

The Wolverine State Is 100 Years Old

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

ON JANUARY 26 the state of Michigan will celebrate its one hundredth birthday.

Now, there may be someone who will take exception to that statement and say: "But Michigan has already celebrated her centennial. She did that two years ago and the United States Post Office department, recognizing November 1, 1835, as the Wolverine state's birthday, issued a special commemorative stamp in her honor."

All of which is perfectly true and if you look in some reference books you'll find November 1, 1835 given as the date of Michigan's admission to the Union. But in others you'll also find January 26, 1837, as the date. So how can a state have two birthdays, and which is correct—November 1, 1835, or January 26, 1837?

The answer is that both of them are more or less correct, but that the latter has the better claim to being the real birthday. And thereby hangs the tale of the paradoxical position in which the state of Michigan found itself a century ago. For at that time it had passed the territorial stage, had a regularly organized state government and was in the United States, but it was neither territory nor state of the United States.

To get at the origins of all this situation it is necessary to go back to the year 1755 when Michigan was still a part of the empire of His Britannic Majesty, King George III of England. In that year one John Mitchell, an English physician and scientist, published in London a great map of America in eight large sheets. This map was accepted as the

tary of the territory under Porter was a nineteen-year-old Virginian named Stevens Thomson Mason. He had come to Michigan from Kentucky and after Porter's death he was made acting governor. As such he played a leading role in the exciting but bloodless "Toledo war."

But before beginning the story of that affair, it is necessary to cut back briefly to 1805 when Michigan was made a territory. The act of congress creating the Territory of Michigan fixed the southern boundary as provided in the ordinance of 1787. The result was that the new territory claimed a strip of land some five or six miles wide across the entire southern side of Lake Erie, including the port of Toledo. "But," retorted the Buckeyes, "that's our land. We laid claim to it three years ago and we intend to have it." So there was an acrid dispute which dragged along unsettled for 30 years.

By 1835 Michigan was ready to become a state and sought to enforce its claim on the Lake Erie strip. But Ohio had its Miami and Erie canal system under construction and wanted an outlet for it in Toledo. Mason, the youthful governor of Michigan, denounced this "Ohio steal" and the people of his state backed him up in his determination to assert Michigan's claim to the Lake Erie strip. In March, 1835, he rushed a thousand Michigan militiamen into Toledo, resolved to hold it against the Buckeyes at all costs.

At the same time Gov. Robert Lucas of Ohio called out his mi-



JOHN MITCHELL'S 1755 MAP OF THE OLD NORTHWEST

tion over the Lake Erie strip. The Ohio adjutant general reported to Lucas that 10,000 militia were ready to march and drive the Michiganders out of Lucas county where fights between the rival factions were occurring almost daily.

Jackson Intervenes.

As the situation became increasingly critical the federal government began to take notice. President Andrew Jackson requested both sides to declare a truce until congress could settle the dispute. That was perfectly satisfactory to the Buckeyes, for they knew that the President was on their side in the matter. In congress Illinois and Indiana lined up with Ohio and her cause was further aided in August, 1835, when Governor Mason was removed from office for his warlike activities. General Brown then disbanded the Michigan troops and the "Toledo war" was over.

While it was in progress Michigan had begun its long struggle for statehood. In January, 1835, the territorial legislature had passed an act enabling the people of Michigan to form a government and draw up a constitution. By a census taken the previous year there were some 87,000 residents in Michigan, 27,000 more than the minimum of 60,000 demanded by congress. A constitutional convention was held on May 11 and not only was a constitution drawn up but an election of state officers, members to the legislature and representatives to congress was planned for the first Monday in October.

Congress was unwilling to accept Michigan's bid for statehood because of the southern boundary described in the state constitution; because the election of 1836 was at hand and the administration was afraid of losing the important bloc of electoral votes from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois if the Michigan boundaries were accepted; and because the admittance of Michigan would upset the equilibrium of pro and anti-slave states.

At the state election former Governor Mason, more popular than ever because of his activity around Toledo, was elected governor and during the first three days of November, 1835, a de facto state was organized. Michigan's representative and her two senators were refused their seats in congress, although Senator Thomas Benton of Missouri championed the cause of the Wolverines in reporting the senate bill for admission.

For more than a year the wordy battle and the parliamentary struggle had continued. All this time Michigan existed in the embarrassing position of being a government within the boundaries of the United States and yet not a part of the Union.

Victory at Last.

Finally congress proposed a compromise. Ohio was to get the disputed seven-mile-wide strip and in return Michigan was given the upper peninsula, although the east end of the peninsula had always been Michigan's. In this trade Michigan gained the Lake Superior copper district, although its true value was not known for some time. Arkansas having been admitted to the Union, the slave states no longer opposed Michigan's entrance and on January 26, 1837, the Wolverine state was formally admitted into the Union.

Earlier in this article reference was made to the importance of one man in the history of the state which is celebrating its one hundredth birthday on January 26. Although Lewis Cass did not play any direct part in the struggle of Michigan for statehood, had it not been for his earlier

activities there might not have been a commonwealth of Michigan, or, at least, its entrance into the sisterhood of states might have been delayed even longer.

Cass was born in New Hampshire in 1782 and at an early age joined his father in Ohio where the elder Cass, a major in the army, was commandant at Zanesville in 1802 and at the age of twenty-five was elected to the Ohio volunteers, then a colonel in the regular army and as a brigadier-general fought under Harrison at the Battle of the Thames where the great Indian chief, Tecumseh, was killed.

Cass' Long Service.

A few weeks later General Cass was appointed governor of the Territory of Michigan and with the exception of a few occasional absences he lived in that territory for the next 18 years. He was also ex officio superintendent of Indian affairs and concerning his work in that capacity one biographer has declared:

"It is no exaggeration to say that to his exertions and influence is due the actual possession of the Old Northwest. He negotiated a score of treaties of great importance, traveled through the wilderness studying how he could civilize the red man and how he might open up the vast western region to peaceful settlement. He started surveys, built roads and military works, lighthouses along the lake shore, arranged counties and townships, started the democratic machinery of self-government, and made the laws, which were codified and published and have since been known as the Cass code. The record of his management of the Indian affairs is one almost without parallel in the history of the United States."

In 1831 Cass was appointed secretary of war in Jackson's cabinet and served there until 1836 when he was made ambassador to France. He resigned in 1842 because he disapproved of the Webster-Ashburton treaty, which fixed the boundary line between Canada and Maine and which gave England the better military frontier. Returning to Michigan Cass was elected to



the United States senate in 1845 and served until 1857, except for a brief period in 1848 while he was the Democratic nominee for the Presidency but was defeated by Gen. Zachary Taylor. In 1852 he lost the Democratic nomination to Franklin Pierce and in 1857 he was appointed secretary of state by President Buchanan, but resigned in 1860 because of Buchanan's refusal to strengthen the forts in Charleston harbor. Although Cass was sympathetic to the South until the time of secession he became one of Lincoln's staunchest supporters during the Civil war. He died in Detroit in 1866.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for January 24

TWO MIRACLES OF MERCY

LESSON TEXT—John 5:2-9; 6:5-15. GOLDEN TEXT—The same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. John 5:36.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus Feeding Hungry People.

JUNIOR TOPIC—A Boy Who Gave Away His Lunch.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Why Did Christ Work Miracles?

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Significance of Christ's Miracles.

The world is looking for supermen, those who can work "miracles," and thus afford an easy solution for the problems of the home and of the nation. Men are ready to marvel at and follow in almost abject submission those who promise riches without labor, food without toil, short cuts to comfort and satisfaction. Often they are content if they only have something over which they may exclaim "Wonderful!" whether it be useful or not.

The miracles of God, through his servants and the Lord Jesus Christ, are not mere marvels or wonders. They are not for the advancement of the cause of any man or for personal glory. They are the mighty signs of an omnipotent God wrought for the good of men, for their spiritual enlightenment and as a testimony to the one true God.

The two miracles of our lesson present Jesus Christ as a Lord of mercy and grace—ready to meet the needs of men. Deep and real was his compassion as his heart yearned over needy humanity.

It is suggested that in the study and teaching of this lesson we vary our plan somewhat and present seven seed thoughts found in the two portions assigned. It is also urged that the context in both chapters be read with care.

I. We Are Impotent Folk (John 5:2).

The words well describe not only those who lay helpless about the pool of Bethesda but they fit us well. Oh, yes, we are strong, capable, fearless, but only until we meet some great elemental problem. Then we see that we are indeed "a great multitude of impotent folk." The gently falling snow stopped the undefeated Napoleon. The silent fog can paralyze a nation. Death, sickness—who can stay their hand?

II. Despair Spells Defeat (v. 7).

Long familiarity with his weakness had bred in the man with the infirmity a sense of despair. Such an attitude invites defeat. It is unbefitting to a Christian. Let us not forget in the darkest hour to "keep looking up."

III. God Answers the Weakest Faith (v. 8).

Jesus evidently saw in the man's despairing reply a spark of faith. He who believes honors the name of God. We may need to cry "I believe, help thou mine unbelief," but if we believe God will gloriously meet even our faltering faith.

IV. God's Command Empowers (vv. 8, 9).

Jesus told the man to "Rise—and walk"—the very thing he could not do for his thirty-eight years of life. But when the Son of God speaks to us he gives the power to respond to his command.

V. Works Follow Faith (v. 9).

The man arose, took up his bed, and walked. Man's faith in God and God's response to faith lead to man's action on God's command. Too many are they in the church today who have never stood up and walked for God.

VI. Look to God, Not at Your Resources (John 6:9).

Humanlike, the disciples counted their money and found it was not enough to supply food for a multitude. And then there was a boy, but he had only five barley crackers and two little fish. It almost sounds like a church-board deciding to close the cross-roads church and let the Devil have the boys and girls, because it costs too much to keep up the work. God help us to trust and go on for him. "Little is much when God is in it."

VII. Followers for Bread Not Wanted (v. 15).

Those who follow Christ because of business advantage and social prestige know nothing of what it means to be a Christian. He is not a bread-making king; he is the bread of life.

Essence of Prayer

Prayer in its essence is not so much the expression of our desire for things as all as of our desire for God Himself.

Discourtesy

Discourtesy occasions not merely suffering, but sin; and Christian courtesy is a "means of grace" to all who have the happiness to receive it.—R. W. Dale.

The Day's Work

Let us make haste to live. For every day is a new life to a wise man.—Seneca.

Grieving for Wasted Time

He who knows most, grieves most for wasted time.—Dante.

Offers New Opportunities



THE modern woman who sews is really an enviable person. She has at her finger-tips an endless array of fashions from which to choose for her own and her daughters' wardrobes. Today's trio affords her new opportunities in several size ranges; in fact, there's something here for the mature figure, size 42, right on down to the tiny tot who just manages to fill "age 4."

Pattern 1987—This diminutive frock is for Miss Four-to-Twelve. Its easy lines, flaring skirt, and pretty sleeves are perhaps second only to its thru-the-machine-aptness, so far as the woman who sews is concerned. But this is all too obvious to mention. Better cut this pattern twice for all 'round practical reasons. It's intriguing in taffeta—a winner in gingham and linen. It comes in sizes 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 years. Size 6 requires 1 1/2 yards of 39 inch material plus 1/4 yard contrasting.

Pattern 1211—It is a smart frock like this that will turn the most immune young lady into an ardent seamstress almost over night. And rightly so, for it's plain to see how becoming are its princess lines, how flattering the wide shoulders and slim waist, yes, and how spicy the swing skirt. A pretty and colorful motif can be had in the use of velvet for the buttons and belt. Monotone broadcloth, black or royal blue, with the collar and cuffs of white linen, is a startlingly chic material for this model. It is available in sizes 12 to 20 (30 to 40 bust). Size 14 requires 2 3/4 yards of 54 inch fabric plus 3/4 yard of 39 inch contrasting.

Pattern 1210—Which would you have, Madam, an artistic smock or a glamorous house coat? This pattern allows you to make this

interesting choice and it has what you'll need to make either of the models illustrated here. The house coat has become woman-kind's most desired "at home" attire; so rather than be among the minority, why not turn your talents to this princess model—you'll have it complete in a mere few hours and think of the countless days it will stand you in good stead as a really good looking wardrobe asset. It is designed in sizes 14 to 20 (32 to 42 bust). Size 16 (in full length) requires 5 1/2 yards of 39 inch material plus 3/4 yards of bias piping and 1/4 yard contrasting material for pocket.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty - third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

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DON'T RUB YOUR EYES

Rubbing your eyes grinds invisible particles of dust and dirt right into the delicate tissues, making the irritation just that much worse. A much better way, as thousands have discovered, is to use a little Murine in each eye—night and morning. Murine may be depended on to relieve eye irritation because it is a reliable eye preparation containing 7 active ingredients of known value in caring for the eyes. It is for 40 years. Ask for Murine at your drug store.

Each Soul a Universe

Every soul is a universe in itself; and no two souls are alike.

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A FARMER BOY

ONE of the best known medical men in the U. S. was the late Dr. E. V. Pierce of Buffalo, N. Y., who was born on a farm in Pa. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has for nearly 70 years been helping women who have headache and backache associated with functional disturbances, and older women who experience heat flashes. By increasing the appetite this tonic helps to uphold the body. Buy of your druggist. New size, tabs, 50c, liquid \$1.

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