

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, 66208.¹
- 1961-1978 Parenteau family lived at 5209 W. 80th St., Prairie Village, KS 66208²
- 1974 Organizational meeting of the Johnson County American Revolution Bicentennial Committee.” This committee met at the Antioch Library and was run by 13 volunteers.³ 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)⁴
- 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,”

¹ “Brownie troop in Prairie Village circa 1960.” JocoHistory.org © Johnson County Library, Kan. Last modified: 09/16/2008.

http://search.jocohistory.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/jcmtest2&CISOPTR=8429&CISOBX=1&REC=16

² “Brownie troop in Prairie Village circa 1960.” JocoHistory.org © Johnson County Library, Kan. Last modified: 09/16/2008.

http://search.jocohistory.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/jcmtest2&CISOPTR=8429&CISOBX=1&REC=16

³ Jordan, Ellen. “One thing left to do.” *The Johnson County Herald*. August 4, 1976.

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
- 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 Parenteau 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

⁵ “Here’s the winning logo!” *The Squire*. September 19, 1974. p. 3

⁶ Switzer, John W. “Flag Ceremony.” *The Kansas City Star*. February 12, 1975. p. 4A

⁷ 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. March 19, 1975.

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

- 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 activities²²
- 1976 “Happy Birthday to U.S.”- Instructional television in-service to brainstorm
Shawnee Mission’s bicentennial activities (February 6)
- 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial Administration approved Gardner
Bicentennial Committee (February 19)²³
- 1976 Mission became a Bicentennial Community (February)

¹³ 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. December 15, 1976

¹⁴ “Tryouts for Bicentennial review. The Johnson County Herald. August 20. 1975 p. 6

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 Scarce.” 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)²⁴
- 1976 Conference meeting of Soroptimist International with emphasis on women's challenges from 1776 to 1976 (April 23-25)²⁵
- 1976 Spring Hill celebrated the Bicentennial with an emphasis at schools (April 25)²⁶
- 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)²⁷
- 1976 Westwood Hills celebrated the Bicentennial and their 27th anniversary (June 6)²⁸
- 1976 Gardner "Old Fashioned Days" celebration (June 19)²⁹
- 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)³⁰
- 1976 "A Colonial Christmas" celebrated in Old Shawnee Town (December)
- 1976 Last meeting of the J.C.A.R.B.C. (December 15)³¹
- 1976 Dissolution of J.C.A.R.B.C. (December 31)³²
- 1976 Olathe Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Campfire Girls painted the fire hydrants
- 2004 Lois Parenteau died (October 27)

²⁴ 1992.97.19 Gardner Bicentennial Scrapbook.

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

³⁰ "Olathe time capsule." The Johnson County Herald. November 17, 1976. V.53, No. 19

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 1973.³³ 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, 1976.³⁴ 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.³⁵

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.³⁶ 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, 2076.³⁷ The J.C.A.R.B.C. officially disbanded on December 31, 1976.³⁸

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

³³ Program "Preparing for '76" present in JCARBC records and in Museum collection as 1992.051.002

³⁴ Jordan, Ellen. "One thing left to do." *The Johnson County Herald*. August 4, 1976.

³⁵ 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. June 19, 1974

³⁶ 2007.047 Series 1: Folder 3; Meeting minutes. March 19, 1975.

³⁷ "Olathe time capsule." *The Johnson County Herald*. November 17, 1976. V.53, No. 19

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

Box Nos.	Series
1	<u>SUBJECTS; 1973-1978 (Bulk 1974-1976)</u> General committee records of the J.C.A.R.B.C. The materials date from 1973-1978 with the bulk dating from 1974-1976. The series is organized by subject. <u>FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1975-1977</u> Treasurer's reports, budgets, orders, receipts, donation documentation. <u>MINUTES, 1974-1976</u> Minutes of meetings. <u>CORRESPONDENCE, 1973-1977</u>
2	<u>PRINTED MATTER; 1973-1978 (Bulk 1974-1976)</u> 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. Gondek 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, May 28: From Johnson County American Revolution
Bicentennial Committee
1975, July 9: From H. Jay Gunnels, Jr. to Mrs. Robert G. Godfrey
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
1973, October. Public Relations Journal. Vol. XXIX, No. 10
1974, Fall. Kansas Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 6
1974, Winter. Kansas Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 7
1974, November. Bicentennial Newsletter. Vol. 1, No. 1
1974, December 11. Bicentennial News. American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.
1975, March 10. "How you can Help Celebrate the Bicentennial." The U.S. News & World Report. P. 54-60
1975, July. Bicentennial Newsletter. Vol. 1, No. 3
1975, April. Bicentennial Newsletter. Vol. 1, No. 2
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, Ginny Graves. Yesterday's Toys Today.
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

1976, July 4. "Festival '76." Ye Olde Tattler Supplement.

Newspaper Clippings

1974, September 19. "Here's the winning logo!" The Squire.

1975, February 12. John W. Switzer. "Flag Ceremony." The Kansas City Star.

1975, April 16. "Johnson County, They didn't worry about speed limits 120 years ago." The Daily News.

1975, May 6. Hugh G. Hadley. "Start Work Right Now on Colonial Costumes."
The Kansas City Times.

1975, June 8. Joel Slead. "Bicentennial Fever High." The Kansas City Star.

1975, July 3. "Ye Olde Squire." The Squire.

1975, July 3. Linda Hunt. "Bicentennial News." The Squire.

1975, July 9. "Bicentennial leaders." Johnson County Herald. Vol. 51, No. 52.

1975, July 17. Linda Hunt. "Ye Olde Squire Bicentennial News." The Squire.

1975, July 23. "O.P. Chamber, Build steam for Old Settlers' reunion." Johnson
County Herald.

1975, July 24. James J. Kilpatrick. "Bicentennial Rebels Protest Too Much." The
Kansas City Times.

1975, July 24. "Ye Olde Squire Bicentennial News." The Squire.

1975, August 20. "Tryouts for Bicentennial review. The Johnson County Herald.

1975, September 16. "Convertibles Scarce."

1975, January 30. "Operation patriotism." The Squire.

1976, May 27. Will Keener. "Railroad Pioneer, Overland Park Honors Founder."

1976, May 12. Will Craig. "Nation's Declaration did a lot of moving." Johnson
County Herald.

1976, August 4. Ellen Jordan. "One thing left to do." The Johnson County Herald.

1976, November 17. "Olathe time capsule." The Johnson County Herald. Vol. 53,
No. 19

1976, November 26. Max Kvidera. "Ten key posts could change by end of year."
Overland Park Sun. Vol. 27, No. 95

1976, December 6. "Bicentennial designation." The Johnson County Sun.

Undated clipping, Karen Monson. "Flurry of Bicentennial Rites."

Undated clipping, "Festival"

Undated clipping

1 photograph- already in system (1996.046.154)