



# Town Crier

HEAR  
YE!

Volume 12, No. 1

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING  
P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

September, 1969

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To the Membership: I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the honor you have bestowed upon me in selecting me to serve as your president for the coming year.

The Society serves as the only organization to preserve and extend the knowledge of Lansing area history. This we plan to do with interesting and informative programs.

Also, I would like to appoint each present member a "committee of one" to seek out new members for our Society. Many thanks to each of you, in advance, for your acceptance of the appointment.

Jack T. Crosby, Sr.

## BOARD MEETS

The executive board met Wednesday, July 16, 1969, at the home of the President, Jack T. Crosby, Sr., to decide on meeting dates, suggest programs, assign responsibilities and plan for another successful year.

The following dates, usually the third Tuesday of each month, may be reserved for meetings:

- September 17, 1969
- October 21, 1969
- November 18, 1969
- December, 1969 - open date for  
Greenfield Village tour
- January 20, 1970
- February 17, 1970
- March 17, 1970
- April 21, 1970
- May 19, 1970

The program committee can report programs have been confirmed for your pleasure on a variety of subjects. Dr. Philip Mason has graciously accepted our invitation to visit us in the spring. The Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society is pleased to plan another joint meeting.

Other programs include Lansing as the constitutional convention city, Great Lakes  
Continued Page 2

## COME, COME, COME

Members and friends of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing will meet at the

Lansing Public Library

Wednesday, September 17, 1969  
7:30 pm

"Historic Site Survey and Planning  
for Preservation"

A warm invitation is extended to chairmen of the historic site survey committees functioning in nearby counties, to like societies and associations, patriotic organizations, and any interested individual.

Mr. Norman Smith of the Natural Resource Department will lead a panel of experts including James A. Bryant, Department of Commerce; Richard Frank, Frank & Stein Associates, Inc.; and Richard Lowery, Historical Commission to discuss the survey and be available for questions.

## NEW OFFICERS TO SERVE

The annual meeting held at the Lansing Public Library on May 21, 1969 provided for the election of officers. They are: Jack T. Crosby, Sr., President; Mrs. Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Vice-President; Miss Mary McNeely, Secretary-treasurer:

Trustees to serve two years are: Mrs. Harley (Alice) Franks, Mrs. Helen Wallin, Richard Hathaway and Eugene Wanger.

Trustees elected in 1968 serving through this membership year: Mrs. Richard S. Porter, Miss Virginia Ford, Charles Leneweaver, C. Roland Stebbins.

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP READY NOW

The enclosed invitation to membership is now available for distribution to prospective members.

Please direct the names and addresses of individuals who may wish to join the Society to Mrs. Richard S. Porter, Membership Chairman, 430 Townsend St., Lansing, Michigan 48933.

BOARD MEETS Continued from Page 1

lighthouses, political ephemera in the light of history, antiques, photographic history, and more.

Special tours are planned for Charlton Park, and the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village at Dearborn.

Committee work was assigned to the following chairmen:

- Membership - Mrs. Richard S. Porter
- Program - Mrs. Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
- Hospitality - Mr. & Mrs. Harley Franks
- Legal Affairs - Eugene Wanger
- Newsletter - Mrs. Helen Wallin
- Publicity -
- Audit - Mrs. Jack (Gwen) Crosby
- Special Events - Jack Crosby

Members are urged to express your wishes and ideas to the board which serves you. Volunteer your help to a committee chairman. This can be an outstanding year of accomplishment and enjoyment.

MEMBERSHIP IS PAYABLE IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES.

Regular	\$3.00
Associate (with the Historical Society of Michigan)	11.00
Contributing	5.00
Organizational	25.00
Life	100.00

Make your check payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 515, Lansing, 48903, today!

PRESERVATION FUNDS ALLOCATED

Twenty-five states and Puerto Rico will receive their first grants of federal matching funds under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Michigan's amount is \$4,573.39. It will be used in making surveys and identifying historical, archaeological, and architectural sites of significance for the National Register of Historic places maintained by the National Park Service.

HELP PORTLAND, MICHIGAN, CELEBRATE ITS CENTENNIAL THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATION TO BRING JULIAN BOND TO EAST LANSING

Julian Bond will be guest speaker at the Third Annual Awards Dinner of the Research Association for Michigan Negro History, Inc.

The dynamic young legislator from Georgia will receive a resolution of welcome and tribute from the Michigan House of Representatives.

Two honorees will receive awards from the Association at this year's dinner -- George W. Crockett, Jr., Judge of Recorder's Court, City of Detroit, and George Norman, Detroit creator and exhibitor of "Black Odyssey," a review of Afro-American history, culture and heritage.

