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U.S. Bicentennial, Trenton Collection 1972-1977

By Kyle Zaczek

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Reference Number: CITY-BICENT

History

The information provided in this section was derived from the “Trenton Bicentennial Committee Overview Sheet,” which is the first document in the “Organizational Records” series.

The Trenton Bicentennial Committee was formed with the purpose of preparing an overall program to commemorate the bicentennial of the American Revolution with a focus on Trenton’s role and how it affected the country as a whole. The bicentennial year of 1976 was designated as the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution and events and programs were prepared in a number of cities and towns across the United States. The Bicentennial Committee was created during 1972 and ran its operations through the bicentennial year of 1976. The committee was composed of 76 members appointed originally by Mayor Arthur Holland that represented the city and its diversity, crafts, and creative arts. The committee had seven subcommittees outside of the executive committee: historical, cultural, special events, landmark, public relations, finance, and civic improvement. The overall purpose was to encourage, support, and advise groups of interested citizens in preparing for the city of Trenton’s celebration of the American Revolution Bicentennial. This information is included within the committee’s statement of purpose, along with a number of events that were proposed to happen during the course of the celebration. There were a variety of cultural festivals and events as well that helped to showcase Trenton’s past and then-present (1976) accomplishments, with most events being planned well in advance of the 1976 celebration year.

Scope and Content

The collection documents the history of the Trenton Bicentennial Committee and the various subcommittees that were responsible for helping Trenton celebrate the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution. This collection contains material that represents how these committees operated through meeting minutes, memorandums, and member lists. There are also a number of organizational records which demonstrate the thought process of the committees and subcommittees which played a critical part in the implementation of programs, bulletins, newsletters, and events. There are also a number of documents that describe the overall history of Trenton from its creation to 1976. These materials include several oral history interviews conducted with Trentonians as part of the Bicentennial effort to capture the city's past. Finally, the collection also includes some items from Bicentennial celebrations on the state and national levels, such as booklets and memorabilia. The purpose of this collection is to showcase the United States Bicentennial in Trenton, as well as the history of the city and how it connects to the state and country overall.

Extent: 5 document boxes, 2 rectangular boxes, 1 portable hard drive

Related Persons

Mayor Arthur Holland

Veronica F. Cary - Trenton Free Public Library Director

Peggy P. Gummere

Elizabeth Holland

Judge Sidney Goldmann - Executive Committee

Mort Farrah

Mark Brown - Executive Director of Bicentennial Committee

Barbara Portwood - Assistant Planner and "Bicentennial Coordinator"

Series Description

Archivist's Note: The additions to this collection as part of the v3.0 update are not included in the item-level description below.

Series 1. Organizational Records

This series contains records pertaining to the organization and recording of the Bicentennial Committee. The committee was created early in 1972, to allow enough time to prepare for the 1976 bicentennial year and celebrations. There is a number of different materials, including statements of purpose, reports, meeting reminders, committee lists, status reports, agendas, and updates on proceedings. The material includes the original organization of the committee with its original subcommittees and member lists. The documents help us understand the overall function of the committee and how it helped celebrate the bicentennial in Trenton.

Box 1, Folder 1 contents:

Iada Engineering Consulting 7/5/1972
Committee Purpose Document
Statement of Purpose
NJ Bicentennial Forum
Reorganization of Subcommittees
Drama Association Agenda
Tourism Task Force Meeting 12/4/1975
Douglas House Coin Report
Status Report February 27, 1976
Bicentennial Projects March 6, 1975
Executive Meeting Letter March 6, 1975
Executive Committee Projects 3/12/1975
Executive Committee Notes 3/12/1975
Executive Committee Reminder 4/1/1975
Bicentennial Committee Agenda 5/27/1975
Executive Committee Reminder 6/11/1975
National Bicentennial Report Vol. 2, No.6
Bicentennial News July 14, 1975
Bicentennial News August 4, 1975
Status Report August 29, 1975
Battle Monument Staffing 9/26/1975
Special Events Meeting reminder 9/29/1975
Bicentennial Status October 15, 1975
Bicentennial Statues Report Feb. 27, 1975
Resolution #76-269 March 18, 1976
Bell Ringing Celebration March 19, 1975
Executive Committee Meeting Reminder
Historical Committee Overview/Purpose
Bicentennial Status Physical Aspects
Steering Committee Purpose
Iada Engineering Consulting 7/5/1972
1975 Bicentennial Budget
Treasurer's Report June - July 1973
Landmarks Committee Preliminary Budget
Calendar of Events July/August 1975
Clubs and Organizations List
Receipt Peter Rossi Bicentennial Committee
Bicentennial Game Book Receipt

