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Bringing you information every Thursday on 200 years of statehood. Highlighting news and events celebrating Alabama.

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Alabama has been a state for 200 years, and its people are stepping up to commemorate its bicentennial. We’re here to keep you up to date on events and programs throughout the state and help you tune in to the state’s diverse cultural and historic heritage.

To stay on top of everything that’s going on, check out our community calendar at ALABAMA200.org, and to get the full scoop, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Your participation helps us reach as many people as possible and is an easy and effective way to show pride for our state, from Bay Minette to Tuscaloosa, Huntsville to Old Cahawba, and the many other towns and communities joining in the celebration. Don’t miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate with us. Join the party!

Bicentennial Stories from Around the State
Bicentennial to be celebrated at Old Cahawba

From the article by Brannon Cahela on SelmaTimesJournal.com:
Friday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), in collaboration with the Alabama Bicentennial Commission will host a free and open to the public Alabama 200 event honoring the first permanent state capital at Old Cahawba.

As Alabama became a state in 1819, Cahawba was carved out of the wilderness to become the first state capital before it was moved in 1826.

“Old Cahawba is a very special place. The beautiful ruins and landscape tell the story of Alabama’s early beginnings. In this bicentennial year, we know it’s important to honor where you’ve been, so you know where you’re going,” said Gov. Kay Ivey. “We celebrate Cahawba and honor those who came before us to establish the foundations of our great state. Alabama’s success story is her people, the resilience and dedication of all the men and women who have brought us to this point and the future Alabamians who will carry us for generations to come.”

As part of the celebration on Friday, elected officials and dignitaries will take part in a groundbreaking ceremony for the future sight of a ghost structure representing the first statehouse.

The ghost structure will be a steel outline and will serve as a trail head pavilion for a new multi-use trail funded through an Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) grant.
“Over the last year, we have been celebrating our 200th anniversary of statehood throughout the state, but few places are more historically significant than Cahawba. It is very special to be able to visit our state’s first permanent capital in this bicentennial year,” said District 3 Sen. Arthur Orr, R-AL, Alabama Bicentennial Commission Chairman. “It is even more impressive to see how much we have learned about the original capitol building, thanks to the efforts of the Alabama Historical Commission. The statehouse ghost structure will give people a rare glimpse into what our seat of government actually looked like 200 years ago.”

In addition to the groundbreaking ceremony, Friday’s celebration of the state’s first capital will also include the premiere of an Old Cahawba orientation video and reenactors representing notable figures from Cahawba’s past.

Attendees of the celebration will also have the chance to interact with organizations who have worked to preserve Old Cahawba over the years including: The Cahaba Foundation, the Cahaba Advisory Committee, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, The Black Heritage Council, The University of Alabama’s Museum Expedition, Alabama Public Television – Project Archaeology, Troy State University Anthropology Department, Alabama Archaeological Society, Forever Wild, Cahaba Blue Way and The Nature Conservancy.

“The bicentennial is a good time to reflect on the imaginative and symbolic town plan and the statehouse that Governor Bibb created for us,” said Old Cahawba Site Director Linda Derry. “And, as the kick-off event for Archaeology Month, it’s appropriate that we learn what early Alabama mysteries are being solved through archaeological research.”

For the complete article please see
https://www.selmatimesjournal.com/2019/10/02/bicentennial-to-be-celebrated-at-old-cahawba/
Huntsville History Month

Huntsville History Month is back for its second year, with a variety of history-centric events and activities for visitors and locals alike to enjoy.

This year’s History Month is particularly significant, as the state celebrates its bicentennial in 2019. Several special events happening in celebration of the state’s 200th birthday will coincide with and support Huntsville History Month – fitting, since the city’s Alabama Constitution Hall Historic Park & Museum is home to the site where the state’s first constitution was signed in 1819.

“We are thrilled that the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau is promoting Huntsville History Month in October. As the birthplace of Alabama, it is fitting that Huntsville’s heritage is highlighted with a month-long celebration of history events during our state’s bicentennial year,” said Sally Warden, Executive Director of the Huntsville/Madison County Bicentennial Committee.