This is the third time the James Langston Hughes Award in human relations has been awarded. New this year is the Prior Foster Award in education. The title honors a former slave who came to Lenawee County in 1846 and founded the Woodstock Manual Labor Institute, incorporated in 1848 "for instruction of persons of color and others, in ancient or modern languages, or literature, and the arts and sciences."

Members are invited to the dinner at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, Thursday evening, 7 pm, September 18, 1969. Reservations are \$7.50. Reply with payment to the Association, 409 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan, 48933, by September 12th.

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY

"Courage, perseverance, sacrifice, and cooperation withstood the challenges of obstruction, difficulty, failure, and doubt. The determined group of Pilgrim Church pioneers succeeded. They reached their goal and established the Pilgrim Congregational Church." This is the beginning of a historical narrative commemorating the 75th anniversary of Pilgrim Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) presented by the Boards of Deacons and Deaconesses and prepared by Ernest V. Blohm, member. Copies of the publication are available from the church office,

125 South Pennsylvania Avenue.

LANSING, THE CAPITAL OF MICHIGAN

"We find the following statistics in relation to our village, in the "State Journal," which will convey to our readers abroad some ideas of our embryo "city of the wood."

Through the politeness of L. S. Warner, Esq., one of the Assessors and Supervisor of this town, we have been enabled to gather the following particulars relative to the population, buildings and business of Lansing:

Population	1213
Children between the years of	
4 and 18	311
Frame buildings	208
Steam saw mills	2
Water saw mills	1
Capital invested in saw	
mills	\$6,000
Lumber cut last year	1,500,000
Flouring mills	1
Capital invested in same	\$6,000
No. bbls. flour manufactured	
last year	1,000
Value of goods imported	
last year	\$30,000

This will appear surprising when we state that two years ago there was hardly a stick cut in this place, and but one or two log shanties built for residences. It has been probably the most rapid growth known in the history of our country.

In addition to what is given above, we would state that we have four large and commodious hotels, one of which is brick, (the Benton House,) built by Messrs. Bush, Thomas, Lee and Peck, cost about ten thousand dollars.

The village is located upon a high and beautiful table of land upon the banks of the Grand River, surrounded by a body of land unsurpassed in the union, for its fertility of soil"

- PRIMITIVE EXPOUNDER, Lansing,  
Michigan, Vol. VI, No. 10,  
May 10, 1849

ABOUT THE PRIMITIVE EXPOUNDER

This paper devoted to the interests of the Universalist denomination was first published in Ann Arbor, January 11, 1843. The second volume was published at Alpha - delphia, a communistic village founded in Kalamazoo County. Extant copies of this publication indicate that the office moved to Jackson in 1846. Two years later J. H. Sanford was editing the paper in Lansing. At times it appeared as a weekly and a semi-monthly. The first issue marked "Vol. VI, Lansing, Michigan" was issued in January, 1849. In March of that year the editor reported 30 subscribers in the city. Federal census schedules for Lansing in 1850 enumerated two "newspapers and periodicals." One was the Michigan State Journal described as Democratic in politics. This weekly had a circulation of 900. The other was the Expounder issued semi-monthly and circulated to 1600.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
July, 1968 - July, 1969

Credits	
Balance on hand	30.00
Local dues	123.00
State dues	30.00
Dinner	80.00
Gift	10.00
Auction	93.70
	<u>\$366.70</u>

Debits	
P. O. Box rent	12.00
A & E Town Crier	73.95
Envelopes	11.12
Refreshments	15.55
Stamps	46.30
Dinner	85.50
State dues	30.00
Gift	5.00
Bank Charges	4.75
	<u>\$284.17</u>

Bank Statement as of July 1st:

108.67	
-12.00	(Check not cleared for P.O. Box)
96.67	
-12.00	(Check not cleared for state dues)
\$84.67	

