

# The York Pageant

*York,  
Pennsylvania*

OCT.  
13·14·15  
1927



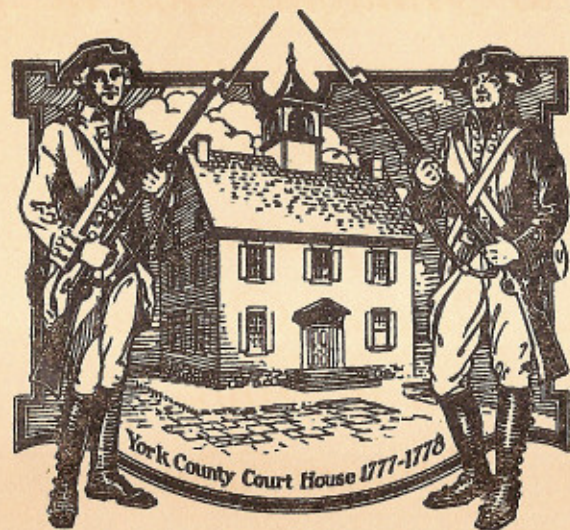


*A Pageant is a Festival  
to Almighty God in  
Commemoration of  
Past Glories,  
in Gratitude  
of Present Prosperity  
and in Hope of  
Future Weal*

## The York Pageant


*York, Pennsylvania, in the  
American Revolution*

October 13, 14 and 15, 1927





## WHY YORK CELEBRATES

 N SEPTEMBER 30, 1777, there arrived in York Town, Pennsylvania, then a Colonial village of two hundred and eighty-six houses and approximately fifteen hundred inhabitants, a weary and fugitive Continental Congress, the army decisively beaten at the battle of the Brandywine, and Philadelphia, the Capital, about to fall into the hands of the enemy.

Here, in this city of refuge, for nine months during the gloomiest period of the fight for American Independence, brightened, it is true, by news of the victory of Saratoga and the Treaty of Alliance with France—the seat of government was located, Congress holding its sessions behind closed doors in York County's first court house, then located in what is now "Continental Square."

Here the unity of the cause was preserved by the adoption of the Articles of Confederation. Here the first Thanksgiving Proclamation was promulgated. Here, despite the rising of undeserved sentiment in favor of Gates, a majority of Congress remained true to Washington, then enduring the hardships of that terrible winter at Valley Forge.

That they did not desert him in his time of greatest need was in no small measure due to the influence of such staunch friends of Washington as James Smith, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, whose body lies buried in the First Presbyterian Church yard; Colonel Thomas Hartley, who, when directed by

Washington to lead a forlorn hope at the Battle of Monmouth, replied: "Your Excellency does me too much honor, your orders shall be obeyed to the letter"; and Colonel David Grier, Commander of the Seventy Pennsylvania Line at the battle of Paoli, where he was severely wounded; all citizens of Colonial York.

Here the conspiracy against Washington's command, known as the "Conway Cabal," was uncovered, and the banqueting conspirators, who had hoped to gain Lafayette's aid, were dismayed by his loyal words: "Gentlemen, there is one you have forgotten—I propose a toast to our Commander-in-Chief, General Washington."

Including re-enlistments, more than Ten Thousand Revolutionary soldiers went from York county.

For some unknown reason, historians have commented but sparingly upon the all-important happenings in York Town during the nine months Congress was in session here: probably from a desire to spare otherwise illustrious names from the taint of disloyalty to Washington.

Whatever the reason, the fact remains that while Congress was here in session, the crisis in the war for American Independence was reached and successfully passed.

Congress remained in session here until June 27, 1778, when, Philadelphia having been vacated by the British under Sir Henry Clinton, it was resolved: "That Congress adjourn until Tuesday next to meet at the Statehouse in Philadelphia."

York Town of yesterday has grown into industrial York of to-



day: a city comprising within its corporate limits and immediate environs a population of more than seventy-five thousand inhabitants; the fame of whose manufactures has spread to the far corners of the earth. York County is one of the richest agricultural counties in the United States.

While proud of its present, York is not unmindful of its colonial past and of the important part performed here in the founding of this Nation, the 150th Anniversary of which will be publicly celebrated October 13, 14, 15, 1927.

