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Volume 12, No. 3

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

March, 1970

## THE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM - A NEW SERVICE

Something new has been added in the history room of the Lansing Public Library - - maps. The Local History Room has recently been most fortunate in acquiring a new map case, making an added service possible to historians.

Presently available are historic and literary maps of Michigan, Cowell's "Indians of Michigan", as well as numerous geological maps of Michigan by the Geological Survey Division of the Michigan Department of Conservation.

Not only are there maps showing surface formations of Michigan, its drainage system, Michigan's main rivers and tributaries, but there are also maps of special areas such as Mackinac Island, Isle Royale, Beaver Island and the Lansing area. There is also a treasure map of the Great Lakes region.

On the walls of the History Room itself are two newly framed maps - one of Michigan, a gift from the Mills Collection, showing Biddle City; and the other a map of the town of Michigan showing the early platting of Michigan at the time the Capitol was transferred from Detroit to Lansing. V.S.

## POLITICAL ITEMS ATTRACT KEEN INTEREST

The expert knowledge and sharp wit of Jerry D. Roe brought members a delightful evening in February. His enthusiastic presentation of Michigan political items alerted some to another area for collecting. And he may have recruited new memberships for American Political Item Collector. This organization met Saturday, March 7., at the Jack Tar Hotel, Lansing, to exhibit, trade and sell.

Membership in the Michigan Chapter of the organization is \$6.00 per year. President Crosby is an active member and will be pleased to give additional information.

Stephen H. Bibler, 4144 Southeast Clinton Street, Portland, Oregon, 97202, is national secretary-treasurer.

## SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Charles Lawrence  
Mrs. Clarence Roe

COME, COME, COME

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING WILL MEET

Lansing Public Library

Wednesday, March 18, 1970

7:30 p.m.

"Michigan Lighthouses"

by Mrs. Helen Wallin

The Society is especially proud to present members who wish to share their interests and information with others. Few Societies enjoy devoted workers who have contributed more to local history than our own Helen Wallin.

Many will remember the address which climaxed her service as president in 1963. She served as editor of the newsletter and offered several rewarding programs to our members.

Her state service has included work with the Western Michigan Division of Laboratories in Grand Rapids, beginning in 1929; the Planning Commission; Michigan Public Service Commission and the Michigan Department of Conservation, now Natural Resources.

Helen's flair for words and careful research makes her a welcome contributor to MICHIGAN HERITAGE, NATURAL RESOURCES MAGAZINE and other publications.

We are pleased for this opportunity to hear about her search for the history of Michigan's lighthouses which, with an eye on yesterday, has focused attention on a fascinating segment of our present.

## APRIL MEETING

We look forward to April 22 when Eugene G. Wanger will present a program: "Making Michigan Constitutions: A Capitol Pastime."

## "SUITCASE THEATRE" MAKING CIRCUIT

This spring SUITCASE THEATRE, a racially integrated company of Lansing high school students, will tour twenty Michigan cities, sponsored by the Michigan Education Association. They will be performing in "...these truths..," an historical play of Negro American life and black-white co-operation in the U.S.

The youth hope their presentations in Michigan will raise funds sufficient for the entire SUITCASE THEATRE troup--26 now in rehearsal--to continue their tour overseas. As now planned, 16 "ambassadors of good will" will tour western Europe for seven weeks during July and August, under sponsorship of Youth for Understanding, the international teenage exchange program headquartered in Ann Arbor.

Directed by Powell Lindsay, charter member and past president of the Research Association for Michigan Negro History, Inc., the integrated cast of the company will demonstrate to theatre-goers at home and abroad "democracy in action"--each for all, and all for one world family at peace.

A former Broadway producer-director, actor and playwright, Mr. Lindsay has assembled "...these truths..." from some of the history, stories, humor and blues of the late Langston Hughes, whose works are translated in 21 languages--along with vignettes from other black poets and playwrights. Entertaining as well as educational, the material will include some of the "Simple" sketches acclaimed hilarious in "Langston Hughes Looks at Dark America," the dramatic production with music staged in 1967 and 1968-69 editions in Lansing, Ann Arbor and Detroit.

As students in SUITCASE THEATRE are being given ample opportunity for meaningful development and use of their talents in the performing arts, they hope their presentation of the black writers' views will provide insights moving enough to shatter myths and stereotypes in the minds of people and to reinforce good will and understanding among all who are willing to share learning experiences.

Teacher groups, school districts, or other organizations interested in scheduling a presentation of SUITCASE THEATRE should contact Howard Belton or Joseph Hayden, MEA Human Relations Division, Box 673, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

THE LOCAL HISTORY PARTICIPATION CONFERENCE USUALLY HELD AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY AND SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 11, 1970 WILL NOT BE HELD.