Series 2. Memoranda and Meeting Minutes

This series contains meeting minutes and memorandum records for the executive committee and the associated subcommittees. While the meeting minutes and memorandums are not complete, they will help researchers understand the structure of the meetings and the events which took place during them.

Box 1, Folder 2 contents:

- Memorandum September 23, 1974
- Memorandum January 13, 1975
- Memorandum January 15, 1975
- Minutes Exec. Committee March 12, 1975
- Minutes Exec. Committee April 9, 1975
- Memorandum April 14, 1975
- Memorandum May 1, 1975
- Memorandum May 6, 1975
- Bicentennial Meeting Notes July 22, 1975
- Memorandum August 26, 1975
- Memorandum August 29, 1975
- Memorandum September 8, 1975
- Memorandum September 23, 1975
- Memorandum September 25, 1975
- Memorandum October 21, 1975

Box 1, Folder 2A: Trenton Bicentennial Committee memos, with index [by Mark Brown?]

Series 3. Member Lists

The member lists held within this series show the members of the committees and subcommittees that coordinated during the preparations for the bicentennial celebration. The largest list of members is the “Bicentennial Committee Member List” which names the 76 original members as well as the names of those members added after the initial list was created. These lists also include member lists of various subcommittees as well as lists for a few societies and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Box 1, Folder 3 contents:

- Landmark Commission List
- Landmark Commission List (Revised)
- New Jersey Historical Commission List
- Bicentennial Committee Members List
- Trenton Commons Merchant List
- List of Clubs and Associations
- Mercer County Bicentennial Chair List

Series 4. Committee Notes

This series contains the notes of the executive committee, mostly hand written and probably by a secretary of one of the committees. Notes contain some information about the mailing lists for celebration events, as well as a few sheets that contain a variety of subjects. These notes can help to better understand what was being done by the committees and by different members throughout the course of the planning and during the celebration year itself.

Box 1, Folder 4 contents:

- Legislator for Mercer County Notes
- Council and Government Officials Notes
- Church Newspaper Clipping w/Notes
- Churches Notes
- Trenton Historical Society Notes
- Notes from Meeting March 6, 1975
- Committee Notes March 7, 1975
- Mailing List Notes
- County File Capitol Notes
- 3 Sheets of Miscellaneous Notes
- “Sent Copies to Executives” Note

Series 5. Committee Programs

These committee programs were part of the overall Bicentennial Committee and part of the suggested programs that were meant to enhance the celebration. They include the suggestions to use the original Revolutionary War-era street names and signs alongside the present day ones on the city’s main roads. There was also the suggestion to have the Trenton public schools plan their own programs with the Bicentennial Committee to enhance learning and help present the Revolution in Trenton to school age children. This series also contains a number of maps with marked historical locations, as well as a letter describing a “Victory Trail” walking tour.

Box 1, Folder 5 contents:

- Suggestion Committee
 - Goldmann to Maffei Letter May 5, 1975
 - Gruver to Morton Letter May 9, 1975
 - Trenton Public School Project Suggestions
 - Cultural Committee Suggestions

Folder 6 contents:

- Street Signs
 - Current Projects and Future Projects
 - Bicentennial Signs “First Presbyterian”
 - Bicentennial Signs “Trent House”
 - Barbara Portwood to Rhoda Obst Letter
 - Trenton Victory Trail Walking Tour Signs
- Street Signs (cont.)