---

**O**N THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, there will be a parade of the school children, and the firemen from both the city and county and other parts of the country.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH**, a great civic and military parade will be held. A section of this parade will represent the Continental Congress and the rifle company for York County. Costumes of the period will be worn by all taking part in this section of the parade.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH**, a commercial, industrial and agricultural parade will show the progress that has been made by the city and county during the past 150 years.

A **PAGEANT** will be held on the York County Fair Grounds

on each of the three nights of the celebration. This pageant, written by Lilian White Spencer, of Denver, will be directed by Percy J. Burrell, of Boston, and Alice Kraft, of Philadelphia. At least 4500 people from the city and county will take active parts. The pageant is based on the history of York and vicinity during colonial days. Many of the stirring events of that time will be accurately portrayed.

It is seldom that an opportunity is presented to the public to see such an elaborately staged pageant. It will not only be artistic and educational, but entertaining as well.

---

## *York Invites you to the Greatest PAGEANT Staged in the United States During the past Decade*

This Pageant will be staged on the Fair Grounds of the York County Agricultural Society, which are the finest fair grounds in the United States. The new grandstand, which is enclosed, is built of steel and concrete and has a seating capacity of 9000. From the grandstand, at all angles, the line of vision to the stage is unobstructed. The naturally fine acoustic properties of the Pageant Field will be enhanced by the use of amplifiers, if necessary.



The York Pageant in its various movements will be produced on a magnificent scale. The action is on four stage levels: the Oval, 830 by 325 feet; the Stage, 70 by 90 feet; the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile track, 60 feet wide, and the two great Towers. Upon these four planes the dramatic and symbolic action will take place. There are 17 visible approaches to the Track and Oval, giving a total length of movement of over one quarter of a mile.

York makes possible this gigantic presentation by the voluntary service of over 4500 people, many of whom are descendants of early settlers, which make up the Pageant Choir of 1000 voices, 750 trained dancers and pantomimists and 2750 well-coached actors. The leading parts are acted by persons of exceptional ability, selected after 2000 try-outs by the director. Actors have been rehearsed as individuals and groups. Two hundred and seventy-five mounted figures, Conestoga Wagons and ox-teams will find their place in the scenes of old York.

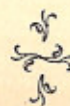
The music will be furnished by two bands consisting of 75 pieces: the Spring Garden Band, under the direction of William Bentz, to accompany the great choir, and the City Band, under the direction of William H. Eberle, to be stationed on the Oval, to accompany the dancers.

Interwoven in pageant and motivated by the great play itself will be sung such numbers as "O Victorious People," by Gaines, and specially composed music: "The Song of the Forge," by Urban Hershey, and "Song of the White Rose," by J. Frank Prysinger.

Special lighting by batteries of Kliegl floods and spot reflectors, under the direction of William L. Wilhelm, of York, and W. W. Reading, of Lancaster, assisted by eight members of York Stage Operators, will be controlled from three specially constructed towers on the roof of the grandstand.

Electrical apparatus—with a total of 128,000 Watts—consisting of three 50-Ampere, four 70-Ampere and one 120-Ampere Spot Lamps, two 50-Ampere Searchlights, eighteen 1000-Watt Flood Lights, ten 1000-Watt Spot Lamps, eight 2000-Watt Kliegl Flood Lights, will furnish illumination for the Pageant, and will contribute a wondrous realism to the scene.

Enacted entirely in uniforms and costumes of Colonial Days, accurate in historical detail, and in specially designed symbolic costumes, The York Pageant will present an effect highly colorful and realistic.





