred trust of duties, a proud legacy committed to our faithful keeping; to preserve in their purity, to broaden and ennoble by our own self-sacrifice, and transmit to those who come after us, with no spot or stain, unless it can be our holy privilege to pour our blood upon the altar of American liberty, and go to our God and our fathers with the only crown we revere; that of martyrdom for principles which have dignified and elevated the living, and will shed eternal lustre over those dying to maintain and perpetuate them."

The Society Sons of the Revolution has, through its State Societies, given object lessons to the young in our schools by awarding prizes for excellence in essays upon subjects connected with the Revolution; in the presentation of portraits of Washington, and the embellishment of school houses with tablets, busts and portraits,—a daily incentive for conscientious work and love of country.

In other fields, the Congress of the United States, and our State Legislatures have been petitioned to designate June 14th—the anniversary of the adoption of our national banner—as Flag Day and to pass stringent laws prohibiting the use of the Stars and Stripes as an advertising medium; and many battle fields and camp grounds have been purchased and restored to the public domain as parks for all future time.

Its literature has been voluminous and characterized by artistic merit in its publication. Over two hundred volumes have been issued by its State Societies, all of which are replete with biographical and historical data discovered in old garrets and extracted from family archives, which are unknown to our public libraries and which have thrown new light upon the story of our Revolution.

It aims to keep alive the spirit of patriotism, to revive the memories of the heroic deeds of the fathers, and to foster among all the people of our land a fervent devotion towards the institutions of our common country; to encourage historical research in relation to the Revolution, also to provide for the preservation of documents, relics, and the individual records of men, who, by their devotion, gave us the freedom we enjoy, and which we hope to leave as an inheritance to those who come after us; to bring together in a friendly brotherhood, the men of the North, the South, the East and the West in non-political, non-sectarian gatherings; and to promote the celebration of patriotic anniversaries, and by these, and other means, to impress upon the present and future generations the patriotic spirit which actuated our ancestors when they established the Republic of the United States of America.

Further than this, one of the sacred duties which the Sons of the

Revolution have assumed is that of perpetuating by imperishable marks the memory of those devoted heroes, their illustrious deeds, and the places which they consecrated in their great fight for freedom and justice. This work has been, and is being, prosecuted with the greatest patriotic zeal under the bountiful contributions of its members all over the United States.

The bronze statue of Nathan Hale by MacMonnies, erected in the City Hall Park of New York, has been accepted by the people as an ornament to the city and an honor to the patriotic society that erected it; the noble equestrian statue of Anthony Wayne, erected by the Pennsylvania Society, and the numerous statues, monuments and bronzes erected in all of the original states, and in many of the other states, indicate how thorough its work has been in establishing patriotic memorials that will endure until time shall be no more. To enumerate the historic grounds and buildings that have been secured by the Sons of the Revolution and preserved for the people of the Nation, would greatly exceed our limit of time. Nor can we undertake to describe the magnificent tablets of bronze that in endless number adorn the cities and beautify the country, telling in their mute language of heroic deeds and historic events, and we confine ourselves to the mention of two tablets, one erected on the old wharf in Boston, beautifully designed and artistically decorated with tea leaves, bearing the inscription:

"No! Ne'er was mingled such a draught,  
In palace, hall or arbor,  
As freemen brewed and tryants quaffed  
That night in Boston harbor."

The other, the Society's latest tablet work of art in bronze, erected upon Frauncees Tavern, New York City, bearing in relief the bust of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge, through whose interest and munificence the building was secured for preservation, and for the use of the Sons of the Revolution, and bearing the inscription: "Frederick Samuel Tallmadge, New York, 1824-1904. To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die.

Frauncees Tavern, erected in 1719.

Chamber of Commerce founded here 1768. Washington's farewell to his officers, December 4th, 1783. Centennial Celebrations of Washington's farewell, 1883. Sons of the Revolution organized here December 4th, 1883. Building purchased and restored by the Sons of the Revolution as a memorial to Frederick S. Tallmadge, 1905. Ceremony attending restoration, December 4th, 1907."