Request: Proposal Revolution Street Signs
Map of City of Trenton, Red Streets Outline
Map of Trenton about 1776 Photocopy
Map of Trenton Legend
Memorandum: Landmark Committee Signs
Memorandum: Bicentennial Signs 9/19/75

Series 6. Event Planning

The event planning series documents the events and programs that were proposed for the Bicentennial, including both accepted and rejected proposals. The events include the Fourth of July fireworks, commemorative programs, and themes that were part of the full bicentennial celebration for the entire United States. Also included are letters confirming attendance at the bicentennial celebrations from the armed forces and a few Trenton community members.

Box 1, Folder 7 contents:

National Holidays Bicentennial Themes
Historical Commission Programs
NJ Historical Commission Bicentennial Events
Committee on Commemorative Programs
Goldmann to Sears Letter Cultural Heritage
Street Signs for King and Warren Plan
Municipal Bicentennial Meeting Letter
Capital Salute to Bicentennial
Bicentennial Tourism Task Force Notes
County Cultural Fourth of July Celebration
Selikoff to Portwood Letter Feb. 23, 1976
Portwood to Selikoff Letter March 4, 1976
Trenton '76 Festival
Fireworks Fourth of July Celebration
Special Trentonian "Ten Crucial Days" Print
Request to Finance Fireworks Display
Trenton Times Bicentennial Edition Ads
Bicentennial Committee Folk Festival
National Holidays Bicentennial Themes
Trenton 1976 List of Events and Programs
Bicentennials Events and Projects 1976
Trenton Bicentennial Events
Event Planning Book NJ Bicentennial Commission
Columbus Day Parade
Promotional and Finance Committee Events

Series 7. Memorabilia

This series contains memorabilia, including information on bumper stickers, invitations for galas, flag pamphlets, an Epsilon Upsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Society pamphlet, and various American Revolution Bicentennial Association (ARBA) licensed items. There are also a number of letters for a commemorative coin to be made for the event, and letters detailing the issues that arose when trying to sell the coins. These items are either commemorating events or are records that are about creating and distributing memorabilia for the celebration.

Box 1, Folder 8 contents:

- Bicentennial Sticker "We Salute USA '76"
- Catalog of Decals, Markings, and Posters
- Gala State Bicentennial Concert Invitation
- NJ Bicentennial Flags Pamphlet
- Civic Important Committee Invite
- Bicentennial Celebration Postcard
- Jerz Pamphlet
- Police Department Article
- "The Unfinished Revolution" Pamphlet
- Commemorative Items List
- Legal Agreement, Commemorative Items
- Commemorative Stamp Letter

Box 1, Folder 9 contents:

- John P. Clarke Bicentennial Coin Letter
- Memorandum "Re: Bicentennial Coins"
- Invite to Public for Commemorative Medal
- Clarke to Portwood "Re: Bicentennial Coin"
- Bicentennial Coin Sales not authorized
- General Hugh Mercer Minted Coin Letter
- Update Request on the Legality of Coins
- Commemorative Coin Notes

Series 8. Newsletters

This series contains newsletters that inform the public on the proceedings of the bicentennial celebration. They showed what the committees were doing and described upcoming events. The run of the newsletters is incomplete, with most dating to 1975.

Box 1, Folder 10 contents:

- New Jersey Historical Commission
 - Volume 6, No.1 September 1975
- Bicentennial Celebration Commission
 - Volume 1, No.3 November 1974
 - Volume 1, No.8 April 1975
- Bicentennial Celebration Commission (cont.)

Volume 1, No.9 May 1975

Volume 1, No.10/11 June/July 1975

Volume 2, No.1 Oct. - Nov. 1975

Series 9. Correspondence

The correspondence series is one of the larger folders in the collection and has a number of letters from both committee members and various Trenton residents and figures. The majority of the letters are dated during the bicentennial year of 1976. There are a number of letters between Mayor Arthur Holland and committee members, as well as with other local mayors such as Philadelphia's Frank Rizzo. There are also letters from companies, such as General Electric, that were trying to participate in the city's events. This correspondence can help better understand the day-to-day activities that were happening behind the scenes and during the committees' proceedings.

