

MS-55, Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission Records

Collection Number: MS-55

Title: Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission Records

Dates: 1974-1976

Creator: Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission

Summary/Abstract: Records document the official plans for celebrating the 1976 Bicentennial in the Dayton-Montgomery County area through minutes, correspondence, clippings, organizational papers, publications, broadsides, and working papers.

Quantity/Physical Description: 9 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-55, Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The records were donated to the Wright State Archives in early 1977.

Other Finding Aid: The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at

<http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms55.pdf>.

Processed by: Jeff W. Thomas, June 4, 1986. Finding aid revised according to DACS by Toni Vanden Bos, December, 2016.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into five series:

Series I – Administrative Records, 1974-1976

Series II – Heritage '76 Committee Records, 1974-1976
Series III – Festival U.S.A. Committee Records, 1974-1976
Series IV – Horizons '76 Committee Records, 1974-1976
Series V – Miscellaneous Items, 1974-1976

Historical Note:

The Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission was created in March 1974 by a joint resolution passed by the Dayton City Commission and the Montgomery County Commission. The purpose of the Bicentennial Commission was to plan, promote, implement, and coordinate various activities, events, and functions in Dayton, Ohio and in the surrounding Montgomery County that would celebrate and mark the two hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The commission was granted status as a separate, 501 (C) (3), non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service in July 1974. The commission thus derived the majority of its funding from grants obtained from various corporations, foundations, and individuals. After the close of the bicentennial year of 1976 the commission ended its three year life-span by ceasing operation early in 1977.

The Dayton and Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission was composed of some thirty people who came to the commission from a wide assortment of backgrounds. The commission included individuals from the business, political, labor, and religious sectors of the community, along with people from various local universities, racial and ethnic organizations, and civic-minded groups. The military was also represented by people from nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Chairman of the commission was Louis Wozar, the president of Tait Incorporated, a local Dayton business firm. In addition, the commission included all the members of both the Board of county Commission of Montgomery County and the City Commission of Dayton, Ohio. A complete list of the Bicentennial Commission's members is located within the records.

In April 1974 the Bicentennial Commission authorized the hiring of an administrative staff of six people to handle the day to day operations of its activities. This administrative staff was headed by an executive director, Ms. Margo Evans. The staff offices were located in Suite 711 of the Reibold Building in downtown Dayton, Ohio. In addition to the executive director the staff included an office manager/secretary, a public relations manager, and three people who coordinated the various efforts of the numerous committees developed by the commission.

During the three years of its existence the commission followed the general guidelines put forth by the National American Revolution for the Bicentennial Commission. These guidelines suggested that planning for the Bicentennial celebrations and activities should be structured around three main categories, which the National Commission entitled Heritage '76, Festival U.S.A., and Horizons '76. These three categories would each deal with activities within a separate time frame. Heritage '76 would concentrate on those activities that dealt with the history of America, Festival U.S.A. would deal with present day events, and Horizons '76 would explore ideas that were to be implemented sometime in the future.

In following these national guidelines the Dayton and Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission organized its activities, events, and functions under three broad committees, each of which dealt with, and were titled by, the three main categories suggested by the National Commission. These committees were chaired by members of the Dayton and Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission: the Heritage '76 committee by Jack Sullivan, the president of the Montgomery County Historical Society; the Festival U.S.A. committee by Philip Shardon, president of the Dayton Council on World Affairs; the Horizons '76 committee by Dr. Robert J. Kegerreis, president of Wright State University. A complete listing of the committee members is located within the records.

Scope and Content

The Dayton and Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission was organized into three major committees: Heritage '76 for historical projects, Festival U.S.A. for present day projects, and Horizons '76 for future projects. This organization, along with the papers of the central administration staff makes the records of the commission fall naturally into four series. A fifth series has been added to contain miscellaneous material. In planning projects for the Bicentennial the major three committees developed numerous sub-committees to handle individual projects. This collection contains these records that were located within the offices of the administrative staff of the commission and may not contain the complete records of every committee associated with the commission. Many out of the two dozen committees spawned by the commission were composed of, and chaired by, individuals outside the administrative staff. An effort does seem to have been made by individual committee chairmen to send copies of their records to the administrative offices. How complete this effort was has not been ascertained, therefore many of the committee records within this collection may contain gaps and missing material.

