

Town Crier

Vol. III, No. 1

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

September 1960

PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR

Joe Druse, Program Chairman, has some fine programs lined up for you this year. Vacation schedules allow us to make only an announcement of our first meeting. This exciting list looks like a real treat for the members.

September 21

The Liederkrans Club of Lansing, under the leadership of Hugo Vedder, is going to present our first program.

October 19

"I've got a Treasure" will be a participation program. Everyone is requested to bring one of their "treasures" from the past and give a brief history of it.

November 16

"Underground Railroad in Michigan" by Blanche Coggan.

January 18

A "Do-It-Yourself" Family Tree

February 15

A paper on Lt. Luther Baker and General Lafayette C. Baker by Mrs. Katherine Baker (Paul) Yull.

March 15

Moreau S. Maxwell, Curator of Anthropology at MSU will speak on restoration at Michilimackinaw.

April 19

A play, "The Civil War Comes to Lansing".

May 10

President Geneva Kebler will be in charge of the annual meeting for this month.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS PROGRAM!

SEPTEMBER 21

Parlor A and B, Civic Center, 8:00 p.m.

"GERMANIC INFLUENCES IN LANSING"

. . . .Program by members of the Lansing Liederkrans Club.

This local organization has been devoted to the preservation and enjoyment of old world culture and folk music since 1868.

They will present a program of song and reminiscences of early Lansing.

INTRODUCING YOUR PRESIDENT FOR 1960-61
GENEVA KEBLER

"February 15, 1927, Grand Ledge, Michigan: Twins born to Will and Myrtie Kebler". . . and so life began--double feature for Geneva Kebler. She was also endowed with sparkle, wit and a sincere enthusiasm which is immediately contagious.

Geneva was born on a farm in Clinton County where her grandfather Kebler had settled in 1864 soon after his arrival from Germany. She grew up in a family who worked and played together and they all shared the keen love of the land. The nearby country school, was named for her family and it provided effective teachers who prepared her well for the curriculum offered by the Grand Ledge High School. Her education was augmented by travel through the Southern states and Michigan.

Her keen interest in reading began with stories told by her father and books at home, and found roots in the high school and col-

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lege libraries. She attended Western Michigan College of Education at Kalamazoo, returning in 1946 when she started working at the Michigan State Library in the circulation section. This provided an excellent laboratory in which to learn about books, people and service. After the State Building fire in 1951 she served the Library in its Capital Branch, and had a rare opportunity to serve legislators, executives, employees and taxpayers from the Library's Information Center there. This proved to be the most interesting and varied part of her library experience.

Vacations take Geneva to workshops, conferences or a holiday in the West.

September 1955, the Michigan Historical Commission asked her to take a newly created position as research assistant in the Archives. Her background had trained her to a fine understanding and interpretation of the source material created by our State Government. As Geneva says, "It is a thrilling experience to locate and care for little known permanent records of the Government and to make them available to researchers." The job grew--indeed to Geneva it is "the most rewarding work in State service".

Her hobbies are collecting books about Michigan and the Old Northwest. As she says, "my house can become too small for more rose lustre or antique furniture, but never too small for more books!"

Miss Kebler is a member of the Society of American Archivists, Special Libraries Association, Detroit Historical Society, Early American Industries, Michigan Archeological Society, Michigan Gun Collectors Association, Friends of the Clarke Historical Collection and Clements Library Association.

She is also active in civic affairs having served on the Michigan Week elementary education Committee, 1960-61; the Local History Committee, Lansing Board of Education Citizens' Committee on Libraries, 1960-61; Small Arms Committee, Michigan Civil War Centennial Commission, 1960, and has served as trustee of the Program Committee of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, 1959-60, 1956-57, and is serving as its President for 1960-61.

In 1959 Miss Kebler was made Archivist in Charge of the Archives for the Michigan Historical Commission.

A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THANKS TO

Theodore G. Foster, local historian and charter member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing for his donation to our collections. "Ted" has long been a source of inspiration to many young local history enthusiasts and a frequent contributor of important source material to the major research centers in our State. The Society is indebted to him for his gift of photographic prints, club and theatre programs, and other printed materials relating to early Lansing.

OFFICERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
GREATER LANSING 1960-61

President: Geneva Kebler
Vice President: Frank N. Elliott
Secretary-Treasurer: Kathryn E. Hubbard

Trustees:
Virginia S. Ford
Margaret K. Hermes
Mrs. George C. Stucky
George Wiskemann
Marion H. McClench
John H. Fuller
Dr. Rollin H. Baker
Clyde Anderson

Committee Chairmen:

Program: Dr. Joseph Druse
Membership: Mrs. W. T. Winegardner
Hospitality: George Wiskemann
Publications: Mrs. Helen Wallin (includes
program chairman and publicity chairman)
Publicity: Frank Elliott
Finance: John Fuller
Special Events: Robert K. Clark
Archives: Esther Loughin

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE
AND LOCAL HISTORY

During the summer our Society participated in the first nationwide survey of all county and local historical societies and agencies in the United States ... "to document the variety of activities that local organizations perform today; ... " to shed light on future trends and plans." The American Association for State and Local History, which is the national organization dedicated to state and local history, will publish a report of the findings of this survey next year.

