

# History of the Delaware Heritage Commission

The First Thirty Years



**The Delaware Heritage Commission**  
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**1972-2002**

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## Chapter One

### FORMING THE DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION

#### Legislative Roots

In 1966, a full decade before the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American war for independence, Congress passed legislation establishing the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and on 4 July 1966 President Ronald Reagan signed the enactment into law. The act of Congress created a key clearinghouse agency that would provide state bicentennial commissions with ideas, documents, information, press releases, program standards, funding, advice, and a sounding board to help assess ideas and proposals.

The states soon followed the national lead by establishing their own bicentennial agencies and, at the end of 1969, Delaware joined those ranks when Governor Russell W. Peterson invited Wilmington attorney James T. McKinstry to chair the Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee.<sup>1</sup> The new chairman was supplied with a worthy executive committee to assist him, a group that included, among others, a former governor, the state archivist, the director of the State Development Office, a representative of the National Daughters of the American Revolution, and the executive secretary of the Delaware Chamber of Commerce.<sup>2</sup>

In 1971, McKinstry, having recommended to the governor that the state create a commission to oversee the

preparations for the Bicentennial, drafted legislation to establish such an agency. Before the year was out, the General Assembly approved the proposal for a commission to formulate and execute plans and programs to commemorate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. In November 1971, Peterson appointed the first nine members of the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission [DARBC] and named Dr. E. A. Trabant, president of the University of Delaware, as the first chair. In order to insure a strong link to education and statewide representation on the commission, Peterson also appointed Dr. Howard E. Row, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, as a non-voting ex officio member of the DARBC.

Early in the process, a hearing at the State House in Dover gathered a large group of private citizens and representatives of local and statewide historical and community organizations. All who attended the October 1970 meeting were eager to share their ideas and to suggest how Delaware should commemorate the nation's bicentennial. Out of the daylong gathering, the commission was able to gather input that later shaped the programs and events of the 1976 celebration.

The governor and legislature encouraged the new commission to embrace a wide range of activities and efforts in its work: publications, plays, films, convocations and lectures, issuance of commemorative memorabilia, and, perhaps most visibly, assisting local communities to create and stage ceremonies and celebrations to commemorate the war for independence. The commission's letterhead proclaimed proudly "Delaware '76: The First State Builds for the Future Upon a Proud Past." Reflecting on its goals during the 1976 celebrations, the commissioners indicated that they were committed to bicentennial observances that took place at the level of local governments and local organizations. They saw the commission's role "to help local groups do what they wanted to do in the way of celebrating America's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday."

The Delaware American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission had, under the terms of the enabling legislation, a limited life expectancy. Imagined initially as an agency established just for the duration of the celebrations associated with the American Revolution Bicentennial, the commission was slated to go out of existence on 31 December 1978. Prior to that date, however, the

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<sup>1</sup> A number of Delaware governors worked with the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and with its successor, the Delaware Heritage Commission. Please see Appendix 1.1 for a chronological list of these state leaders.

<sup>2</sup> The Executive Committee was made up of Hon. Elbert N. Carvel, Leon deValinger, Thomas B. Evans, Jr., Mrs. Erwin Seimes, Clifford Morris, Louise Prickett, Ross Anderson, and Mrs. John Hopkins.

commissioners established a Committee on Residual Policy that opened discussions with the governor about continuing the commission's work in some form. In April 1977, the DARBC sponsored a conference, "The Bicentennial: A Look Toward the Future," to consider whether there should be a "state presence" dedicated to commemorating historic events and "in planning and carrying out appropriate activities in the spirit of the 'Horizons' theme."

Conference participants agreed that the commission's many successes working with groups of citizens had been the key to making commemorative efforts a celebratory triumph. The conferees concluded in favor of continuing efforts such as those in which the commission had engaged, noting in particular that Commission support could provide welcome sustenance to local leadership and could "nourish the spirit of community pride" that emerged during the Bicentennial. There was agreement about the value of having a statewide agency that could help develop central themes to be carried out locally and that could coordinate and publicize activities in communities around the state. The commission prepared a proposal for the governor and legislature to that effect. The commissioners, recognizing the new role they hoped the commission to have, agreed that the name for their reconstituted agency should be the Delaware Heritage Commission.

DARBC supporters in the General Assembly introduced legislation that extended the term for the commission's work to 1990 and that, in keeping with the commissioners' wishes, changed its name to the Delaware Heritage Commission. Introduced in the spring, the bill quickly passed the Senate and then the House and, on 8 June 1978, Governor Pierre S. duPont IV signed it into law. The re-named Commission was charged with planning the celebrations that would mark the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution in 1987.

The legislation articulated the powers and responsibilities of the Delaware Heritage Commission. With a shift in emphasis from the American Revolution to the ratification of the Constitution, the enactment charged the commission to "plan, encourage, develop, coordinate and implement" events and activities that honored Delaware's "achievement . . . of liberty and independence through a constitutional government." Special

attention was to be given to historical events in the years just before and just after the adoption of the United States Constitution in 1788.<sup>3</sup> The commission's new letterhead clearly indicated pride in Delaware's premier position as the first state among the states—the logo was a circle of thirteen stars, all gold except the top star, which was blue.

As work began on the next big celebration, it became apparent that the work ahead would progress better if the Delaware Heritage Commission could be enlarged. With additional members, it was hoped, there would be additional hands to tackle the tasks ahead. As early as November 1984, the commission approached the legislature with a request to add three new Commissioners to the group thus bringing the statutory limit up to twelve. Early the following year, a bill was introduced in the House to provide for six additional Commissioners to be appointed. By June 1985, the Senate had also passed the bill and Governor Michael N. Castle had signed it into law. Castle's prompt appointments brought its membership up to the statutory limit of fifteen.

Soon after the successful 1987 observance of the Constitution's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the General Assembly approved legislation that deleted the termination date that would have meant the end of the Heritage Commission. The 1989 legislative action also reiterated the sorts of activities that the commission was expected to oversee—to produce and distribute printed materials, films, and other educational materials; to organize and host conferences, convocations, lectures, and celebrations commemorating specific events; to develop permanent memorials and exhibits; to issue commemorative medals, seals, and memorabilia. The legislation also indicated that the focus of such suggested activities was to be on Delaware's achievement "of liberty and independence through a constitutional government." and clearly placed emphasis on the time period "preceding and following the ratification and adoption of the Constitution of the United States."

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix 1.2 for the dates on which the original thirteen states ratified the Constitution. With New Hampshire's ratification in 1788, the required nine states had voted to ratify, thus making the Constitution's adoption official.

In the years since the commission's establishment, the emphasis of DHC activities has shifted from celebrations of historic anniversaries with events such as parades, concerts, and festivals to the recognition of the state's historic past with endeavors that have a stronger educational element and with efforts that yield tangible products such as publications and the on-going summer camp and oral history programs. With its existence no longer threatened with extinction due to a legislated time limit, the Delaware Heritage Commission has grown, as a state agency under the oversight of the Secretary of State, into a body with the unique charge to promote Delaware's heritage and history. It has found a multitude of outlets—publications, events, lectures, publications, grants—for its mission to be satisfied.

### **Financial Challenges**

Financing the various celebrations was never an easy task and the commission found itself struggling repeatedly to secure the resources needed to remain in business. As early as 1971 when the commission was still the Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee, the committee chair, James T. McKinstry, wrote three personal checks to pay overdue bills, noting "we are having a little difficulty receiving the funds promised us by the state government." Even before 4 July 1976, the commissioners recognized the need for strategies to make the most of the funding they had and to increase the money available for their various undertakings. At a January 1974 press conference to announce bicentennial plans, Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt noted that most of the DARBC's funding had come from the federal government. Though he expected the state to make a contribution, he continued, he hoped that a good share of the necessary money would come from Washington.

In the spring of 1976, Commission minutes noted that all available funds had been promised to grant applicants seeking support for bicentennial projects and that there was not sufficient money to fund other projects that DARBC had approved. Seeing all the projects through to completion would require the commission either to get more money from the federal government or to do additional fund raising and so DARBC set out to get donors to help

underwrite the cost of the state's celebration and programs. With 4 July looming, the commissioners hosted a series of breakfast meetings aimed at getting potential donors familiar with DARBC and its plans and giving those donors an idea of how they might benefit from providing some financial support for the commission. At the early morning gatherings, donors were told that they would be rewarded in several ways for their help. Anyone who became a donor would have his or her name displayed on a bronze plaque in the Delaware exhibit in Philadelphia during the bicentennial year. Donors would receive certificates of appreciation from Governor Tribbitt and would also have "the personal satisfaction of having been so dedicated and involved and will receive positive results in public relations as the result of the contribution."

The commission's "wish list" was a long one, but it offered opportunities to donors who could give modestly as well as those who could donate generously. In the less expensive category was a request for \$1,200 for Delaware Day at the State Fair and \$3,000 to help underwrite the cost of the Bicentennial Wagon Train Encampment in Delaware. At the high end, the commission identified \$30,000 needed for monthly programs DARBC was sponsoring during the Bicentennial year and \$50,000 that would print the "Delaware Heritage Trail Brochure" to be given out at the Philadelphia exhibit. The projects drew varied responses, with the commission attracting funding from corporate donors large and small and from towns throughout the state.

Two years later, DHC Chairman McKinstry reported to the governor and legislature on the key events the Heritage Commission had identified for celebrations in the near future and provided an outline of how the commission proposed to meet the expenses for the observances. He included on his list the creation of a Funding Committee, the solicitation of funds from groups interested in particular projects and from private foundations and institutions, and the application for appropriate government support. The commission's plan of action proved successful, providing a multi-pronged approach that yielded productive collaborations with a variety of partners and that resulted in significant commercial support for DHC efforts.

But the struggle was far from over. In July 1980, after the legislature had approved the DHC budget request, Governor

duPont exercised his line item veto power on the commission's budget, canceling the funding DHC needed to continue operations. January 1981 appeals by Commission members yielded no further support and in February the lack of funding was so acute that the Delaware Heritage Commission closed its office, sold all its property, and suspended meetings for six months.<sup>4</sup>

In the early 1980s, the Delaware Heritage Commission first applied for state grant-in-aid support. These funds helped provide more fiscal stability to the agency, although Commissioners found themselves annually having to lobby legislative leaders for continued funding. The 1983 DHC annual report, for example, reminded legislators that their support of the commission would be essential "so that the state need not be embarrassed when national attention is focused here" in 1987, when Delaware's status as first state would draw particular attention to the state's celebration of the ratification of the Constitution. In 1986, the commission again raised with the legislature and governor the urgency of the Constitutional Bicentennial, with the reminder that "many of our [Bicentennial] projects will be permanent and valuable" and "in a year and a half people will wonder why more wasn't done."

In spite of grant-in-aid funding, the commission's precarious financial situation was a constant worry for the commissioners. In the midst of the 1987 celebrations of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Constitution, for example, they decided to delay a decision on participating in the 1992 observance of Columbus' voyage to the New World "owing to the uncertainty of the commission's future and the shortness of funds and staff time." The following year, a DHC member expressed regret "that much of the good work the Commission could do will be curtailed for lack of funds." The commission's 1988 annual report characterized DHC as

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<sup>4</sup> At the time that the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission was created, the commissioners recognized the need for a "financial arm," a subsidiary organization to handle the finances associated with the commission's operation. They created the Delaware Bicentennial Foundation vested with the responsibility of owning the commission's assets and holding the majority of its funds. As a foundation, the Delaware Bicentennial Foundation could also accept gifts. When the DARBC became the Delaware Heritage Commission, the foundation's name was also changed. It became the Delaware Heritage Foundation.

leading "a hand-to-mouth existence" with a future that was "opaque." The commissioners' continued reminders and lobbying eventually bore legislative fruit, however. By 1992, the Delaware Heritage Commission's budget had become a line item in the state budget and funding of DHC basics became less a struggle.

Despite persistent financial uncertainty, the Delaware Heritage Commission members continued to think optimistically in terms of continued programs and projects to promote the state's history and heritage. In 1979, in the face of extremely limited funds, the Program Committee recommended that DHC hold an annual conference, prepare a catalogue of local histories in the state and of the oral histories done during the Bicentennial, and establish a subcommittee to explore how DHC could assist teachers in teaching Delaware history. In 1982, a depleted treasury did not diminish the commissioners' determination to find the funding to begin a "Challenge Grant Program" to help fund "commemorative projects from throughout the state." Within two years, the challenge grant funding as well as money for the DHC scholarship programs were included in the grant-in-aid application and the two programs became a regular part of the legislature's allocation for the commission's budget.

### **Productive Links**

Neither the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission nor its successor the Delaware Heritage Commission ever had to function entirely alone. Over the years since the 1970s, numerous collaborators including partners at the federal level, in county and city government, and small local organizations have joined in commission efforts. These partners have provided ideas, volunteers, and funding to give life to commemorative events and programs and to meet the financial challenges associated with celebrating Delaware's history and heritage.

### **American Revolution Bicentennial Administration**

Federal legislation of 1966 created the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission [ARBC] to provide state bicentennial commissions with a variety of resources to make each

state's observance of the country's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday exciting, enjoyable, and as problem-free as possible. After its establishment in 1969, Delaware's bicentennial commission, first as the Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee and then as the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, interacted regularly with ARBC's regional representatives, but by June 1973 the Delaware commissioners were aware of what appeared to be a shift in responsibility for the bicentennial from the national level to the states. A month later, federal legislation to provide funding to the states for the celebration had stalled. Within a year, observers were commenting on the "unhappy history of the Federal Bicentennial effort to date" and in April 1974, ARBC's bicentennial responsibilities were assigned to a new agency, the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration [ARBA]. President Richard M. Nixon appointed as chair John Warner, who would, two years after the bicentennial, be elected to represent his home state of Virginia in the United States Senate.

The relationship between DARBC and ARBA proved a productive one. The federal agency supplied each state with funding that the state bicentennial agencies then passed along as grants for projects and events at the community level. The Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, reflecting on its role in the bicentennial, saw the celebration "primarily as a 'grass roots' activity in which the commission's role was to help local groups do what they wanted to do in the way of celebrating America's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday." When the big 4 July 1976 excitement was over, the regional director of ARBA characterized Delaware favorably, noting "Delaware has done more with less than any other State in the Nation, in planning and carrying out its observance of the American Revolution Bicentennial."

The federal government provided substantial funding for the celebrations associated with the Bicentennial of the American Revolution and with the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, but little support for the ongoing work of the DHC. During the earlier celebration, funds from Washington were earmarked for projects to be undertaken at the community level to celebrate the bicentennial. DARBC established a Community Participation Committee to set guidelines so that the money could be distributed "taking into consideration geographical location, political

jurisdictions and population, and will specify matching fund requirements." If local communities created bicentennial committees and began planning celebrations, they would have the opportunity of qualifying for a \$1,000 grant to support their activities. In 1974, the commission had \$200,000 from Washington to spend on such projects. Prospective projects had to come within one or more of the Bicentennial's basic themes—"Heritage '76, Festival USA, Horizons '76."

### **Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution**

ARBA went out of existence within a year of the bicentennial, but it was clear, as the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Constitution approached, that a similar federal commission would be needed to guide any celebratory observance that might be undertaken starting in 1987.<sup>5</sup> In the autumn of 1983, Congress enacted legislation to establish the commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and on 29 September 1983, President Reagan signed it into law. In July 1985, he appointed Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to chair the commission. Burger retired from the Court to assume responsibilities for the Constitutional bicentennial, which he saw as an opportunity "to give ourselves a history and civics lesson that hasn't been very well put across in the public education."

As had been true of the relationship between federal DARBC and ARBA, the interactions between the Delaware Heritage Commission and the commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution were productive and cordial. The national commission provided training workshops for state commissions, where new commissioners met one another, received guidance on possible programs and events, and shared experiences. "We the

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<sup>5</sup> The commemoration of the United States Constitution was planned to last for a number of years beginning in 1987. Commission Chair Warren E. Burger and his fellow commissioners recognized the Constitutional "era" extended over the years during which the original thirteen states first ratified its provisions and then added the Bill of Rights to the initial document. The federal Commission declared 1991 as a yearlong celebration of the Bill of Rights.

People,” the newsletter from Washington, publicized state activities and accomplishments, more than once praising the Delaware Heritage Commission for its energy and imagination in its approach to the bicentennial celebration. In 1988, the federal Commission urged state commissions to remain active through the anniversary of the Bill of Rights, a request the Delaware Commission seemed happy to carry out.

During the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, the National Endowment for the Humanities also provided federal dollars for the production of a film on John Dickinson, considered by Delawareans to be the “Penman of the Revolution.” After the Heritage Commission and the Delaware Humanities Forum provided \$2,500 seed money toward developing a script for the film, the NEH granted over \$40,000 in additional funding for the project. As the project progressed, it became apparent to its primary co-sponsors, the Heritage Commission and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, how challenging completion would be. Initially, an effort was made to ease the burden by shortening the running time from ninety minutes to thirty minutes and by seeking ways to make production less expensive. Although the grants awarded covered the cost of preparing and rewriting the script, funding for making the film never materialized and John Dickinson’s story never made it to the silver screen.

After the bicentennial celebrations were over, federal funding ended for history-related programs. However, DHC did benefit from other federal largesse. From approximately 1977 until 1980, the Comprehensive Employment Training Act [CETA], a job-training program established in 1973, partially funded DARBC staff salaries. In 1976, members of the commission found themselves applying to Congress for continued CETA funding so that Commission staffing levels would not need to be cut.

#### **Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States**

In its work on the American Revolution Bicentennial, the Delaware Commission worked not only with representatives from Washington but, by virtue of Delaware’s being one of the original thirteen states, also with the Bicentennial Council of

Thirteen Original States [BCTOS].<sup>6</sup> The umbrella organization collected and dispensed information on a variety of topics of concern to the member states. Being the first states meant that they were particularly attractive to vendors who wanted to capitalize on their special status and BCTOS staffers, headed by Executive Director Clifford Clarke, provided advice and suggestions on licensing agreements, state policies controlling authorized use of a state seal, and commemorative project ideas. The BCTOS staff also maintained a communication network among the members so that commissions from all the states could be aware of and support activities in other of the original states.

As the American Revolution Bicentennial celebration on 4 July 1976 was about to occur, it was clear that ARBC was expected to be phased out but BCTOS seemed likely to continue in existence. Indeed, early in 1977, BCTOS members suggested a program, “Great American Achievements,” for the years 1977 through 1989. It was proposed that each of the original thirteen states would assume responsibility for developing one theme during the thirteen-year period and would use the theme as the basis for a meeting of all thirteen states, with one program per year for thirteen years.

The idea of representatives of all thirteen states gathering was hardly new. There had been meetings and exchanges among the states from early in the bicentennial planning process. In June 1973, Delaware hosted a BCTOS meeting in Wilmington. Timed to take advantage of “Separation Day” on 15 June, the three-day event demonstrated the great spirit of collegial good will and mutual support that had grown up among members of the group. Governor Tribbitt attended and the state’s hospitality won rave reviews from the out-of-state visitors. Thank you notes from guests praised DARBC for “a most enjoyable visit” and congratulated the people of Delaware: “You said you were going to give us something to remember,” wrote one BCTOS member, “and I will always remember with pleasure the three days we were guest of the number one state.”

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<sup>6</sup> The BCTOS logo was a series of thirteen stars formed into thirteen links united into a circle. It was based on a New Hampshire regimental flag with thirteen circles linked like a chain and also arranged in a circle.

The Delaware Heritage Commission hosted the second of the BCTOS-sponsored "Great American Achievement" conferences in late October 1978. Developing the theme "A New Republic Among Nations" with a focus on Franco-American relations and early DuPont industrial development along the Brandywine, the conference set as its goal "the active participation of educators and youth, with the ultimate objective of incorporating more facts relating to the U. S. Constitution into appropriate curricula at all levels of education." Though the Heritage Commission had little money to spend on the conference, the commissioners' efforts provided attendees with a worthwhile and well-received program. The opening ceremonies at the Grand Opera House included three special guests, Arthur J. Goldberg, former United States Supreme Court Justice and former ambassador to the United Nations, Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, and entertainer Pearl Bailey. When Justice Arthur J. Goldberg spoke on the peace process in the Middle East, his remarks brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation. Harrison Salisbury of the *New York Times* provided one keynote speech and General William C. Westmoreland, commander of American forces in Vietnam, also addressed the conference.

Throughout the remaining years of the "Constitutional Era," as the 1977-1989 period had been dubbed, DHC continued to work closely with the commissions from the other twelve original states. Anticipating Delaware's special privilege of celebrating the state's status as the first state in 1987, the Heritage Commission made certain that all the other original states were invited to attend the 7 December 1987 festivities.

The Bicentennial Council of Original Thirteen States provided relatively regular and welcome funds during the two bicentennial celebrations and, to some extent, in the years between 1976 and 1987. The most lucrative benefit that Delaware enjoyed for being part of the group was the royalty payments that the state received from the sale of bicentennial commemorative items. During the American Revolution celebrations, BCTOS signed favorably licensing agreements with the Franklin Mint and the Medallion Art Company for the production of commemorative

memorabilia.<sup>7</sup> In 1975, the Franklin Mint produced a special set of thirteen state medallions, one for each of the original states.

A year later, the company agreed to issue a new gold medallion also tied to the Bicentennial. Their plans also included a fifty-medal sterling edition, "The Franklin Mint History of the American Revolution." The mint paid royalties to BCTOS for use of logos and emblems associated with the states, the combined thirteen original states, and the bicentennial. BCTOS staff members, who oversaw administration of the contracts and protected against copyright infringements and unauthorized use of emblems, then distributed the royalty payments to the participating states. During the American Revolution Bicentennial, Delaware's share of the Franklin Mint royalties totaled \$65,000. Because the income from BCTOS was from the sale of commemorative items, once the anniversary celebrations ended, those sales ceased to provide any meaningful financial support for Delaware heritage programs and projects.<sup>8</sup>

The frequent meetings of BCTOS delegations from the thirteen member states produced close friendships among the state bicentennial commissions. Delaware Heritage Commission members enjoyed warm hospitality in several states, including Rhode Island, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New York. In April 1975, representatives from Delaware accepted the invitation of their counterparts in Massachusetts, when they participated in events commemorating Paul Revere's famous ride. The commission, in turn, extended a hearty welcome whenever BCTOS met in Delaware.

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<sup>7</sup> When the Delaware bicentennial medal was produced in June 1974, the first run sold out immediately. The medal depicted Caesar Rodney on his famous ride from Dover to Philadelphia in 1776, but the medal had the wrong date and indicated the ride took place on 12 July 1776 rather than 1-2 July 1776.

<sup>8</sup> Not unexpectedly, BCTOS gave commemorative items as gifts to individuals who supported the group's bicentennial efforts. Occasionally things did not run as smoothly as might have been hoped. In August 1974, the chair of the Licensing Committee notified the BCTOS Executive Director that "Since President Nixon left before we could present him with a Bicentennial Plate, you may want to keep this in mind for a future presentation to President Ford."



### **Partners in State Government**

Clearly, although begun with impetus and input from the federal government, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and then the Delaware Heritage Commission, relied from its inception most heavily on the state government to serve as the primary source of money. The state administration that created the committee and then commission to oversee the bicentennial of the American Revolution funded the effort sufficiently that by April 1976, the DARBC had distributed \$200,000 in state money as matching grants to 105 Delaware communities. Even more generously, during the celebrations surrounding the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification the United States Constitution, the state earmarked \$30 million for "major improvements" that would amount to "commemorations of lasting value" to mark the bicentennial. Of the \$30 million, the state allocated \$3 million for "projects directly related to 1787."

Other anniversaries also warranted support from the governor and General Assembly. The 1980 commemoration of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Dutch in Delaware merited a grant of \$5,000 from the legislature, funding designated to support the commission's collaborative work with committee in Lewes heading up the celebration. During 1991, when the year was dedicated to celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bill of Rights, for example, the Secretary of State granted the Heritage Commission an additional \$6,750 for McKinstry scholarships, "in honor of the Bill of Rights."

The primary regular source of funding from the state has come in the form of annual payments under the state grant-in-aid program. Beginning in fiscal year 1982, when the Delaware Heritage Commission was granted \$22,000 for its work, the grant funding has ranged from a low of \$18,000 in 1983 to a high of \$104,000 in 1985. In the mid to late 1990s, the budget amount remained unchanged at \$85,000 but the legislature also allocated an additional \$10,000 to be earmarked for the DHC oral history project, which was undertaking a series of interviews and monographs that focused on governors of Delaware during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Beginning in 2000, the budget amount for the commission's operations dropped somewhat but by that time the salaries of the executive director and public information officer were funded

through the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, though seasonal and casual employees were still paid out of the DHC annual appropriation.

The commission has also cultivated productive collaborations with a variety of departments within state government. In 1976, for example, the Department of Motor Vehicles produced bicentennial license plates and the DARBC received \$2 for each one sold, money that helped the commission accomplish some of its programs. Similarly, a decade later, the DHC had budgeted \$6,000 for road signs on the major highways into the state, signs that welcomed visitors and advised them that when Delaware ratified the Constitution on 7 December 1787 it became the first state. The \$6,000 was freed up for other uses when the Department of Transportation assumed the cost of the signs. In terms of distributing information about the state's history and heritage, probably the best collaboration the Heritage Commission achieved was that with the Department of Public Instruction. Advice from the Department guided the commission in preparing educational materials and, once the materials were ready, the Department provided the means of getting books, films, teachers' manuals, and a variety of other resources into the public schools of the state.

### **Non-profit Collaborators**

A number of non-profit organizations have collaborated with the Delaware Heritage Commission in ways that stretched the commission's resources to cover more than would ever have been possible if the DHC had tried to operate alone. The Delaware Humanities Forum provided \$26,000 in gifts and matching funds in 1985, making possible the Heritage Commission's series of posters on the United States Constitution. The posters, two of which subsequently won awards for their design, were used in traveling exhibits and prints of them were given to Delaware schools as part of the Constitutional bicentennial. Three years later, when the national Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution proposed re-enacting the ride that George Washington made from Virginia to New York for his inauguration, the Delaware Heritage Foundation donated \$35,000 to help fund Delaware's participation in the event.



In 1987, the Delaware Heritage Commission worked with the Wilmington PBS station, WHYY, to produce a thirty-minute film, *Celebrate the First State—A Portrait of Delaware*. It aired to good reviews and the following year garnered a regional Emmy nomination. When the commission undertook “Finding the Americas: 1492 to 1992” to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus’ voyage to the new world, there were a large number of partners that made the two-day conference a success. The Humanities Forum contributed funds that paid for renting the necessary meeting space, underwrote advertising, and provided modest stipends and travel allowances. The Latin American Community Center, the University of Delaware’s Office of Women’s Affairs, the University’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, and the Partners of the Americas in Delaware all participated with staffing, expertise, and encouragement.

### **Corporate Partners**

The Delaware Heritage Commission has benefited from corporate collaboration as well, both with commercial interests with whom the commission has had contracts intended to yield income and with corporate partners who provided grant support for DHC programs and needs.

During the celebration of the American Revolution bicentennial, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission reached an agreement with the Wilton Brass Company for the production of “pewter-like” mugs, plates, and similar ware. The commission also licensed Fort Manufacturers, Inc. to use the DARBC logo to be used on a large array of commemorative items, including key holders, bells, bookmarks, pillboxes, bracelets, pins, paperweights, spoons, and charms. Superior Models, under a licensing agreement, produced a pewter blue hen with the Bicentennial logo in the base. A similar range of commemorative mementos accompanied the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution when the DHC offered, among other things, lapel pins, pewter cups, marble and pewter paperweights, bicentennial floor mats, flags, banners, neckties, and ceramic inkwells equipped with ballpoint quill pens.

During the commission’s years of work to celebrate the states’ history and heritage, there have also been corporate sponsors that took on particular programs or events and provided underwriting that made a significant contribution of the success of DHC endeavors. In 1987, for example, when Delaware was celebrating not only the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution but also taking particular pride in its unique status as the first state, Merrill-Lynch underwrote most of the cost of the “ratification celebration” that took place on 7 December, a gala party at Dover Air Force Base attended by over 1,500 prominent Delawareans. Described as a “bash” where Delaware’s “top brass” shown while also raising money, the party netted \$109,975 that was to be used as the basis for the First State Constitutional Scholarship Foundation. ICI Industries contributed to the First State Constitutional Scholarship program in 1988 and in 1989 and again in 1990, MBNA provided funding to underwrite several McKinstry scholarships, thus allowing the Heritage Commission offer additional assistance to young Delawareans.

### **Current Links**

With state funding largely established, the Delaware Heritage Commission continues to work closely with the state administration through the Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs. The commission also focuses on links between the commission and local historical societies, museums, and comparable interest groups. The Heritage Commission was instrumental in the establishment of the Delaware Museum Association in 2000. For several years, representatives of museums from around the state had convened to consider forming a statewide museum association that would allow for beneficial collaboration among the institutions. In October 2000, the DHC convened a daylong organizational meeting that addressed issues of interest to museum and historical society personnel. Subsequent meetings have continued such educational efforts and the Heritage Commission has supported the museum group by offering scholarships to individuals who could not otherwise afford to attend the educational workshops and other programs.

