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**Collection 396  
Trenton Tricentennial Committee**

**By Kyle Zaczek  
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**History**

Most of the information found within this history comes from a letter included in the collection written by Veronica F. Cary who was the committee chairperson.

The Trenton Tricentennial Committee was established prior to the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the City of Trenton. The objective of this committee was to help the city celebrate this anniversary, and was composed of a number of members of the Trenton community from different areas of the city and from different industries. The celebration was considered to be a year-long program that was helped significantly by many individuals and groups. There were a number of celebrations over the year of 1979 which included a lecture series by Charles Proll, the Heritage Days Festival in June, a 4th of July fireworks display at Stacy Park, and a Puerto Rican Day parade. There was also the State Street Stroll in September which showcased the historic architecture of Trenton, as well as an Open House of the Old Barracks and a birthday party for William Trent's birthday sponsored by the Trent house. The Junior League also sponsored a "Salute to Trenton Ball," as well as a number of concerts and performances that were held over the course of the year.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Trenton Tricentennial Committee was created to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the City of Trenton which took place 1979-1980. This collection holds a number of materials that relate to the celebration including a summary letter from the chairperson of the committee, Veronica F. Cary, who was also the director of the Trenton Free Public Library. This letter offers a breakdown of the various events that took place over the course of the celebration including

parades, festivals, and tours of historic Trenton landmarks. There is material related to the Heritage Days Festival which includes pamphlets for the Italian Celebration and the Ukrainian Folk Art exhibit. There are also a number of newspaper advertisements which describe the festivals. There are also materials related to the Festival of Faith including member names, a flyer for the festival, and a festival committee memorandum. Concert material include a flyer for the open house organ recital at First Presbyterian Church, a concert schedule, a museum concert flyer, and a booklet of compositions from Godfrey Schroth's museum concert. Also held in this collection are an itinerary of the State Street Stroll and a flyer for the celebration of the Old Barracks as part of the stroll. There are also a number of additional advertisements and ephemera related to the celebration from 1979 and 1980.

**Extent:** 6 folders

### **Topics of Interest**

State Street Stroll

Heritage Days Festival

Trenton Free Public Library - Veronica F. Cary

### **Related Persons**

Louis G. Bilancio, Treasurer

Peter Rossi, Executive Staff Representative

Mayor Arthur Holland

Godfrey Schroth - Composer

### **Series Description**

#### **Series 1: Letter from Chairperson Veronica F. Cary**

The content of this series contains a letter hand-written by the Trenton Tricentennial Historical Publications Committee chairperson, Veronica F. Cary, who was also the director of the Trenton Free Public Library during her time as chairperson of the committee. This letter was written in 1980 after the celebration had taken place and details the various activities that were discussed and put into place to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the City of Trenton. Information is included on events such as the Heritage Days festival, the Festival of Faith, the concert series in Stacy Park, and State Street Stroll. All of these events are also discussed in the meeting minutes of the committee, which the letter helps describe. The letter also includes a Financial Report as of January 23th, 1980 by Louis G. Bilancio, the committee treasurer, describing the financial breakdown of the committee and the expense reports for the celebrations. The letter mentions that the committee was able to raise the funds on its own without the support of outside entities.

## **Series 2: Tercentenary Committee Festivals and Activities**

This series is dedicated to the various festivals that were held during the entirety of the Trenton Tricentennial Celebration, which were multicultural celebrations of the different cultures and people within the city of Trenton. The purpose of these festivals was “to recognize the contributions by ethnic communities to the historical background of the City of Trenton over the past 300 years.” The Heritage Days Festival brought together a number of cultural exhibits and activities that were held in a three block area in the Mill Hill section of Trenton. These activities included Italian community celebrations, and Ukrainian folk art exhibits from the festival.

### **Subseries 1: Heritage Days Festival**

The Heritage Days Festival was created to recognize the many diverse communities that make up the City of Trenton, and sponsored by the Trenton Commons Commission. This subseries include pamphlets and newspaper articles advertising the festival and activities, which took place the weekend of June 9-10, 1979.

