

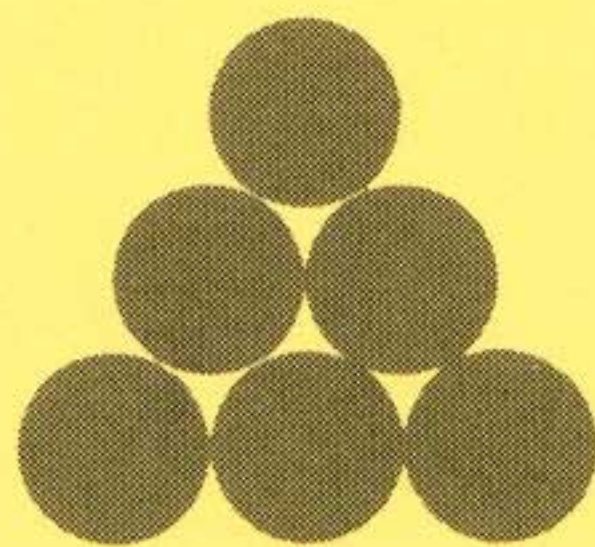


4th

Annual

Report

1972-1973



NEW YORK STATE

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER, Governor of the State of New York, and the Honorable Members of the Senate and Assembly:

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 630 of the Laws of 1968, the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission hereby respectfully submits its Fourth Annual Report.

JOHN H. G. PELL
Chairman

E. K. FRETWELL JR.
Vice Chairman

March 1, 1973



The official New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Medal features the bust of a colonial patriot. The seal of the American Numismatic Society is in the lower left and the signature "Americo" in the lower center. The reverse shows a stylized Liberty Pole with an inscribed pennant, and below it the Seal of the State of New York.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT: 1972-1973

TOWARD THE CLOSE of its last annual report, this Commission expressed confidence that the year 1973 would "bring fresh evidence of a statewide response to the bicentennial challenge." Its confidence has been abundantly justified. The evidence may be summarized best in terms of new local commissions and committees formed during the year beginning February, 1972. At the outset, there were seven formally organized county bicentennial groups; as of now there are seventeen. Four others are known to be in the process of formation. Several new committees have been formed at the town and even village level. The details are in a list given at the end of this report, but it seems appropriate to stress at the beginning these signs of how widely and seriously the challenge to make plans has been taken.

Such a list of groups formed specifically for the occasion tells only part of the story, however. Long established institutions and

organizations of several kinds have begun to plan their own participation in the Bicentennial. This is especially true of historical societies and museums. The Brooklyn Museum has announced its intention to undertake a major review of 200 years of American sculpture in a special exhibition scheduled for 1976. The Museum of American Folk Art has already begun a series of traveling exhibits celebrating historic New York State craft styles in textiles, paper, metal, wood, and clay. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is scheduling the opening of a new wing in 1976 and has designated it the American Bicentennial Wing.

Among State agencies, Parks and Recreation has the most far-reaching plan now proposed for funding support. Its goal is to accelerate the research, design, and construction work needed at the historic sites under Parks management in time for the expected influx of visitors during the bicentennial. The State Education Department is planning a major temporary exhibit dealing with several themes of the State's history. It will be displayed in the State Museum at the Cultural Center, a building scheduled to open coincidentally with the bicentennial. Other State agencies are also in the process of examining proposals for their bicentennial contributions.

SOME OF THIS ACTIVITY originates without the direct prompting of this Commission. Some of it will be carried through to completion without the need for assistance from the Commission. But it would be false modesty to report that the Commission and its staff have so far been simply observers, or that many local and special bicentennial groups may be expected to realize their hopes without assistance. In fact the response outlined above is just what we are trying to make happen. One purpose of each of the activities noted below has been the encouragement of this organizational and planning activity throughout the State.

To achieve any program purpose, one of the oldest and most effective techniques is simply to talk to interested people. Invitations have been plentiful enough that the Executive Director has spoken to groups "live" 48 times, the Program Director 47 times, and the Bicentennial Associate 8 times. Some of these appearances were before groups convened to make plans; others were recorded for television or radio broadcast to wide areas of the state.

