

The task of finding the material and persuading its holders to part with it or allow it to be reproduced is the one which presents the greatest difficulty and the one in which the individual members of the Order can, and it is hoped will, be of greatest assistance. Publicity through the newspapers, service and historical journals, and magazines, supplemented by radio, should be of great value in uncovering sources otherwise difficult to find. It has been suggested, however, that in many cases the most effective method would be to discover the possessors of this material by inquiry and through the general "grapevine" chain of acquaintance, and obtain it by personal solicitation and direct correspondence with the parties concerned. To start the ball rolling in this connection, it would be greatly appreciated if any Companion, himself the possessor of such material, or knowing the names and addresses of persons liable to have any, would communicate the fact to the Recorder of the Order. A final obstacle with which we are liable to be confronted is that of unwillingness on the part of the owners of valuable historical documents either to part with them or to allow them to be copied. This unwillingness sometimes arises from considering the documents as heirlooms too precious to be allowed into profane hands and, most unfortunately, to a desire to use them as a source of revenue, a desire which is usually accompanied by a most exaggerated conception of their intrinsic value. I think you all will realize, of course, that a document may be very precious as an heirloom and of great interest to scientific research and yet have little or no money value. There is also, unfortunately, little or no money available for the purchase of these historical documents and no prospect, that we can see, of obtaining funds for this purpose. It is essential, therefore, that all ideas of commercial consideration be eliminated and that the possessors of material be made to appreciate the desirability of contributing it for patriotic reasons and for the purpose of erecting a lasting monument to their own people whose record of service to their country might otherwise be lost to history.

In closing, I desire to acknowledge the untiring efforts and suggestions of General W. C. Brown, original Companion of the Order, in bringing this matter to a head. I would like, also, to thank Colonel Ahern and the members of the Council for their kind assistance, courtesy, and the encouragement.