

Michigan
F
5p1
1689
M. Ret.

Town Crier

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

March 1961

Vol. III, No. 5

CITIES AND COUNTIES TO FETE 100 YEARS!

Travelers in Michigan this year will see historical pageants, parades, old fashioned clothing and other special events to celebrate anniversaries. In Keeweenaw County each town is taking a week for its own role in the Centennial observance. Plans are in progress for city wide programs at Pontiac, Breckenridge and Rockwood. These cities were founded a century ago. Citizens of Davisburg will celebrate the town's 125th birthday.

MICHIGAN'S LOST PENINSULA

The "Lost Peninsula that Wants to Stay Lost" is the theme of an article written by Mrs. Helen Wallin, editor of TOWN CRIER which will appear in the Spring issue of the Kalamazoo Valley Historical Society's publication, HERITAGE.

Lost Peninsula, Michigan is in a very heated argument over whether it should belong to Michigan or to Ohio. The story up-dates the very old controversy of the famous Toledo War resulting from the more than a hundred year dispute over the Michigan-Ohio boundary.

Today as in the early 1830's the same elements and pressures are present to make a controversy. Instead of canals and railroads it is marinas, subdivisions and recreation areas to be built by the enterprising. In place of the great tides of immigration coming into Michigan and Ohio, growing populations are clammering for a place to expand and spend leisure time. The needs for the land are just as intense. There still, are the local people, their loyalties, the law and the power and the politics.

Referring to the loveliness of the shores, prairies and forests of Michigan when he first saw them, Father Hennepin's words may still be contemplated: "They who shall have the happiness some day to inhabit this pleasant and fertile country, will remember their obligation to those, who first showed them the way."

COME! COME! COME!

The MARCH MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING is to be held at the Michigan State University Museum on the Campus at East Lansing, at 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 15, 1961.

DR. MOREAU S. MAXWELL, curator of the University Museum will talk to the Society re the restoration of FORT MICHILIMACKINAC.

Dr. Maxwell is professor of sociology and anthropology as well as museum curator. He joined the staff of M.S.U., October, 1957.

Born July 7, 1918, in Schenectady, N.Y., he received his bachelor of science, masters and doctor's degrees in 1939, 1946, and 1949 respectively, from the University of Chicago.

Before coming to Michigan State, he was chief of the Arctic branch of the Arctic, Desert and Tropic Information Center of the Air University of the U.S. Army Air Force and associate professor of anthropology at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisc.

Dr. Maxwell has written two books dealing with archaeology in southern Illinois and the lower Ohio Valley and one book about archaeology of the eastern United States.

He is a member of the Arctic Institute, the Society for American Archaeology and the Beloit chapter of the American Association of University Professors. In addition, he is a fellow in the American Anthropological Association.

I've often wished that I had clear,
For life, six hundred pounds a year,
A handsome house to lodge a friend,
A river at my garden's end,
A terrace walk, a half a rood
Of land set out to plant a wood
. . . so sang Jonathan Swift . . . added:
With time to trim my family tree
And study genealogy

anonymous

NOTES ON LANSING FROM THE GRAND TRAVERSE HERALD

What we are About in Lansing.--We are about to have a railroad communication with "all the world, and the rest of mankind,"--we have built and are building five handsome and substantial church edifices this year, two of them of brick - we have erected, or have in progress, ten large stores, six of brick--we have in progress over one hundred dwelling-houses, many of them large, elegant, and highly finished and ornamented. We are grading Washington Avenue, the chief business street, and many other streets and avenues, and are putting down some miles of wide, substantial plank side-walks. Who says Lansing is not on the move. (Lansing Republican.) August 26, 1859.

Population of Lansing.--The population of Lansing, the Capitol of this State, is ascertained by the census which has just been taken, to be 3,192. July 6, 1860.

PHIL MASON'S SERIES ON THE CIVIL WAR MAY BE PUBLISHED

Because of the popularity of Phil Mason's series of articles on Michigan's part in the Civil War which was published by the Associated Press in their allied papers, there has been a great demand for reprints.

Plans are under way for their publication and we hope to announce soon that they are available to you.

MEETING DATES

March 15, 1961 -- April 19, 1961 --
Annual Meeting: May 10, 1961

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

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS.

April 12. Conference on archival management. State Archives, DeWitt Road, Lansing, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

April 29. Second Annual Heritage Day. Michigan Association of Colored Women's Clubs. Speaker: Mrs. Blanche Coggan. The Archives, 11:30 a.m.

May 26. "Skirmish" Civil War buffs and friends welcome. Illustrated lecture: Max Schwartz. The Archives, 8:00 p.m.

MICHIGAN'S HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

In Lansing we have an interesting anomaly--a historical society without a museum and a museum without the active support of a historical society. Granted, the State Historical Museum is an agency of the Michigan Historical Commission and the Michigan Historical Commission is closely allied with the Historical Society of Michigan the fact remains that most members of the Historical Society of Michigan are distributed throughout the State and are associated with museums or societies in their own communities. This leaves the State Museum stranded without that group of interested volunteers which are so vital to the operations of most other museums. Because the staff of the State Museum is so limited there are many projects which have been delayed due to the lack of time and hands. Many of these projects, such as the cleaning and cataloging of military items, glassware and other collections could easily be handled by volunteers. If you would be interested in offering your time and talents to the State Historical Museum as a volunteer assistant, contact Mr. Solan Weeks, Director, Michigan Historical Museum, 505 North Washington, Lansing, Telephone IVanhoe 5-8144, Extension 550.