“2019 is such a hallmark year for Huntsville,” said Judy Ryals, President/CEO of the CVB. “People from around the world joined us as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing in July. We’re in the midst of bicentennial activities here in Madison County and throughout the state. Now we’re kicking off Huntsville History
Month, so if anyone is considering a visit to a destination with rich historical offerings, the Rocket City is the place to be.”

For more information, visit huntsville.org/HistoryMonth

Gov. Ivey at Russellville Elementary

Gov. Ivey honors Russellville Elementary as bicentennial school

From the article on WAFE.com:
Gov. Kay Ivey visited Russellville Elementary School Wednesday.

Ivey made the trip to north Alabama to recognize Russellville Elementary as a bicentennial school. It’s part of her statewide bicentennial tour where she selects one school from each county on her tour to visit.

Seniors from Russellville High School also attended the event.

For the complete article please see https://www.waff.com/2019/10/02/gov-ivey-honors-russellville-elementary-bicentennial-school/
Ivey visits Winston Co. to recognize its Alabama Bicentennial Schools

From the article by Maggie Darnell on SandMountainReporter.com:

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey on Wednesday visited Double Springs to recognize Winston County’s Bicentennial Schools: Haleyville City Schools, Winston County High School and Meek High School. Ivey announced the 200 Alabama Bicentennial Schools in August 2018, with each school receiving a $2,000 grant to support a year-long project designed to strengthen connections between campuses and their communities.

“Good morning everyone, what an exciting day it is to be in Winston County to celebrate Alabama’s Bicentennial,” Ivey exclaimed. “It’s an honor to be with you today with such a distinguished group of individuals. On Dec. 14, Alabama will be celebrating our 200th birthday. You know, as I tour the state, I realize that it is a privilege I have to serve as governor and one of the best parts of serving as governor is getting to meet the people of Alabama, people just like you are all over our great state.”

Continued Ivey, “A year ago, I challenged the students to come up with some projects to prove their community and experience and discover the satisfaction that comes from working with fellow Alabamians to make our state an even better place to live. I want to thank Meek High School, Double Springs Elementary, Winston County High School, Addison schools, Lynn schools and Haleyville High School for taking this challenge to heart. Your projects truly embodied what this bicentennial year is all about.”

Ivey gave the schools in attendance copies of the special Alabama Bicentennial book “Alabama: My Home Sweet Home,” and students received Bicentennial coins. In return,
several Winston County officials gave Ivey mementos of her time in the county. Double Springs Mayor Elmo Robinson gave Ivey a key to the town of Double Springs, while Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley also gave her a key to the town of Arley. Representing the Winston County Arts Council, Chairman J.D. Snoddy and his wife, Theresa gave Ivey flowers in a vase that was made in the pottery shop at Meek High School.

For the complete article please see https://www.cullmantribune.com/2019/10/02/ivey-visits-winston-county-to-recognize-its-alabama-bicentennial-schools/

Gov. Ivey with principal Marcus Dent

**Gov. Kay Ivey visits Radney Elementary School**

From the article by Gabrielle Jansen on AlexCityOutlook.com:
It was all student-led applause as Gov. Kay Ivey walked into Radney Elementary School’s gym Monday. Ivey briefly visited RES as part of the Alabama Bicentennial celebration this year.

Ivey is visiting one school in each of the state’s 67 counties and picked Radney from Tallapoosa County. She was there quickly before heading out to Chambers County for another bicentennial visit.

“This 2019 is turning out to be a very exciting year as we celebrate the bicentennial of our great state thanks to those like you being here,” Ivey said.
The school band learned to read music and play instruments five weeks ago to perform for Ivey. The band played “Hard Rock Blues.”

Ivey was also presented with art from the students including a painting with the state Capitol with Alabama’s flag over it.

Ivey presented to Dent the book “Alabama My Home Sweet Home” by Charles Ghinga for the school’s library. The book is about a girl discovering what makes Alabama special in its 200 years of statehood.

“After taking office in 2017, one of my first public events was to kick off the bicentennial with a speech in Mobile, Alabama,” Ivey said. “We knew that we needed to ensure that we included our students in the celebration, so we spread the excitement in every corner of Alabama.”

