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VOLUME 17, NO. 2 SPRING, 1976

& BiCentennial Forum

## Michigan and The Revolution

When in the course of human events it became necessary for the American colonists to dissolve the political bonds which had connected them with Mother England, they left a legacy of names known to every school child since — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, George Rogers Clark.

You say that when you were in school you never learned about George Rogers Clark? He didn't warn every Middlesex village and farm nor did he cross the Delaware on a frozen Christmas night. So he couldn't have been one of the heroes of the Revolution.

Madison Kuhn would probably say that you had your information from the professors at Harvard. For most of the histories of the Revolution were written by Eastern historians who ignored almost any of it that didn't happen within smelling distance of the Atlantic. And George Rogers Clark's piece of the war was in the Midwest — Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and (obliquely) Michigan.

The neglected story of Michigan and the Revolution was told January 21 as a special presentation of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, in cooperation with the Michigan State University Bicentennial Committee, in the Concon Room on the MSU campus. Dr. Kuhn, the speaker, is a professor of history and the University historian at MSU. His talk was later carried over station WKAR-FM, Feb. 18.

Although, Dr. Kuhn said, there were no minutemen standing at Belle Isle Bridge and no militia swarmed out of the Irish Hills to seize upon Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne, Michigan was involved in the Revolution. Dr. Kuhn gave a short listing of place names of the early part of the war, from Lexington in 1775 to Saratoga in 1777,

all in the East. But 1778, he said, belonged to the Midwest, with George Rogers Clark, an American colonel of the Virginia army, and Henry Hamilton, lieutenant governor of British Quebec stationed in Detroit.

"In 1778 the major military victory is in Kaskaskia, Ill., by George Rogers Clark over forces that owe their inspiration, their supplies, their instructions via Detroit," Dr. Kuhn explained. "For Clark is on his way to Detroit to protect the settlers of Kentucky against George the Third's Forces in the West."

Gov. Hamilton, before coming to Detroit, had been in Quebec. Montreal had fallen to the Americans in November, 1775, so to get through their lines he disguised himself as a French habitant.

The Kentuckians called him "the hair buyer" because of the Indian raiding parties that returned to Detroit with the scalps of Kentucky settlers. Kentucky, which had been closed to the whites by the Proclamation Line of 1763, was now opened and settlers had been arriving in great numbers. The Indians were concerned about losing their lands and looked to Hamilton for leadership. He told them that they must defend their lands — but not to invade Kentucky.

In due time, Dr. Kuhn said, raiding parties came back with prisoners and scalps. Hamilton congratulated them. He said in his official reports that he deplored the situation — but it was the settlers' own fault.

Sometimes Hamilton paid to ransom prisoners. He offered 100 pounds for the redoubtable Daniel Boone, brought into Detroit by a group of Shawnees. But the Indians refused and adopted Boone into their tribe. He later escaped.

And to those who say that the British didn't really approve of scalp-

Madison Kuhn, professor of history at Michigan State University, received the Historical Society of Greater Lansing's first *Citation of Honor* for "contributions in the advancement of history in the Michigan capital region." Dr. Kuhn was the first president of the society, in 1955.



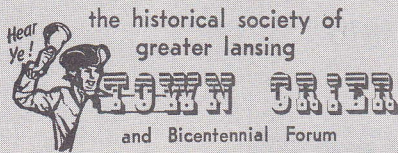
ing, Dr. Kuhn offers this contrary evidence. Along with the gifts the British gave to the Indians — guns, powder, blankets, rum — there were quantities of scalping knives.

"They were always called 'scalping knives,'" Dr. Kuhn emphasized. "Not butter knives — or hunting knives — or carving knives — or table knives — or bread knives."

As the war continued, he said, the Indians brought in more prisoners and less scalps.

Col. George Rogers Clark, a Kentuckian, led an American expedition against the British and captured forts at Kaskaskia and Cahokia in Illinois and Vincennes in Indiana. He surprised

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the historical society of  
greater lansing

and Bicentennial Forum

Box 12095, Lansing, Mi. 48901

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**Michigan and Revolution**

(Continued from Page 1)

the British by coming overland instead of by canoe as any sensible commander would have done.

Now Detroit was worried. Hamilton, leaving the town in charge of the military commander, Capt. Richard Lernoult, departed with a British force to regain the lost forts. He marched his army up to the gates of Vincennes and demanded that the American commander, Leonard Helm, surrender. But Capt. Helm refused unless he could have full honors of war, with his entire garrison marching out while the British stood at attention.

"Hamilton agreed," Dr. Kuhn said. "The gates of Vincennes opened. And out marched Capt. Helma and his garrison — one, lone private. They marched the length of the British forces and laid down their guns."

Hamilton decided to stay at Vincennes over the winter and in the spring to take Kaskaskia and Cahokia. But Col. Clark arrived before spring did, marching overland again. Hamilton surrendered and was taken off in chains to Virginia.

Meanwhile, back in Detroit, the population was again in panic. So Capt. Lernoult had a new fort constructed, one that would keep out that devil, Clark. This one was built on a height of land instead of on the river as was the old one. He called his new one "Fort Lernoult."

Because the hair buyer was now in jail in Virginia, the British had to have a new commandant in Detroit. They

sent Maj. Arent DePeyster down from Fort Michilmackinac, leaving Partick Sinclair in charge of the fort at the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

The dread of Clark was not confined just to Detroit. Sinclair, fearing that Clark might attack Michilmackinac, asked permission to move the garrison to Mackinac Island. He didn't get the permission but he moved anyway and built a new fort, finished in 1781.

1781 was the year of the Battle of Yorktown which virtually ended the war in the East. In 1782 Benjamin Franklin was in Paris, talking about the peace. In 1782 George Rogers Clark was still trying to get to Detroit. On his way there he fought the British at Chillicothe, Ohio, the last battle of the Revolution. He never did get to Detroit.

And in Detroit, DePeyster was telling the Indians that they must now be friendly with the Americans:

"You must live with them. When peace comes, we will be gone. You will be here."

**Antique Show**

The Lansing Area Antique Dealers Association held its annual show Oct. 25 and 26 at Plumbers and Pipefitters Hall in Lansing. The association was formed 11 years ago to improve standards, promote the interchange of information between dealers, and encourage the activities of collectors, dealers and the public. The annual show is a project of the association as a benefit for some non-profit organization. This year the Historical Society of Greater Lansing was the recipient of the proceeds of the show, which amounted to \$300.

Members of the historical society helped during the day of the show and the society's Information Committee arranged publicity prior to the event. The Heritage Arts Committee, in cooperation with the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Embroiders Guild of America and the Greater Lansing Weavers Guild, planned craft demonstrations at the show. Doing the demonstrations were Hazel Withers, braiding, weaving and macrame; Peg Newport, spinning; Linda Roberts, doll making; and Judy Clark, Inkle weaving.

Geneva Wiskemann, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, said that the society was most appreciative of the antique dealers association for its donation and to the crafts people for their time and talents.

historical society of greater lansing  
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# Preservation

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing has been greatly involved in creating interest in historical preservation and in disseminating information among the various groups in the region.

On Sept. 24 it presented at the historic Turner-Dodge House in North Lansing a program on preservation and renovation. This was the first event to be held in the building since it was obtained by the city of Lansing as a historic site. Bette Downs, preservation chairwoman for the society, was moderator.

Speakers included Mike Washo of the Michigan Department of State History Division, who gave an overview of preservation; Gary Zenz of the Meridian Historic Village, who spoke about that project; Sue Neller of the Junior League, who talked about the proposed renovation of the Women's Club House in Lansing; and Scott Hilleary of the Jaycees who told of the progress being made on the Turner-Dodge House.

The program was held in cooperation with the Jaycees.

On Nov. 15, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, in cooperation with the Lansing Community College humanities department, held a Preservation Workshop at the college. It lasted from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., with lunch served in the LCC cafeteria. There were about 10 people in attendance.

The first speaker, Ken Wilson, past president of the Upper Grand River Valley Chapter, Michigan Archaeological Society, talked about the Arthurburg, a prehistoric Indian site near Muir. Next, Marilyn Frankenstein of the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission told of the preservation



—photo by Jack Thompson  
**Attorney Gil Wanger, vice chairman of the Ingham County Historical Commission and a past president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, talks about the various laws concerning historical preservation, at the November preservation workshop.**

of the Dyer Limestone Kiln at Bellevue. This is the last remnant of one of Eaton County's earliest industries. Gerry Harsch of Land Planning and Design Associates spoke about the natural ledges along the Grand River for which Grand Ledge was named.

The next part of the program dealt with community interest. John Collins, president of the Marshall Historical Society, gave an illustrated lecture on historical home preservation in that city.