The majority of the records in this collection relate to the activities of the administrative staff of the commission. The correspondence, minutes of meetings, and annual reports contained within these records help document the day operations of the administrative aspect of the commission, as do the records of the various committees within the administrative staff, i.e. public relations, finance, etc. Included in these records is a variety of published and unpublished material received by the staff from national, state, and local Bicentennial organizations. This material contains guidelines, newsletters, bulletins, and other such items that relate not only to the Bicentennial in Dayton and Montgomery County, but also to aspects of the Bicentennial on a state and national level as well. In addition, these records contain items relating to how various educational, religious, business, ethnic, and other types of groups and organizations in the Dayton area were involved in the Bicentennial. This material can provide some idea as to the breadth and scope of the administrative staff's activities.

The organizational items in the records of each of the three major committees; the minutes of meetings, memorandum, correspondence, project plans, etc, can give some idea about how each of these committees were organized, how plans for projects were developed, and how these projects were implemented. Additional information on individual projects and events can be obtained in the records relating directly to each of the various projects. The records of the Heritage '76 committee are especially strong on three projects; one to build a replica of a Wright

flyer airplane, one to organize an airplane filled with historical exhibits entitled the Freedom Plane, and another project that brought to Dayton a nationally sponsored train containing historical exhibits called the Freedom Train. The Festival U.S.A. records deal mainly, but not exclusively with three types of events; an annual Arts Festival, the Fourth of July Parade of 1976, and an Aviation Festival. The final report of the Horizons '76 committee, published in December 1976, is the most pertinent record of that committee.

Further information on the commission's activities and on the Bicentennial in general can be obtained in the miscellaneous series of the collection. There is an extensive collection of newspaper clippings, photographs, and other such type of material contained within this series. Of particular interest is a tape and slide show developed for the Bicentennial by the commission.

Whenever it was possible the records in the collection were chronologically arranged. The first folder in most series and sub-series is usually entitled an "Organizational Folder" since this folder contains such material as minutes of meetings, memorandum, lists of committee members, flow charts, and other such organizational records. Whenever it was possible enclosures sent with letters have been left in the correspondence folders located throughout the collection.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Administrative Records, 1974-1976

This series contains records that relate to the daily operations of the commission and its administrative staff. Many of the records are items that were received directly into the staff offices from outside organizations. Other records in the series are copies of various published and unpublished documents sent out from the staff offices. The series is separated into seven sub-series. Whenever it was possible the records were chronologically arranged.

Sub-series I – Commission Organizational Records, 1974-1976

Contains the commission's constitution, tax and budget information, proposals and goals, lists of members on staff, commission, and major committees, initiating correspondence from February 1974 to December 1974, and information relating to the Bicentennial communities in Montgomery County.

Sub-series II – Standards and Guidelines, 1974-1976

Contains standards and guidelines published by the National, the Ohio, and the Central Ohio American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commissions, along with material published by the Dayton and Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission.

Sub-series III – Staff Reports, 1975-1976

Contains minutes of staff meetings, correspondence, endorsement requests, planning forms, and annual reports.

Sub-series IV – Administrative Committees

Contains lists of members, minutes of meetings, correspondence, news releases, surveys, and questionnaires relating to the Operating, Financial, Tourism, Bicentennial Committee Activities, and public Relations Committees.

Sub-series V – Outside Organizations, 1974-1976

Contains correspondence, memorandum, lists, calendars of events, and other records, received from and sent out to various national, state and local groups and organizations, including among others, schools, churches, civic and ethnic groups, businesses, and political organizations.

Sub-series VI – Bicentennial Publications, 1974-1976

Contains newsletters, news bulletins, pamphlets, brochures, newspapers and other types of material published by local, state and national Bicentennial organizations.

Sub-series VII – Commercial Catalogs (No Dates), 1974-1976

Contains various catalogs of Bicentennial souvenirs and memorabilia including jewelry, medals, coins, stamps, flags, buttons, films, books, costumes, and others.

