

**NEW HAMPSHIRE AT THE CENTENNIAL.
THE ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR CHENEY;
THE ORATION OF PROFESSOR E. D.
SANBORN; AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE
OTHER EXERCISES ON NEW HAMPSHIRE
DAY AT PHILADELPHIA, OCT. 12, 1876**

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New Hampshire at the Centennial. The Address of Governor Cheney; the Oration of Professor E. D. Sanborn; And an Account of the Other Exercises on New Hampshire Day at Philadelphia, Oct. 12, 1876 by J. Bailey Moore

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J. BAILEY MOORE

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L. G. H. H. H. H.

D. B. Cheney

NEW HAMPSHIRE
AT THE
CENTENNIAL.

THE ADDRESS OF
GOVERNOR CHENEY;

THE ORATION OF
PROFESSOR E. D. SANBORN,
OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE;

AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE OTHER EXERCISES ON NEW HAMP-
SHIRE DAY AT PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 12, 1876;
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED A SKETCH OF
THE GREAT CENTENNIAL
EXHIBITION.

COMPILED BY
J. BAILEY MOORE.

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1876.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
AT THE
CENTENNIAL.

THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

THE first important and decisive movement to carry out the proposition to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of American Independence, by a grand national exhibition of the products of the industry and skill of the people of all nations, at Philadelphia, was made by committees of the City Councils and the Franklin Institute of that city, and a committee of the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania. In the early part of the year 1870 these committees petitioned the Congress of the United States as follows:

“MEMORIAL.

“To the Honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States:

“The Declaration of Independence having been written and signed by its patriotic authors in Philadelphia, and its promulgation to the world first made in that city, and as the centennial anniversary of that memorable and decisive epoch in our country's history is nearly approaching, it behooves the people of the United States to prepare for its celebration by such demonstrations and appropriate ceremonies as may become a nation so rapidly risen from struggling infancy to a position of power and prosperity as at once to command the respect of all governments and the admiration of the world.

“In order, therefore, to stimulate a pilgrimage to the mecca of American nationality, the home of American independence,

on an occasion so worthy of commemoration, it has been wisely suggested that prominent among the features for celebrating our one hundredth anniversary there should be an international exhibition of arts, manufactures, and products of the soil and mine, as thereby we may illustrate the unparalleled advancement in science and art, and all the various appliances of human ingenuity for the refinement and comfort of man, in contrast with the meagre achievements of a century past.

"For the fulfillment of this, where so fitting a spot as the cradle of our country's liberty? or when the time as on the centennial anniversary of the year her freedom had its birth?

"In furtherance of an undertaking truly national in its character, and so commendable in spirit, the Councils of the City of Philadelphia, the Board of Managers of the Franklin Institute, and Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have each appointed committees, who, clothed with authority to act from the bodies they represent, respectfully solicit Congress, by its action, to recognize the fact that the City of Philadelphia is, and of right should be, the place to hold, and that the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six would be the time to inaugurate, an exhibition of the industry of all nations.

"When such action as your wisdom may deem proper shall have been taken in order to place the grand design under your fostering care and control, it is hoped the President of the United States will be authorized, in due time, to invite the participation of all governments.

"Respectfully submitted."

The above memorial was signed by a committee of twenty members of the Common Councils of Philadelphia, of which John L. Shoemaker was chairman, and Daniel M. Fox Mayor of the city; a committee of four members of the Franklin Institute; and a joint committee consisting of eight members of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, of which John L. Shoemaker was chairman.

On March 3, 1871, an Act of Congress was passed, providing that an exhibition of American and foreign arts, products, and manufactures, should be held in Philadelphia in 1876, and also

providing for a Centennial Commission, consisting of one member and one alternate belonging to each State and Territory of the Union.

Ex-Governor Ezekiel A. Straw was appointed the Commissioner from New Hampshire, and Hon. Asa P. Cate, of Northfield, the alternate. Mr. Cate resigned in 1874, and Colonel M. V. B. Edgerly, of Manchester, was appointed to fill his place.

The Commissioners soon after met in Philadelphia, and the appropriate committees were appointed. General Joseph R. Hawley, of Connecticut, was appointed President, and Hon. Alfred T. Goshorn, of Ohio, Director-General.

It was provided by the by-laws of the Commission that the following committees should be appointed for the management of the details of the enterprise: The Executive Committee, to consist of thirteen members, Committee on Tariffs and Transportation, Committee on Finance, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Opening Ceremonies, Committee on Legislation, Committee on Classification, Committee on Nominations of Secretaries of Departments, Committee on Arts and Sciences, Committee on Manufactures, Committee on History, Literature, and Popular Education, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Agriculture and Live Stock, Committee on Mines and Mining, Committee on Horticulture and Floriculture, Committee on Fisheries and Fish Culture.