## GENEALOGICAL ROUNDUP

The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research announces a conference on problems in genealogy will be held Saturday, April 11, 1970, at the McGregor Memorial Center on the Wayne State University campus, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Speakers will include Milton Rubincam on "Delaware Valley Problems," which includes eastern Pennsylvania and adjacent areas. Mr. Rubincam is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists and several other organizations; he serves as instructor at the Institute of Genealogical Research held annually in Washington, D.C.; has conducted numerous workshops and held speaking engagements throughout the U.S. and Canada. He is former editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, and has written numerous articles and histories.

Michigan specialists include Mrs. Frances Davis McTeer, A. M., on "Data-Problem Relationships." Mrs. McTeer is a former editor of the DSGR Magazine; has conducted adult education classes in genealogy for the Detroit Board of Education; and her articles appear regularly in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, The American Genealogist, The DSGR Magazine, and many more.

Dr. Russell E. Bidlack, Ph.D. will speak on "Problems Facing Genealogists in Libraries." Dr. Bidlack is Chairman of the Department of Library Science at the University of Michigan. He is editor of The Sparks Quarterly, one of the leading family association publications. Both Dr. Bidlack and Mr. Rubincam were speakers at the World Conference on Records held last August in Salt Lake City.

Mr. Rubincam will close the session with a discussion on problems facing the genealogists today in public relations.

Registration will be \$2.00. This fee is included if one buys a luncheon ticket. Cost of the luncheon is tentatively set at \$4.00. Official announcements may be obtained from Miss Lucy Mary Kellogg, R#3, 9455 Hilton Road, Brighton, Michigan, 48116.

## LOCAL HISTORY ROOM OPEN EVENINGS

The Local History Room of the Lansing Public Library is enjoying a greater audience each week.

Staff is on hand to assist you in your researches every Wednesday, 7 - 9 p.m.

MICHIGAN SITES REGISTERED

The first biannual publication in book form of the National Register of Historic Places is now available. (Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, \$5.25).

It was prepared in the office of archaeology and historic preservation by the staff of the National Register. The Michigan section includes views of the American Fur Company Warehouse, Mackinac Island; the Monument at St. Ignace Mission, St. Ignace; and the Franklin Buggy Works, Willage of Franklin Historic District, Franklin.

Registered sites in our State include: Fort Michilimackinac, Mackinac City; St. Mary's Falls Canal, Sault Ste. Marie Hemingway Collage (Windemer), Walloon Lake; Grand Rapids City Hall, Grand Rapids, Norton Mound Group, Grand Rapids; Mackinac Island, Mackinac Island; St. Ignace, Mission, St. Ignace; Village of Franklin Historic District, Franklin; and Henry Ford Estate, Fair Lane, Dearborn.

Additional sites nominated and not yet accepted include Quincy Mine No. 2 Shaft Hoist House, Houghton County; Covered Bridge at Ada, Kent County; Fayette, Delta County; and Berrien Springs Courthouse, Berrien County.

NEWSPAPER INDEXING CENTER AT FLINT

The newly established Newspaper Indexing Center at Flint, Michigan, plans to compile, maintain and publish a complete annotated bibliography of all published and unpublished newspaper indexes and indexing projects.

The center will make available previously unpublished and out-of-print newspaper indexes; develop improved techniques for creation of indexes; and provide bibliographic control, analysis, and synthesis of all published and unpublished literature relating to the subject. Consulting services will be provided on a contract basis.

Contact Norman M. Lathrop, Director, Newspaper Indexing Center, P.O. Box 83, Flint, Michigan, 48501.

MICHIGAN WEEK - May 16-23.

The theme of "Michigan, Land of Hospitality" is stressed again in 1970. Each of the eighty-three counties have been requested to appoint a reunion chairman to coordinate homecoming. Former residents of the State are invited to return to the place of their beginnings - at least for a visit. The observance under the director of Robert J. Hutton, music director of the University Broadcast Service,

Ann Arbor, will offer awards for agricultural development, community action and products.

MEMBERS IN PRINT

We note with special pleasure when Society members have works published. Dr. George P. Graff authored "Michigan's Jewish Settlers, Frontiersmen in Every Sense of the Word" in the January, 1970 (Shevat, 5730) issue of Michigan Jewish History.

Helen Wallin's article, "The Little Doctor" in the December, 1969, issue of MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES alerts us to a new need.

A "Biographic Sketch of Douglass Houghton-Michigan's First State Geologist, 1837-1845" prepared by Helen is published as Pamphlet 1, Geological Survey, Lansing, 1966.

VITAL RECORDS INSTITUTE MEETS

The Institute of Vital Records Protection will take place at the National Archives, Washington, D.C., March 16-20, 1970.

This Institute is under the sponsorship of the Center for Technology and Administration, The American University, in cooperation with the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration.

The program offers some of the country's best informed executives from business and government concerned with the selection and protection of records necessary to continue operations in event of any emergency.