Series II: Heritage '76 Committee, 1974-1976

This series contains records directly relations to the planning, promoting and implementation of various projects and activities undertaken by the Heritage '76 committee. The series is separated into two sub-series; one comprising organizational records, the other comprising the records of various projects developed by the committee. Whenever it was possible the records were chronologically arranged.

Sub-series I – Organizational Records, 1974-1976

Contains committee member list, minutes of meetings, memorandum, correspondence, project plans and ballots, financial and grant information and publications.

Sub-series II – Project Records, 1974-1976

Contains records relating to nine different projects planned and/or carried out by the Heritage '76 committee or by various sub-committees.

Series III: Festival U.S.A. Committee, 1974-1976

This series contains records directly relating to the planning, promoting, and implementation of various projects and activities undertaken by the Festival U.S.A. committee. The series is separated into five sub-series; two relating to the three major types of projects developed by the committee. Whenever it was possible the records were chronologically arranged.

Sub-series I: Organizational Records, 1974-1976

Contains committee member list, minutes of meetings, memorandum, and correspondence.

Sub-series II: Promotional Items Received by Festival U.S.A. Committee (Undated)

Contains various promotional correspondence flyers, brochures, etc. from theater, film, dance, musical, military, and other types of arts groups and individuals.

Sub-series III: Arts Related Projects Records, 1974-1976

Contains minutes of meetings, correspondence, memorandum, and other records on thirteen different arts related projects planned and/or carried out by the Festival U.S.A. committee, or various sub-committees.

Sub-series IV: 1976 Fourth of July Parade, 1975-1976

Contains minutes of meetings, correspondence, memorandum, participant information, list of reviewing stand dignitaries and other records on the Dayton, Ohio 1976 Fourth of July parade.

Sub-series V: Aviation Festival

Contains minutes of meetings, correspondence, memorandum, calendars of events, news releases and other records on the Aviation Festival held in Dayton, Ohio in July, 1976.

Series IV: Horizons '76 Committee, 1974-1976

This series contains the minutes of meeting, lists of members, correspondence, memorandum, goals, news releases, financial and grant information, final report, and other records directly relating to the Horizons '76 committee. Whenever it was possible the records were chronologically arranged.

Series V: Miscellaneous Items, 1974-1976

Sub-series I: Newspaper Clippings, 1974-1976

Contains unprocessed collections of newspaper clippings arranged by files into chronological order, cartoons, and a copy of the Bicentennial edition of The Dayton Daily News, July 4, 1976.

Sub-series II: Photographic and Audio Material, Undated

Contains various photographs of different sizes, black and white and color, arranged by file in the order in which they were received, slides and tapes of a Bicentennial slide show developed by the Heritage '76 committee, and one 45 rpm phonograph record.

Sub-series III: Miscellaneous Paraphernalia, Undated

Contains various items such as bumper stickers, logo contest entries, a blank certificate of appreciation from the commission and a guest book dating from July to August 1976 of unknown origins.

Subject Terms:

Organizations/Corporate Names

Dayton-Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission – Archives
American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

Places

Montgomery County (Ohio) – History

Subjects (General)

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1976

Material Types

Correspondence
 Minutes (administrative records)
 Newspapers
 Clippings (informational artifacts)
 Photographs

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series I:		Administrative Records	
1	1	Organizational folder	1974-1975
1	2	Master lists of members	1974-1976
1	3	Initiating communities in Montgomery County	1974
1	4	Bicentennial communities in Montgomery County	1974-1976
1	5	General information from the National American Revolution Bicentennial Commission	1974-1976
1	6	General information from the Ohio American Revolution Bicentennial Commission	1974-1976
1	7	Central Ohio Bicentennial Guide	1974-1975
1	8	Published Bicentennial Guides	1974-1975
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	Staff meeting minutes	1975
2	2	Staff meeting minutes	1976
2	3	General staff correspondence	1975
2	4	General staff correspondence	1976
2	5	Endorsement requests	1975-1976
2	6	Project planning forms	1975-1976
2	7	Commission annual reports	1975,1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Operating committee	1974-1975
3	2	Finance committee	1974-1976
3	3	Funding/Grant information	1974-1975
3	4	Tourism committee	1975-1976
3	5	Bicentennial Communities Activities committee	1974-1975
3	6	Public Relations committee – Organizational folder	1974-1976
3	7	Public Relations committee – Correspondence	1974-1976
3	8	Public Relations committee – News releases	1974-1976
3	9	Public Relations committee – Media Packets	undated
3	10	Public Relations committee – Misc. records	1974-1976
3	11	Public Relations committee – Bicentennial orgs.	1975-1976

