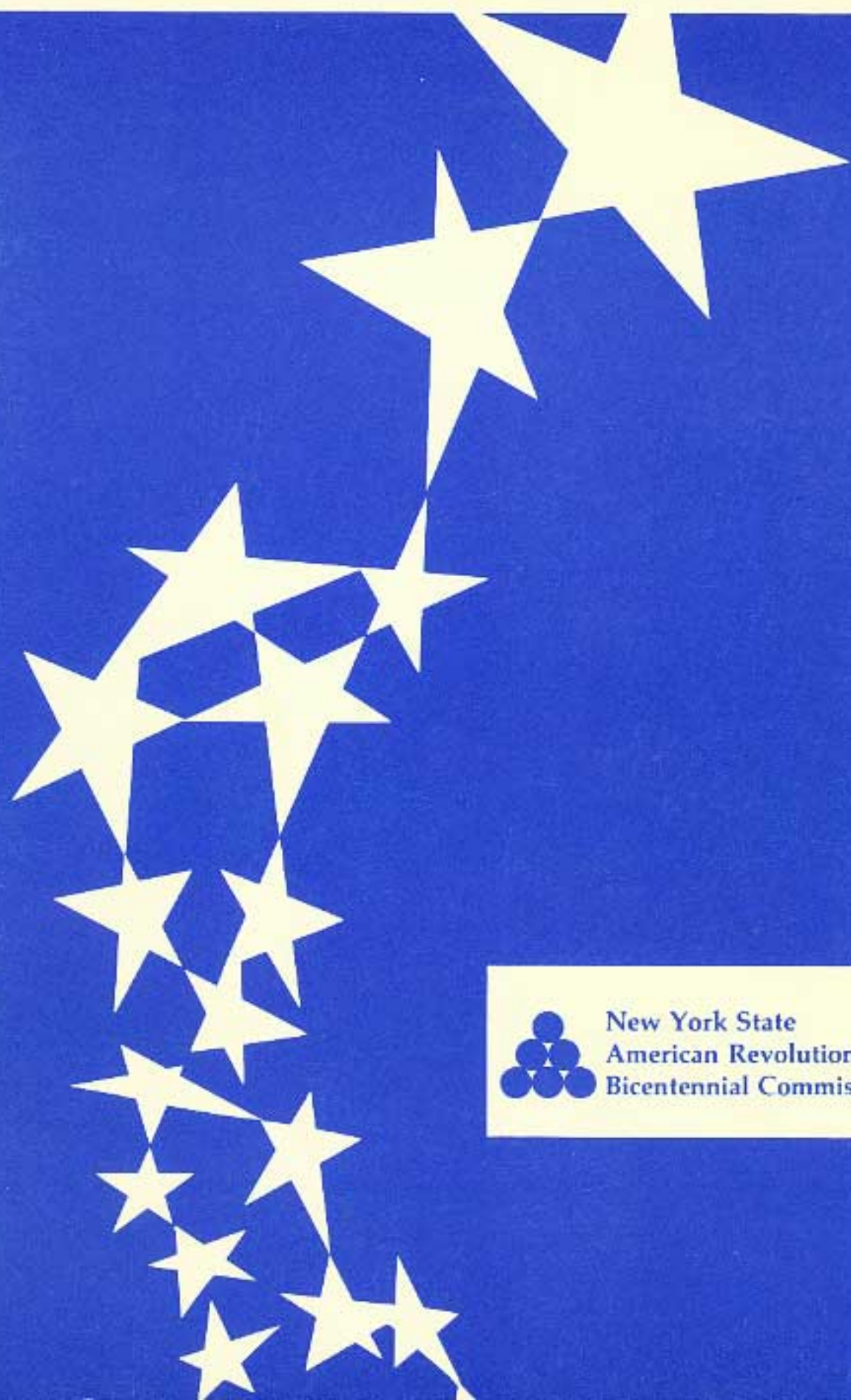


A New York State Guide to

Local Bicentennial Planning



New York State
American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission

THE NEW YORK STATE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

John H. G. Pell, Chairman New York City
Dr. E. K. Fretwell Jr., Vice-Chairman Buffalo
Walter Averill II Poughkeepsie
Maj. Gen. John C. Baker Troy
(Mrs.) George U. Baylies Scarsdale
(Mrs.) Mary Biondi Ogdensburg
J. Moreau Brown Bedford Hills
Rev. Laman H. Bruner Albany
(Mrs.) Jane des Grange Stony Brook
Robert A. Fusco Waterford
Robert Moses New York City
Otto E. Koegel New York City
Nathan S. Langdon Greenwich
H. Bert Mack Maspeth
Dr. I. Frank Mogavero Grand Island
Dalwin J. Niles Johnstown
Judge Nicholas M. Pette Jamaica
Joseph Verner Reed Jr. New York City
Dr. Seth Spellman Albany
(Mrs.) Mildred F. Taylor Lyons
Col. Frederick P. Todd Cornwall-on-Hudson

STAFF

Dr. Louis L. Tucker Executive Director
Dr. Thomas E. Felt Principal Historian
Richard S. Allen Program Director
Paul J. Trela Ass't. Program Director
Nancy A. Laribee Commission Assistant

Tel. (518) 474-1569

Office:

Office of State History

State Education Department
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

☆ *A NEW YORK*
☆ *STATE GUIDE TO*
☆ **LOCAL BICENTENNIAL PLANNING**
☆



NEW YORK STATE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

☆
☆
☆ **ALBANY - 1974**

FOREWORD

One of the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission's main purposes is to encourage local efforts to commemorate the 200th birthday of our state and nation. During the fast-approaching bicentennial era communities large and small will be engaged in commemorative exercises and observances.

This publication is designed to aid people throughout New York State who will be engaged in bicentennial activities. It points to both practical pathways to be taken, and possible pitfalls which may be encountered.

Planning the major anniversary of an event of such historical importance and far-reaching significance as the American Revolution is an opportunity which comes only once in a lifetime. Let us take advantage of it to the fullest extent.

This booklet was produced through the joint efforts of the staffs of the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the Office of State History. Special thanks are due Mrs. Phyllis Winkelman for beginning the project.

John H. G. Pell, Chairman
New York State
American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission

CONTENTS

Foreword

Introduction: The Significance of the Bicentennial	1
I: Organizing a Local Bicentennial Program: Questions and Answers	3
How to Get Organized	4
The Federal ARBA	8
The New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.	10
II: Programs in Progress: Examples	12
Getting Underway	12
A Well Established Program	13
Joint Community-County Programs	16
Bicentennial Corporations	18
Conclusion	20
III: Funding	22
Seeking Governmental Financial Aid	23
State Bicentennial Funding	23
The New York State Council on the Arts	24
Federal Matching Grants Program	24
Alternative Funding Sources	26
Grant Requests: How to Apply	28
IV: Local Project Ideas	29
V: Select Bibliography	48

INTRODUCTION

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BICENTENNIAL

So you think you might like to celebrate the 200th anniversary of American independence. That shouldn't be too difficult, right? Some fireworks, a picnic and parade, speeches—in other words, a good old fashioned Fourth of July celebration. Many of us have never experienced these treasured and nostalgic bits of Americana, and there is certainly nothing wrong with a bicentennial pageant. But an annual picnic and parade is only one way to provide a means of rediscovering the fact that the American Revolution has remained a continuing influence on the American consciousness for two centuries. And the very fact that the Revolution of 1776 has persisted in the minds of Americans for so long suggests that the 200th anniversary of American independence deserves even more special attention.

The American Revolution has made a lasting impression on the American memory because it was more than a war for independence: it was also a revolution in American life. The rebellion for national independence opened the door for a revolution in ideals and values. It brought changes in political beliefs and social behavior. It prompted some men to change their minds; others to reaffirm their beliefs. It instilled in American society a commitment to the finest principles of human justice. Yet not everything the war brought was good. Some Americans suffered even as other Americans sought freedom. American Indians and Americans who remained loyal to the king were victimized. Revolutionary ideology spurred the move toward freedom for some black Americans; but for thousands of others, the promise of liberty and equality was unfulfilled.

It is precisely this mixed legacy that gives the Revolution its lasting significance. The Revolutionary generation was both idealistic and realistic: the founding fathers sought the greatest good for all Americans, yet they recognized that American society was far from perfect. They believed that principles of human justice which remained as mere expressions on paper were antithetical to the meaning of American life. If the promise of the American Revolution was to endure and flourish, each new generation had to learn that the noblest principles are meaningful only when brought to fruition. The American Revolution still inspires men to seek justice. It is more than chance, for instance, that the civil rights movement of the 1960's needed to look no further than the Declaration of Independence to learn that a basic

principle of American justice was unfulfilled for some Americans. It is also more than chance that most Americans saw that justice needed to be done.

The Bicentennial commemoration of the American Revolution must serve both as an effort to relearn the ideals of the Revolution and as a means of transforming those ideals into reality. The bicentennial at the local level should be much more than a celebration; the regeneration of Revolutionary values should be its goal. This can only begin at the local level among neighbors.

In the pages that follow, the staffs of the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the Office of State History offer some ideas on how to plan a local bicentennial program. It should be noted that all of the information in this booklet was based upon data available as of January, 1974, and is therefore subject to change. They also offer a word of caution. A local bicentennial project will not necessarily be easily planned, organized, and carried through. Those experienced in local activities know that even the best of intentions can collapse under the weight of contrary opinions and conflicting efforts. If there is one lesson of the Revolution that stands out, however, it is that men managed to overcome their differences in order to achieve a common goal. Men who distrusted and sometimes hated each other suppressed their personal antagonisms and united for the common good. If the bicentennial commemoration accomplishes nothing more than this, it will be worthwhile.

CHAPTER I

ORGANIZING A LOCAL BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the national bicentennial celebration all about?

The bicentennial commemorates the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution.

What is to be commemorated in New York?

Both the era of the American Revolution (1773-1783) in New York and the 200th anniversary of the creation of the state.

Is July 4, 1976, the only date to be concerned about?

Certainly not. The bicentennial in New York is planned for the anniversary of the entire Revolutionary era, roughly 1973 (the anniversary of The Boston Tea Party) to 1983 (the formal end of the war.)

Must a locality have a Revolutionary War past in order to hold a bicentennial celebration or commemoration?

No indeed. Areas are encouraged to commemorate whatever events may be of local historical significance. However, in a surprising number of cases, localities can trace their origins to events, individuals or offshoots of the Revolution. This is often true even in instances where a Revolutionary association is not immediately apparent.