For further information contact the University, Massachusetts at Nebraska Avenues, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

VERMONTVILLE ELECTS OFFICERS

Mrs. Barbara Wright was elected President of the Vermontville Historical Society. The executive board for 1970-71 is composed of Robert Childs, 1st Vice President; Ruth Anderson, 2nd Vice President; Ava Kroger, Secretary-Treasurer; Dorothy Carpenter, Program. Directors Esther Shepard, Leonard Maunder, Iva Amspacher, Ray Anderson and Hildred Peabody will guide the organization.

More than 2500 people visited the Museum during Syrup Festival in 1969. Plans are being made to welcome you to the Festival scheduled Saturday, April 25, 1970.

The Museum will be open on Firday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

The Society has qualified for an official historic site marker which will be dedicated June 7. The search for living

descendants of the original colonists continues. If you have information, please contact Mrs. Barbara Wright, R#2, Vermontville, Michigan, 49096.

HISTORY

"I know histhry isn't thru, Hinnessy, because it aint't like what I see ivry day in Halsted Sthreet. If any wan comes along with a histhry iv Greece or Rome that'll show me th' people fightin', gettin' dhrunk, makin' love, gettin' married, owin' th' grocery man an' bein' without hard-coal, I'll believe they was a Greece or Rome, but not befure. Historyans is like doctors. They are always lookin' f'r symptoms. Those iv them that writes about their own times examines th' tongue an' feels th' pulse an' makes a wrong dygnosis. Th' other kind iv histhry is a post-mortem examination. It tells ye what a country died iv. But I'd like to know what a country lived iv."

-from OBSERVATIONS BY MR. DOOLEY

OAKLAND COUNTY CELEBRATES SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

The colorful illustrated BOOK OF HISTORY being published in commemoration of Oakland County's Sesqui-Centennial observances is now in the making. Scores of writers and historians are collaborating in its preparation under the direction of Arthur A. Hagman, former editor of Inside Michigan Magazine.

Pre-publication price is \$10. Direct your order for numbered edition to 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Pontiac, Michigan, 48054.

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE FROM MARQUETTE

The Marquette County Historical Society, Inc., announces the release of their latest publication, NORTH TO LAKE SUPERIOR: THE JOURNAL OF CHARLES W. PENNY, 1840. This deluxe hard cover edition retails from the Society for \$3.95 (\$4.45 mailed).

Mr. Penny was a Detroit merchant who accompanied Douglass Houghton on his expedition along the south shore in 1840. Mr. Gregory Harrier, grandson of Charles W. Penny, and a resident of Berkeley, California, gave the original journal to John D. Voelker. Judge Voelker deposited it in the Society's collections for preservation and use. James L. Carter and Ernest H. Rankin edited it with an introduction by Judge Voelker.

Place your order with the Society, 213 N. Front Street, Marquette, Michigan, 49855.

THE MAIL BAG

Students of uniforms and collectors of military prints can obtain four 11x14 inch

pictures of troops at Fort Michilimackinac and Fort Mackinac from 1763 until 1812. These are single figure drawings accompanied by a detail of a button from the uniform. They are drawn in black line by Dirk Gringhuis and colored with flat washes in the style of the MILITARY UNIFORMS IN AMERICA series. The units illustrated are the British 60th Foot (Royal Americans) 1763, British King's 8th, 1775, Artillery of Wayne's Legion, 1796, and American 1st Regiment of Artillery, 1812. All figures represent private soldiers. The set sells for \$1.00 from the Department of Natural Resources, Publications and Information Room, Steven T. Mason Building, Lansing, Michigan, 48926.

The Shaytown Road is believed to have taken its name from SHAYTOWN. Ephriam Shay bought approximately ten acres in the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 25 of Sunfield Township, Eaton County, in 1871. This property is bisected by the Clinton Trail, now M50.

Mr. Shay built a sawmill on the property which he operated prior to his move to Haring Township in Wexford County.

A post office was established Feb. 11, 1880, discontinued in 1894, re-established in 1898 and finally, was discontinued on Feb. 14, 1901.

Balloon ascensions once special attractions at summer resorts, county fairs, Fourth of July celebrations and the like now are rare. How much did it cost? Prof. Goldman and Miss Bele Eldred of Grand Rapids in the early 1900s advertised "The World's Champion Aeronauts," and "Kid" McSharry, "The Youngest Living Aeronaut." Their letterhead noted "flying rings, trapeze rope ladder," and a "sailor act in mid air." The Professor wrote he would give an ascension for "20 dollars and expenses and we use a inflation. We don't tear up the grown."

Hodags, ripple skippers and tree squeeks may exist only in the lore of the Great Lakes area, but they have long been of interest to those who enjoy reading about "things that go bump in the night." Walker D. Wyman has published MYTHICAL CREATURES OF THE NORTH COUNTRY. A reprint of William T. Cox's FEAR-SOME CREATURES OF THE LUMBERWOODS, published in 1910, is included.