

**NEW YORK IN THE REVOLUTION
AS COLONY AND STATE. VOL. II:
A COMPILATION OF DOCUMENTS
AND RECORDS FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER**

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NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

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VOL. II.



A COMPILATION OF DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

FROM

THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER



ALBANY, N. Y.

J. B. LYON COMPANY, PRINTERS

1904



P R E F A C E

In 1895, Comptroller James A. Roberts, in moving some documents to make room for an extension to his office, brought to light many valuable papers relating to the Revolutionary War and the important position occupied by the State of New York in that momentous struggle. Through the kind assistance of various Legislatures, those documents were arranged and compiled and a volume issued therefrom which has been a valuable addition to the historical records of this State. One fact alone demonstrates the worth of the work which has been prosecuted in the Comptroller's Department in connection with these Revolutionary Records: The State of New York had formerly been credited with having furnished in the War for Independence but 18,000 men, which number had been accepted as historically accurate. The documents which were first discovered by Mr. Roberts and afterward arranged by him and his successors, prove beyond dispute that New York's quota was at least 43,645 men, giving to our State a much more commanding position as a factor in the Revolutionary contest than it had theretofore occupied. The work which was issued by Mr. Roberts passed through two editions prior to the final arrangement of all the Revolutionary papers.

On assuming the office of Comptroller, I found that the work of preparing these documents for consultation and the index to the same, had been practically completed and that the binding of the few remaining additional volumes of original documents would complete the Revolutionary work in its entirety. All that remained of interest to the general public was the printing and issuing of a Supplement or companion book to "New York in the Revolution," which would give a complete resumé of the Revolutionary Records of the Department. The Legislature of 1901 provided an item in the Supply Bill for this work which I now have the pleasure of adding to the historical annals of this State. The second edition of "New York in the Revolution" was the roll-call of the officers and men who served in the War. This Supplement gives in a condensed form the history of the War as shown by the documents. It is not a reprint in the entirety of those documents, which only could be done at a great, and probably unwarranted, expenditure; but it is a work calculated to give sufficient information upon the subject-matter contained in those documents to answer every practical purpose. It may be that some future generation may see fit to publish all of the historical documents in this office and in other of the State departments, relating to the struggle of this Colony, with the others, for its independence.

Great progress in this direction has been made within the past five years not only in this office but in the office of the State Historian, and at a comparatively small expenditure. A few years more of the work continued along the present lines will bring New York abreast

of the neighboring States in the publication of its historical documents. Ten years ago it lagged behind, owing probably to the want of local pride that is usual in a large cosmopolitan community like ours.

I have called this book a condensed history of the War. Let me explain that statement by an illustration:—The chapter on "Forfeited Estates" would fill three or four books of this size if all the documents were printed; instead of occupying that space, the single chapter on that subject outlines the work of the Commissioners of Forfeitures, gives several documents bearing on that work and furnishes a complete list of those parties whose Estates were Forfeited. Similar treatment has been given to the other subjects. The net result is that we have a small book that many readers will be interested in, instead of a great mass of documents bewildering to the general reader and of practical value to an expert only. At the same time the several subjects have been so outlined that the expert or the student of history can pursue his investigations as far as the original documents make it worth his while.

In the two editions of "New York in the Revolution", the service of nearly all of the Officers and Soldiers named by Regiments or other organizations, was proved by original documents in the Comptroller's Office. Some deficiencies, however, were supplied, and cases of partial information were made more complete, by collecting into Volume XI, and a part of Vol. I, certified copies of original documents that belong elsewhere. In Vol. I, the certified copies, mostly of officers and men in the First Regiment of the Line, came from the Archives of Massachusetts. Vol. XI has these certified copies:—Names in the Record and Pension Office of the War Department, Washington, D. C.; Names in possession of the New York Historical Society; Names in possession of Mrs. Abraham Lansing, of Albany, a granddaughter of Col. Peter Gansevoort. Extracts from Manuscripts in the State Library were also copied, as follows:—Vols. 178 and 180 of the Henry Stevens Papers; Vol. I of Col. Josiah Smith's Military Papers; Vols. 34 to 38 of Miscellaneous Papers; Vols. 101 and 102 of New York Colonial Manuscripts.

In this Supplement reliance has been placed almost exclusively upon documents actually in the Comptroller's office, the object being to show the manner in which the War was conducted. Hence, only occasionally, has a fact been named that is not capable of documentary proof within the office. When an outside fact has been named, it has been solely for the purpose of supplying a missing link and giving continuity to a story the bulk of which was already well in hand. Of course, the several subjects treated in this Supplement differ widely as to the number and importance of the original documents pertaining to them. Some of the subjects have very full information from original sources; and others have little information. Still others are not mentioned at all. For instance, no paper has been found relating to Sullivan's Expedition; although papers on that subject should have appeared with the rest. Several similar deficiencies lead to the conclusion that, at some time in the past, many documents must have been removed from this office.

The expressions "the documents", "the original documents" and "the records" always refer to the documents in the office of the Comptroller; and, in the copying of those documents, as also in the text connecting them, an effort has been made not to duplicate any work already done, either in this office or in other departments of the State government. In

spelling, capitalization and punctuation, the documents printed in this Supplement follow the originals as closely as possible; and a liberal use of Capitals in the text makes it conform to the documents.

In presenting this work to the public I desire to express my appreciation of the services of Mr. Frederic G. Mather, who has ably edited the same. The examining, sorting and arranging of the original documents from which this work is compiled, and the arrangement and editing of the volume itself, were almost entirely the work of Mr. Mather who pursued his researches not only among the Archives of the State but also took the opportunity of a trip abroad during the summer of 1900 to make further investigation in Paris, London and Cambridge, where he secured much valuable information, some of which has been incorporated with the documents in this office and so found its way into this Supplement.

ERASTUS C. KNIGHT,
Comptroller

Dated, Albany, N. Y. December, 1901.

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