CAROLINA CHARTER TERCENTENARY COMMISSION

GENERAL RECORDS

Accession information: Transferred from the State Records Center on March 5, 1973; April 26, 1973; and January 9, 1974; accessioned by the Archives on March 26, 1973; May 29, 1973, and January 9, 1974.
Schedule references: Inventories of State Agencies, Division of Archives and History, page 32, item 4; page 33, items 5 and 8; and page 34, items 9, 11, and 12.
Arrangement: See description of contents below.
Finding Aid prepared by the History 552 class, North Carolina State University, Spring Semester, 1974; consolidated on November 15, 1974.

The Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission was established by the 1959 General Assembly to develop and execute a program for the celebration of the tercentenary of the Carolina Charter of 1663.[1] A commission comprised of twenty-five members was created by the legislature. Twenty-two of the commission's members were to be appointed by the governor to serve two-year terms, and the remaining three ex officio members were the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, and the Director of the Department of Archives and History.[2]

Of major significance was the commission's decision to broaden the scope of the tercentenary celebration to encompass the first one hundred years of North Carolina's existence. The commission decided to expand the time period from 1663 to 1763 for several reasons. First, no suitable focus in terms of geography or time existed in North Carolina to sustain a year long celebration for the year 1663.[3] Secondly, the development of North Carolina was a slow process. During the early years of settlement, the population was confined mainly to the coastal region, but by 1763 settlers had moved west to the Blue Ridge Mountains.[4]

Besides broadening the geographic base of the celebration, the time span from 1663 to 1763 offered a variety of events that could be commemorated in 1963 festivities. Another important consideration for selecting 1763 as the terminal date for the commission's plans was the fact that many historians consider the year 1763 as the end of the colonial era in American history. It marked the end of the French and Indian War between Britain and France for North American territority; and Britain initiated her plan to make the American colonies assume part of the economic burden for maintaining the Empire. From this point on, the colonies became increasingly nationalistic and self-reliant in attitude.[5]

GENERAL RECORDS (Cont'd)

In order to formulate plans and carry out the objectives of the charter commission, committees were formed to control various fields of activity. The Committee on the Arts was responsible for the programs for the fine arts, music, and literature. The Committee on Commemorative Events was concerned with the plans for observances of events and activities on the local level. The Committee on Programs in Schools, Colleges, and Universities was in charge of planning and coordinating observances in the state's educational institutions. This committee also initiated a series of educational pamphlets dealing with the colonial history of North Carolina. A Committee on Public Information was formed to assist in promoting the programs and objectives of the commission on a state and national basis through the use of the press, radio, and television. The Committee on Religious Activities was concerned with the development of plans to involve individual churches and religious denominations in the tercentenary activities. The committee was especially interested in securing the participation of churches that traced their establishment back to the colonial period. Responsibility for the identification and selection of materials for exhibit, publication, and microfilming was vested in the Committee on Scholarly Activities. A major project planned by the committee was the publication of a revised edition of the colonial records of North Carolina. The Committee on Tourist Activities was in charge of travel and promotional matters relating to the tercentenary celebrations. Finally, the Committee on Finance and Building was created to procure financial assistance from private sources in addition to funds appropriated by the General Assembly. A major objective of the committee was the procurement of a new building to house the Department of Archives and History. This objective was obtained in 1969 with the dedication of the Archives and History State Library Building.[6]

Besides the projects directed by the charter commission's various committees, other notable achievements of the commission were the acquisition of a mobile museum of history for the Department of Archives and History and the production of a motion picture film entitled The Road to Carolina depicting North Carolina's historical past. Other major accomplishments were the publication of a newsletter entitled Tercentenary News; the production of a folk drama, The Sojourner and Mollie Sinclair, by Carlisle Floyd; and the issuance of the Carolina Charter Commemorative stamp by the United States Post Office.[7]

In order to provide for the effective administration of the funds generated by the Committee on Finance and Building, the commission organized a nonprofit organization entitled the Carolina Charter Corporation to handle these duties. The corporation was responsible for receiving, accounting for, soliciting, and disbursing the charter commission's monies. In reality the Carolina Charter Corporation was the commission's business agent.[8]

GENERAL RECORDS (Cont'd)

The Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission was abolished on December 31, 1963, and its duties were transferred to the Department of Archives and History. However, the Carolina Charter Corporation was not abolished and it continued to generate funds for the colonial records project which became a part of the Department of Archives and History.

