



# Jones County

## Historical Review

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# Jones Co. boasts 100 percent community participation in Bicentennial year events

The Jones County Bicentennial Commission was organized May 14, 1975. The organization came about through the efforts of the Monticello Business and Professional Women's club. This group sponsored a meeting in Monticello for representatives of other clubs and State Bicentennial Commission personnel.

From this meeting, a base was established and an invitation extended to all of Jones county to join together in the celebration of the Bicentennial. Dale Hackett, elementary school principal for the Anamosa Community school district, was elected commission chairman. Kris Jensen, Monticello businesswoman who

was instrumental in formulating the original meeting, was named vice chairman.

Although entering into Bicentennial efforts at a relatively late period, Jones county ended up with 100 percent community participation -- only one of 33 counties in the State of Iowa to boast this achievement.

Every town and unincorporated village in the county became an official Bicentennial community. Each held a special ceremony to receive its Bicentennial flag and certificate from the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

### FIRST FLAG CEREMONY

Jones county was presented its flag on Aug. 3, 1975 during a ceremony held on the courthouse lawn in Anamosa. The flag was accepted by the board of supervisors and flown daily over the courthouse.

Morley was the first town to be officially recognized, receiving its flag on Dec. 14, 1975. The dates that other communities were presented Bicentennial flags and certificates are:

- Dec. 20, 1975 -- Morley.
- Feb. 14, 1976 -- Anamosa.
- March 5, 1976 -- Monticello.
- March 7, 1976 -- Center Junction.



**THE OFFICIAL** Bicentennial flag was presented to Jones county on Aug. 3, 1975 by John Conrad (left) of Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Accepting was Everett Mayberry, Anamosa, member of Jones county board of

supervisors. The flag became a familiar sight as all towns and unincorporated villages in the county were named official Bicentennial communities and were presented flags.

# Every community received Bicentennial flag--

April 25, 1976 -- Onslow and Wyoming.  
May 2, 1976 -- Olin.  
May 16, 1976 -- Amber.  
June 4, 1976 -- Langworthy.  
June 17, 1976 -- Stone City.  
June 20, 1976 -- Scotch Grove.  
June 27, 1976 -- Fairview and Hale.

In order to be officially designated as a Bicentennial county or community, projects in the areas of Heritage, Festival, and Horizons had to be undertaken. These projects ranged from painting fire hydrants, to installing flag poles and flower beds and improving park areas to holding festivals and similar events.

## PIONEER VILLAGE PROJECT

The Jones County Commission adopted the Pioneer Village museum complex at the ghost-town site of Edinburgh as a project, thus incorporating the work of the Jones County Historical Society. The county received matching funds for this project, for restoration of the Cass church, and for converting the old Martelle fire station into a library.

Work at the museum site, completed in the summer of 1976, included restoring an original blacksmith shop, moved to the complex from Oxford Junction, and building a replica of the first log cabin courthouse that once stood on the Edinburgh site.

The former Congregational church in Cass township was restored and a rededication service was held Sept. 12, 1976.

Another project of the county was participation in a stone map of Iowa. This map will be on permanent display at the Iowa State fairgrounds in Des Moines. The project was endorsed and promoted by the State Bicentennial commission. Each of the 99 counties in Iowa were asked to donate a boulder-size stone for the map.

Bill Weber of Weber Stone Co. donated a Stone City stone for this purpose. It was taken to the 1976 State fair by Dean Frankfurt, executive director of the Jones county conservation board.

Each stone will be cut into the shape of the county it represents and the foot-thick stones will then be put together to form the state map. Plans are to have this project completed by the 1977 State Fair. It will be located in a public walkway.

## SHADOW BOX DISPLAY

Jones county also participated in the shadow box display at the 1976 State fair. Items representative of the county's Bicentennial activities were displayed. This included such items as the special county coin. The shadow box will be displayed again at the 1977 fair and then placed in a permanent exhibit at the State Historical Society in Iowa City.

In addition, to the special coin, the Jones County Commission also offered a county

plate. It contained the Jones county logo and the first log cabin courthouse with the names of all communities encircling the picture portion. A brief history of the county is given on the back of the plate.