Care has been taken to nurture and encourage these links that make projects and events more easily accomplished and stretch the funds available for DHC and its peer agencies and

institutions. It seems unlikely that the future holds the possibility of lavish funding as was seen in the 1970s and 1980s, but experience and collaboration have allowed DHC to continue pursuing certain of the goals established when the idea of a bicentennial commission first sprang to life.

## Chapter Two

### PERSONNEL: PEOPLE MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

The work of the Delaware Heritage Commission has been and continues to be done by a corps of dedicated individuals who have served a variety of roles during the course of the commission's thirty-plus years. Led by seven chairmen, over fifty commissioners, aided by a range of ex officio commission members and supported by a loyal staff, have given imagination, energy, and time to the celebration of Delaware's history and heritage. All the participants, with the exception of the staff members, were unpaid volunteers.

#### Chairmen

The discussion of the Delaware Heritage Commission really begins with the Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee in 1969. Governor Russell W. Peterson appointed Wilmington attorney James T. McKinstry to chair the committee, a position that McKinstry filled until 1971, when the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission replaced the committee and Dr. E. A. Trabant, in his third year as president of the University of Delaware, took the chair of the new commission.<sup>9</sup>

McKinstry had known Peterson through a number of civic endeavors in which he had taken a role and through his participation in political activities of the Republican Party. He had worked with Peterson on the governor's initiative for a cabinet form of government. McKinstry's leadership of the committee, made up of a wide-ranging cross-section of Delaware's population, laid a firm foundation on which the subsequent commission could build a celebration of America's war for independence.

Peterson's appointment of Trabant as chair of the new commission took advantage of the educator's prominence in the state. He was credited with having led the university with great skill during the turmoil of the late 1960s when divisions over the war in Vietnam and over the civil rights movement brought discord to the campus community. Trabant's position at the University of Delaware also meant that a number of essential resources would be readily available to the commission—scholars with particular applicable expertise, administrative staff, and clerical support. Trabant's leadership was apparent in the ease with which he brought together members of the commission with representatives of state government and members of the university community to achieve mutually held goals.

In 1972, he turned to University of Delaware history professor, Dr. John A. Munroe, to participate in the September celebration of Constitution Day. This was the first of several events where Munroe's reputation as the leading Delaware scholar provided a valuable added dimension to a DARBC event. In July 1974, Munroe became the Bicentennial Professor of History for the 1975 calendar year. Under an agreement between the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the University of Delaware, the commission would pay half the historian's salary for the year and the university would pay the other half. Munroe's responsibilities would be two—to write a comprehensive history of the state and to consult with bicentennial groups around Delaware.

Trabant's relationship with the governor was equally happy and helpful. Early in 1974, for example, he and Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt inaugurated one of the bicentennial's first projects, the "Bicentennial Bikeways" along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Depicted in the summer edition of the *First State Bicentennial Newsletter*, the two men were seen pedaling along the pathway on three-wheel bicycles. Trabant encouraged the governor's support and was rewarded with heartening cooperation. Tribbitt's backing took many forms, including the September 1974 "Governor's Bicentennial Conference," convened to solicit public input regarding what should be included in the bicentennial celebrations. As various events and programs came to fruition, the governor made himself available to attend as many as possible,

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<sup>9</sup> Please see Appendix 2.1 for a chronological listing of the chairs who have lead the DARBC and DHC.

frequently appearing in colonial costume and invariably providing enthusiastic encouragement.

Trabant was well aware of the public face that the DARBC needed to maintain. In June 1976, as the biggest wave of bicentennial events was about to break, he wrote to the commission members, reminding them of celebrations where Commission representatives were needed. The planned re-enactment of Caesar Rodney's ride from Dover to Philadelphia was an event that included a luncheon that at least some Commissioners needed to attend. Trabant also encouraged DARBC members to follow the course of the ride so they could be present as "Caesar Rodney" and his entourage reached each stop along the route. Commissioners were also asked to represent the commission at the re-enactment of the burning of King George's portrait and the rededication of the State House in Dover, at the unveiling of the Underground Railroad plaque at Peter Spencer Plaza in Wilmington, and to attend Delaware Day in Philadelphia on 18 June. Far from being onerous burdens, these assignments were attractive opportunities for the commissioners to participate in the bicentennial's key events.

At the end of the celebration of the American Revolution Bicentennial, Trabant left the commission and, in 1977, Governor Pierre S. duPont, on the recommendation of the commission members, appointed James T. McKinstry as chair. McKinstry had served as a commissioner under Trabant's chairmanship during which he provided active and enthusiastic service to the DARBC's bicentennial celebration. His understanding of the relationship of the Delaware commission with its national counterpart and his appreciation of the ties that needed to be nurtured between the DARBC and the state government served the DARBC and the Delaware Heritage Commission well.

In 1974, while still only a commissioner, McKinstry was also serving on the Executive Committee of the Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States.<sup>10</sup> He was keenly aware that the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration was getting close to naming the nation's 1776<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial Community. Knowing what a distinction it would be for the designated city, McKinstry

urged the DARBC executive director to press the ARBA to name a Delaware community with the "1776" honor. His instincts were good—on 20 November 1974, Wilmington was named the country's 1776<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial Community.

McKinstry appreciated the importance of communicating to the governor and the General Assembly both the DHC's accomplishments and its plans. In December 1978, he reported to them the key events that the commission had identified to be commemorated in the near future. In 1981, there was the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Dutch in Delaware. 1982 marked the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Penn's arrival in New Castle, where he first set foot on the North American continent. The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of American Methodism and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the development of nylon both were to be marked in 1984. 1987 was the bicentennial of the United States Constitution and 1988 marked the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swedes landing in Delaware. McKinstry's report detailed the commission's plans for raising the money needed for the projected commemorations and then concluded with a reminder of the observances unique to Delaware that the DHC had organized during 1978—Separation Day on 15 June, Constitution Day on 17 September, and Delaware Day on 7 December.

In 1980 as the DHC began to apply for grant-in-aid funding from the General Assembly, McKinstry met with legislators to garner support. When Governor duPont vetoed the DHC budget later that year, McKinstry discussed with the governor's staff the commission's position and possible "contingency measures" that might help the commission meet its financial obligations. By early 1981, it seemed clear that the governor was considering quite seriously making commemorative functions the responsibility of Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, under the control of the Secretary of State's office, and withdrawing all financial support of the Delaware Heritage Commission. McKinstry wrote to key legislative leaders, stressing the DHC's determination "to honor its charge as outlined in its enabling legislation." In spite of his efforts and those of Commission members, the DHC was forced to close its office in 1981 because of the lack of funding. Even when the office closed, McKinstry's leadership was so strong that all of the

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<sup>10</sup> McKinstry was BCTOS treasurer in 1973-74 and chaired the Council in 1974-75.

commissioners remained members of the DHC, ready to serve at the chair's call.

McKinstry has the distinction of having served as chair of the commission under all three of its names--Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee, Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and Delaware Heritage Commission. He never lost sight of the underlying imperative that the commission, by whatever name, was to celebrate Delaware's history and heritage. When McKinstry's term as chair of the Delaware Heritage Commission expired in October 1984, the commissioners approved a motion that he remain as chair until a successor was named. The members were eager for him to continue both because they respected his leadership and because they felt "it was not in the interest of the commission to have a hiatus" without a chair. He agreed to continue until the governor appointed a replacement. In March 1985, when it appeared that the only way a new chair would be named was for McKinstry to leave the commission, he submitted a letter of resignation to Governor Michael N. Castle. He urged the governor to make the necessary appointment and, as the new fiscal year began in July 1985, the governor named Wilmington banker Donald E. Cielewich to lead the commission.

Cielewich had come to Delaware in 1977 as the chairman, president, and chief executive of Farmers Bank of Delaware. Recruited to the job in hopes that he could correct some of the serious business problems plaguing the bank, he later served as president and chief executive of Marine Midland's Delaware bank. Cielewich was active in community affairs and had served on the governor's Task Force on Education for Economic Growth. He brought with him a vision of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution as an opportunity to dramatize Delaware's history and to bolster the state's tourism industry. During his term, the commission membership increased from nine to fifteen and the commissioners inaugurated the practice of having their meetings at various historic sites around the state. Cielewich's tenure, however, was short. Named in July 1985, he left the commission in March 1986 and there ensued another delay of five months during which the commission awaited the governor's next appointment.

Dr. Howard E. Row, vice chair, served as acting chairman until August 1986, when Castle appointed Robert P. Barnett to lead the Delaware Heritage Commission. By the time of the appointment, the DHC had established a system that was getting the commission's routine work done, but the Constitutional Bicentennial was only a few months away. Barnett had come to Delaware as an employee of the Atlas Chemical Company in 1949. By the time of his retirement in 1982, he had risen to the position of president and chief executive officer of Atlas's successor, ICI Industries and had joined the Wilmington law firm of Potter, Anderson and Corroon. He brought to the commission extensive experience in community and public service. He had co-chaired the State Task Force on Education for Economic Growth with Governor Castle. Barnett had also chaired both the Governor's Education Improvement Monitoring Committee and the Delaware Advisory Council on Vocational Education.

Many of the responsibilities that fell to Barnett as chair related to the festivities surrounding the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the United States Constitution. Because the ratification made Delaware the first state, the bicentennial was a particularly lavish celebration, extending over the entire year. Barnett led the Delaware delegation to Philadelphia for "Delaware Day" in June 1987 and represented the state's bicentennial commission in the "Grand Federal Procession" on Constitution Day two months later. His official duties extended to offering greetings and introducing the officials who attended the commemoration program and parade in Dover on 7 December 1987, the actual anniversary of the ratification. In his capacity as chair of a commission that was due to go out of existence within two years, in 1988 he also initiated the difficult discussion within the DHC regarding whether the commission should continue without an agenda.

Barnett completed his three-year term and left the commission in 1989, after which Castle named Dr. James R. Soles as chair. Soles, who chaired the University of Delaware's Department of Political Science and International Relations, was beginning the first of what would be three stints chairing the Delaware Heritage Commission. In his first term, which ran from 1989 to May 1992, he distinguished himself with his lobbying efforts on behalf of the

Delaware Heritage Commission's survival, meeting with the state Budget Director, with the Joint Finance Committee, and with key legislators. He also turned his love of theater to educational use from time to time. As part of the Bicentennial of the Constitution, he created a memorable first-person interpretation of America's fourth president, James Madison, who, like Soles, was a Virginia native. Dressed in colonial garb with lace at wrist and throat and wearing a suitably snowy wig, Soles took his one-man show to schools and other venues throughout the state, providing a performance that delighted audiences at over thirty events.

Soles took an active interest in educational offerings that related to Delaware's history. In November 1995, during his second term as chair, he wrote an appeal to Dr. William B. DeLauder, president of Delaware State University, and to Secretary of State Edward J. Freel, urging them to take action that would enliven DSU's masters program in historic preservation with an emphasis on African-American history. It was also during this period in the mid-1990s that he suggested that the Heritage Commission promote Delaware history by honoring Delaware authors with a reception. The result was the first Delaware Authors' Day, held in October 1996 and, since then, an annual event.

Soles resigned in May 1992 and Commission Vice Chair Howard E. Row once again assumed leadership responsibilities as acting chair. Eager that the Delaware Heritage Commission avoid "drifting" for lack of a chairman and concerned that it should have "every exposure possible," Row urged Governor Castle to name a new head for the commission. In August 1992, the governor named Row as the sixth chair of DHC and the first from Kent County.

Governor Peterson had appointed Howard E. Row to the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in 1971, but Row's initial appointment was a non-voting ex officio slot on the commission. The new Commissioner was to serve as liaison between the commission and the Department of Public Instruction where he was assistant superintendent. A decade later, in 1984, Governor duPont, recognizing Row's dedication to the commission's work and his capacity to provide valuable guidance, appointed him to serve as a voting Commissioner.

Row brought to the job of chair many years of experience as a Commission member and strong skills as an administrator who liked to do things "by the book." As acting chair in April 1986 after Donald E. Cielewich's resignation, he concerned himself with how the Delaware Heritage Commission operated. That spring he wrote to Governor Castle to ask for support of the DHC budget and to request clarification on communications between the DHC on the one hand and the governor and the Secretary of State's office on the other. Within six months, he again sought to safeguard the commission's operations when he gave close attention to the First State Constitutional Scholarship Fund. He insisted on having a clarification of DHC's obligations as administrator of the fund and, more importantly, a determination that the commission was protected from liability should the fund's resources fall short of meeting promised scholarship commitments.

As a commissioner, Row used his rich background as a teacher and educational administrator to the DHC's benefit. In February 1973, still an ex officio member of the then Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, he responded at length to Chairman McKinstry's request for a review of bicentennial educational materials the commission had received from other states. Row reacted favorably, noting in particular "I liked the notion expressed in the North Carolina material that the state didn't grow up all by itself, but that it was part of its surroundings, part of the other states, and the nation."

For the Constitutional Bicentennial, Row chaired the Bicentennial Sculpture Committee that, through many months of hard and often frustrating work, shepherded to completion the creation of a commemorative sculpture installed in newly created Constitution Park in Dover. In another activity that was part of that same bicentennial, he helped organize the public reading of the Constitution that took place on 23 October 1987. The document was read in public places in each of the counties and Row oversaw the reading in front of Dover's City Hall that day. He had divided the Constitution into 150 segments and invited members of the public to come to the appointed place to read. People responded so enthusiastically that some of the segments had to be divided in half so that there were enough "bits" for everyone to participate.

Row's interest in having the position of DHC executive director changed from a consulting position without any benefits to a state exempt position was both active and sustained. Beginning in September 1994, he opened a series of negotiations that eventually led to that result, but it would take four years to achieve. At his initial meeting with Secretary of State Freel to discuss the commission's request to have the executive director's status changed, he supplied information about the financial impact of such a change and also provided suggested legislative language to make the transition. In January 1995, the Secretary of State advised the commission that the administration, not wanting to add another position, would not increase the budget as requested in order to change the status of the executive director. With the approval of the commissioners, Row went directly to the Joint Finance Committee with the funding request, but in July, the Joint Finance Committee and the Budget Director declined the request. It was not until 1998 that Row's goal was achieved and the executive director became a state employee.

In July 1995, after twenty-four years of service to the Delaware Heritage Commission, Row resigned. Even after he left the commission, however, he remained active. He wrote a feature article on the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association for the winter 1995 edition of the DHC newsletter and in April 1996 participated in a book-signing event for a book that had begun with a McKinsty grant during Row's tenure on the commission.

With Row's resignation, James R. Soles returned to the chair for fifteen months. Appointed in September 1995, he resigned in December 1996 "to pursue other interests." For three months Vice Chair Reba R. Hollingsworth served as acting chair until Governor Thomas R. Carper asked William E. Lowe to chair the commission. Named to the commission in March 1997, Lowe was from Lewes, the first chair from Sussex County. A first-class pilot on the Delaware River and Bay, he had served for fifteen years on the Delaware State Board of Pilot Commissioners, five of those years as President of the Board. He had just finished a term as the chair of the Delaware Humanities Forum, on whose board he continued to serve. He also served on the board of the Historical Society of Delaware, thus bringing to the Delaware Heritage Commission links to the study of the state's history as well as a familiarity with the

programs and outreach of the Humanities Forum, an organization that had been a frequent and agreeable collaborator with the commission. Lowe's term was cut short by with his death in June 2000, but during his brief tenure the DHC accomplished several significant efforts. The commission led the state celebration of the centennial of Delaware's 1897 constitution. In addition, under Lowe's leadership, the DHC launched the "governors series" of books published by the Delaware Heritage Press and hosted a successful conference that examined the 1968 riots in Wilmington.

Governor Carper turned again to James R. Soles to lead the commission and Soles agreed to chair the DHC as it began a new century.

### Commissioners

The work that the Delaware Heritage Commission has accomplished with its large and small celebrations, re-enactments, conferences, publications, and other activities is the result of dedicated service by over fifty commissioners who have, not unexpectedly, performed such duties as chairing committees, deciding policy issues, lobbying the legislature for funding, making media appearances on local radio programs, and soliciting support from a wide range of allies. They have also, less predictably, parked cars, attended lady bug launches, read the United States Constitution to assembled citizens, feasted on chicken and dumplings at fire halls around the state, and dressed in period costume to attend Return Day in Georgetown.

Commission members were drawn from communities large and small throughout the state and from diverse backgrounds. Robert Byrd had been a member of the General Assembly representing Elsmere and brought experience as a governmental affairs consultant to the DHC. Crawford J. Carroll was the mayor of Dover and Lewis M. Purnell of Millsboro had retired from service to his country as a diplomat. Jean Ramsey Smith taught history at Delaware State University in Dover and Robert M. Stark taught mathematics at the University of Delaware in Newark and also served as the director of the Delaware Academy of Sciences, which was associated with the Iron Hill Museum.

While some commissioners served only briefly—one as little as one month—others have devoted years to accomplishing the goals of the commission. Among the many faithful individuals who have served on the Delaware Heritage Commission, fourteen have distinguished themselves with service of ten or more years as commissioners and, of those, four have served more than twenty years.<sup>11</sup> The four with more than two decades of service are Howard E. Row who also served as chair, Samuel L. Shipley, Harvey B. Rubenstein, and Norman Borish. The background and talents they brought to the commission and the services they rendered in the celebration of Delaware's heritage provide an instructive survey of the DHC's work over the years.

Governor Tribbitt appointed Samuel L. Shipley to the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in 1973 so that the Wilmington marketing and public relations consultant could add his skills to the mix on the commission as it prepared plans to celebrate American's independence. Described by fellow commissioners as "steadfast," Shipley served on the DARBC executive committee during the American Revolution Bicentennial, working with the commission's leadership to develop policies to implement the commission's programs. Early in 1979, he suggested and then oversaw the production of a series of "Delaware Heritage Minutes" public service announcements that aired on local radio stations. Topics included Caesar Rodney's ride, the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, and Thomas Garrett and the Underground Railroad. Promoted as "tidbits of information about early Delaware history which rarely come to the attention of the average citizen" and offering "A little information about a small state with a big history," the broadcasts were well received. The series was followed by a second series of public service announcements, "Discover Wonderful Delaware," scripted narratives that featured state government leaders commenting on a variety of topics relating to the state and its history and character. During the Constitutional Bicentennial, he chaired the Public Information Committee, again making his experience and expertise available to the commission. He helped the DHC prepare guidelines and standards for its public relations function, represented the commission at meetings in

Philadelphia, Washington, and London, and provided an essential liaison with the media.

Tribbitt also appointed Wilmington attorney Harvey B. Rubenstein to the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in 1974 and marketing consultant Norman Borish in 1975. Rubenstein brought a passion for history that informed his energetic work. He proved a faithful commissioner who rarely missed a meeting and who gave thoughtful consideration to the issues that came before the commission. He took an active role in the celebrations mounted for both bicentennials. During the bicentennial of the American Revolution, he provided representation for the DARBC at numerous events and celebrations. When the Urban Coalition of Metropolitan Wilmington used its Bicentennial Commission grant to write and stage a musical play entitled *Mo' Tea, Miss Ann?* Rubenstein and fellow commissioner Norman Borish attended the performance, reporting back enthusiastically on the quality of the production and the good use to which the funding had been put.

During the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution starting in 1987, Rubenstein had the opportunity to dispense grant funding as chair of the Grants Committee, which oversaw the Challenge Grant program. Under his leadership, the committee established standards for evaluating the proposed projects that applied for grant funding and, for those projects that passed muster, provided funds for a variety of endeavors. Some were fairly predictable undertakings such as lectures, publications, and exhibits and others were more unexpected—like the statewide tree planting project of Delaware's Women's Clubs and the Delaware State Bar Association venture into theater, which involved the creation of a short play that dealt with constitutional issues. Performed by the Delaware Theatre Company, the drama was aimed at high school aged students and earned the Bar Association favorable editorial comment in the *News Journal*. In the first year of the celebrations, the committee granted \$23,000 in matching grants, but their decisions were always tempered with budgetary uncertainty, at times deferring decisions on applications until it was clear that funding was actually available for the projects proposed.

Rubenstein also chaired the Constitutional Bicentennial Theme Committee for the state, a committee that devised the theme

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<sup>11</sup> Please see Appendix 2.2 for a chronological list of commission members.



"We the People . . . Freedom's First." The phrase drew together elements from three sources. "We the People" were, of course, the first three words of the Preamble to the Constitution. "Freedom" was intended to be a link to the words "Liberty" and "Independence" in the Great Seal of the State of Delaware and also to the basic rights in the federal Bill of Rights. "First" clearly referred to Delaware's being the first to ratify the constitution.

After the 1976 bicentennial had concluded, Rubenstein, at the request of DARBC Chairman Trabant, worked with James T. McKinstry to draft legislation that would transform the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission into the Delaware Heritage Commission. In January 1988, he again wrote on behalf of the commission, supplying draft legislation that would delete the December 1990 termination date that threatened to end the Heritage Commission.

Rubenstein took a lively interest in those aspects of Delaware history that related to the law and was especially active in celebrating the centennial of the Delaware constitution. In September 1996, he reported to his fellow commissioners that the Delaware State Bar Association was preparing a history of the 1897 Delaware constitution and suggested that the Heritage Commission might want to participate in celebrating the centennial. Having been designated by the DHC as the commission representative in the planning of any such observance, Rubenstein took a leadership role in the project. The undertaking culminated in a commemorative program held in the Senate Chamber of Legislative Hall on 10 June 1997, during which Rubenstein was responsible for reading the proclamation that Governor Carper then signed. As part of the centennial of the Delaware Constitution, the Bar Association also published *The Delaware Bar in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, which Rubenstein helped to compile, and created materials for the state's teachers to use in teaching Delaware history.

Always one with an eye for details, Rubenstein understood the need to look ahead and make suitable plans. He appreciated, for example, how long a process went into preparing any substantial celebration. Thus in August 1981, he urged his fellow commissioners to begin plans for the 1987 festivities surrounding the bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The following year, he went on record again with the same message,

which, fortunately, the commission heeded. Similarly, in July 1995, he called on the commission to start planning for the 1997 centennial of the Delaware constitution. It was then that he accepted the DHC's appointment to represent the commission in the planning process that would lead to the centennial celebration.

Norman Borish came to the commission in 1975 with experience in public service similar to his fellow commissioners. He had chaired the State Human Relations Commission and had served on the Lottery Commission. He found the new assignment agreeable and only a year after joining the then Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, he began a long-term Commission assignment as treasurer, a position he has held until the present [2004].

Like his fellow commissioners, Borish performed a number of duties during each of the bicentennial celebrations. During the anniversary celebrations associated with the American Revolution, he and his wife joined with other commissioners in following the route of the rider who re-enacted Caesar Rodney's ride of 1 and 2 July 1776, when DARBC members went via chartered bus from one stop to the next along the route, there to cheer and encourage the rider portraying the Delaware patriot. Borish and other of the commission members also attended events that the DARBC had supported with the grants program, including the memorable performance of *Mo' Tea, Miss Ann?* During the bicentennial of the United States Constitution, Borish chaired the committee that selected commemorative items to be produced and sold in support of bicentennial activities. He also served with Rubenstein on the Challenge Grants Committee, helping determine which of the myriad of projects warranted DHC support with matching funds. The two served together again in 1997 when they worked on the celebration of the centennial of the Delaware Constitution.

Borish also performed essential administrative functions for the commission. In 1979, for example, as the commission sought to establish standards to guide its personnel decisions, he chaired the ad hoc committee that examined the state's personnel guidelines and created a comparable set to govern the DHC's relationship with its staff. Within two years, when the Heritage Commission closed its office, Borish, as treasurer, took

custody of the commission's accounts and financial records until more "normal" operations could be resumed. He, with Samuel L. Shipley and Harvey B. Rubenstein, appeared before the Joint Finance Committee in 1988 on behalf of the Delaware Heritage Commission and its appropriation request.

### Committees

The Delaware Heritage Commission accomplishes much of its work in committees, with meetings of the entire group spent considering, modifying, and adopting committee recommendations. Since the mid-1990s, the complement of committees has been largely unchanged but over the life of the commission, there have been many temporary committees established as well.

Not unexpectedly, there were special committees established for each of the bicentennial celebrations for which the commission was responsible. The DARBC created a "Sifting Committee" in 1972, convened to evaluate ideas offered at an open meeting where members of the public were invited to suggest projects and events to celebrate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. The committee sifted through the ideas to select those that the DARBC would undertake. A year later, the commission established a "Community Participation Committee" to encourage local communities to form Bicentennial Committees and to begin planning for 1976. With \$200,000 available for the commission to distribute for bicentennial projects, the DARBC formed a committee to set guidelines for distributing the funds under a grants program, guidelines that were so skillfully drawn that the commission could report at the end of the bicentennial that there had been not a single complaint about the administration of the grants.

The Bicentennial of the United States Constitution produced a similar crop of committees formed to deal with the many details facing the commission. The committees included a Theme Committee, one on Special Events, another on Commemorative Items, and still another for Public Outreach, again intended to encourage communities to participate in the 1987 celebrations. The Bicentennial Sculpture Committee undertook the challenge of soliciting sculpture proposals from artists, selecting a suitable

sculpture design, seeing the artwork created and paid for, and overseeing its permanent installation in Constitution Park in Dover.

Some of the ad hoc committees that have served the commission have been formed because of personnel issues. An ad hoc personnel committee in 1979 set policy for the terms under which the executive director would be hired, compensated, and evaluated. Each time a new director was hired, a search committee directed the effort. In 1973, the DHC called on Commission members and several outsiders to form a special committee "to evaluate publication needs in the general field of Delaware History." When the DARBC faced a termination date of 1978, the commissioners established a "Residual Policy Committee" to determine what was to be done with the DARBC's money and resources if the commission was actually allowed to expire on the legislated date. The committee's conclusion was that the DARBC should continue in some form and the committee then became the delegation that met with the governor to discuss continuation of the DARBC in some form.

Since 1996, the DHC has functioned with little change in the list of committees by which the commission conducts business. Until 2002, there were five committees—Challenge Grants, McKinstry Awards, Long-Range Planning/Oral History, Publications, and Camp—that covered the various aspects of the commission's work. In 2002, the DHC added a sixth committee devoted to Commemorations.

### Ex Officio Members

Ex officio members of the commission have varied in number and outside connection over the years. Many ex officio members have attended Commission meetings because their interests and the commission's interests were, for the moment, focused on a collaborative project that warranted their attendance. Other organizations and institutions have a long association with the DHC based on mutual interests in the Delaware's history and in reaching out to Delawareans in a variety of ways to share the state's story.

Most frequently, the ex officio members who have associated themselves with the commission on a temporary basis are representatives of organizations planning for a particular

commemorative event or celebration. In 1979, when the citizens of Lewes began planning for the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Dutch in Delaware, a celebration to be observed in 1981, members of the Lewes committee became ex officio members of the DHC during the planning process. As the process of creating Constitution Park in Dover proceeded, a representative of the Friends of Old Dover was an ex officio member of the DHC, as the two organizations collaborated on the project. In 1990, when plans were being laid for the celebration in 1992 of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas, the Columbus 500 Committee became an ex officio member of the DHC, which assisted the committee with fund raising and with office help, even while the Heritage Commission made its own plans for a one-day conference to mark the anniversary.

Among the long-term ex officio members, the Department of Public Instruction, the Division of Economic Development, and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs come from state government and the Historical Society of Delaware comes from the private, non-profit sector. The commission's association with the Department of Public Instruction has been the means by which thousands of copies of DHC publications have been placed in the hands of children in Delaware's public schools. The Division of Economic Development has routinely sent a representative of the Division's Tourism Office to Commission meetings. The director of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, whose operation, like that of the DHC, is under the Secretary of State's Office, also participates in Commission meetings. The many interests that the Historical Society and the Heritage Commission share make the inclusion of a representative of HSD logical and the collaboration between the two groups has proven mutually beneficial.

### **Executive Directors**

The day-to-day operations of the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission were made easier and smoother once the DARBC was able to hire an executive director to coordinate activities and oversee administration of the agency's many interests. The need for a director was brought home pointedly to the commissioners in June 1972 when a Wilmington *Evening*

*Journal* article included certain critical comments about the DARBC's efforts. "The trouble with this bicentennial business," commented the writer, "is that we're going about it with the wrong thing in mind." She went on to suggest a wider scope for the celebration, apparently overlooking that the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution was what was being commemorated. Commission member McKinstry noted to the DARBC's Chairman Trabant that the news story "highlights the public relations problems that we have and which I hope will be remedied after we get an Executive Director."<sup>12</sup> The commission launched a national search and, on 3 January 1973, John S. Mickey began his tenure as the executive director.<sup>13</sup>

John Mickey had made a career of overseeing celebrations like the American Revolution Bicentennial, having staged close to two dozen commemorative events like those anticipated for Delaware's observance of America's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. He came to Wilmington from Birmingham, Alabama, where he had just completed that city's centennial celebrations.

