



Town Crier

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Volume 11, No. 1

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

October, 1968

Introducing, The President. 482-2596 Res.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 15

Richard J. Hathaway will serve the society as president during 1968/69. Dick was born in Pontiac in 1940. He attended Albion College graduating in 1962. The following year he received an M.A. degree in history from the University of Michigan and in 1965 received an M.A. in Library Science from the same institution.

After working for six months at the Pontiac Public Library, Dick took a position as a reference librarian at the Burton Historical Collections of the Detroit Public Library. Two years ago he came to Lansing as head of the Michigan unit of the State Library, one of the finest collections of Michigania, family and local history in the State. His interest in the history of the Greater Lansing area within the framework of the State finds welcome expression in the office of president.

-STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT-

To friends and members of the Society: I am honored and grateful to have been chosen as president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. This area has played an important role in the social, political and economic development of the State of Michigan and the nation as a whole. Here is a rich field for study and enjoyment by the amateur and professional historian.

At this point in our nation's history, it is first well to ask ourselves what relevance the study of history has for our present. We can say that historical awareness is necessary for stability and future planning. This country's greatest contribution to human development has been our system of political freedom and national order of leader choice. Change must come within this framework. Another equally important, lesson is taught by history. This is that an orderly society will not exist when a people allow economic and racial injustice to persist at home or abroad. Once we have recognized the importance of an historical awareness we can understand the value of historical societies of all types and sizes.

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MSU MUSEUM TO HOST OCTOBER MEETING!

Join us for an enjoyable evening on Tuesday, October 15, 1968 at 7:30 p.m. in the Michigan State University Museum. Hear from specialists how an exhibit such as the old country store is created and tour a fine museum!

Special notice: A twenty-four page history of Oldsmobile will be distributed to members and guests attending October 15. Our sincere thanks to Oldsmobile Division General Motors Corporation for making it available.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYABLE FOR 1968-69.

Individual membership	\$ 3.00
Organizational membership	\$25.00
Life (Patron) membership	\$100.00
Joint-Active with State Society	\$ 9.00

The dues for membership in the Historical Society of Michigan is \$8.00 per year. A joint-active membership is also available for \$6.00 to members of local societies, who indicate their preference when paying local dues. Joint-active membership entitles you to all benefits of both societies, including the quarterly, MICHIGAN HISTORY, the newsletters and occasional publications.

SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS WANTED

The Lansing Public Library requests back issues of HERITAGE and TOWN CRIER, our newsletters, to complete their file. Please notify Miss Virginia Summers, telephone (517) 485-2257, if you have any of the following: Vol. 1, Nos. 1-4, 1953; Vol. 5, nos. 1-4, 1954; Vol. 6, nos. 1,3,4, 1955; Vol. 1, no. 2, 1956; Vol. 2, No. 4, 1957.

HERITAGE, Vol. 1, No. 4, 1958; TOWN CRIER, Vol. 2, no. 5, 1960; Vol. 3, no. 2, 1961.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing must respond to the challenges of contemporary society. In order to do this, a reevaluation and restatement of the Society's goals are necessary. An obvious aim of the Society, and one pursued with vigor in the past, has been the preservation and collection of the artifacts and records of the past. This fruition of effort is near. The Local History Room of the Lansing Public Library is nearly completed. The Society will participate in the operation of the room and will have exhibit space. This is a true step forward for the Society and should prove of benefit to the Library.

In the past our monthly programs and special events have been of a high quality-informative and entertaining. We shall continue to provide this type program. A purpose of our Society is to provide varied and worthwhile programs of significance to the whole community.

A third purpose is to bring Greater Lansing history to the residents of the area; adult and youth. This can be done by sponsoring awards, marking historical sites, publishing, etc. These projects and many others, such as encouraging the teaching of local history in our schools, should be undertaken by the Society.

In order to attain our goals and initiate new programs, we need three things: Members, money and enthusiasm. I hope that we can double our membership during 1968/69. Personal contact among friends is an effective way to add members. In addition, the trustees and officers are putting together a brochure which outlines the aims of our Society and invites new members. Along with an increase in membership an effort must be made to broaden the base of our membership to include all social, racial and ethnic groups in the area.

This means the donation of one's time talent to the organization. In the past several of our members have been more than generous with their physical, mental and financial support. If we are to move ahead, however, the Society needs more help. Every member should be willing to chair or serve on a committee or in some other way support our activities. Even if the officers and trustees are able to come up with more funds, increase the membership, and design exciting programs and activities, it will be of no avail and the Society will perish without each members' active, committed participation.

R. H.

On July 10th, the Trustees met at the Lansing Public Library. Guests included Joe Kimbrough, Librarian, and David Crippen, Director of the Historical Society of Michigan.

The Society was invited by Librarian Kimbrough to assist in developing and maintaining the Local History Room at Lansing Public Library. This includes service to the public and creation of exhibits of historical interest.

Ideas for programs and projects were discussed. Members expressed enthusiasm for projects to add funds, establish markers, grant awards and stimulate the teaching of local history in our schools.

The compilation and publication of a descriptive brochure was considered for special use in a membership drive.

David Crippen discussed fund raising and the relationship of local societies to the Historical Society of Michigan.

The Trustees voted to rename the life membership category to "patron."

MAIL BAG ANSWERS

Michigan Museums Conference meets with the Historical Society of Michigan in Kalamazoo, October 17-19. The theme is "Preservation and Conservation of Historical Resources." Coordinator is Mrs. Dorothy Barnard, telephone (517) 373-0515.

The annual banquet of the Research Association for Michigan Negro History was September 17. If you weren't there, you missed one of the most rewarding meetings to be held in this area in 1968. Watch for 1969!

The Cobblestone Society, dedicated to the preservation of cobblestone buildings in America was founded in 1960 in Childs, N. Y. Dues are two dollars per year. Post Office: Albion, N.Y. 14411.

W. J. Barrow Restoration, Inc., State Library Building, Richmond, Va., 23219, can deacidify and laminate materials. Maximum size is 19x25 inches. For small quantities, there is a minimum charge of \$30.00 for first sheet, and \$4. to \$5. for each additional sheet plus shipping.

Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society meets in the Conference Room of the State Journal Building, 120 East Lenawee, Lansing. Contact Mrs. E. M. Dickinson, East Lansing for dates.