



SURRY COUNTY AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, INCORPORATED
POST OFFICE BOX 1776
DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27017



TELEPHONE: 386-8623

COMMISSION
J. DALE SIMMONS
PRESIDENT

VERONA CRANOR
C. FRANK COMER
MIKE FORREST
W. FRANKLIN BADGETT
DIANNA FORREST
KATHLEEN GILLELAND
RUTH MINICK
GLENN ROBERTSON
STEVE TAYLOR
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CLAUDE ELRIDGE
MIKE RANDLEMAN
JOYCE INGRAM
WILLIAM S. HIATT
JACK PALMER
VINCENT LELLA
VIVIAN LOWE
CARROLL GARDNER
CHARLES FLETCHER
BUD CAMERON
DOUG COOK
GENE EVERETT
BEULAH M. PERKINS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDWARD SPANSKI, JR.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
A. H. MERRITT
CHAIRMAN
GASTON BRINKLEY
ROXIE ROTH
CLAYBERN TAYLOR
HARRY FOLGER

COUNTY MANAGER
STEVEN McKEAVER

Re: Accomplishments of the Surry County American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission.

Note: The county Bicentennial has not received any Federal monies and none from the State Bicentennial Commission. The Bicentennial in this county has been funded totally by the County Commissioners and the contributions of individuals and businesses locally.

There have been several significant achievements made by the Surry County Bicentennial Commission of a permanent character:

1. The successful selection of an official county seal and flag as a result of county-wide contest in which there were more than 500 entries from adults and school children of all ages and all parts of the county. (Cost for awards \$132.50)
2. The establishment of a county archives in cooperation with Surry Community College and the Northwestern Regional Library to preserve documents, photographs and artefacts of Surry County's Past so that they can be utilized by all citizens of the county as well as interested researchers.
3. The implementation of a local history program including courses for credit at Surry Community College with a particular although not an exclusive, emphasis on informing local social sciences teachers in Surry County of local history. This program was in direct response to a conference held with local social sciences teachers last Fall (1974).
4. The publication of two historical pamphlets (written and edited by Mrs. Ruth Minick) 1.) Historic Sites of Surry County 2) "How Thar" a history in dialect form. Response to these pamphlets locally and on the state level have been enthusiastic. (Cost \$500.00) The State Department of Archives and the N.C. Bicentennial Commission have particularly commended the Historic Sites booklet.
5. The distribution of 5,000 booklets, historical and informative, to the Surry County School System, the Mt. Airy City School System, and the Elkin City School System. This total does not include 13,000 flyers on the County Seal and Flag given to each school child in the County. (Cost \$613.39)



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6. The production of 68 plus slide presentation on Surry County's Past now in operation. This slide program has been presented to dozens of civic clubs and several hundred school children. In cooperation with Carroll Perkins of the Surry County School System and Mr. Johnson of Mt. Airy School System, these slides are now being reduced to a filmstrip to be given to each school in the county so that it can be presented to any class by any individual teacher not during the Bicentennial but for future generations. Ruth Minick and Glenn Robertson members of the commission have been responsible for this project. (Cost of program \$251.06)

7. The distribution of Bicentennial literature to the general public in excess of ten thousand separate items. ~~Cost of program~~

8. The writing, printing and distribution of 5,000 information booklets on the County to the general public at the Autumn Leaves Festival. (Done at the request of the County Commissioners)

9. The Historic Sign Program: Surry County was the first county to receive permission from the Department of Transportation to erect historic signs (temporary Bicentennial Markers) throughout the county on the state right-of-way. Over 100 signs are now being made and will be erected this fall to note the historic places of our county for the public to see. It took nearly six months of effort to prepare and plan for this project by Mr. Steve Taylor, Ruth Minick, and Mike Forrest. Four more months were needed to negotiate the project through three state agencies; N.C. Bicentennial Comm.: the State Department of Archives and History; and the Department of Transportation. State Sen. George Marion and State Rep. David Diamont lent their support to this project as well as Mr. Bill Hiatt. (Cost of program \$2,138.07)

In addition and in cooperation with the Rockford Preservation Committee, the Surry County Bicentennial Commission has received a \$10,000 grant from the State Legislature on a matching basis for the restoration of Rockford, the first permanent county seat of Surry County. The Bicentennial has acted for the Rockford Preservation Committee which will actually supervise and carry on the project after the Bicentennial is over. The actual funding of grant is not to start until July 1, 1976. The bill for the grant sponsored by State Sen. George Marion and State Rep. David Diamont.



Department of Cultural Resources
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

July 15, 1976

JAMES E. HOLSHOUSER, JR.
Governor

DICK E. ELLIS
Director

Dear County Chairman

The North Carolina Bicentennial will publish a comprehensive interpretive summary of Bicentennial celebration in our state this fall. This illustrated volume will cover community activities from 1973-76.

Each County will be represented by a page of narrative describing your accomplishments. In order to give proper credit to the achievements of your Bicentennial Committee, please submit to us the following:

2 double-spaced typewritten pages of narrative outlining your goals and programs during the Bicentennial

Include descriptions of Heritage, Festivals and Horizons activities by category

Include if at all possible, black and white glossy photographs of your most outstanding projects

Include names of your committee members and civic leaders who should be acknowledged for their contributions

Our publication deadline is August 31, 1976. Ms. Sharon Weaver of our staff will compile these statistics and she will be contacting you by phone or letter during the next weeks if you have not submitted your information.

To assist you, there is an outline enclosed that should facilitate compilation.

We are looking forward to your assistance with this project. We feel very strongly that the Bicentennial celebration in North Carolina should be thoroughly documented. Although our office has many sources of documentation, we are counting on you to supply those projects and activities that you feel were of most impact .

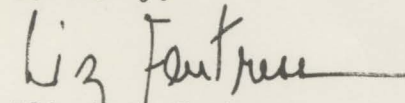
If your county has a logo or hallmark that you have used over the past few years, please include a copy of it so that we may reproduce it on your County page.