One of Mickey's early successes was helping host the meeting of the Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States in Delaware in June 1973. As part of the program for the gathered delegates from the other twelve original states, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission staged the state's first observance of Separation Day on 15 June in New Castle. So successful was the event, that it became an annual holiday on the DARBC and then the DHC calendar. In the spring of 1974, Mickey also launched the first newsletter published by the commission and, the following autumn, he assisted with the Governor's Bicentennial Conference at which representatives from throughout the state gathered to provide their ideas regarding Delaware's celebration of the bicentennial.

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<sup>12</sup> DARBC Secretary John A. Murray defended the commission, advising the *Evening Journal* writer "Many citizens are working hard, with limited resources, to provide Delaware with a significant and memorable 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration."

<sup>13</sup> Please see Appendix 2.3 for a list of individuals who served the DARBC or DHC in a director's capacity.

Mickey, assisted by a staff of four, was fully engaged in the wide range of tasks that needed to be accomplished in the year leading up to the bicentennial itself. Sadly, he never saw the fruits of his labor. In July 1975, he collapsed with a cerebral hemorrhage and lapsed into a coma from which he never emerged. He died at the age of 49, three weeks after he was stricken.

The unexpected loss of Mickey almost on the eve of the Bicentennial celebrations created a potentially catastrophic situation. Much to the good fortune of the DARBC, one of the commission members stepped forward to pick up the reins and see through to completion the many events and activities that John Mickey had begun. Governor Peterson had appointed Louise Prickett to the Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee in 1969 and then retained her as a member of the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission when it was created in 1971. She began work as the DARBC's executive director in November 1975 after serving for three months as the acting director. She brought impressive organizational skills to the job and applied a keen attention to the many details that came with the position. During her year as director, she oversaw all the detailed plans required for the successful re-enactment of Caesar Rodney's ride to Philadelphia. She helped insure that each month's theme program was suitably developed and executed and she worked closely with the myriad of people who made certain that America's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday was properly celebrated. Her tenure ended on 31 December 1976, the end of the bicentennial year.

David V. Bonk, who had previously served the commission as grants administrator, became the DARBC's administrative director on 1 January 1977. The decision to keep him on staff arose out of the commissioners' recognition that they needed someone in the office to handle routine administration in the absence of an executive director. In April 1979, the commission agreed to Bonk's request and changed his title to Executive Director. He continued in that position until the Delaware Heritage Commission closed its office in February 1981. Although Bonk was no longer the executive director, he continued to serve the commission in a limited capacity. He completed the DHC's grant-in-aid application for FY84 and administered the Constitutional Scholarship Program

as the project director from the program's inception in 1982 until May 1983, when he relinquished his program responsibilities.

When Bonk resigned, Dr. Claudia L. Bushman, working as "a consultant to the Chair," took over the project director position. The commission also asked her to "oversee assigned administrative tasks, developmental activities and projects of the commission." What she faced was the job of organizing the DHC's celebration of the Bicentennial of United States Constitution in 1987, a commemoration that would celebrate Delaware's unique status as the first state. Although she was not a faculty member, Bushman had taught history courses at the University of Delaware and she had played a key role in organizing the Newark Historical Society. The strong links between the Delaware Heritage Commission and the University of Delaware again benefited the Heritage Commission's operation as they found in their new consultant someone willing and able to tackle the job of getting the DHC office up and running again.

Realizing that they needed to fill the executive director's position, the commissioners undertook another search for candidates and Bushman, along with fourteen other applicants, submitted her credentials. The Search Committee interviewed her, along with two other finalists and, on the recommendation of the Committee, the commission engaged Bushman as a self-employed consultant, not a Commission employee.

Bushman brought to the assignment wide ranging interests and a bold commitment to celebrations and projects that engaged the public imagination. For example, she provided enthusiastic support for the journey to Annapolis of Commission representatives in September 1986. Traveling by horse-drawn carriage, the commissioners portrayed Delaware's three representatives who had attended the September 1786 meeting at which the thirteen original states concluded that it was necessary to revise the Articles of Confederation, giving rise to the new United States Constitution.<sup>14</sup> Bushman encouraged the June 1987 Great Ladybug Launch that commemorated the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution by liberating "in grand ceremonial style" one million ladybugs. The first launch, on 4 June, occurred on the

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<sup>14</sup> Please see Chapter Three for details on the 1986 journey to Annapolis.

grounds of Legislative Hall and the second, the next day, involved students at sixty schools throughout the state. For the 4 July 1987 ceremony celebrating Delaware's commemorative postage stamp, she revived the tradition of multiple toasts at the luncheon that accompanied the celebration. At her behest, guests offered thirteen toasts that day, as they did the following March at the luncheon honoring the issuance of the American-Swedish-Finnish postage stamp.

Assisted by a staff of volunteers who provided part-time support, Bushman's energy took her in several directions. She established the foundation for the Delaware Constitutional Scholarship Program. Although David Bonk had recruited the initial applicants, Bushman took on the job of annually persuading suitable individuals around the state to serve as judges and then handling all the administrative details to insure that the students received the financial support they were promised. Her interest in publications led to the first issue of *Fully, Freely and Entirely*, a quarterly newsletter begun in 1985 and intended to cease in 1988, covering just the years of the Constitutional Bicentennial.<sup>15</sup>

She was the moving force behind the establishment in September 1988 of the Delaware Heritage Press, which made the Heritage Commission a publisher. The first book produced by the Press was Bushman's own history of the Wilmington Institute Library, *So Laudable An Undertaking, The Wilmington Library, 1788-1988*, issued in 1989. She also played a leading role in the production of the two volumes devoted to the early records of Delaware's House of Representatives. Begun in 1983, the project took five years to complete. *The Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State, 1770-1781* was released in July 1986 and the second volume, covering the years between 1771 and 1792, followed in 1988.

In August 1989, Bushman resigned when her husband's work required them to relocate to New York City. Muriel Borish, wife of Commission treasurer, Norman Borish, assumed the job of acting executive director while another candidate search could be

made. The commission considered whether the position should be part-time, since there were fewer activities with the Constitutional Bicentennial celebrations completed, or full time, since activities to celebrate the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' journey to the new world still lay ahead. In addition, the DHC was well aware that the commission was due to end on 31 December 1990, an expiration date they hoped to extend or eliminate, but which, in February 1990 when the search began clearly had a bearing on the hiring process.

The threat posed by the December 1990 deadline did not deter the thirty-eight applicants who submitted credentials and, from the group, the commission hired Dr. Deborah P. Haskell in April 1990. She had previously worked with Claudia Bushman, handling the scholarship program for the Heritage Commission on a part-time basis. In September 1989, she had also worked with the students and staff at the Macdonough Elementary School in St. Georges on a celebration to honor Delaware's own naval hero, Captain Thomas Macdonough.

At the behest of the commissioners, Haskell made it a priority to build connections between the DHC and organizations with similar interests throughout the state. She became the "public face" that many people saw representing the Heritage Commission as she visited historical societies, museums, community organizations, and other interest groups. During her tenure, she assisted with a tall ships celebration in New Castle, organized volunteers for the Experimental Aircraft Association fly-ins at the Wilmington Airport, visited dozens of historical sites, and served on the boards of several complementary organizations.

In 1990, Haskell attended an oral history seminar that fueled another project that became one of the Heritage Commission's core activities. Within two years, she was instrumental in forming the Delaware Oral History Network and in 1995 helped host a regional oral history conference in Wilmington. The DHC's pursuit of aspects of oral history led the commission to undertake a series of oral history interviews with men who served Delaware as governor during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and then to publish a memoir recounting each governor's term in office. The "governors series" of books and a continuing output of other volumes on Delaware history have been the product of the Delaware Heritage Press. At the recommendation

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<sup>15</sup> The name *Fully, Freely and Entirely* derives from "Fully, freely and entirely approve of, assent to, ratify and confirm," the language that Delaware's delegates used to ratify the United States Constitution in 1787

of Chairman James Soles, Haskell also oversaw the rebirth in 1993 of *Fully, Freely and Entirely* as the DHC newsletter, though the resumed publication was only twice a year rather than quarterly.

Haskell's thirteen years as executive director included a number of commemorative events as well, including the centennial of the Delaware Constitution in 1997, a World War I encampment to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 11 November 1918 Armistice, and a two-day commemoration of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge in 2002. She also provided leadership in the staging of "Finding the Americas: 1792 to 1992" that marked the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' journey to the new world and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Conference celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage. Occasionally, a project that began as a DHC-sponsored event attracted such local enthusiasm that it became a community event instead, with additional organizations offering their funding and energy to generate a broad-based celebration. In these endeavors, Haskell worked to bring together numerous collaborators who accomplished what none of them could have done alone.

All of the executive directors who served the Heritage Commission had been employed as private consultants so that they received pay for their work, but had neither the benefits nor the protections of being a state employee. As early as 1984, the commission had requested funding from the General Assembly for a full time executive director, at the time anticipating the staffing needs that would accompany the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the United State Constitution. In 1994, the DHC, through Chairman Row, inaugurated discussions with the Secretary of State and the director of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to have the position brought under the state employment umbrella. Finally, in August 1998 the General Assembly approved legislation that made the Executive Director's position part of the state employment system. Thus when Executive Director Deborah Haskell, the Delaware Heritage Commission's longest serving director, retired in July 2003, she was the first to enjoy the retirement benefits of a state employee because the changed legal status of the executive director position.

## **Chapter Three**

### **EVENTS, PROGRAMS, AND PARTNERS**

Each of the celebrations that fell under the influence of the Delaware Heritage Commission was an observance that involved many collaborators planning events, presenting programs, and sponsoring activities to mark an important anniversary in the nation's or the state's history. Though established to mark the bicentennial of the American Revolution, the commission continued to work on subsequent national celebrations and, true to its intended purpose, to provide Delawareans with a catalogue of other events to celebrate Delaware's heritage and history.

#### **Bicentennial of the American Revolution**

##### **DARBC Lays the Groundwork**

The first of the commission's two major celebrations was the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. In October 1970, soon after the establishment of the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, the members convened a public meeting to gather input from communities and organizations throughout the state, asking leaders to suggest what they wanted to see included in plans to mark the country's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Subsequently, a "Sifting Committee" reviewed the suggestions and determined which of five categories applied to each idea: ideas for state action; "festival" ideas; ideas suitable for organizations, schools, and colleges; ideas for communities and endorsed by the Committee; and ideas for sponsoring organizations, but without endorsement.

The Delaware Commission was bombarded by solicitations from businesses eager to participate in the state's plans for the bicentennial celebrations. A firm of industrial designers offered to discuss the DARBC's "preliminary plans and how our

organization may be able to help develop these plans." A public relations company wanted to "furnish you with creative merchandising and communication services" and British and Hessian Armies, Ltd., a company providing military re-enactors, offered to "present to the public, a living example of what the British Crown Forces were actually like, through the media of pageants, demonstrations, and battle re-enactments, etc."

But such outside help took second place to what Delawareans themselves wanted for their state's celebration. From the very beginning, the commission made it clear that it considered community participation essential to the process, a key element in planning the events and commemorations that lay ahead. In September 1973, knowing that the commission had funds available for communities to use in their celebrations and eager to distribute the money, the commissioners established a Community Participation Committee to encourage local governments to set up Bicentennial Committees and to begin making plans, thus being eligible "to receive \$1,000 . . . to support local Bicentennial activities."

By June 1974, half of Delaware's communities had established bicentennial committees.<sup>16</sup> In September, the DARBC invited towns throughout the state to send three delegates each to a meeting at which the commission intended to provide information and assistance to community representatives and to solicit input on what might be included in the celebrations to come two years hence. The Governor's Bicentennial Conference attracted 151 attendees, who participated in discussions and attended workshops that dealt with the three themes that the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration had established—"Heritage '76," "Horizons '76," and "Festival USA." At the conference, community representatives learned more about the \$200,000 that was available in matching grants to communities for bicentennial projects. To qualify, a project had to come within one or more of the three themes and had to have some sort of residual benefit, something tangible left after the project was completed.

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<sup>16</sup> In addition to the "Bicentennial Community" designation, each community, county, or organization so named received a plaque and a Bicentennial flag from the governor.

The early work of DARBC committees and commissioners with local representatives set the overriding theme that prevailed in Delaware's celebration of the American Revolution, the theme of grassroots involvement in recognizing and commemorating America's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Local ideas became part of the plans that the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission made for the entire state. Matching funds offered by the DARBC enabled local groups to pursue projects that were both celebratory and of lasting value to the communities that undertook them.

### **DARBC Activities**

Even before the big day of 4 July 1976, the DARBC was involved in several activities that set the stage for the day everyone thought of as "America's Birthday." The celebrations can be said to have begun with the observance of Constitution Day on 20 September 1972 when the DARBC invited Dr. John A. Munroe to be the featured speaker at an event that introduced the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission to the public at large. As part of the festivities, the commission presented Governor Russell W. Peterson with a plaque displaying the official Delaware Bicentennial Medallion and then in turn the commission received a check from the national bicentennial commission to help pay for the state's activities. The following year on 15 June 1973, the DARBC hosted a meeting of the Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States [BCTOS] in Wilmington. The entire group along with Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt traveled to New Castle, where, in front of the Old Court House, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission celebrated for the first time "Separation Day," marking the anniversary of the date on which Delaware declared its separation from England in 1776. It was the occasion, also, on which New Castle was designated a Bicentennial Community.

In April 1975, Delaware Park near Wilmington was the first stop on the journey of the American Freedom Train. In the early 1970s, New Yorker Ross Rowland, Jr., had the idea of celebrating the American Revolution Bicentennial with a traveling exhibit of artifacts that told the story of America's first two hundred

years. In a train made up of twenty-five specially adapted railway cars, he offered Americans a glimpse of, among other things, the Bill of Rights, Judy Garland's dress from *The Wizard of Oz*, Abraham Lincoln's stovepipe hat, a moon rock, and an antique cash register. Governor Tribbitt attended the opening day ceremonies and, before the four-day visit ended, 70,000 people toured the exhibits.<sup>17</sup> The DARBC participated in the Freedom Train visit by providing accommodations and local transportation for the train staff, assisting with advanced ticket sales, and allocating \$1,000 for purchasing admission tickets for local needy children to tour the exhibits. The Chichester Foundation matched the commission's contribution with another \$2,000 for tickets. The DARBC, as Delaware's bicentennial commission, received 25¢ from each paid admission. In the end, the DARBC receipts from the Freedom Train amounted to \$5,200, which covered expenses and allowed a small profit to the commission and the Freedom Train making Delaware its first stop began the process of building enthusiasm and excitement about the celebration to come.

A month later, on 7 May 1975, the city of Washington D.C. honored the First State by proclaiming the day Delaware Day. A delegation of 180 Delawareans made the journey to Washington. After a procession from Union Station and ceremonies on the steps of the Capitol, the visitors were treated to lunch and entertained by local school children who included two original Delaware-themed works, a ballet and a choral reading, in their program. The day ended at the Kennedy Center with a concert of music written by Delaware composers and performed by Delaware musicians.

Although local bicentennial events had already begun in communities around the state, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission held the official kick-off for the bicentennial on 20 September 1975. The gala opening in Dover included performances by "Up With People," a musical group made up of young people from different countries, and by the United States Marine Corps Band. The Dover Light Infantry Military Drill led by the Independence Fife and Drum Corps performed and United

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<sup>17</sup> Before its last day in operation on 31 December 1976, the train had traveled 26,000 miles, visited all 48 contiguous states, and made 138 stops around the country.



States Secretary of the Treasury William Simon addressed the gathering. Because of disappointing press coverage of the opening, the commissioners concluded that their efforts needed to have better publicity.<sup>18</sup>

Between the Bicentennial's launch in September 1975 and 4 July 1976, a vast range of activities marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution. The Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission had established themes for programs to mark the months leading up to the big day.<sup>19</sup> In October, for example, the "Ethnic Salute" theme was developed around the state's musical heritage from different ethnic groups that made up Delaware's population. The following month, "Youth and Education" was celebrated using "Pass It On" as the theme. In February 1976, for "Heritage Month," the DARBC sponsored three George Washington balls, one in each county. The DARBC sponsored and Governor Tribbitt attended a "Salute to Delaware's Volunteers and Service Organizations" event in Dover on 20 March 1976 during Organizations Month. During "Salute to Sports Month" in May 1976, organizers, assisted by Bicentennial Commission support, opened the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame, a hoped-for "lasting residual" of the bicentennial. When the usually available Governor Tribbitt could not attend the opening, Commission member Samuel L. Shipley represented the governor.

From April until October 1976, the DARBC sponsored a Delaware exhibit as part of a larger exhibition in Philadelphia. Displays telling the story of Delaware filled the state's booth, which also offered tourist information to encourage visitors to see Delaware in person. A gift shop sold postcards, pins, county maps, books, and other Delaware souvenirs. New Castle County supported the effort when it hired recreational aides to staff the exhibit.

On 20 November 1975, Governor and Mrs. Tribbitt and five hundred other theater goers attended the premier of "Thunder

and Rain," a film about Caesar Rodney's 1776 ride from his home near Dover to Philadelphia.<sup>20</sup> Screened at Old St. Paul's Church in Odessa, the showing was part of an evening saturated with colonial flavor. Following the film, the audience walked through the unseasonably mild evening, lighting their way with lanterns, to the old tavern for refreshments and then to the Corbit-Sharp mansion for a candlelight tour. The DARBC was a co-sponsor of the film project, joining with the Delaware Arts Council, the Department of Public Instruction, the Appoquinimink School District, and the Hagley Museum in funding the production.

June 1976 was a busy time for Delawareans and the DARBC. On 15 June, costumed legislators, including Governor Tribbitt, braved sweltering heat and scorching sun to take part in Separation Day activities in New Castle. Using a script that local journalist Bill Frank had written, the participants re-enacted the events of 15 June 1776, when Delaware declared its separation from England.

Three days later, the "Philadelphia '76 Committee" declared 18 June to be "Salute to Delaware Day" and another round of festivities ensued. A contingent of just over 100 Delawareans went to Philadelphia for the ceremonies, tours, luncheon, and entertainment that filled the day. After a welcome from the city, Governor Tribbitt offered remarks in response and then unveiled the Delaware Bicentennial plaque. The University of Delaware Chorus, the New Ark Fife and Drum Corps, the Sussex Central Junior High School Band, and the First Delaware Regiment Color Guard provided music and pageantry to conclude the day's activities.

At the end of the month, Conestoga wagons that were part of the Bicentennial Wagon Train were converging on Valley Forge for a final rendezvous on 4 July 1976. Wagons from all the states made up the wagon train, the first having left Blaine, Washington, in June 1975. On 27 June, eight wagons and sixty-two horses from the wagon train arrived in Delaware and, joined by Delaware's sole wagon [loaned to the state by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania], camped at Delaware Park and then for two nights at

<sup>18</sup> Part of the problem with publicity was undoubtedly due to the untimely death in August 1975 of Executive Director John Mickey.

<sup>19</sup> October—Ethnic Salute; November—Youth and Education; December—Religious Heritage; January—Commerce, Industry, and Professions; February—Heritage; March—Organizations; April—Festival of the Arts; May—Salute to Sports; June—See Delaware.

<sup>20</sup> The title, "Thunder and Rain," came from Rodney's account of the journey, during which he rode through thunder and rain to get to Philadelphia to vote for the Declaration of Independence.

Carousel Farms, before heading to Valley Forge. By 4 July 1976, there were several hundred wagons gathered for the celebration and several thousand people came to visit the Valley Forge encampment.

On 1 and 2 July 1976, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission sponsored its biggest and most ambitious event, the re-enactment of Caesar Rodney's famous July 1776 ride from his home near Dover to Philadelphia to cast a Delaware vote in favor of independence.<sup>21</sup> The initial hurdle that the commission faced was finding an appropriate rider. The first man identified as a possible portrayer of Delaware's patriot was recommended as a fine horseman but was later eliminated when the governor had his background checked and the resulting report revealed a "lawless past."

A second candidate, State Police Lieutenant Gerald Pepper, had written to the DARBC in August 1974 to ask to be considered for the role of Caesar Rodney. When the governor appointed Pepper to play the part, the DARBC supplied him with a copy of the Caesar Rodney seal and asked that he paint it on his horse trailer along with the words "Caesar Rodney Reenactment Ride, July 1-2, 1976." Sadly, less than three months before the re-enactment, Pepper was hospitalized with a heart attack and State Police Captain William Wallace David stepped in to make the ride. In making the appointment, Governor Tribbitt praised Captain David, noting "Your strong background as an equestrian, as well as your reputation and background as a man of integrity make you very qualified to represent Delaware's Revolutionary hero and the State of Delaware in this capacity as Caesar Rodney."

Because "Caesar Rodney" was to be accompanied by a series of different groups of riders along the route,<sup>22</sup> the DARBC prepared rules intended to keep the horses and riders safe, to make them identifiable as part of the official entourage, and, when they

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<sup>21</sup> The vote for independence occurred on 2 July, after which the assembled state representatives discussed every paragraph of Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence. When the discussion finally concluded on 4 July, the fathering then adopted the document in its final form.

<sup>22</sup> Among the groups participating in the escort were the Delaware Quarterhorse Association, Delaware Appaloosa Association, Middletown Pony Club, Delaware Pony Club, Carousel Riding Club, D&B Riding Club, and Boots and Spurs 4-H Club.

reached Philadelphia, to present an appropriately historic appearance. All riders, for example, were encouraged to wear "proper horse show attire." If that was not possible, they were to wear clean blue jeans and white shirts and "all riders at all times" were to wear identifying sashes, ribbons of blue with gold lettering that read "Caesar Rodney's Ride, July 1-2, 1976." When the riders reached their destination in Philadelphia, only those in costume could participate in the parade. "All persons participating in the procession as it passes down Chestnut Street," they were advised, "must be in colonial costume."

Blessed with sunny skies and seen off by six hundred well-wishers, the riders began their journey at the John Dickinson mansion south of Dover on Thursday, 1 July, at 5:00 a.m. and ended the day at Rodney Square in Wilmington. A crowd of 5,000 people were there to greet the rider and the New Ark Fife and Drum Corps, the Sussex Central Junior High School Band, and the First State Chorus provided music before the gathered dignitaries exchanged greetings and welcomed "Caesar Rodney."

On 1 July, the equestrians made several stops en route and, at three points, loading the horses into trailers to get past particularly risky sections of the route, such as crossing the St. Georges Bridge. The path into Pennsylvania on 2 July took "Caesar Rodney" and his escort to Claymont along Philadelphia Pike and then the horses were shuttled by trailers to stops along the route to Philadelphia—Marcus Hook, Chester, Ridley Township, Prospect Park, and Darby. Along the way, the riders saw posters proclaiming "Delaware's Caesar Rodney Rides Again." When they eventually arrived at Independence Hall via a parade route on Chestnut Street, they found a crowd of 350 people, mostly Delawareans, waiting to greet them.<sup>23</sup>

The event also involved the presentation of commemorative memorabilia. The DARBC printed copies of the booklet "Caesar Rodney, Patriot—Delaware's Hero for All Seasons

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<sup>23</sup> Among the people in the audience was a woman who approached one of the Heritage Commission members and told him that she had been born in England but had recently become an American citizen. In the history class she had taken to prepare for the citizenship exam, she had written a paper about Caesar Rodney. "He's my hero," she declared. The commissioner promptly took her over to be introduced to "Caesar Rodney."

and All Times” and presented them to the Bicentennial Committees in each of the Bicentennial Communities through which the ride passed in Chester County, Pennsylvania. When the entourage reached Philadelphia, the commission presented a Caesar Rodney plate to Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp and a book about Caesar Rodney to Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1976 was a busy day throughout the state. Families and communities gathered for festive picnics, games, and celebration. Churches scheduled special services to honor the day. New Castle County sponsored “Operation Firecracker” at the Greater Wilmington Airport, a day of activities that included helicopter rides and concerts by the New Castle Bicentennial Youth Band. Millsboro had a community worship service followed by a picnic and a balloon release. Smyrna held an antique car parade, musicians in Bethany Beach performed the “I Love America” cantata at the town’s new band stand, and Bridgeville hosted a community festival with food, flea market, music, games, and, at dusk, fireworks. All over the state at 2 p.m., bells were rung for two minutes, joining with bells all over the country to ring 200 times in honor of America’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. The DARBC did not sponsor any spectacular celebrations on 4 July 1976 having just staged the Caesar Rodney ride re-enactment, but the commission’s financial support made possible many of the local level events that communities staged to provide their residents with a memorable birthday party for America.

In addition to celebratory events, the commission sponsored its own bicentennial projects as well. As part of the observance, the DARBC underwrote the expenses associated with having Dr. Harold B. Hancock publish the minutes of the Delaware House of Representatives from 1773 through 1783.<sup>24</sup> During 1975, the commission, in collaboration with the University of Delaware, paid for half of Dr. John A. Munroe’s salary so that he could be designated as Bicentennial Professor of History, responsible for writing a comprehensive state history and consulting with

bicentennial groups around the state. All the monthly theme programs between September 1975 and September 1976 had DARBC financial support. The commission funded the publication of an “Official Bicentennial Calendar” that provided an extensive catalogue of celebratory activities and events throughout the state.

### Community Activities

In addition to the activities and events that the DARBC sponsored and supervised, there were community efforts throughout the state that also marked the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in Washington established a Bicentennial Communities program to designate those communities around the country that had set up their own Bicentennial Commissions and made plans for programs and events to mark the anniversary. By 1973, the Delaware bicentennial commission had established a committee to encourage communities to set up Bicentennial Committees and to begin making plans, thus becoming eligible to receive \$1,000 each from the DARBC to support local activities. In Delaware, as elsewhere, not only villages, towns, and cities achieved the designation, but counties, universities, and other institutions also were designated as “Bicentennial Communities.” New Castle was named a Bicentennial Community during the 1973 Separation Day event put on as part of the BCTOS meeting. A year later, Port Penn was the first unincorporated town in the country to be named a Bicentennial Community. Wilmington had the honor of getting the number “1776” when it was designated the 1776<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial Community on 20 November 1974.

The state Bicentennial Committee designated a variety of activities or projects as “official events.” In order to be designated as a bicentennial event or project, the undertaking had to be part of a program plan established by a community Bicentennial Committee and had to fall within one of the program areas, “Heritage ’76,” “Horizons ’76,” or “Festival USA.” A DARBC grant, for example, helped fund a muzzle-loading shoot that the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control organized. Commission funding to the Urban Coalition of Metropolitan Wilmington assisted the group’s musical production, *Mo’ Tea, Miss Ann?*

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<sup>24</sup> These minutes were eventually published in two volumes, one in 1986 and the second in 1988. Claudia L. Bushman and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey joined Hancock in editing the minutes, extending the time period to include the years from 1770 through 1792. See Chapter Five on publications for further details.

There were other events or programs that carried the “official” label although the DARBC did not provide funding. The commission approved an “Old Swedes Historic Enclave” proposal but committed no funds to the project. Similarly, the commissioners provided no underwriting support when they gave the Wilmington Opera Society permission to identify their production of *The Last of the Mohicans* as a bicentennial event.

By the end of the Bicentennial celebrations, matching grant moneys given through the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission had paid for a vast range of activities and community improvements across the state. In addition, DARBC funds helped underwrite beautification programs in fourteen communities around the state and assisted with the publication of seven local histories.<sup>25</sup>

### **Between the Bicentennials**

Two conferences marked the transition from the celebration of American independence in 1976 to the commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Constitution that began in 1987. In April 1977, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission convened a meeting to consider whether the sorts of work that the DARBC had undertaken should continue into the future. Entitled “The Bicentennial: A Look Toward the Future,” the conference attracted 116 participants who concluded the day’s discussions with the determination that it was important to continue a “State presence in the commemoration of historic events and in planning and carrying out appropriate activities in the spirit of the [Bicentennial’s] ‘Horizons’ theme.”

The second conference convened in late October 1978, when the Delaware commission hosted the second of what was

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<sup>25</sup> Beautification programs were undertaken in Bellefonte, Bethany Beach, Christiana, Claymont, Delmar, Dover, Hockessin, Lewes, Milford, Millsboro, Newark, Newport, Selbyville, and Wilmington. Histories were produced for Centerville, Christiana, Georgetown, Kent County, Millsboro, Seaford, and Sussex County. In addition, ARBA money went to Milford for publication of a town history. See Appendix 4.1 that lists projects that received matching grant funding from the DARBC.

planned as a series of thirteen conferences to recognize “Great American Achievements.” Each of the thirteen original states was to organize a conference, one in each year of the “Bicentennial Era” between 1977 and 1989. The schedule planned by the Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States included, in addition to Delaware’s “A New Republic Among Nations,” such themes as “Education for a Free People,” “United We Stand,” and “Freedom and Opportunity for All.”<sup>26</sup>

The meeting’s goal was to find ways of incorporating more facts “relating to the U.S. Constitution into appropriate curricula at all levels of education.” Among the visitors who traveled to Wilmington to take part, Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, Harrison Salisbury of the *New York Times*, General William C. Westmoreland, Neil Armstrong, and Pearl Bailey as well as eighty representatives from eight of the other twelve original states added breadth and depth to the proceedings. As part of the meeting, a panel of historians convened to discuss the growth of American diplomacy since colonial times. The three-day conference, characterized as “an unqualified success,” earned praise and thanks from the BCTOS participants.

