Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee Records (2007.047)
Date Span: 1973-1978

A collection of papers relating to the Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee (hereafter J.C.A.R.B.C.). The J.C.A.R.B.C. was established in June 1974. It met at the Antioch Library and was operated by 13 volunteers. The mother of the donor of this collection, Lois Parenteau, was a member of the J.C.A.R.B.C. Sales Committee. She was also a housewife, and Johnson County resident.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Source: Ellen Parenteau Burd
Size: 1 linear foot
Access: Open
Processed by: Denise Hartley as part of the Internship Program at the Johnson County Museum of History; 2009
Supervising Archivists: Russ Czaplewski and Kathy Daniels

PROJECT SKETCH

1954 Lois and Jerome Parenteau family moved to Johnson County
1954-1961 Parenteau family lived at 4501 W 77th, Prairie Village, 66208.
1961-1978 Parenteau family lived at 5209 W. 80th St., Prairie Village, KS 66208
1974 Organizational meeting of the Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee.” This committee met at the Antioch Library and was run by 13 volunteers. Its members were; H. Jay Gunnels Jr. (Chairman), C.Y. Thomas Sr. (Vice Chairman), Ben Craig, Jr. (Treasurer), Mrs. C.E. Briscoe, Jr. (Secretary), Leland Adams (Cemetery Committee), Marguerite Barkley, Pat Davis, Carl Durso, Art Gabriel, Betty Mercer, Richard S. McAnany, Edgar Moor, and Lois Parenteau (June 19)
1974 J.C.A.R.B.C. created the “School District Committee,” “Heritage ’76 Committee (included a ‘cemetery committee’),” “Drama and Music Committee,” “Monument Committee,” “Speakers’ Bureau,”

4 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. June 19, 1974
“Program Committee,” “Public Relations Committee,” and “Resource Committee” (August 28)

1974 | Logo contest won by Jeffrey Steinmetz (September 11)5
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1974 | Carl Durso appointed chairman of the Flag Presentation Committee, Steve Gladics, as Chairman of Festival Committee (November 13)
1974 | Committee decided to place wax model of proposed Bicentennial monument at the Antioch Library (December 11)
1975 | Festival Committee agreed that each city should make their own plans for bicentennial celebrations rather than having a large consolidated celebration (January 24)
1975 | Logo Award Ceremony, awarded to Laurie Schwartz of Shawnee Mission East. Congressman Winn spoke, attendance over 1000 people (January 27)
1975 | Flag ceremony at Johnson County Courthouse to celebrate Johnson County becoming an official Bicentennial Community (Feb. 12)6
1975 | Monument Committee announced end of a statue project due to cost and time issues for project marking historic sites and placing a bronzed plaque of the Declaration of Independence at the courthouse. Lois Parentea and 3 others were appointed to a committee to handle the sale of items endorsed by ARBA (March 19)7
1975 | Shawnee became a Bicentennial Community (April 19)8
1975 | “A Hunger of Spirit Abroad in the Land,” a Chautauqua, a combined Johnson County-Shawnee Mission Bicentennial Reception which was designed to support “A Rekindling of the Spirit of America.” This event evolved to the multi-faceted Chautauqua Circuit which offers to students the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of programs throughout the school year. 300 people in attendance. (April)
1975 | “Old Shawnee Days” (June 4-6)9
1975 | Bicentennial Resolution and Flag Presentation- Shawnee Mission School Board (June 9)
1975 | Prairie Village became a Bicentennial Community (June 12)10
1975 | Bicentennial Music Celebration- hosted by J.C. Penny- program done by SM students featuring Colonial American music (June 20)
1975 | Flag presentation ceremony held at Metcalf South Shopping Center (June 28)11
1975 | Overland Park was designated a Bicentennial Community (August 15)12
1975 | City of Lenexa was designated as a Bicentennial Community (August 16)13

