



The Scudder NEWSLETTER

Virgil Scudder, *Editor*

WINTER 2024

Scudders Celebrate Revolutionary Legacy

The autumn weather was perfect, the fall foliage spectacular, and the tours fascinating at the Scudder Association Foundation's annual meeting and reunion in the Trenton, NJ, area October 18-20.

Thirty Scudders attended, coming from such distant points as Massachusetts and Hawaii and such in-between spots as Arizona, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. They enjoyed great food and drink, wonderful conversations with Scudder cousins, visits to historic sites with Scudder connections, and great insights on our family's important role in the Revolutionary War.

The tour started at Washington Crossing Historical Park in Pennsylvania where General George Washington, his 2,400 troops, artillery, and horses crossed the ice-choked Delaware River enroute to his success at the first battle of Trenton, a turning point in the War for Independence.

President Sue Swanson told the group that Scudders played a significant role in the patriots' success on



Christmas night and the following morning in 1776.

The boats which carried the men, cannon and horses were gathered and hidden by our Scudder relatives. The soldiers, many barefoot and freezing in summer clothes, were sheltered in Scudder farms in New Jersey, and Scudders were among the guides that led the American troops along back trails to surprise and defeat the Hessian troops in Trenton.

After crossing the Scudder Falls Bridge to New Jersey, the group visited the Old Barracks in Trenton, the scene of Washington's successful attack on 1,500 Hessian mercenaries, and got a vivid demonstration of "war 1776-style" from battle re-enactors in the courtyard.

Saturday evening brought the annual meeting over excellent dinner choices at the elegant River House at Odette's in New Hope, PA. The weekend ended with a well-attended informal breakfast at our headquarters hotel on Sunday morning.

All in all, it was very much a weekend to remember.

Brrr. It's Cold Up Here... And Down There

Where does a shivering Connecticut resident go for a good winter vacation? South, of course. That's what SAF secretary and board member Clive Conner did last January. Way, way south. To Antarctica, to be exact.

Having previously visited the bone-chilling climes of the Arctic and Greenland, Antarctica was next on her bucket list. Said Clive, "I'd



been to the top of the world; now I wanted to see the bottom."

The 4,000-mile trip covered three weeks.

Among the things she saw was the largest iceberg in the world. It's the size of Rhode Island. She also saw large (whales and others) and small wildlife numbering in the millions, including over half a million penguins on the shores of one bay.

It was an exciting trip for Clive. But she came back with a warning. Clive wrote that

© SAF continued on page 2 ►



continued from page 1 ►

this fantastic wildlife is threatened by global warming and a decline in the krill population. Due to global warming, sea ice is melting quickly and young krill, small crustaceans like shrimp, rely on clinging to sea ice for food (algae) and protection from predators during the winter. Also, krill are being illegally overfished to be used in such products as animal feed, cosmetics, fish paste, and fish oil. Clive says we need to reduce our use of all of these products to reduce the decimation of the krill population.

Since virtually every sea creature, large and small, is dependent on a diet of krill, the problem is a serious one. And, with vast ocean expanses to cover, enforcement is sorely lacking.

Clive's next big trip: Southeast India in January to visit the Scudder missions. She'll find it a lot warmer.

A Woman Twice Connected

One of the highlights of the Washington Crossing Historical Park tour was seeing the Durham boats, the type of vessels used in Washington army's crossing of the Delaware. The boats were 40 to 60 feet long, eight feet wide, and could handle a large load of horses and artillery.

For SAF Secretary Clive Connor, the exhibition had double meaning. Her ancestors on the Coryell side owned many of the boats and hid them from the British until the moment Washington was ready to launch his attack.

It is said that the Battle of Trenton was planned at John Coryell's tavern in what is now New Hope, PA.

Both the Coryells and the Scudgers played key roles in the game-changing victory at Trenton.



Boats Used To Cross River by Washington

Looking for a special Christmas gift or just a stocking stuffer? Need to add one more item at the last minute?

How about giving a Scudder Association Foundation membership to a beloved relative? Or making a contribution in a loved one's name to our Indian missions?

Annual memberships in the Foundation are only \$35 and lifetime memberships only \$1,000. The benefits are many including these:

- Being part of an organization that supports hospitals and schools in India that save lives and uplift families.
- Uniting with one of the oldest and most respected family organizations in the United States.



- Gaining access to detailed information on our Scudder ancestors who include two U.S. Presidents and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- Learning how Scudgers played an important role in the Revolutionary War.
- Receiving copies of our quarterly Scudder newsletter and its stories about events and accomplishments involving Scudgers.

Here's how...

- Sign up online: scudder.org/membership
- Donate online: scudder.org/donate
- ... Or call 602 999-2707.

From the Editor's Desk

This is our second *Scudder Newsletter* since its rebirth in October after a 7-year hiatus.

I hope you like it.

No, it doesn't look just like the October one. We're testing various formats to find the one that will be most interesting and easy to read. We hope to publish quarterly, both in print and online.

This edition is being sent to all members and a large group of prospective members. Future editions will be sent only to members and donors.

Please feel free to submit any news of Scudder landmarks and events that you feel would be of interest to our members and supporters. We would welcome your input and your feedback on the newsletter.

