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Volume 10, No. 5

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

February, 1968

**NOTED GENEALOGIST TO SPEAK**

Family history enthusiasts and researchers who have long benefited from the educational and editorial work of Miss Lucy Mary Kellogg welcome her as speaker on February 22.

Miss Kellogg edited The Detroit Society of Genealogical Research Magazine, 1957-1962. Her publications include 24 articles for the novice, in a series entitled, "A letter to Jenny Hunter," in the DSGR Magazine: "A Guide to Ancestral Trails in Michigan," published as an appendix in the 1830 Federal Census: Territory of Michigan, and currently, "John Willoughby of Goshen Conn.," also in DSGR Magazine.

In addition to numerous workshops in Michigan she has taught at the Seminars of American Culture in Cooperstown, N.Y., 1960, and assisted with similar seminars at New England Historical and Genealogical Society, 1965 and 1966.

A graduate of the 1952 Institute for Genealogical Research in Washington, Miss Kellogg has been a Certified Genealogist for almost 3 years. She serves the Board for Certification of Genealogists, Washington, D. C.

Invitations are extended to all interested friends to come.

**JOIN US FOR SUPPER**

The February program will be preceded by a "Box Supper" from the food services of the Lansing YWCA. The menu includes fried chicken, potato salad, bean relish, fruit, dessert, rolls and coffee. Time: 6:30 at the YWCA. Price: \$2.50.

Payment is required received no later than February 19. Please make check or money order payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and direct to P.O. Box 515, Lansing.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Society is pleased to join with members of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society in a program devoted to family history.

"SEARCH AND SHARE"

by Lucy Mary Kellogg

Thursday, February 22, 1968

at 7:30 P.M. at the YWCA.

217 Townsend Street, Lansing.

**AURELIUS CHURCH CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL**

Centennial Sunday, November 12, 1967, was celebrated by an all day program of music, church history, reminiscences by former pastors and guest speakers. About 175 persons attended the turkey dinner following the regular morning service, according to Mrs. Lenore Davis, general chairman of the observance. The day closed with a reception and benediction by Frederick P. Raft, pastor.

It was one hundred and four years ago on May 1, 1847 that the Aurelius Baptist Church was officially organized with eleven members. The list of charter members includes many names still familiar in the community. For several years worship services were held in the Barnes School and other schools in the neighborhood. The present church building at 4429 Barnes Road, Mason, was erected during 1867 and was dedicated on October 3 of that year. Rev. Gunderson was pastor.

Personal affairs and the health of individuals seemed to be a concern of the church in days long ago. One entry made by the church clerk stated that, "We called on Brother \_\_\_\_\_, and found him in a state of mind." Regular visits were made on ailing and wayward members in an effort to cheer them and bring them back to the "straight and narrow."

Actions that are not regarded as sins today would have resulted in dismissal from the church of the last century. Actions not condoned were gossiping, unfair dealings, profanity and dancing. Occasionally a member was guilty and the word "dismissed" was written on the roll.

MERIDIAN-BASE LINE HISTORIC SITE

The TALBERT AND LEOTA ABRAMS FOUNDATION, Lansing, have provided funds for the purchase of lands offered by Ingham County Road Commission, Jackson County Road Commission, and the Burton Abstract and Title Company of Jackson; and an easement for road use from the Consumers Power Company of Jackson.

The gift of land, money, and development was accepted by the Conservation Commission at its December 1967 meeting. It was dedicated as the Meridian-Base Line Historic Site.

The historical value of the starting points for all surveys in Michigan has long been recognized. The financial and personal support of the Abrams Foundation has solidified this interest by the offer of funds for the purchase of 56.76 acres and for an additional sum of \$10,000.00 for adequate monumentation of the two survey points.

The site is a memorial of the survey methods and early history of the Territory and State of Michigan. It is the uniquely American rectangular method, as conceived by the Continental Congress in 1784. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 generally defined the Great Lakes States included in this area, and with subsequent statutes, defined the rules of survey and basis for sale of the land in these territories or states.

