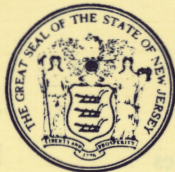


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NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCING THE COMMISSION

The New Jersey Historical Commission, an official agency of the State of New Jersey, is responsible for programs to advance public knowledge of the history of New Jersey.

The Commission sponsors, supports and encourages programs for: the production, publication and distribution of books, pamphlets, films and other educational materials; the development of libraries, museums, historic sites and exhibits; ceremonies, celebrations and other activities in commemoration of significant historical events; conferences, convocations, lectures, seminars and other similar activities.

During 1969-70 the Commission inaugurated an annual series, the New Jersey History Symposium, and a Grant-In-Aid Program for Research in New Jersey History.

The Commission advises and cooperates with agencies of the State Government and other public and private agencies with respect to historical programs.

Under the provisions of the Bicentennial Celebration Act of 1969 the Commission is responsible for planning and carrying out New Jersey's participation in the American Revolution Bicentennial.

Members of the Commission

Richard P. McCormick, Chairman; John T. Cunningham, Vice Chairman; Eleanore N. Shuman, Secretary; Senator Raymond H. Bateman; Henry N. Drewry; Alfred E. Driscoll; Senator Frederick H. Hauser; Assemblyman Ronald Owens; Assemblyman William E. Schluter; Donald A. Sinclair; Ex Officio: Roger H. McDonough, State Librarian; David N. Poinsett, State Supervisor of Historic Sites

Bernard Bush, Executive Director; William C. Wright, Associate Director

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES RELATIVE TO THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

There have been few events more decisive or momentous for our nation than the American Revolution. Our independence, our unity as a nation and our commitment to newly conceived principles of republican government were established during that crisis-ridden period, and we have never ceased to look back on those years with reverence, pride and hope. Now, as we approach the two hundredth anniversary of the first climactic achievement of the Revolution — the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 — we are impelled to renew our understanding of the Revolutionary era and to commemorate its achievements in appropriate ways.

For the citizens of New Jersey the Bicentennial will afford an opportunity not only to join with all Americans in a national commemorative experience, but also to direct our attention to the Revolution as it affected our state. New Jersey, as one of the "Original Thirteen," was a full partner in the ideological, political and military struggles of the Revolution.

The responsibility for formulating and implementing plans to commemorate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in New Jersey has been assigned by the Legislature to the New Jersey Historical Commission. The Legislature, in its mandate to the Commission, directed it to conduct its programs "so as to provide enduring contributions to the preservation and interpretation of the historical heritage of the people of this State both as New Jerseyans and as Americans."

In planning for the Bicentennial observance the Commission will be guided by the mandate

from the Legislature through a set of principles consistent with that mandate.

The Commission will also be mindful of the responsibility with which the Congress invested the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission: to focus its attention on "commemorating the historic events that preceded, and are associated with, the American Revolution" and to "give special emphasis to the ideas associated with the Revolution which have been so important in the development of the United States, in world affairs, and in mankind's quest for freedom."

Principles

I. Our highest responsibility is to respect the historical integrity of the events, ideas and personalities associated with the Revolution in New Jersey. In the spirit of objectivity which is essential to honest inquiry, we should seek to avoid the errors that distort understanding while at the same time we provide latitude for the differing interpretations which informed students may place on the same body of facts.

II. We should endeavor to facilitate historical inquiry into New Jersey's Revolutionary experience and encourage the widest possible dissemination of the results of such inquiry through every available medium.

III. Insofar as history represents an understanding of what happened in the past, we should seek to promote discussion and reflection on the historical meaning of the Revolutionary experience.

IV. The theme which the Commission should emphasize is "Ideas and Ideals of the American Revolution." In its programs it should give prominence to the authentic statement of those ideas and ideals, preferably in the language of those who gave utterance to them.

V. Since each generation brings its own needs to history, such terms as "liberty," "freedom," "equality," "self-government" and "inalienable rights" must be examined for their contemporary pertinence. The Commission should encourage responsible public discussion of the meaning of these terms. We should, however, strictly avoid attaching to them any "official" contemporary interpretation.

VI. We believe that the American Revolution has meaning for every segment of contemporary society. Accordingly, all of the groups which make up the population of New Jersey should be encouraged to participate fully in the Bicentennial observance.

VII. The Commission recognizes that for many individuals, organizations and institutions the Bicentennial will provide an occasion for the accomplishment of worthy civic goals. While it should not be a function of the Commission to accord direct endorsement to such projects, we should encourage those which seriously relate to the essential historical nature of the observance.

VIII. The Commission should avoid involvement in any activities that might occur which appear to us to be in the nature of self-serving exploitation of the Bicentennial, or of festivities that may be harmless but devoid of meaning.

IX. The Commission's public program should begin with commemorations of the events that took place between the appointment by the Colonial legislature of a Committee of Correspondence on February 8, 1774, and the acceptance of the Declaration of Independence in July, 1776. The program should reach a climax in 1976, when it will commemorate the adoption of the state's first constitution, the inauguration of the new state government, the retreat of Washington through New Jersey, and the Battle of Trenton. In succeeding years, through 1983, special observances should be made of the most memorable events of the years between 1776 and 1783.

X. The Commission should determine which events are to be the object of special commemoration and should assume responsibility for managing such observances. At the same time, it should assist local groups in planning commemorative events.

XI. The Commission is empowered to encourage other agencies in the state, public and private, and can appropriately advise with such agencies, give publicity to their plans, and serve as a clearing house for ideas and programs within the capacity of its staff and funds.

XII. The Commission should work cooperatively with the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and with the Bicentennial commissions of other states in planning and conducting joint observances.

