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## SOCIETY A HOST FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STATE ORGANIZATION

Members of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing are making plans for the autumn gathering of the Michigan Historical Society which will be held in East Lansing on October 17 and 18. The local society will be joint host with the Museum of Michigan State University and the Department of History of Michigan State University for the meeting, most of whose sessions will be held at Kellogg Center on the campus of MSU. Tentative plans call for three half-day sessions in addition to two luncheons and one dinner meeting. Names of topics and speakers have not yet been released.

Co-chairmen for local arrangements are Frank Elliott (representing the Museum), Madison Kuhn (representing the Department of History), and Joseph Druse (representing the Lansing society). An over-all planning session was held March 25 at which Mrs. John Adamson, First Vice-President, represented Mr. Druse.

Currently under consideration are a number of activities in which our society, as co-host, will be expected to participate and guide. One such activity is a tour of the historical sites of the area. The Map Committee of our association is currently shaping up a rough map showing the various historical sites of this area. It is hoped that a finished version of this map may be presented to the guests who will attend the fall meeting of the state society.

## ANNUAL MEETING Of The Society

Thursday, May 22, 1958 — 8 p.m.

Lansing Civic Center

*featuring*

Presidential address and  
election of officers

### *A Town with Three Names—Kinneville*

In 1849 a man from Nova Scotia platted a town on the Grand River about a mile north of Ononadaga. The town was christened Nova Scotia. Later, in 1861, a postmaster was appointed and the name was changed to Winfield in honor of General Winfield Scott of Mexican War fame. An appointed postmaster in those days had the privilege of selecting name for the office and it was for that reason that so many communities still bear the family name of the first appointed postmaster.

Apparently the residents of the community did not care for either name for by common usage the place soon acquired the name of Kinneville in honor of Stephen Van Kenny, the man from Nova Scotia.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF  
GREATER LANSING

Joseph Druse	.....	President
Mrs. LeMay Adamson	.....	1st Vice President
R. D. Burroughs	.....	2nd Vice President
Paul Ziegenhagen	.....	3rd Vice President
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*Our City 111 Years Ago  
Was a Cabin, Dam and Mill  
In Today's North Lansing*

An article which appeared in Vol. 7 of the MICHIGAN PIONEER COLLECTIONS in 1886 deals with the recollection by Mrs. Daniel L. Case, one of Lansing's pioneers, of a sleighing trip from Mason to what was to become Lansing in 1847.

The trip was made in March, little more than two months after the Legislature, convened in Detroit, made the historic decision to move the seat of Michigan's government to a spot in the wilderness of Lansing Township, Ingham County.

Mrs. Case and her sister, Mrs. James Turner of Mason, heard of this move, and organized a "sleigh-load of young people to view the landscape o'er."

They came, presumably, by way of what is now Cedar Street, but which then was little better than an Indian trail. Work on the first frame capitol here hadn't started, and all they found was a large cabin, sawmill, and a dam on the east side of the Grand River in what is now North Lansing.

The log cabin was occupied by Joab Page and his three sons-in-law and their families.

Search Continues for  
Information About the  
Underground Railroad

New discoveries of Greater Lansing's part in the Underground Railroad that assisted fugitive slaves to escape to freedom during pre-Civil War days are being found. They are being recorded in a new history book called *The Underground Railroad In Michigan* by Blanche Coggan.

Experiences of Capt. Norton of Lansing leading a lynch mob, curious 13-year-old Summit King discovered climbing a tree to watch his father hide several fugitives in a hay mow near Mason, courageous Aaron Ingalls of Leslie running his beautiful bays all night to safely convey cargo through Lansing to be taken to Judge Amos Gould's barn in Owosso—these illustrated stories with those of Whistlin Major of Eaton Rapids, Black Africa of Williamston, and Portland tunnels, make exciting pictures of the part Greater Lansing played in the years between 1830-60.

If anyone has information on this subject, please call Ed-22881.

NEWS OF YESTERDAYS  
IN GREATER LANSING



Tickets like this one were selling well after Lansing area residents of 1873 read the following news in the REPUBLICAN:

"Grand River is opened to navigation and two Lansing steamers, 'Sea Bird' and 'Minnie Cass,' commenced to make regular trips from the Mineral Springs House to North Lansing last Monday. . . . They start half hourly from each end of the route and stop at the iron bridge."

## Lansing Man's Civil War Letters Tell of Victories, Unconditional Surrenders

A collection of sixty letters written during the Civil War by Captain William A. Barnard of Lansing were recently turned over to the Michigan Historical Commission. Barnard enlisted in the Twentieth Michigan Infantry on August 9, 1862 at the age of 24. In the three years that followed he took part in some of the bloodiest battles of the War. In July, 1864, he was taken prisoner at Petersburg, Virginia and spent the rest of his military days in a Confederate prison camp. His letters, which vividly describe army life and the war are now being edited by Professor Frederick Williams of Michigan State University, a member of our Society. An excerpt from a letter of July 24, 1863 follows:

Camp 20th Mich.  
Yazoo River Miss. July 24th, 1863

Dear Father

We are just through the hardest campaign of the war, to the 9th Corps, and are waiting here at Haines Bluff on the Yazoo, for transportation to Ky. I am safe and well. Vicksburg, Port Hudson and most of Miss. is ours. You have the news from the papers better than I can give it. We have nothing but federal victories to report and it has been unconditional surrender every where we have been—or sixty or one hundred extra cartridges to a man & one mine. General engagement all along the lines. Vicksburg started out fairly, according to Grants program. On the 4th Pemberton marched out of his works in the morning with his whole army & stacked arms & went back into the City as a prisoner of war. Grant issued blank cartridges to his army & let them have the City to celebrate in—there never was such a glorious 4th in this country. The river was filled for five miles opposite the city with Gunboats and transports—completely covered with flags & banners and all united in one general uproar.