These books will be made available to you as County Chairman at no cost, one volume each. After our cost estimates arrive, we will then be able to determine the cost of additional copies.

I sincerely hope that you had a fun and meaningful Fourth of July. It should be a great source of pride that you have so fully participated in the celebration of our nation's two hundredth birthday. Along that line, the staff of the North Carolina Bicentennial wishes to thank you for your efforts and your support over the past years.

We are looking forward to hearing from each of you!

Cordially,



Elizabeth Fentress
Assistant Director

NORTH CAROLINA BICENTENNIAL

Summary Report Outline

COUNTY:

POPULATION:

CHAIRMAN:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

DATE OF BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY DESIGNATION:

STATEMENT OF GOALS, PURPOSE, INVOLVEMENT

HERITAGE PROJECTS:

HORIZONS PROJECTS:

FESTIVALS PROJECTS:

FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:

IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS (attached)



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Accomplishments of the Surry County American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission.

The accomplishments of the Surry County Bicentennial
Commission have been varied and imaginative and has reached
every segment of the population in the county.

Short History of the formation of the Bicentennial Commission:

At the urging of the North Carolina State Bicentennial
Commission (in the Spring of 1974), Robert Merritt, then president
of the Surry County Historical Society, formed a Bicentennial
Commission. Robert Merritt became the temporary chairman of the
Bicentennial Commission. Original members of the commission were
Dr. J. Dale Simmons, Verona West, Franklin Badgett, Glenn Robertson,
William Sanders, Ruth Minick, Hugh Atkinson, R. Fletcher Good IV,
and Isabel Harrell. The first official meeting of the Bicentennial
Commission was held at Mount Airy on March 5, 1974. The goals of
the commission were set out: 1. development of an appreciation of
the county's past; 2. unify the county; 3. focusing attention on
and encouraging preservation of archaeological and historical sites;
4. the relation of the life-style of 200 years ago with that of
today; 5. creation of a sense of pride and respect in our local
history; 6. encouragement of traditional arts and crafts; 7. estab-
lishment of a repository for collections of historical data and
artifacts; 8. utilization of national and state efforts to obtain maximum
tangible and intangible benefits for the county; 9. commemoration of
the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution and the development
of an appreciation of our independence; 10. discovery of the historical
community of Surry County; 11. the coordination of activities of
the counties with those of surrounding counties and states; and
finally, to have fun.

To a remarkable degree, the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has fulfilled most of these goals.

At the meeting of March 5, 1974, the commission unanimously elected Dr. J. Dale Simmons, president of the commission, Verona West, secretary, and Franklin Badgett, treasurer. The Commission also decided at this meeting to become a non-profit corporation which was later accomplished. At the second meeting of the commission, March 26 1974, they proposed close cooperation with the County Commissioners and the Surry County Historical Society to make its goals a reality. A close bond of cooperation has existed between these three groups and has made the Bicentennial a significant success in Surry County.

The Commission also requested the County Commissioners to set up the Bicentennial as a County department of government with an operating budget of approximately \$25,000.00; the County Commissioners voted to approve this action with an appropriation of \$21,100.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975; the County Commissioners funded the Bicentennial for a second fiscal year, July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976 with a budget of approximately \$25,898.00. The commissioners also funded the Bicentennial for the months of July and August of 1976.

Despite the number of successes of the various Bicentennial programs listed below, the Bicentennial Commission only spent \$10,467.70 of its 1974-75 appropriation and only \$22,418.00 of its \$26,000.00 budget for the 1975-76 fiscal year. In addition, the Bicentennial raised approximately \$10,000.00 from the local community for various projects also listed below. The Bicentennial also received a \$10,000.00 grant on behalf of the Rockford Preservation Committee for the historic restoration of the former county seat (more fully described below) from the state legislature. Another \$500.00 grant was received from the North Carolina State Bicentennial Commission for implementation of a historic old times craft exhibit at Pilot Mountain State Park.

As the scope of the Bicentennial grew and also because of the death of one of its most active members, Hugh Atkinson, the Bicentennial Commission was expanded to 25 members including, C. Frank Comer, Mike and Dianna Forrest,

Kathleen Gilleland, L. H. Jones, Claude Elridge, Mike Randleman, Joyce Ingram, William S. Hiatt, Jack Palmer, Vincent Lella, Vivian Lowe, Steve Taylor, Carroll Gardner, Charles Fletcher, Bud Cameron, Doug Cook, Gene Everett, and Beulah Perkins. These new members represent a wide variety of occupations and all regions of the county.

On August 15, 1974, a full time coordinator was appointed, Edward J. Spanski, Jr., a professor of history at Surry Community College; his salary and that of his full-time secretary, Sue Gilley, are paid from county funds.

Listed below are the major accomplishments of the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Listed below are some of the achievements that the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has organized. These projects have been funded by monies from Surry County, by private donations, from businesses and individuals, from government grants, and from ^{sales} of souvenirs such as commemorative coins.

1. The successful selection of an official county seal and flag as a result of county-wide contest in which there were more than 500 entries from adults and school children of all ages and all parts of the county. (Cost for awards \$132.50)
2. The establishment of a county archives in cooperation with Surry Community College and the Northwestern Regional Library to preserve documents, photographs and artifacts of Surry County's Past so that they can be utilized by all citizens of the county as well as interested researchers.
3. The implementation of a local history program including courses for credit at Surry Community College with a particular, although not an exclusive, emphasis on informing local social sciences teachers in Surry County of local history.

4. The publication of two historical pamphlets (written and edited by Ruth Minick). 1. Historic Sites of Surry County 2. "How Come Surry County And How Hit Got Along By Herself Who War Borne And Raised Thar", a history in dialect form. Response to these pamphlets locally and on the state level have been enthusiastic. (Cost \$500.00) The State Department of Archives and the N. C. Bicentennial Commission have particularly commended the Historic Sites booklet.

