

MEMORIAL
OF THE
NEW JERSEY
MONUMENT ASSOCIATION,
TO THE
LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY.

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MEMORIAL.

To the Senate and General Assembly of New Jersey :

The undersigned memorialists, appointed by and in behalf of the New Jersey Monument Association, respectfully represent :

Agreeable to a charter granted by the Legislature of this State to its first corporators, and to a supplement thereto passed March 8th, 1859, specially empowering the aforesaid Association to construct a monument at Trenton, to commemorate all the battle fields in New Jersey, a new organization has been duly perfected in pursuance of the legal powers granted, and the following officers chosen are now prosecuting the work assigned them, to wit :

President—His Excellency Governor Charles S. Olden.

Vice President and General Agent—Charles C. Haven.

Secretary—Thomas S. Allison.

Treasurer—Thomas J. Stryker.

Standing Committee—Jacob R. Freese, James B. Coleman, Charles Burroughs, Edward W. Scudder, James W. Wall, Richard S. Field, Ralph H. Shreve.

Your memorialists have now the pleasure to state that prompt and persevering efforts having been made to obtain contributions in money and by subscription toward the erection of a monument agreeable to the plan herewith presented, and to procure an eligible site therefor, success has so far attended their exertions that more than one half the amount

wanted to erect a column in the style of an obelisk, with thirteen sides, representing the original thirteen States of the Union, and to be over two hundred feet in height, has been secured, together with the selection of various appropriate sites for the same, offered gratuitously by several of the liberal citizens of Trenton.

Contributions from wealthy and patriotic citizens, and from others not wealthy but equally willing to give liberally when called on, will be solicited as soon as practicable in the counties not yet canvassed, and if they give half as much in proportion as those counties which have been visited by the General Agent, the other half of the sum required to complete the obelisk, to wit: about \$8,000, will be secured, and the column will be ready for the statue of Washington to crown its summit. But even should not another dollar be obtainable from any quarter, if the State will furnish the statue, the amount raised already will, when called in and put at interest, in a few years be enough to accomplish the completion of the obelisk, in connection with a location to be suitably selected and laid out for it.

Thus then your memorialists feel privileged in saying to your honorable body, and to the citizens of this and other States, that it is no longer an unsolved problem whether New Jersey will ever furnish a monumental head stone to commemorate those signal achievements on her battle fields, which her own sons and the heroes of her brother States have so richly deserved. The work *will* be done. Its security is reasonably certain. Even if all the projected pedestals are not at present likely to be completed, as we still have hopes they will be, the erection of a lofty, solid brown stone column, representing the old thirteen United States here, banded together on New Jersey's soil, battling for freedom and the rights of our whole country, will be a fact in history, let what will come.

Their descendants in New Jersey are willing to be faithful to their memories, and the work will be accomplished by our own

citizens, with our own materials, and held by us a sacred trust for our posterity.

Here on *this* spot, where the revolutionary crisis took place; here, within sight of the Capitol, where was the stand-point which enabled Washington and his forlorn army to reverse the fortunes of the war, here, surely a monument intended to commemorate such events, as well as the battles fought on other fields in the State, cannot be considered a vain show; and although no objection can be made to the contribution which is asked of New Jersey, to join in erecting another structure, modelled upon our design, in connection with the other States, in Philadelphia, we trust your honorable body will first provide for the small sum required to accomplish our own duty. The work we have in hand has long been desired, and too long been neglected.

But if what can and ought to be done, ought not to be left long undone, it is *now*, in the opinion of your memorialists, the best time to begin, and prosecute the work as soon as practicable, whilst our laborers need encouragement, and can rely with confidence in their own State to give them employment. In a commonwealth so little burdened by debt, with an annually increasing income, with institutions for education, charity, police, and public improvements of every kind amply provided for, it is not invidious nor ill timed to ask the attention of her citizens, and of the Legislature which represents them, to make some appropriation of their means towards preserving and honoring the memories of benefactors who perilled their all for our independence and security.

No costly or self-glorifying structure is contemplated. But small in numbers and territory as New Jersey is, in comparison with other large and well endowed communities, it is nevertheless her duty and privilege to exhibit a consistent regard for her distinguished ancestors, and in keeping alive their great and good examples. We have not, so far, asked, and your memorialists believe they will not be compelled hereafter to ask *alms*, or like the blind Bellissaries, to beg *as a charity*

of ungrateful citizens the amount wanted for the above object. Even if the proposed application to other States for the pedestals is not accepted by all of them, we shall confidently rely on our own citizens eventually to complete that part of the work; and then upon the base of the thirteen-sided column, we hope to have the names and arms of ALL THE STATES registered in alto relievo, forming an unique representation of an unbroken confederacy, emblematic of the past, the present and the future of our united and growing Republic, for the example and admiration of the whole world.

