

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA INDEPENDENCE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
To
THE GOVERNOR
And
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**

House Document No. 27

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Purchases and Supply
Richmond
1972

**THE VIRGINIA INDEPENDENCE BICENTENNIAL
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION**

TO

THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Richmond, Virginia
February 11, 1972

To: HONORABLE LINWOOD HOLTON, GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

and

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

The Virginia Independence Bicentennial Preliminary Commission was created by Chapter 698 of the 1966 Acts of Assembly. Pursuant to this, three members were appointed by the Lieutenant Governor from the Senate, five by the Speaker from the House of Delegates, and five by the Governor from the State at large.

In 1968, the Act was amended dropping the word "Preliminary" from the Commission's title, and adding two members to the Commission from the State at large. The Governor accordingly named two additional citizens to serve on the Commission.

A second amendment to the Act approved by the General Assembly in 1971 increased the membership of the Commission to eighteen—one additional State Senator, and two additional members from the House of Delegates. This amendment further provided that members in office on January 1, 1971, and those appointed subsequent thereto, would continue in office until December 31, 1983.

The purpose of the Commission is to develop and coordinate plans of public and private agencies for commemorating the bicentennial of the War of American Independence.

At the first meeting of the Commission, February 17, 1967, Delegate Lewis A. McMurrin, Jr., was elected Chairman; Senator Hunter B. Andrews was elected Vice Chairman at the next meeting, October 20, 1967.

Since 1966, the staff of the Jamestown Foundation has served as secretariat of the Commission. Mr. Parke Rouse, Jr., Executive Director of the Foundation, has served also as acting director of the Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission. Mrs. Jacqueline Chapman was appointed Administrative Assistant on July 1, 1971.

The following report is submitted as called for in Section 9, of the above mentioned Acts of Assembly, as amended.

Section 1: Personnel

The following have been appointed to the Commission, pursuant to Section 1 of the act:

By the President of the Senate:

Senator Hunter B. Andrews
Hon. Fred W. Bateman
Senator Garland Gray
Senator Omer Lee Hirst

Hampton
Newport News
Waverly
Annandale

By the Speaker of the House:

Delegate John Warren Cooke	Mathews
Congressman W. C. Daniel	Danville
Delegate Frank E. Mann	Alexandria
Delegate Lewis A. McMurren, Jr.	Newport News
Delegate Sam E. Pope	Drewryville
Delegate John Sears, Jr.	Norfolk
Delegate Benjamin H. Woodbridge, Jr.	Fredericksburg

By the Governor from the State at large:

Mr. A. E. Dick Howard	Charlottesville
Hon. W. Moscoe Huntley	Richmond
Mr. E. M. Hutton	Alexandria
Mrs. Carolyn Moses Lusardi	Brookneal
Mrs. Perry W. Moore	Williamsburg
Mr. Jack C. Smith	Roanoke
Mr. John C. Stephens, Jr.	Yorktown

Section 2: Executive Committee and Advisory Council

The commission has named an executive committee as follows:

Senator Hunter B. Andrews	Delegate Lewis A. McMurren, Jr.
Mr. A. E. Dick Howard	Delegate John Sears, Jr.
Hon. W. Moscoe Huntley	Mr. Jack C. Smith
Delegate Frank E. Mann	

The commission has also named an advisory council, which thus far includes the following members:

Mr. James Bear	Charlottesville
General Edwin L. Cox	Aylett
Mr. Elbert Cox	Richmond
Admiral Irving T. Duke	Stratford
Mrs. Robert V. H. Duncan	Alexandria
Mr. Douglas B. Fugate	Richmond
Mr. Carlisle H. Humelsine	Williamsburg
Col. Ludwell Lee Montague	Ware Neck
Mr. James W. Moody, Jr.	Richmond
Mr. Robert A. Murdock	Richmond
Mr. Jameson Parker (died 1/6/72)	Lorton
Mrs. John W. Riely	Richmond
Mr. Marvin Sutherland	Richmond
Mr. Charles C. Wall	Mount Vernon

Section 3: Coordination of Public and Private Planning

In order "to develop and coordinate plans of public and private agencies for commemorating the bicentennial," the commission has:

1. Established and maintained contact with the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.
2. Joined with the Bicentennial Commissions of the District of Columbia and Maryland in urging the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission to center much of the national celebration in the nation's capital.
3. Supported the efforts of the Governor's Industrial Development Board to cooperate in establishing a permanent exposition of science and

industry on a 640-acre tract north of Dulles Airport. These efforts have been endorsed by President Nixon.

4. Joined with the bicentennial agencies of the other 13 original states in establishing The Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States. Meetings of the Council have been held in Newport, Rhode Island; Raleigh, North Carolina; Williamsburg; and Savannah, Georgia; with meetings now scheduled in Annapolis, Maryland, in January 1972, and Charleston, South Carolina, in April 1972. Mr. McMurren is currently vice-chairman of the Council.