Records of the Carolina Charter Corporation, which was organized by officials of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, have been maintained under the heading Carolina Charter Corporation. For records of the Colonial Records Project, see Archives and History, Historical Publications Section, Colonial Records Project.

---

[1]Session Laws of North Carolina, 1959, chapter 1238

[2]Ibid.

[3]Report of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, by Francis E Winslow, Chairman (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1964), pp. 5-7, hereinafter cited as Report of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission

[4]The Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission (Raleigh: n. p., 1963) p. 3

[5]Ibid.

[6]Ibid., pp. 4-5

[7]Robert G. Hartje, Bicentennial USA (N.p.: American Association for State and Local History, 1973), pp. 163-166

[8]Report of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission, pp. 67-68

GENERAL RECORDS (continued)

Box No.	Contents
1	Administrative Records Act Establishing the Commission Budget Building Planning Chronological Report Congressional Record - Remarks Executive Secretary - Personal General Assembly Governor's Office Legislative Transactions New Jersey Tercentenary Commission Personnel Planning, 1959-1960 Stationery Design Tax Status
2	Administrative Records (Cont'd) Beaufort Biennial Report Brochure Requests Brochure Revisions: The Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission Brochure Revisions: Colonial Carolina Coins and Currency Confederate Commission Drafts, October, 1959 - December, 1960 Drafts, January, 1961 - March, 1961 Drafts, April, 1961 - December, 1961 Drafts, January, 1962 - June, 1962 Drafts, July, 1962 - December, 1962 Drafts, January, 1963 - July, 1963
3	Administrative Records (Cont'd) General Correspondence, April, 1960 - August, 1960 General Correspondence, September, 1960 - December, 1960 General Correspondence - Others Letters of Invitation Luncheon at the Governor's Mansion, February 19, 1962 Memos to Committees, Speeches, and Other Related Printed Materials, 1963

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
3 (Cont'd)	Administrative Records (Cont'd) Memos to the Committee on Commemorative Events, Speeches, and Lists Minutes of Committee Meetings, 1960 - 1963 Miscellaneous, 1960 - 1963 Newsletters and Statements Photographs Statement to Snepp Subcommittee on Reorganization of State Government, July 20, 1963
4	Administrative Records (Cont'd) Commission Appointments Commission Meetings Congress Formation of Committees Mailing Lists and Commission Addresses Memos and Minutes of the Executive Committee Memos and Minutes to the Members of the Commission Report of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission and Rough Draft
5	Administrative Records (Cont'd) Colonial Dames Federation of Music Clubs Federation of Women's Clubs North Carolina Society of New York Other Societies and Clubs Colonial Records (North Carolina) Commemorative Coin Commemorative Stamp, April, 1961 - March, 1962 Commemorative Stamp, April - December, 1962 Commemorative Stamp, January - March, 1963 Commemorative Stamp, April - September, 1963 Skits The Symbol Suggested Souvenirs Souvenirs: Thomas Murphy Co. Tercentenary Mobile Museum Tercentenary Souvenir Menu from the Velvet Cloak Inn

