



**WORCESTER COUNTY
BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

1776 - 1976

Robert H. Robertson, Jr.
P.O. Box 299
Pocomoke
Chairman

William P. Phillips
Caleb's Discovery
Berlin
Vice-Chairman

Mrs. Mildred Brittingham
906 Cedar Street
Pocomoke
Secretary & Treasurer

Report of the Activities of the Worcester County Bicentennial
Commission for the Commemoration of the American Revolution

The organizational meeting of the Worcester County Bicentennial Commission, a division of the Maryland Bicentennial Commission, was held March 20, 1974 at the Snow Hill Public Library (Market and Washington Sts.). The chairman and some members of the Worcester Unit were appointed by Judge Wilson K. Barnes, a Worcester Countian, who was chairman of the Maryland Commission at its inception.

Those members of the Worcester County Commission present at the first meeting were: Mr. Elmer A. Brittingham, Judge Godfrey Child, Mrs. Esther Flory, Mr. William Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Robertson, Jr., Mayor and Mrs. James Sturgis. A number of other members were appointed but they did not make the first meeting. Mrs. Elmer A. Brittingham was invited to the first meeting and asked to serve as secretary-treasurer. Most of the members of this commission are also members of the Worcester County Historical Society. A list of the active membership is included at the end of this report. Officers of the commission are listed on the letter-head.

The main purposes and activities of this organization could be listed as follows:

- I-To become a recognized and certified Bicentennial County so as to obtain a Bicentennial Flag from both and state and national organizations which would fly at the County Court House on the staff with the state and national flags.
- II-To encourage the towns of Worcester County to form local Bicentennial Committees; to obtain the standing as a Bicentennial Community and earn a right to Bicentennial flags. And to arrange celebrations in one or more of the three categories proposed for participants: Heritage, Festivals and/or Horizons.
- III-To encourage special services in churches of the county that are 200 years old or older, on July 4, 1976.
- IV-To prepare a Worcester County brochure showing historical sites as well as the course of the View Trail.
- V-To reprint maps of the three lower counties (Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester) from an 1877 Atlas and make them available for sale.
- VI-To plan special exhibits at the new Worcester County Public Library in Snow Hill in 1976.

- VII-To prepare and operate an Information Center north of the Maryland-Virginia Line on the north lane of Route 13.
- VIII-To encourage the public schools of the county to promote Revolutionary War history of the county in the "Old Home Prize Essays" during these years of celebration.
- IX-To work with the Worcester County Historical Society in publishing a history of Worcester County, being written by Dr. Reginald Truitt, himself a Worcester Countian, and Dr. Millard G. LesCallette, Professor of History, Salisbury State College.
- X-To participate in the Bicentennial Tree program.
- XI-To mark all buildings in the county that are 100 years old or older with a plaque.
- XII-To request owners of restored houses and gardens to open them to the public for viewing during the summer of 1976.
- XIII-To encourage visiting the Purnell Museum in Snow Hill to see antique farm and home equipment.
- XIV-To sell a number of commemorative items throughout the county at local celebrations as well as at the Information Center.
- XV-To ask the chairmen of the three lower counties (Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester) to work together and coordinate celebrations and publications.

A few statistics that may be of some interest:

There were seven meetings of the Worcester County Bicentennial Commission between March 20, 1974 and May 17, 1976. Minutes are available.

The Tri-County Bicentennial Commission meetings numbered six between April 25, 1974 and September 13, 1974. Minutes are available.

Several day meetings were attended by the officers and interested members of the Worcester County Commission at Annapolis to confer with representatives from other counties of the state and with the members of the Maryland Bicentennial Commission.

Financial Report

Financial support for the operation of each county commission was provided by the State of Maryland. Worcester County received:

5/8/74	-	\$ 500.00
1/13/75	-	500.00
7/18/75	-	500.00
10/28/75	-	1600.00
8/13/76	-	500.00
Total		<u>\$3600.00</u>

A copy of the total financial report is included at the end of this report. The residual money is in a savings account at the Maryland National Bank in Pocomoke City. As of 12/31/77, the account amounts to \$272.28.

