



Library of Michigan
Town Crier

**HEAR
YE!**

Volume 12, No. 4

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

April, 1970

WANGER TO SPEAK

The Society is honored to introduce Eugene G. Wanger, Trustee, and contributor to our 1970 program. "Gil" was born in Chicago, Illinois, May 16, 1933, and has resided in Lansing, since 1934. He graduated from J.W. Sexton High School in Lansing, earned a Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude from Amherst in 1955, and Juris Doctor from The University of Michigan in 1958.

His professional activities include membership in the American Judicature Society, American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, Ingham County Bar Association and the Committee on Constitutional Law of the State Bar of Michigan. He is a former member of the Legislative Committee of the Michigan Municipal League, and the Legal Committee of the American Public Power Association.

Civic and religious activities include the Greater Lansing Community Chest, Amer-Cancer Society, Friends of the Library of Michigan State University, Citizens for Michigan, several historical associations, Rotary Club of Lansing, Junior Chamber of Commerce and many more.

Service to his community and State are reflected in membership of the Ingham County Board of Supervisors, and chairman of its Judicial Committee (1960); member ex-officio of the Ingham County Board of Supervisors, and chairman of its Legislative Committee (1965-1967); City Attorney of the City of Lansing (1965-1967); and Delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention, and member of its Committee on Legislative Power and Committee on Rules and Resolutions (1961-1962).

He has authored articles appearing in the Michigan State Bar Journal, Michigan Education Journal, and Michigan Challenge. In 1962 he published privately, "A Statistical Summary and Substantive Analysis of the Defeated Minority Substitute Constitution Offered in the Michigan Constitutional Convention on the Eleventh of May, 1962." Other contributions include Chapter on Mortgage Foreclosure in the textbook "Revised



Eugene G. Wanger

Judicature Act: Special Proceedings and Appeals" published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education at Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1962.

He lists hobbies as fishing, photography, book collecting and magic! Those who attended the auction last June enjoyed his showmanship in the role of auctioneer, but few know that during college vacations he went on 7 overseas tours for the U.S. Department of Defense to entertain American troops in 10 foreign countries as publicity director, master-of-ceremonies, magician and comedian of "The Kids From Home" variety show.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING WILL MEET

Wednesday, April 22, 1970

Lansing Public Library, 7:30 p.m.

"Making Michigan Constitutions: A Capitol Pastime" by Eugene G. Wanger.

YOU ARE INVITED TO DINNER - May 27, 1970

The Society joins with the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society in inviting members and friends to dinner on Wednesday, May 27, 1970.

We are honored to welcome back Dr. Philip P. Mason, Archivist of Wayne State University and Director of the Labor History Archives, as guest speaker. Dr. Mason's annual programs are considered highlights of the Society's history. His topic of oral history is expected to be of keen interest to many.

Invitations will be directed out in late April offering time, place and reservation information.

VERMONTVILLE SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The Vermontville Historical Society will meet April 15, 1970 at the Congregation Church in the village. Pot luck supper will be followed by a program presented by Stuart Graham, president of the Eaton County Historical Society.

The Maple Syrup Festival is scheduled for April 24 and 25, 1970. The Museum will be open on Friday the 24th, 1-5 p.m., and Saturday the 25th, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Summer schedule for Saturday and Sunday during July and August is 1-4:30 p.m.

The search for descendants and information on the original colonists continues. Help is needed on the following names: Rev. Sylvester Cochrane, Hiram J. Mears, Walter S. Fairfield, Martin S. Norton, Albert Barber, Bazaleel Taft, Charles Imus, Willard Davis, George S. Browning and Oliver J. Stiles. If you have information, please contact Mrs. Barbara Wright, RFD, Shaytown Road, Vermontville, Michigan. 49096.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NAMED

The Committee wished to please the membership. Let them know your recommendations. Their report will be submitted for your consideration prior to the vote in May.

Contact Mrs. Helen Wallin, Chairman, 1245 W. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan. 48823.

STIPENDS IN MICHIGAN HISTORY AVAILABLE

Two \$1,500 awards to be made for the 1970-1971 academic year have been announced by the Michigan Historical Commission. Applications for the John M. Munson Graduate Seminar Stipends in Michigan History, are being received from any professor conducting a graduate research seminar in American history in a College or university offering the M.A. or Ph.D. in American History. Applications must be delivered by March 31.

The grants are to be used to defray the cost of bringing seminar students to the State Archives for a two-week period of intensive research in selected primary sources.

SOCIETY PICNIC

Members attending the March meeting requested a picnic at the Wiskemann farm in June. Miss Jane Piatt is program chairman for the day.

Plans for an enjoyable day will include an auction of items with proceeds to the Society.