5. The distribution of 5,000 booklets, historical and informative, to the Surry County School System, the Mount Airy City School System, and the Elkin City School System. This total does not include 13,000 flyers of the County Seal and flag given to each school child in the county. (Cost \$613.39)

6. The production of 68 plus slide presentation on Surry County's Past ~~new~~ in operation. This slide program has been presented to dozens of civic clubs and several hundred school children. In cooperation with Carroll Perkins of the Surry County School System and Mr. Johnson of Mount Airy School System, these slides are now being reduced to a filmstrip to be given to each school in the county so that it can be presented to any class by any individual teacher not only during the Bicentennial but for future generations. Ruth Minick and Glenn Robertson, members of the commission, have been responsible for this project. (Cost of program \$251.06)

7. The distribution of Bicentennial literature to the general public in excess of 50,000 separate items. (Cost \$6,000.00)

8. The writing, printing and distribution of 5,000 information booklets on the County to the general public at the Autumn Leaves Festival. (Done at the request of the County Commissioners)

9. The Historic Sign Program: Surry County was the first county to receive permission from the Department of Transportation to erect historic signs (temporary Bicentennial Markers) throughout the county on the state right-of-way. Over 150 signs have been erected throughout the county by area boy scout troops. These signs indicate sites of historic interest and significance in Surry County. A pamphlet describing each of the sites and a map attached to the pamphlet showing the location of each historic site is available to the public at a nominal charge.

10. The U. S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan visited Dobson on November 14, 1975 to display, in four tractor-trailer vans, the history of the four branches of the U. S. Armed Forces. They came at the request of the Surry County American Bicentennial Commission. Dobson was one of the only two sites this caravan visited in North Carolina in 1975. Over 1,800 school children saw the exhibits. In addition approximately 1000 adults also came to visit these remarkable displays. (Cost of project: no cost to Bicentennial Commission or the County)

11. In addition and in cooperation with the Rockford Preservation Committee, the Surry County Bicentennial Commission has received a \$10,000 grant from the State Legislature on a matching basis for the restoration of Rockford, the first permanent county seat of Surry County. The Bicentennial has acted for the Rockford Preservation Committee which will actually supervise and carry on the project after the Bicentennial is over. The actual funding of ^{the} grant is not to start until July 1, 1976. The bill for the grant was sponsored by State Sen. George Marion and State Rep. David Diamont.

12. Official opening ceremony of the Bicentennial Year of 1976 was held at Rockford, the county seat from 1789 to 1850. This historic town was where Andrew Jackson practiced law as a young man and where James K. Polk visited his cousin, William Polk Dobson. Dobson is the man who encouraged Polk to run for the presidency in 1844. He also delivered the nominating speech for Polk at the Democratic convention.

The ceremony was presided over by J. Dale Simmons, M. D., president of the Bicentennial Commission at the Rockford Baptist Church. The program included the participation of veterans (American Legion and V.F.W.). Bicentennial Remarks on the Heritage of Surry County were delivered by Franklin Folger, leading Surry County banker, and local history expert; and David Diamont, state representative (23rd District) gave remarks on the future of Surry County. Surry Community College Chorus under the director of Dale Sasser sang patriotic music.

The event was coordinated by Cama Merritt in her new position with the Bicentennial as Activities Chairman.

13. Special posters designed and made by Cotting White, head of the Art Department at Surry Community College, were distributed throughout the county depicting and describing Bicentennial events. The posters are hand silk-screened. Services donated by Cotting White.

14. Colonial Tasting Spree: April 24, 1976, Dobson. Co-sponsored by the Home Extension Clubs of Surry County, Pat Seal, chairperson. Ann Tyndell of the Home Extension Department of the Surry County Agricultural Extension Agency cooperated with Mrs. Seal in this unusual event. Women of the Home Extension prepared favorite colonial and modern recipes of Surry County. Dressed in colonial dresses, they served over 400 people giving each one a sample of these recipes. For the nominal admission charge each person received a special commemorative plate with the new county seal imprinted on the plate as well as a copy of the recipes. (Cost \$686.00)

15. Special Bicentennial Cantata Concert, Sunday, May 16, 1976. A special cantata of patriotic songs such as "Mad Anthony Wayne" was performed by the Surry Community College Chorus, Dale Sasser Director, and was held at Surry County Arts Council auditorium. Over 600 people attended this gala event which included a fashion show coordinated by Cama Merritt and the Mount Airy Women's Club. The fashion show demonstrated the various dresses and styles from colonial to modern times, especially, those native to Surry County. Admission free. Total Cost: \$100.00.

16. Pilot Mountain Day, June 5, 1976. The Surry County Bicentennial, the Pilot Mountain Jaycees and almost every civic, fraternal and women's club in Pilot Mountain sponsored this day long event commemorating Surry County history, the Nation's birthday with parades, fireworks, special events such as a beard contest, water fights by volunteer fire departments, and so on. Several thousand people attended the various events. The event sparked participation and civic pride in the community. Cost: \$900.00.

17. Special exhibits were started in May in conjunction with Pilot Mountain Park and its director, Larry Minton and will be operated on every Saturday through June, July and August. The exhibit changes every few weeks and demonstrates both archaeological and historical artifacts such as Indian pottery as well as demonstration of old time crafts. In July, a tobacco exhibit is also planned. A \$500.00 grant was received from the North Carolina State Bicentennial Commission to help defray the cost of the exhibit: (Total cost including grant: \$1,000.00)

Estimated audience size for each Saturday: 2,000.

18. A special Barn-raising of log cabin-style smokehouse was started on June 19, 1976 in conjunction with the Surry County School System (Charles Fletcher, project director). Each participant hewed his own logs, largely using old fashioned tools. Cost: \$50.00.

19. July 3-5, 1976. Various Bicentennial events planned in all communities of Surry County: Parades, fireworks, special events at both Mount Airy and Elkin, old-fashioned picnic at Dobson. Dedication of new town hall and ceremonies on July 4th in Pilot Mountain (Cost:\$500.00) Other funds raised locally for these events.