Box 1, Folder 11 contents:

Bicentennial Master Events List - Warner
Walter T. Peters to Bicentennial Committee
Barbara Portwood to Stephen B. Richer
Mayor Holland to Judge Sidney Goldmann
Stephen B. Richer to Mayor Holland
Mayor Holland to Joseph P. Merlino
Walter T. Peters to Mayor Holland
City of Trenton Miscellaneous Receipt
Barbara Portwood to Lt. George F. Mucci
David Poinsett to Judge Sidney Goldmann
Mark Brown to Councilman June 25, 1974
Judge Sidney Goldmann - Dr. Harold Kelsey
Mark Brown to Delaware River Authority
John D. Frizzell to Mark Brown
Murray Rubinstein to Mark Brown
Murray Rubinstein - Mark Brown 8/25/1974
Gillett Griswold to Mark Brown
Don H. Berkebile to Judge Sidney Goldmann
Albert G. Skokos to Mark Brown
William R. Gruver to Mark Brown
Mayor Holland to Roos E. Rowland Jr.
Richard Waldron to Mark Brown
William C. Wright to A. L. Mcleod
Raymond A. Lester to Charlotte Guliver

Box 1, Folder 11 (cont.):

John D. Frizzell to Mark Brown 1/5/1974
Cooper B. Bright to Bernard Bush
Edward L. Kallop Jr. to Mark Brown
Catherine Makowicz to Mark Brown
Guy K. Dean III to Bicentennial Interests
Robert E. Allen to Judge Sidney Goldmann
Christopher G. Duffy to Mark Brown
Richard Waldron to Mark Brown 1/10/1974
Community Resources to Judge Goldmann
Barry Malko to Judge Sidney Goldmann
Sidney Goldmann to Mark Brown 3/29/1974
William L. Rafsky to Mayor Holland
Mayor Frank L. Rizzo to Mayor Holland
William H. Weathersby to Mark Brown
Harold H. Perry to Mark Brown
Walter T. Peters Jr. to Mark Brown
Edwin Jones to Judge Sidney Goldmann
Irene M. Berglund to Mark Brown
Mark Brown to General Electric
Elizabeth A. Holland to Friend of Bicentennial
Judge Sidney Goldmann to Sara Smith
Murray Rubinstein - Mark Brown 10/1/1974
Theresa E. Goeke to Mark Brown
Bill N. Lacy to Judge Sidney Goldmann
Sidney Goldmann - Mark Brown 11/11/1974
Harold H. Perry to Mark Brown
William R. Gruver to Mark Brown
Wyatt W. Belcher to Mark Brown
James M. Sears to Mark Brown 1/14/1975
Janice D. Miller to Mark Brown
Kenneth J. Butko to Mark Brown
Richard W. De Korte to Mark Brown
Sara Smith to Mark Brown
Murray Rubinstein - Mark Brown 5/20/1974

Box 1, Folder 12: Trenton Bicentennial Committee -- Additional letters (most ca. 1976)

Series 10. Civic Improvement Committee and Civic Associations

The Civic Improvement Committee was created for the purpose of beautifying the city. The committee worked with local Trenton florists to plant flowers around government buildings, schools, and places of worship. They also held a Garden Tour event, which showcased historic buildings and landmarks. This series includes a number of documents from the civic associations that made up part of the bicentennial committees. These documents include Landmark Commission letters, as well as minutes that detail the proceedings of these civic associations.

Box 2, Folder 2 contents:

- City of Trenton Map
- Civic Improvement Garden Tour
- Bicentennial Contributions
- Contributors to Improvement Committee
- Acquisition of 200 Flowers
- Improvement Committee Bulb Distribution
- Letter to All Flower Growers
- Civic Improvement Advisory Committee
- Department of Planning Notes and Letter
- Civic Improvement Committee Minutes 3/76
- Income Tax Deduction Publication 526
- Keep a Good Thing Growing
- Civic Improvement Committee Minutes 3/76
- Advisory Committee List
- Adam & Sickles Building Protest
- Garden Tour Information Packet
- Flower Donation Cards
- Thank You Letter
- Meeting Minutes and Notes Feb. 20, 1976
- Meeting Minutes and Notes Jan. 23, 1976
- Robins School Tree Planting Letter
- Sarah Christie Committee Requests
- Tulip Bulbs Letter
- Kale Nursery Letter
- Sarah Christie New Business Letter
- Lee DeVide Trenton House Letter
- Helen P. Solon Flower Bulbs Letter
- Liability Insurance for Bicentennial
- Meeting Minutes Advisory Committee
- Chairman Letter from Barbara Portwood
- Advisory Committee Member List
- Notes from the Committee Aug 18, 1975

