

2011-J4587

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 300th Anniversary of Sarah Wells' arrival to the Wawayanda Patent in Orange County, and recognizing May 19, 2012, as Sarah Wells Day

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events of historical significance which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of Sarah Wells' arrival to the Wawayanda Patent in Orange County, and to recognize May 19, 2012, as Sarah Wells Day; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate the 300th Anniversary of Sarah Wells' arrival to the Wawayanda Patent, numerous events have been planned this year including The Sarah Wells Tricentennial Reception, which was held on February 23, 2012, Sarah Wells Day on May 19, 2012, and a Running With the Bulls 5k walk/run is scheduled for September 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Wells, the first white woman to have settled on the Wawayanda Patent which included parts of what is now Orange County, New York, was born on April 6, 1694, and later orphaned; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Wells was a young indentured servant to Christopher and Elizabeth Denn; Mr. Denn asked Sarah Wells to sail up the Hudson River to settle his portion of the Wawayanda Patent; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1712, at the age of 18, Sarah Wells sailed on a sloop from New York City with two carpenters, three Indian guides, and enough provisions to establish a home on the Otterkill, near what would become Goshen, New York, with the promise of 100 acres to be given to her; and

WHEREAS, Accompanied by her Indian guides and carpenters, Sarah Wells landed in what is now New Windsor, New York, and ventured inland with horses, cows, dogs, and household equipment; and

WHEREAS, Hard work and a formidable character allowed Sarah Wells to survive the unsettled and wild territory of the time; and

WHEREAS, On August 25, 1718, Sarah Wells married William Bull, a stonemason, the first recorded white wedding in the Township of Goshen, and together they raised 12 children; and

WHEREAS, William Bull built the 1722 Bull Stone House and named his homestead Hamptonburgh in honor of his birthplace in Wolverhampton, England; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Wells died on April 21, 1796, at the age of 102; she is buried at Hamptonburgh Cemetery in Campbell Hall, New York; and

WHEREAS, At the time of her death, there were 335 descendants of Sarah and William Bull; today there are more than 65,000 names in the Bull Family genealogy; and

WHEREAS, To this day, throughout Orange County, there are still many physical connections to Sarah Wells and William Bull, including road and street names and towns and buildings; and

WHEREAS, Two of the earliest buildings with connections to Sarah Wells are the 1722 Bull Stone House, which has been continually inhabited by a Bull family member since this time, and the New World Dutch Barn on the original Bull property in Hamptonburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Sarah Wells Trail is a main road that connects Goshen to Washingtonville, most likely a path well worn by Sarah Wells herself; moreover, Bullville, New York, and Thomas Bull Memorial Park are all part of the Sarah Wells and William Bull legacy; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Sarah Wells, her family and the William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association, Inc., as well as all the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a

person, place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of Sarah Wells' arrival to the Waway-
anda Patent in Orange County, and to recognize May 19, 2012, as Sarah Wells Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the William Bull and Sarah Wells Stone House Association, Inc., Campbell Hall, New York.