THANK YOU

We acknowledge with thanks the help of board members, reporters, program participants, and the Lansing Public Library for the Society during the 1969-1970 membership year.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The first Michigan Historic Preservation Conference is scheduled for May 8 and 9, 1970 at the Pantland Hotel, Grand Rapids. All interested persons are invited to attend.

W. D. Frankforter of the Grand Rapids Museum is general chairman of the program sponsored in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Supporting organizations are: Michigan Historic Preservation Advisory Council; Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Historical Society of Michigan; Heritage Hill Association; Kent County Council for Historic Preservation; West Central Michigan Historical Society; Grand Rapids Historical Society; Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Association; Grand Valley Chapter, AIA; Michigan Society of Architects; Grand Rapids Chapter, American Institute of Interior Designers; and the Michigan Department of State, State Services Bureau.

Visitors to the Thursday session will be greeted by Robert Boelens, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids. "Why Historic Preservation?" will be discussed by Wilbert Hasbrouck. Following lunch Dr. Wayne Andrews, Wayne State University student of architecture and author, will speak. Dr. Willis F. Dunbar will chair a panel devoted to "Legislation and Politics of Preservation."

The evening program will feature Dr. William J. Murtagh from the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

Dr. Murtagh, formerly with the National Trust, moved to new responsibilities for expanding the National Register of historic properties to include state and local districts, sites, buildings and other objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture.

The expansion of the National Register was authorized by the Congress in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, to provide an authoritative guide and other evidences of our national heritage that are to be preserved against destruction or impairment.

For complete program information contact W.D. Frankforter, Director, Grand Rapids Public Museum, 54 Jefferson, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49502.

MICHIGAN METHODISM ARCHIVES IN ALBION

The gift of an 1849-1853 bound volume of Michigan Conference Methodist minutes from the Rev. Stanley Buck, pastor of the First United Methodist Church at Hastings, has completed the historical records collection for the West Michigan Conference Commission on Archives and Records.

This is the key volume of nearly a complete set of books given by Dr. Buck. These together with manuscripts and historical materials on Michigan Methodism are now being stored, cataloged and preserved at Stockwell Memorial Library at Albion College.

CROSSROADS VILLAGE PLANNED IN GENESEE

Exciting plans are reported by Clarence Young for the development of a Crossroads Village north and east of the City of Flint along the river. Mr. Young is Chairman of the Genesee County Park and Recreation Commission's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation.

Local visitors to the Flint area have noted the Wismer Carriage House and the Buzzell House on rollers in preparation for relocation. The cost of moving these structures is estimated at \$35,000 and one of the first jobs of the Committee is to acquire \$20,000 now needed to complete this move. A category of "Pioneer Patron" has been initiated for donors of \$1,000 or more toward the project.

The Judge Wismer Carriage House is important as representative of the barns which served as workshops and laboratories for the tinkers, inventors and eventually, manufacturers. The first car made in

Flint is reported to have been made in this structure. The Buzzell House is a charming example of the farmhouses so familiar to the Michigan countryside.

The Crossroads Village or "Hometown" is planned to re-create a working farm and rural village of the 1880's. The Mott Foundation has made available 208 acres of land at Bray and Coldwater roads to accommodate the farm, village, artificial lake and more. The spur line of the Flint and Otter Lake Branch of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railway Company (Flint River Branch) which passed through this area may serve as still another facet for development. This line in 1875 was 14.47 miles long. It opened to public use on October 8, 1872.

Brochures describing the project are available from Mr. Young. Telephone 238-2635.

SKY-SCAN SPECIAL

Sky-scan, a special feature of the Abrams Planetarium, East Lansing, will be shown on the second Thursday of each month. Join the observation of the planets on April 9 at 8 P.M. No admission charge.



Waverly Park Amusement Company was incorporated March 15, 1907 for the purpose of operating a roller coaster at the popular park. Stockholders in the venture were Robert J. Munro, John D. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson of Lansing and L.A. Kertson of Battle Creek.

LETTER SURVIVES IN LOCAL COLLECTION

Lansing, Mich., March 8, 1864
J. Ferguson Esq.

Dr Sir I hold the Certificate of Henry Chadwick Vetron Voltr credited to the Town of Delhi. He made arrangements with the person having the matter in charge for his Bounty of \$150, he would as soon have a Bond for 100 of it. Will you please see about it as it will save my going through the mudd to Delhi. I will leave the Certificate at the store at Middle Town.

Truely,

J. C. Mead

Henry Chadwich served as private and sergeant in the Union Army, Eighth Michigan Infantry Regiment, from

enlistment, August 12, 1861, through mustering out at Delaney House, D. C. on July 1, 1865. Local records give evidence of his death in the City of Lansing, November 10, 1914, aged eighty.

Unique primary sources for information on Michigan men serving units of our State in the Civil and Spanish American War are available in the Department of State, Archives, State Records and Publications Center, North Logan Street, Lansing. These include records of the Military Establishment, Civil War Centennial Observance Committee, Grand Army of the Republic Veterans' Facility and special schedules of the Federal Census.

