



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

HENNEPIN COUNTY Bicentennial Planning Commission

An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Hennepin County (Minn.). Bicentennial Planning Commission.
- Series Title:** Bicentennial Planning Commission records,
- Dates:** 1973-1977.
- Abstract:** Reports, correspondence, media materials, minutes, financial summaries, and project files of this commission formed to plan and coordinate activities throughout the county in celebration of the American Revolution bicentennial.
- Quantity:** 0.5 cu. ft. (partial box)
- Location:** 117.G.8.8F

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

The Hennepin County Bicentennial Planning Commission was established by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners in January 1974 via Resolution 73-12-21. Its purpose was to plan and coordinate bicentennial activities throughout the county in three thematic areas: past (heritage), present (festival), and future (horizons). Other goals were to involve as many Hennepin County municipalities and residents as possible in these activities; to emphasize human and natural resources of Hennepin County; and to tie some activities to the opening of the new Hennepin County Government Center and General Hospital during 1975.

The Hennepin County Bicentennial Planning Commission consisted of fifteen members, three designated by each of the five county commissioners. Chairpersons of the Commission were W. Ed Mansfield, director of the Hennepin County Affirmative Action Program, through August 15, 1975, and Emily Ann Staples from that date through the abolishment of the Commission in late 1976. Executive directors were Judy Just through July 29, 1975 and Mary Ann Brink from that date until the end of the bicentennial activities.

Among the commission's duties was to solicit proposals for activities from various groups and then select the best for funding from the Minnesota American Revolution Bicentennial

Commission (MARBC), the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA), or from local businesses or foundations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Among the programs funded through HCBPC and documented in these files were research and an exhibit on Blacks in Minnesota by the Afro American Cultural Arts Center of Minneapolis; a series on Black Music for grade school children; and development of hiking, biking, and canoe routes by the County Park District. Other projects were theater productions emphasizing local history performed at libraries and community centers; a map display of old Indian trails; and publication of a county history by Gustav Rolf Svendsen. Also included in the records of the Commission are information on other projects that occurred with little or no help from the HCBPC, and celebrations and activities conducted in various Hennepin County municipalities.

RELATED MATERIALS

A copy of Svendsen's *Hennepin County History* is cataloged in the Minnesota Historical Society library.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976--Minnesota--Hennepin County.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

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VOLUME/FOLDER LIST

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note the location number shown below.

Location	Box	Contents
117.G.8.8F		<p>Commission Members and Staff, 1975-1976. Correspondence, October 1976 - February 1977. Fund Raising Contacts [chart], 1976. Ledger, 1975-1976. Focuses mainly on sales of <i>Hennepin County History</i>, although some additional financial information is present, also.</p> <p>Media, 1974-1976. News releases and clippings (photocopied).</p> <p>Minutes, February 1974 - October 1976. 2 folders.</p> <p>Municipal Celebrations, 1974-1976. Clippings, reports, and miscellany.</p> <p>Newsletter, "Comment of 76" September 1974 - September 1976. 10 issues.</p> <p>Operating Budget, 1974-1976.</p> <p>Organization and Policies, 1974-1975.</p> <p>Projects: Approved Programs - Phase I, March 1975. 1 folder. Brief program descriptions.</p> <p> Completed Projects Funded Through HCBPC, 1975-1977. 7 folders. Blacks in Minnesota, 1975-1976. The Dynamics of Black Music, 1976. Parks Commission: Canoe, Hiking, Biking Trails, Folk Dance and Folk Music Festival, 1975-1976. <i>Hennepin County History: An Illustrated Essay</i> by Gustav Rolf Svendsen, 1975-1977. Indian Trails Map Display, 1976. The People are a River, 1975-1976. Theatre in a Trunk, 1975-1976.</p> <p> Miscellaneous Projects, 1974-1976. 4 folders. Information on various unfunded or unimplemented projects.</p> <p> Other Projects, little or no cost to HCBPC, 1974-1977.</p> <p>Quarterly Reports, 1975-1976. 2 folders. Reports on Commission activities, projects in progress, and summaries of receipts and expenditures.</p> <p>Requests for Board Action (RBAs) and Resolutions, 1973-1976.</p>