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5 “Here’s the winning logo!” *The Squire*. September 19, 1974. p. 3
8 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
9 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
10 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
11 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
12 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
13 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
1975 Regional Kansas City Bicentennial Ethnic Heritage Workshop (August 15-22)
1975 Shawnee Mission Bicentennial Workshop - Building Bicentennial Representatives - Orientation program for all Bicentennial Building Representatives. Program organized around 3 learning stations: the Chautauqua, the Fair, and the Week of emphasis. Resource kit given to each representative to share with others at the building level. (August 25)
1975 Johnson County wide auditions for musical “Long May it Wave” held at Santa Fe Trail elementary school (September 2)
14 1975 Olathe flag presentation ceremony at Old Settlers Day (September 6)
1975 Flag ceremony at the Daughters of the American Colonists open house at the Old Shawnee Indian Mission (September 17)
15 1975 Musical “Long May it Wave” (September 18-20)
16 1975 Sunday demonstrations held at the Antioch Library of early arts and crafts (September)
17 1975 Annual county meeting at JCCC hosted by the children of the American Revolution (October 19)
18 1975 Bicentennial Ethnic Heritage Ball at the Municipal Air Terminal (October 4)
19 1975 Johnson County Library Staff and Friends of the Library celebrated the Bicentennial with a Bicentennial Book Bash Open House at Corinth Library (November 16)
20 1975 “A Colonial Christmas” celebrated in Old Shawnee Town (December)
21 1975-1976 Publication of “Ye Olde Tattler,” a Bicentennial newspaper with 10 editions, containing student written articles of schools activities, the “Week of Emphasis,” plans for the “Colonial Fair,” and “Chautauqua” events. Scrapbook created by the Shawnee Mission School District depicting each school's activities.
22 1976 “Happy Birthday to U.S.”- Instructional television in-service to brainstorm Shawnee Mission’s bicentennial activities (February 6)
23 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial Administration approved Gardner Bicentennial Committee (February)
1976 Mission became a Bicentennial Community (February)

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13 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
15 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
16 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
17 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
18 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
19 “Convertibles Scarcce.” September 16, 1975
20 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
21 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
22 1991.100.0
23 1992.97.19 Gardner Bicentennial Scrapbook
1976 Boy Scouts and citizens participated in a tree planting project which planted 2,600 white pine and Scotch pine trees on Santa Fe Trail from 83rd and Santa Fe Dr. to 183rd and Highway 56 (April 3)
1976 Bicentennial themed carnival sponsored by Gardner, Edgerton, and Antioch teachers association (April 3)
1976 Conference meeting of Soroptimist International with emphasis on women’s challenges from 1776 to 1976 (April 23-25)
1976 Spring Hill celebrated the Bicentennial with an emphasis at schools (April 25)
1976 “Colonial Fair” held at Shawnee Mission Park. Fair activities: displays of colonial and early American life; colonial sports and related contests; student exhibits; staged programs; and special events and exhibits (April 30-May 1)
1976 Wagon train which had set out from Los Angeles on January 1 arrived in Olathe (May 4-5)
1976 Merriam Bicentennial celebration with parade and speeches from Larry Winn (U.S. Congressman) and local officials (May 23)
1976 Sunday demonstrations held at the Antioch Library of early arts and crafts (May)
1976 Westwood Hills celebrated the Bicentennial and their 27th anniversary (June 6)
1976 Gardner “Old Fashioned Days” celebration (June 19)
1976 Shawnee Bicentennial Committee held a Bluegrass festival (July 2-4)
1976 Bicentennial open house at Corinth Library (November 16)
1976 Time capsule placed in the County Courthouse lawn as last act of the committee. Capsule filled with memorabilia from the Johnson County Bicentennial celebrations--to be opened January 1, 2076. (November 24)
1976 “A Colonial Christmas” celebrated in Old Shawnee Town (December)
1976 Last meeting of the J.C.A.R.B.C. (December 15)
1976 Dissolution of J.C.A.R.B.C. (December 31)
1976 Olathe Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Campfire Girls painted the fire hydrants
2004 Lois Parenteau died (October 27)

25 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
26 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
27 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
28 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
29 1992.97.19 Gardner Bicentennial Scrapbook
31 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976
32 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. September 15, 1976
COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee records document the activities of the local bicentennial committee. Planning for the county’s participation in the national bicentennial was underway as early as September 1973. The organizational meeting for the J.C.A.R.B.C. was held on June 19, 1974. The committee met at the Antioch Library and was run by 13 volunteers for its duration from June 19, 1974-December 15, 1976. The J.C.A.R.B.C. was sponsored by the Johnson County Library and the Johnson County Community College. The college held annual meetings, handled finances, sponsored the American Issues Forum, printed first two newsletters, and offered classes through the Adult Education Department. Johnson County Library provided all stenographic and telephone services, and a location for meetings.