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
6	Chairman's General Correspondence General Correspondence, January to December, 1959 General Correspondence, January to December, 1960 General Correspondence, January to June, 1961 General Correspondence, July to December, 1961 General Correspondence, January to June, 1962 General Correspondence, July to December, 1962 General Correspondence, January to June, 1963 General Correspondence, July to December, 1963
7	Executive Secretary's General Correspondence General Correspondence, May to December, 1960 General Correspondence, January to June, 1961 General Correspondence, July to December, 1961 General Correspondence, January to July, 1962 General Correspondence, August to December, 1962 General Correspondence, January to June, 1963 General Correspondence, July to December, 1963 Commission Correspondence, 1959 - 1961 Commission Correspondence, 1962 Commission Correspondence, 1963 - 1964
8	Committee on the Arts General Correspondence, 1960 General Correspondence, 1961 General Correspondence, 1962 General Correspondence, 1963 Arts Subcommittee Ballet Subcommittee Literary Subcommittee Literary Competition Project, 1961 - 1962 Literary Competition Project, 1963 Music Subcommittee, 1961 Music Subcommittee, 1962 Hunter Johnson's Project ("North State")
9	Committee on the Arts Music Subcommittee (Cont'd) Manuscripts (Music) Boosey and Hawkes, Inc. (Musical Drama) Drama Project (Culpeper's Revolt)

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
9 (Cont'd)	Committee on the Arts (Cont'd) Music Subcommittee (Cont'd) "A Proposal for A Tercentenary Music Drama," and "Propectus" Musical Drama: The Sojourner and Mollie Sinclair State Performances (Musical Performances) TV Project (Musical Drama) Video Tape (Musical Drama) Catalog: Carolina Charter Tercentenary Exhibition, North Carolina Museum of Art, 1963 Culture Week, 1962 National Folk Festival Association (Sarah Gertrude Knott) North Carolina Folklore Society
10 (Oversized)	Committee on the Arts (Cont'd) Music for "North State" Music for The Sojourner and Mollie Sinclair Poster for the Carolina Charter Tercentenary Exhibition, North Carolina Museum of Art, 1963
11	Committee on Commemorative Events District I General Bertie County Camden County Chowan County Currituck County Dare County Gates County Hertford County Martin County Pasquotank County Perquimans County Tyrrell County Washington County Albemarle Plan District II General Beaufort County Bladen County Brunswick County Carteret County Columbus County Craven County Cumberland County Duplin County

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
11 (Cont'd)	Committee on Commorative Events (Cont'd) District II (Cont'd) Greene County Harnett County (See Lee County) Hoke County Hyde County Jones County Lee County Lenoir County Moore County New Hanover County Onslow County Pamlico County Pender County Pitt County Richmond County Robeson County Scotland County Wayne County
12	Committee on Commemorative Events (Cont'd) District III General Alamance County Alexander County Anson County Cabarrus County Caswell County Catawba County Chatham County Cleveland County Davidson County Davie County Forsyth County Gaston County Guilford County Iredell County Lincoln County Mecklenburg County Montgomery County Orange County Person County Randolph County Rockingham County Rowan County Stanly County Stokes County Surry County

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
12 (Cont'd)	Committee on Commemorative Events (Cont'd) District III (Cont'd) Union County Yadkin County
13	Committee on Commemorative Events (Cont'd) District IV General Alleghany County Ashe County Avery County Buncombe County Burke County Caldwell County Cherokee County Clay County Graham County Haywood County Henderson County Jackson County McDowell County Macon County Madison County Mitchell County Polk County Rutherford County Swain County Transylvania County Watauga County Wilkes County Yancey County
14	Committee on Commemorative Events (Cont'd) District V General Correspondence, February, 1962 - April, 1963 Historical Societies, October, 1960 - May, 1962 Jackson Birthplace Project Commemorative Events, 1963 Commemorative Events, 1962 Culture Week, 1962 Special Events, 1962 Commemorative Events, 1961 Correspondence - January, 1961 - March, 1961 Correspondence - April, 1961 - July, 1961 Correspondence - August, 1961 - December, 1961 Commemorative Events, 1960 Correspondence - July, 1960 - September, 1960 Correspondence - October, 1960 - December, 1960