The survey of the Territory of Michigan began prior to statehood under survey contracts of April 18th and 28th, 1815. The orders specified that a prime Michigan Meridian be established along the west side of land recently ceded from the Pottawatomi, Miami, Chippewa, and Ottawa Indians, by extension of a line due north from Fort Defiance, Ohio. This Meridian Line was to be intersected by an east-west base line arbitrarily located from a point north of Detroit. The east base line was promptly surveyed, followed in 1824 by survey through former Indian Territory of the west base line. Differences in the date of survey are primarily accountable for the offset along the Meridian of the two base lines, the initial point for the west base line being 7.97 chains or 935.88 feet south of the point of survey for the east base line.

The survey of the Meridian Line runs 334½ miles from a point near Waldron and the Ohio line to the International Line near Sault Ste. Marie. The 172 3/4 miles of the two base lines follows Eight Mile Road and the north Detroit City limits and runs from Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan at a point near South Haven.

Both the Meridian and the base lines were surveyed during the period from 1815 to 1840, at contract costs of \$3.00 to \$4.25 per mile of survey.

The plan of use and development prepared for this site by the Parks Division of the Conservation Department, calls essentially for use of the two access strips from Meridian and Territorial roads to a central parking lot near the area of monumentation and display, with foot-trail and landscaping use of the spokes extending from the two initial survey points. The concept in use is that of a historic site.

Proceedings. Department of Conservation, December 8, 1967.

MORE MSU HISTORY

Down the hill about 125 yards from Beaumont Tower there is a cement marker set flush with ground which reads: N.E. Corn/Saints' Rest/Built 1856/Burned/ Dec. 9, 1876. This spot was the beginning of the Division of Dormitories and Food Services at Michigan State University.

A series on the history of the Division of Dormitories and Food Services at Michigan State University, written by Jack Thompson, first appeared in the 1965-66 issues of Serving State, a division paper edited by Judith Balesky.

Mr. Thompson, a member of the Society, reports that a limited number of Serving State for 109 Years, a reprint of the series, is available on request to him, 160 Steven T. Mason Hall, M.S.U. East Lansing, 48823.

A. B. & T. BOOKLET AVAILABLE

The anniversary booklet produced by the American Bank & Trust of Lansing will be available to members attending the February 22 meeting. Our thanks to A.B. & T. for this gracious gift.

NEIGHBORING SOCIETIES ELECT OFFICERS

The Eaton County Historical Society began 1968 with the election of officers. They are Mr. Claude Burton, Bellevue, president; Mr. Russell Brunger, Grand Ledge, 1st vice president; Mr. Stuart Graham, Charlotte, 2nd vice president, and Mrs. Fred Bohh, secretary.

The Vermontville Historical Society reports continued enthusiasm for local projects and election of officers. New officers are: Mrs. DeWayne Wright, president; Mr. Robert Childs, vice president; Mrs. Kenyon Peabody, secretary-treasurer; Miss Esther Shepard, program chairman; Rev. Leonard Maunder, publicity chairman.

A warm invitation is extended to all to attend meetings and take part in activities.

This society extends best wishes for a successful new year.

CHURCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATED

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Charlotte is preparing for an observance of one hundred years of establishment.

The first church was held in homes prior to a formal building. The present church has been used by the congregation for the past seventy-five years.

Members are searching for photographs, letters and all sources of history in preparation for the celebration and a publication. Readers who can help are urged to write Mrs. Roger Nelson, R #3, Charlotte, 48813.

MSU STUDENT COMPILES INFORMATION ON MICHIGAN IN THE MEXICAN WAR, 1847-48

Michigan in the Mexican War, a compilation of enlistment papers of fifty-one volunteer soldiers from the State of Michigan, is now available from Richard W. Welch. Mr. Welch is a Michigan State University student residing in Durand.

The information includes the soldier's full name, age at time of enlistment, place of birth and occupation at time of enlistment. The publication is based on original records in the Michigan Historical Commission Archives.

WANTED: ANY INFORMATION ON CAMP MEETINGS in the State of Michigan, especially so-called "holiness" camp-meetings, such as the ones at Eaton Rapids and Romeo.

Dr. Delbert Rose, a Michiganian now in Kentucky is writing a history of the "holiness movement" in America, and needs any information available on this "Methodistic" movement.

Information on the Michigan State Holiness Association's activities (or its county auxiliaries), are especially sought. A publication, The Michigan Holiness Record, begun in Grand Rapids during the 1880s and edited by Rev. S. B. Shaw is also subject of search.