He was followed by Gil Wanger, a local attorney, who discussed laws pertaining to historic preservation.

In the afternoon, six people presented information on various projects that their communities and organizations were involved in. The speakers were Frances Michalek of the Perry Historical Society, Tom Hollen of the Clinton County Historical Society, Russ Gregory of the Ionia County Bicentennial Commission, Frank Walsh from Charlton Park in Barry County, Charlene Webster of Friends of Historic Meridian, and Bette Downs of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

The program ended with a discussion and question and answer period with four experts in various fields related to preservation — Val Berryman, curator of historic artifacts, Michigan State University Museum; Charles Opdyke, Mid-Michigan chapter chairman, American Institute of Architects; and Mike Washo, deputy director and

Archie Lee Stobie, curator of decorative arts, History Division, Michigan Department of State. Mr. Berryman and Mr. Washo are members of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

The participants toured the historic Turner-Dodge House in North Lansing, following the program.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is now planning, with Lansing Community College, a preservation conference for 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. May 1. According to Bette Downs the keynote speaker will be Beulah Groehn, award winning preservationist with the Detroit Historic Preservation Committee. Others scheduled as of this date are: John Sower, a broker with the National Trust in Washington, D.C., who will speak on urban reinvestment; James Bryant, in charge of historic preservation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and who is restoring the famous Joy House in Marshall; Pat Russell of the Stockbridge Farm Museum; Marilyn Smith of Ledge Craft Lanes in Grand Ledge; and Lois Baumer of the Gunnisonville School project.

Mrs. Downs said that others are being contacted, including an expert on the conservation of materials. She said that the day will end with a walking tour of North Lansing.

For more information and your preservation reservation, write Historical Society of Greater Lansing, Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901.

A local U.S. representative, Robert Carr of the 6th District, is co-sponsor of House Bill 276 which, over the next few years, would provide historic preservation funds of \$100 million. According to Bette Downs, preservation chairwoman for the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, letters to members of the House of Representatives concerning the bill are very important. They should be sent to the district congressman by name with the address: House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Mrs. Downs said that a one sentence statement in the writers own words and handwriting is most effective. Any congressman will agree that a short, personal message is worth many, many printed messages, she added.

## Library Thinning Sale

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## Geneva Wiskemann On Cooperation

Geneva Wiskemann, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and former archivist in charge at the State Archives, spoke at the Midwest Archives conference in Detroit, Nov. 7. Her topic was competition and cooperation between large and small agencies.

She said that 20 years ago representatives of the major historical collecting agencies in Michigan met to discuss the "prima-donna" development of collectors and policies affecting competitive collecting. Even although many left with resolutions to redefine their goals, she said, competition grew even keener.

"Since then there has been frequent changes in personnel and policies," Mrs. Wiskemann explained. "Today each of the major collecting institutions has matured. They have become devoted to certain subjects or at least defined their extreme boundaries. We enjoy good rapport and communication through professional interchange."

She then spoke of how the Historical Society of Greater Lansing has made it a policy to avoid competition with other history related groups and, instead, to make a conscious effort of cooperation and service with them.

"Membership of the society is drawn from a multi-county area, mostly urban in interests, close to the State Archives and Michigan State University," she explained. "There are 16 other historical societies in the area. Of these, six maintain museums and another is planning one."

She said that the Historical Society of Greater Lansing decided early to avoid competition by directing materials to already established public collections.

"A fair degree of competition may be good," she added, "but the fracturization of effort and money is disastrous."

She said that the society and its members work with the other groups in many ways. She gave as examples the various restoration projects in the region, the society's sponsorship workshops in oral history and preservation, in cooperation with Wayne State University and Lansing Community College, and the society's newsmagazine, the *Town Crier*, carrying Bicentennial news of the five-county region to over a thousand addresses.



— photo from the Fred Garlock collection  
The house of George Berry of Grand Ledge was built around 1872. About 30 years later a three-story, gambrel-roofed addition was constructed at the front. The house is now owned by Taylor and Mary Snow. This photograph, by Roberta Berry Knight, shows the house prior to the addition.

## Home For The Holidays in Grand Ledge

The Grand Ledge Bicentennial Commission sponsored a house tour, Dec. 6 in that city. Included were eight houses, Ledge Craft Lanes craft shop and Heritage Hall, the Bicentennial Commission headquarters. The buildings were decorated for the holidays.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing assisted the hosts, Taylor and Mary Snow, at one of the homes. Members of the society greeted the guests, checked tickets, answered questions and gave needlecraft demonstrations.

## HSGL Field Trips

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing visited three interesting locations this year.

On Oct. 15 members were at the Haslett Middle School to see its Log Cabin Living program in action. Two of the staff members, Jane Taylor, outdoor education consultant, and Bob Copland, outdoor education teacher, told about the school's program in pioneer living. Then some of the students gave demonstrations in such things as toy making, candle dipping and metal working.

Members of the historical society were guests of Maurice Crane, director of the Michigan State University Voice Library, Nov. 18, at the library. The collection, which Dr. Crane called, "the best in the world," includes recordings of the voices of Teddy Roosevelt, Florence Nightingale, William Gladstone, P T Barnum, Babe Ruth, and

thousands of others. Dr. Crane told the society members about how the library began with the private collection of G. Robert Vincent, the library's first curator, and how it has grown. The members had a tour of the library and its facilities.

On March 17, the members of the society met at the DeWitt Memorial Building for a talk on historic DeWitt by Faye Hanson. Mrs. Hanson, a librarian in the DeWitt Public Library, is one of the most well known and well respected people in the historical circles of this region. She has written a series for the DeWitt Advertiser, "DeWitt — Yesterday and Today," is chairwoman of the town's bicentennial commission and a member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. On display at the Memorial Building were a number of models of historic DeWitt made by members of Larry Arbanas seventh grade classes.

# Signs of Past Times

Last summer a group of people from various history related organizations met to work toward a regional program of local historical site markings. By October the committee had selected the design, size and colors for uniform markers to be used throughout the region.

Each sign consists of two separate pieces of 1/16" anodized etched aluminum coated with acrylic plastic. The top section, elliptical in shape, carries the name and emblem of the sponsoring organization. The bottom part, a rectangle with the top cut in slightly so that the ellipse will fit into it, has the text giving the name of the site and the

data about it. The markers are green with silver letters and emblems. The cost of each marker is approximately \$80 (posts extra, if needed).

The planning of the marker program was truly a multi-organization effort. A member of the Historical Society of Lansing coordinated the work, another member of the society suggested the two part sign and the oval shape for the emblem. A representative of the Friends of Historic Meridian suggested the shape of the lower section. The Ingham County Historical Commission offered legal services involved in a contract with Stamp-Rite, Inc., the company chosen to make the signs, and the Eaton County Bicentennial Commission took care of printing and distributing the information to the various organizations. Much of the basic groundwork came from the already established

Clinton County program of marking buildings 100 years old or older.

The organization serving as clearing houses for approval of marking sites with the signs are: the Clinton County Historical Society, the Eaton County Bicentennial Commission, the Ingham County Historical Commission, the Ionia County Bicentennial Commission and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

The first marker was erected at Gunnisonville School, north of Lansing. The Ingham County Historical Commission has set aside \$400 for markers and two Delta Township groups are planning markers. Other markers are already designated to be placed at Campeau's Post, the site of the first home in Clinton County; French's Corners north of St. Johns and the Couzens School in Bath. The town of DeWitt is also researching three sites for marking.

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## HSGL Display

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing had a display at the Day with the Arts in the Lansing Civic Center, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. Society members working at the exhibit were Harley and Alice Franks, Kelsey Gibbs, Charles Lawrence and Scott Radford. Designed for travelling, the display was later used at North Lansing and is available for other events.

The display consists of sketches and information of various structures in the region which are of concern to preservationists. Included are the Turner-Dodge House, the Moon House, the Women's Club House and the Grand River Avenue Comfort Station, all in Lansing; the Proctor Toll House and the Grettenberger Farm House in the Meridian Historic Village; Haslett School System's log house; the Orchard Street Pump House in East Lansing; the Michigan State University locomotive; the Park House north of St. Johns; the Round School at Lebanon Corners; the Snow House in Grand Ledge; the Pink School west of Mason, the Dyer Kiln near Bellevue; and the Gunnisonville School.

According to display chairman, Jack Thompson, sketches of additional structures will be added to the display as they are ready. Now in preparation are the Frobels School and the depot in Charlotte; the Okemos barn theater; the Waterloo Farm Museum and Dewey School near Stockbridge; the Underhill Store in Dimondale; the Gardner Museum in Albion; Ledge Craft Lanes in Grand Ledge; and the Grand Truck station in Lansing.