This historic building contains an invaluable collection of souvenirs of the Revolution and houses the library of the New York Society, and

it will be a home and headquarters for Sons of the Revolution of the entire country, who will always be welcomed to its halls.

I shall only take further time to mention some of the things that have been accomplished by the Ohio State Society, which has contributed liberally of its funds for patriotic and educational purposes. For some years it gave money prizes to pupils of the Ohio public schools and universities for the best original essays on revolutionary topics, the subjects for which were prepared by a committee of the Society, and led to contests that not only interested a large number of students, but resulted in the securing by the Society of a number of thoughtfully prepared and valuable papers. Having discontinued the giving of prizes for patriotic essays, it has contributed to a well known college a large sum annually, to be used in the education of descendants of Revolutionary soldiers, of whom there are a large number on its rolls.

The Ohio Society has contributed to the erection of tablets and monuments commemorative of Revolutionary events, and maintains a regular committee for the purpose of locating and marking the graves of Revolutionary soldiers buried within the State.

It has regularly celebrated Washington's Birthday, and other patriotic events, and introduced to its members as speakers many eminent men of letters from different parts of the country. It has established a position that is second to no other State Society, and the Ohio Society Sons of the Revolution is today faithfully and diligently prosecuting its work, elevating so far as it may, the standard of American citizenship, and teaching the virtues of patriotism, loyalty to the government, and reverence for the worthy deeds of worthy ancestors.

## V.

### DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY.

Mrs. JOHN J. SHEARER.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

It gives me pleasure to appear in this interesting company to assign the *raison d'etre* of the organization known as the U. D. C., or United Daughters of the Confederacy.

It would not be possible in the "five or ten minutes" allotted to me on this program to give even the bare facts of our history, but I hope to make clear in outline at least the plan and the objects of our organization.

During the war between the states, numbers of Southern women on adjoining or neighboring plantations banded themselves together to give all possible moral support and material aid to the soldiers of the South. Long before its close these bands and many others became memorial and charitable societies. The Kentucky women in Jefferson County decorated graves as early as 1862. At the close of the war the

locating and marking of graves became secondary to caring for those who came back to the ruins of their homes with "all lost save honor." Long before our legislatures were able to provide hospitals and homes for their wounded and now poverty-stricken heroes, these noble women—who had themselves little else than the will to do—nursed and fed, clothed and comforted, hundreds of sick and needy; but it was not until September, 1894, that these numerous and widely scattered local groups were brought together into a national organization under the name of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Those women who are entitled to membership are the wives, widows, sisters, mothers, nieces, and lineal descendants of such men as honorably served in the Confederate army, navy, or civil service; or of those men unfit for active duty who gave aid to the cause; also women and their lineal descendants who can furnish proof of personal service and loyal aid to the Southern cause during the war.

Seven or more eligible women in any state or territory in which no chapter exists may form a chapter and be chartered on application to the "United Daughters of the Confederacy." All subsequent chapters shall apply through the first chapter for their charter until a state division shall have been formed.

The national organization has now fifty thousand members, scattered yet united throughout thirty States. Kentucky has fifty-seven Chapters, with some twenty-four hundred members; West Virginia, twenty-five, with a thousand names enrolled; Indiana one Chapter with thirty-nine members; Ohio three Chapters, with some hundred and thirty members. Of course, the States farther South have very many more Chapters to the State and a much larger membership for each Chapter. I have mentioned only the four States comprised in the Central Ohio Valley, because this region is especially under consideration now; here the United Daughters number about three thousand five hundred and eighty—there may be many other "daughters" not yet members of the national organization. So much in brief for the organization itself; now for its work:

Summed up, its objects are three:

1. Memorial.
2. Benevolent and social.
3. Historical.

I have already spoken of the decorating and marking of graves even during the war. Well, that work of love has continued and expanded. In some communities May 30, in others June 3, is observed as Decoration Day.