20. One of our most successful projects is our historic tours program. Started in early May, it is operated every Thursday and many Saturdays. Vans are provided by the Yadkin Valley Economic Development Commission of Boonville, North Carolina (cost per mile reimbursed to this organization by the Surry County Bicentennial Commission). The tour, narrated by a trained guide, goes through all parts of Surry County visiting over 30 of the most significant sites in Surry County including historic sites in Mount Airy, Elkin, Rockford, Pilot Mountain, and Dobson. Tour covers 160 miles and lasts from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Nominal charge is made to partially offset cost of tour. Response to this project has been highly enthusiastic and has attracted all age groups. All scheduled tours (six for the month of July alone) are fully booked. This project in conjunction with our historic sign program has greatly awakened the heritage of Surry County to its people. (Cost total not yet determined but is approximately \$40.00 per van per trip; on some dates more than one van is used.)

21. Commemorative Coin Project: 200 Silver and Bronze coin sets minted with 1000 other Bronze coins. Design has new county seal on front and county courthouse on obverse. This project has been highly successful in showing the people of our county the new seal. The courthouse reminds everyone that they are all part of Surry County. Profits from sales ploughed back into Bicentennial projects. (Cost \$4100.00)

Summation: The sum total of our Bicentennial projects has largely fulfilled the original goals of the first meetings of the Bicentennial Commission. The county seal contest, the historic tours, the historic sign program, historical pamphlets and mass participation events, such as, Pilot Mountain Day, have awakened in Surry County a sense of unity and a knowledge of its history; at the same time everyone is enjoying the celebration of our nations birthday and the fact that Surry County was founded in 1770 and thereby is six years older than our nation.

The entire Bicentennial Program has helped make the citizen aware of Surry County's growth and progress during its first 206 years. The various projects and ~~speeches~~ addresses made during the past two years indicate that the County has a tremendous potential for increased growth and prosperity in the years to come.

Finally speaking, the Bicentennial Program has been well worth the funds appropriated in that the overall awareness of the County, both past and present, has been awakened in ~~in~~ a great number of Surry Countyans. The Bicentennial Commission expended no more than 70% of the funds appropriated but during the last of two fiscal years, yet the programs and projects were of great quality and a great deal of effort went into ~~each~~ ~~of~~ one of them.

Finally, it must be said that due largely to the effort of the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, the celebration of the Nation's 200th Birthday was truly a success in Surry County.

mw

COUNTY OF YADKIN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YADKIN COUNTY AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:
GERRI MARTIN

BOONVILLE, N. C. 27011

TELEPHONE:
(919) 367-7251

August 17, 1976

Elizabeth Fentress
N.C. DCR - N.C. Bicentennial
11 New Bern Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27611

Dear Liz:

Re: Summary Report of Bicentennial Efforts

Our Bicentennial Commission is scheduled to remain active through 1980.

So far, Yadkinians have accomplished the following goals of our Bicentennial Community Program issued in 1974.

I. THEME : Heritage '76

ACTIVITIES

- (1) Project - Historic Richmond Hill Nature Park
 - (a) Park formally opened in 1974
 - (b) Secured grants: \$20,000 NPS, \$12,500 HUD-CD, \$45,000 State, \$12,500 Local
 - (c) Restoration exterior plans now completed
- (2) Project - Starmount Park
 - (a) Re-created One-room Log School House and formally opened in 1975 (Ca. \$4,000)
- (3) Project - Big Poplar Tree Park
 - (a) State Forestry Service examination of tree and recommendations made for preserving
- (4) Project - County Museum
 - (a) \$3,000 Donation secured to purchase former County Jail and site purchased
 - (b) Removal of add-on structure and roof replaced (Ca. \$1,000)
- (5) Project - Photographs and Family Histories
 - (a) Slide Program of historic sites developed and presented to schools and other groups
 - (b) Article in newspapers requesting depositing of historic papers in History Room of Library
 - (c) Photographic History Albums started in Library



Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of our Nation

- (6) Project: Lefler Carolinian Collection
(a) County Historian employed with CETA Funds (Ca. \$6,000)
(b) Cataloguing and arrangements up-dated
- (7) Project: History
(a) Articles in newspapers on County History by County Historian
(b) Assistance to State personnel on visits to former goal mines
- (8) Project: County Seal and Flag
(a) Contest held for proposed designs
(b) Seal and Flag adopted
(c) Flag manufactured for sale (ca. \$2,000)
- (9) Project: Bicentennial Medal (Legal)
(a) Contest held for designs
(b) Minted for sale 500 silver and 2,500 bronze medals (ca. \$10,000)
- (10) Project: Historic Sites Marked
(a) Streets of Huntsville marked by Yadkinville Junior Tarheel Historians
- (11) Project: Private Restoration
(a) Encouraged State to help develop and assist efforts for adaptive restoration

II. THEME: Horizons '76

ACTIVITIES

- (1) Project: Improvement of School Facilities
(a) Use of State Board funds (ca. \$1.5 million) for new facilities at 7 elementary schools
(b) Long range facilities replacement program begun with County funds (\$300,000 annually)
- (2) Project: Hospital Facilities Improved
(a) ca. \$900,000 County and other funds provided for new primary and emergency care facilities
(b) Additional physicians secured
(c) East Bend County Health Center services expanded
- (3) Project: General Health and Mental Health Facilities
(a) Ca. \$75,000 addition to Health Center for needed facilities
(b) Mental Health Center established at County Community Service Center
(c) Health Department services expanded
- (4) Project: Parks
(a) Long term lease secured for State owned site for Park near Yadkinville
- (5) Project: Community Services
(a) County Health Department organized
(b) Human Services Delivery Transportation System implemented
(c) Energy Conservation - Home Weatherization Program implemented
(d) Community Cannery renovated
(e) Expanded federal employment and training program implemented
(f) District Historical Planner employed with CETA funds to help project
(g) Public Housing Agency established and federal housing assistance program implemented

Parks (cont.)