### **Bicentennial of the United States Constitution**

By 1983, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission had become the Delaware Heritage Commission. As early as March 1983, the commission established the Constitution Celebration Committee. The committee recommended that the American Revolution Bicentennial provide a model for generating ideas and making plans, suggesting that the commission seek input from a wide range of sources throughout the state and that the commissioners use a “town meeting” format to gather suggestions. Within two months, Claudia L. Bushman, engaged as “consultant to the [Heritage Commission] Chair,” began organizing statewide town meetings to hear ideas offered at the local level. In October, a meeting convened in Dover at Legislative Hall to discuss the coming bicentennial. In his invitation to interested

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<sup>26</sup> For a complete list of topics covered by the Great American Achievements program, see Appendix 3.1.

parties, Governor Pierre S. duPont noted his desire to have a celebration that included drama, pageantry, and scholarship. Towns, cultural groups, and civic organizations sent representatives and their collected suggestions about the pending festivities resulted in "a thick notebook of ideas." The commission also hosted a luncheon for legislative leaders in order to remind them of the DHC's mandate and to invite their support for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution.

The DHC recognized that, if it was going to do its share, it needed to form internal committees to oversee aspects of the Heritage Commission's work and in June 1984 established five committees: Theme, Special Events, Public Outreach, Publications, and Public Information. Public Outreach eventually split into three committees, Public Outreach, Education, and Grants; Commemorative Items was also added as another committee. The Theme Committee provided "We the People . . . Freedom's First" as the celebration's theme, the Public Information Committee handled a competition to design a new logo for the DHC, and the Education Committee turned its attention to the possibility of creating educational kits for schools, to provide for the state's teachers materials relating to the Constitution. Before the year ended, the Delaware Heritage Commission and the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs co-sponsored a day long meeting devoted to "Planning for Delaware First: The Constitutional Bicentennial." On 8 December 1984, the two agencies offered a symposium that began with an address by Harold B. Hancock followed by a panel discussion during which the panelists reflected on the bicentennial celebrations of 1976. The afternoon's workshops allowed the symposium participants to explore the resources available to them in planning and executing their own local celebrations.

The commission had thus begun to lay the groundwork for the 1987 celebration when, in January 1985, Governor Michael N. Castle announced his plans to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution. He imagined some funds going for projects that would help attract new business to the state, another portion of funding allocated for capital improvements, and still another share dedicated to the celebration itself. "I propose," he said in his State of the State message "that we invite America to join us, that in each of our three counties we open the doors to the nation in 1987 and

1988." Included in Castle's plans were "commemorations of lasting value" that would be undertaken by individual communities, projects underwritten by matching grants with priority going to projects that "protect and enhance a community's historical and cultural heritage and have significant and lasting benefit." He planned to set aside \$30 million for major improvements, of which \$3 million was earmarked for projects directly related to 1787 and Delaware's ratification of the Constitution.<sup>27</sup>

The Heritage Commission members requested control of the \$3 million available for community projects over the three years designated for the celebration and hoped to have the same leading role that they had had during the celebration of the American Revolution Bicentennial. With the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, however, Secretary of State Michael Harkins chaired the state's committee established in July 1985 to plan and supervise the celebrations. The Delaware Heritage Commission chair served as one of eleven representatives to the committee that included seven legislators, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Development, and the Secretary of Administrative Services.

The DHC had limited funding to pursue its own projects and to fund community projects through its matching grant program, though during the course of the bicentennial there were occasions when the commissioners had to appeal for additional support. In May 1986, for example, the commission drafted a "position paper" to go to the governor and legislature stressing that the DHC could not propose ideas and not have the money needed to make them a reality. "Many of our projects will be permanent and valuable," they wrote, but unless funds were forthcoming "in a year and a half people will wonder why more wasn't done." They concluded with the reminder that "this will happen only once in a lifetime."

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<sup>27</sup> Please see Chapter Four for full discussion of the Bicentennial Community Improvement Fund Program that originated with the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

### Commission Activities

As had been true of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, the celebrations of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution began months before the actual big day, 7 December 1987, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the document. On Sunday, 16 February 1986, the Delaware Symphony Orchestra played at the Kennedy Center in Washington to mark the celebration of Delaware Day. In addition to the orchestra, the 200-member Tiger Marching Band from Alexis I. duPont High School played and the Delaware photograph exhibit, "Delaware Small Wonder," was on display in the lobby of the Concert Hall. More than 2,200 Delawareans traveled to Washington for the day, the mayor of Washington issued a proclamation declaring the day "Delaware Symphony Day" in the city, and the concert hall management commented that it was the first time they could recall that the entire audience was bused in to hear a concert.

Governor Castle proclaimed the second week of May [9-16 May 1986] "Liberty Week" during which Delawareans were invited to celebrate "liberty, freedom, opportunity and the great diversity of our heritage." The spring 1986 issue of *Fully, Freely & Entirely* listed "20 Ways to Celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States Constitution." The list began with the suggestion that citizens read the document and included ideas for restoration projects, town parties, re-enactments of historic events, and the planting of trees and gardens.

In September 1986, Delaware participated in the "Annapolis Convention" with Delaware Heritage Commission members Crawford J. Carroll, John B. Bassett, and Howard E. Row representing the state. The 1986 meeting commemorated a 1786 gathering at Annapolis over which Delawarean John Dickinson presided. It was the 1786 Annapolis meeting that recommended a convention of all the states to be held in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation, thus paving the way for the creation of the United States Constitution. Two hundred years later, the Delaware delegation, blessed with fair skies and ten outriders to accompany the carriage, set out from New Castle to make the journey to Annapolis

in a landau drawn by four horses.<sup>28</sup> The delegation left New Castle on 10 September and visited Dover on 11 September. The horses and carriage were then trucked to Annapolis where they made a suitable entrance into the city.

Former Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, Warren E. Burger, who was chairing the national Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution; Maryland governor, Harry Hughes; and United States Senator Strom Thurmond greeted the Delawareans upon their arrival in Annapolis. There followed a day long conference devoted to the bicentennial and a day of festivities that included an 18<sup>th</sup>-century fair and theatrical performances.

On 7 December 1986, the countdown to 7 December 1987 began with a wreath laying ceremony in Lakeview Cemetery in Dover at the grave of Senator James H. Hughes who, in 1898, had found Delaware's ratification document. Prompted by a November 1986 article by columnist Bill Frank in the *Wilmington News Journal*, the commission undertook a commemoration of Hughes' discovery and rescue of the original 1787 document. Hughes had served a term as Delaware Secretary of State from 1897 to 1901 and during his tenure found in the attic of the Old State House the ratification document among papers apparently destined for destruction. Recognizing the significance of the document, Hughes took it into custody and kept it until 1905 when the legislature established a state archive, at which point he turned it over to the first state archivist.

In May, June, and July 1987, the First State Chorus performed at a number of locations around the state. Made up of 150 singers from all three counties, the group gave its first performance in Dover on 3 May as part of Old Dover Days. The costumed choristers sang on behalf of their home state at "Delaware Day" celebrations in Philadelphia in June. At year's end, the singers participated in the nondenominational service on 6 December and

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<sup>28</sup> Thomas B. Molin, founder and president of the Delmarva Morgan Horse Club, organized the details of making such a journey using horses. During the festivities in 1987, Molin also organized the Delaware Morgan Horse Guard that represented Delaware in celebrations in Philadelphia.

again in the commemorative program the next day, helping mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the Constitution.

The Delaware Heritage Commission provided representatives to the Constitutional Convention meeting in Philadelphia held over the Memorial Day weekend in 1987. The festivities began with a procession in which five Delawareans on horseback led a group of fifty-seven riders representing the delegates who rode to Philadelphia in 1787 for the original convention. The weekend's activities included music, crafts, food, and fireworks but the serious side of the occasion was the series of discussions of both historic and contemporary topics in which three Heritage Commission members, the DHC executive director, and the high school winner of the commission's scholarship participated.

Early in June 1987, the Delaware Heritage Commission and the Delaware Congress of Parents and Teachers sponsored two "ladybug launches." The first, on 4 June, was in Dover at Legislative Hall where students from South Dover Elementary School, some wearing on their shoulders red and black ladybug wings made of paper, and Governor Castle released ladybugs from plastic bags. The following day sixty schools around the state released more ladybugs to commemorate the bicentennial.<sup>29</sup> When the two launches were completed, over one million ladybugs had taken to the Delaware skies.

During the first two weeks of June the state welcomed English visitors William Herbrand Sackville, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl De La Warr, and his wife, Countess De La Warr.<sup>30</sup> During their stay, Lord and Lady De La Warr opened the Magna Carta exhibit in Georgetown and then again in Dover. They visited historic sites and museums, attended an air show, and enjoyed a barbecue at Woodburn, the governor's mansion in Dover. Lord De La Warr spoke to the Delaware General Assembly about the important bond between England and America. Two educational institutions awarded His

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<sup>29</sup> According to the State of Delaware web site, the General Assembly named the ladybug as the "state bug" on 25 April 1974 after intense lobbying from Mrs. Mollie Brown-Rust and her second grade students at Lulu M. Ross Elementary School, Milford.

<sup>30</sup> Lord De La Warr was a descendant of Sir Thomas West, the first governor of Virginia and 12<sup>th</sup> Baron De La Warr for whom the river and contiguous land, including the state of Delaware, were named.

Lordship honorary titles, Delaware Technical and Community College in Georgetown conferring an Associate of Applied Science degree and the University of Delaware conferring the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

At the invitation of the "We the People 200 Committee," Delawareans returned to Philadelphia on 22 June 1987 for Delaware Day. Accompanied by the music of the First State Chorus and the Newark High School Yellow Jacket Band, 375 representatives made the three-hour journey up the Delaware River aboard the *Lady Christina* on that foggy morning. Two representatives of the Delaware Morgan Horse Guard dressed in colonial uniforms greeted the entourage at the dock at Penn's Landing. As the skies cleared the marching band led the entourage—the chorus in colonial-style dress, representatives from the General Assembly, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Delaware Heritage Commission, media representatives, and additional well wishers—in procession from the Landing to Independence Mall.

After the official welcome to Philadelphia and to Independence Mall, Governor Castle made a few brief remarks and presented to the "We the People 200 Committee" the Delaware flag. DHC chair Robert P. Barnett thanked the City of Philadelphia for designating the day Delaware Day and inviting the Delawareans to visit the city. He then announced that Delaware had adopted an official Bicentennial song, "We the People" from the bicentennial musical, *Four Little Pages* and asked the chorus to sing it. The day continued with a number of musical performances, until late afternoon when the delegation returned to their home state by bus.

The Heritage Commission's impact on 4<sup>th</sup> of July events was similar to what it had been on the previous "big" celebration in 1976, that of sponsor whose financial support allowed local communities to mount their own particular events and observances. The DHC undertook wreath laying ceremonies on the graves of George Read in New Castle and John Dagworthy in Dagsboro and at the memorial to Caesar Rodney in Dover.

Events both in Philadelphia and in Wilmington marked Constitution Day on 17 September 1987, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Constitution by the delegates at the Constitutional

Convention.<sup>31</sup> A Delaware delegation of 200 people that filled four buses represented the state at the “Grand Federal Procession” in Philadelphia. Nine Delawareans on horseback and dressed as town criers were at the head of the procession. The four-hour parade, which included thirty floats and 20,000 marchers, began under cloudy skies but the weather soon turned cold and rainy, a condition that persisted most of the morning and brought out a veritable explosion of red, white, and blue umbrellas.

At the same time, the Historical Society of Delaware provided an event called “Keep Delaware First,” at which 5,000 Delawareans—3,000 in Wilmington and 1,000 each in Dover and Georgetown—signed documents reaffirming their support of the Constitution. Wilmington Mayor Daniel R. Frawley portrayed George Washington, who had actually stopped in the city on 19 September 1787 en route home to Mt. Vernon. Delaware church bells joined with others around the nation by ringing at 4 p.m. to mark the Constitutional anniversary.

In recognition of the importance of the Constitution’s protections, the Delaware State Bar Association and the Delaware Heritage Commission collaborated on two projects during 1987. In March they and the Historical Society of Delaware sponsored a mock Constitutional Convention to which high school students from around the state were invited. Meeting for two days at the Historical Society library in Wilmington, the youngsters considered constitutional issues and debated the fine points of the Constitution’s protections. Later in the year, the bar association and the DHC co-sponsored the production of a play that focused on constitutional issues. The Delaware Theatre Company performed the play to high school audiences in all three counties during September and October 1987.<sup>32</sup> After each performance, an attorney led a discussion about

the play’s issues and their relationship to the Constitution and the rights it guarantees. The drama earned favorable comment from the editors of the *Wilmington News Journal* who praised the bar association for not taking the “easy route [of] a preachy, pageant-like costume drama” and for finding “a creative way to impart a number of complex concepts, a way that surely will enable students to come away from the play with a fuller understanding of some of their rights.”

The new Constitution had first been presented to the Delaware General Assembly on 24 October 1787 and to mark the bicentennial of that event, at noon on Friday, 23 October 1987, there were public readings in all three counties of the Constitution and its amendments. In each location, a high school band provided suitably patriotic music. In New Castle County, Wilmington attorney, Joseph Krauss, coordinated the reading in Wilmington’s Rodney Square and in Sussex County, Jean West lined up thirty volunteers, including judges, clergy, business owners, and academics, to read the document from the steps of the Old Court House in Georgetown. In Kent County, where DHC member Howard E. Row chaired the event, the reading took place in front of City Hall in Dover and began with a group of school children from a nearby elementary school standing in front of a stage and reciting the Preamble to the Constitution. When the recitation was completed, 150 members of the public who had queued for the chance to participate mounted the stage one by one, crossed to the podium, and read a small portion of the Constitution. When each person was done, he or she left the stage and the next in line came forward to read the next part of the Constitution until it had been completely read aloud.

As December 1987 arrived, excitement over the approach of the actual anniversary continued to build. On 1 December, the Historical Society of Delaware sponsored “Friends at Monticello,” an evening of conversation during which Thomas Jefferson, portrayed by Kansas actor, Clay Jenkinson, and James Madison, portrayed by University of Delaware professor, James R. Soles, talked about the Constitution. The next day delegates from all three counties traveled to Dover, re-enacting the journey of the “Deputies of the People of the Delaware State” in 1787 to consider and vote on the Constitution. The delegates, dressed in colonial costume, gathered in Legislative Hall on 3 December, were sworn in,

<sup>31</sup> The day before, 16 September 1987, school children throughout the state participated in “Celebration of Citizenship” activities that included flag raisings, balloon launches, students signing replicas of the ratification document, and, at 1:55 in the afternoon, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance along with the broadcast of President Ronald Reagan’s recitation of the pledge.

<sup>32</sup> There were also two performances for the public, one in Wilmington on 30 September 1987 and the second at Central Middle School in Dover on 6 October.



and, following a script that recreated the 1787 debate, re-enacted some of the drama that preceded Delaware's ratification. Attention turned to rural Kent County on 5 December when the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs dedicated the John Dickinson Plantation, an event marked by an 18<sup>th</sup>-century fair, juggling, chamber music, exhibits, a dramatic presentation, and craft demonstrations.

In the midst of the historical theatricals, the Delaware Heritage Commission sponsored three "First State Ratification Concerts" by the Delaware Symphony Orchestra during the first week of December. The musicians played in Wilmington at the Grand Opera House on 4 December, in Seaford at the high school on 5 December, and at Central Middle School in Dover on 6 December, a Sunday. That Sunday was also the day that four hundred people gathered in the auditorium of Caesar Rodney High School for a non-denominational service that included hymns, readings, and anthems. It was also the day when, at a number of cemeteries around the state, the Delaware State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution laid wreaths on the graves of nineteen of the Delawareans who ratified the Constitution in 1787. In addition, a wreath was also laid on the grave of U. S. Senator James H. Hughes who, in 1898, found Delaware's lost ratification document.

The earlier events were mere prologue to the big day of celebration, however. On Monday, 7 December 1987, Delaware gloried in being the first state to ratify the new Constitution, thus claiming the honor of being the First State. On that brilliant and cold morning, the largest parade in the state's history assembled and several thousand spectators turned out to watch it pass. The First State Parade, a company that included the Delaware Morgan Horse Guard, a complement of fife and drum units, and twenty-seven marching bands, set out from the governor's mansion. As the parade entourage assembled, twenty-five of the state's legislators, wearing colonial garb and powdered wigs, met in ceremonial session at Legislative Hall, after which they left the legislative chamber and entered horse-drawn carriages to join the parade. The day's program of speeches in front of Legislative Hall featured remarks by Governor Castle and by the Hon. Warren E. Burger, chair of the national Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. The guests on the reviewing stand included five former

Delaware governors. The day's program included music by the massed high school bands, the release of red, white, and blue balloons into the clear blue sky, and concluded with an Air Force flyby. A variety of entertainments—plays both lighthearted and dramatic and music both choral and instrumental—and tours of historic buildings occupied visitors during the afternoon. There were special displays, such as "Made in Delaware" at the Delaware Museum Complex and "Constitutional Documents of the First State" at the Visitors Center. The festivities on and around Capital Square ended with a laser light show as night fell.

The capstone of the day's event was the "Ratification Celebration" held at Dover Air Force Base on the evening of 7 December. Merrill Lynch & Company underwrote a large portion of the party's expense and any profit from guest ticket sales was earmarked for the First State Constitutional Scholarship Foundation.<sup>33</sup> More than 1,500 people attended the gala reception and bicentennial ball, dined, danced long into the evening, and raised \$109,975 for scholarships.

With the Delaware Humanities Forum, the DHC co-sponsored a series of Constitutional lectures in 1986 and 1987. Each group contributed \$3,000 to the project, which included presentations covering a range of topics from "Delaware Becomes the First State" to "John Dickinson and the Constitution" and "The Philosophy of the Founding Fathers."

As a postscript to the 7 December 1987 festivities, on 22 June 1988 members of the General Assembly celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Hampshire's 21 June 1788 ratification of the Constitution. New Hampshire was the ninth of the original thirteen states to ratify, thereby providing the two-thirds vote that was needed to establish the Constitution of the United States. The DHC marked the anniversary with a ceremony at Constitution Park in Dover, a gathering that provided the commission with the opportunity to unveil its plans for the Constitution Compass Rose, a monument to be set in Capitol Square opposite Legislative Hall.

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<sup>33</sup> For details on the First State Constitutional Scholarship Fund, see Chapter Four, "Grants and Scholarships."

### Commission Projects

The Heritage Commission determined early in the planning process to sponsor a "major art work" for the 1987 celebration. The criteria the commissioners agree to apply required that the artist be from Delaware, that the work of art be placed in Dover, that the theme of the piece be appropriate to the bicentennial, and that it be completed by December 1987. By May 1986, the DHC had agreed to work with the City of Dover to create "Constitution Park" as the site for the artwork, an official bicentennial project. Delays occurred because of time needed to gather sufficient public input and because of difficulties settling on a final design. When the design for the sculpture was finally approved in June 1987, there were only six months for the work to be completed, a challenge that proved insurmountable. On 7 December 1987, the commission and state officials gathered near the site and dedicated a plaque that indicated that the Golden Fleece Tavern, where Delaware's representatives had met to consider and then ratify the new United States Constitution two centuries before, had once occupied the property.

On 17 September 1988, Constitution Day, the commission, representatives from the City of Dover, local Scout troops, and members of the public gathered at the corner of State and North streets in Dover to dedicate the long-awaited sculpture in a park to be known as Constitution Park. The sculpture by Richard Rothrock is a large stainless steel cube set among granite boulders excavated from the Naamans Creek area in northern Delaware. The Constitution and its twenty-six amendments were etched into the surface of the cube and across its face was laid a twelve-and-a-half-foot bronze quill pen, drawing attention to the delegates' act of signing the ratification document in 1787. For the setting, landscape designer Thomas Ford had laid out a serpentine brick wall and planted American holly. Thirteen granite slabs capped the wall, each with the name of an original state and the date it ratified the Constitution. The garden area also displayed bronze plaques with the names of the other thirty-seven states and the dates they joined the Union. After the dedication, the party adjourned to the Old State House for a reception to celebrate the completion of the collaborative project.

A second piece of public art undertaken during the Bicentennial of the Constitution was the Constitution Compass Rose. Suggested by Walter Phillips and designed by Molly Sanger Carpenter, the flat bronze disk measuring twelve feet across was set in the earth of Capitol Square across from Legislative Hall. It showed the directions, distances, and compass bearings to the places where the Constitution was ratified by the other twelve original states. It included inscriptions associated with the Constitution and Delaware's role in the ratification process including the phrase "fully, freely and entirely" from Delaware's ratification document and "first to adopt . . . last to desert" from Delaware's step in the stairs leading to the top of the Washington Monument. In the center are the state seal of 1777 and a ring containing the signatures of the five Delaware signers of the Constitution. The dedication ceremony on 7 December 1988 included fifth graders from Wilmington's Warner School who presented a musical play entitled *Delaware, the First State* and Governor Castle who was the main speaker.

In addition to the substantial pieces of public art crafted for the bicentennial, the Heritage Commission's efforts yielded other creative products. The DHC Theme Committee established "We the People . . . Freedom's First" as the theme for 1987 and this prompted the commission to mount a competition for a new logo. Early in 1985, invitations went out to artists, schools, art departments, and other interested parties to submit logo designs. By April, four designs were ready for consideration and went to the DHC's Public Information Committee. The Committee considered the submissions, met with the new Heritage Commission chair Donald E. Cielewich, and, in August 1985, selected Jon R. McPheeters' design as the winner. A striking silhouette of a quill pen and inkwell provided the graphic element of the logo, which also included the words "Delaware" and "Freedom's First" below the drawing and, in script along side, "We the People," thus capturing the theme of the bicentennial. The logo eventually adorned not only letterhead and the DHC newsletter, but also license plates, road signs, pins, paperweights, and other commemorative items. Long after the Bicentennial celebrations ended, the logo continues in use to mark association with the Delaware Heritage Commission.

The commission, with the Delaware Humanities Forum, co-sponsored a poster project to produce a set of four posters to be

used as gifts to schools. Martha Carothers, professor of graphic design at the University of Delaware, designed the posters, which depicted four themes and included a 1934 painting by Frank Schoonover. The first poster, "A Small State," listed important dates in state and national history during the years 1786 through 1789 and included suitable illustrations and quotes. "The Signers," the second poster, presented brief biographies of John Dickinson, Richard Bassett, George Read, Jacob Broom, and Gunning Bedford, Jr., the five men who represented Delaware at the Constitutional Convention. The third poster, entitled "Fully, Freely and Entirely," provided an image of Delaware's ratification document and an illustration showing the signers at Dover's Golden Fleece Tavern. Schoonover's "Blessings of Liberty," the fourth poster, provided symbols of liberty, including the Constitution, the Statue of Liberty, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and the Spirit of St. Louis.<sup>34</sup>

In November 1986, the Bank of Delaware hosted a reception at which the posters were first presented to the public. Delaware's four posters complemented a set of twelve posters being produced nationally to show highlights of national events leading up to the creation of the Constitution. The larger collection of posters, Delaware's four and the twelve national posters, made up a traveling exhibit that was displayed in schools, office buildings, and public spaces around the state. A grant from the Bank of Delaware allowed the sponsors to purchase and distribute fifty sets of the sixteen-poster series to sites throughout the state.

In June 1986, the commission, after working with the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service, approved a design—based on the Delaware Heritage Commission logo—for the commemorative stamp that would celebrate Delaware's ratification of the Constitution. Plans called for the stamp to be released on 7 December 1987. In March 1987, as the anniversary of Delaware's ratification approached, the commission learned that the design chosen for the stamp was not the design the commission had chosen. A DHC resolution asserting its displeasure

and a resolution from the New Castle County Council urging the Postal Service to reverse its decision did not have the intended impact.

On 4 July 1987, the Postal Service issued the commemorative stamp honoring Delaware as the first state. Rather than the dramatic combination of words and graphics that the DHC had championed, the stamp issued depicted a version of the state seal from 1820 flanked by the figure of a farmer on one side and a Revolutionary militiaman on the other. The farmer figure held aloft a small ship, an emblem of Delaware's history of shipbuilding, and the drawing also included a wheat sheaf and a cornstalk, to represent the state's agricultural heritage.<sup>35</sup> At the stamp ceremony luncheon in Dover, the eighty-one guests raised their glasses in thirteen toasts that ranged from the United States of America and the Constitution to the President, the flag, and Delaware's five representatives at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. The entire first day issue sold out the day the stamp was released.

In the spring of 1985, the Heritage Commission published first edition of *Fully, Freely & Entirely* "for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the United States Constitution," the first state to have a Bicentennial newsletter.<sup>36</sup> During the following months, the leaders of various state organizations wrote articles for the newsletter, sharing their views on the bicentennial. In the fall 1985 edition, Dorothy Gardner Downs, Bicentennial Coordinator of the Delaware State Federation of Women's Clubs, wrote about her thoughts on the celebration, identifying cleanliness, beautification, brotherhood of all citizens, education, a poster, and a commemorative pass to noted public places as elements she wanted included. Stuart Young, chair of Delaware State Arts Council, wrote in the winter 1985 issue about

<sup>35</sup> The design was produced by Richard Sheaff from Massachusetts. It is perhaps not surprising that the Postal Service selected the Sheaff design. At least eight other stamps from the Bicentennial series in 1987 and 1988—New Jersey, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, and a stamp commemorating the signing of the Constitution—had similar "picture" designs rather than an abstract graphic design.

<sup>36</sup> The newsletter took its name from the language that Delaware's delegates used—"Fully, freely and entirely approve of, assent to, ratify and confirm"—when they ratified the Constitution in 1787.

<sup>34</sup> Two of the four Delaware posters, "A Small State" and "The Signers" were later honored with awards of merit from the Advertising Club of Delaware.

the Constitution and the arts, and the need to make the arts more visible and accessible. Other topics were more educationally directed, with authors from around the state telling readers about such topics as the restoration work going on at the John Dickinson Plantation, "Gunning Bedford, Jr. and His Home, Lombardy Hall," "The Legacy of Oliver Evans," and, in "Dancing Celebration," 18<sup>th</sup>-century dance.<sup>37</sup>

To insure that visitors to Delaware would be aware of the state's status as the First State, in October 1986 the Delaware Heritage Commission earmarked funds from the commission budget to install signs on all the significant entrance roads into the state. Motorists driving south from Pennsylvania on Interstate 95, for example, would be welcomed to Delaware and advised that Delaware had been "First to Ratify the U. S. Constitution December 7, 1787." Before the month was out, the Department of Transportation had offered to underwrite the signs and on 18 March 1987 Governor Castle, Secretary of Transportation Kermit H. Justice, and DHC Chair Robert P. Barnett gathered at the Delaware-Maryland border on Route 2 near Newark to dedicate the signs. Eventually, twenty signs marked the state line on roads leading into the state.

In keeping with the education theme that had been articulated by national bicentennial chair Warren E. Burger, the DHC determined to have a state history written that would be appropriate for students in the state's fourth grade classes, the year during which Delaware history is taught. The commission hired University of Delaware history professor, Carol E. Hofferker, to write the book and, in 1987, *Delaware, The First State* was ready for the state's fourth graders. The federal Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution contributed to the educational effort by providing \$20,822 for the production of Constitution-related materials relating for students in the fifth, ninth, and twelfth grades.

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<sup>37</sup> John Kern wrote about the John Dickinson Plantation; Harold J. Littleton about Gunning Bedford; Eugene S. Ferguson about Oliver Evans; John Gardner about dance.

### Community Activities and Projects

A wide range of organizations and institutions within the state found ways to commemorate the bicentennial. In February 1984, the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware, eager to participate in the observance of the anniversary, advised the DHC that they would open their building, the 1740 Presbyterian Church on West Street and South Park Drive in Wilmington, on the second Sunday of each month as part of the bicentennial.

In February 1986, the Delaware Heritage Commission began to distribute throughout the state forms that communities, institutions, and groups could use to apply for recognition of their bicentennial plans as "official bicentennial events." Noting that the DHC had been "charged to plan and coordinate the state's commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the United States Constitution, the event which made Delaware 'The First State,'" the commission encouraged "grass-roots efforts" and entertained the hope to involve "all Delawareans in the year-long celebration." Individuals and groups were urged "to plan and sponsor events, projects, and publications which are in keeping with the commission's aims." Undertakings had to be completed prior to 7 December 1987 and were expected to relate to the Constitution and/or Delaware as the First State, but those that earned official recognition would be listed in the DHC's official calendar and would be eligible to use the commission's logo.

Following a practice begun with the American Revolution Bicentennial, the DHC participated in the Bicentennial Community program, designating communities and institutions around the state according to nationally set criteria. In order to earn the designation, a community was required to establish a Bicentennial Committee and to make specific plans for a commemorative event and/or project. On 20 June 1986, the national Commission named Smyrna as Delaware's first Bicentennial Community, one of the first fifteen in the country.

