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Town Crier

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING
P.O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan 48903

April, 1974

SOCIETY INITIATES PROGRAM TO MARK HISTORICAL SITES

The executive board recently assembled voted to support a program of marking historic sites in the Greater Lansing area as the Society's contribution to the nation's Bicentennial.

Research and collection of funds has been initiated for the first marker designed to bring attention to Joshua Simmons, a Continental soldier serving Massachusetts in the War for American Independence. In later life he moved west to Michigan with his sons Joshua and David Andrus. Joshua Jr. took up land in Farmington. Records of land acquisition in Clinton County show several parcels in the name of Joshua, but we have no knowledge of which man by this name was the purchaser. David established a jewelry business in Portland and like his Massachusetts ancestors purchased land for farming. David gave land for the cemetery north of Eagle in Clinton County which is now known as North Eagle Cemetery. Joshua, the Revolutionary soldier, is said to have been first to be buried there.

A presentation of plans was made to the Eagle Township Board on March 4. Approval of a location nonobstructive to transportation and road improvement, a beautification of an undeveloped area, and a worthwhile contribution to the cultural enrichment of the township is pending.

The marker will be a double post, metal one of the design approved by the History Division of the Michigan Department of State. Clinton County can claim few of the historical site markers registered by the State of Michigan and we hope this one will inspire others throughout the county between now and 1976.

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DATE SET FOR ANNUAL DINNER WITH MID-MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Reservations are now being taken for the ham dinner scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 1974, at 12:30 p.m. in the University Club of Michigan State University, 3435 Forest Road, East Lansing. Prepaid reservations for \$4.25 each (no refunds) must be received by April 23. Members of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society and this Society are urged to bring friends interested in new ideas, hobbies and friends to this joint meeting. The speaker will be Geneva K. Wiskemann, formerly archivist in charge of the Michigan Department of State Archives, Lansing.

CIRCLE THESE DATES

- April 5, 6** Local History Conference: Michigan in Perspective, Wayne State University, Detroit.
- April 27** Dinner - The Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society and Historical Society of Greater Lansing, University Club of MSU, East Lansing.
- May 15** Annual Meeting (to be announced)
- May 18** Seminar sponsored by Michigan Genealogical Council, Calvin College, College Center Bldg., Grand Rapids.
- June 22** Historical Convention and Picnic, Wiskemann Farm, Lansing.

CURRENT OFFICERS

- President - Jane I. Piatt
Vice President - Chip Rogers
Sec.-Treas. - Mary McNeely
Trustees - Jerry Roe, Richard Burns, Charles Lawrence, Pauline Stenson, Virginia Summers, Geneva K. Wiskemann, Edwin Brown, Jack T. Crosby, Sr.

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A letter requesting information about descendants of Joshua Simmons who may now live in Wayne, Oakland, Clinton and Ionia Counties of Michigan and in other states; and gifts of money have been directed out. The Society is in process of legal incorporation as a non-profit organization in order that gifts may be tax deductible.

Patriotic groups, Scouts of America, 4-H Clubs, members of the Simmons family, and friends of history throughout the Greater Lansing area are urged to make a contribution to this project and be included in the dedication service. Money is payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing-Marker Fund, P.O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan 48903.

MEMORIAL FUNDS HONOR MEMBER

Lucy Mary Kellogg gave a rich gift of service devoted to the preservation of local history and genealogical research. She supported this society by membership and lectures to our annual meetings with the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

Lucy Mary currently was editing **MAYFLOWER FAMILIES**, a publication resulting from the Five Generation Project of the General Society of Mayflower descendants. This is a monumental genealogical research program on Pilgrims and their descendants through their great-great grandchildren.

Contributions to the Lucy Mary Kellogg Memorial Fund are payable to General Society of Mayflower Descendants: Kellogg Memorial Fund-5G Project. Please direct to Mr. E. Frederick Low, Treasurer General, GSMD, Box 4311 Station A, Portland, Maine 04101.

The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc. has also initiated a fund in her memory. For information contact Mrs. James D. McGlynn, 1826 Lloyd Avenue, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073.

BICENTENNIAL SUMMER INSTITUTE OFFERED

The American Studies Association of Michigan in cooperation with the Department of English and the College of Arts and Letters of Michigan State University announces the first Bicentennial Summer Institute, June 19 - July 24, 1974.

