



bicentennial commission

TEN TREMONT STREET BOSTON 02108 617 727-5046

January 17, 1974

Mr. Paul Healey, City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healey,

Henry Knox, a Boston bookseller and self-educated artillery expert, was the central figure in one of the most important, but least recognized, chapters of the Revolutionary War.

Knox convinced General George Washington of the feasibility of a plan to retrieve several dozen pieces of artillery captured by Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys at Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York.

Leading a hastily assembled band of volunteers, new Colonel Henry Knox trudged to Fort Ticonderoga and back during the winter of 1775-76 with the fire power necessary to drive the British from Boston.

The Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission proposes to commemorate this feat and to honor Henry Knox in several ways. To be successful, the towns and cities along the route used by Knox must be fully informed of the possibilities which the Bicentennial affords. It is an opportunity to do something which is not only fun but also historically significant.

Here is what we propose:

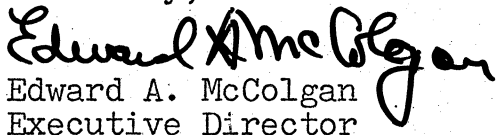
1. A re-enactment of the Knox Trek.
Research is being done by an ad hoc task force to determine the authentic route, the existence of artillery involved in the Knox venture and feasibility of re-enacting the trek during the Bicentennial winter of 1975-1976.
2. Proposed Banner Contest
Banners carried during the re-enactment of the trek may represent each city or town along the route. Communities may want to have a banner contest to determine the design of their local banner.
3. The Knox Trail Historical Society, Inc.
The Society is being formed to establish a permanent legacy to Knox and his accomplishments and to provide permanent funding and organization to carry out activities related to Knox. Incorporation

poration papers will soon be filed. It is hoped that all 31 communities along the Knox Trail will be represented in the Society.

4. Community Resources and Programs
Each city and town along the Knox Trail route is unique. Communities may want to review the several possibilities for linking local programs and events to the Knox Trail through the re-enactment or through physical improvements to sites or buildings along the way. This program calls for a large degree of local initiative and imagination.
5. Bikepath System
The Knox Trail will be used as the basis for a statewide bikepath system. The Bikepath will be operative by 1976.
6. State Assistance
Programs and events, re-enactments and contests can occur without state involvement. However, the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission can assist cities and towns with this program. We urge each community to examine its needs and work with neighboring communities when appropriate. State financial aid, though very limited is available through a grant-in-aid program. The deadline for application is March 1, 1974.

We are continually researching and seeking new facts and artifacts on Knox and his trek. Discussions on the Knox Trail Society and other plans will take place at our Statewide Conference at UMass, Amherst, January 25 and 26. We hope that you or a representative from your community will be able to attend. If you have any questions before then, please do not hesitate to contact the Program Development staff of this office at (617) 727-5046.

Sincerely,


Edward A. McColgan
Executive Director

13. 27
Comm. from Edward A. McColgan, Executive
Director of the Bicentennial Commission
regarding the commemoration to honor
Henry Knox

Copy sent to Ingr with
request for list of
Bi-Centennial members &
days when they meet
1/22/74 dl.

In City Council,

January 21, 1974

C. R. R. R.

Ref. to C. R. R. R. for Report
& a list of current Bi-Centennial
Committee members along with
their meeting dates