The three areas of celebration were observed to some degree in the towns of the county and may be noted:

Heritage:

- 1-History of town or county
- 2-Information Center
- 3-Books and pamphlets

Festivals:

- 1-Varrazano Festival, Berlin-Ocean City - an annual event
- 2-Cypress Festival, Pocomoke City - an annual event
- 3-Byrd Park Celebration, Snow Hill

Horizons:

- 1-Tour map and information brochure of historical sites in the county.

This project was selected by the Maryland Bicentennial Commission for our county project from five possible projects we proposed:

- a) St. Martin's Church feasibility study for restoration.
- b) Historical study of political situation in Worcester County at the time of the Revolution.
- c) A dig at the "Old Furnace."
- d) Interviews with older citizens of the county.

The Information Center was built by the students at the Worcester County Vocational School under the able direction of Mr. Avery S. Gordy, instructor. The cost was \$951.72. The building is a copy of the Purnell Cottage in Snow Hill. Two flags and two flag poles were purchased to go with it as well as plantings across the front of the building. The formal opening ceremony was held on June 8, 1976. It was attended by county dignitaries. Some people attended in appropriate costume. A copy of the program is included at the end of this report. A poem by Mrs. Bea Bowen Massey - "Worcester County, Maryland, U.S.A." was read. This poem was adopted by the Worcester County Commissioners on May 4, 1976, as the official poem for Worcester County. It was published in the May 20, 1976 issue of the Worcester County Messenger, page 2. Mrs. Isabelle Leach, Pocomoke City, and Mrs. Ruth Timmons, Snow Hill, served as costumed hostesses during the summer of 1976 at the Information Center.

10,000 Worcester County Maps with drawings by Ron Russell, artist of Snow Hill, were printed by Hastings Press to be hand-outs throughout Worcester County at a cost of \$815.00.

The Worcester County Bicentennial Tree is an oak more than 200 years old, at Newark, Md., just off Basket Switch Road where Old Trinity Church stood. The grave yard is still there. It was dedicated and marked on Sunday, June 27, 1976.

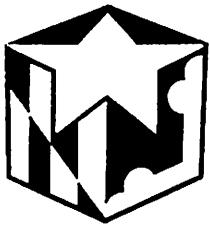
Publications prepared under the auspices of the Tri-county Bicentennial Commission, available for purchase:

Lower Eastern Shore Patriot - - - - -	\$ 2.50
Sketch Book of Revolutionary Structures - - - -	10.00
1877 Maps of Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties - - - - -	30.00

A publication by Vince Bagli for Marylanders -
Maryland Bicentennial Calendar - 1976 - - - - - 2.00

Mildred C. Brittingham

Mrs. Elmer A. Brittingham.



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MEMBERSHIP

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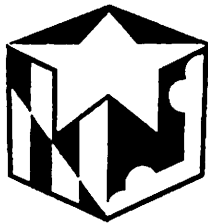
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Phillips

Pocomoke City

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Brittingham
Judge Godfrey Child
Mr. Strayer Hancock
Mr. Prentiss Howard
Mr. William H. Kerbin
Mrs. James Leach
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Robertson
Mrs. Robert Frostrom

Snow Hill

Mrs. William Beach
Mrs. Esther V. Flory
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Joyner
Mr. Richard Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Presby
The Hon. and Mrs. James T. Sturgis



WORCESTER COUNTY
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WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

1776 - 1976

December 15, 1977

Financial Report

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Mrs. Mildred Brittingham
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Receipts:

from Office of the Comptroller of Maryland:

5/8/74 - to Checking Acct.	- \$ 500.00	
1/13/75 - to Savings Acct.	- 500.00	
7/18/75 - to " "	- 500.00	
10/28/75 - to " "	- 1600.00	
8/13/76 - to Checking Acct.	- 500.00	
	<u>\$3600.00</u>	-\$3600.00

Interest on savings Acct. - - - - - 121.85

Commemorative items sold:

post cards, calendars, books, tour guides, etc. (no tax) - - - - - 515.75
\$4237.60

Disbursements:

Postage - - - - - \$ 61.27
Newspaper Ad - - - - - 16.00
Telephone - - - - (Information Center) - - - - - 208.76