-Miss Mary McNeely, Treasurer

Clyde Anderson, Mrs. Gladys Olds Anderson, Mrs. John Q. Adamson, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Ansley, Ernest Blohm, Mrs. Beulah Bock, Mrs. Lorraine Brandon, Edwin P. Brown, Miss Evelyn Bumgarner, Mrs. Lyla A. Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Ford Ceasar, Robert K. Clark, Mrs. Blanche Coggan, Miss Mary Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Jack T. Crosby, Sr., Mrs. Manning Curry, Carl Dalrymple, Detroit Public Library, Mrs. Thelma Dewey, Joseph Druse, Miss Charlotte Dunneback, Chester Ellison, Mrs. Esther Fassett, Doyle Fitzpatrick, Miss Virginia Ford, Mrs. Richard C. Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Franks, John Fuller, Mrs. Leo J. Hanson, Donald Hamaker, Richard Hathaway, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Higelmire, Miss Margaret Huston, Mrs. Ruby Jennings, Madison Kuhn, Mrs. Fred Kruger, Charles H. Lawrence, Charles Leneweaver, William B. Lloyd, Marquette County Historical Society, Inc., Philip Mason, Miss Marion McClench, Mrs. Nellie McDaniel, Miss Mary McNeely, John Neufeld, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker, Miss Jane Piatt, Mrs. Richard S. Porter, Miss Mary Ramos, Mrs. Howard Rouse, Milton Shaw, Mrs. Richard Sleater, C. Roland Stebbins, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stenson, Mrs. Beatrice Straw, Mrs. George Stucky, Miss Virginia Summers, Jack Thompson, Rajee Tobia, Ron Turner, Mrs. Helen Wallin, Mrs. Marie Weyant, Mrs. W. T. Winegardner, Dr. Ethel Williams, Mr. and Mrs. George Wiskemann, Eugene Wanger.

Please notify us if your address is changed. New mailing lists are in progress.

-Membership Committee.

---

#### CIRCLE THESE DATES

- Sept. 17 - First meeting of new membership year at the Lansing Public Library.  
 Sept. 18 - Third Annual Awards Dinner, Research Association for Michigan Negro History, Inc. at Kellogg Center.  
 Sept. 19-20 - Annual Meeting, Historical Society of Michigan, Mt. Pleasant.  
 Oct. 4 - Convention for Teachers of Michigan History, Ann Arbor.  
 Oct. 8-10 - Society of American Archivists, Madison, Wisconsin.  
 Oct. 24-25 - (Tentative) Michigan Museums Conference.

The Mail Bag bulges some months with queries. We can answer only a few in this limited space.

Where is Dr. Frank N. Elliott, former member and author of one of the Society's publications? Many of our readers knew Frank during his four years as curator of history and professor of history at Michigan State University. He moved to new horizons at Columbia University; State University of New York, College at Cortland; and has just terminated three years as vice president of Hofstra University. August 1 he became president of Rider College, an institution with 6,000 students at Trenton, New Jersey. Best wishes, Frank.

"Early History of Owosso" by Miss Adele Ball of Owosso will be available from the Shiawassee County Historical Society, Box 2, Durand, Michigan, 48429. Copies will be sent to all schools and libraries in the county and to major research libraries.

An index to the history of Kalamazoo County as reported in the Gazette since 1837 is underway. The work is being done from microfilm copy by inmates of Southern Michigan Prison at Jackson. Finished copy will be available to searchers in the Kalamazoo Public Museum.

Three hit comedies and four popular musicals completed another successful year at Tibbits Summer Theatre in historic Tibbetts Opera House in downtown Coldwater. The theatre, built in 1882, has been restored and is now a charming 550 seat proscenium theatre with air conditioning, horse shoe balcony, perfect acoustics and decorative chandelier lighting.

---

#### BARRY COUNTY MUSEUM AT CHARLTON PARK SCHEDULED FOR VISIT BY THE SOCIETY

Director Harvey Verstag and his associates in Barry County have welcomed many visitors throughout the summer to the museum originated in the Charlton collection.

Puffs of smoke clouded the area during the three day steam thresher rally and the muzzle loading gun shoot. Volunteers are cooperating in a hosting program, cleaning items and working to some degree in nearly all aspects of the museum operation.

Members of the Society plan to visit the Park and museum on a Saturday in October. Contact President Crosby at 1135 N. Genesee Drive, Lansing, 48915, for details of the day.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

P.O. BOX 515, Lansing

THE TOUR TO THE BARRY COUNTY MUSEUM, CHARLTON PARK,

HASTINGS, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1969

11:00 A.M. on

Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day. Director Harvey Verstag will conduct members through the facility. If you need transportation or can offer a ride, please call Charles Leneweaver, 484-8133, after 6:00 p.m.

C A L L T O M E E T I N G !

The Society welcomes you and your friends to a presentation on antiques by Angus Cory, respected authority and proprietor of "The Sign of the Peacock."

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1969, 8:00 p.m.

GRAND LEDGE MICHIGAN NATIONAL BANK

corner of Bridge and Jefferson Streets  
parking in city lot at the rear

This is a joint meeting with the Eaton  
County Historical Society.



MEMBERSHIP IS AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF CATEGORIES.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, 1969-1970.

- Regular . . . . . \$ 3.00
- Contributing. . . . . \$ 5.00
- Organizational. . . . . \$ 25.00
- Life. . . . . \$100.00
- Joint with Historical Society of Michigan . . . . . \$ 11.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and mail to P.O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan.