

Town Crier

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

Vol. III, No. 2

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

October 1960

BIG MONTHS AHEAD!

Membership dues have been coming into the Society coffers, reports Margaret Winegardner, Membership Chairman. NOW is the time to make 1960-61 payments.

The obligation of making known to those about us the pleasures, enrichment, and civic fruitfulness of the Society lies upon each of us, its members; to a large extent the projects and publications of the Society depend upon an expanding, curious, and enthusiastic membership. Make the coming month a time to share your pleasure in the Society with your neighbors; bring them to a meeting and the question of membership will take care of itself. The service you do the Society is also a service to yourself, to your friends, to the community, and to the cause of local history.

Invitations and a descriptive brochure about Society activities are available for your use from the Membership Committee.

GHOST POST OFFICES IN THE GREATER LANSING AREA

Kenneth H. Priestley, 300 W. Oak Street, Vassar, Michigan, an authority on Michigan Postal History is asking for help from our members. Priestley is working on ghost post offices in the Greater Lansing Area and will appreciate any information you can send him. He describes his work in the following article:

Discontinued post offices are usually called ghost post offices. Ghost post offices can be divided into four groups namely: GHOST TOWN POST OFFICES, GHOST POST OFFICES, GHOST NAME POST OFFICE AND GHOST COUNTRY POST OFFICES. A ghost town post office is one in which both the town and post office are gone. An example of this type is RIVER BEND which was established in the extreme southwest corner of Clinton Co. on February 8, 1871. Levi Partlow was the first postmaster and served until July 21, 1886. The office was discontinued on September 29, 1891. The village and post office deriving its name from the formation of the Grand River at this point was 3 miles southwest of Eagle. Its population in 1887 was 130 and was served with a weekly mail.

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OCTOBER 19, 1960 MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING will be held at the Archives, State Record Center, DeWitt Road, Lansing at 8:00 p.m.

The Society's program on October 19th will be a membership variety evening in which a score or more of members will retrieve from their treasuries some historic memento which they cherish and with which they find some identification with the past. Each member will describe his attachment to the object (n.b. time limit, two minutes each). The displays will be interspersed with dulcimer music by Mr. Allen Thomas of Lansing. There will also be a historical quiz feature which will enable all our attending members and their friends to gain some notion of the adequacy of their knowledge of Lansing's past.

Any member who has some article he thinks would be of interest on the program is urged to contact Joseph Druse at ED 2-5496.

Our April program is tentatively scheduled to be a playlet concerning Lansing and the Civil War. We need volunteers to make this effective--actors, writers, costumers, etc. And, we need them NOW. If volunteers are not forthcoming we shall have to change the program to some other form. Volunteers will please contact Joseph Druse at ED 2-5496.

SOCIETY RECEIVES GIFT

The Executive Board gratefully acknowledges a gift of money from Mrs. Gladys Olds Anderson, a life-member of the Society. The money will be used to publish papers on early Lansing history, presented by our members.

CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION ASKS FOR HELP

A committee on Graves Registration, acting under the Civil War Centennial Commission, has been formed in this area and to realize its goals, this committee is in great need of help.

Persons interested in serving on the Graves Registration Committee please contact Mr. R.B. Lord, Chairman of the Committee, 3607 Glenwood, Lansing, Michigan.

MEETING DATES

OCTOBER 19, 1960	MARCH 15, 1961
NOVEMBER 16, 1960	APRIL 19, 1961
JANUARY 18, 1961	MAY 10, 1961
FEBRUARY 15, 1961	*****

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS:

Your Executive Board met September 14, 1960, to plan activities for 1960-61. Mrs. Helen Wallin, Chairman of Publications, presented a new brochure aimed to boost membership.

Members urged that copies of TOWN CRIER be directed to other historical agencies throughout the State and that TO LANSING WITH LOVE be directed to members and 23 Michigan Libraries.

Final arrangements were made for the September 21 program by the Lansing Liederkrantz. Mrs. Lois Fohl was given responsibility for appropriate refreshments.

A progress report was given on the Local History Committee of the Lansing Board of Education's Citizens Committee on Libraries.

CIRCLES THESE DATES ---- October 28-29

A conference on local history participation will be held Friday and Saturday, October 28-29 at Wayne State University, in McGregor Community Conference Building, Detroit. Direct inquiries about advance registration to Philip P. Mason, Archivist, Wayne State University, Room 144 General Library, Detroit.

"Masterpieces of Flemish Art: Van Eyck to Bosch" will be among the outstanding things for members to see in Detroit while attending the conference at Wayne State University. More than 100,000 people saw the exhibit in Bruges, Belgium in the summer of 1960. In America you can see it only at the Detroit Institute of Arts, October 18 through December 31, 1960.

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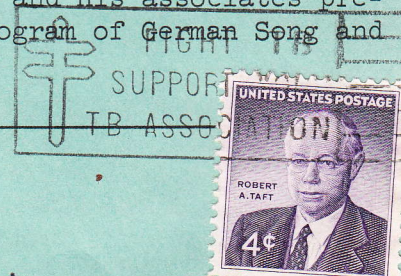
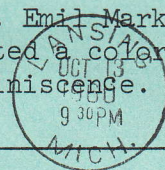
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A ghost post office is one in which the community or village is still existant but the post office has been discontinued. BUNKER HILL which was established in Ingham County on December 21, 1848 with Chester J. Tuttle as its first postmaster is an example of this type. The village had a population of 100 in 1891 and was served by a tri-weekly mail stage from LESLIE. This post became a ghost when it was discontinued on March 14, 1903 because of the advent of rural free delivery being supplied from LESLIE.

A ghost name post office is one in which the office is still in service under a different name; the former name being a ghost name post office. A classic example of this type is the forerunner of LANSING, namely the post office of MICHIGAN. MICHIGAN, the post office at the permanent capitol was established on April 27, 1847 with George W. Peck as its first postmaster. The post office name was changed to LANSING on April 20, 1848.

A ghost country post office was a post office serving a farm area but not located at an established settlement. These usually were located at farm houses or a cross roads general store. An example of this type was KELLY in Eaton County. KELLY was established as a country post office on Oct. 4, 1895 with Cornelius S. Jackson as its first postmaster. He served until July 8, 1898. The post office was kept in a cross roads general store, 12 1/2 miles north-west of CHARLOTTE, whence it received a daily mail. The office was discontinued on March 31, 1903 with the advent of rural free delivery from SUNFIELD.

OUR THANKS GO TO:
THE LANSING LIEDERKRANTZ for their very enjoyable program presented at the September meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Emil Marklewitz and his associates presented a colorful program of German Song and reminiscence.



Mrs. Esther Loughin
R # 1 Meridian Rd.
Okemos, Mich.