Three important meetings were held on the Commission's initiative. Two were open forums at Utica on March 25 and at Rochester

on October 28. These followed the pattern of the four regional forums held earlier in that they brought the Commission's story to representatives of local organizations and encouraged an exchange of views and ideas. Similar in purpose was a meeting held by the Executive Director in July with representatives from nearly 30 departments and agencies of State government. It served as an orientation which will be followed up in future meetings.

COMPLEMENTING THE SPOKEN WORD have been three publications which serve a similar overall purpose. One is a colorful brochure which for the first time introduces in a few pages both the Commission and its objectives for bicentennial observances in New York State. Summarizing positions stated in previous annual reports, it tells who we are, what we have been doing, and what directions we are taking. A second publication is a 16-page booklet which goes beyond the brochure in discussing possible local program undertakings and in presenting a calendar of major events in New York during the years 1770-1783. In preparation is a still larger booklet which will add specific suggestions and examples for those working at the local level. It will be directed to New York State opportunities as a complement to the forthcoming bicentennial planner's manual by Robert Hartje from the American Association for State and Local History. Finally, there is the quarterly newsletter of the Commission, *The Correspondent*. Eleven issues have appeared since its debut in the summer of 1970, and continuing requests for subscriptions continue to require a press run of 15,000 copies per issue.

While prompting and helping others to make places for themselves in the bicentennial picture, the Commission also recognizes that as a statewide agency with a unique mandate, there are obligations which it cannot share. For one thing, it must represent and relate New York's plans and views to those of other states. In this connection, the Executive Director has served on the Heritage panel of the federal Commission, and he and Mr. Moreau Brown have met quarterly with the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States since its inception in 1971.

When the State of Georgia requested the return of the remains of Colonel William Few from the burial vault at Beacon, the Commission acted on behalf of New York State in expediting the transfer. Few was a

Georgia member of the Militia, the Continental Congress, and the Constitutional Convention, one of the first two senators elected from Georgia and a founder of the University of Georgia. The removal of his remains to a new mausoleum in Augusta was completed on January 29 of this year.

THE SELECTION OF AN OFFICIAL bicentennial medal has also been the privilege of the Commission, and the design illustrated here was chosen for adoption after a competition open to resident New York artists. The work of Americo Giannicchi of Astoria, the medal is produced by the Medallie Art Company of New York City and will be offered for sale through the commercial banks starting June 14, 1973. The New York State Bankers Association has agreed to handle distribution as a public service of their member banks. The medal has been struck in two sizes each of silver and bronze, and will sell at prices from \$40 to \$1.

Responding to the interest being shown in the historic sites associated with the beginnings of the nation, the Commission has also published in 1972 a 64-page booklet titled *Landmarks of the Revolution in New York State*, by David Thurheimer of the Office of State History. Forty sites regularly open to the public are described, illustrated, and located on detailed maps in this free booklet, of which 20,000 copies have been printed.

Through its film committee, the Commission has continued to receive proposals and review script treatments looking toward the production of one or more films for television and educational use during the bicentennial. A series of ten one-minute television spot announcements have been produced in cooperation with the State University of New York's Statewide Network calling attention to historic sites of the Revolutionary period. These will be released free to television stations this spring. Soundtracks are also available on tape for radio broadcast.

The educational value of the demonstrations offered by the Brigade of the American Revolution continues to be acclaimed by the increasing thousands who have seen it perform. This volunteer group appeared in uniform and in action at four locations in 1972 under Commission sponsorship — at Richmondtown, Staten Island; at South Street Seaport, Manhattan; at Old Bethpage Village, Bethpage; and at Cooperstown.

Meetings of the full Commission have been held in New York City in February of 1972 and 1973, at Lake George (concurrently with the County Historians Association) in June, and at West Point in October. Six meetings of the executive committee have been held, and the committees on films, the arts, medallions, and publicity have met and reported with regularity as their assignments have required.

The death of Miss Laura G. Ebell in November deprived the Commission of one of its valued original members. A retired teacher living in Patchogue, she had been town historian of Brookhaven and a faithful contributor to the work of the Commission.