The Jones county logo was designed by Lynn Williams, a 5th grader at Oxford Junction school. He was declared the winner of a county-wide logo design contest.

Selection of the logo was announced in October 1975. Williams was awarded a \$20

penter school in Monticello.

Numerous organizations also undertook a variety of projects. Quiltmaking was one of the most popular. Among groups making quilts were Scotch Grove Community club, Oak Drive club, Amberettes, and Cass Homemakers. There were others as well.

The Monticello and Anamosa Business and Professional Women's clubs combined in a joint effort to compile a list of women who were first in their fields in Jones



*JONES COUNTY Bicentennial officers participating in the county's flag presentation ceremony included, from left: Virgil Martens and Dale Hackett, Anamosa; Kris Jensen, Monticello; Sandy Ricklefs, Center Junction; C. L. Norlin, Monticello; Lillian Tompkins, Wyoming; Anna Brickley, Anamosa.*

silver Bicentennial medallion, a key chain, and a print of the painting, "Spirit of '76", for his efforts.

The logo is basically a square motif with "Jones" on the left, "county" across the top, and "Iowa" along the right side. Inside the words are two stars and crossed ear of corn and musket.

Contest judges stated that they felt the crossed corn and gun symbolized the transition of Jones county from a frontier area to an agricultural region.

The logo was used in green, yellow and black and white for bumper stickers and in other ways, as well as being used on the special coin and plate.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Many of the schools in the county also had activities in order to receive Bicentennial recognition. These include Olin, Oxford Jct., Midland Community and Anamosa Community schools and Car-

county. This information was published in the Anamosa newspapers and the Monticello Express.

Many Bennington flags were sold and flown throughout the county. Essay contests, with Bicentennial themes, were held. Nearly every organization and group in the county emphasized the Bicentennial in its activities and public events.

Pledges of Rededication were signed by many Jones county residents. These scrolls were placed in the Iowa wagon for its trek to Philadelphia, Pa. with the national Bicentennial wagon train pilgrimage.

It would be impossible to list every Bicentennial project undertaken in Jones county. Iowa led the nation in the number of projects undertaken in the Bicentennial year, and Jones county, its communities and organizations, were certainly instrumental in helping put our state in the forefront.

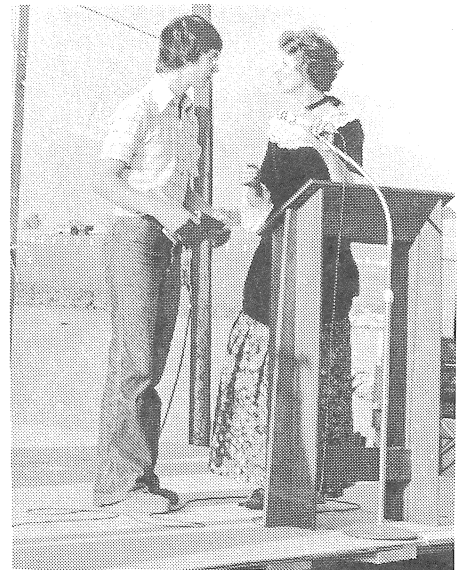
## Bicentennial queen



*NOT MANY persons can boast of having helped celebrate both the 100th and 200th birthday of the United States, but one Jones county resident can. Miss Mary Locher, Monticello, who was 101 years old in June, rode in the county's Bicentennial parade at Central park Saturday afternoon, July 3. She was crowned Bicentennial Queen and presented a bouquet of flowers. Miss Mary is a lifetime resident of Monticello.*

