

TRI-COUNTY BICENTENNIAL MEETING

April 25, 1974

The Tri-county Bicentennial Committee held a meeting at the Somerset County Commissioners' Office on Thursday, April 25, 1974 in Princess Anne at 8 p.m. The chairman of the meeting was Mr. John Jeffries of Princess Anne. Those present were: Wicomico County, Mrs. Sylvia Bradley, Mr. John Jacob and Mr. Boggs; Worcester County, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Brittingham; and Somerset County, Mr. John Jeffries and Mr. Morris Furniss.

Notes on the meeting follow:

- 1) Meeting with Miss Gore in Ocean City after the Verrazano Festival.
- 2) Each county to have a committee on: Tourism, Festival, Exhibits, Education, History, Publications, etc.

The chairmen of these committees from the three counties to work together on the joint projects.

For example: Tourism, early churches and historic houses of the revolutionary period - not necessarily open to the public but marked to identify. A guided tour. Liked idea of the marked "View Trail" of Worcester Co., and idea of Bike-a-thon. (possibility for making money)

A kick-off celebration to begin Sept. 5, 1974 (Continental Congress and Samuel Chase) should be done by efforts of the three counties. This would let the local people know that something is being done for the Bicentennial in this area. Each county could take one phase of the celebration and the program could be given in each of the counties and an admission charge could be made.

Wicomico - a 1 act play given by SSC or Community Players
Somerset and Worcester could do:

- a) Choral music of the period
- b) Instrumental music and instruments of the period
- c) Dances demonstrated
- d) Drill, fife and drum corps, etc., in costume
(National Guard, VFW or American Legion might do this)

- 3) Build a barge (\$50,000) "Battle of the Barges" 12 months after Yorktown near the mouth of the Pocomoke River
- 4) Maps of counties, towns - 1733 to 1870
- 5) Atlas of 3 counties in color 1877 - \$5.00 single sheet and \$10.00 for double sheet. Sell over the 9 year period - 1974-1983.
- 6) History of Worcester 1742 on
- 7) Charles Truitt - "Eastern Shore History during the Revolution." Each take a number of these books to sell.
- 8) Exhibits - a joint activity. Travel to the 3 counties. A group of manikins dressed in uniforms of the period and in dress of the period. Might be shown at special events - Crab Derby, Convention Hall, etc.
- 9) Cooperation of the schools in choral, instrumental music and plays.
- 10) May 9, 1974 there is a meeting at Frederick. This is a Thursday. It is a luncheon meeting. Mr. Jacob will drive and will leave Salisbury at 8:30 a.m. He will take anyone going from Somerset and Worcester Counties.
- 11) In April 1975 a Revolutionary War Round Table will meet once a month at Salisbury State College.
- 12) In each county we should leave behind some item which didn't exist before as a memorial to the 200 years. i.e. Wicomico County an Art Museum.
- 13) Write a history of the hundreds. (divisions of county)
- 14) Wicomico County Historical Society has an exhibit on film at Hess Jr., Building at Downtown Plaza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. open to the public.
- 15) Next meeting of the committee to be held last Thursday of May (May 30) at 8 p.m. at the Somerset County Commissioners office, Princess Anne.

- 15) Continued. Each County Chairman and his Festivals, Tourism, etc. chairmen to meet their fellows from Somerset and Wicomico Counties and start plans.
- 16) On July 4, 1976 plan a combined religious observance. (July 4, 1976 is a Sunday)

Biggest question, what will Worcester do for the "Kick off" in September 1974???

Minutes of the meeting were taken by Mrs. Sylvia Bradley. A copy should be sent to Bob Robertson in due time.

MCB