

HISTORY

By George Eastabrook Brown, Jr.

The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Ohio was chartered at the General Council meeting held in Baltimore on 13 May 1895. Incorporation took place on 29 May, and on the first of June the Society was formally organized at the residence of Michael Shoemaker, Esq. of Cincinnati. At this first General Court, a full corps of officers was elected from a charter membership of fifteen.

In the ensuing years the Society has held its formal General Court, usually on the first Friday of December, at which time an invited speaker has presented an address upon some historical topic, the program concluding with the election of a corps of officers and Gentleman of the Council, and with the seating of the newly elected Governor. An informal "Summer" Court has been held in May or June. Meetings of the Council have been held once a month excepting July and August.

Each year the Society has sponsored a prize in American History, awarded to an exceptional student at the University of Cincinnati, and presented in memory of the late David Baker Hall, former Registrar. Papers have been prepared from time to time for the Bulletin of the Cincinnati Historical Society. Outstanding contributions in the book field have been *The Correspondence of John Cleves Symmes* (1926) and *The Civilization of the Old Northwest* (1934) by the late Beverly W. Bond, Jr., Professor of History, University of Cincinnati, one of the Society's most distinguished members.

With our participation in the General Society's matching funds grant program, we have enabled the Ohio Society's support of the youth education program of the Cincinnati Historical Society. This involves a large number of young people in the learning about local history and projects in this area.

Another project supported by the Ohio Society is the relocation of historic restored farm buildings and homes to a display in Sharon Woods near Cincinnati. Visits to these early buildings are enjoyed by families, who learn of the way our ancestors lived in Ohio.

Each year the Society has published the outstanding papers on our field, most of which, were originally presented by the speaker at our formal courts. These have been bound and distributed to the library and individuals interested in our field. Thus far we have published six volumes of these papers prepared by members and distinguished speakers. The Society has provided a set of Draper Papers to the Cincinnati Public Library and is supporting the publication of the George Rogers Clark Papers by the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois