

STATE DESIGNATES OFFICIAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR MICHIGAN

LANSING MI - On Thursday Governor John Engler signed into law Public Act 319 designating the Historical Society of Michigan as the State's official historical society.

Territorial Governor Lewis Cass and explorer/surveyor Henry Schoolcraft founded the Historical Society of Michigan in 1828, before Michigan became a state. It continues their vision into the 21st Century.

"Being designated as the official historical society for the State of Michigan enhances the Society's efforts to fulfill its mission" said Executive Director Larry J. Wagenaar. "Part of our work involves leadership of the many local and regional historical organizations statewide and educational efforts that reach everyone from elementary school to seniors. The State of Michigan's acknowledgement of our leadership is very important to us."

The Historical Society of Michigan sponsors Michigan History Day, a competition for students in 4th -12th grade, hosts two annual history conferences in the lower and upper peninsulas, sponsors regular workshops and tours, and is involved in many aspects promoting Michigan's past. It also publishes the Chronicle & Newsletter and distributes the Michigan Historical Review.

The original legislation was introduced by Representative Thomas George (R-Portage). "The state's choice of the Historical Society of Michigan as its "official" historical society, acknowledges the important role the Society plays in promoting our state's past," commented George. "It validates the work the Society has done for the last 174 years promoting Michigan history."

Although not a part of government, the Historical Society of Michigan also works regularly with Michigan's new Department of History, Arts and Libraries. As an example, this week both organizations co-hosted a Maritime Conference in Lansing.

For more information on the Historical Society of Michigan or membership details visit our website at www.hsmichigan.org or call (517) 324-1828.