The past *has* been, and *is safe*—the present, as *we hope*, is *also safe*, and let *us*, in New Jersey at least, secure the future by having a Monumental record of those great events, and benefits in which it has been *our* good fortune so richly to participate.

Your memorialists now beg leave to present an estimate of the cost of the whole work, as originally designed. If built entirely at our own cost, we shall still hope that others, interested in the honor it will confer on their ancestors in *other* States, will enjoy its being done by us, without over-tasking our own means, or sacrificing consistency to extravagance. *Appropriateness* and *economy* have been studied by us.

The whole expenditure contemplated is only forty thousand dollars, to wit:

For a site,	-	-	-	-	\$3,000
Fencing and embankments,	-	-	-	-	2,000
Column with stairs to top of 200 feet high,					16,000
If higher, more in proportion.					
Pedestals for States,	-	-	-	-	10,000
Statue of Washington and other incidentals,					9,000
Total,	-	-	-	-	\$40,000

The land for site and half the cost of the column or obelisk are secured, and the other half unquestionably *can be*.

The State pedestals, most of them, and we trust *all*, are likely to be donated. But should any of the places for them be left vacant for any length of time, our own citizens, as

stated, would take care that *no one* of the Old Thirteen should be unrepresented on *their soil*.

For the Statue of Washington to crown the summit of the shaft, which for the height proposed must be colossal, we have thus far made no provision. Suitable solicitors to procure contributions among the masses in the various counties of the State, are unattainable. The General Agent alone, cannot accomplish it. In order, therefore, that the end may crown the work, your memorialists have deemed it best respectfully to present to your honorable body the opportunity of making an appropriation of thousand dollars, in behalf of every citizen of New Jersey, not to exceed, however, *ten cents for each voter*, for the especial purpose of co-operating with the New Jersey Monument Association, in furnishing a Bronze or Iron Statue of WASHINGTON, of suitable character and dimensions for the Monument about to be erected by them at Trenton, and also for supplying a pedestal to represent New Jersey in the circle of the old States as designed in the plan before your honorable body, said appropriation to be held subject to the order of the said Association, and payable to its Treasurer, when the work is so far completed as to require its being used, and not before.

Such an appropriation, with what funds may be collected before it is wanted, in addition to what we now have secured, will enable us to commence the foundation and the erection of the column by the next anniversary of our nation's birthday.

In order to prevent even the possibility of our application being considered a tax, small as the sum is for each individual, your memorialists beg leave, in conclusion, to say that to Washington and his comrades, in commemoration of their great deeds, trials and sufferings, and for their glorious examples and principles, a great debt is due, and we ought to keep their beacon lights in view undimmed and reflected for our posterity. But New Jersey owes an unpaid obligation of a pecuniary character, which, although it never will be paid, ought never to be ignored; but *now* especially it ought

to be held in grateful remembrance. Had the sums due the officers and soldiers for their Revolutionary services been paid, we should have still owed them a debt of gratitude; but they were not paid; or if professedly so, the worthless paper that they were compelled to receive had to be thrown away. It is safe to say that \$100,000 is the least amount New Jersey was owing, and could not pay on this account. This debt was forgiven, and is now almost forgotten by our citizens; but they, like the subjects of foreign governments, are not burdened with perpetually increasing taxes to pay the interest of it. Were this so, if the above supposed quota due from New Jersey be correct, viz., \$100,000, payable eighty years ago, it would now amount, at legal compound interest, to sixteen millions of dollars!—the annual interest of which would be nearly one million of dollars.

Can our citizens reject the opportunity now offered them of bestowing a dime apiece for each voter throughout the State, to remind them of a benefaction so inestimable?

Towards the accomplishment of this object, this city and county have already contributed liberally, and in order that all the sons and daughters of New Jersey may share in the honor which is sure to accrue from the execution of the work undertaken by us, in the discharge of a duty sanctioned by religion, patriotism, and true liberty; and that these may be promoted and perpetuated by the impersonation of Washington in our midst—to whose great principles and example in every extremity we and our children can look with reverence and gratitude—your memorialists most urgently invoke your honorable body to favor this application.

In behalf of the New Jersey Monument Association.

C. C. HAVEN,
CHAS. BURROUGHS,
THOS. J. STRYKER,
EDWARD W. SCUDDER,
R. H. SHREVE,

Committee.

TRENTON, *January 18th, 1861.*