In May 1986, Delawareans had a chance to see *Four Little Pages*, a one-act musical play sponsored by the National Park Service and the CIGNA Foundation. Written and produced by Franklin S. Roberts Associates, the play toured the thirteen original states and told the story of the events and debates leading up to the

signing of the Constitution. A year later as part of the festivities on 7 December 1987, a production of the play was staged in Dover and Wilmington, with Dover high school students performing in a version partially underwritten with Delaware Heritage Commission funds.

Autumn 1986 continued to be a busy time for commemoration activities. Thirty-two women's clubs from around the state honored the Bicentennial with a "Living Legacy" by planting new holly trees in their respective communities, a project funded by a DHC matching grant. Club members, political leaders, and school children attended the patriotic ceremonies that marked the planting events and trees were planted on the properties of libraries, schools, police stations, and post offices around the state. In November, three appropriately costumed members of the Delaware Heritage Commission portrayed Constitutional Convention delegates at Return Day in Georgetown.

On 7 December 1986, fire halls throughout the state held events to mark Delaware Day. The effort, coordinated by the Heritage Commission, the Delaware Department of State, and the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association, resulted in forty-four fire companies participating. At each fire hall, the DHC supplied balloons and banners and a large poster of the Preamble to the Constitution and Delaware's ratification document that visitors were invited to sign. In Christiana, the fire company hosted a colonial breakfast for 350 people, in Felton the firefighters welcomed the public to an open house and local talent show, and at the Camden-Wyoming fire hall, the fire company welcomed all comers to a free buffet after a bicentennial parade. Governor Castle dropped in on the Camden-Wyoming celebration, using a helicopter so he could visit it and seven other fire halls the length of the state. Several members of the DHC made a point of attending one or more fire hall events.

Spring and summer 1987 brought a new wave of commemorative events. On Sunday, 29 March, the Delaware Regional Ballet Company presented an appropriately themed bicentennial salute, "The Red, White and Blue," a program in which the Dover Symphony, the Kent County Theatre Guild, and the Community Singers also participated. Hagley Museum's annual fireworks show in June used "Fireworks Celebrate Liberty" as the

theme developed in the pyrotechnic displays. The Alliance of Hispanic Arts and Humanities staged a concert.

Many communities planned projects to commemorate the bicentennial that would also provide lasting improvements for their towns or for the citizens of the state. The Forestry Section of the Department of Agriculture, the U. S. Forest Service, the Delaware Federation of Women's Clubs, and the USDA Soil Conservation Service created a handicap-accessible nature trail at Blackbird State Forest. At Bridgeville, the Forestry Section of the Delaware Department of Agriculture, the Sussex County Soil Conservation Service, the Town of Bridgeville, the local Lions, Kiwanis, and 4-H clubs, Moose Lodge #1728, Woodbridge High School, and the U. S. Forest Service collaborated to create a community park. The City of Milford and the United Way of Dover created bicentennial gardens in their respective communities. The Arden Club renovated the Gild Hall, the town of Dewey Beach restored its life saving station, and the Greater Harrington Historical Society refurbished its 111-year-old church building for use as a museum.

There were celebration events in towns throughout the state. Leipsic sponsored "A Day in Old Fast Landing," with antique vehicles, a parade, country dances, and antiques and crafts exhibits. Townsend's outdoor festival featured a re-enactment of the ratification of the Constitution as well as food, entertainment, crafts, and games. Milford staged a sound and light show. Bethel celebrated Delaware's history of shipbuilding with a parade, tours of the ship museum and shipyard, and the first day of selling James Marvel's book, *The Sailing Ram*. When the Newark Symphony Society and the City of Newark sponsored a "Constitutional Ball," guests responded favorably to the invitation to come in colonial dress. On 7 December 1987, the Laurel Bicentennial Committee visited every fourth grade in the Laurel School District and presented to each student a small Delaware flag.

In October 1987, the Possum Point Players presented a theatrical production that re-enacted the events surrounding the Sussex County election riots of 1787. Written by S. Joseph Fantl and staged at Del Tech in Georgetown, the production included authentic costumes, Morgan horses, and a fife and drum corps. With

a cast of thirty-five actors and a dozen animals and staged in an outdoor theater, the performance was judged "a great success."

The celebrations planned to mark the bicentennial also prompted an exhibition entitled "Images of Liberty" mounted at three Delaware locations in the summer of 1986. The Heritage Commission and the Delaware Art Museum co-sponsored the display of pictures of the Statue of Liberty to mark the centenary of the statue's arrival in New York Harbor. The exhibit included pictures of the statue's creation in Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi's French studio and, continuing the theme of liberty, also included images of the statue's New York Harbor neighbor, Ellis Island, the gateway to liberty for so many American immigrants.

The celebration of the Bicentennial of the U. S. Constitution extended to commemorating the ratification of the first ten amendments. The Delaware Heritage Commission's observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights involved substantially less grassroots involvement and activity. Instead, the commission took the initiative in most of the commemorative efforts, arranging for proclamations, displays, and events to mark the bicentennial.

At the DHC's urging, Governor Castle declared 28 January through 3 February 1990 as "Bill of Rights Week in Delaware," marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the Bill of Rights on 28 January 1790. Delaware was the sixth state to ratify the proposed amendments to the Constitution that the state had ratified three years earlier. In December 1791, Virginia became the eleventh state to ratify the proposed Bill of Rights, making the amendments part of the Constitution.

During December 1990, a Bill of Rights display, sponsored by the Philip Morris Company, visited the state. The exhibit convoy, which included ten tractor-trailers, four vans, two buses, and a "secure transport vehicle," delivered to Hangar 792 at Dover Air Force Base a 15,000-square-foot "mini-museum." The entourage included twenty-six former Marines who were assigned to guard the document. The exhibition included video images, graphic displays, and Virginia's copy of the Bill of Rights, on loan for the tour. As its contribution, the DHC published a small pamphlet, "How Much Do You Know About the Bill of Rights?" Designed to involve visitors in the exhibit, the brochure listed the ten

amendments that made up the Bill of Rights and then posed questions that tested the reader's understanding of the protections afforded by the amendments.

During the early months of 1991, the Delaware Heritage Commission continued its commemoration of the Bill of Rights by sponsoring four town meetings at different locations around the state. Aimed at providing citizens with the opportunity to discuss aspects of the Bill of Rights, the commission arranged for gatherings in Dover, Georgetown, and New Castle and at each meeting four "debaters" took positions on a set topic and, with the participation of a moderator, considered such issues as "Is the death penalty desirable for America?" and "Media censorship is necessary for national security" and "Advances in communication and technology have resulted in unacceptable invasion of individual privacy." In October 1991, the DHC sponsored a "Bill of Rights Parade" in Wilmington, with a banner for each of the amendments to the Constitution. The participants marched up Market Street to a rally in Rodney Square.

A year after the Virginia copy of the Bill of Rights was displayed in Dover, the continued Bill of Rights celebration brought to the state Delaware's own copy of the ratification document that its representatives had signed to indicate their approval of the Bill of Rights on 1790. For a week in December 1991, the document, on loan from the National Archives, was on view in Dover. On 7 December 1991, to mark the beginning of the weeklong display, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs opened the exhibit with a program at Legislative Hall to which the Delaware Heritage Commission and McKinstry and First State Constitutional scholars were invited. Dr. William H. Williams of the University of Delaware spoke on Delaware in 1791, when the Bill of Rights was passed. During the week that followed, visitors could view in the State Hall of Records in Dover the document that showed Delaware's ratification of eleven of the proposed amendments, including the ten that make up the Bill of Rights. The exhibit concluded on 15 December 1991 with another ceremony, at which the Hon. Collins J. Seitz, Circuit Third Circuit Court of Appeals, spoke about the role of the Courts in the Bill of Rights. The afternoon's proceedings included two presentations, one recognizing

the Delaware Courts and a second recognizing former and present officers of the Delaware State Bar Association.

### **BCTOS and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Constitution**

In addition to statewide celebrations and activities, there were events in which representatives of all the thirteen original states were invited to participate. On 24 May 1987, the "We the People" ceremonies in Philadelphia brought together governors and representatives of those original states. The governors took part in a symposium that included a roundtable discussion of "Visions of the States." At the same time, five representatives from each of the states convened in the "State of the People Conference." Each delegation, made up of a bicentennial committee chair, an historian, a business representative, an educator, and a high school student, joined in a re-enactment of the 1787 debates over the proposed constitution. Delaware's delegates were Dr. Howard E. Row, Samuel L. Shipley, Richard R. Cooch, all members of the Heritage Commission, Dr. Claudia L. Bushman, DHC executive director, and McKinstry scholar, Kimberly Bowen.

The day's festivities began with the arrival of fifty-seven delegates on horseback representing each of the original states. Five men had made up Delaware's original delegation to the Constitutional Convention and on the morning of Sunday, 24 May 1987, five Delaware riders, part of the Delaware Morgan Horse Guard, arrived in Philadelphia carrying proclamations, instructions, and credentials to present at the Convention.<sup>38</sup> The day ended with a Grand Ball at which the governors were guests of honor. The event, which featured 18<sup>th</sup>-century food and music, opened officially the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitutional Convention.

During the Constitutional Bicentennial, the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States arranged for a copy of the Magna Carta to be featured in a traveling exhibit sponsored by American Express and entitled "Road to Liberty: Magna Carta to the Constitution." A forty-foot van decorated with

the American flag and a stylized eagle carried the exhibit among the thirteen states. In addition to seeing the 772-year-old document, on loan from the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral in England, visitors to the van could also view an original copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, a copy of the Mayflower Compact, copies of the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, coins, books, engravings, and, during its visit to Delaware, documents that related to the state's history. On its initial stops, the tour had attracted large crowds and visitors queued for hours to see the displays. Delaware was no different. Between 7 June and 12 June 1987, the exhibit visited Georgetown, Dover, and Wilmington where large crowds of people took advantage of the opportunity to see the display.

When the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution began, it was determined that the period from 1987 through 1991 would be considered the period of observance because it was not until 1791 that the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution. Between the celebration of the ratification of the Constitution and celebration of the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights, Delawareans commemorated the bicentennial of George Washington's inauguration. Under the leadership of the Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States, the observance of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary Washington's inauguration included a recreation of his ride from Mt. Vernon in Virginia to New York City, where the original inauguration occurred. The re-enactment included a stop in Delaware.

In collaboration with the Delaware Humanities Forum, the Historical Society of Delaware, and the City of Wilmington as well as with BCTOS, the DHC sponsored and participated in activities to welcome "Washington" [portrayed by Philadelphian William A. Sommerfield] and his entourage in April 1989. He arrived in Wilmington on 19 April, having had breakfast at Cooch's Bridge and paid a visit to the Hale-Byrnes House, where Washington and his officers met during the American Revolution's Brandywine campaign. As the presidential carriage proceeded to Wilmington, school children, many dressed in red, white, and blue, lined the route to welcome the visitors. Governor Castle met the delegation at 4<sup>th</sup> and Market streets and they traveled on together to Rodney Square, as church bells rang to mark Washington's arrival. At Rodney

<sup>38</sup> The original delegates were Richard Bassett, Gunning Bedford Jr., Jacob Broom, John Dickinson, and George Read. The 1987 riders were Thomas Molin, who organized and directed the ride, Liz Molin, Paul Dunman, Sophie duPont and Sylvia Brownlee.



Square, there was a musical program, a short version of Washington's inaugural address, and thirteen tributes in his honor. In the evening, the Historical Society of Delaware hosted a reception at Old Town Hall and, the following day, "Washington" continued on toward New York, where he arrived on 23 April for the inauguration, which occurred a week later. The Delaware celebrations extended over several days and included an art exhibit, topical lectures, and several performances by the Delaware Chamber Singers of "Inauguration Cantata 1789" arranged by Kenneth R. Force and based on music of Washington's time.

### **Other Special Events**

The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights was the last national bicentennial in which the Delaware Heritage Commission was involved, but the commission participated in a number of celebrations that focused on aspects of Delaware's history. In September 1977, for example, the commission, then still the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, played a role in commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, an event that included 150 re-enactors and several thousand spectators.<sup>39</sup> Early the following year, the DARBC presented a porcelain commemorative plaque to the legislature in a ceremony commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the General Assembly being in Dover.

Although the Delaware Heritage Commission assisted a committee from Lewes in making initial plans to observe the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch landing in Sussex County, the 1981 celebrations came at a time when the DHC faced serious financial challenges that forced the commission to give up participation. The 1980s ended more happily, however, with the September 1989 celebration of the life of Delaware's naval hero, Captain Thomas Macdonough.<sup>40</sup> Macdonough was known as "the hero of Lake

Champlain" and the 1989 event marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in which Macdonough played so key a part. Held at the Macdonough Elementary School in St. Georges, the first celebration included Congressman Thomas Carper, in early 19<sup>th</sup>-century naval dress, portraying Macdonough for the school children—kindergarteners and first and second graders who wore paper "commodore" hats they had made for the occasion. Carper told Macdonough's story and "quizzed" the youngsters about the hero's life, evoking spirited hand waving from the young members of his audience, eager to respond.

The initial event honoring Macdonough came as a result of a gubernatorial proclamation that Governor Castle read at the 1989 event. His proclamation made the celebration an annual undertaking for the DHC. In 1990, interpreters at the event provided the story of the battle from different perspectives. Teacher Charles Eurich portrayed Macdonough and told his version as an officer, Malcolm McKenzie of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation spoke from the perspective of a seaman on Macdonough's ship, and Jean Bingham of the DHC staff provided the British Navy's perspective. The following year, the Macdonough celebration was the occasion of presenting to the public Virginia A. Burdick's book, *Captain Thomas Macdonough, Delaware Born Hero of the Battle of Lake Champlain*, when the Delaware Heritage Press published it. In subsequent years, the commission invited Delawareans to come to the Macdonough homestead in Middletown to celebrate his life.

During the 1990s, the Delaware Heritage Commission observed several anniversaries that, while commemorating national events, did not generate the widespread national excitement as earlier bicentennials celebrations. In 1992, the DHC was involved in two ways in marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' journey to the new world. The commission, through its staff, collaborated with the Columbus 500 Committee that Governor Castle had appointed in 1990 to plan a celebration of Columbus' explorations. The DHC offered office support and helped the Columbus committee prepare and send mailings.

In addition, the commission contributed to the celebrations by organizing a conference in October 1992. The undertaking had begun as the "Isabella Festival," which developed into "The Myths and Realities of Columbus' World" and, in its final

<sup>39</sup> The 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge enjoyed comparable success, attracting 2,500 spectators to the 23 August 2002 event.

<sup>40</sup> Macdonough is often referred to as "Commodore Thomas Macdonough," although commodore was an honorary rank; his naval rank was captain.



form, became "Finding the Americas, 1492-1992," which focused on the climate in the European culture and in the Americas in 1492 from religious, political, and artistic perspectives. The commission's efforts were aided by input from the Latin American Community Center; scholars from the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, Wesley College, and Goldey-Beacom College contributed ideas and presented workshops. The Delaware Humanities Forum provided grant support that made it possible for secondary school teachers and students—one teacher and four students per school—to attend the conference as guests.

The following year, the DHC headed up efforts to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice ending World War I on 11 November 1918. By the time all the planning was completed, the Heritage Commission had been joined by an extensive list of co-sponsors—World War I Reenactment Association; Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation; Governor Bacon Health Center; Delaware National Guard; Fort Delaware Society; and Experimental Aircraft Association. Held on 9 October 1993 on the parade ground at the Governor Bacon Center in Delaware City, the anniversary celebration included pre-event lectures, re-enactors, performances of British, American, and German songs of the period, and music from the 287<sup>th</sup> Army Band, Delaware National Guard. At the end of the day, those present honored the war dead in a memorial ceremony. Although members of the Heritage Commission expressed disappointment at the turnout, the local press reported that several hundred people attended and enjoyed the day.

The Heritage Commission used the conference format two years later when it celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which gave suffrage to American women. Held on Friday and Saturday, 3 and 4 November 1995, at Delaware State University, the event again reached out to teachers in grades seven through twelve in Delaware's schools. The Department of Public Instruction agreed to give teachers one-fifth in service credit for attending the Friday sessions. Fifty teachers and 250 students participated in the conference, which had set as two of its goals to acquaint the students with women in history and to assist the teachers with including women in curriculum plans. The Saturday session focused on the general public and, over the course of the two days,

attendees were offered presentations on topics ranging from "The History of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment" to "Women in the Work Force: Historical Themes and Current Conditions" to considerations of the impact of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on the Hull House Movement, the Women's Club movement, and the depiction of women in advertising. On both days, the Kent County Theater Guild performed *The Rose or the Jonquil: Suffrage in Delaware*, a 35-minute play written by the DHC's 1994 summer intern, Sara Suzann Amsler.

There were also celebrations for events relating primarily to Delaware's history. In 1988, the Heritage Commission co-sponsored with the Kalmar Nyckel Commemorative Committee an American-Finnish-Swedish commemorative stamp to be issued in all three countries simultaneously on 29 May 1988 to celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first Finns and first Swedes in Delaware. On 1 July 1992, the commission joined with the City of Wilmington and the Historical Society of Delaware to celebrate the return to Rodney Square of the statue of Caesar Rodney after an absence of eighteen months for repairs. The DHC took advantage of the rededication of statue to place a new plaque on the statue's base. The original plaque gave incorrect dates for Rodney's ride and the new plaque corrected that information.

In the spring of 1993, the Delaware Heritage Commission initiated a plan to mark the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first attempt to build the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. So popular was the idea that soon it became a cooperative community event involving St. Georges Historical Society, Delaware City Business Association, Delaware City House Tour Committee, Delaware Maritime Center, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as co-sponsors. The May event eventually included boat trips on the canal, walking tours of Delaware City and St. Georges, reminiscences from local residents about fishing practices that once flourished along the Delaware, and folklore presentations.

Among the most important "strictly Delaware" commemorations that the DHC undertook was the celebration of the centennial of the Delaware Constitution of 1897. Out of the Heritage Commission's suggestion to Governor Carper that a centennial observance be planned came plans made in close collaboration with the Delaware State Bar Association. The DHC undertook the

printing of 25,000 copies of the Constitution for distribution to middle and high school students. At the same time, the Delaware State Bar Association was producing a volume entitled *The Delaware Constitution of 1897—The First Hundred Years* that was to be introduced at the Annual Meeting of the Bench and Bar of Delaware on 4 June 1997. A 10 June 1997 event marked the centennial when representatives of the Heritage Commission, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the Bar Association, Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland, and the State Legislative Council gathered in the Senate Chamber of Legislative Hall for a one-hour program. Lt. Governor Ruth Ann Minner and her grandchildren led the Pledge of Allegiance, DHC member Harvey B. Rubenstein read the governor's proclamation commemorating the centennial, and Governor Thomas R. Carper signed it. After John A. Munroe delivered the keynote address, Carper concluded the afternoon by recognizing all the former governors who had gathered for the occasion.

The following year, the Heritage Commission turned to the conference format again in organizing a one-day meeting to consider the riots that had racked Wilmington thirty years before. "1968 Wilmington Riots, 30 Years Later" began as an oral history project to interview people who remembered the riots that erupted after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. As the interview project progressed, it became apparent that it would be productive to build a conference around the topic. Done in collaboration with Hagley Museum and co-sponsored by the Oral History Mid-Atlantic Region organization, the meeting convened on 4 April 1998. The participants included journalist and University of North Carolina professor, Chuck Stone, who was the keynote speaker as well as a panel of six individuals who had particularly useful perceptions and insights to share with the eighty-five conferees.

As the Heritage Commission began to expand its activities beyond planning celebrations, there were numerous occasions when the DHC turned its attention to the state's authors, planning readings and book signings and eventually creating Authors Day as an annual event. As early as 1988, the commission hosted a reception at Buena Vista to introduce *The Delaware Heritage Cookbook* and its author, Aloah Hatz. Two years later, the DHC and Milton Historical Society sponsored a book signing for Hazel

Brittingham when her volume, *John Clowes, Jr. 1730-1790, Broadkill Patriot: The Man—His Family—The Times*, was published. When the Delaware Heritage Press began publishing the series of biographies of Delaware's governors, the commission, through the assistance and support of the Secretary of State's office and the governor, often hosted a reception for book and author at Woodburn, the governor's Dover residence.

In 1992, the commission sponsored public readings of Delaware books, tapping Bruce Stutz to read from his *Natural Lives, Modern Times: People and Places of the Delaware River* [co-sponsored by 9<sup>th</sup> Street Books] and Bernard L. Herman to read from *The Stolen House* [co-sponsored by Georgetown Historical Society.] Within two years, the DHC hosted a lecture and book signing at the State Visitors Center for Julian D. Winslow who had written on Samuel Maxwell Harrington, "judge, chancellor, and 'instigator' of the railroad" in Sussex County. As the commission's series on Delaware governors was published, each volume was celebrated with a number of book signings around the state, some at the gubernatorial residence, Woodburn, in Dover.

In October 1996, Governor Carper declared 5 October through 12 October as Delaware Authors Week and the Delaware Heritage Commission hosted a reception for Delaware authors at Buena Vista. The event attracted 150 authors. Four authors had the opportunity to talk about their work, the challenges of writing, and the obligations of writers. There was general agreement that Buena Vista had been too crowded so, for the second Authors Day, the event moved to Grass Dale Center in Delaware City and the program grew to include book signings and an expanded offering of discussions. Over the years, the day's topics have ranged from the Civil War to "How to Get Published" to "The Environmental Writer." By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Authors Day had become an Authors Day and Book Fair attracting as many as five hundred participants and seventy authors. Held at the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village in Dover, the annual book event expanded to offer both book sales and an auction of antiquarian books as well as speakers and workshops.

### **Delaware's Own Annual Events**

Delaware has two annual events that belong just to the state. On 15 June, Delawareans celebrate Separation Day, the day that Delaware declared its independence from England in 1776—two weeks before the 4 July 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence. The first celebration of Separation Day was held in 1973 when the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission hosted a meeting for the Bicentennial Council of Original Thirteen States. Prodded by a column written by local newspaperman Bill Frank, the commission determined to make this unique anniversary the centerpiece of activities on Saturday, 15 June 1973. The commission members, their BCTOS guests, and Governor Tribbitt gathered on the steps of the Old Court House in New Castle to mark the day. The celebration caught the public imagination and has continued as annual observance that has grown larger with the passing years.

Delaware Day commemorates 7 December 1787, the date when the state's delegates ratified the new United States Constitution and thereby became the first state. In addition to the exuberant celebration of the bicentennial of that 1787 ratification, the Heritage Commission has observed Delaware Day in a variety of ways. In 1992, the DHC co-sponsored with the City of Wilmington a lunchtime ceremony to rededicate Rodney Square upon the completion of a significant portion of the Wilmington Garden Club's renovations of the square. The following December, the commission hosted a dinner for the Constitutional and McKinstry scholars and invited Dr. John A. Munroe to speak.

### **Transition from "event" to "product"**

The Delaware Heritage Commission continues to support community efforts to celebrate the state's history and heritage and to collaborate with other organizations and institutions in similar endeavors. Every year, the commission sponsors Commodore Macdonough Day to honor a native son and hosts Delaware Authors Day to support and encourage the state's writers.

The DHC celebrates Constitution Day—17 September—to remember the day in 1787 when the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia approved the new United States

Constitution and sent it back to the thirteen original states for ratification by state conventions. In 1972, E. A. Trabant, chair of the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission used Constitution Day as the setting at which to introduce the DARBC to the public. The day's activities also included presentation to the governor with a plaque of the Official Delaware Bicentennial Medallion and presentation to the commission of a check from the national bicentennial commission to help with Delaware's celebration. In other years, the commission has underwritten Constitution Day celebrations such as the 1977 performance by the Possum Point Players of Bill Frank's play *A State is Born* or the 1990 reception that the DHC hosted for sixty newly naturalized citizens and their families.

Over the years, however, the Delaware Heritage Commission has moved away from planning events and celebrations and toward producing scholarly publications and running a history camp. "Product" has taken the place of "event," a transition that has brought its own rewards and satisfactions but has also offered its own challenges and trials.



## Chapter Four

### GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

From the start of the activities undertaken by the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, the agency, whether called the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission or the Delaware Heritage Commission, distributed funds to encourage celebratory events or to provide a lasting legacy linked to the state's and the nation's history or to support scholars exploring aspects of Delaware's heritage. The long-established practice of dispensing funds to satisfy the commission's mission allowed the DARBC and its successor, the Delaware Heritage Commission, to support a vast range of activities, to collaborate with a large number of like-minded organizations, and to produce a rich collection of books and other publications that enhance the scholarship on Delaware's history and heritage.

#### Grants

##### Bicentennial of the American Revolution

By October 1974, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, having been advised that there were federal funds for grants for bicentennial projects, had established a committee to draw up guidelines so that the \$200,000 available from the national bicentennial commission could be equitably distributed to local communities and organizations that had plans for marking the bicentennial. The commission pledged to take into consideration "geographical location, political jurisdictions and population" and to require grant recipients to provide some amount of funding to match the grant funding.

Grants given as part of the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution were first dispensed in 1974, in the year leading up to the "big day" on 4 July 1976. In May

1974, the DARBC shared in the satisfaction of seeing a new "State of Delaware" brochure published, the product of the Division of Economic Development and partially underwritten by the Bicentennial Commission. Subsequent grants paid for a wide range of projects and activities, some as modest as the \$350 provided to Goldey-Beacom College for a bicentennial publication and others as large as the \$15,000 granted to underwrite the cost of Separation Day in New Castle. DARBC funding helped underwrite the production of *Wilmington Awake*, a book of photographs of the city in all its guises, a volume that was well received in the community.<sup>41</sup>

##### Between the Bicentennials

Between the conclusion of celebrations of America's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1977 and the start of the activities marking the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution in 1985, the Delaware Heritage Commission inaugurated a challenge grant program to help fund "commemorative projects from throughout the state," with the hope that the grant funding would focus on activities that would "produce widespread public understanding of the significance of the Constitutional period, culminating in the adoption and ratification of the U. S. Constitution" that made Delaware the first state. Established early in 1982, the program got off to a slow start, not the least because the commission faced severe financial challenges. Although the commission advertised the availability of grants, it took nearly a year for any grant applications to be submitted. The DHC employed guidelines that designated that eligible applications were to come from town governments or local organizations, that selection was to be competitive, and that each grant would be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis. However, the lack of adequate funds for grants and the lack of appropriate proposed projects meant that the commission was able to offer little meaningful grant support between 1983 and 1985.

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<sup>41</sup> Please see Appendix 4.1 for a more complete list of American Revolution Bicentennial projects underwritten in part or entirely by the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

### **Bicentennial of the United States Constitution**

To focus on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution, the DHC temporarily modified the standards it applied in assessing challenge grant applications. While continuing to support a wide variety of projects, early in 1985 the Grants Committee indicated that the fund, which required grant recipients to match the grants on a dollar-for-dollar basis, was aimed at projects “which help people to understand the principles of the United States Constitution and the constitutional period in Delaware.” The commission made it clear that preference would be given to projects “that will involve many people, raise the cultural tone of the state, and provide lasting benefit to the citizens.”

Two years into the program, the DHC recognized the value being generated by many of the projects its grants had funded and, in January 1987, advised grant applicants that some grant moneys would have to be repaid. Non-profit organizations that received grants for profit-making projects would be expected to return to the Heritage Commission 25 percent of the profit the project generated. Any for-profit organization that received a grant for a profit-making project would be expected to repay 100 percent of the grant out of the profits earned using DHC funding. By the early 1990s, the commission was providing grants with the understanding that they would be repaid, in effect, reshaping the grant program into a revolving fund. In September 1991, for example, the grant to the Historical Society of the U. S. District Court for a history of the court was approved with the expectation that, when the book was sold, the grant would be repaid.

With funding provided primarily by the state, the commission assisted with projects as modest as \$50 for a lecture that Groves High School sponsored and \$50 for the Colonial State Knitters’ Delaware coverlet and as costly as \$15,000 for the Delaware State Bar Association’s creation and staging of a theatrical production that focused on constitutional issues and aimed its message at students of high school age. Many of the grants went to help towns like Wilmington, Odessa, and Woodside mount celebrations, but the grant funds also helped to underwrite local history publications in Milton, Milford, and Townsend, exhibits at the Historical Society of Delaware and at the Delaware Agricultural

Museum, concerts throughout the state, and a wide range of publications.<sup>42</sup>

In addition, the State of Delaware in 1985, through the Secretary of State’s office, established the Bicentennial Community Improvement Fund. Bankrolled with \$3 million, the Fund was to provide support specifically for capital improvements throughout Delaware honoring the bicentennial. The Awards Committee, on which the chair of the Delaware Heritage Commission served, declared its intention to give priority for the matching grant funding to projects that would “protect and enhance a community’s historical and cultural heritage” and that had “significant and lasting public benefit.” Eligible projects undertaken by municipalities, counties, or nonprofit organizations were to acquire, construct, reconstruct, renovate, or restore buildings that would then remain as tangible commemorations.

