The Legal History of the American Revolutionary Era, 1763-1790

A Conference on Needs and Opportunities
Co-sponsored by
The Institute of Early American History and Culture
and
The American Society for Legal History

The Barclay Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thursday, October 21st, 1976
TRADITIONALLY the research and writing of legal and constitutional history has tended to ignore the era of the American Revolution, preferring to stress colonial developments on one hand, or nineteenth century constitutionalism on the other. During the past half century the emphasis of general historical studies has moved away from institutional history, making the neglect by legal history specialists even more unfortunate. Consequently it is both appropriate and necessary during this Bicentennial year that we should redirect scholarly attention to the legal and constitutional events of the Revolutionary Era from 1763 to 1790.

This Conference was proposed by the Planning Committee on the American Revolution Bicentennial of the American Society for Legal History. Chaired by Professor Harold M. Hyman of Rice University, the committee recommended that the Society sponsor such a meeting as part of its participation in the American Revolution Bicentennial. In February 1975 the Institute of Early American History and Culture agreed to co-sponsor the Conference. Since the Conference will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History, it will provide a unique opportunity for early American history specialists to meet with legal historians from the United States, Canada and abroad.

For additional details please contact Herbert A. Johnson, Post Office Box 220, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 (telephone 804-229-3000, ext. 526).

Registration

Baroque Room, 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.

A registration fee of $2.00 will be charged to cover the incidental expenses of the Conference. Those attending both the Conference and the annual meeting will pay a $5.00 registration fee for both programs. There will be no advance registrations.

Program

Both Sessions will be held in the Mirage Room

10:00 A.M. Introductory Remarks

Thad W. Tate
Director, Institute of Early American History and Culture, and Professor of History, The College of William and Mary

Joseph H. Smith
President, The American Society for Legal History, and George Welwood Murray Professor of Legal History, Columbia University School of Law

10:15 A.M. First Session

George L. Haskins, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Chairman

"The Revolutionary Conception of History — Its Utility for Legal Historians Today"

William E. Nelson, Yale Law School

Comments

David H. Flaherty, University of Western Ontario

Morton J. Horwitz, Harvard Law School

Joseph H. Smith, Columbia Law School

2:30 P.M. Second Session

John D. Cushing, Massachusetts Historical Society, Chairman

"Legal History of the American Revolution: A Historiographical and Bibliographical Survey"

Hugh F. Bell, University of Massachusetts (Amherst)

Comments

Stanley N. Katz, University of Chicago Law School

Milton M. Klein, New York University School of Law and University of Tennessee (Knoxville)