



The Urbana Free Library

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Champaign County Bicentennial
Commission, 1775-1983

Collection 247

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Cassie Ward

Creator/Corporate name: Champaign County Bicentennial Commission

Inclusive Dates: 1775-1983, bulk 1974-1976

Physical Description: 6 boxes, (3.5 linear feet).

Provenance:

The donor of the collection is unknown. Donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in 1998 or earlier.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Biographical/Historical Note:

The United States Bicentennial was made up of local and national public celebratory events and culminated on Sunday, July 4, 1976 with the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the *Declaration of Independence*. Champaign County, Illinois and many of the county's cities and townships were recognized as Bicentennial Communities in 1974. The Champaign County Bicentennial Commission was officially designated by the Champaign County Board in December of 1974 to plan and host bicentennial related activities in the community in 1975 and 1976, as well as partnering with local, statewide, and national groups. The commission extended its work further into the late 1970s to advance community improvement projects, including a renovation and cleanup along Boneyard Creek.

The Champaign County Bicentennial Commission was chaired by Jeanne Rochford, who was active in the politics and community building in Champaign-Urbana. Several other key members of the commission included treasurer Hobart L. Peer, Marguerite Pease, Dr. Natalia Belting, and Maxine Bohn.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains material from the start of the Bicentennial Commission in 1974 through the Urbana Sesquicentennial in 1983. Material concerning Champaign's centennial in 1960 is also included, but it is brief, as well as a few newspapers from 1776. The collection is primarily concerned with documenting the planning of the bicentennial events that occurred in the Champaign-Urbana area, as documentation of those events. The collection is arranged into three series. The first series, Published Event Information, includes volumes of event calendars and activity indexes, as well as the final report for the Illinois bicentennial as a whole. The second series, General Information, is the bulk of the collection and includes correspondence, memorandums, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, volunteer forms, and event planning information. The third series, Oversized Materials, includes all of the oversized materials, such as cups, a t-shirt, and two BetaMAX tapes of the 1976 Fourth of July Parade.



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Arrangement:

This collection is organized into three series, Published Event Information, General Information, and Oversized Material. The first two series are held in half Hollinger boxes, while the third series, Oversized Materials, is held in a large sized box.

Name Terms:

Champaign County Bicentennial Commission
Illinois Bicentennial Commission
People's Bicentennial Commission
Rochford, Jeanne

Subject Terms:

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1976 – Illinois
American Revolution Bicentennial, 1976

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Published Event Information

Volume 1: Comprehensive Calendar, State by State, June 1975
Volume 2: Comprehensive Calendar, State by State, October 1975
Volume 3: Comprehensive Calendar of Events, February 1976
Volume 4: Final Report, Illinois Bicentennial Commission, undated
Volume 5: Index of Bicentennial Activities, February 1976
Volume 6: Master Register of Bicentennial Projects, February 1976
Volume 7: National Calendar of Bicentennial Events, July 1975
Volume 8: Official Master Reference for Bicentennial Activities, April 1974

Box 2

Series 2: General Information

Folder 1: Advisory Committee, 1975
Folder 2: Agendas and Minutes, 1974-1977
Folder 3: America's Birthday Party, Correspondence and Cake Photos, 1975-1976
Folder 4: American Indian Summer Celebration Correspondence, 1975
Folder 5: American Revolution Local History, 1775, 1975
Folder 6: Arts and Crafts Show Correspondence, 1975
Folder 7: Bicentennial Activities in Other Communities, 1975-1977
Folder 8: Bicentennial Calendars, 1975-1976
Folder 9: Bicentennial Celebrations in Champaign County Towns, 1975
Folder 10: Bicentennial Community Designation, 1975
Folder 11: Bicentennial Project Survey, undated
Folder 12: Bicentennial Tapestry, 1975



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- Folder 13: Bicentennial Times, 1974-1975 (issues missing)
- Folder 14: Bicentennial Times, 1976 (February missing)
- Folder 15: BINET Confirmations, 1975-1976
- Folder 16: Celebrity at Century Twentyone, 1975-1976
- Folder 17: Certificates and Proclamation of Appreciation, 1975-1976
- Folder 18: Champaign Centennial Committee, 1960
- Folder 19: Champaign County Bicentennial Commission Correspondence, 1974-1976
- Folder 20: Champaign County Bicentennial Commission Organization, undated
- Folder 21: Champaign County Fair Correspondence and Ephemera, 1975-1976

Box 3

Series 2: General Information

- Folder 1: Champaign Park District, 1974-1976
- Folder 2: Construction of First Train Diorama, 1975
- Folder 3: Contest Correspondence and Materials, 1975-1976
- Folder 4: Correspondence concerning United States Flag, 1975-1976
- Folder 5: Correspondence for Rail Road Murals, 1975
- Folder 6: County Museum News Article, 1975
- Folder 7: Eighteen Monthly Themes Leading Up to the Bicentennial, 1975-1976
- Folder 8: Fourth of July Freedom Celebration and Parade, 1975-1976
- Folder 9: "From the Hearts of Men", 1975
- Folder 10: Grant Applications, 1975
- Folder 11: Hands Across America, 1975-1976
- Folder 12: Harry Breen Prints Correspondence, 1975-1976
- Folder 13: Heartland Heritage Days, 1974-1976
- Folder 14: Historic Sites Marking and Preservation, 1975-1976
- Folder 15: Illinois Bicentennial Commission Correspondence, 1974-1977
- Folder 16: Illinois Correspondent, 1974-1975
- Folder 17: Jeanne Rochford Correspondence, 1974-1977
- Folder 18: Johnny Horizon '76, 1976
- Folder 19: Johnny Horizon '76 Ephemera, undated
- Folder 20: Joint Projects with Urbana, Ohio and History, 1975-1976
- Folder 21: "Just Outside Chicago is a Place Called Illinois", Script and Ad, 1976
- Folder 22: Lincoln Bicentennial Project, 1975-1976
- Folder 23: Local Programs, undated
- Folder 24: Memorandums, 1975-1977
- Folder 25: Miscellaneous Club Information, 1975
- Folder 26: National Bell Ringing Ceremony, 1975-1976