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## The French Connection

We usually consider our historical background to be mainly English — which is true for the United States as a whole. But Michigan was British for little more than a decade prior to the American Revolution; it was French long before that.

The story of the French influence in Michigan was told to the members of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing by George Joyaux, Feb. 18 at the East Lansing Public Library. Dr. Joyaux is a professor of romance languages at Michigan State University.

Dr. Joyaux said that during his early childhood in France his school studies of the exploration of North America gave him the idea that America was French. When he was old enough to go to the movies, he said, that image changed to that of cowboys and gangsters.

The maps in his school books showed the area of French exploration of this continent as a large blue area. Dr. Joyaux told of the early French settlers — the *coureurs de bois* or woods rangers who were running away from civilization, employed only by themselves; the *voyageurs*, the boatmen employed by the fur merchants and the king; and the missionaries, who Dr. Joyaux said, were employed by God.

He next spoke of the various French

communities of early Michigan ("a spot in that large blue area"), how French America was acquired by the British, and how later part of it became independent as a part of the United States. He said that France is celebrating the American Bicentennial as one of this country's oldest friends.

"When I came to visit the blue spot," he continued, "I found no remnant of the French presence here except in French place names. So I knew some French people must have been here."

He then talked about a study he had done on French language newspapers in Michigan. He said that there were 33 such newspapers between 1809 and 1919, published in areas with comparatively large numbers of French speaking people (mostly French-Canadians), including Detroit, Saginaw, Lake Linden, Marquette, Muskegon and Ludington. All of these, he pointed out, were near lake shores.

Michigan no longer has any such publications. Dr. Joyaux said that they failed because of the small number of French groups in Michigan, partly because the French in comparison with other European nationals, didn't move away from their home country; and if they did, the chances were that they came as individuals, not in ethnic clusters.

## Publications

Jean DeWitt, a member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, has prepared an index to people, churches, religions, religious organizations and buildings mentioned in *Pulpit and Prayer in Earliest Lansing*, by Joseph Druce, published by the society in 1959.

*Lansing: a Look to the Past* by Helen Jacobson and Jane Wilson, on sale at St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Heritage Fair in October, is available for \$1. The 65 page monograph is said by the authors to be "an attempt to bring history highlights of the Lansing story to its citizenry in recognition of our nation's Bicentennial." Contact the church office for your copy.

*Hallmarks in Black Achievement*, a 44 page illustrated monograph is comprised of biographical sketches of the first blacks to attain their eminent positions within Ingham County. Developed by the Lansing alumni chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., it was funded by the Ingham County Bicentennial Commission. 1,000 copies of the first printing are being distributed to local schools.

*The Bicentennial History of Ingham County Michigan* produced by the Ingham

County Historical Commission and written by Ford Ceasar, a past president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is available. The hard-bound book of 450 pages includes photographs. Checks payable to Ingham County History Book for \$8.32 will secure a copy now. Total cost for mail orders is \$9 to cover sales tax, postage and handling. The address is Ingham County History Book, Box 319, Mason, MI 48854.

*East Lansing Heritage Cookery Book*, edited by a committee of the city's Bicentennial Commission chaired by Lou Cawood, has been selling well, according to commission chairwoman Yvonne Pretzer. Over 3,000 copies have been sold at \$2.50 each. Copies are still available in East Lansing craft and needlework shops. Cindy McCarty, one of the staff people for the commission, said that the Bicentennial history book of East Lansing will be on sale this summer. The authors of the history are Edna Anderson, Ann Green, Larry Kestenbaum and Madison Kuhn. Miss Anderson and Dr. Kuhn are members of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. The commission offices are at 306 Bailey School in East Lansing (phone 332-2468).

## Plans in East Lansing

The East Lansing Bicentennial Committee will sponsor a Heritage Fair, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 5 at the East Lansing High School according to chairwoman, Yvonne Pretzer. She said that it will be a day of drama, dancer, music and crafts.

There will be musical groups performing all through the day, including minstrels and various school choirs with up to 700 students. There will be a fashion show featuring clothing from the Colonial period to the Victorian.

A large group of artisans and craftspeople will demonstrate their talents and the products of their skills. There will be violin makers, a blacksmith, wood workers, doll makers, a gunsmith, spinners and weavers, rosemaling and tole artists and many more. According to Maria Thompson, chairwoman of the Heritage Arts Committee of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and organizer of this part of the fair, small clusters of needleworkers will be around the area, each group working in one medium although the individuals will be working in different techniques of that medium. She said also that members of the famous Dimondale Quilting Bee have demonstrations.

Among other events at the Heritage Fair will be an American Indian display and the raffling of three quilts made by two kindergarten classes and one middle school group with the help of adult seamstresses. There will also be food concessions.

In events other than the heritage fair, Mrs. Pretzer said that the Fine Arts and Cultural Heritage Subcommittee is now working on a sculpture project. Various works of sculpture will be displayed around downtown East Lansing during the summer. The committee would like to see at least some of the pieces remain in the city permanently. Joe Janeti is chairman of this project.

Another sculpture project is being undertaken by the city schools as part of their "I am an American" day. A piece of sculpture made by the high school art classes is planned to be placed near the school flag pole.

East Lansing will also have a grand parade, July 4, as an event in its Bicentennial celebration.

## The Situation in Shiawassee

The Shiawassee County Historical Society has elected its officers for 1976. They are Robert Smith, president; A. B. Cook, vice president; Donna Sanford, secretary; and William Little, treasurer. Ivan Conger, a member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing continues as editor of the newsletter, the *Shiawassee Gazette*.

The society planned its 7:30 p.m. March 18 meeting at the Shiawassee Township Hall, Lansing and Grand River Roads in Bancroft to feature Marion Durling's presentation "Early History in Bancroft."

The society has recently funded the survey and cataloging of Indian artifacts in the county and is in the process of carefully identifying and numbering the artifacts.

A group comprised of many organizations and individuals has made a notable change in the Curwood Historical Complex in Owosso by purchasing and then demolishing a house which had

been located between the castle and the historic Comstock Cabin which is also on the grounds.

## YWCA Needlepoint

The downtown Lansing YWCA is refurbishing its lobby. Some of the furniture was donated from their family homes by members of old Lansing families.

Through the cooperation of the Heritage Arts Committee of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, two of the chairs will have new seats completed in needlepoint. One will have the design of the triangular YWCA symbol, the other will have the Women's Year dove symbol. The craftswomen working on this project are Vicki Clum and Maria Thompson.

Mrs. Thompson, of Mexican ancestry, will tell about this project on the Spanish language television program, "Tele-Revista," over station WKAR, channel 23, in April.



— MSU Housing & Food Services photo  
 Historical Society of Greater Lansing members, George Wiskemann and Betty Jones, among the guests at a Bicentennial dinner in Akers Hall, Michigan State University. Mr. Wiskemann loaned the historic maps used in printing the menus. Mrs. Jones was a resource person for costuming.

## Apple Pye and Mulled Cyder

When the Division of Housing and Food Services at Michigan State University appointed a committee to develop plans for the Bicentennial, it was charged with avoiding commercialism. No plastic streamers, no red, white and blue paper cups, no run-of-the-mill gimmicks with "Bicentennial" tacked to them.

From the main committee, chaired by Ted Smith, coordinator of residence halls food services, four sub-committees were formed. They were to look into ideas for: 1. residence halls small group dinners; 2. dinners for entire residence halls; 3. pay cafeteria and grill operations; and 4. a Bicentennial logo for the division.

The committee for small group dinners, chaired by Fred Kayne, manager of Wonders Residence Hall, decided to develop a menu modified from what might have been served during the Colonial period. The members searched through books, including primary sources. The Historical Society of Greater Lansing became involved, with suggestions of costumes, printing of menus and design motifs.

Included on the menu were such things as roast beef (printed with the long "s"), mulled cyder, potatoes of the

Colonies, peas and peanuts, baked acorn squash, buns and biscuits, and apple pye. The menu was hand lettered by an art student. A number of misspellings and other devices were used to approximate the work of an uneducated printer of the period. Quotations from various Colonial sources that pertained to the menu items were also used. The covers were printings of eight maps of the Revolutionary War period from the collection of George Wiskemann.

A trial run of the dinner was held in October, with members of the managerial staffs invited and Geneva Wiskemann and Betty Jones of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and Susan Hughes, MSU Bicentennial coordinator, as guests. The waitresses were uniformed in long dresses, caps and kerchiefs. Each made her own outfit.

The committee for the paid service operations, under Tom Haselschwerdt, food director of the MSU Union Building, has been working on ideas for table tents, buttons, place mats, etc.