- (b) State and County grants (\$10,000) secured to purchase Shore Mill Site
 - Federal/State/County Bicentennial funds secured and being used for development of Shore Mill Park (*\$12,000*)
- (c) Investigated possibility of park area at Buck Shoals
- (d) Continued negotiations with State and development planning for Donnahue Park site
- (e) Expansion of Richmond Hill Park planned and proposed
- (f) County Park and Recreation Department re-organized

(6) Project: Water Systems

- (a) Town of Yadkinville received Federal and State grants and issued bonds for new water system and treatment plant
- (b) Town of Boonville completed new water/sewer lines
- (c) County and Town of Jonesville progressing on special water line for a Holiday Inn
- (d) Town of Arlington water system completed

(7) Project: Libraries

- (a) Northwestern Regional Library and YVEDDI secured 3 year funding for pilot Early Childhood Creative Library Program
- (b) Micro-film Reader purchased for Library

(8) Project: County Community Service Center

- (a) HUD funded Center opened (ca. \$250,000)
- (b) Additional HUD-CD grant (\$33,000) secured for completing Center in Yadkinville and development of Center at Jonesville

(9) Project: County Manager

- First County Manager employed in 1975

(10) Project: Community Planning

- (a) New, more active Planning Board organized
- (b) VISTA Planner secured
- (c) Mobile Home Park ordinance developed
- (d) HUD-CD grant (ca. \$10,000) secured
- (e) Initiation of EDA plan

(11) Project: Law Enforcement

- (a) LEAA grant received and implemented for Detective and vehicles
- (b) CETA funds secured and used for additional Deputies
- (c) LEAA grant received for drug abuse officer

(12) Project: Special Education Services

- (a) federal, State, and Local funds secured and used to initiate education projects for severely handicapped
- (b) CETA slots secured and used to expand State Kindergarten
- (c) CETA slots secured and used for special reading, guidance, P.E., clerical, and arts activities
- (d) Special Head Start Services for Handicapped initiated
- (e) Day Care (Child Development) Center re-opened
- (f) Vocational education facilities and program, especially for handicapped, expanded
- (g) *expanded parent/citizen participation*

- (13) Project: Senior Citizens Services
(a) Yadkin Council on Aging expanded transportation and other services
(b) Elderly Nutrition Program expanded
- (14) Project: Environmental Action
(a) Expanded Waste Removal Program with purchase of additional truck and containers
(b) CETA slots secured and used to clean up Dump areas.

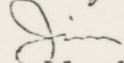
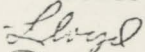
III. THEME: FESTIVAL U S A

ACTIVITIES

- (1) Project: Fine Arts
(a) Yadkin Arts Council organized
-Sunbonnet Festivals held 2 years
-CETA Slots secured and used for staffing
(b) Theatre group organized and plays presented
(c) Library displays of local artists' products
- (2) Project: Yadkin River Appreciation
(a) Assisted State for 2 years with Yadkin River Extravaganza celebration
- (3) Project: 1976 Celebration
(a) Assisted The Tribune with historic sites contest
(b) Participated in Parades
(c) Recognized local July 4 events
(d) Held Special July 4, 1976 Bell Ringing
(e) Special T.V. Program at Winston-Salem and High Point Stations
- (4) Project: Yadkin County Awards
-Project approved by County Commissioners
-Committee appointed and working on first Awards Program
- (5) Project: American Forum
-Recognized and participated in State/Local Library Lecture Forum Series
- (6) Project: Tours
(a) Participated in historic tours of Northwest Historical Association and sponsored tour in Huntsville

This listing is not complete and we point out, again, that this Commission is not responsible solely for all of our accomplishments.

Warmest Regards,



Lloyd Pardue
Jimmie R. Hutchens
Co-Chairmen

cc: YCARBC Members
James E. Haynes, County Manager

Memo:

TO: Liz Fentress, Assistant Director, N.C. State Bicentennial Commission
From: Ed Spanski, Executive Director, Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

Re; Data about our activities for the Bicentennial in Surry County which will be published by your organization.

Following are the major accomplishments of the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission:

I. Theme: Heritage: 1976:

A. Major Restoration projects in Surry County that are underway:

1. Rockford, the first permanent county seat of Surry County, founded in 1789 when Stokes (which included what later was to become Forsyth was separated from Surry) has received several major grants either through the initiative or cooperation of the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission:

a. \$19,000.00 grant from the State General Assembly was received on a matching basis for the restoration of Rockford as an historic district. This action initiated By Bicentennial Commission and Ed Spanski, Executive Director with the cooperation of the Rockford Preservation

Committee. Money being raised for the matching grant.

b. \$7,500.00 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to Rockford. Rockford Preservation Committee with cooperation of the Surry County Bicentennial Commission. initiate this grant

c. application of Rockford to the National Register of Historic Places (in process)

2. The Franklin House--restoration sponsored by Surry County Historical

Society: Surry County Amer. Rev. Bicentennial Commission will donate sizable 35% of surplus funds to this project.

3. Pick Shin History Center--restoration of old school house, store, and other buildings--Surry Co. Bicentennial will donate a grant to this project.

4. Gwyn School House built in 1850; first school house in Surry County; in Elkin; operated by D.A.R. chapter in Elkin as a museum; will receive 10% of surplus funds from the Bicentennial.

Liz Fentriss Memo continued

Heritage continued:

B. Historic Sign Program--designated Temporary Bicentennial Marker Program. First such program to be approved by the Department of Transportation for erection of 150 historic sites in Surry County on state right of way. Received approval also by the N.C. Bicentennial Commission and the Department of Archives and History. Signs erected by Boys Scout of Surry County (Hickory Council). Project Director: Steve Taylor. Research: Ruth Minick and Marian Venable.

C. Historic pamphlet: "Historic Sites of Surry County" prepared by Ruth Minick, Marian Venable and Ed Spanski. Description of over 150 historic sites in Surry County. Over 6000 printed and distributed esp. to county schools.

D. Film slide and filmstrip series on the historic sites of Surry County with soundtrack and narrative. Project director: Glenn Robertson Research Ruth Minick. Slide series shown to over 100 clubs and school groups. Filmstrip distributed free of charge to all schools in Surry County.

