

# Celebrating 200 Years



1803 2003  
**WORTHINGTON**  
*"Building the Future with Pioneering Spirit"*



James Kilbourne

In  
**1803,**

James Kilbourne  
had a vision to build  
a community rooted  
in values, diversity  
and freedom.

In 2003, these  
values stand strong  
as Worthington  
celebrates  
200 years.

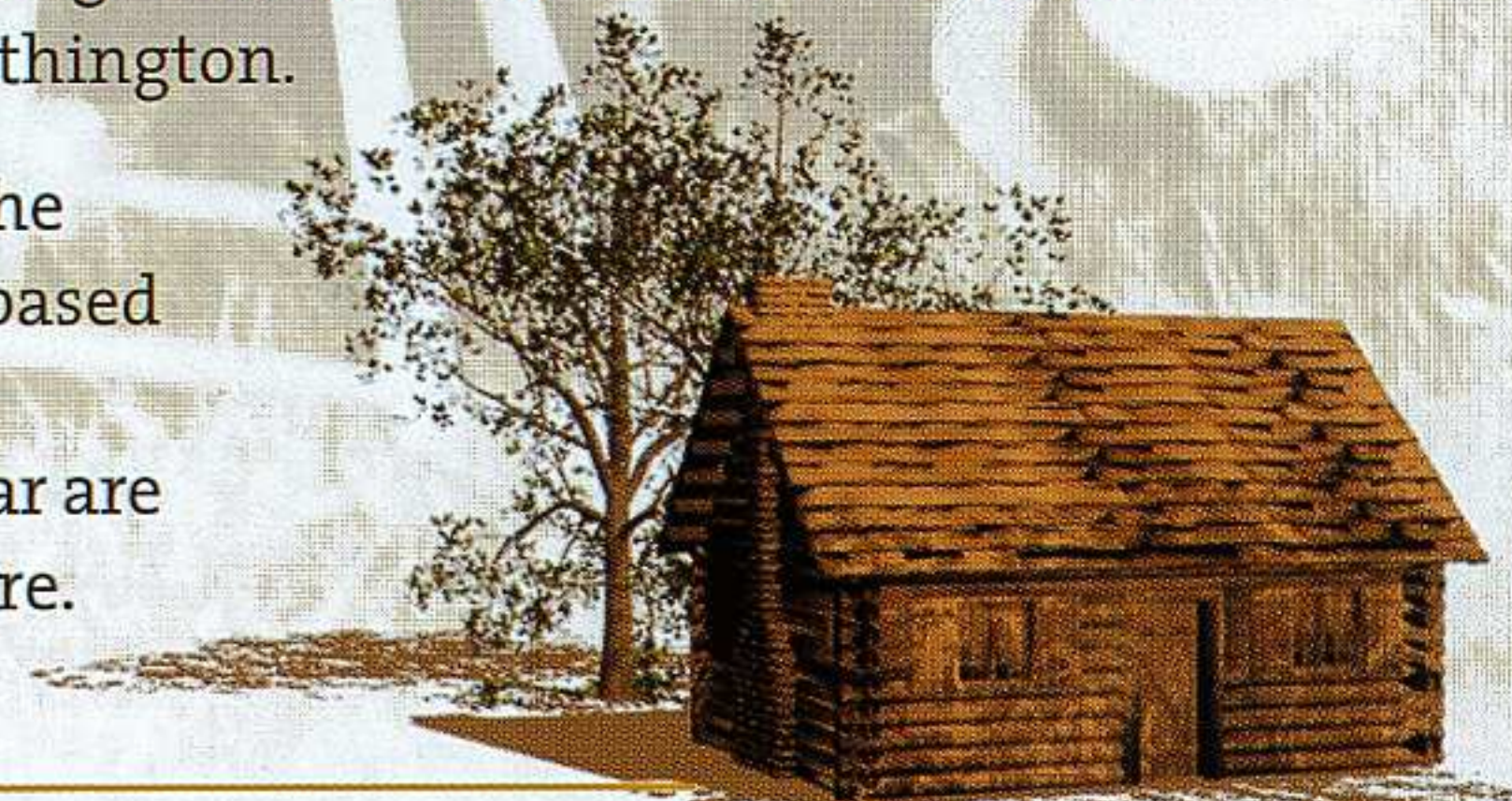
# WORTHINGTON

1803-2003  
Celebrating 200 Years!