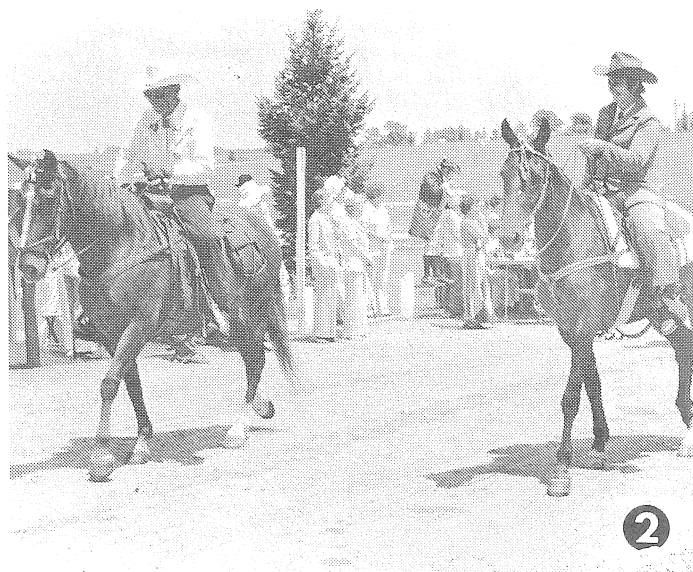
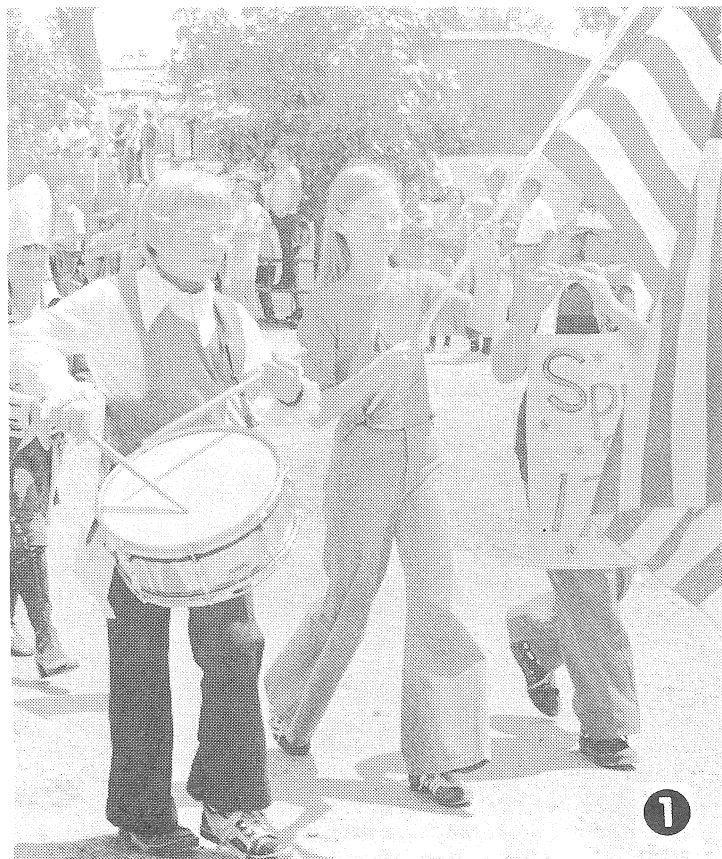


*DEMONSTRATIONS of various kinds were part of the 3-day Jones county Bicentennial celebration held at Central park. Cow Belles Ruth Harms of Monticello and Carol Zumbach of Delaware county and Jones county Beef Queen Diane Hansen, Oxford Jct., make soap the old-fashioned way.*



*EXTENDING A hand of friendship was Domingue Chabot, French student who presented his county's flag to Kris Jenson, chairman of the Monticello Bicentennial commission and county vice chairman. The ceremony took place during the 3-day county celebration.*

# Everyone loves a parade and the Bicentennial was no exception



All photos  
in this issue  
courtesy of  
The  
Monticello  
Express

## County's celebration proved big success

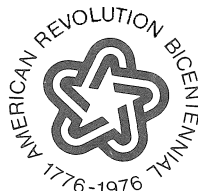
It was a grand and glorious Bicentennial celebration in Jones county as hands were joined in a gigantic 3-day salute to our Nation's 200th birthday. Jones county Central park near Center Jct. was a beehive of activity on July 3, 4 and 5.