Information Center:

Worc. Co. Vocational School (building) - - - - - 951.72
Air conditioner - - - - - 188.00
Flags, decoration, moving, signs, photographs - - 483.27
Brochure (art supplies & printing) - - - - - 830.00
Secretary-Treasurer Supplies - - - - - 41.13
Stationery printing - - - - - 53.98
Framing documents - - - - - 22.84
Commemorative items - purchases for sale - - - - - 358.63

Donations:

Tri-County & Patriot,
Worcester County Historical Society - publishing
of "Worcester County, Maryland's Arcadia" - - - - 700.00
Travel & Miscellaneous - - - - - 49.33
Bank service charge on Checking Acct. - - - - - 3.50

\$3968.43 - - - 3968.43

Balance - - - - - \$ 269.17*
12/31/77 Interest on Savings Acct. - - - - - 3.11

\$ 272.28

Mildred Brittingham
Mrs. Elmer A. Brittingham
Treasurer

*This amount is in Savings Acct. at Maryland National Bank, Pocomoke City, Md.
(10/14/77)

Worcester County Bicentennial Committee, P.O. Box 299, Pocomoke City, Md. 21851

PROGRAM

INVOCATION - Reverend Richard Hughes
Pastor, Pitts Creek Presbyterian Church, Pocomoke City

INTRODUCTIONS - Robert H. Robertson, Jr.
Chairman, Worcester County Bicentennial Committee

Honorable Mark Pilchard
President, Worcester County Commissioners

Mrs. Betty Detamore
Maryland Bicentennial Commission

Avery S. Gordy
Instructor, Worcester Vocational Center

POCOMOKE BICENTENNIAL CHORUS
Mrs. Beverly Thompson - Mrs. Merry White
Directors

"This Is My Country"

"Maryland, My Maryland"

WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, U. S. A. * - a poem by Beatrice Bowen Massey
Read by Mrs. Elmer A. Brittingham

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Commander Walter Lewis
American Legion Worcester Post #93

RIBBON CUTTING
Honorable Mark Pilchard

BENEDICTION - Reverend Richard Hughes

* This poem was written April 1976, approved by the Worcester County Commissioners on May 4, 1976 as the official poem of Worcester County. It was published in the May 20, 1976 issue of the Worcester County Messenger.

WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, U.S.A.

From stately dense cypress along the Pocomoke
To majestic waves on the ocean beach;
Worcester County, proud homeland for sturdy folk
Boasts Maryland's most beautiful - by each.

Indians of yesteryear lived in contentment,
When first Verrazzano set heel on Sinepuxent - so;
Our grounds are as rich in Indian remains,
As our places are in Indian names.

Yet;
We take our name from Old Britian's shores,
Maryland's eastern-most playland to scores.
Worcester County, a home for downhome aristocrats;
Worcester County, where hard work and play are facts.

From those farms that produce "Chicken Delight"
To watermen who toil in early daylight;
With our sprawling acres of verdant green
We feed ourselves and others like a queen.

Our parks, beaches, bays, and wilderness clearly
Entertain visitors, travelers and natives yearly,
Please;
Gaze more closely to that which surrounds
Our imposing Court House where history abounds.

Observe the beauty of our Churches
Of folks desire to worship born,
Dwell on that sweet freedom
When bells toll on Sunday morn.

Remember the bravery of a young Naval hero,
Who fought on the Tripoli Shore.
Consider the courage of our wise forefathers
Who sought to preserve our shores evermore.

Now;
Let us keep our freedoms, yet wholesome be,
Let us be productive, yet so carefully,
Let us revere our heritage of yore
And over our rich blessings pore.

God, to each of us stay near;
Our 492 square miles of heaven here,
Is a rare and precious loan of land.
May Your grace and wisdom be always at hand

Beatrice Bowen Massey
April 1976

Adopted by the Worcester County Commissioners on May 4, 1976, as the official poem for Worcester County.

Published in the May 20, 1976, issue of the Worcester County Messenger, Page 2.



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Brochure (art supplies & printing) - - - - -	830.00
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