

Town Crier

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

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SCHOOLCRAFT NOTES

HENRY ROWE SCHOOLCRAFT. 1793-1864. American ethnologist; explored mineral deposits of southern Missouri and Arkansas (1817-18); with Cass exploring expedition to Lake Superior region (1820). Indian agent in Lake Superior region (1822-1836); superintendent of Indian Affairs for Michigan (1836-41). Made special study of Indian conditions and culture. (Webster's Biographical Dictionary).

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, pioneer in the study of the Indian tribes of the Old Northwest, author of many treatises on the Indians of North America, and for eight years a resident on Mackinac Island, was in his day probably more widely known than any other citizen of Michigan. He was born in Albany, New York, in 1793, and educated at Middlebury College, Vermont. Later, he travelled in the West, and in 1820 was appointed geologist to accompany an expedition with Governor Lewis Cass. In 1820 he was appointed Indian Agent with headquarters at Sault Ste. Marie, and later on Mackinac Island. At the Sault, he married, in 1823, Miss Jane Johnston, a grand-daughter of the Ojibway chief, Wabojjeeg.

He was a charter member of the Michigan Historical Society, for the study of the manners, customs, habits and language of the Algonquin Indians. From 1828 to 1832, he was a member of the Michigan territorial legislature. After 1832 he engaged in various exploring expeditions and travels, including a trip to Europe. Beginning with 1847, under authority of Congress, he entered upon a labour for which he was so eminently prepared, the collecting and editing of all the information obtainable about the Indians of North America. Besides this monumental work, he produced in all, some thirty important works on his travels and Indian researches, some of which were written by the aid of others after he lost, by paralysis, the use of his hands. Schoolcraft was married a second time, to Mary Howard, a Southern woman, in 1847, five years after the death of his first wife.

From Historic Mackinac by Edwin O. Wood, LL.D. MacMillan Company, 1918.

HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT--An Early Michigan Pioneer
by PHILIP P. MASON

Schoolcraft, is the subject chosen by our speaker, Philip P. Mason, for our November 14 meeting to be held Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Street School, 519 West Kalamazoo, Lansing.

Dr. Mason, newly elected to the directorate of the Detroit Historical Society is well known in the field of local, state and national history. Archivist and associate professor of history at Wayne State University, Dr. Mason also directs the University's Labor History Archives.

Born in Salem, Massachusetts, he was graduated from high school in Beverly, Massachusetts. He received his B.A. degree from Boston University in 1950. The University of Michigan awarded him an M.A. degree in 1951 and a Ph.D. degree in 1956.

Prior to joining the Wayne State faculty in 1958, Dr. Mason was a research assistant at the University of Michigan. (1951-53, and Archivist for the State of Michigan (1953-58).

He holds membership in many professional organizations including: The Society of American Archivists, American Historical Association, Mississippi Valley Historical Association, and American Association for State and Local History. Since 1959, he has been Chairman of the Committee on College and University Archives of the Society of American Archivists.

Dr. Mason is the author of "Schoolcraft's Expedition to Lake Itasca," and co-author of "From Bull Run to Appomattox; Michigan's Role in the Civil War."

He resides with his wife, Henrietta, and their four children in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan.

EXHIBIT OF THE MONTH

In connection with this program a special display of books from the pen of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft will be open to the public in the meeting quarters. The display is courtesy of the private library of George Wiskemann.

A FIRST FOR HISTORY

On Friday, October 19, President Ford Ceasar gave a lecture to the Fortnightly Literary Club at the Michigan Historical Museum. His address, "Early History of Lansing" was heard by nearly thirty members.

One of the memorable highlights of the event was the use by President Ceasar of the lectern and table used during the Constitutional Convention by Chairman Nesbit. It was acknowledged by the staff of the Museum that this was the first official use of the furniture since the adjournment of the Constitutional Convention.

PARKING

There is always plenty of parking space for the Society members and friends directly across from the Kalamazoo Street School in the Lewis Cass parking lot.

OUR BUDGET

Your Board of Directors is watching carefully the finances of the Society. At a noon meeting October 22 in the Mason Cafeteria, Treasurer, Mary McNeely reported a balance of \$81.00. This assures four more issues of TOWN CRIER. There are six issues to go. Help keep the presses running by urging membership to the Society. It would make a nice gift to a friend.

WANTED. Plymouth Historical Society desires broken bank notes issued in area of Plymouth, Michigan. Contact Mr. Roy A. Fisher, 905 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, Michigan.

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OUR SUPER SALESMAN

Charles Leneweaver is using his talents in trying to get some of our papers printed. We hope soon to announce the printing of some of the fine papers which have been presented at our meetings thus preserving the research and fine work of our speakers and members.

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS.

The special exhibits which have accompanied our regular meetings this year have proved of considerable interest to members and guests. If you have historical materials available for display, please contact Ford Ceasar, Tel.: IV 9-0461.

A case with glass top and lock, measuring 24x56x3 is available.

NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS FOR THE COLLECTOR.

If you have ever struggled to learn the safe and effective way to care for metals and leather, you will want to read "CARING FOR YOUR COLLECTIONS-METALS AND LEATHER" in the July, 1962 issue of HISTORY NEWS, 151 E. Gorham Street, Madison, Wisconsin. Reprints of this technical bulletin are available from the NEWS for ten cents each.

The antique charm of the Currier and Ives prints coupled with text by Richard Harwell has created A Currier and Ives Civil War Booklet, "THE WAR 1861-1865". Copies in quantities up to 1,000 are available without charge from Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, 246 North High Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.