The park was selected as the site of the celebration, not only because of its central location in the county, but also because 115 years ago it was the spot of the first government-supported Fourth of July celebration west of the Mississippi. In 1861, the Jones county board of supervisors allowed funds for the purchase of fireworks.

The holiday weekend was jam-packed with activities of all kinds from the opening flag ceremony to the closing talent show. In between were parades, pioneer style show, tug-of-war, waterball fights, ecumenical church service, vocal and instrumental concerts, variety show, square dance exhibitions, garden tractor pull, beard contest, spelling bees, canoe races, children and adult games, American Issues forum, demonstrations, exhibits, and an hour-long fireworks display reflected over the park's lake.

It was not only a weekend of nostalgia, of looking into the past, of honoring our country, of true American patriotism, it also was a time for assessing where our Nation stands today and where it is going in the future. The Bicentennial provided an opportunity to look into the Third Century.

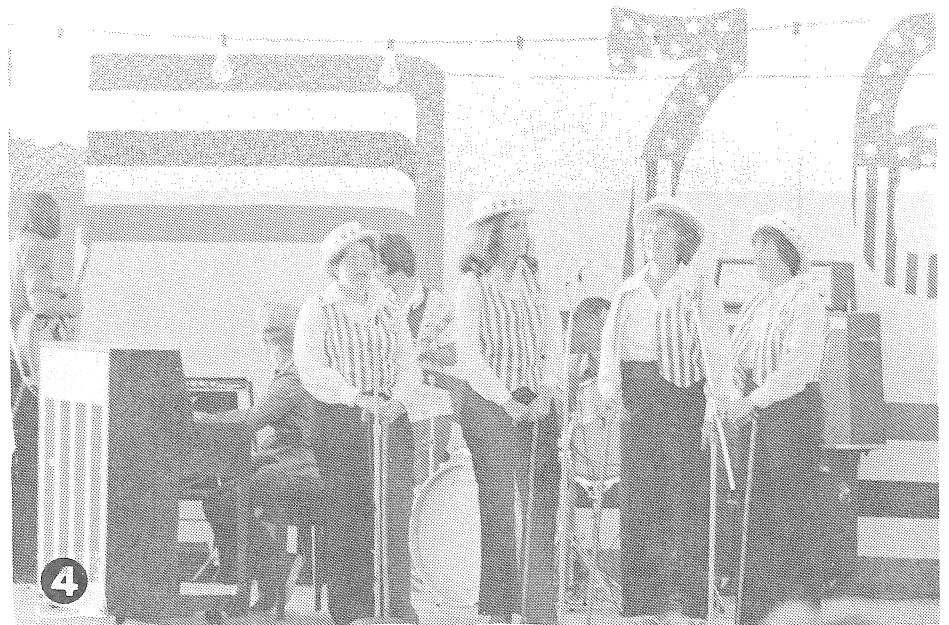
A PARADE was held all three days of the Bicentennial celebration. There were children's units (1), horseback riders (2) and floats (3) as well as antique cars and farm equipment and a host of other units. The replica of Thomas Jefferson's home, "Monticello", won first in the original division.



# It was a grand and glorious birthday salute to the U.S.A.



**COLONIAL COUPLE**, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hackett, Anamosa, were popular figures at the Bicentennial celebration (1). There were hot air balloon demonstrations (2), a spelling bee (3), and a talent show (4). These were only a few of the many activities offered during the July 3-4-5 event.