The logo committee ran a contest to choose a suitable design. The winning logo, a modernistic design using the national colors along with the MSU green and white, will be used throughout the division this year.

## Necrology

Ethel M. Williams, D.O.  
 1893-1975

Marie Weyant  
 -1975

## Eaton and The Bicentennial

A township records survey and microfilm project is underway by the Eaton County Bicentennial Commission in cooperation with the office of the county clerk. Records of Benton, Brookfield and Eaton townships have been identified, described and cleaned and are now at the courthouse for filming.

A survey of Eaton County centennial farms was ready in January. The county will circulate forms to gain information needed to up-date files maintained by the Michigan Department of State's History Division. Leads to individuals available for informal oral interviews as well as taped sessions relating to farm life will be shared with the Committee on Oral History. The committee has trained reporters committed to hours of interviewing and recording. A series of Saturday workshops on oral history and writing are planned for teachers and other interested people.

The Eaton County commission has set up a file of resource people on Eaton area places, events and personalities. The Committee on Communications reported that the speakers bureau has scheduled a number of talks by various people around the county.

The main thrust of the Heritage Committee has been the accumulation of information and the drafting of a historical map to be submitted to the County Road Commission. The committee anticipates that this map will accompany the new edition of the county road map.

Other work being done by the Eaton County Bicentennial Commission includes research on the courthouse, an investigation of the records management practices of county offices and tours of the courthouse. A special logo was adopted and is now in use. Bicentennial news of the county is being published by Olivet College in its newsletter, the *Plank Road*. The publication is distributed free by the college.

Phil Dorland resigned as chairman of the commission in August. Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, vice chairwoman, assumed leadership.

# Black Heritage in the Bicentennial

—DOLORES D. WHARTON

This address was given before the Union Baptist Church in Lansing, July 21, 1974, during the observance of Women's Day. Mrs. Wharton tied the occasion in with the Bicentennial theme, to talk about American black heritage.

In her chronicle of eminent black Americans she has omitted two: in education, Dr. Clifton Wharton, Jr., president of Michigan State University; and in art, Mrs. Wharton herself—a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, a member of the National Endowment for the Arts and on its Bicentennial Committee, and vice chairwoman of the Michigan Bicentennial Commission.

The contribution of Black people is much less taken for granted than it once was. A battle has been waged, voices have been raised, blood has been shed that we may stand tall in this, our nation! But much remains to be done. The full dimensions of our achievements and contributions are still not adequately known or appreciated. There is no widespread realization of our long-standing, integral involvement in the history of our nation. I am reminded of Lerone Bennett's apt title for his book *Before the Mayflower*. Let me recall a most vivid passage from this book:

"A year before the arrival of the celebrated 'Mayflower,' 113 years before the birth of George Washington, 244 years before the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, (a) ship sailed into the harbor at Jamestown, Virginia, and dropped anchor into the muddy waters of history . . .

"Few ships, before or since, have unloaded a more momentous cargo.

"From whence did this ship come?

"From somewhere on the high seas where she robbed a Spanish vessel of a cargo of Africans bound for the West Indies.

"Why did she stop at Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America?

"No one knows for sure. The captain . . . John Rolfe, noted that he was in great need of food; he offered to exchange his human cargo for food. The deal was arranged. Anthony, Isabella, Pedro, and 17 other Africans stepped ashore in August, 1619. The history of the Negro in America began." (Bennett, 1964, pp. 29-30)

From that moment, the Black American has played a significant role in the story of America—the Black Minute-men at Lexington and Concord, George Washington Carver, W. E. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Banneker, Charles Drey, Martin Luther King, Jr., have helped to build and to defend this nation. We have given our toil, our talents and our creativity toward the true American democratic vision. Yet many who are only second generation white Americans question our constant press for full rights as citizens.

The forthcoming Bicentennial will offer a unique and marvelous occasion for us to recognize and eulogize the countless Black men and women who have made major contributions to the American heritage. In the Bicentennial, we have an opportunity to praise and commemorate those indomitable Blacks who struggled against and overcame discrimination, giving of themselves to improve life for the benefit of all Americans.

The range and numbers cover a wide spectrum throughout our history. In government, from Senator Hiram Revels to Senator Edward Brooke, or from Louisiana Lieutenant Governor P.B.S. Pinchback to our own secretary of state, Richard Austin. In business, from Paul Cuffee, a famous ship owner in the early 1800s, to today's leading publisher, John H. Johnson. The list is long and the fields diverse—religion, science, invention, education, music, art, the media. And the names are familiar to all of us—Attucks, Schomberg, Spaulding, Williams, Powell. But how well known are they to the general public?

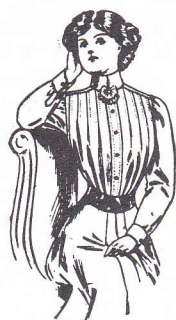
Certainly, we cannot enlighten the world overnight, but we can make a modest contribution beginning right here in our own state. The State of Michigan can claim several Blacks whose contributions warrant Bicentennial recognition.

As an example, Elijah McCoy, born in 1843, invented a "drip cup" for engines, decreasing waste in oil consumption by making it unnecessary to stop and restart engines in order to lubricate them. He filed over twenty patents and was credited with some 55 inventions before his death in 1929. The reliability of his lubrication systems was so universally admitted that the phrase "the real McCoy" became a part of our language. How many Americans realize this fact? And even more ironic, how many Michiganders know that his factory was located in Detroit, or that he lived most of his life in Ypsilanti.

Or we can look at Jesse Binga, born in Detroit in 1865. After completing his high school education, he moved to Chicago and became the owner of two banks and vast real estate holdings.

If you want to go back even further in history, how many Michiganders know of Jean Baptiste Pointe de Sable? From 1780 to 1784, de Sable transacted considerable business between Detroit and the trading post he had founded in 1772 on the banks of the Chicago River. The trading post, by the way, eventually grew into the City of Chicago itself.

With today's heightened awareness of the role of women, we should pay particular attention to the part that Black women have had in all of these fields, too. Whether it is the business acumen of a Madam C. J. Walker, or the incomparable voice of a Marian



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# Meridian Happenings

Anderson, or the anti-slavery activism of Harriet Tubman, or a Sojourner Truth\*, or the educational vision of a Mary McLeod Bethune, the significant contributions of Black women must also be included.

I am sure that research would bring to light many more outstanding individual Black people whom we could recognize and honor during the Bicentennial decade.

Biographic presentations of outstanding Black men and women who have contributed to Michigan's history would be a noble undertaking toward our state celebration of the Bicentennial. It would make it a truly American celebration. But there are perhaps many other areas of importance that you might find interesting and exciting to investigate and present to the immediate public, whether here in Lansing or to the state as a whole. I very much hope that you will explore the various steps and avenues which might make such presentations on your part possible. It will mean considerable work and dedication if you are to be successful in presenting to the public an insight into our Black heritage. It will not be easy, but it is not impossible — and who could imagine a more praiseworthy task?

For Americans as a whole, the decade past has been perhaps one of the most momentous in the lifespan of our nation. To no small degree it has been an era of trauma — a time of unprecedented social upheaval, of a widespread awakening of the painful realities hidden beneath the smooth, polished surface of the American dream. Black people, of course, have known these realities, felt their jagged edges, all along. But in the sixties and early seventies, the entire country began to open its eyes, scrutinize, and criticize.

But it would be a mistake to allow criticism to become an end in itself. Let us, therefore, make the decade to come, the American Bicentennial decade, an era wherein we turn from negation to affirmation — from criticism to constructive change. In the last analysis, for 200 years America has been a promise — a promise chipped, bent, and battered, but never quite broken. For our part in the Bicentennial, let ours be the voice that calls for the final triumph of the promise made in 1776.

(\*Sojourner Truth spent her later years in Battle Creek. Her grave is in the city's Oakhill Cemetery.)

Circle April 22 - 25 for a program of the Meridian Township Bicentennial Committee. Included will be a raffle, with a 1976 Vega GT, a portable color television set, a microwave oven, a clock-radio and a bicycle as prizes. Tickets cost \$1 in books of 20, with 20 cents of each sale going to the book holder and the rest toward Bicentennial projects.

A fine Arts Festival will take place as part of the program. It will be climaxed by a choral presentation, 4 p.m. April 25, featuring the choirs of Haslett and Okemos schools and local churches with individual vocalists, conducted by music director and state rep-

## Michigan Week

"Michigan — Pioneer in Progress," the theme for the 23rd annual observance of Michigan Week during this Bicentennial year, captures the flavor of Michigan, the Great Lakes state which pioneered the wilderness and still pursues its progressive path as the years go on.