The topic for 1974 is "The Vision in Retrospect: The American Colonial and Revolutionary Experience." Two major objectives of the course are the training of subject-matter teachers in American Studies methodology through the study of American Colonial and Revolutionary heritage from a contemporary perspective; and the development of community-based Bicentennial programs.

Additional information is available from Stephanie Bennett, Albion College, Albion, Michigan 49224, or Robert C. Ferguson, Ferris State College, Big Rapids, Michigan 49307.

NEW BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

The recently appointed Clinton County Bicentennial Committee held an initial meeting, Tuesday, March 12, to explore ideas for a community based program of observance through the "Bicentennial Decade" ending January 1, 1980.

Representing the Commission are Duane Chamberlain, Dyle Henning, Alta Reed, Gerald Shephard and Virginia Zeeb.

Citizen participants include Rev. Marvin Barz, Hila Bross, William Brook, Nancy Cheney, Warren Dobson and Betty Minsky.

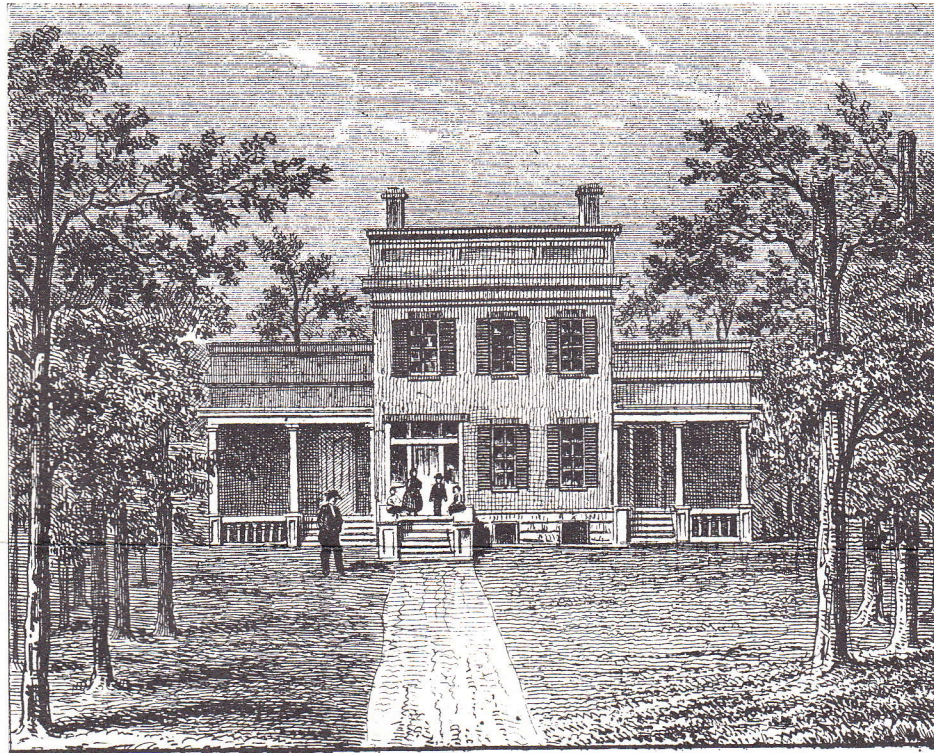
A similar committee at work in Ionia County is chaired by Marge Smith, 208 Hill Street, Portland, Michigan.

Lucy Mary Kellogg

1899-1973

Charles Leneweaver

1894-1973



Residence of James Turner, *Lansing Ing. Co.*

This view of the James Turner residence now known as the Turner-Dodge Mansion, 106 East North Street, Lansing (#107 in Report of Lansing Historic District Survey Committee) is reproduced from Topographical Map of the Counties of Ingham and Livingston, Michigan, published by Geil, Harley & Siverd, Philadelphia, 1859. The Turner home was originally built as a square Greek Revival residence by James Turner, Sr. This portion of the house can still be easily identified from the front which faces the Grand River.

RECOLLECTIONS . . .

What is it like to grow up as part of local history? Frank Dodge McLean of Lansing knows. His home for many years was the Turner-Dodge Mansion, recently placed on the national rolls as a local historical site.

Mr. McLean is the great-grandson of James Turner, who built the original house, and the grandson (and namesake) of Frank Dodge, who made a mansion out of it.