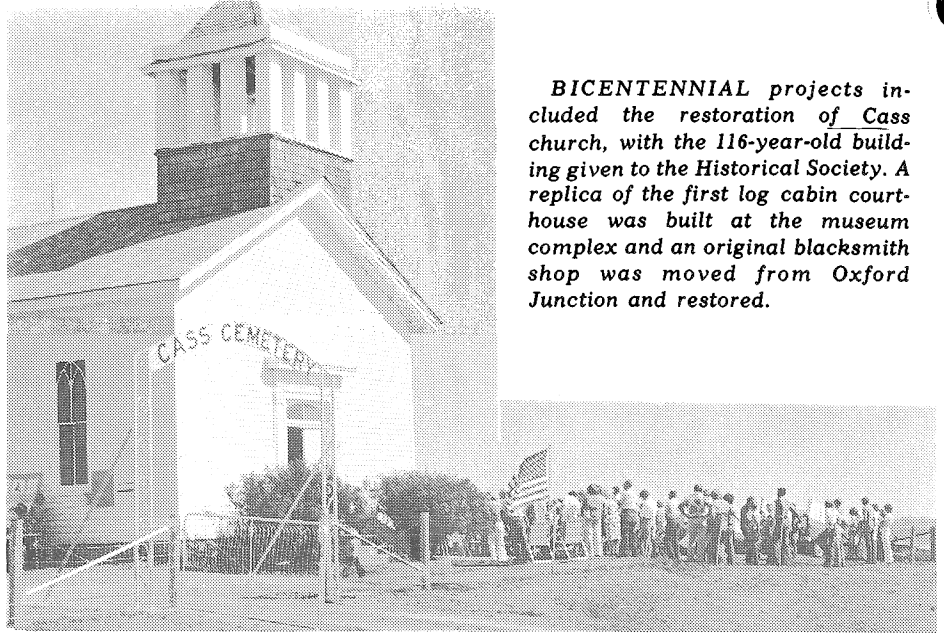


# Historical projects mark Nation's Bicentennial . . .

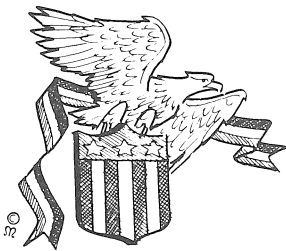


Fireworks Galore

**FIREWORKS** the night of July 4th attracted a large crowd to Jones county Central park. "A. Razor" was buried at the park in early 1976, then dug up during the 3-day event and taken to the Jones county museum. It was part of a beard-growing contest.



**BICENTENNIAL** projects included the restoration of Cass church, with the 116-year-old building given to the Historical Society. A replica of the first log cabin courthouse was built at the museum complex and an original blacksmith shop was moved from Oxford Junction and restored.



## Bicentennial in retrospect

The Bicentennial was a time to pay tribute to our great Nation and to our forefathers who laid the foundations for the greatest democracy of all times. It was a time to reaffirm our faith in the United States of America. It was a time to say out loud, "I am proud to be an American".

In looking toward our Third Century, Americans everywhere realize that the U.S. is not without her faults. But in spite of her blemishes and her problems, America is alive and well after 200 years.

The Bicentennial, celebrated across the Nation in countless communities and in countless ways, brought forth ever-stronger the optimism that is inherent in Americans down through the ages. This optimistic spirit carries with it the promise of better days ahead, a willingness to work together to right America's wrongs. Yes, these are days of rampant inflation, high taxes, too much government interference, of wrong-doing in high circles, of energy crisis, of unemployment, of high crime, of poverty pockets in large cities and backwoods areas, yet the general impression is that we, as a nation, shall overcome.

It is difficult to anticipate what life will be like 100 years from now. Certainly, our ancestors in 1876 never in their wildest dreams invisioned the modern technology at work in our nation today, and consequently, the introduction of a standard of living based on unheard of luxuries. And, the idea of man walking on the moon was

pure science fiction or someone's outlandish dream.

Will the future bring still more inventions, discoveries and super technology? Will more worlds be conquered? Or will we revert back to a simpler lifestyle of yesteryear?

Many are of the opinion that the latter will be necessary in order to preserve our diminishing natural resources, to cut down on the use of energy, and to bring about a restructuring of our moral fiber. Less emphasis will be placed on material possessions and more on the inherent characteristics of the individual.

Regardless of what the Third Century brings, I believe that the role of the individual, the role of the small town, and the role of rural America will grow ever more important, and that there will be a reassessment of lifestyles and of values. Our priorities will be re-arranged. Spending to "keep up with the Joneses" will be less important than live's basics centered on the family circle and the close fellowship of friends. Religion once again will play a leading role in developing the moral fiber of people.