Michigan Week basically is an educational program through which Michigan citizens learn more about their community and state, show their pride in Michigan, tell others about its resources and advantages, and work together for its advancement. The Greater Michigan Foundation is the organization through which the people of Michigan sponsor Michigan Week.

Each day of Michigan Week has a special designation for particular emphasis, with the Tuesdays designation changing each year. The eight days of Michigan Week, extending Saturday through Saturday, May 15-22, are Community Pride Day, Heritage Day, Government Day, Ethnic Day, Livelihood Day, Education Day, Hospitality Day and Youth Day. This year Tuesday, Ethnic Day, expresses pride in the national origins and ethnic heritage of Michigan people.

— Kitty Marriott

Grateful acknowledgement is given to Phil Mason for his gift of \$50 to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

representative, Earl Nelson. Tickets are \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children.

All proceeds from the events will be contributed to the Meridian Township Heritage Village and toward establishing a farmers' market and recreation facilities.

Carlene Webster heads the Heritage Committee, Winifred Motherwell, the Horizons Committee and Dave Coelho, the Festivals Committee. For information contact Mrs. Webster at 349-2141 or Mr. Coelho at 349-2030.

Mr. Coelho, general manager of the Meridian Mall, said that a permanent mural in the mall, depicting rural Meridian Township, is scheduled for completion in April. Douglas Kisor, a Mason artist, will create the 14' by 20' mural in oils in the south wing of the mall. Visitors may watch the artist at work. Times will be given in the local media or may be obtained by calling Mr. Coelho at 349-2030.

Later on in the year, on May 15, the Township Bicentennial Commission will sponsor a parade and military muster.

## Phil Mason Essay in Print

Phil Mason, one of the founders and a current member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, was in Lansing Jan. 23 to discuss oral history before members and guests of the Women's Club.

His essay, "Working in America," is one of nine by eminent historians for the American Issues Forum. The forum was developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Nine basic studies, of which this is the fifth, were commissioned and edited by the American Association for State and Local History under a grant from the Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Mason's essay was published in full in the *National Observer*, the week ending Jan. 17. Reprints are available at 25 cents each, with a minimum order of \$2.50. Send a check to Education Service Bureau, P.O. Box 300, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

# Selected Miscellany

Students of Michigan's past are early aware of the limitations of newspapers as a source for history. The intellectual and political myopia of publishers and even the pressure to publish, obviously affected the scope and quality of the "local rag." The best of our local newspapers surviving on paper and film can, however, inform us and enrich our appreciation of people, their ideas and industry. With this clearly in mind, we read the *INDEPENDENT* of 1874 published by B. F. Saunders in Grand Ledge. We offer:

If the "News of Village and Vicinity" column of the newspaper is our guide, the reader in this Eaton County village of just more than 1,000 in 1874 were thinking about amendments to a new constitution, elections, capital punishment, currency inflation, and the fires that raged in Roxand destroying fences and crops. Certain of the ladies were concerned with the Women's Rights Convention held in Representative Hall in Lansing. Still more were talking about temperance and the "demon alcohol" in parlors and churches.

The ladies of Charlotte had led the battle. They petitioned every saloon owner to sign the "Dealer's Pledge." Henry Baird offered the fixtures of his saloon for sale on the streets. The fires of temperance workers burned the billiard tables at the intersection of Lawrence and Cochran.

Bold print advertised sugar for 10½ cents at Coryell's, kerosene was 30c, matches were 5½ a box, oysters were 38c a quart, buskwheat flour was \$4. per hundred and a good trotting horse sold for \$250.

Early on a summer morning two men caught 36 black bass with hook and line from the bank of the Grand River and wild turkeys were still shot nearby. Venison from the north country was available at Christmas time in E. Taylor's grocery store.

The village council was concerned mainly with laying new wood sidewalks on Jefferson Street. Their minutes seldom mention protection from fire in spite of the editor's notice that buckets of the volunteer force were scattered beyond control.

The Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, already functioning in Eagle and Chester, organized in Grand Ledge with 32 members. These people

purchased commodities at special prices for Grangers throughout the year.

The Cornet Band played on the streets soliciting money for new silver instruments. Young and old enjoyed Barnum and Co.'s Monster Exhibition and celebrated a Fourth of July which "passed off quietly."

The Congregationalists, one of two established church groups in town, were requesting funds for a bell to replace their cracked kettle. Across the river to the south the Methodists raised brick walls of a new church. The cornerstone was laid on July 17 in a structure begun on the lot donated by E. Lamson. Brick was manufactured and furnished by Derbyshire and Earl. The hand hewn timbers were supplied by the minister, S. P. Hewitt.

Later, in November, the Baptists raised the walls of their church across the street at Scott and Harrison. The 36 x 70 feet building took shape under the hands of Perry Joselyn, local builder. Expenses were expected to compare well with those of the Methodists (about \$5,000).

Several new brick and frame houses were reported under construction and business blocks were built for George N. Berry, D. D. Davie, Pearl and Stark, and F. A. Fish & Co. E. A. Keep opened a bakery on the north side; the Diamond Photograph Gallery moved through the countryside with a "portable house;" A. F. Babcock sold World Salve for 50 cents. Mr. Derbyshire tested clay for use in the manufacture of stoneware as well as brick. The village grew with new additions by Cheney, Lamson and McPeck.

Indications of a brisk commerce was everywhere in 1874. Burtch and Royce built a foot bridge from the south bank of the river to the island in time for a grand opening dance. Improvements, including a refreshment room featuring ice cream, soon followed. By August, the peak of the tourist season, there were bridges "to all the islands from Island No. 3 to what is called 'the point'." Railroad coaches arrived with hundred of pleasure seekers from nearby communities of southern Michigan.

The hotels flourished. Peter V. Campbell hosted the Exchange Hotel at the depot. It was described as a neat, new brick house. The Mineral Well was sold to Eastern interests and Verplank's

was the scene of many suppers, dances and weddings.

Chris and John Keblar purchased the blacksmith and wagon shop from John Teachout. Charles Brown and T. H. Harris erected a small shop on the north side, north of F. M. Lewis' Marble Shop, for a gunshop and office for sale of agricultural implements. E. S. and W. G. Hyde operated a wagon and cooper shop on the north side. If you wanted to take a train you were urged to leave your name on the slate or speak to proprietor Harris of the buss (sic) line.

Ball games occupied the young men in summer. The local Stars Awkwards and Crusaders were pitted against the Lansing Capitals, Portland Lightwings and Medleys, Mason's Challengers, Charlotte's Young Americans and even the Athletics of Grand Rapids.

During the winter M. P. Burtch, local phrenologist, went on the road to lecture. At home the Young People's Literary Society was formed (all male members) and met at Goodrich Hall.

Christmas was celebrated by a shooting match at Eagle, a dance and Cornet Band concert in The Ledge and services in the churches.

Marriages, deaths, and acts of violence were noted with discretion. The major court case took place in Charlotte where the local editor reported a doctor offered abortion instruments for sale by mail. The doctor "rawhided" the editor on the street, and a court case resulted. The jury got to the truth of the matter and the doctor was fined \$50 for assault and battery in addition to \$310. damages.

Discipline, according to the school board, was a problem in the high school until Russell Tinkham took over as principal. Miss O. M. Wheelock's Select School was a respected educationel institution and the writing master organized a lass of 28 students.

The *Little Giant* was available at the post office building where J. S. Holmes, who sold stamps for Uncle Sam, also sold books, stationery, collars, notions and paint, for himself.

And so the year passed—the presses rattled to a pause and the ink dried quickly—leaving these impressions of a time not long past.

— Geneva Kebler Wiskemaan

# There is Nothing Like . . . The Early American Women

Abigail Adams, a woman who committed the unthinkable, she spoke her own mind — Dolly Madison, raised in the humble Quaker tradition, rose to great social status and influence and even made snuff popular — Mercy Warren — Mary Ball Washington — and many other American women are the subjects of "Early American Woman," to be broadcast on WKAR-FM (90.5) 10 a.m. Fridays beginning April 2.

The program is from a series of lectures, class reports and demonstrations given during a course at Lansing Community College.

Barbara Sutton, instructor of the class, first became interested in women in American history during a field trip to the Nation's capitol.

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## In the City of Mason

If you could cut the double shuffle or enjoy a hoedown, the Mason Bicentennial Committee's Ball was the event for you on Feb. 21.

"They danced all night 'til broad daylight,

And went home with the girls in the morning."

The ball took place at the VFW Hall on Hull Road, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The cost of \$7.50 per person included lunch and favors.