Succeeding her in January, 1973, by appointment of Speaker of the Assembly Perry Duryea is Mrs. George U. Baylies of Scarsdale. Mrs. Baylies is State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution and has been a leader in that organization's bicentennial planning. Internal changes within the Commission structure have included the appointment to the executive committee of former Senator Dalwin J. Niles and Joseph Verner Reed Jr. Staff appointments have remained unchanged since 1970, with two professionals and one stenographer funded by the Commission and occasional consultants brought in for specific assignments on editorial projects. The Office of State History continues its previous staff support under the arrangement offered in 1969 by State Education Commissioner Ewald B. Nyquist. Under the Executive Director, who is also the State Historian, the professional and clerical staff of the Office have more than doubled the staff resources of the Commission by virtue of their association with it.

NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE in these few pages to detail every accomplishment or each project under way. The years 1972 — and 1973 as well — fall within the first of the three phases of bicentennial activity: the preparatory and educational phase of “consciousness raising” and planning. Additional programs of a primarily educational nature will be carried forward and brought to fruition during this phase. But preparation for the second phase — the events of 1975-1977 — are meanwhile coming to demand a larger share of attention. Sober estimates of a possible increase of 20,000,000 visitors to the historic sites and commemorative events in this State alone have been projected for this period. Some will be residents of the State, some will come from other states, and a larger proportion than we have seen before will come from abroad. Our view and understanding of our heritage then will

profoundly influence not only our own experience of America in the 1970's — which alone is important enough — but the experience of foreign visitors to whom we are hosts. It will be this Commission's aim to recall the healthy impact of the American Revolution on the rest of the world's peoples and to revive that impact in our State in our time.

Among the county, regional and local bicentennial commemoration groups already formed in New York State are the following:

Auburn's All-American Bicentennial Committee, James H. Draucker, General Chairman, Memorial City Hall, Auburn, N. Y. 13021

Bronx County Bicentennial Committee, Lloyd Ultan, Chairman, 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, N. Y. 10467

Broome County Bicentennial Commission, William A. Anderson, Chairman, 9 Lewis Street, Maine, N. Y. 13820

Champlain-Upper Hudson Revolutionary Bicentennial Committee, Mrs. Jane M. Lape, Secretary, Fort Ticonderoga, Ticonderoga, N. Y. 12883

Clinton County Bicentennial Commission, Col. J. F. Glavin, Chairman, 51 Cumberland Avenue, Plattsburgh, N. Y. 12901

Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society Bicentennial Committee, Mrs. Meredith Warren, Chairman, 336 Port Washington Boulevard, Port Washington, N. Y. 11050

Dolgeville and Manheim Committee for American Revolution Bicentennial, Mrs. Eleanor Franz, Town Historian, 53 West State Street, Dolgeville, N. Y. 13329

Dutchess County Bicentennial Commission, Prof. I. Jack Lippmann, Chairman, Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. 14301

The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Erie County, Dr. I. Frank Mogavero, Chairman, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, 25 Nottingham Court, Buffalo, N. Y. 14216

Kingston Bicentennial Commission, A. J. Boyd, Secretary, Overlook Drive, Kingston, N. Y. 12401

Liberty Village Bicentennial Committee, Howard Bernstein, Chairman, Bradley, Liberty, N. Y. 12754

Minerva Bicentennial Committee, Mrs. John Switzer, Chairman, Minerva, N. Y. 12851

The Bicentennial Congress of Monroe County, Mrs. Jean C. Dignan, Secretary, 366 Cromwell Drive, Rochester, N. Y. 14610

Nassau County American Revolution Bicentennial Advisory Committee, Edward J. Smits, Director, Research Ctr., Muttontown Road, Syosset, N. Y. 11791

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, Mrs. Eldon L. Wetmore, State Chairman, 80 Benedict Ave., Tarrytown, N. Y. 10591

New York City Bicentennial Corporation, Dr. Ronald Lee Gaudreau, Exec. Vice-President, 331 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017

Niagara Falls Bicentennial Commission, R. W. Hooker, Chairman, 563 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021

Orange County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Donald F. Clark, Chairman, Fort Montgomery, N. Y. 10928

Orangetown Bicentennial Commission, Ellen A. Heit, Secretary, 64 Lenape Road, Pearl River, N. Y. 10965

