

PIONEER HISTORY of INGHAM COUNTY

COMPILED AND ARRANGED BY

MRS. FRANC L. ADAMS

SECRETARY OF 'TIDE

INGHAM COUNTY PIONEER
and HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MASON AREA
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
200 E. OAK ST
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PREFACE.

This volume on the history of the Pioneers of Ingham County contains much matter written by the pioneers themselves. They relate what they did and saw. Much of the material in this work is of inestimable value; it would be impossible to reproduce it. The work of compiling it has been done by Mrs. Franc I. Adams, of Mason, Michigan. For years she has been secretary of the Ingham County Pioneer Society. She has toiled long and diligently to gather from all sources the material included in this work. It has been a labor of love. It is as authentic as it is possible to make it. The committee in charge of its publication believe it will awaken new interest in pioneer life. This generation and all future generations will be benefited by it.

The Supervisors of the County of Ingham have shown their interest in the publication of this book, by making three annual appropriations from the county funds, as provided by the laws of Michigan, to be used in aiding its publication.

We commit this to print, believing that it will constitute a lasting and becoming monument to those whose labors in the past have made Ingham County what it is today.

REV. W. B. HARTZOG, Ph.D.

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Publishing Committee.

April 21, 1923.

FOREWORD.

It is the aim of the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society to place before the public a history containing facts and incidents relative to pioneer life as told by the pioneers themselves, although these heroic men and women have been dead for many years.

Much research work has been found necessary in order to gather this data, and the files of the Ingham County News have proved a perfect treasure trove, for at the time the society was formed, and for a few years afterward, there were many articles published which were written by those who participated in the early struggle with the wilderness, and we know there could be no history more authentic than that.

Then as the years rolled on and the next generation took up the work begun by the first settlers, they became the pioneers of their day with experiences no less interesting than those of their fathers and mothers, and as they gave them at the annual meeting of the society each year, they were caught and published. Taken as a whole they form a valuable collection, perfectly authentic, though not to be found in the official records of the county, and for this very reason they are of inestimable value historically.

It is not the object of the society to have a history compiled from official records entirely, for all know where and how to find them when reference to them is desired, but it hopes to make of this first volume a readable book that will be of interest to the descendants of the pioneers, and as they read they will become so filled with enthusiasm that they will at once proceed to gather all data in their possession, and send it to the secretary of the society to be used in another volume, for the society hopes to continue this work as long as there is valuable history of the county to be found.

Every year since the Ingham County Pioneer Society was formed, and more especially since the word "Historical" was added to the name, the reports show that suggestions and recommendations for the publication of a county history were made, and nearly every year action was taken authorizing certain com-

mittees to proceed with the work, but no tangible progress was made until within the last two years, when the secretary became so intensely interested in the work that she labored day and night, and almost encompassed sea and land, to see the fruition of her desire for a county historical publication.

Since 1872 the records show that it was several times voted that the society should raise money to have a county history published, but nothing came of all this, and not until the legislature passed a law providing that boards of supervisors throughout the State could appropriate funds for county historical societies to use for this very purpose, and a committee from the Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society went before the Ingham county board of supervisors and were unanimously given the sum of \$200.00, did the way open for the publication of the desired history.

The secretary of the society has worked faithfully during the past year in trying to arouse the people of Ingham county to an interest in this work. Each month she has sent questions regarding the early history of the county to the various newspapers published within its boundaries, with the request that replies be sent to her, and with these questions she gave some items of history as an incentive to the readers to send this material to her. The results have been very gratifying, and much data gathered in that way, though the residents of some townships have entered into the work more readily than others, consequently have a fuller history.

There may be some discrepancy in dates, and this could scarcely be avoided when the pioneers themselves were often obliged to give them approximately, but accuracy has been striven for throughout the compilation of data.

This is a simple history, told as far as possible in the words of the pioneers themselves, and it should be doubly interesting because of that fact.

If there are mistakes they can be corrected in the next volume, and it would be a strange thing if mistakes were not found, for as one pioneer said, "I never wrote these things down, so can only draw on my memory for them, and how can I be sure after all these years which is fact and which tradition."

Dear Public, this volume is submitted to you with the hope

that you will enjoy reading it, and find information of value in it; that you will overlook its shortcomings as you realize the stupendous work it was for one person to undertake alone, and that every reader will make an effort to have the next volume better, in every way, than this.

FRANC L. ADAMS,
Mason, Mich.

Secretary Ingham County Pioneer and Historical Society.

THE DREAM OF THE PIONEERS.

In souls that are strong to dare and do
 A wonderful dream lies hid,
 And that is the reason the brave and true
 Accomplished all that they did.

What was the dream of the Viking-crew
 Who ventured the frozen seas,
 Naught but the sway of the wanderlust
 Filled the warrior souls of these.

The dream of the dauntless Genoese
 Visioned a shorter way,
 Which should lead the Spanish merchantmen
 To the wealth of the far Cathay.

And he who came to the land of flowers,
 From the sunny hills of Spain
 Followed a dream of a fabled fount
 Which should give him youth again.

DeSoto saw but a ghost of gold
 And he wandered where it led
 Till the waves of our mightiest river rolled
 Above his dreamless head.

The visionaries of Jamestown fort
 On errands of rapine went,
 For only pleasure or gain or power,
 With their selfish purpose blent.

The Puritan dreamed of a holy place
 Hedged round with sanctity
 Where he forever might set his face
 Against frivolity.

POEM

The pilgrim Mayflower brought a band
 Who knelt to bless the sod,
 For they dreamed there dwelt in this alien land
 Freedom to worship God.

One uncrowned king kept a vision vast,
 With a courage that could not fail—
 Thus Marcus Whitman's soul held fast
 To the great Northwestern trail.

Boone, and Bowic and Crockett too
 Hewed each a dangerous way,
 While Clark and Lewis, and Fremont knew
 A dream as grand as they.

These were the forerunners, dreamers free,
 With a faith and hope sublime,
 But the dreamers dearest to you and me
 Belong to a later time.

To measure the dream of Our Pioneers,
 Measure the nation's dome,
 The monument of their toil and tears—
 Their dream come true, of Home.

They knew wherever they cut the blaze
 Some kindred soul should spell
 The talisman of their toilsome day
 And dream the dream as well.

So, while the Pioneers we toast,
 This land of the noble free
 Built out of a million homes, we boast
 As their priceless legacy.

That all may feel the debt we owe
 Join now in hearty cheers
 That future generations know
 Michigan's Pioneers.