

**HISTORICAL ADDRESS, OF
THE CITY OF
NEWPORT, DELIVERED
JULY 4TH. 1876**

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Historical Address, of the City of Newport, Delivered July 4th. 1876 by William P. Sheffield

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WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD

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ADDRESS,
OF THE
City of Newport,

DELIVERED

JULY 4TH, 1876.

With an Appendix.

BY

WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

NEWPORT:
JOHN P. SANBORN & CO., STEAM JOB PRINTERS.
1876.

President's Proclamation.

By the President of the United States.

A. PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, A joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States was duly approved on the 13th day of March last, which resolution is as follows:

"Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and the House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching centennial anniversary of our national independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first centennial of their existence"; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to the notice and knowledge of the people of the United States,

Now, therefore, I, Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same, in the hope that the object of such resolution may meet the approval of the people of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into effect.

Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, the 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1876, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth.

By the President,

U. S. GRANT.

HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

State of Rhode Island.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Providence, April 27th, 1876.

To the Honorable City Council of the City of Newport,

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor herewith to enclose a duly certified copy of a Resolution passed by the General Assembly at its recent Session, requesting me to invite the people of the several towns and cities of the State, to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation.

By pursuing the course suggested by the General Assembly, the people of the State will derive an amount of information which will be invaluable to the present generation, as showing the wonderful progress of the several towns and cities since their formation.

It will also be of great value to future generations when the materials for such sketches now accessible will have been lost or destroyed by accident, or become more or less effaced and illegible from time.

Therefore in pursuance of the request of the General Assembly I respectfully and earnestly, through you, invite the people of your city to carry out the contemplated celebration on the 4th day of July next.

HENRY LIPPITT, *Governor.*

State of Rhode Island &c.

In General Assembly, January Session, A. D. 1876.

JOINT RESOLUTION

ON THE

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL

IN THE SEVERAL CITIES AND TOWNS.

Resolved, The House of Representatives concurring therein, that in accordance with the recommendation of the National Congress, the Governor be requested to invite the people of the several cities and towns of the State, to assemble in their several localities on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and cause to have delivered on that day an historical sketch of said town or city from its formation, and to have one copy of said sketch, in print or in manuscript, filed in the clerk's office of said town or city, one copy in the office of the Secretary of State, and one copy in the office of the librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the First Centennial of their existence; and that the Governor be requested to communicate the invitation forthwith to the several town and city councils in the State.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the State aforesaid, on the 20th day of April, A. D. 1876.

{ L. S. }

Witness my hand and Seal of the State,
this 27th day of April, A. D. 1876.

JOSHUA M. ADDEMAN,

Secretary of State.

City of Newport.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK.

At a meeting of the special committee appointed on the communication of His Excellency, Governor Lippitt, Alderman J. B. Brown was authorized to procure some suitable person to deliver a historical discourse on the 4th of July, 1876. He subsequently reported that the Hon. WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD had consented to deliver the said discourse.

At a meeting of the Council held June 7, 1876, the following resolution was passed :

Resolved, That the sum of \$2,500 be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the celebration of the Fourth of July, 1876, and that Aldermen J. C. Stoddard, George Denniston, Jr., and Councilmen Weaver, Bull and Cottrell be and are hereby appointed a committee to make all the necessary arrangements for the same.

ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY
—OF—
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

July 4, 1876.

—♦♦♦♦—
ORDER OF EXERCISES

—AT THE—
Opera House, Newport,

COMMENCING AT 11 O'CLOCK A. M.

- O—
- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. MUSIC, | - - - - | BY THE BAND. |
| II. PRAYER, | - - - - | BY REV. A. G. MERCER, D. D. |
| III. MUSIC, | - - - - | BY THE BAND. |
| IV. READING OF DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE, | BY HON. HENRY BEDLOW, Mayor. | |
| V. MUSIC, | - - - - | BY THE BAND. |
| VI. ORATION, | - - - - | BY HON. WM. F. SHEFFIELD. |
| VII. MUSIC, | - - - - | BY THE BAND. |

BENEDICTION.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

TO THE

HON. WILLIAM P. SHEFFIELD,

FOR HIS HISTORICAL DISCOURSE;

Together with a Resolution ordering the same Printed.

At a meeting of the City Council held July 6, 1876, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That the thanks of the City Council be and the same are hereby extended to Hon. William P. Sheffield for the Historical Discourse delivered July 4th, instant; and

Resolved, That Mr. Sheffield be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication; and be it further

Resolved, That Alderman Brown and Councilmen Bull and Cranston, be authorized to cause two thousand copies of said discourse to be printed in pamphlet form, and have one copy of the sketch filed in the City Clerk's office in this city; one copy in the office of the Secretary of State in Providence; one copy in the office of the Librarian of Congress in Washington, D. C., and the other copies for the use of the City Council.