E. Historic pamphlet: "How Surry County
~~A concise history of Surry County by mountain dialect farm.~~

Short History of
County

Written by Ruth Minick. Has received high praise from Dept. of Archives and History.

F. Historic Tour Program: Since May of 1976, buses and vans with guides have conducted tours of the most significant historic sites in the county. All ages groups have participated the tours: pre-teens; teenagers; adults; and senior citizens. Several hundred people have seen the tours and the response from them has been unanimously favorable and enthusiastic.

Project directors: Benji Spanski, Marian Venable, and Mrs. Lee Simmons.

G. A permanent county archives has been established with the cooperation of Surry Community College on their campus and will operated by their library staff. Valuable collections of documents and photographs have already been given. All Bicentennial records will be deposited as well.

H. Local History Program for history teachers in area schools and for the general public has been incorporated into the regular full credit curriculum of Surry Community College as a permanent addition.

I. Articles on local history written by Ruth Minick have been published on a weekly basis by all newspapers in the county. These have elicited a wide interest in history of the county.

FESTIVAL:

1. September of 1975: Rocking Chair Marathon to commemorate the Bicentennial: Over 30 contestants in two locations: Pilot Mountain and Mt. Airy rocked over 72 hours. Over ten thousand people saw these events and created enthusiasm for other Bicentennial events.

2. "Come as Your Favorite Historical Contest" was done at the Mt. Airy Autumn Leaves Festival: Over 30 contestants dressed in costumes of ~~of~~ various historical periods before thousands of spectators. October, 1975

3. County Seal and Flag Contest: over 500 entrants of all ages enter the contest which picked the first official seal and flag of the county. Commemorative Coin minted with the new seal on front and courthouse on the obverse. The coin project completely successful.

4. November, 1975, U. S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan visited the Dobson the county seat: over two thousand adults and children saw the vans.

Note: In December of 1975, Cama Merritt, a local attorney, and noted civic leader became Activities Chairman in charge of the Festival segment:

FESTIVAL CONTINUED:

5. Official opening ceremony of the Bicentennial Year of 1976 was held at Rockfrd the county seat from 1789 to 1850. J. Dale Simmons, M.D, President of the Bicentennial Commission presided with remarks on the heritage of Surry County by Franklin Folger, banker, local historian, and civic leader; and comments on the Horizons of Surry County by David Diamont, state representative.

6. Colonial Tasting Spreee: April 24, 1976, Dobson, Co-sponsored by the Home Extension Clubs of Surry County. Women of these clubs prepared favorite colonia and modern recipes of Surry County. Dressed in colonial dresses, they served over 400 people on a special commemorative plate with the new county seal imprinted on it.

7. Special Bicentennial Cantata Concert, Sunday May 16, 1976: A special cantata of patriotic songs such as "Mad Anthony Wayne" was performed by the Surry Community College Chorus, Dale Sasser, director. A fashion show demonstrated the various dresses and styles from colonial to modern times.

8. Pilot Mountain D^{ay}, June 5, 1976. In cooperation with the Pilot Mountain Jaycees and other clubs, a speical festival day was held commemorating the Bicentennial and Surry County's role in our nation's history. Parades, fireworks, barbecues, beard contests, water fights by volunteer fire department met an enthusiastic response and participation by thousands.

9. Special exhibit were started in May in conjunction with Pilot Mountain State Park and conducted every Saturday through June, July, and August. Exhibits changed every week and demonstrated old time crafts and present day agriculture by a tobacco exhibit. Made possible by a grant from the State Bicentennial Commission.

10. Barn-Raising of loc cabin style smokehouse started on June 19, 1976 at the Pick Shin Nature and History Center: Charles Fletcher, Project Director.

11. Special posters designed and made by Cotting White, head of the Art Department, Surry Community College, These posters depicted our Bicentennial events. All posters limited edition and were hand silk-screened.

12. July 3-5, 1976. Various Bicentennial events planned in all communities of Surry County: Parades, fireworks, special events at both Mt. Airy and Elkin. Dedication of new town hall in Pilot Mountain accompanied by special ceremonies for July 4.

Horizons:

1. Surry County Information Booklet. Done by the Bicentennial Commission at request of the County Commissioners, the booklet discusses the role of county government in the life of the average citizen and the future role of government in the county.

2. David Diamont, State Representative in the opening ceremony of the Bicentennial Year, February 22, 1976, gave a speech on the future of Surry County at the request of the Bicentennial Commission. The speech will be printed in the Commemorative Booklet described below:

3. A Special Bicentennial Commemorative Booklet will be published which will contain a history of Surry County from its beginnings to the present; a complete survey of business and industry by Pat Barfield, Professor of Economics, Surry Community College; a survey of education and religion and their future roles in the county; a speech by David Diamont on the future growth of the county; and a prospectus on the horizons of Surry County will also be included. The booklet will be a 100 hundred page plus publication with over 100 photographs in color and black and white. Local artists will provide illustrations of various historic sites.

4. Special Closing Ceremony in December of 1976 at County Court

To close Bicentennial in Surry County. It will also commemorate the the founding of the county in 1770 (December); speeches about the horizons of the county will be given.



SURRY COUNTY AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, INCORPORATED
POST OFFICE BOX 1776
DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27017

TELEPHONE: 386-8623



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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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CHAIRMAN
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CLAYBERN TAYLOR
HARRY FOLGER

COUNTY MANAGER
STEVEN McKEAVER

Accomplishments of the Surry County American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission.

The accomplishments of the Surry County Bicentennial
Commission have been varied and imaginative and has reached
every segment of the population in the county.