Must bicentennial programs commemorate only historic dates or events?

No. Bicentennial programs do not necessarily have to be related to history at all. In many cases, communities are developing programs around historical themes. Other localities are concerned with contemporary problems or with developing programs for the future. A wide variety of programs can fit under the bicentennial umbrella, and local bicentennial planners can consult Chapter IV: "Local Project Ideas" and the national bicentennial themes outlined on page 29.

Is there a time limit on local bicentennial programs?

Only in the sense that communities should be careful to evaluate their own abilities and resources, and should not plan programs which cannot be carried through. The State Commission encourages programs which will have a lasting impact on the community.

Is the bicentennial only for historians and people interested in the past?

No. The Bicentennial affords an opportunity for all people to participate in a wide variety of bicentennial projects. A major objective for bicentennial planners should be to enlist the participation of all segments of the population including racial and ethnic groups, youth, senior citizens, clubs, fraternal organizations, religious groups, and a host of business, professional, labor and public service groups, and all interested individuals.

How to Get Organized

What is the first step in organizing a local bicentennial program?

Interested people should call a public meeting. In some cases, the announcement may come from the local governmental body. Publicity is essential to assure maximum public turnout.

Who might be invited to such a meeting?

Invitations should be extended to representatives of local government, local historical societies, the public library, museums, churches, schools, newspapers, radio and television stations, ethnic clubs, patriotic societies, veterans groups, business and financial groups, the Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs, service clubs, county extension clubs, professional organizations, labor unions, youth organizations, and fraternal organizations.

What should this initial meeting try to accomplish?

First, it should discuss and then define its bicentennial goals and objectives. Second, it should decide what continuing form of organization it should establish to carry through its bicentennial program. In most cases, this will mean the formation of a bicentennial committee.

How big should the bicentennial committee be?

The committee should be large enough to effectively represent the major segments of the community but still small enough to be flexible and efficient. Local experience with other committees should be the guide.

Who should be on the committee?

Anyone who is sincerely interested in celebrating the bicentennial should be given an opportunity to serve. It should also include the young as well as women and members of ethnic groups. Enthusiastic “doers” and persons known to have an interest in history should be tapped for membership on the committee. Most important it should seek people who will be able to devote the necessary time and energy to work on bicentennial activities.

Can a community have more than one bicentennial planning committee?

Yes, although experience has shown that more than one planning body may lead to duplication of efforts and resources, and program and funding conflicts. In many instances a breakdown of community cooperation results.

What should be the function of the local bicentennial committee?

The function should be to assume responsibility for planning and implementing local bicentennial programs and to coordinate its own activities with other bicentennial organizations. Development of a master plan or calendar might also be desirable. The committee should also take responsibility for calling further public meetings when necessary.

Why is a master plan of bicentennial activities desirable?

First, it provides systematic organization. Second, it allows the committee to make reasonable cost projections. Third, it enables the committee to state its longterm objectives in order to avoid duplication of efforts and program conflicts.

How should bicentennial committee work be divided?

The whole committee should consider programs and general objectives. In most cases, it is desirable to have financing and publicity handled by special subcommittees. Additional subcommittees may be useful.

What should be the particular role of the local historian in bicentennial planning?

The local historian—village, town, city, or county—should play an important role in making the bicentennial viable on the grassroots level. New York is unique in having a network of such officially appointed local historians. Knowledgeable in the history, geography,

and people of a given region, these officials are in an excellent position to pull together a locality's disparate elements in a cooperative commemorative effort. Since what is being celebrated is two hundred years of New York history as well as the anniversary of the Revolutionary War, the local historian has much latitude in divising ways in which to bring his own interests under the bicentennial umbrella. This may sound like a very large order, but the local historian should by no means shoulder the entire responsibility for planning a local bicentennial celebration. He should certainly be a member of the local bicentennial commission, which in turn should be composed of other active, creative "doers." The local historian should also serve as a resource person, providing historical information and generating ideas for tying the area's history into the bicentennial.

What about the local Historical Society?

Members of the local historical society may in some instances spearhead the local bicentennial observances. In any event the society should be represented in the membership of the local bicentennial commission and should assist in the planning of the major local bicentennial observance. Historical society members can also be of great assistance to the local historian in carrying out his functions and activities.

Where will funding come from?

See chapter III: "Funding."

What should be publicized?

Many things can be publicized besides the activities which will form part of the bicentennial program. All committee meetings should be well publicized. Publicity should be given to any activities the committee takes part in with other groups. Attendance at special meetings, seminars, colloquiums, historical conventions, or trips in conjunction with the bicentennial should always be publicized. Visits by dignitaries should also receive this kind of attention.

What are the prime local media sources?

Prime local media outlets or sources are: The local newspapers (dailies and weeklies), radio stations, television stations, magazines and other periodicals which are circulated through the area.

How do we publicize on a small budget?

Use as many free media services as possible. For example many local radio and television stations have public events spots available to non-profit groups. Various groups and agencies publish local events calendars which are continually updated. Newspapers will also disseminate this kind of information.

What are some kinds of publicity which we might wish to utilize?

Feature stories on bicentennial topics in the local newspapers are among the best means of publicizing the bicentennial. A bicentennial column appearing in the local paper on a regular basis can keep the bicentennial and the work of the committee in the public's mind.

What is planned event publicity?

Planned event publicity is simply publicizing a special event. It offers maximum exposure; advance publicity, coverage of the event itself, and follow-up publicity.

What is a news release?

A news release is a written statement alerting the general public through the available media about a particular event which has already happened or will happen in the very near future. To be effective, news releases should be issued on a news release form designed for the purpose, and they should be made available to all news media at the same time.

What are some ideas a publicity committee should keep in mind to make its work easier?

1. Make your committee known to the publicity media with a letter of introduction at the earliest possible date.
2. Be aware of all newspaper and radio-TV deadlines for filing stories or making arrangements for coverage.
3. Be sure all news releases are precise, concise, and keep to the point. Include as much specific information as possible in them.
4. In news releases always use full given names and not nick-names.
5. Don't hesitate to ask for help when needed.
6. Keep an up-to-date scrapbook of everything which has appeared in print relating to the committee.
7. Set up and follow through with a schedule for publicizing events. Be sure follow-ups are initiated.

The Federal ARBA

Are there official bodies organized to commemorate the bicentennial?

Yes. At the national level there is the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA). In New York, the state bicentennial is under the auspices of the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission (NYSARBC). Numerous regional, county, and community bicentennial commissions are in existence and others are being formed.

What is the function of the ARBA?

Congress instructed the ARBA to:

1. Plan, encourage, develop and coordinate observances and activities commemorating the historic events that preceded, and are associated with, the American Revolution.
2. Give due consideration to related plans and programs developed by state, local, and private groups.
3. Give special emphasis to the ideas associated with the Revolution ideas that have vitally influenced the development of the USA, world affairs, and mankind's quest for freedom.
4. Recommend allocations of financial and administrative responsibility among public and private authorities and organizations.

Does the ARBA extend any sort of official recognition to local programs?

Yes, under its "Bicentennial Communities" program.

What is the Bicentennial Communities Program?

It is an effort by the ARBA to involve localities in the bicentennial celebration by encouraging the development of local bicentennial programs.

Does Bicentennial Community status confer any special privileges?

Not necessarily, although Bicentennial Communities are allowed to use the official symbol of the ARBA. The Bicentennial Community designation is more important for publicizing local programs and for generating local interest and support.

Does Bicentennial Community status guarantee federal funds?

No, although it may be extremely helpful in applying for grants from any source. See Chapter III: "Funding."

If Bicentennial Community status is desired, how is it obtained?

First, develop a program along the thematic lines suggested by the ARBA (See next question). Second, obtain application forms from the State Bicentennial Commission. Third, receive official endorsement from the community's governing body. Fourth, send the application and the endorsement to the State Bicentennial Commission. The State Commission will either return the recommendations for changes or it will forward the application to the ARBA.

What are the ARBA program themes?

The are:

HERITAGE '76 This category is concerned with American history. Such undertakings as the preservation of historic sites and documents and the sponsorship of historical research will fall within this theme, as will any project which re-examines "our origins, our values and the meaning of America."

FESTIVAL USA The goal of this theme is to "develop state, regional and national activities and events which stimulate travel and thus encourage our citizens to expand their knowledge of our country." Such activities as pageants, historical re-enactments, and patriotic ceremonies are within the scope of Festival USA.

HORIZONS'76 This theme deals with the future. It is a "nationwide challenge to every American, acting individually or with others, to undertake at least one principal project which manifests the pride, the priorities, and the hopes of his community." It will be concerned with the efforts of communities and organizations to fulfill the promises of the nation's past in terms of human and social progress, and should in some measure enhance the quality of life in the future. Beautification of urban areas, improvement of recreational facilities, and improvement of community cultural facilities come under this theme.

Must these themes be followed in all cases?

Only if Bicentennial Community status is to be applied for. It should be noted that the ARBA themes are designed to encompass a wide variety of projects and programs ranging from historical interests to concern with contemporary problems. If a locality is uncertain whether a program may qualify, it should contact the State Commission staff. Experience has shown that successful commemoration programs ordinarily contain elements from all three areas.

The State Commission

What is the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission?

In recognition of the preeminence of New York State in the story of the American Revolution, in 1968 the State Legislature created the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and charged it "to provide for appropriate observances, ceremonies and other activities to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the American revolution." The responsibility for planning the bicentennial of Statehood was added in a 1970 amendment.

The Commission consists of twenty-one members from all walks of life who serve without salary. Eleven members are appointed by the Governor and five each by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly. The Office of State History of the New York State Education Department serves as official staff of the Commission without additional cost to it. With the staff and facilities of the Office of State History at its disposal, the Commission is able to function with only three full time paid employees. It can therefore devote a majority of its appropriation to program purposes, and, in so doing, better fulfill its mandate "to prepare an over-all program to include specific plans for commemorating the two hundredth anniversary of the American revolution and the two hundredth anniversary of the creation of the State of New York."

For information about its activities contact:

NYS American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

99 Washington Avenue

Albany, New York 12210

Does the State Bicentennial Commission have a program similar to the ARBA Bicentennial Community program?