Box 4

Series 2: General Information

- Folder 1: Newspapers, 1979
- Folder 2: News Clippings, 1975-1978



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- Folder 3: Newspaper Clippings – Activities, Champaign County Pioneers, Historical Music, 1975-1976
- Folder 4: Newspaper Clippings – American Catholic Bicentennial, undated
- Folder 5: Newspaper Clippings – Bicentennial Diary From Farm Bureau Paper, 1975-1976
- Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings – Bicentennial Events, 1975-1976
- Folder 7: Newspaper Clippings – Bicentennial Fire Hydrants, What’s Good About America?, 1975
- Folder 8: Newspaper Clippings – Bicentennial Products, 1975-1976
- Folder 9: Newspaper Clippings – Boneyard, 1975-1976
- Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings – Champaign and Urbana, 1975-1976
- Folder 11: Newspaper Clippings – Champaign County Village Events, 1975-1976
- Folder 12: Newspaper Clippings – Colonial America and the American Revolution, 1975-1976
- Folder 13: Newspaper Clippings – Heartland Heritage Days, 1975-1976
- Folder 14: Newspaper Clippings – Historic America Sites, 1975-1976
- Folder 15: Newspaper Clippings – National Bicentennial Activities, 1976
- Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings – People’s Bicentennial, 1975
- Folder 17: Newspaper Clippings – University of Illinois, Business and Professional Women’s Club Activities, undated
- Folder 18: Our Boneyard, It Can Happen Ephemera, undated
- Folder 19: “Our Grass Roots” Kick Off Dinner, 1975
- Folder 20: Painting Fire Hydrant and Mailboxes Project, 1974-1975
- Folder 21: Pamphlets – Abraham Lincoln, 1975-1976
- Folder 22: Pamphlets – The Bicentennial, 1975-1976
- Folder 23: Pamphlets – Events, 1975-1976
- Folder 24: Pamphlets – History, undated
- Folder 25: Pamphlets – Products for Sale, 1976
- Folder 26: People’s Bicentennial, 1975
- Folder 27: People’s Bicentennial Newspapers, undated
- Folder 28: Popcorn Festival, 1975

Box 5

Series 2: General Information

- Folder 1: Press Releases, 1975-1976
- Folder 2: Press Releases, 1975-1976
- Folder 3: Press Releases - UIUC and Parkland, 1975-1976
- Folder 4: Proposals, 1975-1976
- Folder 5: Resource Guides for Various Groups, 1975
- Folder 6: Signed Pages from a Scrapbook, undated
- Folder 7: Sources for the History of Champaign County: A Bibliography, 1975
- Folder 8: Speaker’s Bureau, 1975
- Folder 9: “Tale of Two Cities” History of Champaign and Urbana, 1975
- Folder 10: Time Capsule Correspondence, 1976
- Folder 11: Town Crier’s Meeting, undated
- Folder 12: Treasury Reports, 1975-1976
- Folder 13: “Up with People” Correspondence, 1975-1976



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Folder 14: Urbana Courthouse Bell and Clock, 1976
Folder 15: Urbana Sesquicentennial General Publicity, 1983
Folder 16: Urbana Sesquicentennial Mailing, 1983
Folder 17: Urbana Sesquicentennial Newspaper Clippings, 1983
Folder 18: Urbana Sesquicentennial posters, Magazines, Flyers, 1983
Folder 19: Urbana Sesquicentennial Radio and Television Promotion, 1983
Folder 20: Volunteer Information, undated
Folder 21: Workshop and Form Materials, 1975-1976
Folder 22: World Speed Skating, 1975
Folder 23: 1776 Shoppe, 1975-1976

Box 6

Series 3: Oversized Materials

American Revolution Bicentennial Plastic Bronze Pin
American Revolution Bicentennial Plastic White Pin
Ben Franklin T-shirt
Champaign County Parade July 4, 1976 recorded by WCIA (TV) Part 1 on BetaMAX
Champaign County Parade July 4, 1976 recorded by WCIA (TV) Part 2 on BetaMAX
Guest Book
Illinois' Celebration '76 Hand Held Flag
Illinois' Celebration '76 Pin
Lincoln Memorial Medal
Mr. Lincoln's Country, Decatur, Illinois Pin
Official American Revolution Bicentennial Emblem Pin on card
Ohio Champaign County Bi-Centennial Cup
Our Boneyard It Can Happen Ceramic Mug
'76 Shoppe Notebook for Logging Hours Worked and Purchases Made