If you have, or know of, significant materials please write Dr. Delbert R. Rose, 307 North Walnut Street, Wilmore, Kentucky, 40390.

MID-MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INITIATES SECOND YEAR OF OPERATION

The Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society was incorporated in January, 1967, to preserve genealogical records, encourage and assist in the collection of family history, contribute to established collections and make information available to others via publication.

During the first year the membership of 51 has enjoyed programs offering knowledge of the research collections available in the Lansing area; the preservation, care and use of manuscripts, rare books and iconographic materials; and techniques of research.

For information about programs and forthcoming publications contact: Mrs. E. M. Dickinson, Secretary, 528 Charles Street, East Lansing, 48823.

LABOR HISTORY PROVES EXCITING SUBJECT OF JANUARY MEETING

Dr. Philip P. Mason's knowledgable presentation of information about the Labor History Archives of Wayne State University was received with keen interest and enthusiasm by 40 members last January 18.

Prior to this few of our members were aware of the more than 11-million items relating to labor and the growth of industrial unions in the U.S., and the computerized retrieval techniques employed to serve researchers.

FROM CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
TO ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS, 1857

The town of Geneva, Allen County, Kansas is almost a ghost town today, but it played a major role in that county's early settlement and growth. According to an article in the Iola Daily Register, Iola, Kansas, two brothers who are former members of the Geneva Community have constructed a scale model of the Academy which served residents as a center for educational, religious and social life.

A history of Geneva and the Academy does even more to enhance the model.

"The town was established in the spring of 1857, when a committee from St. Johns, Michigan, came to the new territory 'to find a location where a settlement could be founded by men who wanted to assist in counteracting and defeating the nefarious attempt then being made to spread the curse of slavery over the virgin soil of Kansas.'

"They decided on the 'divide' between Martin and the Indian creeks in the northwest part of the county. They were followed by the friends who had sent them. The earliest settlers included Deacon E. Fisk, the Rev. G. S. Northrup, Dr. B. G. Stone, J. H. Spice, J. M. Mattoon, J. C. Redfield, Hiram Moore, C. Holman, George Esse, S. T. Jones, G. Waite, Merritt Moore, and E. J. Brinkerhoff."

Organization of a Sunday school, a place for public worship and a common school were among the first concerns of the new settlers. Being of many faiths, they agreed on a Congregational Church. It was the first to be formally established in the county in 1858. Rev. Gilbert Northrup, one of the most energetic workers of the community, served as first pastor. He was also chiefly responsible for erection of the Academy.

The article continues: "...Less than a fourth of the expected 300 families migrated from Michigan and the East. War and drought interfered. It wasn't until the summer of 1867, after many false starts, that a building was finally erected on ground belonging to the Presbyterian Church and launched as an institution of higher education."

Later the Academy reverted to the Church and was used for services for more than 50 years.

This item was brought to our attention by Mrs. J. D. Wellfare of Lansing.

#### AASLH ANNOUNCES GRANTS

The American Association for State and Local History has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities in support of the work of historical societies and museums. The two grants totaling \$50,000 will be used in 1968 to support educational programs for staff members of historical societies and museums. The other will support a major study of the financial status of the nation's historical organizations.

Educational programs will include a one-week seminar on historical publications, a two-week seminar on exhibit techniques for history museums and historic sites, and a three-week seminar on the administration of historical societies and museums. Dates will be announced later.

The American Association for State and Local History is a private, non-profit educational organization founded in 1940. Its membership includes both individuals and historical societies and agencies engaged in the collection, preservation and interpretation of state and localized history through museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, publications and other kinds of programs. It has maintained its national headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, since 1964. William T. Alderson is director.

#### SEMINARS ON AMERICAN CULTURE PLANNED

The New York State Historical Association announces the 21st annual Seminars on American Culture at Cooperstown, New York, June 30-July 13, 1968.

Twelve courses in the humanities-History-American Folk Culture-Art-Frontier Technology-Museum Techniques -and more - including Workshops in Early American Crafts are offered. A distinguished faculty drawn from universities and museums throughout the United States will teach classes held in historic Fennimore House and the Farmer's Museum. A complete brochure describing each course in detail will be sent in March. For information write Seminars, NYSHA, Cooperstown, New York 13326.