

C American Revolution Bicentennial, Missouri Committee for Agriculture, Papers, 1974-
4276 1976
1.2 cubic feet (42 folders), 1 audio tape

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of the committee contain correspondence, newsletters, reports, updates, events awards programs, lists of elected members, historical information on "Centennial Farms," and "Liberty Trees," meeting minutes, announcements, newspaper clippings, and audio-visual material for a slide presentation entitled "The Spirit of '76."

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Richard Lee on 14 June 1977 (Accession No. 2085)

ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH

The Missouri Committee for Agriculture, American Revolution Bicentennial was organized in late 1974 by James B. Boillot, Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture, and Elmer R. Kiehl, Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Missouri. The committee came about as a result of Governor Christopher Bond's indication that agriculture should play a prominent role in Missouri's Bicentennial celebration since agriculture is the state's number one industry.

Boillot and Kiehl served as co-chairmen of this committee to plan agriculture's involvement in the Bicentennial celebration. The committee was composed of these agricultural leaders throughout the state: Schell H. Bodenhamer, Columbia; L.C. Carpenter, Columbia; Wendell Choate, Charleston; C.E. Coffman, Bethany; Leonard J. Goodman, Stark City; C.R. Johnston, Jefferson City; T.R. McGuire, St. Louis; V. Flint McRoberts, Monticello; Joseph Pepper, Weston; Cordell Tindall, Fayette; and Dean Warnstaff, Kansas City.

On January 6, 1975, area extension specialists designated as the agriculturalist were mailed the procedures for organizing county agricultural emphasis committees. By April, 1975, the county agricultural emphasis committees were formed. These county committees began planning activities for the Bicentennial. The state committee also became involved in many activities which paralleled and supplemented the involvement at the county level. Placemats were designed and sold to promote agricultural awareness; a slide-tape program, "The Spirit of '76," was created and became a popular presentation throughout the state. A "Contribution to Agriculture" award was initiated for counties to honor those persons making significant contributions to agriculture. The "Centennial Farm" project awarded certificates to persons owning farms that had been in the same family for 100 years or more. "Liberty Trees," (trees that were living during the time of the American Revolution) were recognized throughout the state. In addition, a "Bicentennial Focus" newsletter was printed periodically to inform the counties of agriculture Bicentennial happenings around the state.

Most committee activities were drawing to a close by the fall of 1976 and officially terminated at the end of the nation's Bicentennial year.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Please See Folder List

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