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
14 (Cont'd)	Committee on Commemorative Events (Cont'd) District V (Cont'd) District V County Chairmen Correspondence Durham County - August, 1962 - February, 1963 Edgecombe County - Mrs. Pembroke Nash, January, 1962 - May, 1963 Franklin County - Mrs. Richard Whitfield Granville County - Mrs. Edith Cannady, Ocotber, 1962 - December, 1963 Halifax County - Mrs. Horace P. Robinson, November, 1962 - May, 1963 Johnston County - Mr. Peter T. Hulth, January, 1962 - October, 1963 Nash County - Mr. L. S. Inscoe, June, 1962 - February, 1963 Northampton County - Mrs. Nancy Froelich Vance County - Mr. Robert G. Kittrell, Jr., April, 1962 - September, 1963 Wake County - Col. Godfrey Cheshire, February, 1962 - June, 1963 Warren County - Mrs. W. Lunsford Long, November, 1962 - February, 1963 Wilson County - Mr. C. L. Blackburn, July, 1962 - October, 1963 District V Returns County Representatives Due December 10, 1963
15	Committee on Finance and Building General Correspondence, 1960 General Correspondence, 1961 General Correspondence, 1962 Committee on Programs in Schools, Colleges, and Universities General Correspondence, 1960 General Correspondence, 1961 General Correspondence, 1962 General Correspondence, 1963 Appointments of Representatives, 1962-1963 Pamphlets Subcommittee Correspondence, 1961 Correspondence, 1962 - 1963, Re: Pamphlets Acknowledgements of Pamphlets, 1963

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
16	Committee on Programs in Schools, Colleges, and Universities (Cont'd) Essay Contest Correspondence Re: Essay Contest, 1962 - 1963 Judging, 1963 Winners, 1963 Mobile Museum of History, 1962 - 1963 Motion Picture Project, 1962 - 1963 The Sojourner and Mollie Sinclair, An Historical Drama by Carlisle Floyd
17	Committee on Public Information Activities General Correspondence, 1961 - 1962 General Correspondence, 1962 General Correspondence, 1963 Calendar of Events, 1963 Carolina Comments, 1961 - 1963 Clippings - September, 1963 Clippings - October, 1963 Clippings - November, 1963 Clippings - December, 1963 Clippings - No Date Leaflets of Commission News Releases, October, 1961 - May, 1962 News Releases, June - December, 1962
18	Committee on Public Information Activities (Cont'd) News Releases, January - May, 1963 News Releases, June - December, 1963 Photographs 28th Annual North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association Convention, April 30, 1963 Miscellaneous Publicity Department of Conservation and Development Magazines Other Agencies Spot Announcement - Radio and TV Tercentenary News

GENERAL RECORDS (Continued)

Box No.	Contents
19	Committee on Public Information Activities, Scrapbook - July, 1960 - August, 1962
20	Committee on Public Information Activities, Scrapbook - September, 1962 - February, 1963
21	Committee on Public Information Activities, Scrapbook - February, 1963 - June, 1963
22	Committee on Public Information Activities, Scrapbook - June, 1963 - September, 1963
23	Committee on Religious Activities General Correspondence, 1960 General Correspondence, 1961 General Correspondence, 1962 General Correspondence, 1963 Committee on Scholarly Activities General Correspondence, 1960 General Correspondence, 1961 General Correspondence, 1962 General Correspondence, 1963 Colonial Records, 1963 Commemorative Events, 1961 - 1963 County Representatives, 1962 "In The Beginning...," A Poem in Commemoration of the Carolina Charter, 1663 - 1963 Settlement on Shocco, An Historical Novel of Frontier Adventure by Manly Wade Wellman Learned Societies, 1962 Literary and Historical Project, 1963 Committee on Publications, 1962 - 1963 Southern Historical Society Meeting in Asheville, 1962 - 1963 United States House of Representatives' Bill, No. 6237, 1963 Committee on Tourist Activities General Correspondence, 1961 - 1962
24	Video Tape of The Sojourner and Mollie Sinclair (moved to Audio-Visual collection (Oct. 10, 2004 MPF. 112) BdC