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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

### PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST TO SPEAK ON OUR MICHIGAN HERITAGE

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is to be honored by a very distinguished lady at its March 17 meeting. A genealogical specialist, Dr. Ethel W. Williams of Kalamazoo is going to tell us about "Our Michigan Heritage"--stressing the various racial migrations into Michigan, each bringing his own native culture and skills and that our duty, as historians and genealogists, is to gain the proper perspective and bring it all into focus in the work that we do.

A native of Michigan, she was born in Barry County and attended a rural school and Hastings High School. She then went to Columbia University and took journalism courses from the University of California. She graduated from the American University and National Archives School in Washington, D.C. She also attended courses in family history at the seminar in American culture at Cooperstown, N.Y., conducted by the New York Historical Association.

Mrs. Williams editorial experience includes the assistant editorship of "Medical Journal Abstracts" published by the federal government during World War II.

For the past two years she has been teaching a course in Genealogy in the Adult Education Program of the Kalamazoo Public Schools. She authored the book "Know Your Ancestors, a Guide to Genealogical Research", which was primarily designed as a text for the course.

Mrs. Williams is one of the founders of the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society and is the editor of their quarterly publication "Michigan Heritage" which was started last fall by the Kalamazoo Society.

She is a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania (by invitation because of her research and writings on Huguenot families), and several genealogical societies.

March 17 is the date for the meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. It is to be held in parlors E & F of the Lansing Civic Center starting at 8:00 o'clock.

### APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS

The April meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is to be held the 21st. John Brisbane, head of the Social Science Department at Eastern High School will speak to us on "This History of Music in Lansing". The time and place will be announced in your April TOWN Crier.

Traditionally, the May meeting is the annual meeting of the Society and the president makes his report. Bob Clark, our president, has chosen for his topic the early development of the greater Lansing area and will carry his subject from the early ice age through the various stages to the Civil War period. He will stress associations of different interest in the changes of the uses of the land areas during the various stages.

May 12 is the date and the place will be announced later. Because of the great amount of exhibit materials involved in this meeting a space problem presents itself.

### PUBLICATION WIDELY CIRCULATED

A story in the Kalamazoo Gazette of February 28, 1960, penned by Ken Miller, staff writer, describes "Michigan Heritage" under the editorship of Dr. Ethel Williams.

"A quarterly historical periodical, published by a local genealogical group, is gaining national stature as an authentic and scholarly magazine in the field of history.

Continued on the back page.



"Michigan Heritage," the first issue of which was published by the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society last fall, now includes among its small but select list of subscribers nearly half the state libraries in the nation and various historical, biographical, antiquarian society and commissions, at the local and state level.

"Among the subscribers are the Library of Congress, the New York State Historical Assn., The Los Angeles Public Library, the Vermont Historical Society Library, The National Genealogical Society, the Wisconsin State Historical Society, The American Antiquarian Society, and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

"The primary aim of the magazine, which goes to press about two weeks before it's released, is to publish only documented material which has never been published before, according to Mrs. Ethel W. Williams, of 730 Parker, editor.

"We prefer articles pertaining to local or state history," explains Mrs. Williams, a Ph.D., "But we also accept articles dealing with the early history of states like Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Ohio and New York, the so-called source states," because that's where the Michigan pioneers came from.

"Historically, Michigan is a key state because it was settled by migrants from the East, many of whom continued westward to pioneer the West.

"A regular feature of the magazine is an inventory of the records of various Michigan county courthouses. The first two issues, Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties have been covered.

"We are also interested in the history of prominent local and state families, says Mrs. Williams."

"We also publish articles on local and state historical sites. We've had stories on the building of Michigan's Territorial Road and the South West Street Cemetery of Kalamazoo, located on the site of the present South Westnedge Parks.

"Other stories thus far have dealt with Michigan Civil War heroes, pioneer portraits, the famed local trotting horse Flora Temple, an inventory of microfilms at the Michigan State Library, the ancestors of society members whose ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War, and James Fenimore Cooper's visit to Schoolcraft while gathering material for Oak Openings."

"Contributors to the periodical include history professors, museum directors and society members.

"Michigan Heritage" published by the Kalamazoo Society costs \$2.00 per year. It may be ordered from Dr. Ethel Williams, Kalamazoo Museum, 315 So. Rose St., Kalamazoo.

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