LEGISLATION CONCERNING HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In 1969, information was forwarded to many of the historic societies in our State informing them that a State Enabling Act for Historic Preservation was introduced in the State House of Representatives by Representative Thomas J. Anderson.

House Bill No. 2966, A Bill to provide for establishment of historic districts; to provide for the acquisition of land and structures for historic purposes; to provide for creation of historic district commissions; to provide for the maintenance of publicly owned historic sites and structures of local units - was referred to the Committee on Tourist Industry Relations. The bill was tabled, but the interest expressed by voters may place the bill on the calendar for consideration in mid-April.

We urge you to watch for this bill, read it carefully for amendments and express your reactions to your representative.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED DURING MARCH

Mrs. Barbara Symons
Stowell J. Stebbins

PEOPLES RIGHT TO KNOW

The third in a series of articles dealing with the rights of the public and the press to information within the care of state, local and federal government agencies, has been noted in Michigan Publisher. The March, 1970, issue deals with the accessibility of records of judicial proceedings and access to those proceedings.

According to the 1874 census of Michigan, Eaton County produced the largest quantity of maple sugar of all the counties

-- 644,384 pounds. State total was 4,319,793 pounds.

GRAND OPENING
OF THE
Potter House,
AT POTTERVILLE, MICH.

Yourself and Lady are respectfully Solicited to attend a 4th of July Dance, at the Potter House, in Potterville, July 4th, 1872.

The House is new, with plenty of room
MUSIC BY JACKSON BAND.

COMMITTEE:

ELI HEIFNER,	M. H. WILLIAMS,	CHAS. MARSHALL,	W. M. RICHMOND,	F. A. ELLS,	B. F. SAUNDERS,	H. FLAGLER,	H. FRONT,
			<i>Grand Lodge</i>				

ROOM MANAGERS

J. E. HIGBY J. H. TURNER

Bill 82.50 GEO. V. POTTER, Proprietor

The proprietor of the Potter House, George N. Potter, was born in Cayuga County, New York in 1827, and eventually settled with his family on the present day site of Potterville.

Mr. Potter is credited with the inception and subsequent growth of that village in Eaton County. He erected a saw mill, a stave and heading factory, a business block and a hotel. A flouring mill and other manufacturing facilities followed. He was one of the promoters of the Grand River Valley Railroad, and an original investor in the Peninsular Railroad, now known as the Grand Trunk Railroad.

The family name survives today in the village in Eaton County and in the park donated to the City of Lansing by George N.'s brother, James W. Potter.

DESIGN SOUGHT FOR INGHAM COUNTY SEAL

The Ingham County Board of Supervisors is inviting all citizens to submit proposed designs for an official county seal by May 1.

The sela of the circuit court is currently being used, but many persons advocate the creation of a more appropriate emblem.

Proposals may be directed to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, Legislative Committee, Suite 500, Capitol Savings and Loan Building, Lansing, Michigan, 48933.

Several copies of the Nashville Centennial publication are still available. Cost is \$2.25, including postage. Contact Mrs. Geneva Brumm, Secretary, Nashville Chamber of Commerce, Nashville, Michigan, 49073.

"American Textiles & Costumes," is the title of the May 8, 1970 Ford Museum Antique Lecture. Mrs. Melinda Y. Frazier, Curator of Textiles and Costumes, will make the presentation Friday, 8:30 P.M. in the Museum Theater.

Heraldry is a subject of interest to certain of our readers. For them we note A Glossary of Terms Used in Heraldry by James Parker. (Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt., 1969, 659 pp., illus. hard-bound), \$7.50 at bookstores or request it from your library.

Copies of Pioneer Afro-American Educator: Prior Foster, the story of the first Afro-American to found and incorporate an educational institution in the Northwest Territory, are available from John P. Kaechele, 1820 Lyons, Apt. 4, Lansing, Michigan, 48910. Price: \$1.00

IONIA SOCIETY TO SPONSOR ANTIQUE SHOW

The third annual antique show sponsored by the Ionia County Historical Society is scheduled for the first Sunday in May at the Ionia Armory, corner of M66 and Main Street, Ionia. Donations of one dollar are requested for admission. Mr. George L. Brown, former society president, is general chairman of the event. See you at the show, May 2, 1970, 10 A.M. -- 6 P.M.

CLARE COUNTY ROAD MAPS TO INCLUDE HISTORY

A historical sketch of Clare County will be incorporated in the new county road maps being printed.

Roy L. Dodge, chairman of the County Historical Society's special committee, announces that a brief history of the county has been submitted for consideration.

Maps will contain various historical sites including the Dover School, the his-

torical plague dedicated to the first logging railroad located at the county park on Old US27, and the old railroad grades in the county.