We have been very diligent in our search for the graves of our beloved dead, finding many here in Ohio—there are two thousand six hundred in Camp Chase cemetery, some at Gallipolis, and some here in Cincinnati, in Spring Grove. As we have been financially able to do so, we have erected fitting monuments to our heroes in various parts of the

South and in some places in the North also. The broad and beautiful Monument avenue in Richmond, Va., furnishes many magnificent evidences of the loyal liberality and the stout-hearted persistency of many struggling Chapters of the U. D. C. Indeed, in almost every city of the South and in many small towns are to be seen statues and busts of her heroes in marble and bronze. We have fixed Memorial Days, June 3 (Mr. Davis' birthday) and January 19—Lee and Jackson Day, for the whole organization. These are observed publicly throughout the length and breadth of the Southland and in the North wherever a Southern heart throbs, while each Chapter has its special anniversaries and services.

'Tis little we can do for the dead but mark the places of their last sleep and burnish the shields that show their brave deeds.

But many of the survivors are now so disabled or feeble that they cannot work and must be cared for; while the States provide homes for aged and indigent Confederates, it is the work of the Daughters to furnish through their Chapters or from their private purses, very many things that add to the comfort of these homes. Mrs. I. Z. Duke, a Southern girl who married in New York years ago, has just built an Assembly Hall for the Home at Pewee Valley, Ky.

Beside food, clothes, shelter, etc., which these Homes provide, the old soldiers have their tobacco, their reading matter, their visitors, their weekly or monthly entertainments—it is *home* in every sense possible—not an *alms house*. An old Confederate soldier in the poorhouse! Never! Unworthy daughters would we be!

Not only to these survivors of the war, but to those dependent upon them do we strive to fulfill the duties of charity and love. We are doing much for the education of the children of needy Confederates. We, of the Stonewall Jackson Chapter, have a boy now in his third year I believe at Miss Berry's school—this truly remarkable woman is devoting her home and farm near Rome, Ga., and herself to the cause of industrial education in the South. We pay for this boy's clothes, board and tuition, and a number of other boys there are similarly enabled by other Chapters to obtain an equipment for their life work. Lately the Columbia University, I think it is, has offered a scholarship each year to a Southern student, and the U. D. C. has agreed to give \$350 yearly for living expenses to the recipient of this scholarship.

Any stranded Confederate is sure of aid upon application to a Chapter. He is helped out of his predicament or assisted to his destination with few questions asked. Crosses of honor are bestowed by the Daughters of the Confederacy upon the Confederate veterans and descendants of deceased Confederate soldiers and sailors. The Daughters are quite active also in helping to make the annual reunion a delightful occasion for the "Old Confed." They send their fairest maids and most accomplished matrons to grace these gatherings, to strew flowers along the line of march, to bow and smile and wave flags as the dear old boys

limp joyously along, to join with them in the "Rebel Yell," in a word, to make them believe that the women of the South will ever be as they have ever been, an inspiration to her men—that love and loyalty live now as in the sixties.

Our national and state organizations, through their annual conventions, together with our local Chapters, through their regular monthly meetings, foster a spirit of sociability among our women themselves. What the camps are to the old soldiers and their sons, these U. D. C. Chapters are to mothers, wives, daughters, etc. Sometimes we have a fancy to revive old traditions and usages, and make a party for ourselves along the line of anti-bellum hospitality, and our friends on this side of the river who are now and again bidden, say they quite understand why we like to do so.

The third and perhaps the greatest object of the U. D. C. is historical.

"History, as *written*," says Dr. J. L. M. Curry, "if accepted in future years will consign the South to infamy." It then behooves the men and women of the South to acquaint themselves speedily and perfectly with history written and unwritten, that they may disprove any untruth, finish out any half truth and bring to light any hidden truth. The Daughters have come to realize that most people do not *know*, but have only impressions and traditions. We see as never before the necessity of having the facts and well established authority for those facts. So the study of history has a most important place in the work of this organization; each Chapter has a historian, each State its historian, and the national organization its general historian. At most of the monthly meetings of the U. D. C. Chapters, there is some sort of history work on the program. The Stonewall Jackson Chapter has this year a systematic study of "The Southern Colonies." We wish to know the facts of our history as far as possible from the beginning.

Being desirous that our children as well as ourselves should know the nature of our government and the love of our country, we have urged our organization to use its influence toward the removal from our school curricula of many histories whose authors were manifestly both ignorant and prejudiced. I am sure you will be glad to know that several malicious ones have been thrown out.