# THE YORK PAGEANT

[HOW THE AMERICAN FEDERATION WAS FOUNDED]

*A Stupendous and Magnificent Out-of-Door Night Spectacle to be  
Presented on the York County Fair Grounds by 4500 People of the  
City and County of York, Pennsylvania*

Directed by PERCY J. BURRELL

October 13th, 14th and 15th, 1927, at 7:45 O'clock

---

## SCENARIO

### PROLOGUE—THE WHITE ROSE UNFOLDS

#### ACTION I. OLD ENGLAND AND NEW AMERICA

FEAR cries out from the Dungeon—HOPE from the Tower answers—The Dream of the White Rose—In England Henry VII marries Elizabeth of York—The White Rose comes to Red Lands—Indians and Marylanders on Horse combat—Governor Keith of the Land of Penn promises Protection to Chief Tawena of the Five Nations—At breakneck speed the Red Men ride toward the Setting Sun—Newcomers to the Soil: Scotch-Irish, German, English, Hollanders, Catholics, Quakers, Moravians, Dunkards, Mennonites, Welsh—The White Rose is Planted and its Name is YORK!

#### ACTION II. THE MARCH OF WAR

The Workers at the Forge—York's Noble Son, James Smith, Recruits His Own Regiment—The Test of Riflemen: "The Nose on the Barn Door"—Captain Doudel starts for Boston with York's First Hundred—Girls, Roses and Soldiers—Margaret Bittinger gives a White Rose to John Clark—The Colonels review the March—The McClean Clan Celebrates—A Royalist Parson gets a Ducking—The Court House Weather-vane loses its British Coat-of-Arms—The Liberty Bell is carried to the Steeple—The Committee of Safety Meets—General Ewing and the Colonels leave for the Flying Camp.



## INTERLUDE—THE FLAME OF FREEDOM

### ACTION III. THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

John Hancock comes in Washington's Carriage—The Members ride on Horseback to the Court House—The Session Opens—A Prayer of Mighty Eloquence is heard—News of Saratoga Victory!—Day of Thanksgiving is Proclaimed—HOPE Revived!—Hancock resigns and Laurens elected President of Congress—Articles of Confederation Agreed Upon.

### ACTION IV. THE WHITE ROSE SOCIETY

Christmas Eve, 1777—The Girls of York County Meet and Knit for the Soldiers—They come on Horse from Newberry, Warrington, Windsor, Chanceford, Shrewsbury, Codorus and Hanover—The Wounded come from Paoli and Brandywine—Mary Hussey and Catherine Hartley Speak their Minds—Hessian Prisoners pass the Court House—The Girls listen to Colonel Hartley and John Clark—A Salute to the Society of the White Rose!

### ACTION V. A GREAT MOMENT FOR JAMES SMITH

The Articles of Confederation are Agreed Upon—FEAR takes hold—General Gates enters—A Medal is awarded—The Cabal against Washington shows its Teeth—James Smith rises and speaks his Mind!

## ACTION VI. VALLEY FORGE

Baron von Steuben drills the Army—The Soldiers at Play—"Silver Heels" John Marshall leads in the Games: Running, Jumping, Quoits, Bat-Ball, Cricket, Spanish Poles, Choix at Fives—Washington and his Loyal Friend Major Clark hold converse—Lafayette comes to Valley Forge—Wagons from York arrive with Clothing and Shoes—Margaret Bittinger gives Washington a New Cloak—The General presents her with a captured British Officer's Sword—The Soldiers forget 'tis Winter!

### ACTION VII. LAFAYETTE AT YORK

Lafayette and Mrs. Gates lead the Minuet—Toasts are offered to Guests, Congress, the United States, the "Wise" Generals, and Gates!—Lafayette toasts Washington—The Banquet ends—The Cabal in Consternation!

### ACTION VIII. GOOD NEWS AND GREAT AID

Simeon Deane arrives from France—The Treaty of Alliance with France is received—The French Loan reaches York—A Thousand Voices Sing the Marseillaise!

## INTERLUDE—FRANCE HAILS AMERICA

### ACTION IX. THE WHITE ROSE WEDDING

Dinah gets the Good Things Ready—The Guests arrive—The



Ceremony in the Garden—Gail McAllister sings to the Harpsicord—Major and Mrs. John Clark leave for York.

#### ACTION X. THE LAST SESSION

Congress refuses all but Independence! John Hancock returns—His Words are Eloquent—Congress Adjourns to meet in Philadelphia.

#### ACTION XI. YORK AND THE NEW NATION

At the Hartley's Home—President Washington visits York—He is Acclaimed by its Citizens—York's and the Nation's Heroes Meet—James Smith, Patriarch, speaks—Washington responds.

