



Town Crier

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

November, 1970

GREATER LANSING BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT UNDERWAY

Our project of compiling an Historical Bibliography of Greater Lansing is underway, and members and friends of the society are urged to contribute.

Its aim is to list, with comments, all published historical writing on any part or aspect of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. We hope to complete the task by spring.

George Graff, chairman of the society's Publications and Publicity Committee, is editor-in-chief, and his editorial committee presently consists of Ford Caesar, Geneva Wiskemann, Richard Hathaway, Helen Wallin and Gil Wanger. George is author of "The People of Michigan," recently published by the Michigan State Library.

Please look through your bookshelves now and send George all the titles you have which qualify. His address is: George Graff, 215 So. Washington Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48933. (Phone IV2-0657).

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

Curwood Castle in Owosso will be the scene of an open house from one to five in the afternoon of November 8, 1970.

We have received a gracious invitation from Ivan Conger, president of the Shiawassee County Historical Society to attend.

James Oliver Curwood, author and conservationist, built the Castle, a replica of an ancient Norman Chateau, for a studio in 1922. The structure was used by the Owosso Board of Education in recent years. It has been vacant since April, 1970.

The Shiawassee society has long planned for the future of the Castle. Its story is read in the August 12, 1967 issue of their newsletter in memory of Curwood, stationery design, plaques and reports of research projects. The site at 224 John Street, Owosso, was dedicated as Registered State Site No. 59 on August 13, 1970, on the 43rd anniversary of the death of James Oliver Curwood.

COME! COME! COME! COME!

Wednesday, November 11th
Lansing Public Library
7:30 P.M.

COFFEE AND DESSERT WITH GREATER LANSING'S HISTORICAL AUTHORS

Meet our local historians and see their work. Our honored guests will be asked to briefly tell how they came to write their work. You might even be able to obtain an autographed edition for your own collection!

Sunday, December 20th
Lansing Public Library
3:00 P.M.

A CHRISTMAS TEA TO TRIM THE TREE

Our annual, informal, tree trimming party and presentation of our gift to the Library Historical Collections. Coat and tie not recommended; formal attire absolutely forbidden!

WHAT'S GOING ON

Nov. 12 - Mark your calendar for this meeting of the Eaton County Historical Society at Froebel School, 404 South Sheldon, Charlotte. The evening will include reports of committees, election of officers and a short program.

The Newcomers Club has selected the work of painting cabinets as their 1970-1 project. And this is just one of the many responses enjoyed by the Society since the leasing of the Froebel school as a museum, May 19, 1970! Items for the museum have come from Arizona, Florida and Illinois as well as Michigan sources.

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THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF CAPITOL AVENUE AND WASHTENAW STREET AS IT LOOKED IN 1895.

William H. Porter opened a livery stable in a foundry in 1880, and established a business which was to remain in the family for 85 years. Before the turn of the century the livery was operated in partnership with Dyer Ford. The Porter enterprises progressed with the city and another generation knew the site as the Porter Garage. A portion of the original structure at 300 S. Capitol Ave., was part of the garage when it was razed in October, 1965, to make way for the present Commerce Center Building.

WHAT'S GOING ON - Continued from page 1

Nov. 19-The Vermontville Historical Society welcomes all to a potluck supper at 7 P.M. at the Congregational Church in Vermontville. The program will be presented by Mr. West, formerly on the staff of the Smithsonian Institution.

THE MAILBAG

The Cobblestone Society founded in 1960 in Childs, New York, announces a new publication, "Our Cobblestone Heritage." It is primarily a picture book tied together with text. The price is \$1.00. Address the Society, Albion, New York, 14411.

William J. Kubiak, staff artist for the Grand Rapids Press, has written and illustrated Great Lakes Indians; A Pictorial Guide. Watch your local bookstores for this attractive gift book.

Here is a recipe for milk paint as requested. "Mix water lime with skim milk, to a proper consistence to apply with a brush, and it is ready to use."..."It is too cheap to estimate, and any one can put it on who can use a brush." Any color may be given by using colors of the tinge desired, dissolving in whisky first, then adding in to suit the fancy.-Dr. Chase's Recipes, or Information for Everybody... Ann Arbor, 1861. (8th ed. rev.).