The original Executive Committee consisted of thirteen members, as follows: Daniel J. Morrill, Pennsylvania; Alfred T. Goshorn, Ohio; Walter W. Wood, Virginia; Ezekiel A. Straw, New Hampshire; N. M. Beckwith, New York; James T. Earle, Maryland; George H. Corliss, Rhode Island; John G. Stevens, New Jersey; Alexander R. Boteler, West Virginia; Richard C. Cormick, Arizona; Lewis Waln Smith, Georgia; John Lynch, Louisiana; James Birney, Michigan.

Mr. Straw was also a member of the Committee on Manufactures and the Committee on Plans and Architecture, and he was chairman of each of these boards. On account of the pressure of other business engagements, he resigned his position on the Executive Committee in 1875.

The State of Pennsylvania appropriated the sum of \$1,000,000 and the city of Philadelphia the sum of \$500,000, the whole to be expended for the erection of an Art Gallery or Memorial Hall for the use of the Exhibition, with the proviso that at the close the hall should be permanently devoted to the display of works of art in Philadelphia. The city of Philadelphia subsequently made another appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the aid of the exhibition.

It was decided to hold the exhibition on the most beautiful portion of Fairmount Park, situated on the west bank of the river Schuylkill, and three miles from Independence Hall. Two hundred and thirty-six acres were enclosed for the purpose. The grounds, which were undulating and naturally very beautiful, were laid out in the most admirable manner. The avenues, which were of ample width, were laid in concrete. There were many beautiful fountains and statues; and a large portion of the grounds which were not occupied by buildings were covered with plants and flowers of many varieties. A narrow-gauge double-track steam-railway, which was furnished with its equipment as a special exhibit, was operated for the conveyance of passengers about the grounds, at a small charge. The grounds were supplied with water from the Schuylkill, which was pumped up by engines which were capable of supplying six and a half millions gallons per day.

Soon after the organization of the Board of Commissioners, the sum of \$20,000 was offered for the best plans for the buildings for the exhibition. Many of the best architects in the country competed for the prize, and thirty-two plans were submitted to the committee. On examination, however, it was found that all of the plans were unsatisfactory, on account of the great expense which would be involved in their construction, chiefly for ornamentation; and also for the reason that none of them were calculated to secure the proper economy of space which was required.

The Commissioners finally decided to authorize Mr. Goshorn, the Director-General, to employ other architects, who were well acquainted with their ideas, to carry out their views. Henry Pettit, who had been extensively engaged in the management of

railroads, was appointed engineer, and John Wilson principal architect. The Commissioners, however, decided to distribute the amount of \$20,000, which they had offered for plans, among the thirty-two architects who had responded to their proposals, reserving to themselves the right to use any part of the plans which were submitted, as they might see fit.

Five principal exhibition buildings were erected, as follows :

1. **THE MAIN BUILDING.** This building was 1880 feet long, 464 feet wide, and was devoted to the display of articles which were arranged under three general departments, as follows : Mines and Metallurgy ; Manufactures ; and Education and Science. The contract cost of this building was \$1,800,00.

2. **THE ART GALLERY, OR MEMORIAL HALL.** This was a beautiful building, built of granite, iron, and glass, and rendered fire-proof. It was erected at a cost of \$1,500,000, and was designed to remain a permanent memorial of the nation's first centennial anniversary. It is 365 feet long and 210 feet wide, and is surmounted by a central dome. It was devoted to the department of sculpture and painting, engraving, architectural designs, models, decorations, etc. Adjacent to this building there was an annex for the display of works of art, which was much larger than the principal structure erected for that purpose. The main art building and the annex contained about forty-five separate rooms or galleries, which were filled with splendid paintings, statues, and other works of art. Nearly all of the countries in Europe were represented, and there were specimens of the works of many of the most celebrated artists of England, from the time of Charles I. to the present day. Mexico and Brazil were also well represented. The exhibit of the United States contained specimens of the works of nearly all the leading painters of the country for the past two hundred years.

3. **MACHINERY HALL.** This was 1402 feet long by 360 feet wide, and cost \$800,000. In the centre of this building was located a Corliss engine of 1400 horse-power, with two 40-inch cylinders with 120-inch stroke, and capable of driving the entire shafting necessary to run all the machinery which was exhibited.