

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES
Guide to the Records of the
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
1973-1976, 1988

Record Group 15: Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Updated 2018

Montgomery County Archives
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ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

In September 1973, a joint act of the Montgomery County Council and Executive created the Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission with the mandate to plan activities for the County's bicentennial celebration in 1976. The Commission was directed to develop recommendations regarding the celebration of the County's anniversary and the coordination of this celebration with the bicentennial of the American Revolution.

The Commission pursued financial support from two sources, the American Bicentennial Administration and the Maryland Bicentennial Commission. The Commission made recommendations regarding the use of these funds in its "Plan for Celebration, and Report" to the County Council. After approval of this report in September of 1974, the Council placed the Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission in the Chief Administrative Office and authorized the Commission to coordinate all requests for County bicentennial services and to coordinate tourism. Although the Commission was designated to work into mid-1977, it ceased operations in December of 1976 due to waning local interest and a lack of funding.

In 1988, Will Ballais compiled a Speakers Bureau directory based on the programs prepared for the bicentennial, initiated by the Montgomery County Historical Society and funded by Montgomery County government.

EXTENT

1.75 cubic feet: 1 record box, 2 letter-size Hollinger boxes.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records date from 1973 to 1976 and consist of correspondence, memoranda, reports, brochures, questionnaires, minutes, and press releases which document the Commission's activities.

The collection is arranged as six series:

Series I: Administration

Series II: General

Series III: Photographs

Series IV: Programs

Subseries 1: Festival

Subseries 2: Heritage

Subseries 3: Horizons

Subseries 4: General

Subseries 5: Tourism

Series V: Publicity

Series VI: U. S. Constitution Bicentennial

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: Administration, 1973-1976

(0.25 cubic feet)

This series contains materials dealing with the Commission's creation, function, and administration. Included in the records are correspondence with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and the Maryland Bicentennial Commission. The series also includes minutes of Commissioners' meetings, the Commission's report to the County Council, and documents relating to the private and public funding of the Commission. Folders are arranged alphabetically. Records in this series found within Flat File 7 are:

- Establishment, Authority: 1973-1976. Certificate: County Council Proclamation establishing the role and duties of the Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission.

Series II: General, 1973-1976

(0.1 cubic feet)

This series reflects the membership of the Bicentennial Commission in the Montgomery County Local History Consortium. The series contains correspondence and some of the Commission's publications. Correspondents include the Commission's Executive Director, Carey C. Roberts, County residents, and officials and representatives of a wide range of County organizations, businesses, and the press. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series III: Photographs, 1974-1976

(0.1 cubic feet)

This series consists of black and white photographs, collected for inclusion in the Commission's publications and pamphlets, and used to publicize County-sponsored programs. Photographs depict models of the Bicentennial exhibit and document the dedication of the Red Brick Courthouse in 1975. Also included are portraits of nominees for the Outstanding Senior Citizen Award, as well as portraits of other, unidentified individuals. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series IV: Programs, 1973-1976

(1 cubic foot)

This series documents the Commission's primary function of coordinating celebrations for the County bicentennial and the bicentennial of the American Revolution. Records in this series have been arranged into five subseries, Festival, General, Heritage, Horizon, and Tourism, each focusing on a specific aspect of the bicentennial celebrations.

Subseries 1: Festival

(0.3 cubic feet)

This material concerns one of the three major themes of the bicentennial celebration, the festival itself, which can also be considered a celebration of contemporary America and American society. The records document the planning, implementation, and conclusion of events and programs related to the theme. Many of these documents deal with logistical issues such as food and entertainment as well as festival competitions and

contests.

Subseries 2: General
(2 folders)

These records include an event calendar and program suggestions.

Subseries 3: Heritage
(0.3 cubic feet)

This material concerns another of the three major themes of the bicentennial celebration, the history of Montgomery County specifically and America in general. The records document the planning, implementation, and conclusion of events and programs related to the theme. Many of these records document additional efforts to celebrate and preserve local history not necessarily connected to the festival itself, such as the installation of plaques at historic sites and places of interest.

Subseries 4: Horizons
(0.15 cubic feet)

This material concerns the final major theme of the bicentennial celebration, looking forward to a bright future ahead. The records document the planning, implementation, and conclusion of events and programs related to the theme. There are documents relating to the American Issues Forum and the International Women's Year included in the files.

Subseries 5: Tourism
(4 folders)

These records deal with the Commission's interaction with the Washington Area Council of Governments in the course of developing tourist programs for Montgomery County.

Series V: Publicity, 1974-1976
(0.2 cubic feet)

This series consists of the Commission's newsletters and press releases which publicized the events and programs planned by the Commission for the bicentennial celebrations. Arrangement is alphabetical.

Series VI: U. S. Constitution Bicentennial, 1988
(0.1 cubic feet)

This series consists of one item, the Speakers Bureau directory, compiled by Will Ballais with MCHS and funded by Montgomery County government.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open for research.

LANGUAGE

English.

PROVENANCE

The records were transferred to the Archives in Accession #1988-04, originally 9 cubic feet.

USING THESE RECORDS

To request records listed in this finding aid, the following information should be given to the archivist:

Record Group 15, **Records of the Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission**, Series Number and Name, Box Number and Folder Title(s).

The preferred citation for materials from these records is:

Montgomery County Archives; Gaithersburg, Maryland. Record Group 15: Boards and Commissions. Records Title: The Records of the Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission. Series number and series name. Box number and folder title, if appropriate.

