



Town Crier

HEAR
YE!

Volume 7 - No. 1

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

September, 1965

BIOGRAPHY OF RUBY JENNINGS

Our new president comes naturally by her interest in local history. A native of Lansing, she graduated from old Central High and then continued her higher education at M. S. U., obtaining both her BA and MA degrees from there. This year she begins her eighth year with the Lansing Public Schools, teaching at Post Oak Elementary.

Ruby says her interest in local history stems from her early childhood when she listened to her grandmother relate exciting tales of early pioneer days. She especially recalls her grandmother tell of watching the Capitol being built, and also of seeing Chief Okemos coming down the river.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing has claimed her membership and interest for the past six years, during which time she has served on the Board of Trustees and also as Vice-President.

Her husband, George, and her two sons, Dick and Douglas complete the family picture. Dick is working on his Masters in Philosophy at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, while Douglas is attending the University of Michigan and registered in the School of Architecture.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Sept. 13, 7:30 P. M. a meeting will be held at the M. S. U. lecture room to form a local chapter of the Michigan Archives Society. All interested persons are welcomed.

On Sept. 17-18, the Marshall Historical Society will host the annual meeting of the Historical Society of Michigan. The meetings will be held in the Honolulu House. All are urged to attend.

Oct. 6-10, the society of American Archivists will hold its annual meeting in New York City.

Oct. 29-30, the annual Local History Participation Conference will be held at Wayne University. Watch for additional information in the October TOWN CRIER.

UPPER CANADA VILLIAGE

Ontario's Living Heritage

by: Mrs. Helen Wallin, Past-President
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

When construction work on the hydro development of the St. Lawrence Seaway began in the early 1950's, inundation of many historic and sentimental landmarks was necessary.

Eight villages--Mille Roches, Wales, Moulinette, Dickinson's Landing, Woodlands, Riverside, Aultsville, Farran's Point along with portions of seven other villages were in the pathway of progress.

In order to preserve some of Canada's historic past, which was to be erased forever by the floodings, the Ontario Provincial Government formed the Ontario-St. Lawrence Development Commission, whose duty it was "to preserve historic past and provide education and recreational enjoyment to present and future generations."

From this evolved the idea of a restored village, the components of which would illustrate the evaluation of a St. Lawrence River Community from 1784 to 1867. Work was started at once on the creation of the Upper Canada Village within context of Chrysler Farm Battlefield. It is located on Highway No. 2, eight miles east of Morrisburg, Ontario, Canada and is a splendid example of how the battle of progress versus heritage was settled.

Upper Canada Village as seen today never really existed. It is an aggregation of about 40 buildings--to list a few: the toll house, village store, saw and wollen mills, cheese factory, hotel, church, tavern, school, guard house, lock, blockhouse and telegraph, bateau shed, farm buildings, smokehouse and craft houses. Each tells its own particular story of the life in the area between the years 1784 and 1867. Some represent the early period of pioneer settlement, others represent the prosperity and culture of a later period.

Attics were searched, journals, documents and archives were consulted as part of the exhaustive research involved. Services of historians, architects, furnishings specialists and horticulturists were all employed in order

that every facet of life would be faithfully re-created. Nineteenth century methods were used in reconstruction in the interest of historical accuracy. Old English manufacturers of wall papers were contacted and cooperated in furnishing papers and colors of the era.

There is ANIMATION: the ox-cart wends its way around the corduroy, plank and dirt roads of the village, a coach and four clatters past

and stops at the hotel, the blacksmith's hammer rings out from his shop, the cabinet maker adds his sounds, chickens and ducks contribute their special sounds, demonstrations of baking, candle dipping, quilting, spinning, weaving and all affairs of the pioneer village make this a truly living museum.

(Second half in the October issue.)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING * 1965 - 1966 PROGRAM				
DATE OF MEETING	MEETING PLACE	PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	TOPIC	NOTES
SEPTEMBER 15	HIGH STREET SCHOOL	FORD CEASAR	WINGS OVER LANSING	LESLIE STEEN, JR. SPEAKER
OCTOBER 13	INGHAM COUNTY JAIL - MASON	FORD CEASAR	OUR SOCIETY GOES TO JAIL	HOST - SHERIFF KEN PREAMORE
NOVEMBER 10	POST OAK SCHOOL LANSING	LORRAINE BRANDON	YOUNG ADULTS STUDY LOCAL HISTORY	FRANCES SCHNEIDER EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 12	LANSING PUBLIC LIBRARY	VIRGINIA SUMMERS	EARLY LANSING MILLS	BART THOMAN SPEAKER
FEBRUARY 9	TO BE ANNOUNCED	ROBERT CLARK	GRAND RIVER PROJECT	"GIB" BUTLER SPEAKER
MARCH 9	HIGH STREET SCHOOL	FORD CEASAR	TREASURE NIGHT	ANTIQUES, RELICS, HEIRLOOMS
APRIL 13	TO BE ANNOUNCED	MARY MCNEELY	HISTORY OF THE BD. OF WATER & LIGHT	DORR HATHAWAY SPEAKER
MAY 4	TO BE ANNOUNCED	FORD CEASAR	HISTORY OF NEGRO MUSIC	EARL NELSON AND SINGERS
MAY 18	TO BE ANNOUNCED		ANNUAL "MICHIGAN WEEK" PROGRAM	

OFFICERS FOR 1965-66

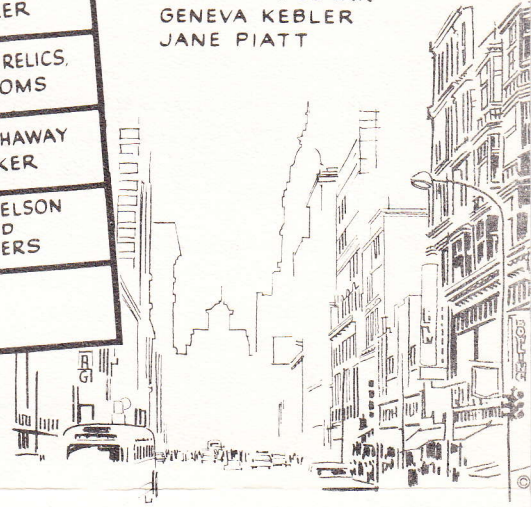
RUBY JENNINGS - - PRESIDENT
 VIRGINIA SUMMERS - VICE PRESIDENT
 MARY MCNEELY - - - SECRETARY - TREASURER

BOARD MEMBERS

LORRAINE BRANDON
 SOLAN WEEKS
 DOYLE FITZPATRICK
 MARVIN CAIN

MEMBERS AT LARGE

HARLEY FRANKS
 ROBERT K. CLARK
 GENEVA KEBLER
 JANE PIATT



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