Box 2, Folder 3 contents:

Civic Associations

- Participation Interest List May 19, 1972
- Civic Association Adoption Letter
- Speakers Bureau List
- Historical Commission of NJ Members List
- Eagle Tavern Rehabilitation Letter
- Trenton Historical Society Member List
- Civic Improvement Meeting Minutes 2/20/76
- Civic Improvement Committee Conflict

Series 11. Events and Publications

This series contains a number of publications about the Bicentennial Committee and their events. The records are mainly from Trenton newspapers such as the *Trentonian*, *The Evening Times*, and *The Sunday Times Advertiser*. These documents are photocopies of the original newspaper clippings, and the originals are not contained in this collection. The clippings also include magazine articles describing Bicentennial events and celebrations.

Box 2, Folder 4 contents:

- Bicentennial "News Line"
- New Jersey 1975 Calendar of Events
- NJ During the Revolution In-Print
- "These States" Pamphlet
- Statement of Principles and Goals Pamphlet
- Register to Vote Bicentennial Pamphlet
- "Scenic and Historic Tours of New Jersey"
- "Washington's Reception at Trenton" Book

Box 2, Folder 5 contents:

- Parades
 - Bicentennial Fourth of July Parade Letter
 - Daniels to Portwood 4th Parade Letter
 - Burry Parade Float Letter to Mayor Holland
 - Response to Burry Float Letter
 - Itinerary for Fourth of July Parade
 - Five Man Color Guard for Parade
 - Letter to Apply for a Parade Permit
 - Fort Dix Band Notes
 - Parade and Folk Festival Planning Letter
 - Columbus Parade and Observance Committee

Box 2, Folder 6 contents:

Newspapers

Trentonian Jan. 16, 1975 "The Colony"
Evening Times Mar. 24, 1976 "Demise"
Trentonian April 23, 1976 "Troll Bridge"
Evening Times "Highlights of Area"
Trentonian Feb. 25, 1976 "March Fourth"
Evening Times Dec. 3, 1975 "Trash Payoff"
"Princeton's Agency Problem"
Trentonian Mar. 30, 1976 "A New Beat"
"Freedom Will Ring for a Week"
Trentonian April 19, 1976 "Easter Parade"
Trenton Action News April-June 1976
"Junior 4 Band Serenades Commons"
Trentonian Dec. 5, 1975 "Gearing Up"
"Prospect of Reviving City Piques Interest"
Sunday Times Advertiser Apr. 25, 1976
Bicentennial Celebration "A Past To."
Trenton Evening Times June 28, 1972
"Douglas College Folk Festival"
"Bicentennial Symposium May 24"
"From Mansion to Monkey Museum"
"Saperstein's Commemorative Coin"
"Wet Weekend Marked Memorial Service"
"New Unit's Aim: Save Landmarks"
Evening Times Mar. 3, 1976 "Feast of..."
Trentonian May 13, 1976 "July 4: A Day"
"Everybody's Party" By Ken Carolan

Box 2, Folder 7: *Trenton Magazine*, July 1974

Box 2, Folder 8 contents:

New Jersey Success January 1989 "Capital Ideas"
"The Coming of Mahlon Stacy, Settlement at the Falls"

Unboxed: *Bicentennial Times Commemorative Reprints*, Vol. 3 (Jan. 1974 - Dec. 1976)

Series 12. The American Freedom Train

This series contains documents and records related to the American Freedom Train, a nationwide exhibit train that visited Trenton from August 30 to September 2, 1976. The train included a showcase of historical documents and artifacts from American history.