— Virgil Scudder, *Editor, The Scudder Newsletter*



Greetings from the President

Best wishes to you and your entire family for a wonderful Christmas season from all of us here at the Scudder Association Foundation.

I wish to thank our directors who have worked so hard this past year: Dr. Jim Taylor, our 1st VP and Treasurer, for his months of work on our SAF finances; Rich Scudder, our Tech Director, who coordinates with our tech company on our new website; Virgil Scudder, our 2nd VP and chair of our Communications and Marketing Committee for his work reviving the newsletter and overseeing our website; Megan Coleman and Renee Scudder for running our fabulous reunion; and Marge Boyden who writes our wonderful family history articles in our Journal on the website.



I want to thank Rich Scudder for his hard work over the past months as our liaison and coordinator with our tech company, Rohring Results, and for overseeing the new SAF website at "scudder.org". We've had many compliments on the website and Virgil Scudder, our second vice-president and Communications and Marketing Committee chair, makes continuing updates on the Foundation's activities and projects. Be sure to read our Family Historian, Marge Boyden's, wonderful "Journal" articles on Scudder family history on the site.

Speaking about family history...Clive Connor, our SAF secretary, Jack Gillmar, our India Grants Chairman, and I

News Flashes from India

Big things are happening at the institutions and projects that we help support in India. Here's the latest.

Scudder Memorial Hospital

Construction is moving along rapidly on the new staff quarters complex that will house 16 doctors and nurses and their families. Formal opening is planned for late January.

Walter Scudder School

The Scudder Association Foundation is helping finance construction of the Gordon Sherman Boys' Hostel which will house 90 boys from distant villages, who live too far from Tindivanam to commute to school. No completion date has yet been announced.

CMC Vellore

Named one of the world's leading hospitals in 2024 and ranked number three in India, CMC honored Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, MD, a pediatrician and global expert in tuberculosis and HIV research, with the Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Origion on December 6th.

Arni Secondary School

The school's water system has been upgraded for safety and has been connected to the municipal system. Enrollment has increased from 140 to 265. The beach volleyball team won the district championship and will now compete in the state competition.

Jawadhi Hills

The clinic building was dedicated in early December, one more step toward a planned 24-hour hospital. A matching fundraising effort by Jack Gillmar and Dr. Jim Taylor raised over \$100,000 for this project. Meanwhile, a small CMC-funded day clinic in Veerapanoor Village serves 60 outpatients a day in an area with high disease rates and widespread poverty which has been likened to Appalachia in the U.S.

.....
visited Princeton Theological Seminary during the reunion to discuss the Scudder Missionary Papers Collection that is housed there.

You, our members, are the future of SAF. We encourage you to reach out to your extended family and tell them about the Scudder Association. Get them to join. Send them a copy of the newsletter. Tell them to check out "scudder.org". Join our committees or the Board. If you want further information, or would just like to chat about SAF, please feel free to call me. I'm on Pacific Time at (360) 710-3995 and always enjoy talking with Scudders from around the country.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Scudders everywhere!

Our India Missions

The Scudder Association gives financial support to two hospitals and two schools founded by our Scudder missionary ancestors in southeast India. Following is a brief description of each.

Christian Medical Center and College in Vellore. Founded by Dr. Ida Scudder in 1902. One of India's largest and most respected hospitals. Named one of the world's leading hospitals in 2024 and ranked number three in India.

Scudder Memorial Hospital in Ranipet. Founded in 1866 by Dr. Silas Scudder, Sue Swanson's great-grandfather and Jim Taylor's great-great-grandfather. Serves 500 patients a day in an area of Appalachian level poverty of 100 communities and 2.5 million people, many treated at

low cost or free.

Arni School in Arni. A coed institution founded around 1860 by Ezekiel Scudder, SAF Board member Jack Gillmar's great-grandfather. Its students attend free of charge. The Scudder Foundation funds teachers for the 11th and 12th grades.

Walter Scudder School in Tindivanam. Founded by missionary Walter Scudder in 1925. He was Cynthia Sherman's grandfather and Claudia Orchanian's great-grandfather. Walter was Aunt Ida's brother-in-law since he married her college roommate Ellen (Nelle) Barthomew. It serves over 900 boys and girls in grades six to twelve, many of whom go on to college and successful careers.

Your Board of Directors

- Susan Swanson, *President*, Snoqualmie, WA
- Dr. James Taylor, *1st Vice President and Treasurer*, Shorewood, WI
- Virgil Scudder, *2nd Vice President*, Miami Beach, FL
- Clive Connor, *Secretary*, East Hampton, CT
- Rich Scudder, *Technical Director*, Cottonwood, AZ
- Charles S. K. Scudder, *General Counsel*, Killingworth, CT
- Margery Boyden, *Family Historian*, Alpine, UT
- Jack Gillmar, *Chair, India Grants Committee*, Honolulu, HI
- Megan Coleman, Hull, MA
- Cynthia Sherman, Concord, NH
- Renee Scudder, Marblehead, MA
- Michael Taylor, Washington, D.C.
- Ken Scudder, Takoma Park, MD
- Claudia Orchanian, Krum, TX
- Bennett Gillmar, Tokyo, Japan

The Scudder Association Foundation

c/o Rich Scudder
989 South Main Street, Suite A-626
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