When Mr. Turner died, the estate went to his three daughters. Marian Reasoner had the acreage west of the house, now Reasoner Park. Eva Black received the land farther west, later the site of the Michigan Sugar Co. The house went to the widow and the grounds around it to another daughter, Abby. Later, Abby's husband, Frank Dodge, bought the house from Mrs. Turner.

According to Mr. McLean the Turner house was square. When Frank Dodge bought it he added wings to both sides, a third floor and a pillared facade. The work was completed in 1902. The Dodge Mansion, as

it was called, became a showplace where such notables as William Jennings Bryan were entertained.

The third floor had a ball room and a billiard room. Above it was a complete attic. On the second floor were six bedrooms, two bathrooms and a dressing room. The ground floor had a music room, a reception hall, a library, a dining room, a butler's pantry and a kitchen.

"The original walls were 14 inches of solid brick," Mr. McLean explained. "This made the house very warm in winter and beautifully cool in summer. The music room alone was almost as big as a normal house. And we had three pianos in the house."

The basement, which contained the kitchen of the original house had a marble fireplace and a brick floor. The mansion had seven other fireplaces as well as two staircases, one in front and one in back.

"The windows were all French plate glass and the floors were hardwood throughout," Mr. McLean said. "Every bit of woodwork around the windows and doors was hardwood as well. In the library and

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reception hall the woodwork was all hand carved.

"And the ceilings were 14 feet high. We always had a church size Christmas tree."

The Frank Dodges had five children: Marian, Sophie, Wyllis, Franklin and Josephine. Only Marian (now Marian Horn) is still living. She resides in East Lansing. Sophie's married name was Armstrong. Franklin was an F.B.I. agent and, according to Frank McLean, had the nickname of "Bull of the Woods." (We shortened it to 'Uncle Bull,' Mr. McLean said.) Wyllis, until his death in 1933, lived in Lansing.

The other daughter, Josephine (Josephine St. was named for her) married an Ohioan, Andrus McLean. The McLeans had four children: Patricia, Rod, Andy and Frank. Frank McLean was born in January, 1928. His grandfather, Frank Dodge, died Christmas Eve of that year.

Soon after the death of her husband, Abby Dodge moved to Ohio to live with her daughter, Marian Horn, and the Lansing home was closed. In 1939 Mrs. Dodge came back to Lansing and reopened the Dodge mansion. The McLeans moved back with her and the mansion became home for Frank McLean.

"It was a little different than most homes," Frank McLean said. "We used to have a lot of formal parties in the ball room, usually with an orchestra."

"Grandmother entertained quite a bit when she got back," he said. "There were often meetings of the D.A.R. or the Michigan Bar held at the house."

"Living with my grandmother, I got a lot that kids my age would have missed. When she talked about things that happened way back, I felt I had lived them."

"The house seemed to be a gathering place for all the family. Those in the area and those from out of town. Our cousins, May Jo and Frank Armstrong, lived there when they were going to college."

Mr. McLeans grandmother, Abby Turner Dodge, died in 1947. In 1958 the house was sold to the Great Lakes Bible College. At the time Frank McLean, his brother and their mother, who died in 1970, were living there.

"The last New Year's Eve we lived in the house," Frank McLean recalled, "we had three separate parties going on — one in the ball room, one in the music room and one in the library. The three never seemed to bother each other."

— Jack Thompson

WANTED TO BUY. Durant, Samuel W. *History of Ingham and Eaton Counties, Michigan*, Philadelphia: Ensign, 1880. Ms. B. Brunger, Telephone 627-2969.

FOR SALE. Fine copies. Daboll, Judge S. B. *Past and Present of Clinton County, Michigan*, Chicago: Clarke Publishing Co., 1906. \$50. *Portrait Biographical Album of Barry and Eaton Counties, Michigan*. Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1891. \$45. Contact the Society.

WANTED. Will purchase or trade. *Michigan History Magazine* for volumes 20 and 21. If you can help a member complete a set for binding, contact the Society.

The TOWN CRIER is prepared for your enjoyment. Let us know your special interests, hobbies and news of projects. Write TOWN CRIER, P.O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan 48903.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

Please check type of membership requested. Make check or money order payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Direct to: P.O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan 48903.

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