5. Held a Statewide Virginia Bicentennial Forum on September 17, 1971, at the Hotel John Marshall in Richmond, to which the Governor invited all counties, cities, and towns in the Commonwealth, plus appropriate historical, patriotic and cultural organizations, to send members. At the meeting, general plans for the Virginia observance were presented. The commission has also met in Richmond, Williamsburg, Alexandria, Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Fredericksburg in order to have the benefit of local views.

6. Distributed literature listing dates to be celebrated, publications to be issued, and other details.

7. Established a Virginia Independence Bicentennial Newsletter, currently distributed quarterly to approximately 1,500 individuals and/or organizations.

8. Agreed to sponsor a national high school Bicentennial Debate Tournament, to begin in 1974 with participants from each of the thirteen original states. Tournaments will be held in Williamsburg, with the cooperation of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. A detailed proposal will be presented to the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States on January 14, with the request that the bicentennial commission of each state sponsor their qualifying tournaments. It is also anticipated that this program will be recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and can be expanded in 1975 and 1976 to include participants from all 50 states.

9. Encouraged all counties, cities, and towns to create bicentennial planning bodies to cooperate with the State and Federal commissions.

Section 3(d): Scholarly Publications

In order to develop a "program of scholarly publications," the commission has created an Advisory Committee of Historians, consisting of the following:

Mr. Francis Berkeley, Jr.	University of Virginia
Dr. Alf J. Mapp, Jr.	Old Dominion University
Mr. A. E. Dick Howard	University of Virginia Law School
Mr. John Jennings	Virginia Historical Society
Dr. William F. Swindler	College of William and Mary
Dr. Edward M. Riley	Colonial Williamsburg
Dr. George Reese	University of Virginia

On the recommendation of this Committee, the commission has inaugurated three major historical projects:

1. Publication of basic documents relating to the onset and conduct of the Revolution in Virginia, the adoption of State and Federal constitutions, and the creation of State and Federal governments. To assemble,

edit, and prepare these volumes for publication, the VIBC originally engaged the late Dr. William J. Van Schreeven, at that time State Archivist. On his death, the commission engaged Mr. Robert L. Scribner to continue the work.

Two publications in this series have already been published:

The Farmer's and Monitor's Letters to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies, being a facsimile of William Rind's 1769 edition of the letters of John Dickinson and Arthur Lee, with introduction by Dr. William J. Van Schreeven.

The Cornwallis Papers: Abstracts of Americana. A detailed listing of the papers of Cornwallis in the American War of Independence, compiled by Dr. Edward M. Riley.

The following publications are also to be included in this series of volumes, which will be printed and bound for permanent reference use:

—Address and Representation of the House of Burgesses to Lieutenant Governor Fauquier in Defense of Issuing Paper Money, 28 May 1763.

—Address, Memorial, and Remonstrance of the General Assembly to King, Lords, and Commons, Respectively, in Opposition to a Proposed Stamp Act, 18 December 1764.

—Resolutions of Patrick Henry in Condemnation of the Stamp Act, 29-30 May 1765.

—Resignation of the Magistrates of Westmoreland County in Protest against the Stamp Act, 24 September 1765.

—Nullification of the Stamp Act by the Magistrates of Northampton County, 11 February 1766.

—Resolutions of the Westmoreland Association in Condemnation of the Stamp Act, 27 February 1766.

—*An Enquiry into the Rights of the British Colonies*, by Richard Bland, 1766.

—Resolutions of the Sons of Liberty of the Borough and The County of Norfolk in Defiance of the Stamp Act, 31 March 1766.

—Proclamation of Lieutenant Governor Fauquier Announcing Repeal of the Stamp Act, 6 June 1766.

—Address, Memorial, and Remonstrance of the General Assembly to King, Lords, and Commons, Respectively, in Opposition to the Quartering and the Townshend Acts, 14 and 16 April 1768.

—A Hint of Sentiments by the "British American," 4 May 1769.

—Resolves of the House of Burgesses in Opposition to the Quartering Act and a Resolution of Parliament, 16 May 1769.

—Nonimportation Association of Former Burgesses, 18 May 1769.

—Nonimportation Association of Burgesses and Merchants, 22 June 1770.

—Address of the House of Burgesses to the King in Opposition to the Slave Trade, 1 April 1772.

—Resolutions of the House of Burgesses Establishing an Inter-colonial Congress of Correspondence, 12 March 1773.

—Resolution of the House of Burgesses Designating a Day of Fasting and Prayer, 24 May 1774.

—Nonimportation Association of Members of the Late House of Burgesses, 27 May 1774

—Proceedings of a Meeting of Representatives in Williamsburg, 30 May 1774.