A 120 year old country, one-room school, the Pink School at Columbia and College Roads east of Mason, has been given to the Mason Bicentennial Commission. It must be moved to a new location before June 1 or it will be demolished. The city has donated two acres of land. People interested in this project are already working on obtaining funds for the moving and the new foundation.

Mason also has a quilt show and sale scheduled for July 11. And plans are in progress for a home tour next fall, according to JoAnn Herrick, committee coordinator.

For more information contact JoAnn Herrick, 146 N. Rayner, or Sandy Dika, 227 E. Cherry, Mason MI 48843.

"Washington is just the most vibrant town," Ms. Sutton said. It was in Washington that she became "intrigued" by American first ladies. Despite the volumes written about the wives of American presidents, often people do not realize their importance according to Ms. Sutton.

"So many past Americans are made larger than life through history," she commented, "and so many don't get up to life size."

She added that once she began reading about the lives of women in American history, they became more believable.

"Suddenly, they became people—like my neighbors. I wouldn't feel uncomfortable running over to (Andrew) Johnson's wife to borrow a cup of sugar."

Ms. Sutton's fascination with women of the past is evident when she occasionally quips during a lecture, "I feel like I know them."

Her lectures are filled with anecdotes about colonial and pioneer American

life. And not just stories of famous American women, but often of ordinary women who exhibited the day-to-day strength needed to settle a wilderness or fight the Revolutionary War.

The women who helped settle Michigan and the rest of the wilderness were a hardy lot, Ms. Sutton said.

"On the east coast, the elegance of the 1700's doesn't seem to have been much different from the way we live now," Ms. Sutton explained, "Silver candlesticks—the genteel life. The women who gave that up and moved west did again what settlers did in the 1600s."

She added that women often made the difference between life and death for settlements. The women often established friendships and trade exchanges with the Indians.

"Many of the settlements burned down or starved out were all male," she said.

Ms. Sutton has set aside one lecture specifically for a discussion of Michigan women. She also required students to research and report on a Michigan woman.

"There's so much to learn about Michigan women," Ms. Sutton said, "and I haven't even begun to dig enough."



Bridge and north side of Grand River from the chair factory window, Grand Ledge, June 14, 1899. Note the Congregational Church on the right. The photograph is a reproduction from a glass negative.

## New Society in Grand Ledge

The newly formed Grand Ledge Historical Society appears to be off to a good beginning. Officers are Lorabeth Fitzgerald, president; Christ Goutis, vice president; Lynda Trinklein, secretary; and Neil Holihan, treasurer.

Family memberships for \$4.50 are the most popular, Janna Page, membership chairman said.

Emphasis so far has been with the basics, such as acquisition of archival

and three-dimensional materials relating to the area, writing of the bylaws, and the creation of committees to study various facets of the community—social life, literary development, schools, banks, industry, personalities, architecture, commerce and the like.

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month. At the January meeting, Libbie Brandon gave a demonstration of oral history interviewing.



The Lansing Bicentennial Commission is looking for volunteer workers and ideas. If you would like to be on a committee or have any ideas for the Lansing Bicentennial celebration, write: Lansing City Bicentennial Commission, 3rd Floor City Hall, Lansing MI 48933 (tele. 487-1441).

On March 2, the Lansing commission will sponsor an all school choir sing at the Civic Center and will participate in the May 22 and 23 air show and aviation open house at the Capitol City Airport. A "Spirit of '76 Weekend" is planned from July 2 through July 4 with a picnic, a concert on the lawn by the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, fireworks, a Venetian regatta, a Sunday sunrise service, the dedication of the Bicentennial Plaza, a flag raising ceremony for the 13 colonies, a setting of a Bicentennial time capsule for the 2076 Tricentennial and, on July 3, a huge parade.

\* \* \*

The group devoted to save the house of the late Lansing architect, Darius Moon, meets the first Wednesday of each month. Hundreds of people added their names to petitions to "Save the Moon" at the Day with the Arts in the Lansing Civic Center, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. The group is working on plans in an attempt to move the house to the Lansing Community College campus.

To raise funds, the organization is selling prints, photographs, stationery and buttons displaying the house, according to co-chairwomen, Karla Barber and Diana Reedy. If you need information or want to support their efforts, contact Bette Downs, 351-5752, or Karla Barber, 482-6157.

\* \* \*

The Grand Ledge Bicentennial Commission offered "Antiques for the Beginner and Collector," Tuesday nights, Feb. 17 through March 30, as the first in a series of classes and workshops. Maria Thompson, chairwoman of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Heritage Arts Committee, presented the initial session devoted to quilts, patchwork and threadcraft. Other sessions involved specialists on glass, dolls, fire arts, furniture and collecting for fun and profit.

Information about future classes is available from the coordinator of the program and a member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, Patricia Rice, 401 E. Lincoln, Grand Ledge MI 48837. Telephone 627-9354.

\* \* \*

The Lansing Community Art Gallery expanded its annual arts auction this year to include antiques. The auction was held the afternoon of Feb. 22 at the Center for the Arts theatre, 425 S. Grand Ave. in Lansing.

The auction was a joint effort of the gallery and the Citizens Advocacy Program which aids the handicapped. The gallery will use its share of the profits to pay for much needed exhibit equipment and supplies for the new gallery areas in the Center for the Arts.

The Lansing Community Art Gallery is located at 113½ E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the gallery, contact its director, Randy Mifflin at 484-9649.

\* \* \*

On May 17, Bellevue will have a Bicentennial day, including an exchange of mayors, a parade, a dinner and recognition of pioneer families. The first sale of a new local history in print will also take place on that day. During the past summer about 75 people volunteered to research the history of this Eaton County community. When printed, its 100 pages will tell the story of Bellevue from 1833 to the present. Illustrations will be included.

Bellevue also plans a big Fourth of July celebration.

The local historical society has moved to the upper level of the village hall until it has its own building. Plans for the preservation of a one-room schoolhouse were abandoned when the age and condition of the structure prevented the moving of it to a new location.

\* \* \*

The determined pioneer on the cover of December 1975 issue of *Michigan Out of Doors* is none other than Richard "Buck" Burns, a director of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. The magazine is the publication of the Michigan United Conservation

Clubs. The December issue offered special features on the State's special hunting season for muzzleloaders.

There are some who say that Mr. Burns has a striking resemblance to Sam Edwards, the great bear and deer hunter of the State of Ohio, shown in his hunting costume in the *Ohio Hunter* (Battle Creek, Mich.: Review and Herald Steam Print, 1866).

\* \* \*

The Delta Township Bicentennial Commission is planning a liberty pole raising during Memorial weekend. It is also in the process of raising funds to place a time capsule in the new Sharp Memorial Park.

The Commission will contribute to the dedication of the park, scheduled for Fri., July 2. Illuminations, music and speeches will highlight the evening program. A day of games for all will follow on Saturday in the park.

Clifford Marcus has resigned chairmanship of the commission. A reorganization meeting was held Jan. 27. New officers are Kern Slueter, chairman; Bruce Sharp, vice chairman; Donna Sharp, secretary; and Jane Mitchell, treasurer.

\* \* \*

Members of the Michigan Aerospace History Committee at their most recent meeting in Howell voted to support the concept of an air museum at Capital City Airport.

\* \* \*

Russ Gregory, Ionia County Bicentennial director, said that everyone is invited to come to school April 23. On that day there will be a county-wide tour of 10 one-room schools and one kindergarten through 8th grade school, open and in session, from 2 to 4 p.m. Speakers of note will be on hand for this unusual event. Ionia County is unique in the number of its one-room rural schools in operation.

On May 29 and 30 the city of Ionia will have a house tour, "Ionia at Home." Along with the tour will be a parade and antique show and sale as well as other day long events. Transportation for the tour will feature horse-drawn vehicles of a past era.

The Ionia County courthouse, in the city of Ionia, will celebrate its 90th birthday, July 4.

\* \* \*

The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn is having "Bicentennial Evenings to Remember" this spring. The program, available week nights through May, is

designed for groups of from 40 to 150 people. A few select nights have also been set aside for individuals and smaller groups. A single package price of \$11 per person includes a candlelight dinner in Heritage Hall, admission to the museum and guide services. For more information write Travel & Convention Dept., Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn MI 48121.

\* \* \*

Local committees of Lake Odessa, Sunfield, Clarksville and Woodland have formed the Lakewood Bicentennial Organization. Chairpeople from the local committees represent their communities in the organization, headquartered at the Lakewood High School. Fund raising projects under way include apple pie sales and a beef drawing contest. Money will support the construction of a pavilion-bandstand.