Town of Oyster Bay American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Miss Dorothy H. McGee, Chairman, Box 142, Locust Valley, N. Y. 11560

Putnam County Bicentennial Commission, Frederick L. Shaw, Chairman, R.D. #2, Putnam Valley, N. Y. 10579

Queens County Bicentennial Committee, James J. Flynn, County Historian, St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201

Rensselaer County Bicentennial Committee, Mrs. Frederick R. Walsh, Secretary, Rensselaer County Historical Society, 59 Second Street, Troy, N. Y. 12180

Rockland County Bicentennial Commission, Ralph Braden, Chairman, Pearl River, N. Y. 10965

Saratoga County Bicentennial Committee, Sal DeVivo, Chairman, The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs, N. Y. 12866

Schenectady County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Larry Hart, Chairman, 195 Droms Road, Scotia, N. Y. 12302

Schoharie County Bicentennial Commission, Peter Kniskern, Chairman, Municipal Building, Richmondville, N. Y. 12149

Suffolk County Bicentennial Commission, George L. Weeks, Jr., County Historian, 15 First Avenue, Bay Shore, N. Y. 11706

Ticonderoga Bicentennial Committee, Edmund Morette, Chairman, 315 The Portage, Ticonderoga, N. Y. 12883

Ulster County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Kenneth E. Hasbrouck, Co-Chairman, 14 Forest Glen Road, New Paltz, N. Y. 12561; Ira D. Warren, Co-Chairman, 19 Len Court, Kingston, N. Y. 12401

Village of Waterford American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, Garry F. Douglas, Town Historian, 123 Fonda Road, Waterford, N. Y. 12188

Wayne County Bi-Centennial Committee, Les Buell, Chairman, 236 West Main Street, East Williamson, N. Y. 14449

West Point American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, Col. Thomas E. Griess, Chairman, Dept. of History, U.S.M.A., West Point, N. Y. 10996

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

John H. G. Pell, chairman, is a Manhattan business executive and historian. Active in a large number of civic and historical organizations, he is probably best known for his association with Fort Ticonderoga, whose grounds and buildings his family has owned for 150 years.

E. K. Fretwell Jr., vice-chairman, is president of State University College at Buffalo. He formerly taught at Columbia, served as assistant commissioner for higher education with the State Education Department, and was a university dean at the City University of New York.

Walter Averill II of Poughkeepsie, a former hotel executive, is engaged in regional promotion as executive vice-president of the Hudson River Valley Association.

Major General John C. Baker of Troy is chief of staff to the governor and commanding general of the New York National Guard. Enlisting in the National Guard as a private in 1935, he rose through the ranks to his present position.

Mrs. George U. Baylies of Scarsdale is New York state regent of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Mary Biondi of Ogdensburg, formerly in publishing and printing, is Saint Lawrence County historian.

J. Moreau Brown of Bedford Hills is vice-president of the Council for Financial Aid to Education. He is past president of the Empire State Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

Rev. Laman H. Bruner, rector of Albany's St. Peter's Church (Episcopal), also serves as chaplain of the New York State Assembly.

Mrs. Jane des Grange is director of the Suffolk Museum and Carriage House at Stony Brook on Long Island.



John H. G. Pell
Chairman

(Photo by Bachrach)



E. K. Fretwell Jr.
Vice-Chairman

Robert A. Fusco of Waterford is supervisor of press facilities in the Legislative Office Building, Albany, and secretary of the Legislative Correspondents Association.

Supreme Court Justice Guy A. Graves of Schenectady, former assistant to Governor Thomas E. Dewey, has had a long career as a practicing lawyer.

Otto E. Koegel, a lawyer of New York and Westchester County, is chairman of the John Jay House Restoration Commission.

Nathan S. Langdon, a Greenwich publisher, has long been active as chairman of various celebrations and historic observances.

H. Bert Mack of Maspeth is a prominent contractor and industrial developer, who in recent years has headed many Long Island civic and philanthropic endeavors.

Dr. I. Frank Mogavero of Grand Island is a professor of history at Niagara University.

Dalwin J. Niles of Johnstown, a practicing lawyer, is a former children's court judge and state senator.

Judge Nicholas M. Pette of Jamaica has had a distinguished career as a jurist. He retired from the state supreme court in 1967.