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	Bicentennial Information Network (BINET)	1974-1976
4	2	American Issues Forum	1975-1976
4	3	Correspondence with local schools	1974-1976
4	4	Cursory School Program	1975-1976
4	5	Local School Bicentennial projects	1974-1976
4	6	Miscellaneous School Programs	1975-1976
4	7	Correspondence with local universities	1975-1976
4	8	Items related to Jewish religion and the Bicentennial	1975-1976
4	9	Correspondence with Christian organizations	1975-1976
4	10	Christian publications on the Bicentennial	1975-1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	1	Discover America Travel Organization	1975-1976
5	2	Bicentennial conferences	1975-1976
5	3	Logo contest	1974
5	4	Bicentennial medallion	1975-1976
5	5	Volunteers	1975-1976
5	6	Woman's Coalition	1974-1976
5	7	U.S. Conference of Mayors	1974
5	8	Local Businesses	1974-1976
5	9	Bicentennial Junior Committee of Correspondence	undated
5	10	Local Service Organizations	1975-1976
5	11	Ethnic Affairs	1975-1976
5	12	National Bicentennial Ethnic Racial Council	1974-1976
5	13	Collectors	1974-1976
5	14	Military	1974-1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	1	General publications by Dayton and Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission	1975-1976
6	2	Publications from other Bicentennial Organizations In Ohio	1974-1976
6	3	Misc. National Bicentennial Commission publications	1974-1976
6	4	Misc. Bicentennial publications	1974-1976
6	5	<u>Fife and Drum</u> newspaper	1975, 1976
6	6	Bicentennial News newsletter	1974-1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	1	<u>Bicentennial Times</u> newspaper	1974
7	2	<u>Bicentennial Times</u> newspaper	1975
7	3	<u>Bicentennial Times</u> newspaper	1976
7	4	Peoples Bicentennial Commission publications	1974-1976
7	5	<u>Hoosier Minuteman</u> newspaper	1975, 1976
7	6	<u>Antioch Review</u> Bicentennial issue	1976

