

Town Crier

 HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

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 CIVIL WAR SERIES

Dr. Philip Mason, archivist and associate professor of history at Wayne State University and long time friend of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, has written a 15-part series on Michigan's vital role in the Civil War, which is appearing in the Lansing State Journal and other Michigan Newspapers.

The articles were compiled especially for The Associated Press and associated newspapers. Paul J. Pentecost, assistant director of the Press and Publications Office at Wayne State, collaborated with Dr. Mason to research stories in connection with the series.

 FOR THE GENEALOGISTS

KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS--By Dr. Ethel W. Williams, Editor of Heritage, the official publication of the Kalamazoo Valley Historical Society is available in book form now. Published by Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont and available from Dr. Williams at 730 Parker, Kalamazoo. Price \$4.50.

The book gives fundamental instructions in scientific methods of tracing ancestry and compiling family history. The family is considered the basic unit of society and its relationship to history, both local and general is featured.

Family research in public records, on local, county, state and national levels, is outlined. Books and other library materials are discussed and evaluated and a comprehensive bibliography of available source materials is included, as well as glossary of terms and abbreviations in common usage.

While the primary purpose of the book is to acquaint the student, or reader, with the principles of original research in American genealogy, the chapters on research in Canada and the British Isles, and on Heraldry were included.

February 15 meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is to be held at the Archives of the Michigan State Historical Commission, on DeWitt Road, at 8:00 p.m.

DR. FREDERICK D. WILLIAMS, is to be the speaker. He will talk to us on Michigan's role in the Civil War.

Dr. Williams has been an assistant professor of history at Michigan State University since 1954 and his special field of interest is the American Civil War and Reconstruction.

 SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR

The census of 1860 gave the U.S. a population of 31,443,321. This included 487,690 free Negroes and 3,953,780 Negro slaves.

The principal product of the South was cotton, harvested by slave labor. For 5 years previous to the Civil War, northern leaders had been trying to curtail slavery, but were checkmated in Congress by Southern legislators. Extreme partisans in the North who demanded the immediate end of slavery for moral reasons, were called abolitionists. Southern states asserted their "right of property in Negro slaves", and agreed that the Union was formed by consent of the states, which could withdraw when state rights were violated.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin 1851-52 intensified the feeling against slavery.

Of the 90,000 men Michigan sent to the front, over 14,000 gave their lives to preserve the Union--the price of victory was great.

Of the 90,000 men sent from Michigan to serve in the war, 85,000 were volunteers. Over 600 men served in the federal navy. Michigan soldiers fought in all of the major campaigns and battles. Michigan had reason to be proud of her soldiers.

 MEETING DATES

February 15, 1961
 March 15, 1961

April 19, 1961
 May 10, 1961

REMINISCENSES OF THE UPPER PENINSULA

LANDLOOKER--in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is a collection of reminiscenses of John Munro Longyear, which tells at first hand the story that is part of the saga of America. Here he describes how as a young man of 23 he worked collecting information about the wilderness country known as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Longyear's story is clearly that of an educated man rather than one uninformed. He recognized the latent wealth present in the land around him. Outdoor living had a fascination for him.

His journal can be considered a text book as it contains much that will enlighten the tenderfoot on how not to get lost and other emergencies. He gives an account of the French-Indian halfbreed, Henry St. Arnauld, who was a most colorful figure of Marquette as well as the entire Upper Peninsula.

Today one travelling by car over the fine roads sees little, if anything, which John Longyear saw, walking the rugged terrain of the Upper Peninsula with a heavy pack on his back. He saw everything and with foresight and ability created fortunes for himself and many others.

A glossary of Indian and French place names is also included giving their meanings.

The book was edited by his daughter, the late Mrs. Helen Longyear Paul. Complimentary copies have been given to the Michigan Section of the State Library. For the general public they are available from the offices of the Marquette County Historical Society, Marquette, for \$2.00 plus 25 cents postage. Checks to be made payable to the Marquette County Historical Society.

FORT MICHILIMACKINAC RESTORATION

At one of our meetings in the near future, Dr. Moreau S. Maxwell, Curator of Anthropology at Michigan State University Museum is going to report on the progress of the restoration. It is impossible at this time to give the exact date of the meeting. This meeting will undoubtedly be held at the University Museum.

FOR THE GENEALOGISTS

ESTHER LOUGHIN of the Michigan Section of the State Library is trying to arrange for a night course in one of the Lansing High Schools in Genealogy. The last word was encouraging and it is quite possible arrangements can be made.

HISTORY OF MASON

Mr. Roy W. Adams, Justice of the Peace at Mason is going to speak to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing at one of their meetings in the very near future. His subject will be the History of Mason. He has published many articles and a book on pioneer life in Ingham County. We are looking forward with a great deal of interest in his program.

The Supreme Court decision, March 6, 1857, ruled that Dred Scott, a Negro, did not become free when taken to a free state and did not have rights as a citizen.

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