No, there is no formal recognition policy by the State Commission. However, the State Commission sometimes endorses projects and programs with the hope that this will aid the locality in developing community support for its bicentennial program. Unlike the ARBA Bicentennial Community program, recognition by the State Commission is not restricted to governmental bodies. Organizations, groups, or institutions are eligible for recognition. Bicentennial groups wishing to have a program endorsed should write directly to the State Commission.

Does the State Commission provide funds for local programs?

Occasionally, under special circumstances. See Chapter III: "Funding."

What is the relationship between the NYSARBC and the local bicentennial programs?

The mandate of the State Commission is to provide for statewide observances and to coordinate the plans of other state and local agencies. It places strong emphasis on encouraging and supporting local plans through advisory and consultative services. It publicizes local plans and, where they have potentially more than local interest, may share in the promotion of them through contractual arrangements. The state commission is also the primary link between local groups and the federal ARBA.

Has the state established bicentennial themes similar to those of the ARBA?

The State Commission in general concurs with the ARBA themes.

CHAPTER II

PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS: EXAMPLES

New Yorkers have already begun to organize bicentennial programs. Some projects are several years old; others are still in the planning stage. Some have received wide community interest and support; others have died on the vine. Several of these community programs are described in the section that follows. No one particular organizational structure has proved superior to all others. Nor have program ideas which worked successfully in one area necessarily been successful in others. But for those who are just beginning to organize bicentennial projects, the experiences of those who are further along can be extremely helpful.

There are well over a hundred known local bicentennial programs already in existence in New York state. Community frameworks vary considerably. Each community has different needs, and each program is structured to fit those needs. Many communities in New York state have universities, cultural organizations, museums, and historical societies to share creative efforts and resources; others lack these valuable institutions. Many areas are rich in colonial and Revolutionary history; others have little association.

But all communities can—and should—develop a bicentennial program. Communities with little direct relationship to the American Revolution need not be hesitant to form bicentennial committees simply because they lack a Revolutionary site or heritage. Despite diversities in the size of communities, differences in historic backgrounds and resources, and variations in the availability of existing institutions, every community can form a bicentennial program based on its own unique history, using whatever resources are available. The most important resource is people—people who are willing to get involved with and work in a community bicentennial program.

Getting Underway

Often only a spark is required to get a bicentennial program underway. A small community in the Great Lakes region of New York, for instance, has initiated a program because someone noticed the possibility of being designated a Bicentennial Community under federal ARBA guidelines. A member of the town board of supervisors then contacted some citizens in the town who he thought would be interested. Notice of public meeting was placed in the local newspaper. The citizens attending the meeting then selected a bicentennial committee.

This bicentennial committee is composed of representatives of various local groups which had already expressed interest in individual bicentennial projects.

The newly formed committee then went to the board of supervisors to ask for authorization and funding, and it received the board's recognition as the official local bicentennial committee. Funds were also promised; and the committee is now preparing to apply, through the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, for designation by the federal government as a Bicentennial Community.

To be designated a Bicentennial Community, it is necessary to develop projects and programs within ARBA guidelines (see page 9). In the case of this recently formed program, subcommittees are developing a master plan based on ARBA themes. Much of the interest in this community focuses on the preservation and possible restoration of architecture which symbolizes the area's economic history. Proposed projects include the preservation of an old stone lighthouse, built in the early 19th century, which is no longer being used by the Coast Guard. The committee also hopes to maintain an abandoned customs house. At an intersection of two highways is an old lime kiln which the committee plans to renovate. The land around it will be cleared and preserved as a recreation area for future generations. Also under consideration is a general "face-lifting" project to recapture the historic appearance of the town.

Architectural restoration does not constitute the only interest of this community, however. In conjunction with an established annual essay contest, the committee underwrote a trip of high school seniors to the National Archives in Washington to do research for an essay on local history.

A Well Established Program

Contrasted to this newly formed committee in the Great Lakes area is a bicentennial commission on Long Island which has been in existence since October, 1971. This commission was formed, duly recognized by the town board, and designated a Bicentennial Community. The commission includes members from a wide variety of backgrounds, including newspaper editors, authors, historians, advertising executives, supervisors, educators, and high school students. The first meeting dealt with the election of officers, organizational matters, meeting schedules, and possible sources of funding. Several committees were formed: education, historic preservation, programming, public relations, and communication. Spokesmen for this program stress that "publicity was extremely important" in eliciting initial support and maintaining com-

munity interest. Publicity is being handled through the community information office, an agency created to provide all types of information on local affairs.

Particularly notable in this community is the enthusiastic participation of teachers and students from the elementary schools, colleges, and universities in the area. Part of the success of the program is no doubt accounted for by the inclusion of students in all phases of the projects, particularly as members of the local bicentennial commission. Schools were asked to present their ideas and views on ways to commemorate the bicentennial, and a press conference was held to allow school leaders and faculty representatives to present their ideas. Drawing on these ideas, a school bicentennial kit is now being assembled for distribution to schools at all levels. The kit will include a bibliography, a chronology of historic events, overlay maps, and suggestions for implementing bicentennial activities in the schools.

The commission's first major project was an emblem contest open to contestants from all educational levels, elementary through graduate school. There were well over five hundred entries, and the winning emblem was adopted as the official symbol of the commission. Prizes were awarded at a July 4th program which officially opened the town's bicentennial program. Traveling exhibits were prepared from winning emblems and other representative entries, and these have been displayed in many area schools. A photography contest, commemorating the town's history, was also held. In conjunction with a local educational service group, many of the entries were mounted and displayed in shopping centers and banks.

The experience in this Long Island community indicates that contests are excellent ways to stimulate initial community interest in a bicentennial program. These contests were not expensive, particularly since prize money was donated; and the enthusiastic response more than justified the time and expense that was involved. In this instance, the emblem, essay, and poster competitions generated more entries than the photography contest, probably because of the individual costs involved in the latter.

The bicentennial program in this Long Island community is now two and one-half years old, and community interest shows no sign of abating. More projects which show every sign of success, are being planned. A program of nine activities, including quilting, costumes, recipe collections, was prepared for the senior citizens, and flyers announcing and describing the activities were widely distributed. In May, 1973, the town celebrated the 325th anniversary of a colonial land purchase on which much of the community stands. Reenactments of the purchase

were staged, along with the planting of a symbolic white oak tree. A poster-and-essay contest based on the purchase was held, and the winners were announced during the three-day celebration. The posters are currently displayed in a traveling exhibit. Well over 700 people participated in the events. In October, 1973, a parade and program was held to salute the 115th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt who spent his life in the area. The highlight of the program (attended by 5,000 people) was an outstanding impersonation of the middle-aged Roosevelt.

This community is also instituting projects which will make a permanent contribution to community life. A comprehensive local history is being planned, and a pamphlet showing the historical resources of the town is in the works. In conjunction with other groups, the commission is making a survey of town buildings for historical and architectural significance. Musical, art, and theater projects are in the planning stage.

Despite the interest and hard work of most people involved, the congress has had some difficulty in realizing its goals. Criticism has been aimed at several aspects of the program. Some critics feel the congress structure is too loose to be an effective coordinating body. Others feel that the county organization should emphasize planning more than coordination. Still others felt that a full-time, paid director acting with authority from the congress is needed to plan and coordinate bicentennial programs and to help develop a county master plan which would encompass existing and planned programs. These problems have understandably dampened some of the enthusiasm for the bicentennial in this county, but interest is far from dead. In fact, programs which have been carried through have met an enthusiastic response.

A large central New York county provides another example of how county and community relations can be structured. This county, which includes a large urban area, was designated a Bicentennial Community under federal ARBA guidelines. In this case, an existing county cultural activities agency was chosen to act as the coordinating body for local bicentennial projects. This agency was recognized by the county government as the official bicentennial commission for the county and was instructed to act as an information gathering and dispensing body and as a clearing house for local programs. This plan was to keep program planning as decentralized as possible. The agency's planning function was to be restricted primarily to helping localities generate and organize their own programs. It also hoped to develop a countywide master plan to avoid duplication and conflict. This agency planned to hold monthly meetings with interested local parties and to publish a monthly newsletter to help communities in their planning. In January,

1974, a full-time staff member was hired by the county agency to direct the bicentennial programs.

Not everyone feels that this arrangement has been successful, however. The monthly newsletter has not appeared as hoped. Work on the master plan is just beginning despite the feeling of many people that such a plan should have been developed much sooner. The need for county-wide publicity, particularly to give credit for what is already being done in the communities, is felt to be acute. Most participants were willing to reserve judgment on this county's bicentennial structure in order to give the new bicentennial program director a chance to develop plans and policies. A spokesman for the county agency reported that efforts were underway to revive the newsletter and to develop the county master plan.

Joint Community-County Programs

This Long Island community is just becoming involved in a process that is occurring all over the state: the attempt to coordinate local and countywide bicentennial programs. The county in which this Long Island community is located has recently formed a county bicentennial commission, and participants at all levels are interested in trying to coordinate local and county projects. In this instance, cooperation has been excellent, partly because members of the town committee also sit on the county commission.

But the need to coordinate programs in towns and villages with county projects presents continuing problems. A county commission has the obvious responsibility of representing a broad spectrum of communities and interests, while towns and villages frequently feel that their own programs deserve the bulk of their time, money, and energies. There is no easy resolution of the conflicts which sometimes arise, but several areas in the state are trying to find solutions.

In one western New York county which includes a large urban area, for instance, the county commission is a flexible structure which coordinates bicentennial planning in the localities. Although this area has little Revolutionary history, interest in alternative programs has remained high. The county commission was organized in 1971, largely through the efforts of a college administrator who contacted various businessmen and political leaders. A public meeting which was given advance publicity by the local media was subsequently held. Many people attended, including historians, American Indians, businessmen, young people, representatives of minority groups, and interested citizens.

Those who attended the initial meeting formed the nucleus of what became a broadly based bicentennial congress. All interested parties were invited to participate in the bi-monthly congress. The congresses are open to the general public, and there are no membership restrictions or requirements. From the congress, twenty-five people were designated to act as a council to consider organizational needs and program proposals each month. These council members also serve on the various committees concerned with particular projects. Instead of electing officers, five "convenors" were chosen to plan the work of the council. Memberships on committees and the Board of Governors were to be rotated to prevent the domination of the congress by any one group and to enable the broadest possible participation of interested individuals and groups.