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	7	Bicentennial issue <u>Time</u> magazine	undated
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	1	Misc. items from Bicentennial Commissions of various cities in Ohio	1975-1976
8	2	Misc. items from various Bicentennial Commissions in U.S.	1975-1976
8	3	Commercial Catalogs – jewelry, medals, coins, and stamps	undated
8	4	Commercial Catalogs – flags, buttons, patches, misc.	undated
8	5	Commercial Catalogs – films and costumes	undated
8	6	Commercial Catalogs – books and other publications	undated
Series II:		Heritage '76 Committee	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	1	Organizational folder	1974-1976
9	2	Correspondence	1974-1976
9	3	Project plans/Grant applications	1974-1976
9	4	Ballots on planned projects	undated
9	5	Miscellaneous publications	1974-1976
9	6	Slide show	1975-1976
9	7	Speakers Bureau	1975-1976
9	8	Plaza Display project	1974
9	9	Bicentennial Van project	1975
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	1	Freedom Train project organizational folder	1976
10	2	General information on Freedom Train	undated
10	3	Souvenir Freedom Train newspaper	May/June 1975
10	4	Freedom Plane project organizational folder	1975-1976
10	5	Freedom Plane project – Correspondence	1976
10	6	Wright Flyer project organizational folder	1976
10	7	Wright Flyer project – Correspondence	1976
10	8	Flight into the Past project	1976
10	9	River Corridor project	1974-1976
10	10	Mystery Letter project	1975-1976
10	11	Misc. papers on Dayton history	undated
Series III:		Festival U.S.A. Committee	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
11	1	Organizational folder	1974-1976
11	2	Correspondence	1974-1976
11	3	Arts Festival sub-committee organizational folder	1975-1976
11	4	Information from the Ohio Arts Council	1975-1976
11	5	Promotional items – theater groups	undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
11	6	Promotional items – films	undated
11	7	Promotional items – exhibits	undated
11	8	Promotional items – dance groups	undated
11	9	Promotional items – musical groups	undated
11	10	Promotional items – poetry	undated
11	11	Promotional items – military groups	undated
11	12	Promotional items - miscellaneous	undated
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12	1	Bicentennial Creative Arts Contest	1975-1976
12	2	Traveling Arts Showcase	1975-1976
12	3	1 st Annual Arts Festival Showcase	1975
12	4	Showcase questionnaires	1975
12	5	2 nd Annual Arts Festival Showcase	1976
12	6	Showcase questionnaires	1976
12	7	Poster project organizational folder	1974-1976
12	8	Poster project correspondence	1974-1976
12	9	Paul Laurence Dunbar Tribute project	1975-1976
12	10	Black Snow Theater project	1975-1976
12	11	Floating Theater project	1976
12	12	Paper Airplane project	1976
12	13	Bell Ringing project	1975-1976
12	14	Olympiad project	1976
12	15	Time Capsule project	1976
12	16	Star Trek Convention project	1975
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
13	1	Organizational folder	1975-1976
13	2	Correspondence	1975-1976
13	3	Information on parade participants	1976
13	4	Participant information forms	1976
13	5	Parade order of march	1976
13	6	Reviewing stand dignitaries	1976
13	7	Miscellaneous parade records	1975-1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
14	1	Organizational folder	1974-1976
14	2	Correspondence	1974-1976
14	3	Calendars/Lists of events	1976
14	4	Grant applications	1975-1976
14	5	News releases	1976
14	6	Promotional material	1976

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series IV:		Horizons '76 Committee	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
15	1	Organizational folder	1974-1976
15	2	Memorandum	1974-1976
15	3	Correspondence	1974-1976
15	4	Questionnaires	1974-1975
15	5	Proposed goals	1974-1975
15	6	News releases	1975-1976
15	7	Budgets/Grant applications	1975-1976
15	8	Misc. publications	1974-1976
15	9	Final report	1976
Series V:		Miscellaneous Items	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
16	1	Newspaper clippings	Mar.-Dec. 1974
16	2	Newspaper clippings	Jan.-Jun. 1975
16	3	Newspaper clippings	Jul.-Dec. 1975
16	4	Newspaper clippings	Jan.-Jun. 1976
16	5	Newspaper clippings	Jul.-Sept. 1976
16	6	Newspaper clippings	Oct.-Dec. 1976
16	7	Newspaper cartoons	1974-1975
16	8	Bicentennial edition of the Dayton Daily News	July 4, 1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
17	1	Photographs – Misc. Activities	undated
17	2	Photographs – Misc. Activities	undated
17	3	Photographs – Arts Activities	undated
17	4	Photographs – Aviation Festival Activities	undated
17	5	Photographs – Awards Ceremonies	undated
17	6	Photographs – Defense Electronics Supply Center	undated
17	7	Photographs – Frigidaire history	undated
17	8	Photographs – Memorials	undated
17	9	Photographs – Patriotism	undated
17	10	Photographs – Negatives	undated
17	11	Photographs – Miscellaneous	undated
17	12	Slides – Slide Show	undated
17	13	Slides – Miscellaneous	undated
17	14	Reel to Reel tape recording – Slide Show	undated
17	15	45 rpm phonograph record – “Credo of an American Cavalier”	1975
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
18	1	Guest Book	July-August 1976

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
18	2	Blank Certificate of Appreciation from Dayton and Montgomery County Bicentennial Commission	undated
18	3	Bumper stickers	undated
18	4	Logo samples	undated
18	5	Logo contest entries	undated
		Oversize Material	
OS 3	2	Event posters, citations	undated