Ivey said she challenged students to help make Alabama a better place last year and the fine arts projects are important for preserving the state’s roots.

Alexander City Schools participated in the bicentennial in the spring with its fine arts showcase being Alabama themed. The showcase was an official Alabama Bicentennial event.

“Folks you took that challenge to heart creating a project that encourages fine arts, specifically Alabama folk art and landscapes,” Ivey said to the school’s students. “This ensures that as time goes on we never forget where we came from. This project embodies what our state bicentennial is all about and it makes me proud that Radney Elementary has placed such a high priority on this.”

RES principal Marcus Dent said it was an honor to be a part of the bicentennial celebration.

“Anytime that we could be recognized for bringing community and classrooms together, that is a wonderful, wonderful honor,” Dent said.

For the complete article please see https://www.alexcityoutlook.com/news/gov-kay-ivey-visits-radney-elementary-school/article_e4d20a8e-e3ea-11e9-a0f3-c76881558362.html
Clark Shaw magnet school recognized

From the article by Jaysha Patel on UTV44.com / WPMI.com:

Here in Mobile, Clark Shaw Magnet School was 1 of 21 schools in Alabama that is recognized as a bicentennial school of excellence for involving students, history, and the community through projects.

History meets tech at Clark Shaw Magnet School, where students learned their own family history by making YouTube videos.

For Madison, she decided to interview her grandma who lives near Selma and made quilts during the civil rights movement.

She says those quilts became famous, getting recognition by Martin Luther King Jr. and some making their way to Washington DC where they are currently displayed in a museum.

“It makes me feel really proud because I have something that’s important to me and my family and she does something very important for everyone else in the country,” Madison Everett said.

For Connor, he decided to focus on his grandpa’s life in rural Alabama after World War II.
“I remember him telling me about a story of him playing in a river and having to run from a snake and stuff and when now-a-days it's people just on their phones,” Connor Jones shared.

While Clark Shaw was recognized by the state for its history project, the daily focus here is math and science.

Clark Shaw has science, technology, engineering, and math classes, also known as STEM, for students.

One class in particular is for girls only and tries to break the stigma of the STEM field being male dominated.

For Jerusha and Anna this class motivates them to do big things in the future.

“We’re a little more than girls. We’re going to become engineers one day, we’re going to make the world even more better than it is,” Anna Coleman added.

Clark Shaw’s principal says while it’s important to prepare students for jobs of future, it’s just as important to reflect on where they came from.

“We’re known as a school for math science and technology, but a lot of times history, social studies and people's roots doesn’t get the recognition that it should and being bicentennial and being able to engage and involve our kids in their families, in their oral histories, in the history of the state and community has been an amazing opportunity,” Mary Divincenzo said.

For the complete article please see http://utv44.com/news/local/cool-schools-clarke-shaw-magnet-robotics
Hayden High School band plays music inspired by state ties

From the article by Sheldon Haygood on WBRC.com:
The key to a successful performance on Friday nights for the Hayden High School marching band is keeping the music close to home.

This year, Hayden Band Director Jonathan Steinman chose to have his group challenge themselves celebrating the state of Alabama bicentennial and playing music with state ties. Hayden is playing songs from Lionel Richie and Alabama, as well as the song “Sweet Home Alabama.”

“We wanted our band to play for some pride, something that they could connect to,” said Steinman. “We have put in a lot of hard work into the show, and it is paying off on Friday nights. You can see the connection within the band as well as with the crowd in the stands. It is showing in the music, and in how the kids are playing the instruments and giving it their all under the lights.”

This year the Hayden marching band is made up of 135 members, the largest ever under Steinman.

For the complete article please see https://www.wbrc.com/2019/09/26/hayden-hs-band-keeping-it-close-home-halftime/
Birmingham gallery marks bicentennial with state artists

From the article by Brittany Faush on AlabamaNewsCenter.com:
Alabama is marking its 200th birthday this year and a group of artists in the state are celebrating with a showing that runs through the end of this month.

Beverly McNeil, owner of Beverly McNeil Gallery in Birmingham, wanted to showcase Alabama artists as the state celebrates the bicentennial.

“This is a great opportunity not only to see some gorgeous artwork that you might not get to see otherwise but to support local artists,” said Brittany Barnes, director at Beverly McNeil Gallery.

The art is in a variety of mediums, mostly paintings on canvas with some sculptures. Like Alabama itself, the show is a mix of contemporary, modern and traditional landscapes.

Beverly McNeil Gallery is opened to the public and will showcase the artists until the end of September. You can find information on the gallery online.

For the complete article please see https://alabamanewscenter.com/2019/09/26/birmingham-gallery-marks-alabama-bicentennial-with-state-artists/
Tourism Council to hold mural dedications

From the article on UnionSpringsHerald.com:

The Tourism Council of Bullock County will hold a dedication ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 10:30 a.m. for three recently completed outdoor murals adding to their Murals on Main project in downtown Union Springs.

The ceremony will begin at the Hank Williams mural and will then move to the Eddie Kendricks mural. Governor Kay Ivey and other elected officials will be in attendance as well as local leaders and school children. The public is invited to attend.

The artwork depicts two musicians whose music made a lasting impact in the area and state and a photo op design celebrating highlights of Bullock County. The Hank Williams mural, located at the corner of Hardaway Ave. W. and N. Prairie St., highlights a locally famous photo when Hank played at the grand opening of the 1948 opening of the Western Auto in downtown Union Springs. The mural located at the corner of Conecuh Ave. E. and N. Prairie St. honors the life and music of Union Springs native Eddie Kendricks.

Kendricks was the first lead tenor of The Temptations and also released two #1 R&B
singles as a solo artist. The Welcome to Union Springs Mural, located at the corner of Hardaway Ave E. and N. Prairie St., highlights the Red Door Theatre, Bonnie Plants and the Bird Dog Monument.

The murals are painted by nationally famous muralist Wes Hardin. Hardin previously painted the train depot mural and the field trial mural in Union Springs and over 50 other murals; many in the southeast Alabama towns of Dothan, Andalusia, and Enterprise. But he is not limited to our state — he has painted murals in Florida, Georgia, Virginia and Michigan.

The Tourism Council of Bullock County received support for Murals on Main from the Alabama Bicentennial Commission and the Alabama Tourism Department. The project depicts artistic reflections of local landmarks and events, both past and present.


Don Walker painting

Mural of city’s heritage painted downtown
From the article by Taylor Beck on SandMountainReporter.com:

Part of Boaz’s future plans include improving the city’s image and bringing life to the downtown, and both could begin with the stroke of Don Walker’s brush.

Walker, an artist from Arab, was recently tabbed by Boaz’s Alabama Bicentennial Committee to paint a historic mural on the side of a building downtown. Walker started the job Tuesday and is expected to finish before the 55th annual Boaz Harvest Festival begins Friday.

“Part of what I’m looking at here, and in other towns, is doing a new mural that looks like it could have been there for a long time,” said Walker, who has also painted many murals for Albertville and Boaz City Schools. “Something that has a very antique, historic kind of look to it.”

Lindsey King, chairwoman of the Bicentennial Committee in Boaz, said the mural would feature several references to the community’s heritage.

“Our committee feels like this first mural that really celebrates the history and the roots of Boaz will really stir an interest in bringing people downtown,” King said.

The committee was able to fund the mural after receiving a $2,500 grant a few months ago. The committee is also accepting donations.

Walker was particularly excited about the mural in Boaz. He said there would be plenty of things for people to stop and look for when it’s complete, calling them “easter eggs.”

“There will be a lot of big things that are obvious,” Walker said of the mural. “But there will also be some small things that you’ll have to look close to notice. I think people are going to be interested to spend some time here in front of it and see what they can find.

“Maybe there will be some things in there that are obvious to them, but there might be some things they find and wonder, ‘How does this connect to Boaz?’” he continued. “Get them to ask questions and investigate a little.”