Worthington was settled in 1803 by several New England families from the Farmington River Valley of Connecticut and Massachusetts, under the leadership of pioneer businessman James Kilbourne. In 1802, Kilbourne organized a group of men to form the Scioto Company and headed west from Granby, Connecticut to explore and find land to create a new community. Kilbourne purchased 16,000 acres of land on behalf of the Scioto Company for \$1.25 an acre. When Kilbourne returned to New England, he planned the layout for the village. The pre-planning of a community was very unique during the early 19 century, but Kilbourne had a specific idea about how his new community should look. He platted a New England-type village of 164 lots around a central public square, which was designated for religious and educational purposes, as well as a spot for community gatherings.

In September 1803, eleven families left their Connecticut homes and traveled by wagon train to their new home in Ohio. It took six weeks for the families to travel the 600 miles, arriving in October of 1803. They named their new village Worthington, in honor of Thomas Worthington, one of Ohio's first senators and a future governor of Ohio, for his assistance in locating the tract of land that would become Worthington.

As we celebrate our Bicentennial, we are honoring the foresight of our founders, who settled Worthington based on the values that we still hold true today. All of the activities planned for Worthington's Bicentennial year are honoring our past and creating a legacy for the future. Join us in the Celebration!



# Signature Events

## Join in the Celebration!

The Worthington community is commemorating our Bicentennial through a series of extraordinary Signature Events. The major events showcase Worthington's pioneering spirit and create a legacy for future generations.



1803 2003  
**WORTHINGTON**  
"Building the Future with Pioneering Spirit"



### FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVAL -

OCTOBER 19, 2002

10am - 9pm

Worthington's Historic Village Green

Admission is FREE

Step into Worthington, 1803. Experience how our founders lived, worked and played during Worthington's early years. Entertainment, pioneer demonstrations, arts & crafts, food and many surprises await you. The Worthington Arts Council is a partner in this extraordinary event.

### FOUNDERS DAY SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING -

OCTOBER 27, 2002

1:45 - Gathering on the NE Village Green

2:00 - Procession to Worthington United Methodist Church

2:30 - Service of Thanksgiving, WUMC

Reception follows at St. John's Episcopal Church

An interfaith service to recall our past, reflect on our diversity and express thanks for our heritage. Period costumes encouraged. Planned by a consortium of Worthington congregations.

**THE VILLAGE TALKS: Inaugural Lectures in Religion, Education and the Literary Arts -**  
Jessing Center at the Pontifical College Josephinum,  
7625 N. High Street

Tickets: \$10 for individual lectures • \$25 entire series

Featuring prominent and notable speakers, these discussions of contemporary issues in education, religion and the literary arts reflect the cornerstones on which Worthington was founded.

January 30, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.

The Literary Arts with Frederick Busch - Frederick Busch, Fairchild Professor of Literature at Colgate University, has been described as "one of the finest contemporary American writers today."

MAY & NOVEMBER 2003:

Speakers the areas of Religion and Education present Village Talks. Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) for more information.

### HERITAGE BALL -

February 22, 2003

Worthington Community Center,  
345 E. Wilson Bridge Road

Tickets: \$125 per person

Proceeds benefit the Worthington Educational Foundation and the Worthington Bicentennial Celebration.



The Bicentennial Heritage Ball will be an event to remember for years to come. Guests are encouraged to dress in period costume for this grand, formal affair. Organized by the Worthington Educational Foundation, the ball features food, music and dancing reminiscent of 1803. Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) for costume assistance.



# 1803-2003

### CHAUTAUQUA -

June 18-22, 2003

Thomas Worthington High School front lawn,  
300 W. Granville Rd.