\* \* \*

The CC-76 Bicentennial canoe trip on the Grand River and its river tributaries, sponsored by the Grand River Watershed Council, will take place May 13-23. Grand River canoers will travel from Jackson to Grand Haven. Other canoers will join the main group from the tributaries along the way. The starting dates and places for the various rivers are:

Grand: May 13, Jackson  
Portage: May 13, Portage Lake  
Red Cedar: May 14, Fowlerville  
Looking Glass: May 16, Babcock's Landing  
Maple: May 16, Bannister  
Flat: May 17, Greenville  
Thornapple: May 17, Charlton Park  
Rouge: May 20, Rockford

\* \* \*

According to Volume 11, no. 1 of the Marshall Historical Society's Bulletin (John Collins, editor), Bicentennial projects considered in Marshall include the reroofing and painting of the Honolulu House, the Marshall society's museum.

The annual home tour, which attracted more than 9,000 visitors to this Michigan city in 1975, will take place on Sept. 11 and 12 this year. Jan and Charlie Brooks will serve as co-chair-people for the 13th annual tour.

Five Marshall homes are featured in *Restored America* by Deirdre Stanforth, published by Praeger Publishers, New York.

\* \* \*

A Lansing area chapter of Freedom's

Foundation has been formed under the leadership of Lynda Egbert, Lansing Bicentennial director.

\* \* \*

The Barry County Historical Society is investigating the possibility of preserving its one remaining section of brick street, in Hastings, and dedicating it as a historical site.

The Barry society also plans the dedication of memorials to two Revolutionary War veterans buried in the county.

\* \* \*

The Michigan Department of State, History Division is planning a state-wide conference on historical preservation.

\* \* \*

The Hastings Bicentennial Committee and the Hastings Women's Club are sponsoring "Looking Back," a daily radio show. It also appears in the *Hastings Banner*.

Other activities in Hastings include the Bristol Inn Follies, a program of historical dances; the Saladin Shrine Concert Band program, May 7; Arbor Day observances; a fire hydrant paint project; a 19th Century style Fourth of July; and more.

\* \* \*

Application requests for Centennial Family Certificates, a Bicentennial project of the Michigan Genealogical Council, have been flooding to checkers in the State Library's Michigan unit. Any person who is a direct descendent of someone who lived in Michigan 100 years ago or earlier is eligible to receive a certificate. Applicants must prove descent from the ancestor by submitting photocopied verifying material. Applications, evidence and a check for \$2 should be sent to the Michigan Genealogical Council at the Michigan State Library, Michigan Unit, 735 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48913.

\* \* \*

The Grand Ledge City Council earmarked \$1,600 for use of the Bicentennial Commission in 1976. This figure is far below the \$6,000 that it requested, but still a welcomed boost for projects. Lyle Clark, alderman, offered a resolution amending the budget to transfer recreational funds to the Bicentennial Commission.

\* \* \*

Michigan in Perspective, a local history conference, will take place at Wayne State University, April 9-10.

\* \* \*

The Wacousta area has planned a Bicentennial Day, June 19. This rural

community invites everyone to come early for a parade, complete with music, horses and horse-drawn farm implements and more.

At 1 p.m., Sen. Richard Allen will dedicate a new park. There will be a bazaar and handicraft display. Booths for those who wish to sell are now being reserved for \$2.

To please the history buff, there will be displays relating to the early Clinton County settlement.

At 7 p.m., square dancers and entertainers will take over the elementary school. Rip Risky, a professional caller, will guide the dancers through the figures.

For more information, contact the chairman for the event, Tom O'Bryant, 9221 Riverside Drive, Grand Ledge, MI 48837, telephone 626-9389.

\* \* \*

The Sparrow Hospital Guild's Theatre Holiday tour this year will be to Boston. The May 2-6 package will include two theatrical performances as well as excursions around Boston, Charlestown, Cambridge, Sturbridge Village, Lexington and Concord. For more information write Edward W. Sparrow Hospital Guild, 4223 Mar-Moor Drive, Lansing, MI 48917.

\* \* \*

Promenade of the Past; A Designers' "Open House" will be held 1 to 5 p.m., May 8-24 at the residence of the late Allan Seager, Michigan novelist and critic, 309 W. Chicago Blvd., Tecumseh. The French Second Empire home is in the city's historic district. Designers will decorate the house to show that historic homes are livable. Admission is \$2.

\* \* \*

1976 *Buyer's Guide*, a directory of sources for old house things is available for \$5.50 from the *Old House Journal*, 199 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

## Preservation Workshop 2

Sponsored By  
Historical Society of Greater Lansing  
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SATURDAY, MAY 1  
9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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For Information

# Land Where My Fathers Died

## Land of the Pilgrims' Pride

Ruth Kapphahn of the Mid-Michigan Genealogy Society said that for those interested in history, it is worthwhile to know what part their families played in forming this country.

"Or if genealogy is your interest the history that was taking place at the times of many of your ancestors is equally rewarding to know," she said. "History and genealogy are so closely related it is difficult to pursue one and not the other."

Every fourth Wednesday of the month the Mid-Michigan Genealogy Society meets at People's Church in East Lansing to learn how to trace their own families and to compile records, a difficult task without volunteer help.

On Sept. 19 and 20, about 250 people primarily interested in genealogy met in Flint to hear national authorities speak on various phases of the settlement of the United States. The seminar was sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council.

The Mid-Michigan had a unique display at the seminar, with suggestions for clues and documentations. Through the generosity of George and Geneva Wiskemann the Mid-Michigan society had two display cases to show some articles too delicate to be handled. Among them was a sampler made in 1816 by a 12 year old girl who embroidered, in tiny stitches, the names and birthdays of all the members of her family. With a lot of curiosity and a little research it was learned that Joanna Fisher, who made the sampler, was born in Vermont. She died young but one of her brothers came west as a missionary to the Chipewewa Indians. His daughter, Mary, married a Reverend Mills who, in 1898, was pastor of the Congregational Church in Benzonia. This no doubt explains how the 160 year old sampler was found in Michigan where Geneva Wiskemann, realizing its historic value, was able to obtain it at a house sale many years later.

A genealogically oriented group with more specific ties to the past is the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). The charter of the SAR in Michigan was granted Jan. 18, 1890, according to Lynn Gordon, president of the State organization. It has grown to about 400 members at this time. It is now in the

process of producing a book giving the names and ancestors of its 2500 members since its first enrollment.

Mary MacDonald, executive secretary for the Michigan society, said that President Gerald Ford became a member last year.

The SAR has six chapters in Michigan, located in Ann Arbor, Bay City, Battle Creek, Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids. It holds six meetings of the Board of Managers at various cities throughout the State, with an annual meeting and election of officers, this year in April at the Traverse City Holiday Inn. The meetings are most interesting with many good speakers, Mr. Gordon said. All area members are invited to attend.

The SAR has an outstanding program of medals awarded for excellence in ROTC as well as medals for good citizenship, outstanding patriotism and the like, Mr. Gordon added.

Membership in the SAR requires proof of ancestral service for the American side during the War for Independence and also proof of lineal descent from the person who performed that service. Such service does not mean necessarily being a soldier or sailor; many people served in civilian capacities during the war.

On the distaff side, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will dedicate a plaque in the State capitol, March 31 at 4 p.m., in memory of the Revolutionary soldiers buried in Michigan. This Bicentennial event is part of the DAR State conference held at the Olds Plaza Hotel, March 31 and April 1. The dedication will be followed by a dinner at 6:30. On awards day, April 1, the DAR will recognize 19 senior girls and one boy.

The Executive Board of the Michigan DAR voted to print the index to the United States census of population for Michigan (1850) as a Bicentennial project. The indexing, by surmane, has been prepared by the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Michigan State Library. The DAR will have 500 copies printed at an approximate cost of \$3,500. Copies will go to the genealogical council and the Michigan DAR to be sold at a price agreed upon by the council, the DAR and the State Library.

Betty Eastin, State Bicentennial chairperson for the DAR, said that the Executive Board has approved, as a Bicentennial conservation project, the funding of the development of a wild-life management demonstration area on the Michigan State University campus. It will cost about \$2,040, with the money coming from its memorial conservation fund. She said that this project has been adopted because the State and National forestry divisions no longer have room for plantings of pine trees as they had done in the past.

Moving to a group with ties further back in history, the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan initiated a newsletter in December. Issue number 1 carried the news that the first volume of *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* is now available for \$10. This volume includes the lineages of Francis Eaton, Samuel Fuller and William White. Orders for the volume may be sent to Mayflower Families, P. O. Box 297, Plymouth, MA 02360.

