



Honorable Mayor Tom Barrett

Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.

## JOINT PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 | [www.city.milwaukee.gov](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov)

**For Immediate Release**  
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# City Hall Event to Celebrate 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Increase Lapham

Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderman Nik Kovac of the Milwaukee Common Council will present citations to Increase A. Lapham – or at least to someone who bears a striking resemblance to Mr. Lapham – during a special ceremony honoring the famed scientist and naturalist at 9:30 a.m. Monday (March 7, 2011) in the third floor Council Chamber anteroom at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Monday, March 7 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lapham’s birth.

Increase A. Lapham, a scientist, meteorologist, and naturalist, was a founder of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He had a leadership role in establishing the Milwaukee Female Seminary, which grew to become Milwaukee Downer College and today is the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Lapham worked with a Milwaukee Congressman to draft the federal legislation to create the United States Weather Bureau, and is known as the “father of the United States Weather Bureau.”

Lapham was also a renowned writer and author of more than 50 books and articles, covering such subjects as the state’s geology, canals, mosses, grasses, meteorites, fires, tornadoes, topography, antiquities, agriculture, trees, and a table for lighting and extinguishing the then gas-lit streetlights in Milwaukee.

**What:** City Hall ceremony for Increase Lapham

**When:** 9:30 a.m. on Monday, March 7

**Where:** City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. (third floor)  
Council Chamber anteroom