#### EPILOGUE—THE WHITE ROSE IS PEACE

FEAR is dispelled—HOPE reigns in all Hearts!

### PRODUCTION STAFF

The Executive Committee has secured the following staff, outstanding in their respective fields of Drama, Music, Dance, Pantomime and the Theatre Arts.

*Organizing and Producing Director*

PERCY J. BURRELL  
of BOSTON

The most successful director of community drama in the country, whose activities in the field of historical pageantry have reached from coast to coast. Over 85,000 people have come under his personal direction and more than 1,000,000 spectators have witnessed his productions.

### Production Staff

*Associate Director  
and  
Dance Director*  
ALICE KRAFT  
of PHILADELPHIA

Dance director of the "Pageant of Liberty" Lancaster, Pa.—Of the nationally known "Noyes Group"—Director of "Forest Princess" Pageant, at University of Pennsylvania (1924)—Instructor in Rhythm at the Shady Hill Country Day School, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia—Also at the Graphic Sketch Club, Philadelphia.

*Musical Director*  
URBAN HERSHEY,  
Mus. B.  
of YORK

Organist and Choir Director of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, York, Pa.—Director of Euterpean Chorus of Y. W. C. A., York, Pa.—Composer of the Special music in the Pageant—Musical Editor for York Music Company.

*Technical Director*  
EDWARD LEBER  
of YORK

Architect of York, Pennsylvania, Designer of Grandstand and Memorial Entrance at Fair Grounds.

*Art Director*  
RUSSEL YESSLER  
of YORK

Architect of York, Pennsylvania, Designer of Hope and Fear Towers for Pageant.

*The Author*  
LILIAN WHITE SPENCER  
of DENVER

A nationally known poet, translator, dramatist and pageant writer. Her poetry appears in the best English and American magazines and anthologies. It has been published in France. The Pageant of Colorado, music by Charles Wakefield Cadman, broke all records last May when produced for seven performances in Denver.



# APPLICATION FORM for TICKET RESERVATION THE YORK PAGEANT York, Pennsylvania

October 13th, 14th and 15th, 1927

MAIL ORDERS FOR TICKETS should be sent to H. A. BAILEY, 127 W. Market St., enclosing money order or check and stamped envelope for return.

Personal application for tickets and reservations should be made at Pageant Ticket Headquarters, Pennsylvania Gas & Electric Company's Office, 127 W. Market St., York, Pa. Telephone No. 2387.

I enclose \$..... for ..... tickets to be reserved for performance (s) checked below:

Thursday, October 13th ( )

Friday, October 14th ( )

Saturday, October 15th ( )

IF YOU WILL CALL FOR TICKETS PUT X HERE.....

IF YOU WANT TICKETS MAILED PUT X HERE.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

## Schedule of Prices:

In Grandstand

Reserved Seats—\$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00

Box Seating Six—\$25.00

Bleachers 50 cents

# ORGANIZATION THE YORK PAGEANT PAGEANT COUNCIL

S. Forry Laucks, Chairman

Judge Henry C. Niles

Mayor E. S. Hugentugler

Charles Kerr, Sr.

Mrs. J. Schall Smith

Herbert Smyser

Ruth E. Swezey

Edward Leber

Louis Appell

H. Washers, Treasurer

A. H. Sipe, Sec'y. to the Council

E. A. Hirschman, Bus. Mgr.

Kathryn Busser, Exec. Sec'y.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

### Rehearsals

Mrs. C. B. Heinley

### Historical Research

Grier Hersh

### Music

Percy Mundorf

### Military

Lt. W. L. McNamee

Sergeant Stubbs

### Riding

Capt. Ross McCoy

### Athletic

C. C. Bleecker

### Costumes

Mrs. R. P. Sherwood

### Personnel Costume Workers

Mrs. J. H. Hatton

### Workshop

Mrs. Thos. Baird

### Equipment and Supplies

Mrs. J. C. Helges

### Costume Materials

Mrs. P. J. Rowan

### Designs

Mrs. Geo. Leitheliser

### Properties

Harry Frey

### Make-up

Rev. H. J. Howarth

### Lighting

William L. Wilhelm

### Construction of Stands

Augustus Hake

### Animals and Vehicles

Mahlon Haines

### Parking

Herbert Smyser

### Accounting

Harry Nes

### Tickets

Harry A. Bailey

### Hospital and First Aid

Dr. F. V. McConkey

### Electrician

Harry Sneringer

### Public Safety

Edward Landis

## ENLISTMENT DEPARTMENT

Ruth Swezey, Director

Janet Latimer, Records

Louise Henry, Attendance

### Captains

Mrs. J. T. Atkins

Mrs. R. S. Cannon

Mrs. J. H. Hatton

Mrs. Morton Jan-

dorf

Mrs. Wm. Lehman

Mrs. Otis Morse

Mrs. Ivan B. Searl

Mrs. Geo. Stallman

Mr. J. H. Cochran

Mr. Gilbert Deitz

Mr. Jos. N. Garrety

Mr. A. H. Martin

Mr. Harry Slaugh-

enhaupt

Mr. D. C. Worley

Mr. Oscar Good-

friend

Mr. Harry Hock-

man

Miss Grace Drayer

Miss Laura Ford

Miss Anna Gamble

Miss Lottie Lebach

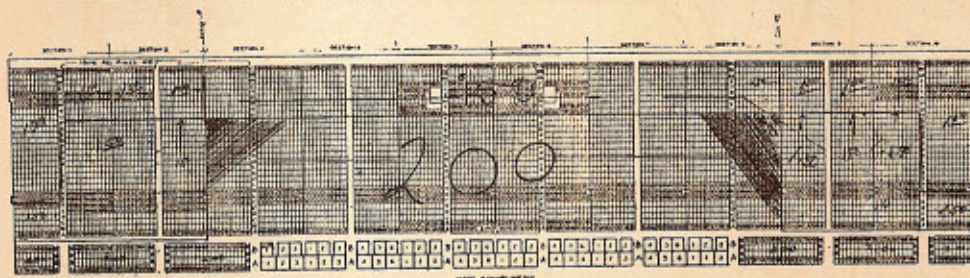
Miss Mary Owen

Mrs. John Strebig

Mrs. H. C. Ulmer



DIAGRAM OF SEATING ARRANGEMENT AND PRICES OF SEATS.



YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.  
GRANDSTAND  
SEATING DIAGRAM

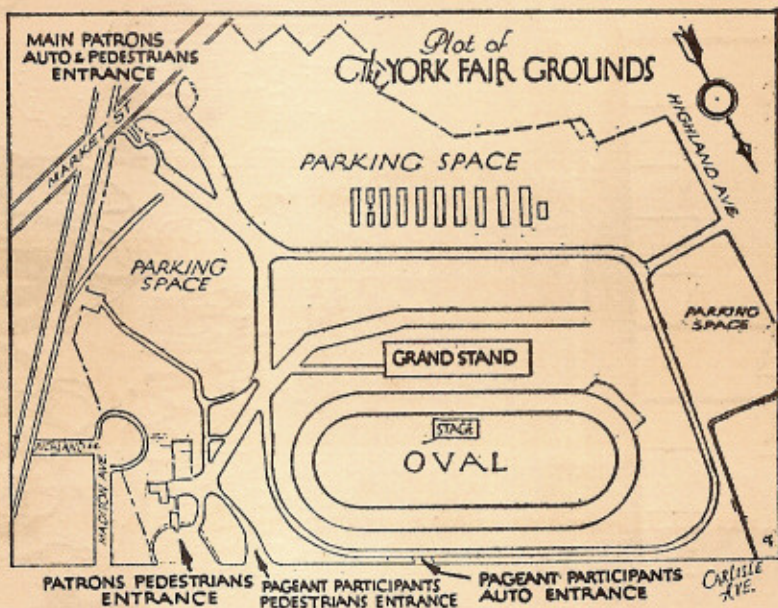


DIAGRAM OF PAGEANT FIELD AND GRANDSTAND WHICH SHOWS SPACE BEYOND TRACK. THIS IS USED FOR APPROACHES AND EXITS FOR AUTOMOBILISTS, PEDESTRIANS AND PARTICIPANTS.