Over one hundred community organizations and government groups sent representatives to the October 1985 kick off meeting of the Bicentennial Community Improvement committee to learn about application procedures. In the three years—1985, 1986, and 1987—that the Bicentennial Community Improvement Fund dispensed grant funding, it distributed over \$2 million that paid for projects ranging from the installation of storm windows at the Milton Historical Society [\$350] and the erection of plaques at historic sites in Camden [\$300] to the creation of “Constitution Park” in Dover [\$500,000].<sup>43</sup> Most projects involved either improvements to such civic amenities as libraries and municipally owned buildings or enhancements to historic properties and museums. Cheswold, for example, used its \$28,000 grant to adapt the Cheswold School for community use and Bethany Beach renovated the Old Town Hall for offices [\$10,000]. The Selbyville Public Library received a \$5,000 grant that paid for repairs to the library roof and Smyrna applied its \$12,500 grant to construction of a band pavilion. The Historical Society of Delaware’s \$20,000 grant helped underwrite the construction of an underground storage area and a similar grant to

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<sup>42</sup> Please see Appendix 4.2 for a more complete list of projects funded by Delaware Heritage Commission challenge grants.

<sup>43</sup> Please see Appendix 4.3 for a more complete listing of grants provided under the Bicentennial Community Improvement Fund.

Rockwood Museum provided funds needed to renovate the barn on the property. The Delaware Art Museum was able to expand, the Wilmington Library got needed repairs and restoration, Georgetown provided landscaping for The Circle, and Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc. made repairs to bridges used by the Wilmington and Western Railroad.

### **Post-bicentennial Grant Making**

Since the early 1990s, the Delaware Heritage Commission grant making, like the overall orientation of the DHC itself, has shifted in emphasis from events and one-time celebrations to the production of tangible output—primarily publications that address aspects of Delaware's history and heritage and make it more accessible to members of the public. The commission has also exerted more control over the grant-funded projects. In 1994, for example, approval for a grant to underwrite production of materials for a local community festival was contingent on having the DHC logo printed on the materials. A Delaware Agricultural Museum grant to produce an exhibit catalogue was approved but the DHC required that at least 3,000 copies be printed and available after the exhibit closed. Also in 1994, the commission provided funding for the production of a play about William Penn, as long as there were at least five performances staged. Three years later, when the Delaware Agricultural Museum mounted an exhibit on "Rural Life During the Depression," a grant for educational materials to accompany the exhibit was approved "subject to text approval by the Chairman of the [Heritage Commission] Publications Committee and the Executive Director." There was also care taken to insure that projects supported by grants were viable; the Grants Committee occasionally returned applications for assistance in publications and asked the authors to resubmit their applications when the draft manuscripts were closer to being in publishable form.

The Delaware Heritage Commission did not always approve grant applications but when applications seemed worthy but outside the mission of the DHC, the Awards Committee sought to provide information on alternative sources of possible funding. In 1995, for example, when an application sought funding that would have compensated the researcher, the Committee declined the

request but suggested that the applicant might find support from the Delaware Historic Records Advisory Board. Similarly, the following year, when the DHC turned down a request for money to be used for a sculpture project the Committee referred the applicant to the Community Redevelopment Fund for possible assistance. A request for funding to underwrite a brochure for a Wilmington organization failed because it lacked any historic dimension, but the DHC suggested the Delaware State Arts Council as a possible source of the needed support.

Grants figured importantly in the production of educational materials, often in conjunction with exhibits or celebrations. One of the first efforts the DHC undertook to provide materials to assist teachers was through a 1986 grant to the Department of Public Instruction for educational materials relating to the Constitution. The following year, a \$1,250 grant to the Milford Bicentennial Committee supported the town's development of educational materials on Milford history. Since then, the Delaware Council on Economic Education has used a DHC grant to create school materials on economics. The Delaware Agricultural Museum has applied grant funding to produce educational packets that related to museum exhibits, including "Ordering by Mail" in 1995 and "Rural Life During the Depression" in 1997.

Delaware Heritage Commission grants also served an educational purpose when they provided assistance to institutions and organizations that collaborate on the commission's "Hands On Heritage Camp." In 1999, grants to four institutions related to camp activities. The Delaware Agricultural Museum received funds to purchase butter churns and a coffee mill, the Greenbank Mill's grant was applied to enhancing the archaeology and textiles programs, the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base received funding for a camp program on plane making, and the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation was provided funds to acquire an apparatus to demonstrate the art of sailing. Since then, each year's grants have included one or more allocations for recipients who are partners with the Heritage Commission in its summer camp program.

### **Scholarships**

In addition to grants to fund projects and events, the Delaware Heritage Commission has provided over two decades of support for scholars of all ages. Although the recipients have ranged from high school students to individuals holding doctorates, the interest in encouraging and supporting scholarship focused on Delaware's history and heritage has not wavered.

### **Constitutional Scholarship Program**

The earliest scholarship funding that the Delaware Heritage Commission sponsored was the Constitutional Scholarship Program, begun in May 1982. It was designed originally to help promising Delaware high school seniors with expenses as they moved on to higher education at one of the state's colleges or universities. The initial version of the scholarship provided for fourteen scholarships of \$750 each, to be awarded to ten college-bound high school graduates from New Castle County and two each from Kent and Sussex counties. Soon the number of awards dropped to seven scholarships—five for New Castle County students and one each for graduating seniors from Kent and Sussex counties—and the award amount increased to \$1,000. In May 1983, the Delaware Heritage Commission selected the first seven Constitutional Scholarship winners. The selection criteria included academic performance, activities, citizenship, and a student project that related to the constitutional period.<sup>44</sup>

### **James T. McKinstry Constitutional Scholarship**

In 1985, to honor DHC chair James T. McKinstry when he retired from the commission, the commissioners renamed the scholarship the James T. McKinstry Constitutional Scholarship. At the same time, they decided to decrease the number of scholarships to three, one of \$5,000 and two of \$2,500, and to award them on an at-large basis with students throughout the state eligible to compete. After three years of awarding seven scholarships per year under the

initial scheme, in 1986 the DHC named three students as the first winners of James T. McKinstry Constitutional Scholarships.

Although underwritten primarily out of the Delaware Heritage Commission budget, from time to time, support from other sources augmented the funding from the DHC. For four years, from 1987 through 1990, for example, MBNA underwrote the cost of three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each, designating them for students from the Christina School District. In addition, in 1990, the Secretary of State's Office provided additional funding in honor of the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights, so that that year there were fifteen scholarships awarded, one of \$5,000, five of \$2,500 each, and nine of \$750.

Not quite a decade into its operation, the program underwent a substantial reorientation in 1991 when the DHC determined to fund the work of graduate students rather than the expenses of college undergraduates just beginning their academic careers. The commission recognized that providing support for students working at the graduate level could encourage meaningful scholarship on unexplored aspects of Delaware's history. In addition, there was a general feeling among the commissioners that it would be desirable for the grant to provide some sort of product—an article, a book, a lecture, a dissertation.

Within a year of restructuring the program toward graduate students, the Delaware Heritage Commission again shifted focus and announced that any serious researcher working on some aspect of Delaware history or heritage could apply for grant program funding, regardless of formal academic affiliation. While setting a \$5,000 maximum for any grant and opening up the grant program to serious amateur researchers, the DHC also made it clear that no grant support could be used for compensation and that the projects were expected to create a product that the commission or some other agency could use.

Offering support in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$3,500, the commission's grants provided support for research on The Green in Dover, on workers at the DuPont powder mills, and on free blacks in Wilmington in the years leading up to the Civil War. McKinstry Scholarship funds underwrote a portion of the expenses associated with Dr. Jerry Shields' book on George Alfred Townsend and for Celia Cohen when she produced her volume on modern

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<sup>44</sup> Projects took many forms, including musical compositions, poems, paintings, short plays, research papers, and even games.



political history of Delaware. Not all scholars' needs were met with direct grant funding. When a scholar in 1995 requested support to have legislative papers for the 1793-1812 time period microfilmed, rather than making an award to the student, the Grants Committee provided funding to the Delaware State Archives to have the microfilming done, thus making the filmed documents available to future scholars as well.

Several scholars shared their research with a wider audience by providing articles for *Fully, Freely and Entirely*, the Delaware Heritage Commission newsletter. William H. Thiesen, for example, whose work on Delaware shipbuilding won DHC support, wrote "The Making of an 'American Clyde': The Development of Iron Shipbuilding in the Delaware Valley." In her article, "Uncovering Old Cathedral Cemetery," Marilyn J. Doto detailed the archaeological work of a cemetery that had lain forgotten for over four decades under the asphalt of a parking lot.<sup>45</sup>

#### **First State Constitutional Scholarship Foundation**

With the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and Delaware's celebration of its unique status as the First State, the state government established the First State Constitutional Scholarship Foundation, basing the foundation's endowment on \$109,975 generated by the Ratification Celebration on 7 December 1987. The Delaware Heritage Commission was charged with responsibility for the administration of the program, but was not expected to raise funds for the endowment or to determine who would be recipients of foundation scholarships. The Heritage Commission chair also chaired the Foundation Board, which consisted of the Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, the Secretary of State, the president of the University of Delaware, and the president of Delaware State University.

The program provided full tuition at Delaware public institutions of higher learning for four students annually, one from each of the counties and one from Wilmington. Nominated by high school principals, the grant recipients were eligible to have their

grants renewed each year, making it possible for students meeting the program's standards—maintaining a B average each year and electing a minimum of twelve hours of study in fields related to American history and the Constitution—to have four years of college with all tuition covered by the program. The University of Delaware also provided room and board for any scholarship recipient electing to study there. Four new students were added each year, so by the fourth year of the program, there could be up to sixteen students being supported by the program.

The Foundation selected the first group of recipients in 1988, but over the years, there was a growing concern among members of the Foundation board about whether the funds going to scholarships could be spent better. As early as 1995, the state administration questioned the future of the program because, operating as it was, too few people were benefiting from it. The Foundation had, however, committed to the students who were already receiving tuition grants so it was not until 1999 that any action was taken. In June 1999, the Foundation Board shifted the emphasis dramatically from students to teachers and the First State Constitutional Scholarship became known as the "Democracy Project Seminar for Teachers."

#### **Democracy Project Seminar for Teachers**

The new program was aimed at Delaware teachers "who honor the Constitution by preparing lessons which inspire their students to be more active participants in the democratic process." Following a seminar format that earned participating teachers three graduate credits, the program included a one-week seminar at the University of Delaware in June and three days at the Virden Center in Lewes in mid-August. Participants, who included not only teachers but librarians and school administrators as well, met with educational professionals, key politicians, and government leaders and, during the first year of the program, sat in on the final day of the 1999 legislative session. The goal of the program was to provide individuals who are teaching Delaware's young people with the opportunity to develop classroom materials and lesson plans and to have experiences that would fire their enthusiasm for and interest in

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<sup>45</sup> Appendix 4.4 provides a list of scholarship supported at least in part by DHC grant funding through the McKinstry Scholarship Program.

political issues to such an extent that they would carry that excitement back into their classroom.

### **Change and Continuity**

Just as the activities of the Delaware Heritage Commission have changed over time from primarily sponsoring one-time-only celebratory events to the on-going work of exploring and recording Delaware's history, the use of funds dispensed by the commission has also shifted with time. Initially much of the grant funding provided went to underwrite expenses associated with the big bicentennial celebrations of America's independence and the United States Constitution. Staging such events provided the DARBC and DHC with experience that Commission members then applied to other commemorations, like the centennial of Delaware's 1897 Constitution, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' journey to the New World, and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage.

With time, however, much more funding was directed at undertakings that yielded a tangible product for the community to enjoy long after the project was completed. Certainly that was the aim of the grants given during the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and, in the years since, that philosophy has informed decisions made by the DHC Grants Committee, in particular in regard to research grants. When such support is given, it is with the expectation that the recipient will provide something in return. When William Thiesen received a grant for his research, it was with the understanding that he would present three lectures on his topic, shipbuilding in Delaware. Scott Emory secured research funding through the McKinstry program and, in return, agreed to supply two lectures and a newsletter story.

Yet for all the apparent change, the mission of celebrating Delaware's heritage and history has remained largely unchanged. Always looking for ways to stretch the budget as far as possible, the commissioners have kept their focus on putting their support behind those projects that will make a contribution to Delawareans' understanding of and appreciation for their state's story.

## Chapter Five

### MEDIA—PUBLICATIONS AND FILM

The Delaware Heritage Commission has established and maintains a long tradition of outreach through its publications, although it has also used films and videos as a means of sharing information about and of celebrating Delaware's history and heritage.

#### Publications

##### Commission Newsletters

As early as 1973, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission under Executive Director John Mickey published a bicentennial newsletter. Entitled *First State Bicentennial Newsletter*, it appeared only briefly during the months leading up to the actual bicentennial celebration. One of the first issues spelled out the commission's desire for grassroots involvement in the bicentennial celebrations. Subsequent issues provided readers with news of events around the state, reports of grants that had been given, and encouragement for all Delawareans to participate in Separation Day activities. No issues were published after John Mickey died in 1975.

In June 1979, the commission staff made another attempt at a newsletter, distributing 2,500 copies with the intention that the publication would be continued on a quarterly basis, but few copies of the newsletter survive. The commission only published the *Delaware Heritage Commission Newsletter* for a year, during which it provided a calendar of upcoming commemorative events and reported on the publication of books that would interest students of Delaware history.

It was not until the spring of 1985 that the Delaware Heritage Commission released the first edition of a newsletter that enjoyed success. Called *Fully, Freely and Entirely*, the publication was envisioned as a key element in the DHC's commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Delaware's ratification of the United States Constitution. The commission's annual report for 1985 noted that Delaware was the first state to "get a constitutional newsletter going." Its name, *Fully, Freely and Entirely*, was taken from the words used by Delaware's delegates when they ratified the Constitution in 1787—they voted to "fully, freely and entirely approve of, assent to, ratify, and confirm" the document.

Published quarterly, *Fully, Freely and Entirely* provided essays to enlarge the readers' knowledge of Delaware history, announced upcoming events, offered commemorative items for sale, recorded the designation of Bicentennial Communities, and reported on the accomplishments of groups and communities around the state as they planned bicentennial observances.

During the bicentennial year, various individuals from throughout the state wrote articles addressing their particular interests and the Constitution. In the fall of 1985, for example, Dorothy Gardner Downs, the bicentennial coordinator of the Delaware State Federation of Women's Clubs wrote about cleanliness, beautification, brotherhood, education, and celebration efforts like posters. In the winter 1985 issue, Stuart Young, chair of the Delaware Arts Council, shared his thoughts on arts and the Constitution, noting that "through the arts we preserve the ennobling aspects of our civilization" and the "creativity, like democracy, depends on freedom." Henry H. Hirschbiel wrote on behalf of the Delaware Humanities Forum, detailing activities funded by the Forum in commemoration of the Constitutional anniversary.

*Fully, Freely and Entirely* had been intended for publication just during the time period devoted to the Bicentennial of the Constitution. Accordingly, the last issue during the Constitutional period was published in the winter of 1987. In 1992, however, at the recommendation of the DHC Long-Term Planning Committee and Heritage Commission chair, James R. Soles, the commission began publishing the newsletter again, though now twice a year rather than quarterly. Within a year, the DHC annual report noted "the return of the newsletter has been welcomed by

readers,” a circumstance reflected in the increasing circulations numbers. The December 1992 newsletter had a circulation of 1,800 and, by the end of a decade of publication, the number had grown to 2,800.

Mailed to libraries, teachers, historical societies, state officials, and participants in Commission programs, the newsletter provides information on coming events and current issues of concern to those interested in Delaware’s history and heritage. It reviews events that the DHC has sponsored or co-sponsored and includes articles on Delaware history. The first two issues, published during 1992, for example, provided readers with articles by McKinstry scholars. Allison Wehr Elterich wrote about “Legislation of Land Use and Its Effect on the Dover Green” and Bruce A. Bendler wrote provided an article entitled “The Levels: Development of a Landscape, 1680-1860.” Past DHC chair Howard E. Row wrote for the summer 1995 issue, an article that was in keeping with the celebration of women’s suffrage. In preparing “Minutes of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association, 1915-1919,” Row relied on Mabel Lloyd Ridgely’s minute book.<sup>46</sup>

### **Books**

The Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and its successor the Delaware Heritage Commission supported the publication of books via at least three different avenues. Providing Delawareans with a written record of some aspect of the state’s history began during the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. In July 1973, the DARBC established a committee to assess the “publication needs in the general field of Delaware history” where the commission could lend some aid. By the following January, the Publications Committee recommended that the DARBC undertake to revise and publish *Delaware: A Guide to the First State*, a project that never came to fruition, and also that the commission write and publish a comprehensive history of Delaware.

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<sup>46</sup> Please see Appendix 5.1 for a listing of topics included as feature articles in issues of *Fully, Freely and Entirely*.

In July 1974, the DARBC and the University of Delaware designated Dr. John A. Munroe as Bicentennial Professor of History for the calendar year 1975 and one of Munroe’s responsibilities was writing the state history, a task that was completed in 1979 when the University of Delaware Press released his *History of Delaware*. In 1976, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission published Harold B. Hancock’s *Liberty and Independence, the Delaware State During the American Revolution*. When the anniversary celebrations were completed, the commission arranged for unsold copies of the book to be donated to the state Department of Public Instruction for distribution to school libraries throughout the state.

A two-volume work on the proceedings of Delaware’s colonial legislature began in 1973, when the DARBC sponsored a project to publish the minutes of the Delaware House of Representatives. The project proved more challenging than anticipated and the work, *The Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Lower Counties of Delaware, 1770-1776, the Constitutional Convention of 1776, and the House of Assembly of the Delaware State, 1776-1781* [volume 1] and *The Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the Delaware State, 1782-1792 and of the Constitutional Convention of 1792* [volume 2], were not issued until 1986 and 1988 respectively.<sup>47</sup>

In the late 1980s, the Delaware Heritage Commission produced several books that the Middle Atlantic Press published. In 1987, the Press published Harold Hancock’s *Delaware 200 Years Ago: 1780-1800*, a social history of Delaware around the time that Delaware became the first state with its ratification of the United States Constitution. The following year, the Middle Atlantic Press released three books in collaboration with the commission: *Delaware, the First State* that Dr. Carol E. Hoffecker had written for the use of fourth grade students throughout the state; Aloah Hatz’s *The Delaware Heritage Cookbook*; and C. A. Weslager’s *New*

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<sup>47</sup> Claudia L. Bushman, Harold B. Hancock, and Elizabeth Moyne Homsey edited both volumes, which were published by the University of Delaware Press. Bushman was executive director of the Delaware Heritage Commission, Hancock was on the history faculty at the University of Delaware, and Homsey was the Chief of the Bureau of Archives and Records for the state.

*Sweden on the Delaware, 1638-1655*, published to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Swedes and Finns in what would become Delaware.

The Middle Atlantic Press proved something of a difficult partner. In the autumn of 1989, when the commission was selling *The Delaware Heritage Cookbook* for \$15, the Press was making it available to local grocery stores at so low a price that the stores were offering the book for \$7. In the mid-1990s, the Publications Committee reported that the Press had produced a third printing of the Hoffecker history without DHC permission and had increased the price by 25 percent. Investigation by the commission's attorney revealed that while the DHC held the copyright, the publishing contract allowed the Press to reprint books without DHC permission. By spring of 1997, ownership of the Middle Atlantic Press had changed and the commissioners agreed that the Heritage Commission should renegotiate the publication contract with the new owners, an effort that proved successful and yielded a better working relationship and annual royalties.

It is hardly surprising, given these experiences, particularly those in the late 1980s, that the Delaware Heritage Commission decided it needed its own publishing house. Under the leadership of Executive Director Claudia L. Bushman, who had taken an active role in publishing earlier volumes associated with the Heritage Commission and who recognized the outreach possible through publishing, the DHC filed the necessary papers to establish the Delaware Heritage Press. The first book the new Heritage Press published was Bushman's own work, *So Laudable An Undertaking, The Wilmington Library, 1788-1988*, a volume underwritten by the library in honor of its bicentennial and published in 1989. The two other publications for 1989 were a biography, *John Clowes, Jr. 1730-1790, Broadkill Patriot: The Man—His Family—The Times* by Hazel Brittingham, about a Sussex County patriot, and a musical drama, *Delaware, the First State*, by Pauline Citro, copies of which the Heritage Commission distributed to Delaware schools through the Department of Public Instruction.

In the years since its establishment, the Delaware Heritage Press has taken on projects ranging from reprints of earlier works like Christopher Ward's 1941 volume, *The Delaware Continentals*, and William Conner and Leon de Valinger's

*Delaware's Role in World War II*, first published in 1955, to new scholarship on the Mason-Dixon Line [*East of the Mason-Dixon Line, a History of the Delaware Boundaries* by Roger Nathan] and Delaware's growing Hispanic community [Katherine Borland's *Creating Community: Hispanic Migration to Rural Delaware*]. A series of books on Delaware governors has developed into an on-going publications project.<sup>48</sup>

### Educational Materials

Educational materials constitute one of the most important sorts of specialized publications that the Delaware Heritage Commission has produced. For both the Bicentennial of the American Revolution and the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, the commission provided some sort of educational publication for the public schools. In 1976 and 1977, the DARBC made 6,200 copies of William P. Frank's *Caesar Rodney, Patriot* available to Delaware Public Schools. In 1985, the commission provided a challenge grant to the Department of Public Instruction for the preparation of informational materials on the Constitution. Other materials relating to the Constitution included a packet, *Delaware and the First Federal Elections*, developed through a grant from the national Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and distributed to the state's teachers.

The commission's support has also made it possible for materials to be distributed to schools to teach about the history of Milford, about the arrival of the Dutch in North America, and about the lives of Native Americans. The commission staff created an educational kit to accompany the events marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World War I Armistice. The celebration of the centenary of Delaware's 1897 constitution prompted the printing of 25,000 copies of a pocket sized edition of the constitution so that the state's students could have copies and the project included publication of a teacher's guide to be used with the document. When the Delaware Heritage Press published Katherine Borland's book on the Hispanic migration to Delaware, the DHC distributed a copy of the book plus

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<sup>48</sup> Please see Appendix 5.2 for a list of Delaware Heritage Press publications.

an accompanying CD to every middle and upper school Spanish teacher in the state.

#### **Publications By Others Via DHC Grants**

Through its Challenge Grants Program, the Delaware Heritage Commission also provided the support needed to make possible publications by other groups. The volumes ranged in topics from the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council's *A Legacy from Delaware Women*, a volume that included segments on Heritage Commission members Judy Roberts and Tatiana Copeland and DHC executive director, Claudia Bushman. It was produced in the winter of 1985, the same year that another DHC Challenge Grant contributed to the Milton Historical Society's publication of a book, *John Clowes, Esq., Broadkill's Outstanding Patriot*. The Diamond State Branch of American Pen Women received a grant that went toward the costs associated with printing *A Kaleidoscope of Delaware Arts and Letters*, a collection of portraits, memories, poetry, and stories.<sup>49</sup>

#### **Films and Videos**

Delaware's history has been the subject of a variety of film projects since the establishment of the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The first foray into the medium of film occurred in a collaborative venture undertaken by the Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States when the BC'TOS hired Andre de la Varre, Jr. to write and film *These States*. The project was intended to capture the sites in the original thirteen states that were historically significant because of links to aspects of the American Revolution. Completed in 1973, the film also had a study guide that increased its usefulness for educational purposes.

The DARBC, with several other organizations and agencies, co-sponsored a production of *Thunder and Rain*, a film about Caesar Rodney's famous ride from Dover to Philadelphia in 1776. Shot in nearby locales—Chadds Ford, New Castle, and the

John Dickinson mansion—and premiered in the autumn of 1975, the 45-minute film was acknowledged as meeting the need for a visual presentation about the ride. It was, however, also criticized for a "thin story line" and insufficient development that left certain important elements unexplained.

The most ambitious undertaking in the medium in which the DHC was involved was an effort to produce a film on John Dickinson, intended to help celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. Begun in 1985, the project received substantial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities in the form of over \$40,000 in grant money between 1985 and 1987, though by the end of 1987, work was underway to revise the existing script into a project that would be less expensive to produce. In the end, no funding ever materialized for actual filming and the project never advanced beyond a script.

1987 did, however, see the successful completion of *Celebrate the First State—A Portrait of Delaware*, a collaborative effort between the Delaware Heritage Commission and WHYI, the public broadcasting station that serves Delaware.<sup>50</sup> Created to provide a lasting commemoration of the year's Constitutional celebrations and aired in late November 1987, the thirty-minute film reviewed 200 years of the state's history and celebrated its contemporary charms. It received good reviews and was nominated for a regional Emmy award. The film's premier at the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington included regally clad VIPs, including Governor Michael N. Castle, arriving in vintage automobiles and a uniformed "doorman" there to hand guests from their cars. After the celebrations over the film's success had subsided, the DHC had copies made and distributed them free to schools, libraries, and civic organizations throughout the state.

The following year, the DHC produced two more videos. *Reenactments*, a fictional recreation of Delaware's ratification convention, used state political leaders to play the parts of historic figures. *Parade, Delaware, the First State* provided a film record of the 5,000-person parade that had been part of the 7 December 1987 celebrations, the largest parade in the state's history.

<sup>49</sup> Please see Appendix 5.3 for a list of publications made possible by support through the Delaware Heritage Commission Challenge Grant program.

<sup>50</sup> ICI Industries was the leading sponsor of the film, providing \$25,000 toward the costs of production.

## Chapter Six

### REACHING A WIDER COMMUNITY

In addition to its many publications, the Delaware Heritage Commission has established a long history of activities that reach out to many different segments of the Delaware community. From its earliest efforts, the commission has taken seriously its mission of sharing with the widest possible audience the stories and traditions of Delaware's history and heritage, adapting its outreach efforts to changing times and circumstances.

#### Outreach

There was a certain amount of outreach inherent in the celebrations in which the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission participated. When the bicentennial commemoration itself had been completed, the commission continued to extend its range of communication by preparing and broadcasting public service announcements about aspects of the Delaware's history. Based on the model of the "Bicentennial Minutes" that CBS had broadcast in 1976, the brief radio presentations provided information about early state history that "rarely come to the attention of the average citizens." The topics included Caesar Rodney's ride, the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, John Dickinson, and Thomas Garrett and the Underground Railroad. Broadcast in the autumn of 1979, the series promised "A little information about a small state with a big history" and it was well received. The following summer, another series of radio PSAs called "Discover Wonderful Delaware" presented a narrator and a featured speaker, generally someone from state government, who engaged in a dialogue about some aspect of the state.

The most widespread method of outreach that the commission employed was collaboration with other organizations and agencies around the state. From the earliest days of the

Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, working in conjunction with other groups allowed the commission to be in contact with a much wider circle of participants as well as enabling the commission to stretch limited funds to cover expenses the DARBC could not have managed alone. The Bicentennial Communities program, for example, encouraged local groups to set up Bicentennial Committees and make plans for local celebrations, all in collaboration with and with the support—both financial and organizational—of the state commission. As a result, a far-flung network of enthusiastic community groups made it possible for the DARBC to achieve its goals and see its mission accomplished.

The Delaware Heritage Commission's usual collaboration has been to support in some way the initiative undertaken by a community or an organization. In 1979, for example, the DHC worked with the New Castle Separation Day Committee to organize and stage the 16 July celebration of the day Delaware declared its independence. The commission worked with Milton in 1982 when the town was commemorating its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1897 Delaware Constitution, the Delaware State Bar Association partnered with the DHC to underwrite the creation of a play for high school students and then to see the production staged. The commission has enjoyed a long and varied collaborative relationship with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, initially supporting the group by providing office space and later co-sponsoring with the organization the 1988 issuance of a postage stamp commemorating the links of the Swedes and Finns to America.

Many of the collaborations have involved a long list of co-sponsoring organizations. The Bill of Rights display in 1991, for example, included the National Archives, the Delaware Department of State, and the Delaware Public Archives, in addition to the Delaware Heritage Commission. Book readings in 1992 brought together the Delaware Conservation Program, Preservation Delaware, the University of Delaware Folklore Archive, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the Delaware Folklife Program, and the Port Penn Historical Society as sponsors for Bruce Stutz's reading from his book *Natural Lives, Modern Times: People and Places of the Delaware River*. Over several years, Delaware Authors' Day has enjoyed wide sponsorship

as well, including, in 2002 the Delaware Public Archives, the Friends of the Delaware Libraries, the Delaware Humanities Forum, and the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village.<sup>51</sup>

Early in the 1990s, the commissioners determined that one of the most important aspects of the commission's work was to be a resource for local societies throughout the state. They recommended that the executive director make a particular effort to visit historical societies and similar organizations, with the intention of letting such groups know what activities the commission was undertaking and what types of support the DHC might be able to offer. The subsequent monthly reports filed by the executive director reflect a busy schedule of visits to meetings, local events, and speaking engagements. During 1992, for example, the executive director met with the Colonial Dames at Little Creek to talk about the work of the commission; she participated in the Taft Seminar at the University of Delaware's College of Urban Affairs, and made presentations to the Harrington Historical Society, the Academy of Lifelong Learning, and the Wilmington Rotary Club. Before the year ended, she had also met with the Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation, participated in meetings of the state's Tourism Coalition, represented the commission at meetings of the Delmarva Advisory Council's History Committee, and forged a working relationship with the Delaware Maritime Association.

