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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

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March, 1965

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DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing held its February meeting at the Lansing Civic Center for a Patriotic Assembly. Miss Geneva Kebler, Chairman for the meeting, introduced Mrs. Margaret Winegardner, Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She told briefly of the history of the organization. The Lansing Chapter was founded in 1890 with a membership of 17. Today there are 175 members. Objects of the group include:

1. Perpetuating the memory of people in the American Revolution;
2. Promote instruction for diffusion of knowledge;
3. Instill love of country and the blessings of liberty.

The handle of the gavel used in local meetings came from a tree near Plymouth Rock and the block is made from a white oak tree from the Saratoga Battlefield.

Projects include work in naturalization, awards to junior and senior high school girls for good citizenship, promoting essay contests in elementary schools, sending teachers to Higgins Lake Camp, giving financial aid to schools in the southern mountain area, copying and indexing genealogical materials at the State Library and Marking area historical spots.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

James Wood, Sons of Veterans of Foreign Wars, said that this group was organized to help widows and dependents of veterans and presented flags to schools as well as giving programs about flag etiquette. There are twenty-three chapters in the state with membership of youth from 7 to 18 years of age whose fathers have served overseas and have been awarded a campaign ribbon.

CIVIL WAR BUFFS

Orly Bennett, leader of the Civil War Buffs, 5th Battery, Michigan Light Artillery, North-South Skirmish Society, explained that the object of this group was to accurately portray the Civil War in contrast to the ideas presented

on T.V. programs.

In describing the displays that his group had set up, he said, "The Revolutionary was patterned after European standards and that most of the weapons were purchased from France or captured from the British. During the Civil War, mass tactics changed with the introduction of new muskets with a 500' range. During this time, men began to fight behind stones, trees, etc. Many old brick forts fell before improved cannon. During the Spanish-American War colorful uniforms gave way to those providing camouflage. Muskets were much the same as those of the Civil War.

World War I saw the use of trench warfare, grass colored uniforms, the Springfield rifle, and protective armor such as the steel helmet that is in use today. Charles Lawrence described the uniform he was wearing and said that Battery E, First Michigan Light Artillery was mustered in December 6, 1861, into the western theater of the war thence to Nashville, Murfreesboro, and finally into Georgia in 1864.

Describing the activities of the local group, Fred Shelter said that it was founded May 21, 1960. In August the members decided to join A Battery in Detroit but in January 1962 they decided to "Try to go it on our own" and applied for membership in the N.S.S.A.

They are actively engaged in preserving cannon, muskets, and revolvers, working on authenticity of their uniforms, participating in parades and memorial services, and going into local high schools so that students can actually see the uniforms and equipment. Mr. Bennett then told of some of the problems they are having rebuilding and restoring their 1800 lb. cannon. Although old records are scarce it is believed that this cannon was cast by the Ames Foundry in Massachusetts, and was used in the Battle of Vicksburg. "Our guns were in good company."

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MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing will be held in the Michigan

State Library with Mrs. Edith Jameson conducting the program: The Fascinating Pursuit of Family History.

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HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Some of our members feel that it would add much interest to our programs if the minutes of the Executive Board were read so that members and guests might know of our projects and future plans.

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

OUR THANKS to The State Journal for its coverage of the Society's request for saving the architectural and historic fixtures of the Capitol Building. In case you missed it, the article is on A-9 in the Friday, February 19 issue of the State Journal. Approximately 400 letters have been sent to legislators, historical societies, museums, etc.

On Tuesday, February 23, the Detroit Free Press also carried an article on page 3, section A with a six column headline.

Progress is being made for the formation of a junior historical group within our society. Materials have been received from the New Yorkers State Historical Association and Ford Ceasar has been asked to appoint a committee

to examine the materials and to work with the area schools in planning a program. This forward look for the young people of our community has already found several interested participants.

The annual Michigan Week banquet is being planned for May 19. The place will be announced later. Ford Ceasar has been named chairman for Michigan Week for the Society.

Blanche Coggan reports that plans are being made for Mrs. Lucille Mills to present the minutes of the former historical group to us at the May banquet. Mrs. Mills, a former secretary of the group, former members, and other officers will be invited to attend. Persons holding life memberships in this former organization will be offered life memberships in ours.

On March 6, Mrs. Coggan, representing the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, will speak before the Daughters of the American Colonists about marking local historical sites.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker, members of our group, are working with Dr. Cleland, archaeologist at Michigan State University, to locate an Indian Village site on North Meridian Road with the hope of finding the grave of Chief Jackson near Blood Lake on the old Blood Farm. The Bloods were ancestors of Mr. Parker.

Mrs. Coggan is planning to work with Birt Darling in locating a Mound Builders site in the Muir-Lyons area.

MAR 10-65	MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY	THE FASCINATING PURSUIT OF FAMILY HISTORY	MRS. EDITH JAMESON- LIBRARIAN MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY	EDITH JAMESON
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