I believe that the basic structure outlined by our forefathers in forming a democracy will continue to be the foundation of our government -- a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

--by Betty Wagner, editor  
The Monticello Express



A 1776 Marine Color Guard that appeared in Bicentennial celebrations throughout the midwest and east included two Monticello men, Ron Putbrese (left) and C. L. Norlin (right), who also is president of the Jones county Historical Society. Others shown are Frank Connolly, Davenport, and Bob Hooper and Gary Horn, Dubuque.

# Memories of bygone days

Let's build a house, beside the road,  
From memories of the past.  
We like to reminisce a bit,  
While life rolls on so fast.

Let's make the roof of memories,  
Make it tough and strong;  
Each shingle tells a story  
Of days that are long gone.

Thick walls will keep our secrets;  
Doors open to a path;  
Windows show a view  
To gardens or icy blast.

As we look thru the window  
A covered bridge we see;  
An old rail fence, a grind stone  
Near an old elm tree.

See horses in the pasture,  
Milk cows grazing near.  
"Rover" seems to greet us,  
Whippoorwills I seem to hear.

Now let's build the kitchen;  
Where grandma used to sit,  
In a rocking chair near a loom,  
She would darn or knit.

Put a cook stove in the corner  
Hang stove pipes overhead,  
Hot water in the reservoir;  
In the oven we'll bake bread.

Put mosquito net on the windows,  
To keep out flies and bugs;  
Set a mouse trap near the cupboard;  
Lay down some homemade rugs.

An old stand in the corner  
Holds pail and dipper, too;  
A wash dish by the cistern pump;  
A soap dish white or blue.

A table in the corner  
Holds sugar, salt and such  
Covered with a table spread;  
Family dined there very much.

Now let's build a pantry  
With spacious shelves galore;  
With a flour bin, a rolling pin;  
A churn is by the door.

Let's make a batch of soap  
From bits of fat and lye;  
Wash our clothes on a scrub board,  
And hang them out to dry.

Our livingroom will be cozy,  
Wainscoating and papered walls,  
Kerosene lamps, a hog-back stove,  
A woodbox large and tall.

Crocheted rugs on a wooden floor;  
A Bible on a stand;  
Family albums here and there,  
All so neatly planned.

An old clock strikes the hour,  
As it sits high on a shelf.  
On a wall hangs a picture  
Of an angel or an elf.

In a bed sink stands our bed.  
There's a trundle-bed and cot for kids.  
There we'll say our prayers at night,  
And close our sleepy lids.

Let's build an attic,  
Trunks, tin-types, old clothes  
Up there when rain is falling  
We take our repose.

Let's sit in the twilight,  
On a porch of long ago;  
Where memories still linger  
Of friends we used to know.

Now let's return to modern times,  
And dream about the past,  
But live the present as it is;  
We'll reach our goal at last.

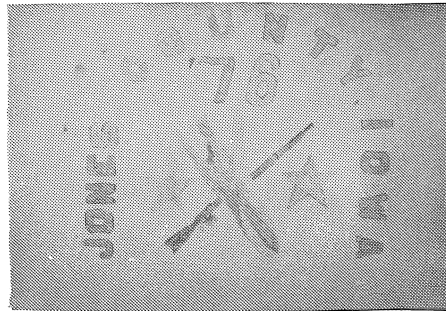
God is our companion;  
Our friends are tried and true,  
We thank them when they help us,  
Neighbors and relatives, too.

We're proud to be so honored;  
We thank you all today,  
As we travel onward  
And we work and play and pray.

(This poem was submitted by Mrs. August Kuper, Scotch Grove. It was written by her 80-year-old sister-in-law for a Senior Citizens Day celebration. The writer does not live in this area, but the poem fits any location.)



*THE 4TH Continental Artillery Band of Musik (top photo) provided music of the Revolutionary War era at a military ball held Nov. 6 by the Historical Society as a Bicentennial year event. A special Jones county logo (lower left) was adopted for the Bicentennial. It was designed by Lynn Williams, Oxford Junction, who is shown with Dale Hackett (lower right) during an awards ceremony.*



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