Local societies which were not organized in 1959 are urged to send the name of their society, the name of the president, address of the society, number of members, the name of their publication, and whether or not they have a museum. Information is to be sent directly to The American Association for State and Local History, 816 S. State St., Madison 6, Wisconsin.

CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES

There was no summer time hiatus for members of the Local History Committee of the Lansing Board of Education's Citizen's Committee on Libraries. They attended regular meetings, visited library facilities in nearby cities, and prepared reports on the needs for an expanded Local History Section in the Lansing Public Library.

Your Society was represented by its President, Geneva Kebler, Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Clark, Marion McClench, Virginia Summers, John Brisbin, Birt Darling and Theodore G. Foster.

This committee expects to play an important role in the development of a special collection for the City of Lansing.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES NOTICE!

This issue of TOWN CRIER is being directed to other historical societies in Michigan. Any local society wishing to receive regular issues of TOWN CRIER published by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing are urged to write Publication Committee, Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan.

MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY

MICHIGAN IN PERSPECTIVE

A conference on local history participation is to be held Friday and Saturday, October 28-29 at Wayne State University, in the McGregor Community Conference Building, in Detroit. The theme--"Michigan in Perspective".

Dr. Philip P. Mason, one of the originators of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, is Archivist at Wayne State and presents this fine program. It will be one of the most outstanding statewide conferences held in our State.

Some of the speakers already scheduled are: Daniel J. Reed, Assistant Chief, Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress, "Michigan and the National Union Lists of Manuscripts", Mrs. Carroll Paul, Curator, Marquette County Historical Society, "An Upper Peninsula Research Collection; Professor Clark, University of Kentucky, "Humor on the Frontier".

Saturday there will be three fine panels on: "Libraries and Local History", Francis X. Scannell, Director of Readers Services, Michigan State Library; "Ohio Sources for Michigan Genealogy", Mrs. Ruth Douthit, Ohio State Library; "Archaeology of the Upper Great Lakes", George I. Quimby, Curator of North American Archaeology and Ethnology, Chicago Museum of Natural History".

An awards luncheon is to be held Saturday with Richard Dorson, Indiana University speaking on "Folklore and Local History". In the afternoon Bruno Nettl of Wayne State will direct a panel "Collecting Folklore in Michigan". Aiding Mr. Nettl will be Thelma James, Wayne State and Richard Dorson, University of Indiana and Richard Waterman of Wayne State.

Town Crier will keep you posted on information concerning registration, etc.

Other speakers will be G. Flint Purdy, Director of Libraries, Wayne State University; Ben Marsh, President, Detroit Historical Society, and Arnold Pilling, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Wayne State University.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

If we are to continue -- we must have more
members to support the work.

- Annual dues. \$ 2.00
- Contributing membership. \$ 5.00
- Life Membership. \$100.00
- Organization membership. \$25.00

A joint membership with the Michigan Historical Society is available by adding \$3.00 to the amounts specified for an annual or contributing membership. With your membership comes a copy of Town Crier each month announcing the speakers and their subjects.

STATE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES ANNUAL MEETING
PROGRAM, OCTOBER 7 and 8.

The Historical Society of Michigan has invited us to participate in their annual meeting program to be held at Albion, October 7 and 8.

Mr. Robert K. Clark, former President will join representatives of other local historical societies in reporting current program development, accomplishments and hopes for the future.

The program will start with registration at 9:00 a.m. in the Parker Inn at Albion, Friday, October 7. Theme will be: "Who is working for Michigan History?"

For further information write Historical Society of Michigan, Lewis Cass Building, Lansing 13, Michigan.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

TO LANSING WITH LOVE, a paper given by Mrs. George C. Stucky at the April 30, 1959 meeting, has been mailed to all members in good standing. Copies of PULPIT AND PRAYER IN EARLIEST LANSING by Joseph Druse, published by the Society in 1959 are still available.

Copies of Mrs. Stucky's paper may be obtained by writing the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan.

The Society plans publication of the following papers as soon as funds become available:

- History of the Military Establishment of Michigan by Major Robert Baird; Transportation in Lansing prior to 1905, by Frank Elliott, Curator of History, Michigan State University; Town of Michigan by Robert K. Clark, Conservation Department; Michigan Heritage by Dr. Ethel Williams.

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