It was felt that this open and flexible form of organization would "allow the community at large to be involved." The congress acts primarily as a coordinator and endorser of bicentennial activities rather than a planner. It creates a forum for the airing of ideas and plans. A brochure was published explaining bicentennial goals and inviting everyone to share and participate, and a questionnaire was circulated asking for ideas on how to commemorate the bicentennial. The result of these activities is a plan to promote a full schedule of specific programs in conjunction with area museums, art galleries, educational institutions, businesses and industries, minority groups, and social and cultural organizations.

These problems notwithstanding, enthusiasm for bicentennial programs at both the local and county level is extremely high. One suburban area has already instituted a wide variety of projects ranging from the restoration of a canal boat to the organization of an old-fashioned town band. One of the most successful programs in this community has been an annual arts festival for craftsmen, artists, musicians and theater groups from throughout the county. Two festivals have already been held, and each program is intended to build toward a grand festival in July, 1976. Radio, television, and newspaper coverage of these festivals has been good.

Three facts concerning this suburban program deserve special emphasis. First, excellent support has been received from town and village governments and the local department of parks and recreation. Schools, service groups, and individuals have also participated enthusiastically. Second, although funds have so far been scraped together from private sources, it was felt that proof that programs could be organized and carried out successfully would encourage the local government to provide financial aid in the future. And third, the programs in this area

were planned as permanent contributions to the quality of community life rather than as one-shot celebrations.

This central New York county also has an Erie Canal museum which has developed some of its programs in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration. Restorations are planned, and an oral history project is in the works. The museum staff has particularly tried to encourage volunteer help for a wide variety of programs which rely on community help for success. The primary need is for volunteers who are available for more than one program, or who are available on an "on call" basis. Many interested individuals have made a contribution to the bicentennial through volunteer work for the museum, and a spokesman reported that community response has been excellent when publicity was widespread.

One aspect of the county agency's efforts should be emphasized as a particularly worthwhile goal. The county bicentennial director reports that efforts are being made to establish contacts with the People's Bicentennial Commission in the hope that joint programs can be developed. This effort is especially important because it reveals the desire to include concern with contemporary problems in bicentennial planning. In one instance, a local poverty agency is developing an art contest with a "poverty" theme. The aim is to dramatize poverty in order to generate community ideas and help for coping with it.

It is difficult to draw general conclusions from the experiences of these two joint community-county programs. Perhaps the best thing to say is that support for bicentennial programs seems to have remained high even when there were problems in planning, communication, and organization. Fortunately, other joint county-community programs are working smoothly. In most cases, combined programs have succeeded when community and county committee memberships were shared and when committee memberships were reviewed frequently by the parent body in order to give priority to the most interested and active people.

Bicentennial Corporations

There is yet another form of organization which areas planning bicentennial programs might want to investigate: a bicentennial corporation. Incorporation offers several features which can be helpful in bicentennial programs, the most important being the legal power to borrow money. This allows a certain amount of deficit financing to get bicentennial programs started or to finance large scale programs which will produce sufficient revenue to repay the debt. Communities or counties considering incorporation as tax-free, non-profit organizations

were planned as permanent contributions to the quality of community life rather than as one-shot celebrations.

This central New York county also has an Erie Canal museum which has developed some of its programs in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration. Restorations are planned, and an oral history project is in the works. The museum staff has particularly tried to encourage volunteer help for a wide variety of programs which rely on community help for success. The primary need is for volunteers who are available for more than one program, or who are available on an "on call" basis. Many interested individuals have made a contribution to the bicentennial through volunteer work for the museum, and a spokesman reported that community response has been excellent when publicity was widespread.

One aspect of the county agency's efforts should be emphasized as a particularly worthwhile goal. The county bicentennial director reports that efforts are being made to establish contacts with the People's Bicentennial Commission in the hope that joint programs can be developed. This effort is especially important because it reveals the desire to include concern with contemporary problems in bicentennial planning. In one instance, a local poverty agency is developing an art contest with a "poverty" theme. The aim is to dramatize poverty in order to generate community ideas and help for coping with it.

It is difficult to draw general conclusions from the experiences of these two joint community-county programs. Perhaps the best thing to say is that support for bicentennial programs seems to have remained high even when there were problems in planning, communication, and organization. Fortunately, other joint county-community programs are working smoothly. In most cases, combined programs have succeeded when community and county committee memberships were shared and when committee memberships were reviewed frequently by the parent body in order to give priority to the most interested and active people.

Bicentennial Corporations

There is yet another form of organization which areas planning bicentennial programs might want to investigate: a bicentennial corporation. Incorporation offers several features which can be helpful in bicentennial programs, the most important being the legal power to borrow money. This allows a certain amount of deficit financing to get bicentennial programs started or to finance large scale programs which will produce sufficient revenue to repay the debt. Communities or counties considering incorporation as tax-free, non-profit organizations

should investigate all potential problem areas, perhaps in consultation with an attorney.

There are currently at least three bicentennial corporations in New York: one in a western New York county, one in a large, downstate city, and a third in a rural upstate county. In the latter case, a county-wide group was designated by the county board of supervisors to be the official bicentennial commission, and the entire county subsequently received status as a Bicentennial Community. Interested parties in this county were careful to solicit experienced historians, program planners and administrators, fund raisers, and people with knowledge of publicity and the communications media to work in the bicentennial program. Because the county is rich in Revolutionary War history, the county commission also included members from each town with a Revolutionary background.

In the early stages of planning, it was decided to establish bylaws and to incorporate in order to help the bicentennial program achieve financial self-sufficiency. Incorporation presented no special difficulties. The chairman of the bicentennial commission is the president of the corporation, and the same committee members serve on both bodies.

This county's first project was a pilot program which was intended to attract attention to the bicentennial and hopefully to generate a revenue for other programs. The commission contracted for an official medallion and commissioned a sculptor to design it, making it the first county in New York state to develop its own official medallion. The coin, which commemorated an important Revolutionary battle that took place in the county, was officially put on sale October 17, 1973. Area banks are selling the medallion without profit as a public service. Funds from the sale of the medallion are being used to finance other county bicentennial projects. Sales are good and local interest excellent.

The county commission meets monthly. It initiates programs, and it coordinates events in the various localities. A spokesman for the county commission stressed that cooperation between the various town committees and the county commission has been excellent because community and county programs are carefully integrated. Publicity has also been excellent, partly because the chairman of the county commission is closely associated with a leading local newspaper and because at least one other member has publications experience.

Because of careful planning and county-wide cooperation, the bicentennial in this county has already had a high level of success. In November, 1973, the county commission co-sponsored a program on music of the American Revolution which included presentations by a bag pipe

band, a fife and drum corp, an 18th century harpsicordist and balladeers. The program was well received. The commission has also been instrumental in re-opening an existing Revolutionary battle monument. An updated county history is scheduled to be released late in 1974. The county group applied to the State Bicentennial Commission for a matching grant under the federal program in order to finance the publication. According to a spokesman, there will be a motor tour brochure by mid-1974 which will show places of historical significance within the county. This brochure is designed for tourists and for residents of the county and will indicate what facilities are available at these sites.

This county is also fortunate to have an extremely successful performing arts center located in its midst. In conjunction with this arts center and the National Endowment of the Arts, the county commission is working toward a grant which would enable them to commission an original musical composition commemorating a strategically vital Revolutionary War battle which occurred in the area. This will premiere at the performing arts center.

This county commission, like many others, realizes the importance of tapping the schools for support. It has a rather unique program mapped out as an incentive for school participation in bicentennial activities. Early in 1974 there will be a marathon race involving every school district within the county. Each school will sew one star on the flag as it is passed along. (Luckily, there are thirteen school districts in the county.) The entire program will take about four weeks to complete. On Memorial Day the completed flag will return to the starting point. This flag along with a flag from each of the original thirteen colonies will be raised in a "Gathering of the Colors" ceremony at the local battle monument.

Conclusion

It is apparent from the experience outlined in this section that no single method of organization and no single type of program can promise success. The fact that something has not worked in one area does not mean that it cannot be a success elsewhere. The key to any bicentennial program at any level is the community itself and the willingness of its citizens to work. People are more important than structure, planning, or funds. If an area wants a bicentennial program strongly enough, it will be a success. Below are a few of the general conclusions that might be drawn from the preceding examples.

- Interest may outlast a defective organizational structure. Do not be discouraged because one method does not work.

- Do not assume that funding is the first step in a successful program. Almost without exception, spokesmen for programs of all sorts mentioned funding as one of the least areas of concern. Prove that community support can be generated, and fund raising will come naturally.
- Recognition as the official bicentennial commission by the local government can be a great help in organizing and funding a program, but it is not absolutely required. Designation as a Bicentennial Community by the federal ARBA does require official recognition by the local government and endorsement by the NYSARBC.
- Consider publicity as an integral part of a bicentennial program; if people don't know about it, they cannot become involved. If possible, include experienced media and publicity personnel at every stage. If this is not possible, do not hesitate to contact directly the local radio and television stations and the local newspapers.
- Find a place for everyone who is interested. What may be sacrificed in orderliness will be more than compensated for by community good will.
- Use experienced people everywhere possible, and experience means boy scouts, neighborhood leaders, service groups, the PTA, and students as well as professionally trained people.
- Don't expect instantaneous success. Those with experience in local affairs know that local projects can be difficult to organize and carry through. In the early stages, one or two people must sometimes keep the project going until community interest is generated.
- In joint county and community programs, try to integrate commissions, committees, and programs wherever possible. Almost everyone felt a master plan or, depending on the focus of interest, a master calendar would be very helpful.
- If possible, publish a monthly newsletter, listing county-wide events and plans. This does not need to be elaborate—a mimeographed sheet is adequate. Names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of interested parties cannot be printed too frequently. And be generous in publishing the names of people who are active. They rightfully deserve to be recognized.

CHAPTER III

FUNDING

So far, little has been said about a key question: how will a local bicentennial project be funded? The size of a bicentennial budget obviously depends on the nature of the project. It is here that solid thinking is important. What kind of program can most benefit the community? Indeed, what are the community needs that can possibly be fulfilled by a bicentennial program? How much must be paid for, and how much can be handled through donations and volunteer aid? How large or small a project can sustain community interest and support? And so on. One general word of advice—sustaining the initial spark of interest is crucial to raising funds. In several successful projects throughout the state, programs in the early stages have struggled along with almost no funds. Once community interest was generated and a project appeared to be working, however, local government became more enthusiastic about granting funds. Let's face it: No level of government can ignore widespread public enthusiasm.

Most funds for local bicentennial projects must be generated locally. Even in cases where outside funding might be available (as discussed below), most institutions or foundations will provide only a percentage of the total budget. It is therefore necessary to show that community funds are already available or committed, and that the community has the resources and ability to carry a project through. And the best evidence of worthiness is the willingness of a community to provide most of its own funds.

There are of course many methods of raising funds. Anyone with experience in service groups or other local organizations can probably provide useful ideas as well as expert help. In fact, such organizations might well be planning bicentennial projects of their own which could be combined with other programs in order to reduce required funding. In any event, bicentennial planners should try to rely on the expertise of experienced local fund raisers whenever possible.

Fund raising activities should be integrally related to bicentennial programs. The community should easily be able to associate a particular fund raising campaign with the bicentennial project. This is where the ability and willingness to start a project on a shoestring can be most important in order that the community can see tangible evidence of what it is being asked to pay for. If the time-honored PTA fund raiser, a cookbook, was to be used, for instance, it should be a cookbook of Revolutionary era dishes, or of a region's particular kinds of foods, or

of recipes from an area's ethnic communities—depending on how the area is planning to celebrate the bicentennial.

Local bicentennial groups can also explore the possibility of building a bicentennial program around an institution which already has operating funds. Or, alternatively, such an institution might be willing to devote part of its funds to a bicentennial project, particularly if it is planned as a lasting contribution to the community. Volunteer labor in exchange for partial funding is frequently a good way to combine the work of existing institutions with bicentennial programs.

Seeking Governmental Financial Aid

If the programs projected by the local bicentennial organization are practical and tailored to local needs and interests, they should be capable of local financing without outside support. Occasionally, however, a project may be of sufficient magnitude or may be of more than local scope so that outside financial help is needed. If a project has far-reaching objectives and lasting value, there is a possibility of financial aid from state or federal governments.

The first step in seeking outside aid from any source is to demonstrate widespread local support and action. It is vital that any project be tested in a public forum as soon as possible so that a local commission can show tangible evidence of its progress. Second, granting institutions will always have deadlines that must be met and guidelines that must be scrupulously adhered to. There will always be a delay between the time of application and the final decision, and waiting too long for a response can sometimes squelch enthusiasm. This is why it is generally better to seek funds for a project that is already showing signs of success. Third, granting policies and available funds can change periodically so that the chances for approval of a local grant request can sometimes dim even as a community is writing its application. Try to be sure that the information on application procedures, deadlines, and funds available is up to date. In other words, try to avoid getting bogged down in grant applications; time and energy is better spent on the bicentennial project itself.

State Bicentennial Funding

The New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission does occasionally provide financial help for local programs, but it does not have the legal authority to make direct grants. On occasions when funds are provided, they are usually handled on the basis of a contract

between the local sponsor and the State Bicentennial Commission. Generally, the State Commission considers requests to support local programs which will have regional, statewide, or national interest. The State Commission also considers such factors as the planning and thought that have gone into a program, the degree of community impact and appeal, the evidence of success, and, most important, the willingness of the community itself to provide the bulk of funds. In no case can the State Commission provide all of the funds necessary for a local project.

The State Commission has no required forms for application, but the general rules laid out in "Grant Requests: How to Apply" should be followed.

The New York State Council on the Arts

Although the NY State Council on the Arts has no official connection with the bicentennial celebration, it does provide aid for many worthwhile projects which could come under the bicentennial umbrella. The council is a tax-supported, government agency in the state Executive Department which receives an annual budget allocation from the legislature. It has shown a laudable flexibility in its granting policies, and local bicentennial commissions seeking outside help should explore the possibility of funding from this source.

As with all granting institutions, it is imperative to ascertain council application requirements directly from the Council at the earliest possible moment. The State Bicentennial Commission does **not** act as middleman in Council applications. Write to:

Bicentennial Programs
New York State Council on the Arts
250 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10017

Federal Matching Grants Program

In 1973, the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission (now the ARBA) instituted a program of matching grants by distributing money obtained from royalties earned through the sale of commemorative medals and first-day philatelic covers. These are not congressionally-allocated funds. In 1973 these funds amounted to \$40,000 per state. New York distributed its share to local projects and programs.

With the formation of the new American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington and with uncertain congressional

appropriations, the current federal funding situation is not yet clear. However, the State Commission is hopeful that there will be further federal funding on a matching grant basis, and that the state Commission will continue to act as middleman for federal grant applications.

If the previous procedure for federal matching grants holds and if federal funds are again made available, applicants should observe the following:

- Applications are open to local bicentennial commissions or committees, non-profit organizations, or municipalities. Individuals may not apply. Designation as a Bicentennial Community under ARBA guidelines is not required, but it may be extremely helpful.
- Applications must be accepted and endorsed by the State Bicentennial Commission. Applications should **not** go directly to Washington.
- No special application form is required, but applicants should conform to the guidelines in, "Grant Requests: How to Apply." Also include information on the time schedule or duration of the project.
- All non-profit organizations must provide a copy of an IRS tax exemption statement. For newly-organized commissions and organizations, it is necessary to obtain the certificate from the IRS in Washington. As a general rule, applicants should deal with their IRS regional director to avoid delays.
- In order to be considered for federal funds, programs must qualify in at least one of the three ARBA themes (See pp. 9). However, it is **not** necessary to be designated a Bicentennial Community in order to apply for federal funding.
- In no case will more than 50% of a bicentennial project budget be granted. Federal guidelines require that the State Commission be satisfied that the local portion of the funds (in dollars, not matching services) are available, and so stipulate to the federal commission.
- Although grant applications are processed as soon as they are received by the State Bicentennial Commission staff, applications cannot be accepted after October 1, 1974 and 1975 for consideration in those calendar years.

Alternative Funding Sources

Funds for worthwhile community projects are sometimes available from a wide variety of sources, both privately and publicly supported. Local bicentennial commissions should explore every funding possibility. When a local bicentennial project falls within the general area of a local, state, or federal department or agency, it may be possible to obtain financial help directly from the particular agency or department. Never be reluctant to inquire.

Below is a list of a few institutions which may make grants for local bicentennial projects. It must be stressed, however, that the State Bicentennial Commission has no official relationship with any of these institutions and does **not** act as a middleman in grant applications. Applications must go directly to the institution involved, and potential applicants are encouraged to contact the particular institution at the earliest possible moment.

- **National Endowment for the Arts**

If its budget for 1974 is approved, the Endowment plans to make grants for cultural programs related to the bicentennial celebration. For information, write to:

Bicentennial Programs
National Endowment for the Arts
806 15th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Request copies of the free publication, **Our Programs**.

- **The America-The-Beautiful Fund**

Grants made for restoration projects, particularly those intended for public use. Considers other beautification projects. Write to:

Paul B. Dowling, Director
America-The-Beautiful Fund
145 East 52nd St.
New York, New York

- **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

There are two related programs involving historic preservation: (A) The National Historic Preservation Fund which provides restoration funds, and (B) The Consultant Services Grant Program which provides aid in locating and funding consultants needed to solve specific preservation problems. Generally the Trust lends money through a revolving fund which is replenished through income generated by restorations. Consultant Services grants are matching grants, not to be combined with

money already received from the federal government. A "Bicentennial Kit" containing pamphlets on historic preservation planning is obtainable for \$3. Write to:

Director, Dept. of Field Services
National Trust for Historic Preservation
740-748 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

- **National Endowment for the Humanities**

The NEH is encouraging the submission of applications for projects which bring the humanities to bear on the serious study of the American experience from colonial times to the present. The NEH is also authorized to support the study and application of the humanities to the human environment. Grants are on a matching basis. Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations, public agencies, community or cultural groups, educational institutions, museums, libraries, and historical societies. Write to:

Bicentennial Programs
National Endowment for the Humanities
806 15th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

- **National Science Foundation**

The NSF is interested in projects which show the capabilities of science and technology in solving the nation's social problems and in programs which show the impact of science and technology on the nation. All grants are on a matching basis. All non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Write to:

Office of Government and Public Programs
National Science Foundation
Washington, D.C. 20550

- **National Park Service**

A special bicentennial fund of eight million dollars will be available for matching grants in late 1974 if congress appropriates the funds. The purpose will be for historical preservation work.

For information write to:

Mr. William C. Quick
Director, Office of Program Planning & Budget
National park Service
18th & "C" St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Grant Requests: How to Apply

It cannot be stressed too strongly that local bicentennial groups seeking funds from outside sources must adhere scrupulously to a particular institution's rules and guidelines for application. In many cases, institutions require special forms which can be obtained only by writing directly to the particular institution. Bicentennial planners should inquire about the form of application at the earliest possible moment in their planning.

If no special forms are required, grant applications should be as follows:

- Typewritten on one side of the page.
- Include the official title, address, and telephone number of the group, organization, or institution, plus the name, address, and telephone number of one person with the authority to act as the official spokesman in the event that additional information is needed. If the organization applying for a bicentennial grant is more than a special bicentennial committee or commission, a brief definition of the broader purpose of the organization should be included.
- Describe the project, including information on the purpose, scope, and current stage of development. Description should be concise, one or two paragraphs. If a longer explanation is felt to be necessary, it should be included separately. It is important to explain how the project will serve the community and what individuals, groups, or organizations will be involved as staff, as participants, and as beneficiaries. Descriptions should always indicate (A) the value as a bicentennial project, and (B) how the project relates to the stated purpose of the funding institution.
- Give a proposed budget, including (A) total cost, (B) amount from local or other sources, and (C) amount requested. Always provide as detailed a breakdown of costs as is feasible, on a separate sheet if necessary. If the application is for a matching grant, it is important to provide information on other sources of income such as clear evidence that partial funds are already available or that promised funds are under binding commitment.
- Certification or evidence of non-profit status. This can include (A) New York Board of Regents charter, (B) incorporation by New York Secretary of State as a non-profit organization, (C) designation of tax exempt status by the I.R.S. Inquiries concerning a Regents charter should be directed to: Office of the Counsel, N.Y.S. Education Department, Albany; for a corporate char-

ter to: N.Y. Secretary of State, Albany; and for federal tax exempt status to: The District Director, U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Grant requests should always be compact and to the point. Clarity of language is also essential. Do not expect the granting institution to read between the lines; explain what you hope to accomplish and how funds can help in your objective.