—Letter of Peyton Randolph and Others to Members of the Late House of Burgesses, 31 May 1774.

—Letters of the “British American,” Numbers IV-IX, 16 June to 26 July 1774.

—*Considerations on the Present State of Virginia*, by the King’s Attorney General, 1774.

—Examination of the Attorney General’s *Considerations*, by Mr. Treasurer Nicholas, 1774.

—*A Summary View of the Rights of British America*, by Thomas Jefferson, 1774.

—Resolutions of the House of Burgesses on Lord North’s Conciliatory Proposals, 10 June 1775.

—Address of the House of Burgesses to Lord Dunmore on Lord North’s Conciliatory Proposals, 12 June 1775.

—Resolutions of the General Assembly of Virginia Moving Independence and Confederation, 7 June 1776.

2. Publication of a series of 24 studies of the leading Virginia statesmen, generals, and developments of the Revolutionary period, under the overall editorship of Dr. Edward M. Riley, as follows:

Volume I: *Virginia Signers of the Declaration of Independence*

—Carter Braxton and the War of Independence, by Alonzo T. Dill, Director of Public Relations, Chesapeake Corporation

—Benjamin Harrison and the War of Independence, by Howard W. Smith, Chairman, Department of History, Spring Hill College

—Thomas Jefferson and the War of Independence, by Merrill D. Peterson, Chairman, Department of History, University of Virginia.

—Francis Lightfoot Lee and the War of Independence, by Mrs. Constance Wyrick, Historian, Stratford Hall

—Richard Henry Lee and the War of Independence, by John C. Matthews, Professor of American History, Towson State College

—Thomas Nelson, Jr., and the War of Independence, by Emory G. Evans, Chairman, Department of History, Northern Illinois University

—George Wythe and the War of Independence, by E. M. Hutton, Administrative Assistant to the Hon. Thomas N. Downing.

Volume II: *Virginia Military in the War of Independence*

—The Virginia Continental Line in the War of Independence, by John R. Sellers, Bicentennial Programs, Library of Congress

—Virginia Continental Generals other than Washington, by John R. Sellers

—George Washington and the War of Independence, by Donald Jackson, Editor, Papers of George Washington, Charlottesville

—The Virginia Negro in the War for Independence, by Edgar Toppin, Department of History, Virginia State College

—The Virginia Navy in the War of Independence, by Charles B. Cross, Jr., Clerk of Circuit Court of the City of Chesapeake

—Military Campaigns in Virginia Before 1781, by Hugh F. Rankin, Department of History, Tulane University

—George Rogers Clark and the Winning of the West, by Hugh F. Rankin

—The Virginia Campaign and the Siege of Yorktown, by Edward M. Riley, Director of Research, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Volume III: *Virginia and the War of Independence*

—Chronology of Virginia, 1763-1783, by John E. Selby, Department of History, College of William and Mary

—The Expulsion of Lord Dunmore, by John E. Selby

—Virginia's Constitution of 1776 and the Declaration of Rights, by A. E. Dick Howard, School of Law, University of Virginia

—Patrick Henry and the War of Independence, by Jane D. Carson, Research Associate, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

—George Mason and the War of Independence, by Robert A. Rutland, Coordinator of Bicentennial Programs, Library of Congress, Editor, The Papers of James Madison, Charlottesville

—Social Life in Virginia, 1774-1783, by Elizabeth Cometti, Department of History, West Virginia University

—Bibliography of Virginia in the War of Independence, by Harold B. Gill, Jr., Research Associate, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

—Arthur Lee and the War for Independence, by Dr. A. R. Riggs, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

—Some Economic Aspects of the Revolution in Virginia, by Marshall Booker, Christopher Newport College

3. Indexing of the Colonial Records Survey of all Virginia-related records found in the British Isles and in European archives during a search conducted under auspices of the Virginia 350th Anniversary Commission from 1954 to 1959. To conduct this work, the VIBC has retained Mr. Robert M. Ours, who will begin this undertaking (estimated to require six years or more) on January 1, 1972, under the supervision of Dr. Louis Manarin, Virginia State Archivist. The State Library Board has of-

ferred to cooperate in this project by furnishing office space, materials, and facilities.

Section 4: "Purchase Lands . . . for the celebration"

The Commission recommends to the General Assembly the creation of a statewide center, to be known as the Independence Victory Center, adjoining the Yorktown battlefield and surrender field in York County. Use of some 1,000 acres of land without charge has been offered by the City of Newport News. The Commission will undertake a planning study in 1972 looking toward development of roads, parking, reception buildings, and other features leading from Interstate Route 64 northward to the Independence Victory Center. This will be Virginia's primary reception and exhibit area for the State Bicentennial program.