## Potterville Programs

The Potterville Bicentennial Committee initiated the year with a variety of activities, according to chairpeople, Jackie Sweet and Kathy Gilman. The Kap and Kerchief Shoppe, a Grand Ledge Bicentennial Commission project, presented a 1776 fashion revue at the United Methodist church in Potterville, Feb. 3. A steak dinner, Feb. 14, served as a fund-raiser for Bicentennial projects. Other planned events include a Las Vegas day in March and the erection of a liberty pole in early spring.

A three day celebration is scheduled June 10, 11 and 12, complete with a carnival and parade. The Potterville park will be the site for an old fashioned Fourth of July.

Funds raised at these events will underwrite a history of Potterville, now in preparation by Ruth Wright.

The Potterville committee is offering plates and badges for sale at Kay's Treasure Shop in Potterville. Plates produced during the village's centennial year, 1968, are still available for \$3.50.

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Bill Reed, 485-6671

# North Lansing Against the World

When Lansing was relatively new, North Lansing (or Lower Town) was already well established. By the 1970s, the effects of social, economic and governmental changes—all that should contribute to a healthy environment—were becoming more negative than positive in North Lansing.

It was time for action. So area residents, business people, university people, men and women of law and of politics, interested people from the suburbs, descendants of the first settlers, and young, new arrivals came together to form the North Lansing Community Association.

The association now has the job of organization behind them. In one year it has become recognized as a group that may have the greatest of challenges and the most stubborn of obstacles, yet purposefully meets these head on.

James Winckler, attorney, continues as president of the North Lansing Community Association for 1976. The electors chose Mitch Skory, vice president; Helen Clark, recording secretary; Don Wilson, treasurer; and Geneva K. Wiskeemann, corresponding secretary.

The latest project of the association is the publication and distribution of a newspaper devoted to the North Lansing area. The first printing of 5,000 copies will be hand delivered. If you have information, articles or photographs of North Lansing, or want to buy an ad, contact Frieda Taylor, business manager, at the association office, 104 A, E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906. Tel. 482-2770.

The association holds regular meetings the first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at 101 E. Willow Street.

Also in North Lansing, one man's personal Bicentennial project is at work. Robert Vergeson, with the North Lansing Boys Club, is building an HO model railroad, a portable, small size layout representing the North Lansing business district of 50 years ago.

"It's a way to build community pride and responsibility," Mr. Vergeson said. "And it's fun for all of us."

If you have trains, track or model equipment to share, or if you just like trains, contact the North Lansing Boys Club, 487-0723.

The Lansing Chapter of the International Meditation Society, a transcendental meditation group, has been renovating two rooms in North Lansing

Turner-Dodge House to be used as office and lecture space.

Members of the River Ridge Garden Club lead in pledging support to the proposed Inner-City Council of Garden Clubs' involvement with the historic house. Gladys Bradford, president of the club, said that the council is investigating possible uses of a room in the house and the development of surrounding open space.

The physical appearance of the area has a strong psychological impact on North Lansing residents and visitors. Gardeners of the region are under to contribute to the improvement of the urban green of this historic house.

## Clinton News

The ringing of bells and the blowing of sirens on New Year's eve preceeded the beginning of the official Bicentennial year in Clinton County. And the county has a number of projects planned to celebrate the year. Shirley Karber, recently appointed coordinator for the county, said that her scrapbook is rapidly being filled with plans. She is keeping a calendar of all proposed activities such as:

Flag decals will be given to all of the children in the county under the seventh grade level. A cover letter is being prepared to tell the story of the American flag to the students.

An Uncle Sam suit has been purchased and will be loaned out on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Clinton County Development Corporation is preparing a float, using a covered wagon theme.

The Michigan Genealogical Council has forms available for application for centennial certificates. They may be picked up at the various libraries in the county.

DeWitt students in grades 3 through 12 are preparing essays on "What heritage means to me" to enter in a contest sponsored by the DeWitt Bicentennial Commission. The commission will award prizes for the best themes at the elementary, middle and high levels. First prize winners will read their essays on Government Day during Michigan Week.

A stone base has been set for the replacement of a marker for DeWitt. The

## Don't Let the Parade Pass You by



Parades are planned on the following days for the following communities. Check ahead because some of these dates are still only tentative.

April 24: Vermontville

May 15: Meridian Township

May 17: Bellevue

June 19: Wacousta

July 3: Haslett

July 3: Lansing

July 3: Dewitt

July 4: East Lansing

July 4: Portland

July 5: Eaton Rapids

There is also a parade during the May 29, 30 celebration in Ionia and one during the June 10, 11, 12 celebration in Potterville.

marker, originally erected by members of the Clinton County Pioneer Society, has not been standing for a number of years.

Tom Hallan, director of the museum at 1009 S. Oakland Street in St. Johns is accepting donations for the museum. He may be reached at 224-8173. The acquisition committee consists of Kenneth Coin of DeWitt and Douglas Whitcomb and Clyde Anderson of St. Johns.

Jan Speric, chairwoman for the St. Johns Bicentennial Commission, said that a quilt, which will be offered as a hanging in the museum, is now in the process of being designed and sewed. Maria Thompson, heritage arts chairwoman for the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, helped the quilters get started on the project. The quilt will have familiar scenes of Clinton County's seat of government. Needlecrafters are busy stitching the details of the blocks.

Other St. Johns activities include a contest for a logo design.

The town of Bath has received several acres of land at Park Lake as a donation for a Bicentennial park. This will be Bath's official Bicentennial project.

# History in Perry

The settlement of Perry Center was located approximately one mile south of what is now the village of Perry. When the railroad arrived in the later part of the 19th century Perry Center went into decline and Perry, nearer the railroad, began its growth.

One of the early land owners of Perry, Charles Calkins, built his home in 1881 one block east of Main Street. After his death his surviving daughter, Bessie Maqueen, lived in the house. She died in 1941 leaving the property to the village of Perry.

The village rented the house until three years ago when the current renter died. Perry was then faced with the problem of what to do with the property. Many people offered suggestions but they were either financially impractical or did not meet the terms of Mrs. Maqueen's will. Then the Perry Historical Society, an organization formed about four years ago, came up with the idea of turning the old house into a museum. The village concurred and agreed to supply the heat, water and electricity.

Frances Michalek of the historical society said that there was much local cooperation in creating the Maqueen House Museum. The Perry Garden Club planted old-fashioned flower beds on the lawn. Community people loaned antique furniture. The estate of the later Hazel Dunham of Shaftsbury supplied a number of pieces.

"It was the goal of the society to at least be able to redecorate the first floor

of the house by 1976," Mrs. Michalek said. "There is still one room to be papered. A new roof was given by the local lumber company and put on by the local real estate dealer. The first floor of the house has been rewired by donated labor and the society buying the material."

"Little by little the action grew and things are beginning to take shape," she added.

## Tales From Vermontville Woods

Ernest Nash, state representative for the 56th district and a member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing presented a plaque at the January meeting of the Vermontville Historical Society, recognizing the old academy on the town square, now a museum, as a site listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ampsacher gave a talk on the old and new operations of an Eaton County sugar bush.

The Vermontville society holds its meetings in the Griswold Room of the historic Congregational Church.

The Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival will be held the last weekend in April. Included will be entertainment, arts and crafts, parades, dancing and, of course, pancakes and maple syrup.

## The East Lansing Heritage Cookery Book \$2.50

This fun-to-read cookbook features recipes from early residents of the city, early professors at the college, churches, clubs, and mayors, as well as a special section, "Grandma's Receipts and Remedies."

Illustrated throughout with old photographs of the city and ads from some of the early shops.

Available at the Briar Patch in Williamston and in East Lansing at: The Thimbleberry Shop, Jacobson's, The Yarn Studio, Nook, Crannies & Hollows, Betty's Beauty Studio

and at the Bicentennial office  
— 306 Bailey School

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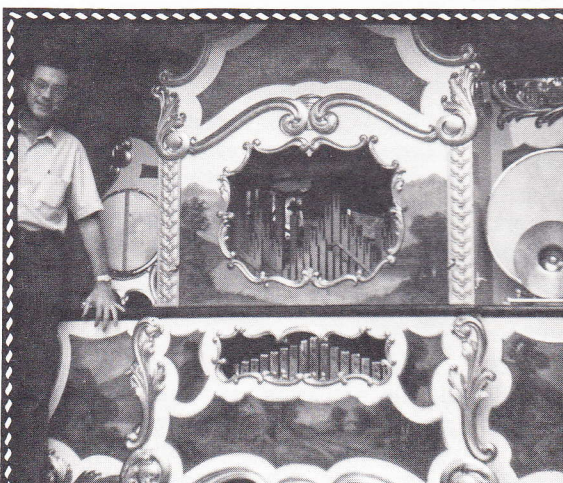
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