Short History of the formation of the Bicentennial Commission:

At the urging of the North Carolina State Bicentennial
Commission (in the Spring of 1974), Robert Merritt, then president
of the Surry County Historical Society, formed a Bicentennial
Commission. Robert Merritt became the temporary chairman of the
Bicentennial Commission. Original members of the commission were
Dr. J. Dale Simmons, Verona West, Franklin Badgett, Glenn Robertson,
William Sanders, Ruth Minick, Hugh Atkinson, R. Fletcher Good IV,
and Isabel Harrell. The first official meeting of the Bicentennial
Commission was held at Mount Airy on March 5, 1974. The goals of
the commission were set out: 1. development of an appreciation of
the county's past; 2. unify the county; 3. focusing attention on
and encouraging preservation of archaeological and historical sites;
4. the relation of the life-style of 200 years ago with that of
today; 5. creation of a sense of pride and respect in our local
history; 6. encouragement of traditional arts and crafts; 7. estab-
lishment of a repository for collections of historical data and
artifacts utilization of national and state efforts to obtain maximum
tangible and intangible benefits for the county; 8. commemoration of
the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution and the development
of an appreciation of our independence; 9. discovery of the historical
community of Surry County; 10. the coordination of activities of
the counties with those of surrounding counties and states; and
finally, to have fun.

To a remarkable degree, the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has fulfilled most of these goals.

At the meeting of March 5, 1974, the commission unanimously elected Dr. J. Dale Simmons, president of the commission, Verona West, secretary, and Franklin Badgett, treasurer. The Commission also decided at this meeting to become a non-profit corporation which was later accomplished. At the second meeting of the commission, March 26 1974, they proposed close cooperation with the County Commissioners and the Surry County Historical Society to make its goals a reality. A close bond of cooperation has existed between these three groups and has made the Bicentennial a significant success in Surry County.

The Commission also requested the County Commissioners to set up the Bicentennial as a County department of government with an operating budget of approximately \$25,000.00; the County Commissioners voted to approve this action with an appropriation of \$21,100.00 for the fiscal year July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975; the County Commissioners funded the Bicentennial for a second fiscal year, July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976 with a budget of approximately \$25,898.00. The commissioners also funded the Bicentennial for the months of July and August of 1976.

Despite the number of successes of the various Bicentennial programs listed below, the Bicentennial Commission only spent \$10,467.70 of its 1974-75 appropriation and only \$22,418.00 of its \$26,000.00 budget for the 1975-76 fiscal year. In addition, the Bicentennial raised approximately \$10,000.00 from the local community for various projects also listed below. The Bicentennial also received a \$10,000.00 grant on behalf of the Rockford Preservation Committee for the historic restoration of the former county seat (more fully described below) from the state legislature. Another \$500.00 grant was received from the North Carolina State Bicentennial Commission for implementation of a historic old times craft exhibit at Pilot Mountain State Park.

As the scope of the Bicentennial grew and also because of the death of one of its most active members, Hugh Atkinson, the Bicentennial Commission was expanded to 25 members including, C. Frank Comer, Mike and Dianna Forrest,

Kathleen Gilleland, L. H. Jones, Claude Elridge, Mike Randleman, Joyce Ingram, William S. Hiatt, Jack Palmer, Vincent Lella, Vivian Lowe, Steve Taylor, Carroll Gardner, Charles Fletcher, Bud Cameron, Doug Cook, Gene Everett, and Beulah Perkins. These new members represent a wide variety of occupations and all regions of the county.

On August 15, 1974, a full time coordinator was appointed, Edward J. Spanski, Jr., a professor of history at Surry Community College; his salary and that of his full-time secretary, Sue Gilley, are paid from county funds.

Listed below are the major accomplishments of the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Listed below are some of the achievements that the Surry County American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has organized. These projects have been funded by monies from Surry County, by private donations from businesses and individuals, from government grants, and from sell of souvenirs such as commemorative coins.

1. The successful selection of an official county seal and flag as a result of county-wide contest in which there were more than 500 entries from adults and school children of all ages and all parts of the county. (Cost for awards \$132.50)
2. The establishment of a county archives in cooperation with Surry Community College and the Northwestern Regional Library to preserve documents, photographs and artefacts of Surry County's Past so that they can be utilized by all citizens of the county as well as interested researchers.
3. The implementation of a local history program including courses for credit at Surry Community College with a particular although not an exclusive, emphasis on informing local social sciences teachers in Surry County of local history.

4. The publication of two historical pamphlets (written and edited by Ruth Minick) 1. Historic Sites of Surry County 2. "How Come Surry County And How Hit Got Along By Herself Who War Borne And Raised Thar", a history in dialect form. Response to these pamphlets locally and on the state level have been enthusiastic. (Cost \$500.00) The State Department of Archives and the N. C. Bicentennial Commission have particularly commended the Historic Sites booklet.
5. The distribution of 5,000 booklets, historical and informative, to the Surry County School System, the Mount Airy City School System, and the Elkin City School System. This total does not include 13,000 flyers of the County Seal and flag given to each school child in the county. (Cost \$613.39)
6. The production of 68 plus slide presentation on Surry County's Past now in operation. This slide program has been presented to dozens of civic clubs and several hundred school children. In cooperation with Carroll Perkins of the Surry County School System and Mr. Johnson of Mount Airy School System, these slides are now being reduced to a filmstrip to be given to each school in the county so that it can be presented to any class by any individual teacher not only during the Bicentennial but for future generations. Ruth Minick and Glenn Robertson members of the commission have been responsible for this project. (Cost of program \$251.06)
7. The distribution of Bicentennial literature to the general public in excess of 50,000 separate items. (Cost \$6,000.00)
8. The writing, printing and distribution of 5,000 information booklets on the County to the general public at the Autumn Leaves Festival. (Done at the request of the County Commissioners)
9. The Historic Sign Program: Surry County was the first county to receive permission from the Department of Transportation to erect historic signs (temporary Bicentennial Markers) throughout the county on the state right-of-way. Over 150 signs have been erected throughout the county by area boy scout troops. These signs indicate sites of historic interest and significance in Surry County. A pamphlet describing each of the sites and a map attached to the pamphlet showing the location of each historic site is available to the public at a nominal charge.