Box 2, Folder 9 contents:

"AFT" Notes sheet
Agreement Contract

Box 2, Folder 9 (cont.):

Hosting the Freedom Train Portwood Letter
Newsletter Vol. II, No.1 January 15, 1976
Site Review for Host Location in Trenton
Official Hosting Letter, Portwood
Review of Train visit after the event
AFT Economic Impact Report
Contract Amendment Letter, Portwood
Ticket Sales for the Train Memorandum
American Freedom Train Consist
Resolution Authorizing Trenton and AFT
AFT memorandum Arrival Information
Lt. Mucci Letter about Train Visit

Series 13. Dedications

This series includes a number of dedications that were made throughout the bicentennial celebration, including the dedication of a George Washington statue in Mill Hill Park, the dedication of the Douglas House, and the Mill Hill neighborhood. Memorial Day dedications and services are also mentioned in this series.

Box 2, Folder 10 contents:

Bicentennial Advertising Guide
Dedication of the Douglas House Ad
Dedication of House and Statue
Portwood Thank You Letter
Rosette Riley Letter to Portwood
Portwood Jazz Ensemble Thank You Letter
Portwood Master of Ceremonies Letter
Mill Hill Park Dedication Notes
Memorial Day Services
Mill Hill Park Committee Letter
Planning and Development Mill Hill Park
Bicentennial Garden Dedication
Outline of Events Mill Hill Park Dedication
Events and Planning Staff List

Series 14. Ken Carolan Letter and Notes

This series contains a letter and a number of correspondence and documents relating to an incident that took place during the course of the bicentennial events. Ken Carolan had written and distributed a proposal for a bicentennial coordinating committee based on his understanding that there was a lack of government funding and staffing being shown by the city-run Bicentennial Committee. John Clarke who was the director of the Department of City Planning was upset about this proposal and the comments about the celebration, and replied to Ken Carolan with his opinion of the proposal. A copy of the proposal is included along with the letter written by Clarke to Carolan.

Box 2, Folder 11 contents:

- Proposal for Bicentennial Coordinating Committee
- Letters between Ken Carolan, John Clarke, and Ed Leefeldt.

Series 15. Mercer County Bicentennial Committee

This series contains information related to events that Mercer County overall was planning for the Bicentennial. The county Bicentennial Committee seems to have been overseeing all the municipal bicentennial planning committees.

Box 2, Folder 12 contents

- Battle Monument opening letter
- Chamber of Commerce meeting notice, Nov. 18, 1974
- “Mercer Oak” newsletter, March 1976
- Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission letter to Bicentennial Chair
- Mercer County Calendar of Events, June 1975
- List of Municipal Bicentennial Chairmen
- Bicentennial Activities in Mercer County, as of May 15, 1975

Series 16: Sidney Goldmann Bicentennial papers

This series comprises the papers of Sidney Goldmann, attorney and head of the Trenton Bicentennial Committee’s executive committee. It includes newspaper clippings, correspondence, financial reports, and other documents on subjects related to the Bicentennial and its associated events.

Archivist’s Note: The folders in the following two series [16 and 17] use the titles as written at the time of arrangement. Some of these names clearly came from Goldmann himself, but others may have been the work of prior archivists. Where necessary, “quotation marks” appear to stress that a title is verbatim. Any of my additions appear in [square brackets]. Finally, note that this series contains only the documents found within Goldmann’s papers; as a result, there may be duplicate or redundant items elsewhere in this collection.

Box 3, Folder 1: Adams & Sickel [building restoration]

