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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

March, 1968

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Research Association for Michigan Negro History, Incorporated, is to gather, preserve and disseminate by means of publication, exhibition, and dramatization the significant contributions of the Michigan Negro in groups and as individuals, to the history and welfare of this state past and present. And to encourage and support all similar interest and activities by other individuals and organizations... "DRAMATIZATION" means by the various arts; literature, poetry, drama, music, dance, graphic and sculptural and filmic.

The Association observed National Negro History Week, February 11-17, 1968 by focusing on the contributions of outstanding citizens belonging to this minority group through lectures, newspaper articles, television and radio programs.

Assistance was given to the State Journal in compilation of an illustrated feature article on Negro accomplishments. Mr. Forrest Coggan was responsible for publicity and William Helder coordinated public school activities in the observance.

Mr. Ralph Bonner, member and executive director of the Greater Lansing Urban League, Inc., discussed why we have a Negro History Week with Bob Runyan on WIIS radio. Rob Downey of WKAR radio featured Mrs. Blanche Coggan in a discussion of values and little known Negro heroes. Mrs. Coggan also presented an illustrated lecture on the underground railroad and slavery to some 700 eighth grade students at West Junior High School.

WMSB-TV's, Assignment 10, highlighted Martin Gal's coverage of students at Otto Junior High School and other elementary schools participating in observance activities.

Mrs. John Kaechele, recording secretary of the Association, was luncheon speaker for the Civitan Club of Lansing and discussed "Africa's Rich Past."

General coordinator for the several projects was Geneva Kebler.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATION FOR MICHIGAN
NEGRO HISTORY TO PRESENT PROGRAM
OF MUSIC, DRAMA, AND HISTORY.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Society is pleased to join with members of the Research Association for Michigan Negro History, Inc., in a program devoted to the Negro in our state.

Wednesday, March 20, 1968
at 7:30 pm at the YWCA,
217 Townsend Street, Lansing.

LANSING SCHOOLS OFFER WORKSHOP IN NEGRO HISTORY

A workshop in Negro History will be initiated April 22, 1968 for teachers in Lansing School District. Mr. William Helder, Social Studies Coordinator, announces the first session will be lead by Ron Bailey, president of the MSU Chapter of Blue Key and author of recent articles on Negro history published in State News. Contributors to following sessions include Senator Coleman Young (D), Detroit, who will present the legislative view, and H. L. Van Dyke, Dean Emeritus of Alabama State (retired) who will discuss contributions to science and technology. Mrs. Blanche Coggan will illustrate history with the story of personalities. Authorities of similar stature will present sessions on labor and industry, and the arts.

The workshop will be held 7-9 pm at Dwight Rich Junior High School, April 22-May 27, 1968.

A limited number of guests can be accommodated. Interested members may contact William Helder, Lansing Board of Education.

MICHIGAN ACADEMY HOLDS 72nd MEET

The seventy-second annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters will convene March 21-23, 1968, at Grand Valley State College, Allendale, Michigan.

John Sommerfeldt, Department of History, Western Michigan University, serves as chairman of the section on history. Four sessions on Friday, March 22, are concerned with religious history, proponents and opponents of war in American history, and Michigan history. Dr. Willis F. Dunbar will preside over the afternoon program: Father Richard and the Disputed Election of 1825. Alec R. Gilpin, MSU; Judge Augustus Woodward and the Naming of Ypsilanti: A Study in Revision. Paul E. Hubbell, EMU; Thomas Edison's Experimental Work with Michigan Iron Ore. George S. May, EMU; The Religious Background of Michigan's Breakfast Food Industry. Richard W. Schwartz, Andrews University; The Henry Beets Papers. Herbert Brinks, Calvin College; Historic Site Work on Isle Royale, 1961-1967. Lawrence Rakestraw, Michigan Technological University; The Research Opportunities in the State Archives of Michigan. Dennis R. Bodem, State Archivist.

VERMONTVILLE MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL,
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1968.

The festival which has grown out of a community celebration in 1940 means warm hospitality, pancakes and maple syrup to many springtime visitors to Vermontville. The Village proudly announces that they will host the 1968 National Maple Syrup Queen Contest on Friday night, April 26, 1968, 8 pm at Maple Valley Jr.-Sr. High School.

Crowning of the Queen, parades and entertainment completes the day's activities.

The 31-page program includes a brief history of early Vermontville, comments on sugar making, maple recipes and ads of area supporters.

FOR YOUR OLD BINDINGS

Several members have asked for the British Museum formula used in treating leather bound books.

- Lanolin, anhydrous 7 oz. avoird.
- Beeswax 1/2 oz. avoird.
- Cedarwood Oil 1 oz. fluid
- Hexane 11 oz. fluid.

Dissolve the wax in the hexane in a warm place, being careful to keep it away from open flame, as hexane is volatile and easily inflammable. Add the cedarwood oil and then the lanolin, which should be previously softened by warming. The mixture must be thoroughly shaken before using.

HISTORY IN OUR SCHOOLS

Holt-Dimondale school teachers who incorporate the study of Michigan history in many ways are planning an intensive study during Michigan Week. Currently, Larry Barnard, Sycamore Elementary School teacher, leads students in study of Michigan Indians. High school students are studying Michigan participation in the Civil War.

The Senior High School Library is the center for resource materials and special activities. The library has prepared a bibliography and is building the collection to meet growing needs of the students.

Volumes of the Michigan Historical Collections are among printed sources desired by the library. Only volume 39 and 40 of this series are in the library. Contributions from private or public sources are welcomed and may be used for tax deduction. If you have Michigan items to donate, please contact Mrs. Warren Stauffer, Holt, or the high school secretary, Mrs. Fritts.

AURELIUS GENERAL STORE BECOMES
ANTIQUÉ SHOP

The Wagon Hub at the corner of Aurelius and Barnes Roads was once a grocery-general store and center of community activity.

The 1870 structure is now filled with old objects accumulated by the Parish brothers. Collectors welcome.

RESERVE APRIL 19 and 20, 1968!
FOR THE LOCAL HISTORY PARTICIPATION
CONFERENCE AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

HISTORY BOOKS FIRST TO BE REVIEWED
FOR RACIAL ACCURACY

A review is being made of American history textbooks most commonly used by Michigan schools. The review marks the beginning of appraisals by the State Advisory Committee on Social Studies Textbooks to determine the accuracy and adequacy of racial and ethnic group presentations in the books under the requirements of a new state law.

A survey of textbooks approved for sale in Michigan recently revealed some 660 social studies books available for elementary and secondary school use. Of these, 150 deal with American history. The most commonly used of these will be selected for study by the advisory committee lead by Dean J. W. Menge of Wayne State University's College of Education.

LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE, APRIL 19-20.

The 11th annual local history conference-Michigan in Perspective, will be held April 19-20, McGregor Memorial Center, Wayne State University.

Friday luncheon session will present Dr. Charles W. Simmons, Virginia State College, "Afro-Saxon North, 1947-1967. At 2:30 Dr. Leslie H. Hanawalt, Wayne State University, will discuss "Some Problems in writing an Institutional History."

The Lewis Cass Lecture of the Detroit Historical Society will follow the annual dinner Friday evening at 8:15.

Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 the Genealogy Section will present Robert M. McBride, editor of Tennessee Historical Quarterly. Concurrently Dr. Charles H. Wight, president of the International Afro-American Museum will discuss the development of the Museum in the Negro History Section, and the Archeology Section will present J. C. Harrington, who will speak on "Nauvoo, Illinois, Historic Restoration."

The Awards Luncheon on Saturday features Lee Allen, Historian, Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, N. Y. speaking on "Baseball in America."

Programs will be mailed in April.

SOCIETY HOST TO 100 IN FEBRUARY

The February 22, 1968 meeting in co-sponsorship with the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society was honored by a lecture on family history by Miss Lucy Mary Kellogg of Brighton.

Miss Kellogg stressed the reward enjoyed by genealogists whose interest transcends his own family and he contributes to the knowledge of many families. Emphasis was given to the careful evaluation of sources, and responsibility to make results of searches available to others by deposit in established research centers.

Accounts of personal experiences in searching throughout the Nation brought warmth and humor to Miss Kellogg's presentation.

Guests from Charlotte, Vermontville, Flint, Owosso and Durand joined us for a most enjoyable supper and evening.