Admission is FREE

Over a series of five days, historic figures from the Ohio Frontier are brought to life. Actors and scholars portray Johnny Appleseed, Margaret Blennerhassett, Mary Draper Ingles, Simon Kenton and Chief John Logan beneath an old-fashioned Chautauqua tent. Each character will also present behind-the-scenes programs for all ages. Presented in conjunction with the Ohio Humanities Council.

### THE PATH TO STATEHOOD: BICENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN -

Mid-June to July 5, 2003

A Signature Event of the Ohio Bicentennial Celebration.



Participation fees to be announced. This re-creation

of the wagon train which brought settlers from Granby, Connecticut to Worthington in 1803 begins in Martins Ferry, Ohio at the Ohio River and makes its way west to Worthington, arriving just in time for the Homecoming Celebration. From Worthington, the trip continues west to the Ohio border. Community gatherings will span the Wagon Train route. Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) for registration information.



### HOMECOMING -

JULY 4 & 5, 2003

Admission is FREE

The Homecoming weekend invites Worthington graduates, former residents, those who have enjoyed Worthington over the years and first-time visitors to join current residents for a variety of exciting events.

July 4th - Enjoy an ox roast, class reunions, musical entertainment and fireworks outside Thomas Worthington High School.

July 5th - The Homecoming Parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. Bicentennial floats, created by Worthington neighborhoods and organizations, will highlight different eras or individuals in Worthington history. The festivities continue with reunions, family activities, musical entertainment and a second spectacular night of fireworks. Musical artist Maureen McGovern will highlight the evening's entertainment.

### "THE SCIOTO COMPANY" -

July 2-20, 2003

Cardinal Theater - Thomas Worthington High School

July 2, 2003 - Gala Opening Night

Tickets \$35

July 3 - 20

Tickets: \$12 • \$10 Seniors/Students

"The Scioto Company" is an original play commissioned for the Worthington Bicentennial Celebration. The play, written by award winning playwright and Worthington High School graduate Brian Burgess Clark, follows the life of James Kilbourne and the decision to form a new community in uncharted territory far from the settlers' Connecticut homes.



### FOUNDERS DAY WEEKEND 2003 -

October 25 & 26, 2003

The 2003 Founders Day Festival, Closing Ceremonies and Founders Day Service of Thanksgiving will mark the conclusion of the Worthington Bicentennial Celebrations, reflect on the activities of the previous year and look ahead to the legacy of the Bicentennial.

### WORTHINGTON MEMORY PROJECT -

[www.worthingtonmemory.org](http://www.worthingtonmemory.org)

A fascinating look at local history. The Worthington Historical Society and the Worthington Libraries are digitizing historical photographs and documents, which are displayed in this online scrapbook.



For ticket reservations or more information on all



# Worthington Bicentennial Celebration

## Major Sponsors

### Founding Sponsor



### Signature Event Sponsors

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### Major Event Sponsors

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### "Scioto Pioneer" Sponsors

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 Estate Association

### Founders Day Media Partners

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**Official Inn:** Worthington Inn

**Official Signmaker:** Sign-A-Rama USA  
 Worthington

### Hotel Accommodations

Contact one of these Worthington hotels for overnight accommodations:

Worthington Inn – 649 High Street,  
 (614) 885-2600  
 Radisson Hotel – 7007 N. High Street,  
 (614) 436-0700

Special Bicentennial rates are available at the Radisson. When making reservations, ask for the Bicentennial rate.

### Bicentennial Logo Merchandise

Official Bicentennial Merchandise is being sold at a number of Worthington retail establishments and at the Worthington Municipal Building, 6550 N. High Street. Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) for details.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Get involved in making our Bicentennial celebration great! Volunteers are essential to making every Bicentennial event a success. Please call (614) 543-0299 or visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) to volunteer.

### Bicentennial Information Headquarters

Visit our website for the latest up-to-date information about all Bicentennial events and opportunities -- [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) or call the Worthington Bicentennial Information Line at (614) 543-0299.

### Worthington Bicentennial Celebration

c/o City of Worthington  
 6550 N. High Street  
 Worthington, OH 43085