CHAPTER IV

LOCAL PROJECT IDEAS

The size, nature, and geographical location of a community will determine what pathway to commemoration it takes—villages, towns, cities, counties, and regions will vary in the financial and cultural resources available for developing bicentennial programs. Historical traditions and current problems will also differ. Each locality must seek projects and programs which focus on its unique features and traditions, and on its present and future needs. In the final analysis, dynamic leadership, originality, and enthusiasm are the main ingredients of a successful commemoration.

The following list of themes, projects, programs, and activities is intended only to suggest lines along which community bicentennial programs can be developed.

I PAGEANTRY

A. Reenactments

1. Costumed reenactments of Revolutionary War events add color and pageantry to historical commemoration and are especially presented to commemorate important anniversaries.
2. If battle reenactments are attempted they should be on a manageable scale and draw on the experience of military units such as the Brigade of the American Revolution which authentically recreate eighteenth century military life. A reenactment is really a form of theatrical performance, requiring a script of sorts, assigned roles, props, and rehearsals.
3. Reenactments of other aspects of the Revolution such as a meeting of the local Sons of Liberty, the committee of safety, or the first state legislature, could also be featured.
4. For communities without a Revolutionary War connection,

significant local historical events might be reenacted, such as the arrival of the first settlers, the first town meeting, a famous court trial or debate, or the completion of a transportation facility.

B. Special Ceremonies

Localities may hold special ceremonies throughout the bicentennial era to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Revolutionary War events. Such occasions can include the community-wide ringing of bells, speeches, the reading of proclamations and original documents, and performances by military and musical groups. Speeches should point up the significance of the event being commemorated. An original poem or musical composition might be commissioned. Pertinent newspaper articles, public records, maps, letters, journals, reminiscences, and sketches or graphic materials dealing with the Revolution or with local history can be reprinted for distribution.

C. Special Days

Local "Special Days" can honor a Revolutionary War event or figure, a local person of national prominence or local institutions, government, organizations, businesses, industries, agriculture, education, athletics, and the arts.

The special day could have as its focus a holiday such as Thanksgiving, New Years, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July, with emphasis on how it was celebrated in the past. Open house could be held in schools, colleges, industries, businesses, and clubs. Exhibits and community-wide activities could be developed by appropriate organizations.

D. Fairs and Festivals

1. **The County Fair** is a natural focus for bicentennial activities. The county bicentennial commission in cooperation with fair officials could develop appropriate activities. For example:

- a. **Bicentennial Booth** would be headquarters for the county bicentennial commission, where information and a calendar of county bicentennial events could be obtained. The booth could also offer bicentennial items for sale—

books (local histories, a county bicentennial cookbook) and souvenirs.

b. "Then and Now" exhibit of old photographs and postcards of county scenes, roads, towns, buildings, sites, alongside contemporary pictures of the same scenes.

c. Serving of colonial food, regional specialties and/or ethnic foods in an early American or ethnic setting.

d. Musical events to appeal to all tastes—strolling balladeers or folk singers featuring Revolutionary War songs, performances by fife and drum corps, bagpipers, orchestras, bands, and rock music groups.

e. Performances and demonstrations by special military units which recreate the life of the American Revolutionary War soldier.

f. Puppet shows for children based on Revolutionary events or local history.

g. Fashion show of men's and women's clothing of various periods. This could be arranged by the county extension clubs or sponsored by a clothing store.

h. Auction of a bicentennial quilt made by a local group and featuring designs or symbols of the county's history.

2. **State Fair** activities are similar to those suggested for the county fair and could be developed and expanded for statewide participation. A bicentennial theme could be incorporated in many state fair activities.

3. **Festivals and Craft Fairs:**

a. The tradition of fairs, festivals, market days, and "socials," is deeply rooted in the American past. Such occasions provide a festive atmosphere in which people can mingle and visit, buy and sell, consume special foods, and exhibit their creativity in music, the dance, arts, and crafts.

b. Communities which already have such annual festivals or fairs could enlarge these activities and make them a focus for part of the community's bicentennial commemoration. Other villages, towns, or cities might consider incorporating a fair or festival into their bicentennial programs. An historic village or a restored area of a town or city is an ideal setting for such a festival or fair.

c. The festival or fair concept could be extended to city or

suburban neighborhoods as an enlargement of the "block party" concept. The festival or fair offers a wide scope for originality. Preferably there should be no admission charge to the festival or fair to encourage attendance, though there could be a charge for food, films, plays or other special events. The festival should not be regarded as a fund-raising project but purely as a celebration of the bicentennial, with time and materials donated.

d. Community facilities also should be utilized to offer an expanded program. For example:

1. Film festival at the local theatre, featuring movies on the American Revolution.
2. A local theatre group or high school drama group might present an original play based on the American Revolution or on local history or they could give a performance of an eighteenth century play.
3. The local historical society could feature special exhibits on the Revolution and/or local history.
4. Special exhibits in art museums or in public places.
5. Exhibits in store windows showing the history of local businesses, industries, and the professions. These could be set up by business and professional organizations.
6. The library could arrange an exhibit of manuscripts, documents, books and maps relating to the Revolution or to local history.
7. Special days could be devoted to local industry, agriculture, education, religion or business. Open house could be held by local businesses, industries, colleges, schools, and churches.
8. Sale of special items, handmade or manufactured, which have been traditionally produced in the area.

These activities lend color, action, and an air of festival to such celebrations. However, they are also ephemeral, "one-time" activities often lacking in educational value. Moreover, the costuming and production of an elaborate pageant is costly and time-consuming. The community should carefully weigh its priorities and consider whether its time and money would be better spent on projects of more lasting value. Perhaps it could opt for a simpler parade or a less elaborate pageant as a small part of the overall bicentennial program.

If the community decides to stage a pageant the script should be based on actual Revolutionary War events or history. The services of a local high school or college drama coach or the director of a local theatre group might be enlisted to direct and produce the pageant. An

effective and original pageant could establish a tradition and be performed annually as a tourist attraction. But a pageant should not constitute a community's **only** form of commemoration.

II PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

A. Identification

1. Marking of Revolutionary War Sites and Graves: Hitherto unmarked local Revolutionary War sites or Patriot graves can be marked, accompanied by appropriate ceremonies. Liberty poles may be erected at locations where they originally stood.
2. Inventory all historic sites (public buildings, houses, theatres, factories, businesses, stores, bridges, transportation facilities) in the community, including architecturally or historically important structures of the present day as well. Copies of the list should be made available to the local historical society or library. An important part of any such project is a photographic record of the individual sites, including exterior and interior details. Photography clubs and youth organizations could be involved in this project.

B. Stabilization and Preservation

1. Establishment of a heritage foundation to prevent the impending destruction of local historic structures or sites. This organization might be able to purchase historic properties which then could be utilized as offices, dwellings, apartments, businesses, or meeting places for organizations. The original facades and exteriors, and interiors, when practicable, would be retained.
2. Some communities have vacant buildings which have architectural merit and/or historical association with the community. The bicentennial would be an ideal time to convert such a "white elephant" into a community center. A vacant factory could be transformed into a multi-use center, with boutiques, craft shops, a theater, restaurant, and indoor market featuring local produce. An exhibit area or photographic display would remind visitors of the building's original use.
3. Archaeological activities
 - a. The excavation of historic sites and areas, especially fortifications, industrial, and Indian sites, yields historical in-

formation not otherwise obtainable. Such explorations should never be attempted by amateurs alone but should be conducted under the supervision of trained archaeologists.

b. Underwater archaeological investigations can uncover sunken Revolutionary War vessels or other relics of historical significance. Such activities should be undertaken only by experts and in accordance with state laws governing underwater archaeology.

4. History Museum

Included in this category are historic sites, houses, and other structures which function as history museums and are open to the public on a non-profit basis.

a. Establish a heritage committee whose function would be to preserve and/or eventually purchase houses or buildings of historical significance which could then be used as living museums. The facades at least would be preserved lending historical flavor and architectural depth to the community. The interiors could function as dwellings, offices, or businesses. This would be a major community project and would entail large amounts of funding and expert legal, financial, architectural, and historical expertise as well as cooperation from zoning commissions and local government.

b. Restoration of a historic house or building (courthouse, town hall, church, factory, store) which would be maintained as a museum open to the public.

Note: If the community does not have an exceptional eighteenth century house which is significantly tied to the Revolution or to local history, it might consider restoring a later house or building which reflects some aspect of nineteenth or early twentieth century life.

c. Establish a museum: This is a complex and very expensive undertaking and requires detailed study and planning, as well as strong, long-term financial support. If there is wide community interest in establishing a museum and if the financial backing is available, it could be an excellent bicentennial project. However, it is generally far less difficult to work with an existing museum than to attempt to form and manage a new one. Should the issue arise, consultation with Office of State History staff may be advisable.

C. Collection and Preservation of Historical Materials

1. Collect and preserve manuscripts, documents, maps, etc. A historic site often lends itself to adaptations as an archival depository.
2. Organize an attic and basement "treasure hunt" to locate documents, maps, newspapers, business and club records, diaries, public records, letters, sketches or other graphic materials and artifacts relating to the Revolutionary War and/or to the early history of the community or region. The documents or pictures should be professionally copied and the originals returned to the owners if the latter do not wish to donate them permanently to a library, historical society, or archival agency.
3. Encourage local businesses, organizations, and clubs, to collect and preserve their records, including photography, and to write histories of their organizations to be deposited in the local historical society, library, or archival agency.
4. Activities, crafts, and services which are disappearing might be photographed, as the home delivery of milk, the operation of a small factory, or the last trip of a train or ferryboat. Photographs should be clearly identified, dated, and deposited in the local historical society and/or library. Copies should be made available to other interested agencies.
5. Collection and preservation of decorative arts, memorabilia, art works, costumes, uniforms, weapons, tools, and vehicles for study and display in an historical museum or restored historic house. Although attention is usually concentrated on the earliest materials in a community, consideration should also be given to collecting more recent items which are becoming rare.
6. Oral History: Tape-record conversations with older residents, depositing the tapes and transcriptions in the local historical society. With proper training, young people could do much of the taping, thus bridging the generation gap and giving young people personal contact with the community's past. Taped interviews are most useful when they relate to other documents such as those described above.

III EDUCATION

A. Educational Exhibits:

Well-executed interpretive exhibits lend depth and dimension to the perception of history and possess great educational value. Tangible objects, original documents, newspapers, maps, contemporary paintings, sketches, and, for later periods, photographs, recreate the past as words cannot. Exhibits also offer the advantage over pageants and parades in that viewers can study and examine them at their leisure.