The Rebs had a sorry day of it. We all started the same morning after Johnston—under Genl. Sherman—drove him into Jackson—drove in his pickets and had six days sharp skirmishes with

## NOMINATIONS ARE NOW IN ORDER!

And now comes that time of year when we change administrations. Joseph Druse, who will soon lay down the gavel as President of our Society, announces the committee to nominate new officers for 1958-9: R. D. Burroughs, Chairman, Robert Clark and Geneva Kebler. Your suggestions are welcome.

**T H A N K S:** to retiring Trustees Mrs. Lois Fohl, Clyde Anderson, Kenneth Wilson, and Robert Clark for their guidance during the past two years.

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him and then he skedaddled for Alabama. We followed him to the Miss. Central R. R. destroyed ten miles of track, burned a depot and a large amount of cotton & came back here—tired—dirty—hungry & all used up. We hadn't much to eat only what we foraged from the plantations along the route.

There is no force about here now large enough for us to fight & Grant has got through with us. Our Corps beat the western troops two or three days in getting into position in front of Jackson besides scaring Johnston nearly to death. He never saw any of the Potomac style of fighting against the western troops before and found us full as bad as Grants men. They run before us like a kicked dog—and some of them havn't stopped yet.

I will write more when I get on the boat and have some accomodations but am fagged & tired from a months hard work among the Rebs.

We dodged shell and bullets six days before Jackson and got pretty well worn out in every position we got into besides hungry & right to the unconditional surrender pitch ready & anxious to fight any thing that hadn't the U. S. in sight.

Yours &c.

Wm A Barnard  
Lt. Com'dg Co. C  
20th Mich.

## *Seeing and Hearing History in Lansing*

Member, John H. Fuller, reports the completion of an 8 mm., 33 minute, color-black and white film devoted to "The PILGRIM STORY." John has been keenly interested in the Mayflower II's voyage and is anxious to share his film with others.

A "look in" display of photographs showing Lansing in 1904 is attracting much attention at the Historical Commission Museum in Lansing. Jim Carmelee, Lansing Technical High School student, prepared the exhibit for the 1958 Youth Talent Show and loaned it to the Museum.

Frank Elliott and associates at the Michigan State University Museum have produced twelve, thirty minute television programs which will soon be available on film to broadcasting stations throughout the area. Many viewers have shown great interest in their topical approach to the history of lumbering, mining, agriculture, education, and the like, in our state. Drs. Moreau Maxwell, Eugene Petersen, Madison Kuhn and F. Wells, Terwilliger are just some of the guests you have enjoyed if you have been tuned to MSU on Friday evenings. The careful use of film clips and photographs loaned by the Detroit Historical Society, the Dearborn Historical Society, the Michigan Historical Commission, and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing have helped in the production of a successful series.

Members who attended Kenneth Priestley's program about the ghost post offices of our state may be interested in article devoted to the U. S. Post Office established on campus, June 30, 1884, as Agricultural College, Michigan. It appears in the January, 1958 issue of Michigan State University MAGAZINE. Mr. Priestley's collection of the postal history of this office will soon be featured in the University Museum.

The Historical Society of Michigan announces the availability of a revised list of historical societies in Michigan. Requests should be directed to Membership Secretary, Mrs. Barbara Symonds, Historical Society of Michigan, Cass Office Building, Lansing 13.

## *The Big Months Ahead*

The months that lie ahead are the months in which we can lay the foundations for our participation in the Centennial Year to follow. We have a message to carry to our fellow citizens, a more vital one than that presented by any printed account, no matter how skilled: we want our friends not merely to KNOW the Centennial but also, by joining in our commemorative activities, to LIVE the Centennial.

The obligation of making known to those about us the pleasures, enrichment, and civic fruitfulness of the Society lies upon each of us, its members; to a large extent the projects and publications of the Society depend upon an expanding, curious, and enthusiastic membership. Make this coming month a time to share your pleasure in the Society with your neighbors; bring them to a meeting and the question of membership will take care of itself. The service you thus do the Society is also a service to yourself, to your friends, to the community, and to the cause of Local History.

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## **Other Signs of Spring Seen in the Lansing STATE REPUBLICAN of '73 FIRST ROW**

The Grand River Boat Club's first row of the season brought crowds to the Michigan Avenue bridge to watch—and listen to the band!

Lansing's Cornet Band, lead by G. W. Christopher, attracted old and young alike. In four years the band had grown to fourteen members, had spent \$600 for instruments and \$700 for uniforms, and was one of the leading bands in the area.

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A limited number of reprints of "George Armstrong Custer," written by the late Fred Dustin of Saginaw, are now available from the Michigan Historical Commission. The article first appeared in MICHIGAN HISTORY, V. 30, No. 2 (April-June, 1946).

Copies of "Michigan in Books, 1958" will be distributed by the Michigan State Library during Michigan Week. Direct your requests to the Library, 125 E. Shiawassee Street, Lansing.