APRIL MEETING AT WOLDUMAR

Picturesque Woldumar on Lansing Road near Millett, bordering on the Grand River, will be the setting for the Society's meeting on April 18.

Supper will be served in the loft of the large, old barn which has been remodeled and refurbished, followed by an introduction to the education-conservation center by Len Stuttmann, executive director of Nature Way Association.

Land for the establishment of the nature park was made available by Mrs. Gladys Olds Anderson. The 160-acre farmland site is available to schools in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties for outdoor education projects.

CERTIFICATION FOR GENEALOGISTS

The Board for Certification of Genealogists is incorporated in the District of Columbia as a non-profit corporation to examine and certify persons competent to do professional genealogical research and writing; to do genealogical record searching; and to make lists of such persons available to libraries, archival institutions, societies, etc., as well as individuals who may have need for such services.

For list of certified individuals and their specializations write the Board for Certification of Genealogists, 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

EATON RAPIDS LODGE CELEBRATES

An observance of the 100th anniversary of the Eaton Rapids Odd Fellow Lodge was held Saturday, February 24. A reception and banquet was held to mark the historic occasion. Walter Allen reviewed the history of the Lodge.

In 1863 a request for an organization was directed to the Grand Lodge from five Eaton Rapids citizens: James Gallery, C. B. Dean, A. H. Brainerd, William Montgomery, and Samuel Wilkins. The request was approved on February 19, 1868.

The first meeting was held in the Reynolds Building now Webb's store. Relocation in the Kositchek Building was followed by many moves during the years that followed. A former grocery was purchased in 1948, remodeled and now serves as a headquarters for social and civic activities. The Lodge contributes free hospital beds and invalid care equipment, sponsors Little League groups, honors students with trips to the United Nations and other similar projects.

COMMITTEE TO AID LANSING LIBRARY'S NEW LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

Progress on the completion of a local history room in the library is marked by the appointment of a citizens committee to acquire furnishings.

Completion of the wood trim, cases, fireplace and the like is expected in mid-April. Joe Kimbrough and Miss Virginia Summers of the library staff will be assisted by the committee in acquiring furniture and accessories to re-create a Victorial parlor of 1850-75.

Items associated with Lansing area families, organizations and commerce are especially desired. Individuals wishing to donate chairs, tables, portrait and decorative art, other appointments and money for refurbishing are requested to notify committee members or the library. All items or money donated are tax deductible.

Members of the committee are Philip Siebert, Mrs. Edward Bock, Mrs. Eugene Bretz, Mrs. Frederick Nichols, and Floyd Eavey.

STATE LIBRARY COMPILES BIBLIOGRAPHY

A partial bibliography of books, pamphlets and periodical articles which record the contributions and history of Michigan's Negro citizens is now available in the Michigan Unit, State Library. The compilation was a contribution to the observance of Michigan Negro History Week, 1968.

Most of the items listed are available for use and loan from major libraries of our State.

CEMETERY SURVEY IN PROGRESS

The Legislature in 1966 created a State Cemetery Commission with powers and duties to regulate the creation, management, and maintenance of cemeteries; to require the regulation and inspection of cemeteries; and the licensing of cemetery lot salesmen.

One of the actions to be completed during the 1967-68 fiscal year is the registration of all cemeteries within the purview of Act 337, MPA 1966, which exempts cemeteries owned and operated by a municipality, church or religious institution.

According to Burton L. Yungfer, executive secretary, the survey has located and identified about 4,000 cemeteries, and 20 counties are still to be surveyed. About 90% are owned by local government and religious institutions. The balance are owned by corporations, associations and private groups.

The completed survey will record Indian burial grounds and cemeteries that have been abandoned. These records have already been used in assisting people to locate plots where relatives were buried and the location forgotten.

OWOSSO INITIATES CLASS IN FAMILY HISTORY

March 18, 1968 marked the start of a class in family history at the YWCA, in Owosso. Mrs. Robinson is leader. Information on the outline of study, charges, etc., should be directed to her in care of the YWCA.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society brings you rewarding programs, and the newsletter from September through May of each year. Dues of \$3.00 can now be accepted for 1968-69.

Address your check or money order made payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing to P.O. Box 515, Lansing.