Exhibits should be an important part of the community bicentennial commemoration. Placed in historical societies, museums, historic buildings, libraries, public buildings, schools, shopping malls, parks and in the windows of businesses, exhibits can graphically portray the events of the local past in an educational and entertaining way.

1. Local bicentennial commissions should draw on the talents of local writers, artists, and exhibits designers in the preparation of exhibits.
2. Museums and historical societies could set up a regional or statewide exchange or loan program. Institutions having large collections of Revolutionary War materials might make duplicate items available to institutions or societies which lack such materials. Items relevant to a particular region or period might be loaned or donated to appropriate institutions.
3. Types of exhibits which can be incorporated into community bicentennial programs include:
 - a. Models (replicas of buildings, vehicles, firearms, etc.)
 - b. Dioramas (miniature scenes depicting events or activities).
 - c. Period settings—reconstruction of rooms, street scenes, businesses, agricultural operations, and other activities. These are especially effective if accompanied by live demonstrations of crafts and other activities.
 - d. Traveling exhibits and loan kits can be prepared locally and sent to various locations in the community or they can be exhibits or collections of items or art works from a large metropolitan museum which are sent statewide for exhibit in local communities.
 - e. Photographic exhibits should consist of quality photographic enlargements competently mounted and hung. These may include photographs of Revolutionary War his-

toric sites, manuscripts, maps, paintings, portraits, vehicles, weapons, costumes, uniforms, utensils, and the decorative arts. This technique can also be used for a "Then and Now" series of photographs of the local community. The photographs can also be used as a background for the display of objects.

B. Special Educational Programs:

1. Public forums on the American Revolution with a panel of speakers selected from among the community's leading historians, journalists, writers, educators, jurists, political and religious leaders. Interested high school or college students might conduct similar forums in the schools or at adult service clubs or other community organizations.
2. A "Round Table" on the American Revolution might be organized, bringing together scholars and interested laymen for a serious discussion of the American Revolution.
3. Public debates on such topics as the right of dissent, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, or topics suggested by the Bill of Rights could be sponsored by schools, patriotic societies or service clubs.
4. Formation of "Great Books of the American Revolution" discussion groups modelled on the Great Books discussion program. These could be sponsored by historical societies, patriotic and service organizations.
5. Workshops on eighteenth century crafts for both children and adults.
6. Colonial life experience programs for children. Children can wear eighteenth century costumes (which they may make themselves), prepare colonial food with eighteenth century utensils and equipment, learn colonial crafts, sing ballads and songs of the period, and, in some cases, actually live in a Revolutionary War type camp for a period of time.
7. Special programs on the Revolution sponsored by a history museum, including talks, slide presentations, exhibits, etc.
8. Essay contests or summer reading programs on the Revolution in the local schools.
9. Creative arts activities for children on Saturdays including the making of a relief map of the area, showing topography, history, industries, transportation, and people.
10. Puppet shows for children. The assistance of local artists

could be enlisted in making the puppets and backdrops for the shows. Scripts for the plays could be based on Revolutionary War incidents or on local history.

11. Folk song programs for children at the historical society or museum. Children could be taught ballads sung during the Revolution and regional songs. A college or high school ballad enthusiast and guitarist could lead such programs, tying the songs into regional history and showing museum artifacts mentioned in the songs.

12. Sponsorship of social activities publicizing the bicentennial, such as a colonial tea or dinner, a ball, musicals, or fife and drum performances.

C. Special Projects for Local Historians and Historical Societies

1. New, updated, or reprinted history of the village, town, city, county, or region.

2. Publication of original manuscripts, records, letters, or journals relating to the Revolution or to early local history.

3. An award for a substantial work on an aspect of the Revolution in New York or on local history.

4. Newspaper or magazine article or a series on the Revolution or on local history.

5. Histories of local clubs, organizations, businesses, ethnic groups, schools, colleges, and churches.

6. Compilation of a cookbook featuring traditional recipes of the area.

7. Book on local folklore, including games, sayings, superstitions, dances, songs, ballads, and legends. These could be collected through a school program by young people through taped interviews with elderly residents of the area.

8. Guidebooks to historic sites in the area. This should include a map and explicit directions to the sites.

9. Preparation of slide talks on the Revolution for schools, clubs, or church organizations.

The local historian is a key person in initiating bicentennial activities in the community and in working with other groups in developing major bicentennial projects. Many projects of a historical nature demand coordinated action by a number of people and can best be executed by a local historical society.

D. Drama

1. A Revolutionary War or local history play could be commissioned which would be suitable for production by local or school drama groups.
2. Local theater groups and college drama clubs could present actual plays popular during the Revolution.
3. Theater groups of all kinds can produce plays or musicals based on the American Revolution.
4. The reading of Revolutionary War documents, poems, newspapers, letters, and diaries by actors can be incorporated into a dramatic "happening."
5. Special children's plays on the American Revolution can be written for and given by children's theater groups.

E. Music:

1. A composer could be commissioned to write a symphony, opera or other musical work on Revolutionary War events or themes.
2. Fife and drum corps, bagpipe bands, ballad and folk singers can be used in community observances such as festivals or fairs and in all types of community programs.
3. Orchestras, bands, and choral groups can feature Revolutionary War music. They can perform at community functions.
4. Indian music might be featured.
5. A Hessian band could be organized, playing German music of the Revolutionary War period.
6. Communities not restricting their focus to the Revolution can feature two hundred years of all varieties of American music.

F. Art:

1. Competitions can be held for art works (murals, sculpture, paintings) which express the spirit of a bicentennial theme.
2. Art works expressive of the bicentennial or the Revolution can be commissioned.
3. "Street Art" — Blank walls in urban areas where nearby buildings have been demolished can be decorated with paintings. If the lot is vacant, a minipark with grass and flowers can be created.

4. Art and crafts shows and sales can be features of community bicentennial observances.
5. Public buildings (lobbies, halls, and stairways) can be decorated with murals and other art works.
6. Indian and ethnic art work and crafts can be featured.

G. The Dance:

1. A ballet based on a Revolutionary War or bicentennial event or theme or on an Indian legend could be commissioned and performed.
2. Dances of the Revolutionary War period could be performed by professional dance groups or by school groups.
3. Dance groups of all types could be encouraged to take part in the community bicentennial commemoration in "Two Hundred Years of Dancing in America."

H. Films:

1. The New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has produced a film on New York in the American Revolution which is available to schools, television stations, theatres and organizations. Titled "And Take Me By the Hand," it is in 16 mm. color and runs 28 minutes. A print may be borrowed from the New York State Film Library, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210, or directly from the Commission's office.
2. Film series of movies based on the American Revolution can be featured by theatres, museums, libraries, schools, colleges, and organizations.
3. If the community undertakes to produce a film of its own it should seek professional advice from college or university film production departments or from commercial film makers.
4. Local amateur movie photographers could film agricultural, industrial, or other vanishing craft activities.
5. The community could film its bicentennial commemoration and place the film in the local historical society to be shown at the 250th anniversary of American Independence.

I. Multimedia Productions include the use of several screens and complicated electronic sound tracks and effects. Such programs have emotional and visual impact and are useful for purposes of orientation. They should be produced by professionals, or the

community should seek technical advice from a professional producer if it attempts this type of programming. It is expensive.

K. Special Projects for the Communications Media

1. Writing Projects:

- a. A bicentennial newspaper column—with a heading such as “Bicentennial Byline,” or “Bicentennial Briefs” can keep the bicentennial constantly before the public. This can be a freelance effort written by regular staff, invited contributors, local historians or high school students. Such a column might include:
 - i. News of upcoming bicentennial events on the local, state, and national level.
 - ii. A report on what was happening in the nation, state, or community 200 years ago, 100 years ago, or 50 years ago.
 - iii. Biographical sketches of Revolutionary War soldiers or leaders who founded the community, lived there or are buried in nearby cemeteries.
- b. Feature stories for the local newspaper on Revolutionary War events connected with the area or on interesting facets of local history, such as early crafts, industries, interesting or famous residents, unusual events, historical houses or buildings.
- c. Writing or updating a history of the village, town, city, or county. This project should enlist the best possible expertise to insure as professional a finished product as possible. One should not hesitate to seek the help of history professors in nearby colleges. Newspapermen also could be consulted especially on the technical problems of publication.
- d. A “Special Bicentennial Edition” or “Sunday Supplement” could be published in connection with the major local bicentennial project. It should be carefully researched and could constitute an important part of the community’s bicentennial effort. Properly done, it can become a valuable research tool in years to come or can be republished as an informal history of the community.

Probably more than any other bicentennial project, a special newspaper edition will touch the average person, point out the uniqueness of his community, and instill in him a pride in its achievements. The best possible local talent should be recruited to put together this bicentennial “extra.”

- e. Contests sponsored by newspapers and magazines.
 - i. Prizes for the identification of Revolutionary War sites or persons through clues given in the newspaper or magazine.
 - ii. Prizes for locating old photographs or postcards of former residents or familiar scenes in the community.
- 2. Radio and Television:
 - a. Logo and spot announcements should feature the state, national, and local bicentennial symbol (or logos) or a bicentennial spot announcement on a continuing basis to arouse and sustain public interest in the bicentennial.
 - b. Coverage of Bicentennial Events:

Local radio and TV stations can play a very important role in conveying the excitement and emotional impact of the nation's 200th birthday and underscoring the meaning it has for all Americans. The cooperation of radio and TV is of special importance in putting across a successful local celebration.
 - c. Special Bicentennial Programs on TV and Radio
 - i. Dramatic 'vignettes based' on Revolutionary War events or persons, particularly those associated with the local scene.
 - ii. Inclusion in the regular local news and weather coverage of a special feature on what was happening 200 years ago.
 - iii. Filmed documentary programs on the Revolution as it affected the local area could be developed. If the area lacks direct association with the Revolutionary period, documentaries on other aspects of local history could be filmed.
 - iv. Interviews with historians or older residents, particularly immigrants.
 - v. Round table discussions with historians or well-informed laymen.
 - vi. Debates by college or high school students on the issues for which the Revolution was fought.
 - vii. Talk or telephone shows could introduce Revolutionary issues such as taxation without representation, the right of assembly, the right of dissent, freedom of the press, and relate them to the present day, inviting comment from the audience.
 - viii. Revolutionary War musical programs could be fea-

tured, including ballads, fife and drum music, and the more formal music which accompanied elegant social affairs.

