

THE MARYLAND BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
for the Commemoration of the American Revolution
Worcester County Division Meeting
August 26, 1974

A meeting of the Worcester County Division of the Maryland Bicentennial Commission was held on Monday, August 26, 1974 at the Snow Hill Public Library, Snow Hill, Md. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by the president, Robert H. Robertson, Jr., and the following committee members were present: Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Robertson, Jr., Mrs. Esther V. Florey, Mr. William M. Kerbin, Judge Godfrey Child, Mrs. James Leach, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Phillips and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Brittingham.

The minutes of the March 20, 1974 meeting were read by the secretary. A motion was made by Mrs. Robertson that the minutes be accepted as read. A second to the motion was made by Elmer Brittingham. Motion passed.

The report of the treasurer showed a balance in the bank as of this date to be \$490.76.

The president stated that as of July 1, 1974 the committee was eligible for an additional \$500.00 from the state commission.

A motion was made by Judge Child that the president apply for these funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kerbin. Motion passed.

Consideration was given to those projects for Worcester County, mentioned at the March meeting, to participate in alone to celebrate the bicentennial:

- 1) A map of the bike trail (View Trail 100) in Worcester County showing points of historic interest should be prepared. Mr. Robertson suggested that Mr. Ted Haas would be the person equipped to do this.
- 2) There will be a Bicentennial Room in the Snow Hill Library to show exhibits (1976).
- 3) It was decided that production of a commemorative coin for sale in the county would not be done as it was not feasible.
- 4) The matter of using the "Museum" in Snow Hill for the Bicentennial Commission's purposes came under discussion. The Museum is owned by Snow Hill and it was thought by some present that the Title was held by the Commissioners of Worcester County. Mr. Robertson said he would write Mayor Freeney for clarification.
- 5) Sunday services in the county's historic churches will be considered at a later time.
- ✓ 6) Nothing was decided at this time on the Information Center to be constructed on the north lane of Route 13 in Maryland above the Virginia line. (1976)
- 7) The "Pocomoke River Cruise" idea was to be considered at a later date. (1976)
- 8) The idea of having the topics for "Old Home Prize Essays" reflect activities of the American Revolutionary period will have to be considered with school officials.
- 9) The idea of asking civic organizations in Worcester County to contribute prizes for contests was not decided at this meeting.

The president stated that a request by Ocean Pines through Mr. Spearman was made to set up their own group for bicentennial commemoration. This requires approval by the Worcester County Division; the Worcester County Commissioners and the American Bicentennial Headquarters.

A motion was made by Elmer Brittingham and seconded by Judge Child that Ocean Pines be authorized to have their own activities for the bicentennial commemoration. Motion passed.

Additional projects suggested by the president for Worcester County bicentennial activity are:

- 1) A Bicentennial Tree Program.
- 2) Bury the power lines in the county???
- 3) Run a newspaper series as in Carroll County.
- 4) Mark all buildings in the county that are 100 and 200 years old or older.
- 5) Have restored houses open on week-ends or during the week for viewing.

The president asked Mr. and Mrs. Phillips to inventory the number of houses in Berlin, Md., that are 100 years old or older. They consented to do this.

A request was made for a Worcester County flag to be placed at the Worcester County column at the Maryland War Memorial for the bicentennial celebration.

A request has been received from the Maryland Forestry Service to catalogue all trees in the county over 200 years old.

Mrs. Phillips suggested that the Assateague Island bike trail be improved, as a project for the bicentennial.

A report was made by the president on the Tri-county meeting on August 1, 1974 at Princess Anne, Md.:

- 1) Mr. Jacobs from Wicomico Co., plans to have a pageant relating to the 1st Continental Congress for Sept. 5. This pageant may be given at the other two counties at a later date for a fee.
- 2) A proposal to print Maryland provincial currency in colors for sale.
- 3) A proposal to print maps from the 1877 atlas. To sell individual town maps, a set of county maps or a copy of the entire atlas. It will be important to get a definite price, then take orders requesting payment at that time.
- 4) A history of the 3 counties (Somerset, Worcester and Wicomico) to cover the years 1700-1742 which are not covered in "Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland" by Torrence may be written by Dr. Wm. Wroten of SSC. His graduate students will do the research for the sum of \$4,500 to be paid by the 3 counties equally over a period of 3 years. After it is written it would have to be published at our own expense.
- 5) Dr. Reginald Truitt and Dr. Lescallette are writing a Worcester County history - a joint venture by Worcester County Historical Society and the Worcester County Bicentennial Commission. This should be ready for sale in 1976. President Robertson read a letter from Dr. Truitt about the progress of the book.

A motion was made by Mr. Phillips that the Worcester County Bicentennial Commission back the book being prepared by Drs. Truitt and Lescallette. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brittingham. Motion passed

- 6) A book by Charles O. Truitt, Delmarva During the Revolution, will be ready for sale in 6 months.
- 7) The Worcester County Bicentennial Commission will be host to the Tri-county group on Wednesday, September 18 at the Nassawango Country Club at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Ms. Patricia Hoffman, County Liaison Officer for the Maryland Bicentennial Commission. The cost will be \$6.00 per person (this includes tax and gratuity). The secretary will notify all Worcester County members and collect the money at time of making reservations. Guests may be brought to this meeting. Wicomico and Somerset Counties will inform their members and collect the moneys.

The president asked for suggestions for members to the Worcester County Division. It was felt by the group present that the Worcester County Board of Education should have representation as well as civic clubs. Mr. Robertson said he would speak to Mr. Gaddis.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mildred C. Brittingham

Mildred C. Brittingham, Secretary - Treasurer

WORCESTER COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Treasurer's Report
August 26, 1974

Money received from State of Maryland 5/8/74-----\$500.00

Disbursements:

1 cashbook-----	\$ 1.24	
40 10¢ postage stamps-----	4.00	
50 8¢ post cards-----	4.00	
	\$ 9.24-----	9.24
		<u>\$490.76</u>

Mildred C. Brittingham

Mildred C. Brittingham
Treasurer