24 RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED IN 1970

Twenty-four scholars have received assistance in 1970 under the Commission's Grant-in-Aid Program for Research in New Jersey History. A total of \$6,000 was awarded in grants ranging from \$100 to \$300.

The program was begun this year to stimulate original research and writing on the history of New Jersey by both academic and amateur historians. The money will be used for travel, maintenance, typing of manuscripts, acquisition of photocopies and related purposes.

Recipients include professional scholars, graduate students and local amateur historians. Two special grants were made for significant educational projects in New Jersey history. The Commission was pleased by the number and quality of the applications and intends to continue the program annually.

The grant recipients and their projects are:

Lucy L. Aiello, Trenton, "Biography and Bibliography of Charles Conrad Abbott, M.D., 1843-1919."

John R. Anderson, Metuchen, "Negro Education in the Public Schools of Newark, New Jersey, During the Nineteenth Century."

David A. Bernstein, Long Beach, California, "Minutes of the New Jersey Privy Council 1777-1844."

John H. Brinckmann, Jr., Edison, "The History of the Tuckerton Railroad."

Edward J. Cody, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, "An Intellectual History of the Growth of Toleration and Church-State Relations in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, 1689-1763."

Sister Serafina D'Allessio, MPF, Morristown, "The Whig Party After 1840 in the State of New Jersey."

Elisabeth W. Davidson, Princeton, "Patience Lovell Wright: America's First Woman Artist."

Michael H. Ebner, Passaic, "Socio-economic Ideas of Passaic's Worsted Manufacturers."

Devator L. Hooks, Newark, "Afro-American Contributions to New Jersey History." Jerseyman Club school project. (Special grant for educational project)

Kenneth T. Jackson, New York City, "Urban Growth in New Jersey Before 1925."

Charles H. Kaufman, Hillsdale, "A History of Music in New Jersey from the Time of the Dutch to the Civil War."

James H. Levitt, Alta, Utah, "New Jersey Shipping, 1722-1764: A Statistical Study."

George C. Lindemer, Maplewood, "Educational Contributions of New Jersey Historical Museums." (Special grant for educational project)

Rudolph J. Pasler, New Brunswick, "A History of the Federalist Party in New Jersey."

Elizabeth M. Perinchief, Mount Holly, "Cemeteries of Burlington County, New Jersey."

Arnold S. Rice, Berkeley Heights, "Theodore Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, a Biography."

David W. Robson, New Haven, Connecticut, "The Development of Higher Education in the New Republic: 1775-1800."

Dennis P. Ryan, East Orange, "Continuity and Change in East Jersey Towns During the American Revolutionary Era, 1770-95."

Clayton F. Smith, Madison, "Pictorial Record of New Jersey's Canals."

Suzanne B. Spencer, Dutch Neck, "Early Settlements of Windsor Township: An Historical Perspective."

John Strassburger, Princeton, "The Morris Family of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania."

Robert Van Benthuyzen, West Long Branch, "Monmouth County, 1664-1970: A Bibliography of Published Works."

Peter O. Wacker, Somerset, "The Changing Geography of New Jersey's Black Population to the Eve of the Civil War."

Donald W. Whisenhunt, Greenville, Pennsylvania, "The Diary of Judge John Fell, 1778-79."

RESEARCH GRANTS ANNOUNCED FOR 1971

The Grant-in-Aid Program for Research in New Jersey History will be continued in 1971. Applications will be accepted through March 1.

One-year grants of up to \$500 will be made on the basis of significance and originality of the project, financial need of the applicant, as well as other criteria.

Information and application forms are available from the Commission office.

**NEW JERSEY
HISTORY SYMPOSIUM,
DECEMBER 5**

The Second Annual New Jersey History Symposium will be held Saturday, December 5, in the State Museum Auditorium in Trenton.

This year's program will concern two themes, "The Political Party System in New Jersey in the Early National Period" and "The Historical Geography of New Jersey."

In the morning session Professor Carl E. Prince of New York University will speak on "The Leadership of New Jersey's First Party System," and Professor Herbert Ershkowitz of Temple University on "The Origins of the Whig and Democratic Parties in New Jersey." The panel chairman and commentator will be Professor James M. Banner, Jr., of Princeton University.

In the afternoon session Professor Peter O. Wacker of Rutgers the State University will speak on "New Jersey's Cultural Landscape Before 1800," and Professor Theodore W. Kury of the State University of New York (Buffalo) on "Iron as a Factor in New Jersey Settlement." Dr. A. Philip Muntz of the National Archives will serve as panel chairman and commentator.

The attendance fees will be: Registration — \$2.00. Luncheon (optional) — \$3.00. Total — \$5.00. Checks should be made payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey. For registration or information write to the Commission.

The luncheon period will allow time for visiting the State Museum and the State Library. Following the program there will be a reception in the Archives Exhibit Room of the State Library.

SYMPOSIUM PAPERS PUBLISHED

New Jersey in the American Revolution — Political and Social Conflict: Papers Presented at the First Annual New Jersey History Symposium . . . December 6, 1969 (72 pages) has been published. Copies may be purchased for \$1.00 from the Commission. Checks should be made payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey.

Contents: "New Jersey and the Coming of the Revolution" by Larry R. Gerlach; "Conflict Among the Jersey Dutch in the Revolution" by Adrian C. Leiby; "Revolutionary War Records in the New Jersey State Archives" by Kenneth W. Richards; "Slavery in New Jersey on the Eve of Revolution" by Frances D. Pigeon; "Liberty and Property: New Jersey and the 'Self-Evident Truths'" by Arthur Zilversmit; "Everett T. Tomlinson, New Jersey Novelist of the American Revolution" by Whitfield J. Bell, Jr.

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