The mother of the donor of this collection, Lois Parenteau, was a homemaker who participated in a wide variety of clubs. She was married to Jerome F. Parenteau and had two children; Ellen and Richard. Lois was a member of the J.C.A.R.B.C. sales committee. She was in charge of selling the Johnson County Bicentennial glassware which carried the official logo. The logo was designed by Jeffrey Steinmet and was a limited edition consisting of paperweights, executive glass, 8” plates, and big shot mugs. Other J.C.A.R.B.C. members were H. Jay Gunnels Jr. (Chairman), C.Y. Thomas Sr. (Vice Chairman), Ben Craig, Jr. (Treasurer), Mrs. C.E. Briscoe, Jr. (Secretary), Leland Adams (Cemetery Committee), Marguerite Barkley, Pat Davis, Carl Durso, Art Gabriel, Betty Mercer, Richard S. McAnany, and Edgar Moor.

There were several major projects taken on by the J.C.A.R.B.C. “To the Stars,” a Kansas history television series funded by the State of Kansas and the Shawnee Mission School District, was an instructional series with 12 episodes aimed at 4th grade students. The Chautauqua Kit was created to aid city planners and included an introduction to Chautauqua, calendar of events and programs, procedures for participation, worksheets, suggested speakers and activities. The Cemetery Committee worked with the Johnson County Genealogical Society and hundreds of volunteers canvassing Johnson County to record all grave inscriptions. The J.C.A.R.B.C published a commemorative booklet “Johnson County – Its Paintings and Prose.” On November 24, 1976 the J.C.A.R.B.C. placed a time capsule in the county courthouse lawn as its last act as a committee. It is filled with memorabilia from the Johnson County Bicentennial celebrations and is to be opened January 1, 2076. The J.C.A.R.B.C. officially disbanded on December 31, 1976.

There are five series in this collection; Subjects, Financial Records, Minutes, Correspondence, and Printed Materials.

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33 Program “Preparing for ’76” present in JCARBC records and in Museum collection as 1992.051.002
35 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. June 19, 1974
38 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. September 15, 1976
Series 1, Subjects contains general committee papers of the J.C.A.R.B.C. The materials date from 1973-1978 with the bulk dating from 1974-1976. The file contains both official committee papers and rough draft notes written by Lois Parenteau. The series is organized by subject and within this arrangement, the order is chronological.

Series 2, Financial records contains treasurer’s reports, budgets, orders, receipts, and donation documentation. The materials date from 1975-1977. The series is organized by subject and within this arrangement, the order is chronological.

Series 3, Minutes contains meeting minutes for the committee from 1974-1976 and is in chronological order.

Series 4, Correspondence contains correspondence 1973-1977 and is in chronological order.

Series 5, Printed Matter includes brochures, periodicals, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other printed material relating to bicentennial activities in Johnson County and nationally. There are two periodicals; “Bicentennial Times” and “Ye Olde Tattler.” “Bicentennial Times” was a national publication with information regarding national bicentennial activities and events. “Ye Olde Tattler” was a bicentennial newspaper with 10 editions, containing student written articles about school activities, the “Week of Emphasis,” plans for the “Colonial Fair,” and “Chautauqua” events. The material dates from 1973-1978 with the bulk dating from 1974-1976. The series is organized by subject and chronologically within.

**SERIES DESCRIPTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box Nos.</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1        | SUBJECTS; 1973-1978 (Bulk 1974-1976)  
|          | FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1975-1977  
Treasurer’s reports, budgets, orders, receipts, donation documentation. |
|          | MINUTES, 1974-1976  
Minutes of meetings. |
|          | CORRESPONDENCE, 1973-1977 |
| 2        | PRINTED MATTER; 1973-1978 (Bulk 1974-1976)  
Brochures, newsletters (county, state, and national), newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other printed material relating to bicentennial activities in |
Johnson County and nationally. The material dates from 1973-1978 with the bulk dating from 1974-1976. The series is organized by subject and chronologically within.