THIS PAPER WAS COMPILED AND READ BY RAY ANDERSON AT THE DEDICATION OF THE HISTORICAL MARKERS WHICH WERE PLACED, ONE IN FRONT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND ONE IN FRONT OF THE OLD ACADEMY. VERMONTVILLE, MICHIGAN, JUNE 7, 1970.

I am well aware that most of those present have a good historical background of the settlement of Vermontville, but I also assume that there are those present who do not, so for them and as a review to those that do let me give you a brief, quick rundown on how it all happened. First, Vermontville was a planned settlement, unique unto itself, organized and led by the Reverend Sylvester Cochrane who was at that time the minister of the Congregational church in East Poultney, Vermont. He conceived the idea of gathering together a group of congenial people of the same religious beliefs, Congregational, organizing them in a colony and settling a new community in some Western State where they could not only make new homes but also better themselves financially for it was at this time that western lands were being opened up for purchase from the Government. At any rate the Colony did have a strong religious and cultural background with particular attention to the education of their children.

When the Rev. Cochrane returned to Vermont from his first trip to Michigan, he began preparations to execute his project. He visited different places up and down the western part of Vermont and conferred with those wishing to emigrate. Early in the winter of 1835-36 a meeting was held in East Poultney, Vermont with quite a large number of interested persons in attendance. Mr. Cochrane's plan was discussed and initiatory steps taken to mature and perfect the enterprise. Subsequent meetings were held in Castleton, Vermont March 27th., 1836, laid out rules and regulations of the "UNION

COLONY", part of the preamble stating, "We therefore form ourselves into an association, or colony, with the design of removing into some part of the Western country which shall hereafter be designated, and agree to bind ourselves to observe the following rules*****". Now I won't attempt to list all of the rules and regulations at this time, but to those who are further interested, they will find all this information in the Vermontville Public library.

Let me digress just one moment here. There are some who think the idea of this agreement might have been taken from the Compact signed by the Pilgrims before disembarking from the MAYFLOWER at Provincetown and Plymouth, Mass. And that might be. Just as the Pilgrims built a fort at the head of Leyden Street in Plymouth for protection, shelter and worship, so did members of the Union Colony upon reaching the spot which was to become Vermontville, build a log building which was used for protection and shelter for the early settlers, and later for worship.

The most interesting thing to me is, that to this very day, and practically on the very spot where the fort stood in Plymouth, there stands a Congregational Church where services are still held and have been continuously since Elder Brewster started the practice, for after all, the Congregational Church was born right there just as in Vermontville the (continued - page 4)

Congregational Church was started on this location that we are dedicating today and continues to this time.

Now subsequent to the meeting in Castleton a committee was sent to Michigan to locate a plot of unsettled and undeveloped land for a townsite. This they did through the land office in Kalamazoo. They surveyed it and named it Vermontville after their home state of Vermont. The committee returned to Vermont and soon thereafter the first settlers departed for Michigan to build and develop their new homes. The first settlers arriving in the fall of 1836 finding temporary shelter in a community log house which had been erected for their use until they could build a cabin of their own.

In as much as the purpose of this meeting today is to dedicate as Historic sites these two buildings which have served both as schools and churches, let me quote Article 6 of the agreement drawn before leaving Vermont; which reads as follows- "And we do also agree that for the benefit

of our children and the rising generation we will endeavor, as far as possible, to carry with us and perpetuate among us the same literary privileges that we enjoy here."

Amid all the hardships of pioneer life they did not forget the vow made in Vermont and so they promptly set out to provide facilities for their religious and educational needs. First in 1838 a log school house was built and that in turn was followed in 1843 by the Academy, or as popularly known now as the Chapel, which was used for both Church services and educational needs. From then on the town and community grew as we now know it.

And so let us honor those brave people who brought their traditions and principles to our small community: Let us rejoice in the remembrance of things past: Let us pause and reflect and vow to never, never lose sight of our precious heritage.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

Please check type of membership requested. Make check or money order payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Direct to: P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan 48913.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ Zip _____
TELEPHONE _____

Regular	\$ 3.00
Associate	9.00
Patron	10.00
Oran. & Bus.	
	25.-- 100.00
Life	100.00

*Dues received after March 15 apply through the next calendar year. Note change in cost of membership in association with Historical Society of Michigan.