

# A Guide to the Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution Records, 1986-1992

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A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 09-20

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution Records, 1986-1992

**Subtitle:** Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution Records

**Collection:** MSS 09-20

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid created by Ross Landis, January 21, 2024

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Record Group Number

MSS 09-20

### Language

English

### Abstract

The Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Records consists of .25 linear feet, spans the years 1986-1992, and contains articles of incorporation, bylaws, membership lists, meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, articles, a photograph, and a research paper.

### Creator

Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution

### Extent

.25 linear feet

### Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

None

### Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

### Acquisition Information

These records were transferred from Chairman John Riley to the Fairfax County Archives on August 30, 1993. The Commission's records were destroyed and items of permanent historical value which consists of this collection were transferred to the Virginia Room in February 2008.

## **Processing Information**

Chris Barbuschak, July 2017

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## **Preferred Citation**

Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution Records, MSS 09-20, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

# **Adjunct Descriptive Data**

## **Separated Material**

None

## **Related Material**

None

# **Historical and Biographical Information**

On August 4, 1986, the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County issued a proclamation establishing the Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution with the purpose of promoting the 200th anniversary of the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The Board declared 1987-1991 as the Constitutional Bicentennial Commemoration Era and tapped the Commission to educate and inform the public about the founding constitutional documents, the significant role Fairfax County played in creating them, as well as the contributions of two distinguished Fairfax County residents, George Washington and George Mason. The Board of Supervisors appointed the initial Board of Directors, consisting of 24 individuals represented from various historical and institutional organizations in the county.

The Commission planned, developed, and coordinated observances and activities commemorating these historic events. They distributed free bumper stickers reading "Fairfax County, Home of the Bill of Rights" through the Fairfax County Office of Public Sales and local public libraries. The Commission created a traveling display recounting the story of Fairfax County as home to George Washington and George Mason through pictures and text. They also printed articles on George Mason in the Fairfax Chronicles and helped underwrite the publication of the book "George Mason and the Legacy of the Constitutional Liberty".

The Commission manned a booth at the annual Fairfax Fair, where they featured their traveling display and passed out bumper stickers and pamphlets. In September 1989, the Commission contributed to the celebration of the Fairfax/French Alliance 1789-1989 held at Gunston Hall. The group also partnered with George Mason University on several projects including a "George Mason and the Bill of Rights" conference held on the college's campus.

The Commission's last initiative before disbanding in 1992 was a public ceremonial celebration of the 200th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights, which was observed at Gunston Hall on December 15, 1991.

## **Scope and Content**

The Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Records consists of .25 linear feet, spans the years 1986-1992, and contains articles of incorporation, bylaws, membership lists, meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, articles, a photograph, and a research paper. Subjects include the activities and work of the Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States.

## **Index Terms**

Fairfax County Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution

## **Container List**

### **Box 1 Folder 1: Articles of Incorporation, 1987-1989**

**Box 1 Folder 2: Bylaws, Undated**

**Box 1 Folder 3: Membership and appointee lists, 1986-1987**

**Box 1 Folder 4: Minutes of meetings, 1987-1992**

**Box 1 Folder 5: Final report , 1991**

**Box 1 Folder 6: Letter, dissolution of Commission, 1992 January 23**

**Box 1 Folder 7: "Fairfax Chronicles" articles by the Commission, 1987**

**Box 1 Folder 8: Photograph, U.S. Constitution Bicentennial logo, Undated**

**Box 1 Folder 9: "Fairfax County, the Constitution, and It's First Amendments" by John Kinney, Undated**