### **Subseries 2: “A Festival of Faith”**

The Festival of Faith was a New Jersey Council of Churches sponsored event, described as an “all day celebration of religion in New Jersey and the Tricentennial of the City of Trenton.” The subseries includes a meeting invitation for the planning of the celebration, an advertisement for the celebration and events, and a memorandum from Alma J. Hill, the festival chairperson, which describes meeting to help coordinate the festival.

### **Subseries 3: Concert Series**

This subseries holds information for a number of concert celebrations, including the First Presbyterian Church organ recital, the Museum Concert Series, and Compositions by Godfrey Schroth.

### **Subseries 4: State Street Stroll**

The State Street Stroll was a walk through the historical sections of Trenton showcasing the various houses and buildings. The event was sponsored by the State House Historic District Association [see also Coll. 205], the *Trentonian* newspaper, and the Contemporary Club. Also part of the State Street Stroll was a showcase at the Old Barracks, which offered an open house and various activities on the property.

## **Series 3: Advertisements and Ephemera**

This series contains a number of advertisements both from newspapers and from flyers created for the celebration events. There is also a letter from Mayor Arthur J. Holland informing Harold Thompson, one of the librarians from the Free Public Library, that the chairperson of the Tricentennial Committee should be filled with the Librarian. The Librarian in this case is

Veronica F. Cary who served as the chairperson for the committee in 1979 through 1980. The series also has a bumper sticker which depicts a colonial soldier and red, white, and blue design. A program for the play “The Trenton Experience,” performed by Grace A. Dunn Junior High School students can be found in this series. There is an invitation to a toast for Trenton’s 300th Birthday sent to Mayor Holland and his wife, which mentions “Fish House Punch,” considered to be the oldest cocktail in United States history and originally created by a fishing club in Philadelphia. Flyers describing an event at the William Trent House, a Victorian postcard collection, and a movie viewing at the Free Public Library are also included.

## **Container List**

### **Folder            Contents**

#### **Series 1: Letter from Chairperson Veronica F. Cary**

- 1                    Veronica F. Cary letter  
                      Financial Report as of Jan. 23th, 1980

#### **Series 2, subseries 1: Heritage Days Festival**

- 2                    James A. Ort letter  
                      Festival Activities list  
                      Invitation to participate, Veronica Cary  
                      Commons Cents Saver pamphlet  
                      Ukrainian Folk Art pamphlet  
                      Italian Celebration pamphlet  
                      Newspaper clipping “Lest We Forget”  
                      The Trentonian, “Heritage Days Festival”

#### **Series 2, subseries 2: “A Festival of Faith”**

- 3                    Festival of Faith advertisement  
                      Committee meeting invitation  
                      Alma J. Hill memorandum letter

#### **Series 2, subseries 3: Concert Series**

- 4                    Open House and Organ Recital  
                      1979-80 Concert Series Schedule  
                      Museum Concert Series Notice  
                      Compositions by Godfrey Schroth Program

#### **Series 2, subseries 4: State Street Stroll**

- 5                    State Street Stroll itinerary  
                      Old Barracks Celebration advertisement  
                      Letter to Veronica Cary from Carol G Kuronya about the Stroll

#### **Series 3: Advertisements and Ephemera**

- 6                    Salute to Trenton Ball invitation  
                      Newspaper clippings for celebration  
                      Trenton Museum Society invitation

### **Container List (cont.)**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
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#### **Series 3: Advertisements and Ephemera (cont.)**

6	Letter from Mayor Holland
	300th Anniversary bumper sticker
	“The Trenton Experience” program
	Fish House Punch to Toast Trenton’s 300
	Trenton House Celebrates Trenton’s 300
	“Old Postcards of Trenton”
	“Premiere of Two Exciting Films”

### **Bibliography**

“Fish House Punch.” <https://www.mountvernon.org/inn/recipes/mixology/fish-house-punch/>