We are also protecting and restoring historic places of the Southern Confederacy, collecting and preserving historical material and stimulating to historical research and authorship the literary genius of the South, and throughout our deliberations and in all our intercourse with those whose views may differ from ours, we seek to put ourselves in that others' place in order to see Truth with clear vision and spread it abroad with ungrudging spirit.

"There is no nobler work in this life than to help the Truth."



## REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE TO THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

MRS. T. L. A. GREVE.

*Madam Regent and Daughters of the American Revolution, Ladies:*

Few of us seem to have fully appreciated the importance of the meeting of the Central Ohio Valley History Conference in our city on November 29th and 30th. It was the first formal conference called for the expressed purpose of perfecting a permanent organization of history workers in this locality (I think) whose purpose is the gathering together and preserving in an intelligent manner all historical data relating to this Valley. We are told by Dr. Thwaites that right at our door the oldest historical remains in America, perhaps in the world, are to be found. Are not their preservation of paramount importance?

Already we have allowed the Massachusetts, the Wisconsin, the Virginia and the Texas Historical Societies to far outstrip us. So valuable are their collections and so great their weight historically, that Advisory Committees were appointed from each of these four great historical societies to confer with Albert Bushnell Hart, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of History in Harvard University, and assist in compiling "The American Nation. A History from Original Sources by Associated Scholars," consisting of twenty-seven volumes and pronounced by the press to be "a complete, authoritative and comprehensive history of the United States from earliest times to the present day."

With the richest material at hand here in Cincinnati, we have permitted the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio to lead a precarious existence for many years, perhaps from its inception. We have suffered it to live only through the effort of a few generous and reverent scholars, foremost among whom was the late Hon. Julius Dexter. Through his generosity and that of some of his associates, it still survives, terribly handicapped by lack of the sympathy and financial support of the general public. Unable to publish its valuable documents and advertise its collections, it cannot hope to take rank with its sister societies.

I speak knowingly and feelingly of this society, because I had the honor to serve as one of its curators for a term of years. It is with pride as well as pleasure then that we should hail the effort now being made, to unite all the historical societies in this Valley, of which the D. A. R. is one.

None of the historical and hereditary societies in our vicinity are wealthy, by reason of the fact that the dues are small and the membership not large, consequently we can only hope to achieve anything of moment by and through hearty cooperation. We should allow no small jealousies, but press earnestly forward to our goal, which is the preservation of American history.

It seems to an impartial observer that the hereditary societies are

called upon rather frequently to apologize for their existence, at least the long explanations of why we organized and continue to exist that certain of our members put forth, seem to suggest an apology. Now I would like to ask why we owe the general public any explanation as to why or for what purpose we exist. Most corporate bodies are not called upon to explain the why and wherefore of their existence. To those Daughters, however, who insist on explaining, I would like to take the liberty of saying that we have fully justified the birth and life of the society known as the Daughters of the American Revolution by the splendid genealogical and historical work we have done. Our ancestors made history, we are trying to preserve it. Could there be a higher branch of patriotic work? It is not alone to gratify our esthetic tastes that we are building our splendid Continental Hall in Washington, nor is it to add one more white marble palace to the city beautiful, our national capital. Our primary object is and should be, to have a fire-proof building in which to house our historical and genealogical papers, our library and our relics, so that the historian of the future may have access to them. Second only to the man who makes history is the man who preserves it. We Daughters have converted many traditions into facts, and the records will be preserved in Continental Hall.

Incidentally, the hereditary societies have also accomplished another splendid work in addition to preserving records and marking sites. They have brought about the renaissance of American history. As a nation we were lamentably ignorant of our own history; but now, through the efforts of the Historical Societies scattered through the country, and through the efforts of the hereditary societies details of our history that were drifting into oblivion have been rescued, and the invitation to unite with the History Teachers and local History Workers of the Ohio Valley in their work, is an open acknowledgement of the importance of the work we have already accomplished and may be considered another justification of our right to exist, if we need any. Thus I would emphasize the importance and significance of this conference to us, and faintly suggest the role we will be expected to fill in its organization.