For the complete article please see http://www.sandmountainreporter.com/free_share/article_d7d1d680-e3b7-11e9-ba02-ef3b696bd1c0.html
"A Century of Quilts" on display at Belle Mont

From the article by Lisa Single-Rickman on TimesDaily.com:

The 10th year of the "A Century of Quilts" exhibit will not disappoint, according to Glenn Rikard, who will conduct programs each Friday this month on the history behind the colorful artistry.

The exhibit is selected from personal collections, including Rikard's, with many made in the Tennessee Valley region and dating from 100 years ago to the present.

The display, which will be up starting Wednesday, continues through Oct. 26 at Belle Mont Mansion.

The historic home/museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Regular admission rates will apply — $6 for adults; $5 seniors, students and military; $3 for youth (ages 6-18).

This year's exhibit is designated an official Alabama 200 Bicentennial event.

On Fridays at 1 p.m. throughout the month, Rikard will present a special program on the quilts with each session including time for a show-and-tell.

Those attending are invited to bring quilts from their personal collection to share. Quilts may be heritage examples with a story, or may be contemporary quilts designed and made by the owner.

Ninon Parker, president of the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, said
this year's quilt show will be dedicated to the late Mildred Helmsley, a beloved Belle Mont volunteer whose idea it was to start the annual quilt show.

For the complete article please see https://www.timesdaily.com/news/local/a-century-of-quilts-on-display-at-belle-mont/article_bf6e9b98-f966-5fb3-9f7b-ff84e0c59b7e.html

Keeping Alabama beautiful

A common thread we share across our communities is that we all call Alabama home. In the statewide spirit of "Keeping Alabama Beautiful," the Alabama Community College System is honored to join the state’s bicentennial efforts by leading a new initiative called Clean Home Alabama. We hope you will join us in this statewide effort to promote the continuous beautification of the state’s natural landscapes, growing infrastructure and expanding communities. Projects for Clean Home Alabama will take place between Nov.1 and 11, 2019.

This effort is not limited to the participation of Alabama’s community college students, faculty, and staff. Clean Home Alabama is a great opportunity for individuals and community organizations to join our effort to keep our home beautiful. We need your help to identify projects, donate materials, or simply volunteer to help with a project in your community.
October 3, 1854
U.S. Army physician William Crawford Gorgas was born in Toulminville. After contracting a mild case of Yellow Fever at an army post in Texas, Gorgas became a leading figure in the field of public health and tropical medicine. He is best known for his work in controlling the spread of yellow fever and malaria by mosquitoes in Florida, Cuba, and at the Panama Canal. He later served as the 22nd U.S. Army surgeon general during World War I. For his work, Gorgas received many honors and awards, including an honorary knighthood from King George V. He was inducted into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame in 1989.
Oct. 1-31 – Huntsville History Month (Huntsville)
Huntsville History Month is back for its second year, with a variety of history-centric events and activities for visitors and locals alike to enjoy. Huntsville History Month, an initiative spearheaded by the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau, celebrates the area’s rich historical heritage. The focus point of the campaign - a digital, month-long calendar of events – is a one-stop shop for those eager to take a step back in time through the variety of historical events taking place in October.

Oct. 4 – Old Cahawba Bicentennial Celebration (Cahaba)
Join the Alabama Historical Commission on Friday, Oct. 4, at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park for “From Wilderness to Statehood: Celebrating Old Cahawba” – an exciting day honoring Alabama’s first capital city. Local musicians and living historians will be present to celebrate this bicentennial event. Patrons can enjoy cemetery tours, historical vignettes, and wagon tours throughout the day or elect to explore the beautiful landscape on foot or bicycle.

Cahawba, the state’s most famous ghost town, holds many secrets like Alabama’s first Statehouse, a nearly two centuries-old mystery until AHC archaeologists uncovered the foundation remnants. As a special commemoration of Alabama’s bicentennial, elected officials and dignitaries will be on hand for a groundbreaking ceremony for the future site of a statehouse ghost structure. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.ahc.alabama.gov

Oct. 5 – Old St. Stephens Day (St. Stephens)
Come explore the history of pioneer Alabama! Historical vignettes, demonstrations of pioneer living, active archaeological sites, and character speakers bring to life the history of Alabama's territorial capital. The heyday of St. Stephens from the 1790s through the 1820s was a time of incredible growth and change for Alabama. Visit St. Stephens and learn the stories of the people who shaped Alabama.