PROCESSING PROCEDURES

General processing procedures consisted of discarding duplicates, unnecessary binders, and routine transmittals. Oversized documents and photographs were removed from the original location in their assigned series and placed in separate containers. Separation sheets were inserted in the original location within the folder to indicate the new location of any records placed elsewhere.

Preservation copying of newspaper clippings was performed whenever feasible. Records in folders were arranged, unless otherwise indicated, in forward chronological order, with undated records appearing at the end of the folder.

PROCESSING STAFF/FINDING AID AUTHOR

Linda Kennedy
Sarah Hedlund

BOX INVENTORY

Series I: Administration

Box 1

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, 1974-1975
Bicentennial Commission Archives, 1976
Bicentennial Commission: Establishment, Authority, 1973-1976
Bicentennial Communities, 1974-1976
Budget, 1974-1976
Commission Members, 1973-1976
Commission Reports, 1974-1976 (3 folders)
Community Reports, 1976
Community Resources Questionnaire, 1973-1974
Funding: Federal and Private Sources, 1973-1976
Gift Shop, 1975-1976
Bicentennial Commemorative Tray
Maryland Bicentennial Commission, 1973-1975
Minutes: Commission and Committees, 1974-1976
Minutes: Department Heads, 1974-1976
Public Information Subcommittee, 1974
Testimony before Subcommittee on Bicentennial Affairs, 1975-1976
Volunteers, 1974-1976

Series II: General

(Box 1, Cont.)

Bicentennial Consortium for Local History, 1973-1975
Correspondence, General, 1973-1975
Correspondence, General, 1976
Publications, n.d.-1975 Bicentennial Commemorative Issue; Bicentennial Times, Headway Recorder

Series III: Photographs

(Located in RG 19: Audiovisual, Box 14)

Armed Forces Bicentennial Exhibit, ca. 1975
Courthouse Dedication, 1975
Outstanding Senior Citizen Award Nominees, ca. 1975
Unidentified, ca. 1976

Series IV: Programs

Subseries 1: Festival

(Box 1, cont.)

Art Contest, 1975-1976

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(Subseries 1: Festival, Cont.)

(Box 1, cont.)

Celebration '75, 1975

Children's Bicentennial: Modeling Moppets, 1975-1976

County Birthday, 1974

County Entertainers, 1974-1976

Exhibits, 1975-1976

Flag Day and Bell Ringing, 1976

"Great American Scene", 1975-1976

Hospitality Center, 1974-1976

Irish Celebration, 1975-1976

Opera: "Joshua", 1975-1976

Parade of September 6, 1976, 1976, Original Program and Sponsors (2 documents)

Pen and Ink Contest, 1974-1976

Seminar on Beautification, 1974-1975

Richard Montgomery Day, 1975

Theater League, 1974-1975

Washington Post Promotional for Celebration '75, Original Publication, 1975

"Wave a Flag with Flowers", 1974-1975

"Youth Bicentennial Committee", 1975-1976

Subseries 2: General

(Box 1, cont.)

Calendars of Events, 1975-1976

Program Suggestions and Recommendations, 1973-1975

Subseries 3: Heritage

Box 2

Almanac 1976

Armed Forces Bicentennial Exhibit, 1974-1975

Bicentennial Tree Plaques, 1976

Black Education History, (Mina Clarke), 1975-1976

Braddock Trail, 1974-1975

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, 1974

Commemorative Book – Portraits In Time, 1976

Portraits in Time (soft cover book)

Cookbook, 1975

County Film, 1975-1976

General, 1973-1975

Magruder House, 1974-1975

Map of Montgomery County Historic Sites, 1974-1975

Outstanding Senior Citizens Awards, 1975-1976

(Subseries 3: Heritage, Cont.)

(Box 2, cont.)

Publications, 1974-1976

Seneca Quarry, 1975

Young People's Handbook, 1975

Subseries 4: Horizons

Box 3

American Issues Forum, 1975-1976

"First Day of the 3rd Century" Celebration, 1976

Focus on Future, 1976

General, 1973-1976

Johnny Horizon '76, 1976

International Women's Year, 1974-1976

Subseries 5: Tourism

(Box 3, cont.)

Council of Governments, 1974-1976

County, 1973-1976 (2 folders)

Information Task Force, 1974-1976

Series V: Publicity

(Box 3, cont. see also Flat File 20)

"Bicentennial News" - County Newsletter, 1975-1976

Certificates of Appreciation, 1976

Commission Press Releases, 1974-1976

Logo Competition, 1974

Radio Spots for WINX, 1976

Speeches: Carey C. Roberts, Achilles M.

Tughton, James P. Gleason, 1975-1976

Brochure, stamps, stickers, bumper sticker, graphic sheets

Series VI: U. S. Constitution Bicentennial

(Box 3, Cont.)

Speakers Bureau Directory, 1988 by Will Ballais

Flat File 20

Newspaper: The Centennial Post, 31 December 1876 (reprint by Washington Post and Smithsonian Institution). Map of exhibits in the Arts and Industries Building for the 1876 Centennial Celebration appears on the back page.

Logo: Bicentennial MC76

Brochure: "Our 200 Years: Tradition and Renewal"

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(Flat File 20, Cont.)

Note: 12 1/4 x 12 1/4 brochure, fold out, red/white/blue cover, Introduces "American Issues Forum," a national program from the Bicentennial year, funded by National Endowment to the Humanities.