At the Independence Victory Center it is proposed that large-scale parking, information, feeding, reservation and ticketing services, book and gift sales, restrooms, and other facilities be offered. Finally, visitors during peak months (probably June 15 through Labor Day of each bicentennial year) would be able to board continuous daytime sightseeing buses, which will make a circular tour of the battlefields, stopping for areas at principal battlefield sites, the town of York, the Yorktown Visitor Center of the National Park Service, Washington's headquarters, and surrender field, before returning to the Independence Victory Center.

The Commission also recommends to the Governor and General Assembly the Commonwealth's creation jointly with the City of Alexandria a Bicentennial Information Center in Northern Virginia, to become available later for permanent use by the Virginia State Travel Service.

To accomplish these proposed ends and other efforts to attract Bicentennial visitors to Virginia's numerous colonial and Revolutionary sites, the Bicentennial Commission is seeking the fullest cooperation of the Highway Department, the Department of Conservation and Development, the Commission of Outdoor Recreation, the Historic Landmarks Commission, Virginia State Travel Service, and other agencies both state, federal, local, and nongovernmental. The following statement of policy sets forth the intended program:

The Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission believes that this Commonwealth should observe the anniversary years of American independence, from 1974 to 1983, with a celebration which will involve people of all ages, interest, races, and from all sections of our Commonwealth.

1. We believe that Virginia's existing colonial and Revolutionary sites provide the most appropriate background against which most of the celebration should take place. To that end, we plan to designate such sites as "Shrines of Independence" and to denominate them by use of the official insignia to be adopted by the Virginia celebration.

2. It is the intention of the Commission to cooperate with the City of Alexandria to obtain a Bicentennial Information Center in Northern Virginia, to become available later for permanent use by the Virginia State Travel Service.

3. Working with the Virginia State Travel Service, the Commission will develop appropriate Virginia Bicentennial exhibits for the Virginia State Travel Service information stations throughout Virginia and in New York and Washington.

4. Further, we intend to develop an Independence Victory Center in the Vicinity of Yorktown and hereby authorize negotiations with the Trustees of the Town of York, with the County of York, with the National Park Service, and with the City of Newport News for the use of lands owned by them and offered to the Commission.

5. The Commission will continue to encourage the development of local proposals such as have been presented by Norfolk, Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Charlottesville and will cooperate to the fullest with all communities in the development of a meaningful celebration of the Bicentennial of Virginia's independence.

To inform the nation of the Shrines of Independence and of Virginia's part in the Revolutionary War, the commission has secured the services of Mr. Andre de la Varre to create a 28-minute color film of the battlefields, buildings, and historic sites throughout Virginia. This film is scheduled for completion in July 1972.

Section 5: "to receive . . . grants and donations"

The Commission recommends to the 1972 session of the General Assembly legislation to permit creation of a nonprofit corporation, as an adjunct of the Commission, to receive, hold, and expend and "gifts, grants, and donations" received for Bicentennial purposes.

The Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States has sponsored a series of commemorative medals honoring the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence which are being issued by the Franklin Mint over the 56 months prior to July 4, 1976. Over 13,500 sets of these medals have been subscribed. The Council will distribute a substantial portion of its royalties to the bicentennial agencies of the thirteen states.

Section 6: "to adopt an official flag, seal, . . ."

The Commission is in process of selecting an appropriate insignia, which will thereafter be incorporated into the Commonwealth of Virginia's official Bicentennial seal, flag, and other uses. This will be duly copyrighted and carefully used to enhance the Virginia Bicentennial's image and, where appropriate, to derive funds for the observance.

Section 7: "The Governor . . . to issue proclamations"

As the celebration period approaches, the Governor will be requested by the Commission to issue certain proclamations, calling attention to important anniversaries and inviting public participation.

Section 8: Service of Commission and Advisory Councils

The members of the commission and its advisory bodies are serving without compensation, but are offered reimbursement of actual expenses in performing their duties.

Section 9: Annual Report of the Commission

The requested annual report of the Commission for the calendar year 1971 is herewith submitted.

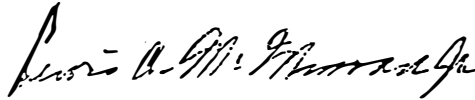
To move forward in the planning for the Independence Victory Center at Yorktown, the Commission is requesting that the sum of \$200,000 be

reappropriated from 1970-72 unexpended funds and that an additional \$250,000 be appropriated for the forthcoming biennium.

To implement the other proposals set forth herein and detailed in the biennial budget submitted for consideration by the General Assembly, the Commission is requesting \$291,900.

Mr. Rouse, Executive Director of the Jamestown Foundation, continues to serve as acting director of the commission. While there are now two staff members on the VIBC payroll in the Jamestown offices, additional staff work is still performed by employees of the Jamestown Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lewis A. McMurrin, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Lewis A. McMurrin, Jr.
Chairman