Oct. 9-12 – Moundville Native American Festival (Moundville)
The annual festival celebrates Native American culture through performers, vendors, demonstrators, living history teachers, and more.

Visit the tools and weapons range to learn how to throw an atlatl, or stop by the Native American stage to watch stomp dancers, social dancers, and the great hoop-dancer, Lyndon Alec. Don’t miss the fantastic music of GrayHawk Perkins and many others. Learn about traditional pottery firing, weaving, beadwork, and other crafts. Bring your children by the children’s area for face-painting and make-and-take crafts.
Oct. 11 – Alabama From Territory to Statehood (Montgomery)
The Alabama Department of Archives and History, NewSouth Books, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, and the Alabama Tourism Department—is hosting a reception at 10 a.m. to celebrate the publication of *Alabama From Territory to Statehood: An Alabama Heritage Bicentennial Collection*. This special event will be held at the The Alabama Department of Archives and History and is free and open to the public.

Oct. 12-13 – Kentuck Festival of the arts (Northport)
Every year, over 10,000 travel from across the United States to become immersed in a Southern experience of prolific creativity rarely found at other festivals. Having roots in folk art, the festival features 270-plus artists, live music, spoken word, activities for children, folk-and-contemporary craft demonstrations, food trucks, and local craft brews.

Oct. 23 – Judson College Authors Symposium (Marion)
The Judson College Authors Symposium will celebrate Judson College alumnae who are published authors with emphasis on five of the more than 100 identified to-date. There is no charge to attend the event. Lunch may be purchased at $35 per plate. Ribeye will be served. Luncheon reservations can be made by contacting Beth Poole, Alumnae Director at Judson College at bpoole1@judson.edu or 334-683-5167 by Oct. 10. High School groups attending the event must email Beth Poole their completed and signed registration form for school participation by Oct. 10. Visit [https://www.judson.edu/news/judson-authors-symposium-to-celebrate-alumnae-authors-oct-23/](https://www.judson.edu/news/judson-authors-symposium-to-celebrate-alumnae-authors-oct-23/)

Nov. 1-11 – Clean Home Alabama Initiative (State-wide)
Community college students, faculty and staff will serve alongside residents and members of several community organizations on Clean Home Alabama days for a number of beautification and litter pickup projects in Alabama’s counties. Several community organizations have already committed to projects. Visit [www.accs.edu/CleanHomeAL](http://www.accs.edu/CleanHomeAL).

Nov. 2 – Butler County's Bicentennial Celebration (Greenville)
Celebrating Alabama's Bicentennial as well as 200 years of Butler County's existence, our celebration event will include: Center Stage, a flag ceremony, local history displays, local tours, a vintage auto show and children's hands on history discovery area. Visit [http://alabama200.org/events/butler-county-bicentennial-celebration](http://alabama200.org/events/butler-county-bicentennial-celebration)

Nov. 6 & 7 – Teacher Professional Development Workshops on Alabama's Six Constitutions (Montgomery)
Featuring the Alabama Department of Archives and History's new bicentennial exhibition *We the People: Alabama's Defining Documents*, these day-long workshops for grades 3-12 teachers will delve into the history of Alabama's six constitutions and provide valuable tools and resources for incorporating them into your classroom curriculum. Visit [http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=rmg54lcab&oeidk=a07e0g1e03j3eae74a2](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=rmg54lcab&oeidk=a07e0g1e03j3eae74a2)

Go to [Alabama200.org/events](http://Alabama200.org/events) for more information on these and other events.
Unframed Images: Photography from the collection of P. H. Polk
Sept. 16 - Oct. 31  Madison Co., City: Huntsville, Venue: Alabama A&M University Library
Nov. 1- Nov. 29  Dale Co., City: Dothan, Venue: Troy University Dothan Campus Library
Dec. 2 - 30  Jefferson Co., City: Birmingham, Venue: Springville Road Public Library

Alabama Justice: The cases and faces that changed a nation

Making Alabama: A Bicentennial traveling exhibit

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