FOLDER TITLE LIST

Box No. 1

SUBJECTS
Rosters
Time capsule
Notes

FINANCIAL RECORDS
Treasurer’s reports
Budget

MINUTES
Minutes

CORRESPONDENCE
Correspondence

Box No. 2

PRINTED MATTER
General Publications and programs
Bicentennial Times
Ye Old Tattler
Newspaper Clippings

ITEM LEVEL INVENTORY

Box 1

SUBJECTS
Rosters
Time capsule
Notes
    Business card
    Lois Parenteau’s committee related rough drafts and notes

FINANCIAL RECORDS
Treasurer’s reports  
January 11, 1975- August 31, 1976

Budget  
Orders and Shipping Receipts for Bicentennial Commemoratives  
Bank letters, receipts  
Donations  
Other fundraising/budget information

MINUTES

1974, June 19  
1974, August 28  
1974, September 23  
1974, October 29  
1974, November 6  
1974, November 13  
1974, December 5  
1974, December 11  
1975, January 24  
1975, February 19  
1975, March 19  
1975, April 23  
1975, May 21  
1975, June 18  
1975, July 16  
1975, July 16  
1975, August 20  
1975, September 17  
1975, October 15  
1975, November 18  
1976, March 17  
1976, April 21  
1976, June 23  
1976, September 15  
1976, December 15  
1976, January 21  
1976, February 18  
1976, April 21

CORRESPONDENCE

1973, September 16: Invitation from Johnson County Community College  
1973, October 30: Invitation from Johnson County Community College  
1974, August 5: From John J. Franke to Lois Parenteau  
1974, August 8: From H. Jay Gunnels, Jr. to Lois Parenteau
1974, August 15: From G.L. Belding to Lois Parenteau
1974, August 16: From Floyd A. McTehe to Lois Parenteau
1974, August 29: From Jack Walker to H. Jay Gunnels
1974, September 12: From Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1974, October 7: From Mrs. John Barkley to Heritage Committee Members
1974, November 7: Invitation from Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1974, November 11: From Nyle Miller to Mrs. George Cox
1975, January 10: From Shawnee Mission Public Schools
1975, January 27: Invitation from Shawnee Mission Bicentennial Committee
1975, January 29: From Floyd A. McTehe to Lois Parenteau
1975, February 28: From Adolph J. Kondek to Lois Parenteau
1975, March 28: From Leroy G. Fox to Wendall Lady
1975, April 10: Invitation from SM Bicentennial Chautauqua Committee
1975, May 20: Invitation from Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1975, May 26: From Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1975, June 20: Invitation from Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1975, June 25: From Betty Mercer to Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1975, July 28: From Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1975, July 30: From Betty Mercer to Ben Craig
1975, August 5: From Betty Mercer to Lois Parenteau
1975, August 25: From Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1975, August 27: From Marcy Carmody to Lois Parenteau
1975, September 6: Invitation from City of Olathe Bicentennial Commission
1976, February 19: From H.J. Gunnels Jr. to Miss Evans
1976, March 1: From Jo Mulvany to Lois Parenteau
1976, April 2: From Arlene Jones to Lois Parenteau
1976, April 21: Invitation from Metcalf Bank
1976, April 21: From Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee
1976, May 28: From Betty Lee H. House to Lois Parenteau
1976, November 3: From Betty Mercer to Lois Parenteau
1977, January 12: From Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee

Letters from Lois Parenteau (undated)
Correspondence check list
Box 2

PRINTED MATERIALS

General Publications and programs
1973, September 16, American Revolution Bicentennial Preparing for ‘76
1975, September 4-6, Old Settlers Day
1975, September 6, Dedication and Bicentennial Flag-Raising, Olathe KS.
1975, September 18-20, Long May it Wave, Shawnee Mission High School
1975, February 12. Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee Flag Presentation Ceremony
1975, October 19. Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee Annual Meeting
1975, Christmas. Halls Plaza Catalogue
1976, Spring. Kansas 76. Vol. 2, No. 1
1976, Spring, Santa Fe Trail Bicentennial Tree Planting Project
1976, November 24, One Hundred Year Time Capsule Ceremony
1978, May 3. Nam Reports V.21 No. 9
William B. Strang, Jr. Memorial Park
The Chautauqua Circuit
Order forms
Bicentennial Stickers

Bicentennial Times; May-December 1975
Bicentennial Times; January-November 1976

Ye Old Tattler
May 1975-February 1976

Newspaper Clippings
1975, April 16. “Johnson County, They didn’t worry about speed limits 120 years ago.” The Daily News.
Undated clipping, Karen Monson. “Flurry of Bicentennial Rites.”
Undated clipping, “Festival”
Undated clipping

1 photograph- already in system (1996.046.154)