9. Other Publicity Channels

a. Every member of the community can advertise the local bicentennial commemoration by wearing a distinctive costume or a hat, ribbon, tie or button. These eventually become collector's items and residents wearing them advertise the bicentennial.

b. Posters displayed prominently in store windows and public places, bumper stickers, banners, and streamers can make the public conscious of the bicentennial. Remember to guard against the potential for littering and visual pollution.

c. Bicentennial centers can be set up on main thoroughfares to dispense information about local and state bicentennial events and Revolutionary War sites in the area.

d. Books, pamphlets, brochures, calendars, and flyers can be distributed.

e. Announcements and programs can be presented at civic or social organization meetings.

f. Firms and organizations can incorporate the bicentennial in their advertising and can include stuffers on the bicentennial in their billings or regular meetings.

g. Company newsletters or house organs can feature articles on the American Revolution and can give coverage to upcoming bicentennial commemorations.

h. Business firms, state agencies, and organizations can include the bicentennial in their letterhead or postage meter.

i. Special non-postal stamps, medallions and coins can be issued.

j. Tasteful bicentennial souvenirs can be sold or distributed.

IV COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

A. Civic Betterment:

1. Planning

One bicentennial project appropriate for many communities would be to provide improved planning for all areas of the community, looking ahead to a planned growth of the

area and avoiding the mistakes of haphazard development in the past.

2. Renewal of Neighborhoods

Many urban, town and village communities have a great potential for development as attractive historic residential, business, or tourist areas.

a. Architecturally valuable structures often have been neglected or have been shoddily or improperly remodelled. Can they be helped?

b. Some projects call for large renewal programs to restore the exterior of these structures to their original condition. Such projects involve funding by federal, state, or foundation monies.

c. Other renewal projects can be developed on a block by block basis, with residents or owners restoring their own houses or business properties with the technical advice of experts from historical agencies.

4. Improved Community Services

The bicentennial era offers a sufficient span of time for badly needed large scale improvements in community services to be effected. Parks and recreational services are badly needed in many areas. Improved police and fire department facilities, the repairing of streets, updated lighting, parking and traffic flow, new sewage and waste disposal plants can be the focus of bicentennial planning. School systems can be updated and improved, and medical facilities made available to areas lacking them.

5. New Buildings

The bicentennial could be the occasion for launching and completing needed public facilities—town hall, city hall, school, hospital or clinic, theatre, recreation center, sports arena, concert hall, municipal auditorium, community center, or sports fields.

6. Improved mass transportation—rapid transit systems, better and more frequent bus transportation.

b. Peripheral parking lots, with bus service to work areas, shopping plazas, or city centers.

B. Environmental Projects:

The bicentennial can well see the acceleration of programs designed to restore ecological balance and to develop sub-

stitutes for depleted natural resources. In the process Americans can develop an increased appreciation for their country's natural beauty.

1. Nature programs

- a. Nature hikes led by a trained naturalist can introduce adults and children to the birds, plants, trees, and animals to be found in their own community, including urban areas.
- b. Traveling nature exhibits can visit various sections of a city, acquainting children with animals, plants, and trees which they do not see in the everyday environment.
- c. Nature films can be shown in museums, libraries, and schools, emphasizing ecology and the endangered species of American animals.

2. Environmental Centers

Communities might set up environmental centers in cooperation with local colleges where lectures on the environment, ecology, and nature programs could be offered.

3. Preservation and Conservation

- a. A worthwhile bicentennial project would be the setting aside and preservation of natural areas which exhibit a unique environmental phenomenon.
- b. Increased support for programs designed to save and increase the population of endangered species of animals and plants.

4. Beautification

Such programs encompass a variety of activities aimed at improving the physical surroundings of present and future Americans. These programs can be effectively carried out by youth groups, senior citizens, garden clubs and civic organizations.

- a. There are the continuing "Clean Up America—Johnny Horizon 76" campaigns sponsored by the United States Department of the Interior and endorsed by the ARBA.
- b. The physical setting for many public buildings, schools, town halls, county courthouses, police stations, firehouses, and also highways and parking lots can be beautified by plantings of flowers and shrubs.
- c. Garden clubs and other organizations can create a living bicentennial memorial by establishing a public garden and endowing its upkeep. This could be a colonial garden or an international garden composed of flowers and shrubs from other countries.

d. Miniparks can be created in urban areas where vacant lots exist.

e. The appearance of business areas along the highway approaches to cities or towns could be improved through local ordinances regulating the size and design of signs advertising the various establishments.

C. Athletics and Recreation

1. Special bicentennial athletics events—football, track, baseball, basketball, golf, tennis, hockey, soccer, swimming, skiing, rugby, cricket, ice skating. Bicentennial themes could be featured at half-time as appropriate. Emphasis would be on participation by amateurs and high school and college students.

2. Gymnastic exhibitions, drills, and dances presented by school children.

3. Formation of hiking and biking clubs.

4. Bicentennial horse races, rowing contests, sailing regattas, white water competitions.

E. Hospitality and Reunion

The local bicentennial celebration should be widely publicized. Invitations to attend should be extended to other communities. This should be an occasion for homecomings and reunions. Descendants of original settlers or Revolutionary War participants might be invited. Nationally prominent persons who grew up in the community also could be invited to participate. Former residents should be encouraged to return for the occasion. All kinds of reunions (family, class, athletic teams, club, church) can become part of the local bicentennial observance.

F. Exchange Programs

Exchange programs of all kinds promote the “action and interaction” encouraged by the ARBA. These might include:

1. Extend an invitation to an underprivileged child to accompany your family on a trip to visit historic sites in New York.

2. Exchange of city and rural or small town children through schools, church groups, or community organizations. Children would visit their “new” family for a specified period.

3. Exchange of New York high school students with out-of-state or foreign high school students who would live with families and go to school or work in the community. This would include attendance at discussion groups on a variety of topics—the American Revolution, state and national government, education, ecology, national values and cultures.
4. Exchange of members of New York youth organizations (Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., Yorkers, Scouts) with similar out-of-state or foreign organizations.
5. Organized exchange visits by government officials, adult services or social organizations to other states or countries.
6. Exchange of teachers and professors with England and Canada in particular.

G. Twinning of Cities or Towns

Communities could extend invitations to government officials or representatives of other American or foreign cities or towns with the same name to attend the local bicentennial celebration as special guests. In turn members of the community could be invited to visit their “twin.”

CHAPTER V

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

American Association for State and Local History.

Directory of Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada.

Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, biennial since 1939, paper.

Names, addresses, staff and other information about historical agencies. Notes research facilities, publications, programs, exhibits, etc. Can be purchased from the Association, 1315 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

History News.

Nashville: AASLH, monthly since 1945.

Most issues contain "Technical Leaflets" on various specialized topics. A bibliography of "Tech" leaflets and other AASLH publications titled "Publications for the Profession" is available from the Association.

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (formerly American Revolution Bicentennial Commission).

Bicentennial Bulletin. Washington, D.C.: ARBA, weekly since August 21, 1971.

A newsletter of bicentennial information. Write to the ARBA, 736 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20276 for inclusion on its mailing list.

Bicentennial Times.

Washington, D.C.: ARBA, monthly since January 1974

Replaced **Bicentennial Newsletter** (Feb. 1972 - Sept. 1973) which replaced **Bicentennial Era** (Feb. 1970 - Dec. 1971). Features information on bicentennial activities and ARBA programs. To be placed on its mailing list write to the ARBA at the above address.

Information Manual for State

and Local Bicentennial Commissions.

Washington, D.C.: ARBC, n.d.

An indexed looseleaf compendium of information on the organization, development and funding of bicentennial programs.

. State and Territorial

Bicentennial Commissions and Contacts.

Washington, D.C.: ARBC, January 1973.

An address book of state and territorial bicentennial commissions.

Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States. USA 200:

The American Bicentennial Monthly. Glen Ridge, N.J.: Bicentennial Service Corporation, monthly since 1970.

Bicentennial programs, activities and information concerning the thirteen original states. Available from **USA 200**, P.O. Box 200, Glen Ridge, New Jersey 07028. Subscription rate is \$12.00/year.

Crouch, Tom D. **Ohio Bicentennial Guide: Suggestions for Commemorating the American Revolution Bicentennial.** Columbus: Ohio American Revolution Bicentennial Advisory Commission, 1973.
An outline of suggestions and information for planning a bicentennial celebration.

Hartje, Robert G. Bicentennial USA: Pathways to Celebration.

Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1973.

A bicentennial handbook by the former director of the Bicentennial Project of the AASLH. Includes critical evaluations of recent celebrations and serves as a source of ideas for bicentennial planning. Extensive bibliography. Hardcover or paper available from AASLH (address above).

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Focus - 1976.

Washington, D.C.: NSDAR, 1971.

Guide for local DAR chapters. Useful planning tool for other patriotic, fraternal, historical, church and local organizations.

Nathan, Adele Gutman. How to Plan and Conduct a Bicentennial Celebration. Harrisburg, Pa: Stackpole Books, 1971.

A detailed work on producing costumed pageants. Discusses planning, scripts, costumes, and staging.

New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The Correspondent. Albany: NYSARBC, quarterly since summer of 1970.

The official newsletter of the NYSARBC. Historical articles, items of interest and bicentennial activities focusing on New York state. Available free from Office of State History, State Education Department, Albany 12224.

People's Bicentennial Commission. **The Bicentennial Era (1972-76).** Washington, D.C.: PBC, n.d.

A collection of articles generally critical of the federal bicentennial program. Includes "The People's Bicentennial Declaration" outlining its bicentennial philosophy. Available from PBC, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Room 1025, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Common Sense. Washington, D.C.: PBC, every other month since November 1972.

The newsletter of the People's Bicentennial Commission. Includes historical articles and features critical of established bicentennial programs and suggests alternatives. Available from the PBC at the above address.

Rath, Frederick L. and Merrilyn R. O'Connell, eds. **Guide to Historic Preservation, Historical Agencies and Museum Practices: A Selective Bibliography.** Cooperstown, N.Y.: New York State Historical Association, 1970.

The most complete and up to date bibliography in the field of historic preservation. Currently in revision.

South Carolina Tricentennial Commission.

Report of the South Carolina Tricentennial Commission. Columbia, S.C.: SCTC, 1971.

A detailed, comprehensive summary of a major state-wide celebration (1970). Information on the state's commemoration of its Revolutionary War history. Reports on participation by the public, historical societies, service groups, and patriotic organizations. Good example of coordinated state and local programs. Paperback.