By the mid-1990s, the executive director had established a practice of making regular visits to historical societies in all three counties and had expanded the circle of contacts to include service organizations, as well as university and other educational groups. In addition to exploring how the DHC could assist local groups, she often provided information about techniques for collecting oral histories and about the commission's programs, including the "Hands On Heritage" camp for children. Meetings with some of the societies stirred such interest among the members that the groups offered to provide scholarship money for youngsters to attend the commission's summer camp. Similar visits to service clubs in communities around the state also yielded scholarship support for camp participants.

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<sup>51</sup> Please see Appendix 6.1 for a list of collaborative projects in which the Delaware Heritage Commission has played a part.

### Oral History

In 1990, the Delaware Heritage Commission began to include oral history as part of its work. In September 1990, Executive Director Deborah Haskell and Commissioner Judith A. Roberts attended an oral history seminar at the Delaware Agricultural Museum. Out of that meeting came a DHC grant of \$850 to the museum to underwrite the cost of transcribing interviews that had been recorded as part of the museum's "Century Farm Project." The challenges of conducting oral history interviews effectively and the contributions that oral history could make to understanding the past caught the attention of other Commission members. By 1994, the commission had formed a committee to survey oral history work already completed by state agencies, seeking information on how many interviews had been recorded and what subjects they covered. The commission also sought to gather information on methods and materials used to record histories.

In May 1995, the DHC, using its survey of extant oral histories and the information it had collected about proper oral history methodology, offered a one-day conference on "doing oral history." Representatives of organizations from around the state gathered at Delaware State University to hear Dr. Mary Kay Quinlan of Arlington, Virginia, provide guidance on the appropriate preparation for conducting interviews, the interview process itself, and the correct disposition of materials after the interviews are completed. The attendees then put their newly acquired interviewing skills to work by practicing with one another. This was the first of several training programs that the Delaware Heritage Commission provided in the interests of encouraging the use of oral history in recording aspects of the state's history and heritage.

The DHC has continued to offer training to help interested individuals and groups learn proper oral history techniques. The fall 1995 conference by the Oral History Mid-Atlantic Region group included speakers who discussed what characteristics a good interviewer should have and who also identified the sorts of projects for which oral histories were particularly appropriate. By fiscal year 1997, the General Assembly had earmarked \$10,000 in the budget for the Heritage Commission to use on oral history projects. Eventually the commission, working closely with Dr. Roger Horowitz of Hagley Museum and Library,



offered two workshops annually, with an effort made to hold the programs at various places around the state. In 2000, a number of residents of Pencader Hundred, prompted by an interest in doing oral history in their neighborhood, attended a training session in Wilmington. Programs have also been provided in response to requests from particular groups. In 1995, for example, the executive director worked closely with the Pilots Association for the Bay and River Delaware when the group wanted to use interviews to prepare a history of the association's first 100 years. Two years later the commission provided a training program specifically for the Afro-American Historical Society and, in 1999, the DHC supplied similar specialized training for the Nanticoke Indian Museum.

The DHC survey of oral history resources in Delaware eventually included several participants, including the Historical Society of Delaware, Hagley Museum and Library, the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village, and the Delaware Folklife Program. The goal was to determine what oral history projects had been completed, where the information was stored, whether there were transcripts or indexes of the histories, and whether the tapes or transcripts were available to the public. Eventually the commission compiled 1,500 names of Delawareans whose interviews about their lives were captured and preserved on tape. Maintained by the commission, the database can be used as a catalogue of resources of first hand knowledge about the state's history and allows researchers access to the tapes or transcripts so that the information can be used.

The Delaware Heritage Commission also joined forces with two organizations devoted to encouraging the use of oral histories as a technique in historical research. In 1995, the commission was the moving force behind the creation of the Delaware Oral History Network, identified in its 1996 newsletter as "an Ad Hoc Committee of the Delaware Heritage Commission created to survey and encourage oral histories in the State." The Network evolved into a loose confederation of organizations with an interest in oral history and representatives assisted from time to time with the various training programs offered through the Delaware Heritage Commission.

The Oral History Mid-Atlantic Region [OHMAR] organization is a larger umbrella group of which the Heritage Commission has been a part since 1995. That autumn the group held

its annual conference in Wilmington and attendees from Delaware as well as the rest of the mid-Atlantic area had the opportunity to hear speakers and discuss issues surrounding the use of oral history. Three years later, the OHMAR conference met again in Wilmington, convening at Hagley Museum's Soda House to consider the topic "Wilmington Riots of 1968." A panel made up of local residents shared their recollections of the stormy ten months following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Journalist and University of North Carolina professor, Chuck Stone, who had covered the riots as a reporter for the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, gave the keynote address.

The Delaware Heritage Commission's work in the area of oral history has produced both projects and products. The projects that have lent themselves to treatment by researchers using oral history have included work to document the recollections of employees at both the Dayett Mill and the Greenbank Mill as well as CCC workers in Delaware during the Great Depression. Another project, based on a Baylor University model of debriefing retiring office holders, was undertaken to interview Delaware legislators as they leave their General Assembly offices and return to private life.

At times, the oral history projects resulted in an actual product when the interviews were completed. In 1995, executive director Haskell offered assistance to the Pilots Association for the Bay and River Delaware so that members of the organization could use oral interviews to prepare a book celebrating the group's centennial. The result of that effort was the publication of *One Hundred Year History of the Pilots Association Bay and River Delaware* in 1996. It was also in 1996 that it was suggested that oral history interviews be conducted with all Delaware's living governors, a project that began with Roger Martin's interviews of Governor Elbert N. Carvel who served from 1949 to 1953 and then for a 1961-1963 term. The result of this initial project was the publication in 1997 of Martin's *Elbert N. Carvel, 1949-1953 and 1961-1963*, a volume followed the next year by Martin's *Sherman W. Tribbitt, 1973-1977*. The interview project centered on the governors has since yielded new books on Russell W. Peterson and Charles L. Terry, Jr., and reissued a 1984 volume on John G. Townsend, Jr.

### **“Hands On Heritage” Camp**

In July 1993, outreach took a new turn for the Delaware Heritage Commission when Executive Director Deborah P. Haskell proposed to the gathered Commissioners that the DHC sponsor a summer day camp for Delaware youngsters to learn more about the history and heritage of their state. Using the resources and collaborative efforts of Delaware museums plus local experts and historical societies, the commission would facilitate the process of getting campers to the myriad locations for a variety of activities. A number of places were considered as possible locations for camp activities—the Thomas Macdonough home near Middletown, the historic towns of Port Penn, Odessa, Dover, Smyrna, Milford, Rehoboth, Lewes, and Millsboro, the C&D Canal, Fort Delaware, the John Dickinson plantation, Cape Henlopen, and the Nanticoke Indian Museum. By the following summer, the commission was able to advertise that it was offering three weeks of “Hands On Heritage Camp,” one week in each of the three counties. Although the camp for Sussex County had to be cancelled because of too few campers, within two years enrollment had risen to allow all three counties to host camp activities. Camp in 1998 increased to four weeks and again in 2002 to five weeks. The number of campers per week also increased so that from fifty campers in 1995, the enrollment grew to ninety by 1997 and, in 2002, the camp was at capacity when 125 students signed up for the summer program, twenty-five in each of the five week-long sessions.

Each of the increases also signaled an increase in the age range that the camp could accommodate and, as older students took part in camp activities, in the sophistication of the programs offered. In 1995, one of the three weeks of camp was at a slightly advanced level, above the “beginner” level for children who had never attended before. Within five years, the advanced level had developed into a “Living History Week” during which students worked with first-person interpreters and dressed in period clothing. In 2001, high school aged campers worked with the Delaware State Parks historian in a program that focused on Fort Delaware and included research in the National Archives on medical records relating to the fort’s Civil War history. By summer 2003, two of the five weeks of camp were devoted to living history and the camping experience lapped over into the autumn when, in November 2003,

nine youngsters participated in an “Immersion Weekend” when they sought to relive some of the experiences of Lewis and Clark during a two-day camp at Greenbank Mill. The campers trapped, participated in military drill, hiked, surveyed, mapped, fired muskets, and cooked over an open fire.

The growing scope of the camp has also meant a growing circle of partner organizations that participate in aspects of the camp’s operation. From a slim initial list of a dozen historic sites and towns to which the youngsters were taken in the first years of the camp, the range and number destinations has grown impressively to nearly double that number. In addition to the activities that show youngsters crafts of yesteryear—blacksmithing, muskrat trapping, sheep shearing, cooking—the program now incorporates aspects of historic research by providing the opportunity to work in the Delaware State Archives with documents and maps or to participate in an archaeological dig at Killens Pond State Park, truly “hands on” work in history.

The executive director began “selling” the camp through the local “camp fair” in Wilmington and through the press. The initial public response was a positive one. The *Dover Post* greeted the proposal with enthusiasm, noting that the “unique feature of this first-ever summer camp will be the ‘hands-on’ approach.” Realizing quickly that outside sponsorship would be essential to making the camp self-supporting, the commission sought donors who would underwrite the cost of sending youngsters to camp. Well-supported from the beginning, the camp has enjoyed admirable, continuous patronage from businesses, civic groups, and historical societies throughout the state.

## **Appendix 1.1**

### **GOVERNORS OF DELAWARE**

#### **1969 TO THE PRESENT**

<b>21 January 1969—16 January 1973</b>	Russell W. Peterson
<b>16 January 1973—18 January 1977</b>	Sherman W. Tribbitt
<b>18 January 1977—15 January 1985</b>	Pierre S. duPont IV
<b>15 January 1985—31 December 1992</b>	Michael N. Castle
<b>31 December 1992—19 January 1993</b>	Dale E. Wolf [Lieutenant Governor completed Castle's term when Castle went to Congress]
<b>19 January 1993—3 January 2001</b>	Thomas R. Carper
<b>3 January 2001—16 January 2001</b>	Ruth Ann Minner [Lieutenant Governor completed Carper's term when Carper went to Congress]
<b>16 January 2001—present</b>	Ruth Ann Minner



## Appendix 1.2

### RATIFICATION DATES

The thirteen original states ratified the United States Constitution over a period of several months, beginning with Delaware's ratification on 7 December 1787. When New Hampshire ratified the Constitution on 21 June 1788, it became the ninth state to do so and the required number of states had voted to ratify, thus making the Constitution's adoption official. Below are the dates on which the thirteen original states ratified the Constitution.

7 December 1787	Delaware [unanimous, 30 yeas]
12 December 1787	Pennsylvania [46 yeas, 23 nays]
18 December 1787	New Jersey [unanimous, 38 yeas]
2 January 1788	Georgia [unanimous, 26 yeas]
9 January 1788	Connecticut [128 yeas, 40 nays]
6 February 1788	Massachusetts [187 yeas, 168 nays]
28 April 1788	Maryland [63 yeas, 11 nays]
23 May 1788	South Carolina [149 yeas, 73 nays]
21 June 1788	New Hampshire [57 yeas, 47 nays]
25 June 1788	Virginia [89 yeas, 79 nays]
26 July 1788	New York [30 yeas, 27 nays]
21 November 1788	North Carolina [194 yeas, 77 nays]
29 May 1790	Rhode Island [34 yeas, 32 nays]



## **Appendix 2.1**

### **CHAIRS OF THE DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION**

#### **1969 TO THE PRESENT**

##### **Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee, 1969-1971**

1969-1971	James T. McKinstry
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##### **Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1971-1978**

1971-1977	Dr. E. A. Trabant
1977-1978	James T. McKinstry

##### **Delaware Heritage Commission, 1978-present**

1978-1985	James T. McKinstry
1985-1986	Donald E. Cielewich
March-August 1986	Dr. Howard E. Row, acting chair
1986-1989	Robert P. Barnett
1989-1992	Dr. James R. Soles
May-September 1992	Dr. Howard E. Row, acting chair
1992-1995	Dr. Howard E. Row
1995-1996	Dr. James R. Soles
December 1996-March 1997	Reba R. Hollingsworth, acting chair
1997-2000	William E. Lowe
2000-present	Dr. James R. Soles





## Appendix 2.2

### DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Delaware Heritage Commission in its various incarnations has been known by three names—the Delaware Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee, the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and the Delaware Heritage Commission. The following is a chronological list of the individuals who served as commission members; those who served for ten or more years are printed in **boldface type**.

Downing, M. Catherine	1969-1976
<b>McKinstry, James T.</b>	1969-1985
Prickett, Louise	1969-1975
Trabant, E. A.	1969-1977
<b>Row, Howard E.</b>	1971-1995
<b>Cooper, Muriel</b>	1972-1985
Morris, Clifton	1972-1975
Murchison, Richard	1972-1973
<b>Murray, John A.</b>	1972-1983
Cohen, Nathan L.	1973-1977
Eisenstadt, Samuel	1973-1974
<b>Shipley, Samuel L.</b>	1973-present
Finch, Ronald A.	1974
<b>Rubenstein, Harvey B.</b>	1974-present
<b>Borish, Norman</b>	1975-present
Koch, Daniel	1975-1976
Blagg, G. Daniel	1978-1980
<b>Morgan, Mary</b>	1978-1989
Sonderlind, Carl	1979-1983
<b>Roberts, Judith A.</b>	1980-1994
Cooch, Richard R.	1984-1992
Bassett, John B.	1985-1994
Beard, Sam	1985-1989
Carroll, Crawford J.	1985-1994
Cielewich, Donald E.	1985-1986
Copeland, Tatiana B.	1985-1989

Dennis, Virginia	1985-1986
du Pont, Irene Jr.	1985-1988
Herlihy, Jerome O.	1985-1989
Malloy, John R.	1985-1989
Barnett, Robert P.	1986-1989
Cawley, Julie	1989-1990
Drexler, David A.	1989-1995
Goodier, John J.	1989-1995
<b>Hollingsworth, Reba R.</b>	1989-present
<b>Purnell, Lewis M.</b>	1989-2003
Soles, James R.	1989-1992, 1995-1996, 2000-present
Cochran, C. Malcolm IV	1990-1998
Chandler, Gayle L.	1991-2000
<b>Byrd, Robert L.</b>	1992-present
<b>Stark, Robert M.</b>	1992-present
<b>Carter, Richard B.</b>	1994-present
Clark, Kenneth S.	1994-1996
Hemphill, Edith	1994
Marrero, Mincrva	1994-1996
Luzader, Cheyenne	1996-present
Paradee, John W.	1996-prcsent
Smith, Ileana	1996-2000
Smith, Jean Ramsey	1996-present
Lowe, William E.	1997-2000
Ianni, Francis A.	2000-present
Puffer, Richard L.	2000-present
Williams, William H.	2000-present

## **Appendix 2.3**

### **DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION**

#### **DIRECTORS**

January 1973—August 1975  
August—November 1975  
November 1975—December 1976  
January 1977—April 1979

April 1979—February 1981  
February 1981—May 1983  
May 1983—August 1989

August 1989—April 1990  
April 1990—July 2003

John Mickey, executive director  
Louise Prickett, acting director  
Louise Prickett, executive director  
David V. Bonk, administrative  
director  
David V. Bonk, executive director  
no director, office closed  
Claudia L. Bushman, executive  
director  
Muriel Borish, acting director  
Deborah P. Haskell, executive  
director



### **Appendix 3.1**

#### **GREAT AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENTS PROGRAM**

At the conclusion of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, the Bicentennial Council of Thirteen Original States determined to continue the celebration of America's history and accomplishments by a series of conferences for the period from 1977 to 1989, a span of years that the BCTOS designated the "Bicentennial Era." The themes for the various conferences, each to be hosted by a different one of the original states, are listed below:

1977	One Nation Indivisible
1978	A New Republic Among Nations
1979	Of, By, and For the People
1980	Education for a Free People
1981	United We Stand
1982	Property and Economic Union
1983	The Self-Determination of Nations
1984	Freedom and Opportunity for All
1985	The Equality of New States
1986	Religious Freedom
1987	The Federal Union
1988	Orderly Change of Power
1989	The Rights of the Citizen



## Appendix 4.1

### DELAWARE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

#### GRANTS

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Georgetown	History of Georgetown	\$2,000
Ellendale	Monument	1,000
Kent County	Maritime museum, Bowers Beach	9,100
Kent County	History of Kent County	12,000
Kent County	"Bicentennial on Wheels," programs for 21 county communities	9,125
Port Penn	Museum	4,000
Delmar	Park and pavilion	2,500
Sussex County	Time capsule, heritage festival, historic map reproductions, publications	15,000
New Castle County	County parks and recreation program, Bicentennial Band, publications, county historic preservation program, "Operation Firecracker" [4 <sup>th</sup> of July event]	45,000
Millsboro	Beautification project	2,110
Christiana	Historic markers and signs	890
Milford	Parks and recreation area	10,000
New Castle	Separation Day program, lecture series, park	15,000
Carrcroft Elementary School	Family history-area history project	780
Mt. Pleasant	Film history	845
Stanton School	Community history	390
Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity	Spelling bee	750
Wilmington Public Schools	Film projects, book, black history project, visual arts, music	5,800
Claymont School	Travel books	4,500

A. I. duPont School	Arts festival	6,375
Department of Public Instruction	Debates	2,500
Smyrna School District	Musical concert	1,000
Indian River School	Audio visual program	4,000
Department of Public Instruction	Teachers guide	400
Old Mill Lane School	Festival and pageant	3,150
Brandywine College	Lecture series	1,200
Brandywine College	"The Patriot"	500
Goldey-Beacom College	Publication	350
Delaware State College	Lectures, plays, festival, publication	10,000
Wilmington College	Lectures, boat trip, essay contest, two courses, publication, toy exhibit	8,125
Caesar Rodney High School	Festival	350
University of Delaware	"A Day in Colonial America"	3,650
University of Delaware	Concerts, lectures, symposium, publications	10,000
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control	Muzzle-loading shoot	1,800
Brandywine Valley Friends of Old Time Music	Blue grass festival	500
Urban Coalition of Metropolitan Wilmington, Inc.	Musical play, <i>Mo' Tea, Miss Ann?</i>	1,000
Lewes Historical Society	Publication, <i>A Pictorial History of Lewes</i>	1,000
Historical Society of Delaware	Exhibit catalogue for Bass Otis exhibit	300
Historical Society of Delaware	Preparation of Delaware materials for New Jersey bicentennial exhibit	600
Milford Historical Society	Pictorial history of Milford	2,500
Milford Historical Society	Constitution Day event at Parson Thorne Mansion	500



## Appendix 4.2

### DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION

#### CHALLENGE GRANTS

Recipient	Project Description	Amount
<b>1985</b>		
Milford	Sound and light show on city history	\$2,250
Dill, Raymond W.	Kent County cemeteries project	500
Smith, Dr. Daniel Blake	Film on John Dickinson and other Delaware delegates to the Constitutional Convention	1,500
Howard High School alumni	Documentary film on high school	5,000
Milton	Publication of pamphlet on John Clowes	500
Chesapeake Bay Girl Scouts Council	Publication of <i>A Legacy of Delaware Women</i>	3,000
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center	Exhibit on black Delawareans	1,500
Groves High School	Lecture	50
Kalmar Nyckel Foundation	Historic map	1,000

Recipient	Project Description	Amount
<b>1986</b>		
Delaware Press Women	Symposium on freedom of the press	\$2,000
Delaware Humanities Forum	Lecture series, co-sponsored by Delaware Heritage Commission	3,000
Historical Society of Delaware	Publication of <i>Minutes of Delaware Privy Council</i>	2,640
Department of Public Instruction	<i>Lessons—Constitution</i> , teacher manual	360
American Needlework Guild	Needlepoint pictures of John Dickinson's homes	500
Milton	Plaque for 175 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	1,200
Historical Society of Delaware	"Life in Delaware in the 1780s" [exhibit]	1,000

Delaware Federation of Women's Clubs	Planting holly trees in 32 locations around the state	800
Afro-American Society of Delaware	"200 Years of Black Achievement in Delaware" [brochure]	2,500
Delaware Genealogical Society	<i>Early Settlements on the Delaware</i> [reprint Benjamin Ferris' book]	2,500
American Pen Women, Diamond State Branch	<i>A Kaleidoscope of Delaware Arts and Letters</i>	500

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1987</b>		
Delaware Bar Association	Theatrical production on Constitution	\$15,000
Milford	Educational materials on Milford history	1,250
Bethel Historical Society	<i>Sailing Rams</i> [reprint Dr. James Marvil's book]	1,000
National Conference of Christians and Jews	Constitutional conferences for high school seniors	1,000
Newark Symphony Society	Constitutional Assembly Ball	750
Very Special Arts	Festival of visual and performing arts for disabled	1,100
Milford Garden Club	Bicentennial garden project	200
Delaware Morgan Horse Guard	Costumes for riders in commemorative events	3,000
Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce	Guide to historic area	463
Newark Memorial Day Committee	Parade and festivities	2,000
Fellows in Free Trade	Publish "You Can Do It" brochure	500
Magna Carta Committee	Reception, Georgetown	500
Dover Heritage Trail	Bicentennial program	150
American Wind Ensemble	Bicentennial concert	1,500
Pattison, Alice Chen	Framing bicentennial watercolors	1,380
Delaware State Education Association	Bicentennial bookmarks	1,000
Delaware Technical and Community College, Georgetown	4 July 1987 celebration	2,700

Townsend	History booklet on Townsend	215
United Way	Garden for handicapped	300
Milford Historical Society	History of Milford	3,981
Wilmington	4 July 1987 celebration	2,500
Odessa	Bicentennial celebration	2,000
Music Department, University of Delaware	Colonial dance and music project	1,000
Helen Chambers Memorial Foundation	History of Goree Island	2,000
Newark Symphony Society	Bicentennial concert	1,000
Colonial State Knitters	Delaware coverlet	50
Nanticoke Indian Association	Tepee	415
Alliance for Hispanic Arts and Humanities	Concert	1,250
Woodside	Bicentennial celebration	2,500
H. Fletcher Brown High School Alumni Association	Restore Schoonover mural	1,000
First State Amateur Radio Club	"Special events" radio station	100
Historical Society of Delaware	"Constitution Day" project	7,500
American Needlework Guild	Pictures of Dickinson houses	120
Red Clay School District	<i>Freedom's First</i> [play about John Dickinson]	689
Kalmar Nyckel Foundation	Toward publication of <i>The Swedes and the Dutch at New Castle</i> by C. A. Weslager	4,000
Afro-American Historical Society	Research on blacks at the Dickinson plantation	4,000

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1988</b>		
Woodside	Booklet	\$1,795
Performing Arts for Children of Delaware	Musical program, <i>All Aboard, America</i>	2,775
Delaware State College and Society of Natural History	Botanical heritage survey	3,000
Kent County Amateur Radio Club	Broadcast bicentennial events	250
Seaford High School	Class trip to Washington	2,100
Delaware Society for the Preservation of Antiquities	Map project	240
Rehoboth Art League	"Doors of Fame" restoration	500
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Commemorative book	500
Fisher Martin House	Photographic exhibit	500
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Photo archives	500
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Oral history project	500
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Civil War farm family project	500
Port Penn	Town signs	442
Jewish Federation of Delaware	Holocaust video	500
Kalmar Nyckel Foundation	Lunch	200
Milton	John Clowes book	500
Columbus 500 Committee	Christopher Columbus quintennial	1,500

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1989</b>		
Afro-American Historical Society	Cultural arts program, Big Quarterly	\$1,000
Delaware Technical and Community College	Agricultural heritage fair	1,000
St. Georges Historical Society	Museum preparation and dedication	768
Kent County Amateur Radio Club	Broadcast bicentennial events	250
Seaford High School	Class trip to Washington	2,100

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1990</b>		
Delaware Council for Social Studies	National History Day participation expenses	\$500
Delaware Council on Economic	Teacher materials	1,000

Education		
Georgetown Bicentennial Committee	Drama to mark town's bicentennial, <i>The Georgetown Hundred</i>	500
Delta Sigma Theta	Concert to honor black contribution to music	500
Wilmington Maritime Center	Marine arts exhibit	5,000
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Century Farm project, oral history transcription	850
Lewes Historical Society	Reprint Marvil book [Grant to be repaid after sales]	4,484
Afro-American Historical Society	Souvenir posters for Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday event	500

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1991</b>		
Arden Archives Committee	Brochure on Arden photo and document collection	\$500
Historical Society of the U. S. District Court	Production of history of the Court [Grant to be repaid after sales]	4,350
Possum Point Players	Production of <i>The Georgetown Hundred</i>	?

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1992</b>		
Afro-American Historical Society	Video on black Delawareans	\$500
New Castle Historical Society	Reprint of "The Big Green Umbrella"	1,300
Harrington Historical Society	Memorial to Benjamin Clark, town's founder	500

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1993</b>		
Delaware City	Reprint of Wingate booklet, history of Delaware City	\$1,000
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Educational materials	1,500
Iron Hill Museum	Recordation of prehistoric cultural history relating to quarrying of native jasper	1,000
Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture, University of Delaware	Biography of Harry Hayward, first dean of College of Agriculture and first director of Extension	1,000

Delaware Society of the Descendants of the Mayflower	Distribution of Hoffeecker speech on 35 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware Chapter	80
Newark Business Association	Brochure on historic downtown buildings	578
Quaker Hill Historic Preservation Foundation	Reprint walking tour brochure	750
Middletown Historical Society	Publication of membership brochure	80

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1994</b>		
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Exhibit guide, Delaware Farm Weddings	\$1,988
Middletown Historical Society	Peach festival materials	75
Quaker Arts Fellowship	Performance of play about William Penn	950
New Castle Historical Society	Booklet on New Castle waterfront	1,500
Delaware Art Museum	Exhibit brochure, folk art exhibit	1,000
Harrington Historical Society	Booklet for World War II program	750

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1995</b>		
New Castle County Planning Department	Self-guided tour of National Register properties in southern New Castle County	\$3,500
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Educational packet on "Ordering by Mail"	949
Delaware Historic Records Advisory Board	Publish update of records held by Delaware historical societies	3,248

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1996</b>		
Afro-American Historical Society	Concert videotape	\$250
Dover Art League	Exhibit booklet, Native American artists in Delaware	1,500
Delaware Agriculture Museum	Delmarva quilt poster to advertise quilt exhibit	600
Downtown Milford, Inc.	Brochure for Milford Heritage Festival	375

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1997</b>		

Dover Art League	Exhibit booklet, Asian/Pacific artists in Delaware	\$1,700
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Educational packet, "Rural Life during the Depression"	1,000

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1998</b>		
Dover Art League	Exhibit booklet, European-born artists in Delaware	\$1,350
Delaware Bar Association	Videotape about Delaware's first women lawyers	1,500
Downtown Milford	Walking tour brochure	355

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>1999</b>		
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Purchase butter churns, coffee mill	\$330
Greenbank Mill	Enhancements of archaeology and textiles programs	272
Air Mobility Command Museum	Plane making program for DHC camp	500
Kalmar Nyckel Foundation	Apparatus to demonstrate art of sailing	750
Preservation Delaware, Inc.	Educational brochure for Gibraltar Gardens	1,500
Wilmington Roundtable Civil War Society	Sponsorship for speakers at Roundtable event	500

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>2000</b>		
Delaware State Parks	Materials for living history program for DHC camp	\$850
Greenbank Mill	Materials for DHC campers' visit to mill	250

Recipient	Project description	Amount
<b>2001</b>		
Black History Month	Publication of program guide	\$500
Greenbank Mill	Materials for DHC campers' visit to mill	372
Biggs Museum	Exhibit brochure	1,600
New Castle Historical Society	Exhibit brochure	1,000

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>2002</b>		
Delaware Academy of Science	Signage for driving tour of significant historic sites in Pencader Hundred	\$1,500
River Bluff Forge	Materials for camp visit to Trap Pond State Park	200
New Castle Historical Society	Exhibit brochure, African American art exhibit	1,000
Preservation Delaware, Inc.	Guidebook on preservation practices	1,000
Greenbank Mill	Materials for DHC campers' visit to mill	150



### Appendix 4.3

#### BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANTS

Recipient	Project Description	Amount
<b>1985</b>		
Arden Club	Renovate Gild Hall	\$9,600
Cheswold	Renovate Cheswold School for community use	28,000
Kent County Levy Court	Brick sidewalk at courthouse	13,000
Delaware Art Museum	Expansion and renovation	87,500
Dewey Beach	Restore life saving station	30,000
Greater Harrington Historical Society	Restore church building for use as museum	15,000
Lewes Public Library	Toward construction of new library building	32,000
Milton Historical Society	Restore museum	4,400
Newport	Repair Town Hall roof and refinish floors	1,350
Bethany Beach	Renovate Old Town Hall for offices	10,000
Opera Delaware, Inc.	Renovate building	37,500
Wilmington	Develop historical park and improve Christina waterfront	50,000
Wilmington Library	Roof repairs, cleaning and restoration of interior frieze, replace lighting	25,000

