

**THE BUST OF GEORGE WYTHE
REPORT OF THE
GEORGE WYTHE BUST COMMISSION
to
THE GOVERNOR
and
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



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THE GEORGE WYTHE BUST COMMISSION

TO

THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Richmond, Virginia, October 25, 1963

To:

HONORABLE A. S. HARRISON, JR., *Governor of Virginia*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

For some years the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia have been interested in having a bust of George Wythe made and placed in an appropriate area in the Capitol. The General Assembly of 1962, cognizant of the contributions of George Wythe, desired to participate in this undertaking and accordingly adopted Chapter 398, Acts 1962, to accomplish the same.

CHAPTER 398

AN ACT to establish a Commission to commission a bust of George Wythe, to provide for the powers and duties of the Commission so established, and to provide for the placement of the bust.

Whereas, George Wythe was one of the outstanding figures of the Revolutionary period in Virginia; and

Whereas, his accomplishments as a member of the bar and upon the bench of Virginia were in the best traditions of that period which saw so many citizens of this Commonwealth contribute to the establishment of this nation and the strengthening of its Constitution, and

Whereas, in addition to his other accomplishments, he trained young men to become attorneys; and

Whereas, it is fitting that appropriate recognition be given to George Wythe; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. There is hereby created a Commission to have prepared a bust of George Wythe and to place the same in the State Capitol at an appropriate place. The Commission shall be composed of five members, of whom two shall be appointed by the President of the Senate from the membership thereof, and three shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates from the membership thereof. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services. Upon the completion of their work they shall submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly.

The Commission is authorized to accept and expend gifts, grants, donations and funds from any and all sources. The appropriation made to the Commission by this act shall not be expended until the same amount has been received from private sources.

When the Commission has available the sum of three thousand dollars, they shall enter into a contract with an appropriate artist for the making of a bust of George Wythe; provided that the selection of such artist has been approved by the Art Commission for the State of Virginia.

The General Assembly also adopted Chapter 582 appropriating funds for use in preparing the Wythe Bust. This Chapter follows:

CHAPTER 582

An Act to appropriate fifteen hundred dollars to a Commission to prepare a bust of George Wythe.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. There is hereby appropriated to the Commission established to commission a bust of George Wythe, from the general fund of the State treasury the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to be expended in accordance with the terms hereinafter provided. The Commission shall not expend any portion of such sum appropriated until such time as the Colonial Dames of America shall grant to the Commission the sum of fifteen hundred dollars at which time the Commission is authorized to expend funds to accomplish its purpose.

Pursuant to Chapter 398, the Speaker of the House of Delegates appointed from the membership thereof: Messrs. H. H. Adams, of Eastville, Russell M. Carneal, of Williamsburg, and Lyman C. Harrell, Jr., of Emporia. The President of the Senate appointed from the membership thereof: Messrs. Fred W. Bateman, of Newport News, and Victor P. Wilson, of Hampton.

The Commission met and organized by electing Senator Wilson as Chairman and Mr. Adams Vice-Chairman. John B. Boatwright, Jr. and G. M. Lapsley served as Secretary and Recording Secretary, respectively, to the Commission.

The Commission met with representatives of the Colonial Dames in order to find the extent to which their plans had progressed and how the Commonwealth might assist in furthering this project. It was learned that negotiations were under way with a noted sculptor, to prepare a bust of Wythe. It was further the intention of the Colonial Dames to have appropriate ceremonies in the Capitol at the time the bust was to be placed therein.

The Commission approved of the undertakings of the Colonial Dames and, accordingly, after obtaining the approval of the Art Commission, authorized the expenditure of the appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars for the completion of the bust.

The bust has been completed and it is planned to place the same in the Capitol some time after the adjournment of the Session of 1964. It is fitting that the ceremonies in connection therewith be participated in by the Commonwealth. In order for this to be done, it will be necessary for the State to give its assent thereto and create a Commission to lend support to this plan. It is not contemplated that the State will incur any expenses in connection therewith.

It is our opinion that the bust is an excellent one and suitable to be placed in the Capitol. The proposed arrangements of the Colonial Dames of America, in connection with the placement, are dignified and suitable to the occasion. The Commonwealth should, in our judgment, participate in this occasion and a resolution is attached hereto to provide for the continuation of the Commission in order that the Commonwealth may take a fitting part in the ceremonies. We recommend its adoption.

The place of George Wythe in the history of Virginia and of the United States is well known to all who have read of that formative period in our history.

It is fitting that we note the contributions which the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia has made in this project. They have given tirelessly of their time and efforts to raise funds, to commission the bust, and to plan ceremonies appropriate to the placing of the Wythe Bust in the Capitol. All Virginia is indebted to them.

Respectfully submitted,

VICTOR P. WILSON, Chairman

HOWARD H. ADAMS, Vice-Chairman

FRED W. BATEMAN

RUSSELL M. CARNEAL

LYMAN C. HARRELL, JR.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.

Creating a Commission to arrange ceremonies for the placement of the bust of George Wythe in the Capitol.

Whereas, the Colonial Dames of America and the Commonwealth, acting jointly, have had a bust of George Wythe completed and it is fitting that same be placed in the Capitol with suitable commemorative services; and

Whereas, the Colonial Dames of America have planned appropriate ceremonies for this occasion and it is fitting that the Commonwealth be represented therein; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Commission, created under Chapter 398, Acts 1962, is hereby continued for the purpose of cooperating with the Colonial Dames of America in planning, arranging, and conducting commemorative services in connection with placing the bust of George Wythe in the Capitol Building. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services. The Commission shall make a report to the General Assembly of 1966 concerning its activities in this regard. The Commission shall expire upon the completion of its work.