- Folder 2: Banks -- Exhibits

- Folder 3: Beautification -- General

- Folder 4: Brunswick Circle Beautification

- Folder 5: Budgets and Financial Reports
 - Folder 6: Churches and Synagogues
 - Folder 7: Civic Improvement Committee
 - Folder 8: Douglass House Restoration
 - Folder 9: Ecumenical Services
 - Folder 10: "Ethnic Histories"
 - Folder 11: Films
 - Folder 12: Fourth of July -- Bell ringing
 - Folder 13: Fourth of July parade
 - Folder 14: Freedom Train [correspondence, ephemera, etc.]
 - Folder 15: Historic Sites Plaques
 - Folder 16: Liberty Tree [in] Mill Hill Park
 - Folder 17: Memorial Day [1976] Parade
 - Folder 18: Mercer Auto Reunion
 - Folder 19: Musical Programs
 - Folder 20: Newsletters [from the New Jersey Bicentennial Commission]
 - Folder 21: Newspaper clippings [re: the Bicentennial Committee]
 - Folder 22: Newspaper clippings [re: various Bicentennial topics]
 - Folder 23: Oral History Project [correspondence]
 - Folder 24: Press Releases and Flyers
 - Folder 25: Schools
 - Folder 26: Status Reports
 - Folder 27: Ten Crucial Days
 - Folder 28: Town Meeting 76
 - Folder 29: "Trenton, the Cradle of Freedom"
 - Folder 30: Visitors' Center
 - Folder 31: Walking Tour [correspondence and map]
 - Folder 32: War Memorial Plaque
 - Folder 33: Washington's Inaugural Journey [reenactment]
 - Folder 34: Bicentennial Comm. Misc. [correspondence, ephemera, etc.]
- Box 4, Folder 1: Bicentennial Committee [notes, correspondence, etc.], 1972
- Folder 2: Bicentennial Committee, [January - June] 1973
 - Folder 3: Bicentennial Committee, [July - December] 1973
 - Folder 4: Bicentennial Committee, 1974
 - Folder 5: Bicentennial Committee, 1975
 - Folder 6: Bicentennial Committee, 1976

Series 17: Barbara Portwood papers

This collection represents the papers of another Bicentennial Committee member, an Assistant Planner and “Bicentennial Coordinator” who worked on flower displays, exhibits, and other events that made up the celebration. The documents include correspondence, meeting minutes, and handwritten notes.

Box 4, Folder 7: Flower Festival

Folder 8: Industrial Exhibits

Folder 9: Intern Assignments

Folder 10: Jazz Concert and Band Days

Folder 11: Kiwanis Reenactment [of Washington’s Inaugural Journey]

Box 5, Folder 1: Landmarks Subcommittee

Folder 2: Mercer Auto

Folder 3: “Donations to the Committee - BTB” [Brian T. Baxter]

Folder 4: Liberty Tree

Folder 5: Douglass House [restoration]

Folder 6: “Guidance from Above” [Subcommittee planning? Additional funding?]

Folder 7: Miscellaneous Bicent[ennial materials]

Folder 8: Misc. Bicentennial correspondence

Series 18. Oral Histories

In celebration of the Bicentennial, the Oral History section of the City of Trenton Committee was created to record the history of the city through the voices of residents from various generations. The chairperson of the committee was Elizabeth “Betty” Holland, Mayor Arthur Holland’s wife. This series contains the original audio cassette tapes of the interviews, and 2019 reformatted versions on CDs and a portable hard drive (.wav files). See Appendix A for list of interviewees. Also included are various documents that the committee used when conducting the interviews, including waiver forms and interest forms for those involved. According to records of the committee, these oral histories were recorded to commemorate various events and to unify the community through the process of storytelling.

Box 2, Folder 1 contents:

Oral History Committee Breakdown

Oral History Workshop Sheet

Oral History Subcommittee Member List

Search for residents letter

Gift of Personal Statement Letter

Trenton Bicentennial Letterhead Example

Oral History Workshop Interest Form

Procedural Information Sheet

Question Examples Sheet

Hear Ye, Hear Ye Oral History Sheet

Box 2, Folder 1 (cont.)