Recipient	Project Description	Amount
<b>1986</b>		
Delaware Children's Theatre	Safety improvements	\$12,000
Delaware City	Rehab city Hall and Old Engine House	11,000
Greenbank Mill Associates	Restore mill	43,640
Hartly Volunteer Fire Company	Renovate archive room	4,500
Historical Society of Delaware	Construct underground storage area	20,000
Kalmar Nyckel Foundation	Construct reproduction ship	10,000
Old Union Church Society	Repair roof	2,850
Ross Mansion	Restore rooms and security system	18,000

Selbyville Public Library	Repair roof	5,000
Williamsville Historical Society	Restore Griffith's Chapel for community use	4,300
Ardentown Theatre	Improvements to theater building	23,750
Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce	Information center	5,400
Arden	Buzz Ware Village Center	5,900
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Unspecified project	1,750
Delaware Theatre Company	Toward construction of new theater	25,000
Associated Community Talents, Inc.	Restore Everett Theatre, Middletown	34,500
Women's Club of Odessa	Restore organ in Old St. Paul's M. E. Church	13,000
Fenwick Island	Improve town hall	33,000
Georgetown	Landscape The Circle	5,000
Hagley Museum	Unspecified project	38,000
Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center	Multipurpose room	19,500
Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc.	Repair Wilmington & Western Railroad bridges	5,000
Delaware Zoological Society	Improvements at Brandywine Zoo	25,000
Lombardy Hall	Restore house	4,250
New Castle	Landscape roads into city	6,000
Ocean View	Construct community building	27,000
Opera Delaware	Renovate building	37,500
Rehoboth Beach	Improve bandstand	23,100
Seaford District Library	Building addition to library	20,000
Sussex County Council	Improve Milton Library	22,500
Afro-American Historical Society and Howard High School Alumni	Create black history museum	8,240
Duck Creek Historical Society	Renovate The Barracks	3,110
Dover	"Constitution Place" project	125,000
Harrington	City hall library	58,000
Drummond Hill Civic Association	Restore Pompe House	900
Fruitland Grange	Restore building	5,000
Grand Opera House	Restore façade	20,000
Greater Harrington Historical Society	Restore museum	1,983
ANKH, Inc.	Restore Houston Hall	10,000
Lewes Bicentennial Committee	Improve park	2,000

Milton Historical Society	Install storm windows	350
Newark	Buy and improve railroad station	27,625
Rehoboth Art League	Preserve building	10,700
Rockwood Museum	Restore barn	20,000
Smyrna	Improve police-library building	38,900
WHYY	Create microwave relay system	34,000

Recipient	Project Description	Amount
<b>1987</b>		
Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council	Upgrade campground	\$15,000
Community Legal Aid Society	Renovate building	20,400
Delaware Agricultural Museum	Build 19 <sup>th</sup> -century covered bridge	6,000
Delaware Center for Contemporary Art	Renovate Water Department building for gallery and offices	19,150
Delaware State Fair	Repair water tank	9,000
Delaware Technical and Community College, Georgetown	Build acoustical shell	18,000
Felton Community Fire Company	Alter firehall interior	4,050
Forwood School	Landscape playground to improve drainage	6,220
Greenwood Railroad Station	Repair station interior and exterior	1,900
Winterthur Museum	Erect flagpole, renovate interior, improve toilets	13,000
Harrington	Complete city hall library [previous grant \$58,000]	25,000
Indian River Senior Center	Improve center and build addition	32,000
Laurel Historical Society	Renovate property for museum and community building	7,500
Lewes	Build canal walk and park	2,000
Lombardy Hall	Restore house [previous grant \$4,250]	2,900
Milford New Century Club	Repair club building	4,802
Milford	Masten Bicentennial Park	5,000
Odessa Community Center	Repair and paint city building	7,200
Port Penn Historical Society	Purchase and install bell in tower of old school	1,300
Rehoboth Railroad Station	Relocate and renovate railroad building	15,750
Schoonover Studios	Restore exterior	9,500
Selbyville Public Library	Repair and paint porches of the Townsend House, now used for the library	15,000

Smyrna	Construct band pavilion	12,500
South Bethany	Building addition to town administration building	10,000
YMCA of Eastern Sussex	Repair roof	9,000
Wilmington Rowing Club	Improve site and build boathouse	10,000
Afro-American Historical Society	Museum [previous grant \$8,240]	5,200
Blackbird Community Center	Paving	1,000
Brandywine Zoo	Education building [previous grant \$25,000]	15,000
Camden Bicentennial Committee	Plaques for historic sites	300
Center for Creative Arts	Build wheelchair ramp	6,925
Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council	Improve campsite	32,145
Community Legal Aid Society	Renovate Georgetown office	10,000
Dagsboro Bicentennial Committee	Upgrade street lighting	2,000
Dover	"Constitution Park" [previous grant \$125,000]	375,000
Dover Century Club	Repair and improve building	8,050
Elsmere Community Center	Renovate building	5,000
Felton	Improve Memorial Park	1,237
Girls Clubs of Delaware	Library	10,000
Greenbank Mill Associates	Restore mill [previous grant \$43,640]	25,000
Greenwood Public Library	Build new building	25,000
Hagley Museum	Restore building [previous grant \$38,000]	9,900
Harrington	Build town multipurpose building	33,127
Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc.	Repair Wilmington and Western Railroad lines [previous grant \$5,000]	50,000
Lombardy Hall	Restore building [previous grants \$4,250 and \$2,900]	7,500
New Castle	Place electric lines underground in historic area	72,000
Winterthur Museum	Visitor center for Odessa Historic Homes	6,500
Opera Delaware	Renovations to building [previous grant \$37,500]	10,000
Milford Historical Society	Repair Parson Thorne Mansion	5,000
Port Penn Historical Society	Shad skiff project	12,105
Possum Point Players	Renovate building	10,000
Rehoboth Beach	Renovate bandstand [previous grant \$23,100]	7,500
St. Georges Historical Society	Renovate St. Georges Presbyterian Church	77,850
YWCA of New Castle County	Renovate building, new construction	50,000

#### **Appendix 4.4**

#### **JAMES T. McKINSTRY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

##### **1992—Graduate student awards**

- Bruce Bendler—research on “The Levels” near Middletown
- Susan Mulchahey Chase—research on Wilmington’s suburbs
- Allison Wehr Elterich—research on the Green in Dover
- Katina Menko—preparation of an article about Elizabeth Bringham Galt Smith

##### **1994—Awards open to any serious researcher studying Delaware history or heritage**

- Margaret M. Mulrooney—dissertation expenses for research on workers at the DuPont powder mills
- Peter Dalleo—research on free blacks in Wilmington, 1830-1860
- James Johnson—work on African American troops from Delaware during the Civil War
- Jerry Shields—work on the unpublished manuscripts of George Alfred Townsend

##### **1995**

- Jerry Shields—support for work on book about George Alfred Townsend
- Delaware State Archives—for microfilming Legislative Papers of 1793-1812

##### **1996**

- William Thiesen—research, slide preparation, and lecture on Delaware shipbuilding

##### **1997**

- Scott Emory—archaeological work at Vinyard Shipyard, Milford
- Lora Bilton Englehart—research on primary resources on Mary Ann Shadd Carr
- Celia Cohen—research and writing on modern political history in Delaware

##### **1998**

- Judith Yancy Gibson—history of Howard High School, 1915-1975

**1999**

- No applicants received funding during 1999.

**2000**

- Julian D. Winslow—research and book about Sussex County railroad
- Marilyn J. Doto—research on Wilmington's Old Cathedral Cemetery
- Nancy Buffington—research on New Castle's African American population

**2001**

- Robert Barnes and Judith Pfeiffer— photocopying expenses related to research on Pencader Hundred
- Aimee C. Lala—research on early theaters of Delaware
- Richard Carter—rewriting Townsend book
- Brian Stokes—research on the election of 1864
- Sidney R. Jacobs—begin research on Littleton Mitchell of Delaware City

**2002**

- Sidney Jacobs—compilation of oral histories and writing a biography of Littleton Mitchell, Delaware civil rights and social activist

## **Appendix 5.1**

### **ARTICLES ON DELAWARE HISTORY PUBLISHED IN**

#### ***FULLY, FREELY & ENTIRELY***

Bendler, Bruce A., "The Levels: Development of a Landscape, 1680-1860," Vol. 4:  
No. 2.

Buffington, Nancy, "African Americans in New Castle Through 1850: A Second  
Look," Vol. 11:No. 2.

Chase, Susan Mulchahey, "Restrictive Covenants and Wilmington Suburbs, 1900-  
1941," Vol. 5:No. 1.

Dalleo, Peter, "'All Shades of Color'—Wilmington's Free Blacks Prior to the Civil  
War," Vol. 8:No. 1.

Doto, Lyn, "Uncovering Old Cathedral Cemetery," Vol. 12:No. 2.

Elterich, Allison Wehr, "Legislation of Land Use and Its Effect on the Dover Green,"  
Vol. 4:No. 1.

Emory, Scott A., "Caught Between Wood and Steel," Vol. 9:No. 1.

Englehart, Lora Bilton, "Another First for Delaware: Mary Ann Shadd Cary Inducted  
Into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York," Vol.  
9:No. 1.

Ferguson, Eugene S., "the Legacy of Oliver Evans," Vol. 2:No. 2.

Firlein, Ted, "A Day with Roger Nathan," Vol. 11:No. 1.

Gardner, Jack, "Dancing in Celebration," Vol. 3:No 1.

- Hancock, Harold B., "Delaware Revolutionary Activities," Vol. 1:No. 2.
- Jackson, James B., "The Golden Fleece Tavern," Vol. 3: No.2.
- Johnson, James E., "Lower Delaware Blacks in the Civil War," Vol. 6:No. 1.
- Keese, Debbie, "Tracking the 'Pumpsie Doodle' Along White Clay Creek: Current Research on the Pomeroy and Newark Railroad," Vol. 14: No. 1.
- Kern, John, "Dickinson Plantation Project, Restoration and Reconstruction," Vol.1:No.1.
- Littleton, Harold J., "Gunning Bedford, Jr. and His Home, Lombardy Hall," Vol. 1:No. 3.
- Littleton, Harold J., "Washington's Friendship with Gunning Bedford," Vol. 10:No. 2.
- Manko, Katina L., "Letters from Abroad: Elizabeth Bringham Smith's Letters from Kilwaughter Castle, Ireland, 1886-1922," Vol. 5:No. 1.
- Melson, Claudia, "A History of the Ross Mansion," Vol. 12:No. 1.
- Michel, Sandra Seton, "Jeanette Slocomb Edwards, Artist and Poet," Vol. 13:No. 1.
- Mulrooney, Margaret M., "Irish Culture, Catholic Doctrine, and Working-Class Women in Nineteenth-Century Delaware," Vol. 6:No. 2.
- Munroe, John A., "Delaware, The First State," Vol. 13:No. 2.
- Munroe, John A., "The First Map of Delaware After Statehood," Vol. 2: No.1.
- Pleasants, William W., "Sussex County: Home of the Sailing Rams," Vol.2: No.4.
- Row, Howard E., "Minutes of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association (D.E.S.A.), 1915-1919," Vol. 7:No. 1.
- Shields, Jerry, "Gath's Literary Work and Folk and Other Selected Writings of George Alfred Townsend," Vol. 7:No. 2.



Solinger, Nicole, "Delaware Breakwater Quarantine Station: The First Stop in a New World," Vol. 14:No. 2.

Stark, Robert, "Delaware Civil War Notes," Vol. 10:No. 1.

Thiesen, William H., "The Making of an 'American Clyde': The Development of Iron Shipbuilding in the Delaware Valley," Vol. 8:No. 1.



**Appendix 5.2**  
**DELAWARE HERITAGE PRESS**  
**PUBLICATIONS**

Borland, Katherine, *Creating Community: Hispanic Migration to Rural Delaware*  
[2001]

Brittingham, Hazel, *John Clowes, Jr. 1730-1790, Broadkill Patriot: The Man—His Family—The Times* [1989]

Burdick, Virginia A., *Captain Thomas Macdonough, Delaware Born Hero of the Battle of Lake Champlain* [1991]

Bushman, Claudia L., *So Laudable an Understanding, The Wilmington Library, 1788-1988* [1989]

Carter, Richard, *Clearing New Ground: The Life of Governor John G. Townsend, Jr.* [2001 reprint of 1984 book]

Citro, Pauline, *Delaware, The First State* [1989]

Conner, William and Leon de Valinger, *Delaware's Role in World War II* [2002 reprint of 1955 book]

Davis, Ned, *Governor Charles L. Terry, 1965-69* [2000]

Frank, William P., *Caesar Rodney, Patriot: Delaware's Hero for All Times and All Seasons* [1992 reprint of 1975 book]

Hancock, Harold B., *Delaware During the Civil War: A Political History* [2002 reprint of 1961 book]

Ianni, Francis A., *World War One Remembered Featuring Paintings by Frank E. Schoonover and Gayle Porter Hoskins* [1993]

Marks, Carole E., editor, *A History of African Americans in Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore* [1998]

Martin, Roger, *Elbert N. Carvel, 1949-1953 and 1961-1963* [1997]

Martin, Roger, *Sherman W. Tribbitt, 1973-1977* [1998]

- Nathan, Roger, *East of the Mason-Dixon Line, a History of Delaware's Boundaries* [2000]
- Perry, Christopher, *Russell W. Peterson, 1969-1973* [1999]
- Pilots Association for the Bay and River Delaware, *One Hundred Year History of the Pilots Association Bay and River Delaware* [1996]
- Redding, J. Saunders, *Troubled in Mind, J. Saunders Redding's Early Years in Delaware* [1991]
- Rubenstein, Harvey B., Matthew F. Boyer, and Randy J. Holland, *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Delaware State Constitution, 1897: the First 100 Years* [1996]
- Shields, Jerry, *Gath's Literary Work and Folk and Other Selected Writings of George Alfred Townsend* [1996]
- Skelcher, Bradley, *A History of African American Education in Delaware: A History Through Photographs* [1999]
- Ward, Christopher, *The Delaware Continentals* [2001 reprint of 1941 book]
- Warrington, C. W., *Delaware's Coastal Defenses* [2003 reprint of 1971 book]
- Wingate, W. O., *Reminiscence of a Town That Thought It Would Be a Metropolis: Delaware City, Delaware* [1993]

### Appendix 5.3

#### PUBLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY COMMISSION CHALLENGE GRANTS

Afro-American Historical Society, *200 Years of Black Achievement in Delaware*  
[brochure, 1986]

Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce, *Guide to Bethany Beach-Fenwick Island*  
[1987]

Bethel Historical Society, *Sailing Rams* [1987 reprint of James Marvil book of 1961]

Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council, *A Legacy from Delaware Women* [1985]

Delaware Genealogical Society, *Early Settlement on the Delaware* [1986 reprint of  
Benjamin Ferris book of 1846]

Diamond State Branch of American Pen Women, *A Kaleidoscope of Delaware Arts  
and Letters* [1986]

Fellows in Free Enterprise, *You Can Do It!* [brochure, 1987]

Historical Society of Delaware, *Minutes of the Delaware Privy Council, 1778-1792*  
[1986]

Historical Society of the U.S. District Court, *Federal Justice in the First State—A History of the United States District Court for the  
District of Delaware* [1991]

Lewes Historical Society, *Sailing Rams* [1990 reprint of James Marvil book of 1961]

Milford, City of, *Business and Industry of Milford, Delaware* [1987]

Milton, City of, *John Clowes, Esq., Broadkill's Outstanding Patriot* [1988]

New Castle Historical Society, *The Big Green Umbrella* [1992 reprint of Elizabeth

Coatsworth book of 1944]

Preservation Delaware, Inc., guidebook on preservation practices [2002]

Townsend, City of, *Townsend Today* [1987]

Weslager, C. A., *The Swedes and the Dutch at New Castle* [1987; published by the  
Kalmar Nyckel Foundation]

## **Appendix 6.1**

### **DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION**

#### **COLLABORATIVE EVENTS AND PARTNERS**

##### **1982**

- 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Milton, Milton anniversary committee
- 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Penn landing at New Castle, New Castle anniversary committee

##### **1984**

- Symposium “Planning for Delaware First: The Constitutional Bicentennial” co-sponsored with Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

##### **1985**

- Lecture series on United States Constitution, Delaware Humanities Forum
- Poster series on United States Constitution, Delaware Humanities Forum

##### **1986**

- Creation of “Constitution Park” in Dover, City of Dover
- Lecture series on Constitution continued, Delaware Humanities Forum

##### **1987**

- Drama on constitutional issues, Delaware Bar Association
- Educational materials on ratification of the Constitution, Delaware Humanities Forum
- Film, “Celebrate the First State,” WHYY
- Water journey from Wilmington to Philadelphia for Congressional delegation attending a special session of Congress relating to the bicentennial of the Constitution, Port of Wilmington Maritime Society

##### **1988**

- American-Finnish-Swedish commemorative stamp, Kalmar Nyckel Commemorative Committee

##### **1990**

- 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus’ journey to North America, Columbus 500 Committee

**1991**

- Display of Bill of Rights in Dover, co-sponsored with National Archives, Delaware Department of State, Delaware State Archives
- Georgetown Bicentennial play, Georgetown Bicentennial Committee
- Visit of HMS *Rose*, Port of Wilmington Maritime Society

**1992**

- Reading by Bernie Herman from his book, *The Stolen House*, Georgetown Historical Society
- Reading by Bruce Stutz from his book *Natural Lives, Modern Times: People and Places of the Delaware River*, co-sponsored with Delaware Conservation Program, Preservation Delaware, University of Delaware Folklore Archives, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Delaware Folklife Program, and Port Penn Historical Society
- "Finding the Americas, 1492-1992," conference, co-sponsored with the Latin American Community Center and faculty from the University of Delaware, Goldey-Beacom College, Wesley College, and Delaware State University
- New Castle County Airport Fly-in, Experimental Aircraft Association
- Publication of pamphlet about the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware's 1792 constitution, co-sponsored with the Delaware Department of State, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, and the Delaware State Archives
- Rededication of the statue of Caesar Rodney, Rodney Square, co-sponsored with the City of Wilmington

**1993**

- Save Outdoor Sculpture!, Preservation Delaware, Delaware Division of the Arts, Friends of Old Dover
- Reading by Bernie Herman from his book, *The Stolen House*, New Castle Historical Society
- C&D Canal Celebration, co-sponsored with St. Georges Historical Society, Delaware Maritime Center, Town of St. Georges, Town of Delaware city, Delaware City Business Association, Delaware City House Tour Committee, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- World War I Armistice Commemoration, co-sponsored with the World War I Re-enactors, Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, Gov. Bacon Health Center, Delaware National Guard, Fort Delaware Society, the Delaware Commission on Veterans Affairs
- Membership drive, Middletown Historical Society

**1994**

- New Castle County Airport Fly-in, Experimental Aircraft Association
- World War II Commemoration, Commemoration Committee
- Local historical society events, co-sponsored with Duck Creek Historical Society, Milford Historical Society, St. Georges Historical Society, and Georgetown Historical Society

**1995**

- Calendar to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage, League of Women Voters
- New Castle County Airport Fly-in, Experimental Aircraft Association



- Workshop on handling historic artifacts, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Delaware Organization of Historical Societies

#### **1996**

- Lecture on shipbuilding, co-sponsored with the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation
- Delaware Authors Day, co-sponsored with the Delaware State Arts council, the Delaware Literary Connection, Pen Women and Press Women

#### **1997**

- Centennial of Delaware's 1897 constitution, co-sponsored with Delaware Bar Association, State Legislative Council, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
- New Castle County Airport Fly-in, Experimental Aircraft Association

#### **1998**

- Symposium on Wilmington's 1968 riots, co-sponsored with the Oral History Mid-Atlantic Region, Hagley Museum, Delaware Humanities Forum, YWCA, Delaware State Human Relations Commission

#### **1999**

- Slide lecture by George Frebert on Delaware Aviation, co-sponsored with Italo-Americans United
- Oral history training, co-sponsored with the Delaware Folklife Program
- Slide lecture by Roger Nathan on the Mason-Dixon boundary markers, co-sponsored with the Seaford Historical Society, the State Visitors Center, and White Clay Creek State Park

#### **2000**

- Organizational meeting of Delaware Museum Association, hosted initial meeting of historical societies and museums from around Delaware
- Delaware Author's Day, co-sponsored with Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village, Delaware Literary Connection, the Delaware Press Association, and the Friends of Delaware Libraries.

## 2001

- Collections Care Workshop, co-sponsored with the Delaware Museums Association, Fort Delaware Society, Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village, Delaware State Archives.
- Delaware Authors Day, co-sponsored with the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village, Delaware Literary Connection, Delaware Press Association, Diamond State Branch of the National League of American Press Women, Friends of Delaware Libraries
- Induction of first members into Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, co-sponsored with Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame
- Pencader Heritage Day, Pencader Heritage Area

## 2002

- 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, co-sponsored with the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, Glasgow High School, the Hale-Byrnes House, Pencader Heritage Area, Newark Heritage Alliance, Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council
- Book signing [Richard Carter's *Clearing New Ground: the Life of Governor John G. Townsend Jr.*] and fund raising event, Selbyville Library
- Book signings, Lewes Library and Seaford Library
- Book signing and membership night, Friends of Millsboro Library
- Evening program honoring three World War II air missions, co-sponsored by the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame
- Information markers for historic sites in Pencader Hundred, in cooperation with Pencader Heritage Area.

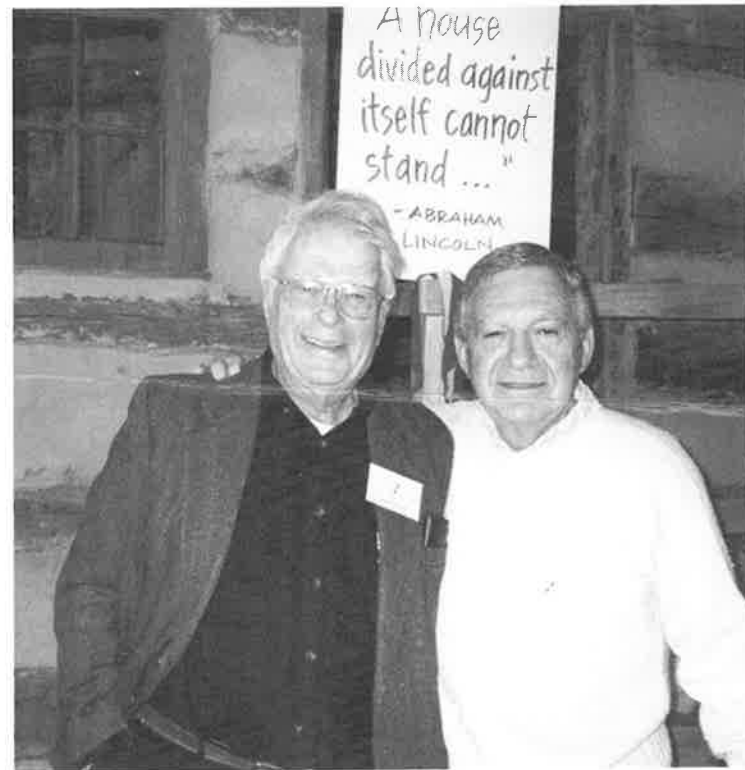


## SCRAPBOOK OF THE DELAWARE HERITAGE COMMISSION

### EVENTS

The Commission has a proud history of event sponsorship. The photos to the right highlight four uniquely Heritage Commission programs in our 30-year history.

- In the top left photograph, Gen. George Washington plants a ceremonial oak tree at the Hale Byrne House in Stanton during a day of activities celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Washington's inaugural in 1989.
- In the photo to the top right from 1989, Representative Thomas Carper and Governor Mike Castle flank Rod McDonough, descendant of Commodore Thomas Macdonough, the Delaware-born hero of the Battle of Lake Champlain during the War of 1812. For a number of years Commodore Macdonough Day was an annual event at Macdonough Elementary in St. Georges. Rep. Carper portrayed Commodore Macdonough for the gathered school children.
- In the next photo at the lower right, Commission members Lewis M. "Skipper" Purnell (left) and Harvey B. Rubenstein share a laugh at Delaware Authors Day in 2002.
- The photo to the bottom left is of attendees to the unveiling of the Commission-financed Constitution Park in Dover. The park, highlighting Delaware's role in ratifying the Constitution, was dedicated during ceremonies on September 17, 1988.



## OUTREACH

By providing outreach services to the citizens of Delaware, the Commission is able to interact with school children, civic organizations, historical societies and more. To the right are photographs taken at just some of the Commission's many outreach programs.

- The photo to the top left was taken at Delaware Book Fair and Authors Day held at the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village in Dover in 2001. The Book Fair is the only event of its kind in Delaware and the Commission is happy to be able to bring together Delaware writers each year in a forum that honors their work and effort. In the picture, Elizabeth "Betsy" Baxter of Bethany Beach minds the "Display of Contemporary Delaware Writers" for the Friends of the Delaware Libraries.
- At the top right Rev. Dr. Fred Seyfert of Newark portrays Rev. I. W. C. Handy at an event held at the Newark Free Library to celebrate the release of the book *Delaware During the Civil War* in 2002. Rev. Isaac W. C. Handy was a political prisoner held at Fort Delaware during the Civil War.
- The photo below was taken at a program honoring the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Delaware General Assembly in 2004. The day was filled with educational and fun speeches chronicling the First State's legislative history. The gentleman on the left is former Representative Philip J. Corrozi, in the middle is Representative J. Benjamin Ewing of Bridgeville. To the right is former Representative Jane Maroney.
- The bottom left photo is of the Milford Museum. The Commission takes pride in supporting small museums and historical societies in Delaware. For the city of Milford the Commission produced a walking/driving tour of the town's historic buildings.



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## SUMMER CAMP

The Hands On Heritage Summer Camp began in 1993 with three weeks of camp for youngsters ages 11-13. In 2005, the Commission will offer four weeks of camp for young teens, two Advanced Camp weeks for high school students, two weeks of Senior Camp for active adults ages 55 and over, and two special Immersion Weekend programs where the students are fully immersed in a specific time period in Delaware history. Some of the camp activities are scrapbooked in the photos to the right. They are clockwise from the top left:

- Campers are inducted into the Union Army at Fort Delaware and are learning the basics of bayonet combat. The campers also cook in the camp kitchen, do the officers laundry, apprentice with the blacksmith, fire cannon, and shoot muskets.
- In the next photo campers are taking art in a mock session of the Delaware House of Representatives. Each camper portrays an actual member of the Delaware House and they discuss topics pertinent to young people in Delaware such as school uniforms, truancy, and curfews.
- The next photo is of a camper canoeing the Brandywine River. The camp focuses on history but also shares with each youngster the importance of our natural heritage such as our rivers, bay, natural sciences, and wildlife.
- In the last photo, a camper is screening soil from an archeological dig at Greenbank Mill.





## BOOKS

The Commission began publishing books detailing First State history and heritage in 1991. In 2005 the Commission, through the Delaware Heritage Press, will have 25 books in the collection. Traditionally book releases are followed by lectures and presentations in all three counties. The following photos are from book release events.

- In the photo to the left, Roger E. Nathan, author of the Delaware Heritage Press book, *East of the Mason-Dixon Line: A History of the Delaware Boundaries*, lectures (while petting the local cat) about the Mason-Dixon Line outside of Newark. The cat is standing on marker #85.
- In the photo to the top right, Governor Ruth Ann Minner is presenting two of the Commission's books—*Delaware's Role in World War II* and *Delaware's Coastal Defenses*—to the Bridgeville Public Library at the 2003 Apple Scrapple Festival.
- The photo at bottom right is from the Delaware Heritage Press book, *Delaware's Coastal Defenses*. The photo was taken late in the war and shows the crew of German U-Boat 858 following their surrender. They are debarking at the pier in Lewes Harbor.
- Commission staff strives to select unique and interesting photos to be included in our publications. The photo to the bottom left is of former Delaware Governor Charles L. Terry (1965-69) chatting with Ted Kennedy. This photo is part of the book *Charles L. Terry* by Ned Davis. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> in the series of books chronicling former Delaware Governors.



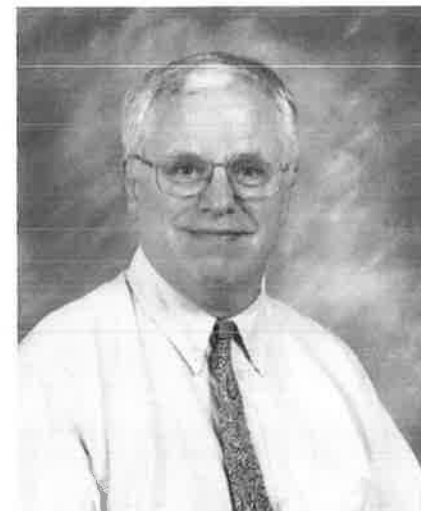
## Former Executive Directors and Chairmen



Former Chairman William E. Lowe Jr. of Lewes



Dr. Deborah P. Haskell  
Executive Director, 1991-2003



Richard B. Carter of Millsboro  
Chairman, 2004 - present



Former Chairman Dr. Howard Row of Dover



Former Executive Director  
Dr. Claudia L. Bushman



Dr. James R. Soles of Newark.  
Dr. Soles served three separate  
terms as the Commission  
Chairman



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