Joseph Verner Reed Jr., a Manhattan banker, is active in theatrical and civic organizations. He is a fellow of the Pierpont Morgan Library and a trustee of the Yale University Art Gallery.

Dr. Seth Spellman of Albany, a retired lieutenant colonel, was engaged in psychiatric social work in the U.S. Army for twenty-five years. He is dean of the James E. Allen Jr. Collegiate Center, State University of New York at Albany.

Mrs. Mildred F. Taylor of Lyons has long been active on commissions dealing with history, and served as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1947 to 1960.

Col. Frederick P. Todd, author and life-long student of military history, lives in Cornwall-on-Hudson since his retirement as director of the West Point Museum.

A member of the Brigade of the American Revolution demonstrates why eighteenth century soldiers were not quick on the draw.



CHAPTER 630 — LAWS OF 1968
As amended June 25, 1971 by Chapter 939

AN ACT

Creating a temporary state commission to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the American revolution and making an appropriation for the expenses of the commission

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. A temporary state commission to be known as the New York American revolution bicentennial commission is hereby created in order to provide for appropriate observances, ceremonies and other activities to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the American revolution *and the two hundredth anniversary of the creation of the State of New York.**

§2. The commission hereby created shall consist of twenty-one citizens of the state, of whom eleven shall be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be the chief of staff to the governor, five by the temporary president of the senate, and five by the speaker of the assembly. The governor shall appoint from its membership the chairman and vice-chairman of the commission. Vacancies in the membership and in the offices of chairman and vice-chairman of the commission shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

§3. For the accomplishment of its purposes, the commission shall be authorized and empowered 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 State of New York.* In preparing these plans and programs the commission shall give due consideration to any similar plans advanced by any federal, state, municipal, civic, patriotic, military, veterans and historical bodies and may designate special committees with representation from the above-mentioned bodies to plan and conduct specific ceremonies. The commission shall cooperate in the program and plans of any American revolution bicentennial commission established under the laws of the United States and may cooperate in the programs and plans of such commission and similar bodies established by other states, including

participation in any exhibition commemorating the American revolution. Through its own personnel or in cooperation with any public or private agency, the commission may undertake, prepare and publish any studies, publications or other writings which it may deem relevant to the participation of the state of New York and its citizens in the American revolution.

§4. The commission may employ and at pleasure remove such personnel as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions and fix their compensation within the amounts made available by appropriation therefor.

§5. The commission may meet within or without the state. It may participate in bicentennial observances and ceremonies during the years nineteen hundred sixty-eight to nineteen hundred eighty-one, inclusive, on the revolutionary war battlefields and other historic sites, where troops from New York served, or where other events significant to the state of New York in relation to the American revolution *and/or the founding of New York as a state* occurred. The commission may hold public or private hearings and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

§6. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties hereunder.

§7. The commission may request and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof such facilities, assistance and data as it deems necessary or desirable to properly carry out its powers and duties hereunder. The commission, in its discretion, may establish an advisory counsel to assist in its work.

§8. The commission is hereby authorized and empowered to make and sign any agreements and to do and perform any acts that may be necessary, desirable or proper to carry out the purposes of this act, not including the erection of monuments and memorials.

§9. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions of law, general, special or local, no officer or employee of the state or of any civil division thereof shall be deemed to have forfeited or shall forfeit his office or employment by reason of his acceptance of membership on such commission.

§10. The commission shall submit an interim report to the governor and the legislature presenting the preliminary plans of the commission not later than March first, nineteen hundred sixty-nine. Thereafter, the commission shall submit an annual report to the governor and the legislature not later than March first of each year. The commission shall submit such other interim report or reports to the governor and the legislature as it may deem advisable. A final report shall be made to the governor and the legislature on or before December thirty-first, nineteen hundred eighty-one, upon which date the commission hereby created shall terminate.

§11. The sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated from any funds in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes fund, not otherwise appropriated, and made available to the temporary state commission for its expenses, including personal service, in carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable out of the state treasury on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the chairman of the commission or by an officer or employee of the commission designated by the chairman.

§12. This act shall take effect immediately.

*Portions in italics are added by Chapter 939.