- Guideline Questions for Oral Histories
- Oral History Workshop Agenda
- General Background and Articles
- Illustrating the Oral History
- Oral History Examples
- Oral History Subcommittee Minutes 12/2
- Oral History Committee (Evening Times)
- Teresa Palmieri Interest Sheet
- Oral History Equipment Report
- Oral History Subcommittee Meeting Area
- Cameron Hunt Black Oral History Letter
- Grant Draft for Oral History Committee
- Budget Draft Pages
- Oral History memorandum 8/26/1975
- Oral History Project Letter Sari Roboff
- Notes for Interviewers
- Tape Recording Local History
- Elizabeth A. Holland Oral History Info

Box 2, Folder 1A contents:

- Oral History Transcriptions - Jean T. Carver (Mrs. Lloyd A.); Mrs. Barker Gummere; Mrs. Albert Schunder nee Knowles

Boxes 6 and 7: Oral History Cassettes – Bicentennial Project (reformatted to CD and .wav files)

Appendix A: Bicentennial Project – Oral Histories

All 60-minute tapes, except where noted

One-sided:

[?] - Interviewed by Brian Saloey (2 one-sided tapes)

S.A. Andrews (Mrs.) / Aletha Andrew (7 July 1976) – Interviewed by Harold H. Perry, Trenton

Mrs. William S. Borden, 333 West State Street, Trenton

Mr. Bryson Bugbee, 565 Rutherford Avenue, Trenton – Interviewed by Helena A. Kutalek

Mrs. Daisy Carthan – Interviewed by Anthony Gaither, Hugh Carter (Spring 1976)

Jean T. Carver – Interviewed by Tom Burns (transcription in Box 2 , Folder 1a)

Dean Lloyd G. Chattin of Trinity Cathedral, Trenton – Interviewed by Harold Perry (15 October 1976)

Elizabeth Geter (Mrs.) – Interviewed by Anthony (Tony) Gaither, Hugh Carter – Boy Scouts #105

Dr. Ronald Grele – Oral History Workshop (24 January 1976)

Mrs. Barker Gummere (transcription in Box 2, Folder 1a)

Ferdinand W. Roebing III – Interviewed by Harold Perry (24 September 1976)

Mrs. Albert E. Schunder, 171 Fenwood Avenue, Trenton – Interviewed by Ms. Helena A. Kutalek (11 February 1976) (transcription in Box 2, Folder 1a)

Edna Smith, 274 Walnut Street, Trenton – Interviewed by Linda Biondi (29 April 1976)

Bernice Sowsian

Two-sided:

Alan Appelbaum at Hopewell – Interviewed by Harold Perry (30 July 1976)

Robert M. Appelbaum – Interviewed by Harold Perry (28 July 1976)

Bicentennial Committee Meeting on Oral History; Mr. Endersby (10 June 1976); including Miss Cary; project for Bicentennial Committee plans

Dr. Sarah C. Christie - Interviewed by Harold Perry (3 August 1976)

John E. Curry / Richard Coffee

2 Tapes – U.S. Circuit Judge Phillip Forman – Interviewed by Harold Perry (19 October 1976)

Judge Sidney Goldmann – Interviewed by Harold Perry (14 July 1976)

“Red” Hale – Interviewed by A. Goldberg, Steve Slaby [?] (25 April 1977) [90-minute tape]

Mrs. Arthur S. Hancock – Interviewed by Harold H. Perry (19 March 1976)

2 Tapes – Edward Hendrickson – Interviewed by Harold H. Perry (30 April 1976)

Dr. Patton J. Hill (Afro-American) – Interviewed by Harold Perry (4 August 1976)

Thomas Maddock – Interviewed by Harold Perry (17 August 1976)

Dr. Elizabeth McDowell – Interviewed by Harold Perry (10 August 1976)

3 Tapes - Solomon Mintz – Interviewed by Harold Perry (17 February 1977, 22 February 1977);
Labor Stories (25 April 1977) [90-minute tape]

W. Houston Pearson – Interviewed by Harold Perry (13 July 1976)

Angelo Pershelli – Interviewed by Dennis Starr (90-minute tape)

Dr. J.F. Pessel – Interviewed by Harold Perry (28 July 1976) – tape states “most of intro didn’t
record”

Charles A. Prall – Interviewed by Harold Perry (23 November 1976)

Mrs. S. Roy Heath (7 September 1976) / Mrs. Janet Heath (14 September 1976) – Interviewed by
Harold Perry

Mrs. Florence C. Rogers – Interviewed by Florence E. Rogers (23 March 1976)