

along the Hudson River, in the vicinity of New Windsor, Major-General Henry Knox roughly drafted at West Point, on April 15, the covenant-articles for one to be called the "Cincinnati." A meeting of the officers favoring its institution was held on Saturday, May 10, at the Verplanck homestead, on the east side of the Hudson River, about a mile north of Fishkill Landing, where Major-General Baron de Steuben had his quarters. As the distinguished soldier was the senior in rank of those attending it, he was called upon to preside at this initial gathering of the founders of the society. A committee, consisting of Major-General Henry Knox, Brigadier-General Edward Hand, Brigadier-General Jedediah Huntington, and Captain John Shaw, was appointed to revise the presented plan and the offered amendments, and to report a new draft to the assembled officers, on Tuesday, May 13, at the same place.

At the meeting on that day, a form of institution for the society was accepted. The introductory paragraphs were the following :

"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 form'd 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 judg'd 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 resolv'd 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 respec-