10. The U. S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan visited Dobson on November 14, 1975 to display, in four tractor-trailer vans, the history of the four branches of the U. S. Armed Forces. They came at the request of the Surry County American Bicentennial Commission. Dobson was one of the only two sites this caravan visited in North Carolina in 1975. Over 1,800 school children saw the exhibits. In addition approximately 1000 adults also came to visit these remarkable displays. (Cost of project: no cost to Bicentennial Commission or the County)

11. In addition and in cooperation with the Rockford Preservation Committee, the Surry County Bicentennial Commission has received a \$10,000 grant from the State Legislature on a matching basis for the restoration of Rockford, the first permanent county seat of Surry County. The Bicentennial has acted for the Rockford Preservation Committee which will actually supervise and carry on the project after the Bicentennial is over. The actual funding of grant is not to start until July 1, 1976. The bill for the grant was sponsored by State Sen. George Marion and State Rep. David Diamont.

12. Official opening ceremony of the Bicentennial Year of 1976 was held at Rockford, the county seat from 1789 to 1850. This historic town was where Andrew Jackson practiced law as a young man and where James K. Polk visited his cousin, William Polk Dobson. Dobson is the man who encouraged Polk to run for the presidency in 1844. He also delivered the nominating speech for Polk at the Democratic convention.

The ceremony was presided over by J. Dale Simmons, M. D., president of the Bicentennial Commission at the Rockford Baptist Church. The program included the participation of veterans (American Legion and V.F.W.). Bicentennial Remarks on the Heritage of Surry County were delivered by Franklin Folger, leading Surry County banker, and local history expert; and David Diamont, state representative (23rd District) gave remarks on the future of Surry County. Surry Community College Chorus under the director of Dale Sasser sang patriotic music.

The event was coordinated by Cama Merritt in her new position with the Bicentennial as Activities Chairman.

13. Special posters designed and made by Cotting White, head of the Art Department at Surry Community College, were distributed throughout the county depicting and describing Bicentennial events. The posters are hand silk-screened. Services donated by Cotting White.

14. Colonial Tasting Spree: April 24, 1976, Dobson. Co-sponsored by the Home Extension Clubs of Surry County, Pat Seal, chairperson. Ann Tyndell of the Home Extension Department of the Surry County Agricultural Extension Agency cooperated with Mrs. Seal in this unusual event. Women of the Home Extension prepared favorite colonial and modern recipes of Surry County. Dressed in colonial dresses, they served over 400 people giving each one a sample of these recipes. For the nominal admission charge each person received a special commemorative plate with the new county seal imprinted on the plate as well as a copy of the recipes. (Cost \$686.00)

15. Special Bicentennial Cantata Concert, Sunday, May 16, 1976. A special cantata of patriotic songs such as "Mad Anthony Wayne" was performed by the Surry Community College Chorus, Dale Sasser Director and was held at Surry County Arts Council auditorium. Over 600 people attended this gala event which included a fashion show coordinated by Cama Merritt and the Mount Airy Women's Club. The fashion show demonstrated the various dresses and styles from colonial to modern times, especially, those native to Surry County. Admission free. Total Cost: \$100.00.

16. Pilot Mountain Day, June 5, 1976. The Surry County Bicentennial, the Pilot Mountain Jaycees and almost every civic, fraternal and women's club in Pilot Mountain sponsored this day long event commemorating Surry County history, the nation's birthday with parades, fireworks, special events such as a beard contest, water fights by volunteer fire departments and so on. Several thousand people attended the various events. The event sparked participation and civic pride in the community. Cost: \$800.00.

17. Special exhibits were started in May in conjunction with Pilot Mountain Park and its director, Larry Minton and will be operated on every Saturday through June, July and August. The exhibit changes every few weeks and demonstrates both archaeological and historical artifacts such as Indian pottery as well as demonstration of old time crafts. In July, a tobacco exhibit is also planned. A \$500.00 grant was received from the North Carolina State Bicentennial Commission to help defray the cost of the exhibit: (Total cost including grant: \$1,000.00)

Estimated audience size for each Saturday: 2,000.

18. A special Barn-raising of log cabin-style smokehouse was started on June 19, 1976 in conjunction with the Surry County School System (Charles Fletcher, project director). Each participant hewed his own logs, largely using old fashioned tools. Cost: \$50.00.

19. July 3-5, 1976. Various Bicentennial events planned in all communities of Surry County: Parades, fireworks, special events at both Mount Airy and Elkin, old-fashioned picnic at Dobson. Dedication of new town hall and ceremonies on July 4th in Pilot Mountain (Cost:\$500.00) Other funds raised locally for these events.

20. One of our most successful projects is our historic tours program. Started in early May, it is operated every Thursday and many Saturdays. Vans are provided by the Yadkin Valley Economic Development Commission of Boonville, North Carolina (cost per mile reimbursed to this organization by the Surry County Bicentennial Commission). The tour narrated by a trained guide goes through all parts of Surry County visiting over 30 of the most significant sites in Surry County including historic sites in Mount Airy, Elkin, Rockford, Pilot Mountain, and Dobson. Tour covers 160 miles and lasts from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Nominal charge is made to partially offset cost of tour. Response to this project has been highly enthusiastically and has attracted all age groups. All scheduled tours (six for the month of July alone) are fully booked. This project in conjunction with our historic sign program has greatly awakened the heritage of Surry County to its people. (Cost total not yet determined but is approximately \$40.00 per van per trip; on some dates more than one van is used.)

21. Commemorative Coin Project: 200 Silver and Bronze coins set minted with 1000 other Bronze coins. Design has new county seal on front and county courthouse on obverse. This project has been highly successful in showing the people of our county the new seal. The courthouse reminds everyone that they are all part of Surry County. Profits from sales ploughed back into Bicentennial projects. (Cost \$4100.00)

Summation: The sum total of our Bicentennial projects has largely fulfilled the original goals of the first meetings of the Bicentennial Commission the county's seal contest, the historic tours, the historic sign program, historical pamphlets and mass participation events, such as, Pilot Mountain Day have awakened in Surry County a sense of unity and a knowledge of its history; at the same time everyone is enjoying the celebration of our nations birthday and the fact that Surry County was founded in 1770 and thereby is six years older than our nation.