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To Lansing with

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by
Juliette Bartholomew Stucky

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

1960



TO LANSING WITH LOVE

By Juliette Bartholomew Stucky

Presented by Mrs. Juliette Bartholomew (George C.) Stucky
at the April 30, 1959, meeting of the Historical Society
of Greater Lansing.

Mrs. Stucky was very well qualified to speak to the Society of the early social life of Lansing as her family were early residents of the City.

Her maternal grandparents were Mr. (Captain) and Mrs. Edward Cahill who came to Lansing after the Chicago fire in 1871. Mr. Cahill was a lawyer and Judge of the Michigan Supreme Court. The Captain's daughters Maggie and Clara referred to: Maggie was Mrs. Stucky's mother and Clara her aunt.

Her paternal grandparents were Dr. and Mrs. Ira Bartholomew who came to Lansing in 1853 from the University of Michigan Medical School. He was a physician, Mayor of Lansing, and a member of the Legislature.

Her parents were Dr. and Mrs. Henry Shank Bartholomew. Her father worked for E. Bement and Sons previous to his study of medicine. Dr. Bartholomew practiced in Lansing the rest of his life.

INTRODUCTIONS

JOHN W. EDMONDS was a pioneer saddle and harness maker and ran a leather goods store. He was the father of JAMES P. EDMONDS who wrote Early Lansing History, a few copies of which are still in existence.

LT. LUTHER BAKER and his cousin GENERAL LAFAYETTE C. BAKER: The general was head of the Federal secret service. These gentlemen aided in the capture of John Wilkes Booth. Lt. Baker was the grandfather of Mrs. Katherine Baker (Paul) Yull, a life-long resident of Lansing.

MRS. KATHERINE SMITH (ARCHIBALD) DIACK lived, as a girl, in Lansing. The quotations in the paper are from her written memoirs. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. SAMUEL L. SMITH, financier and Legislator from St. Clair County. The Olds Motor Works was financed by Mr. Smith.

DR. HENRY BAKER was the first Secretary of the State Board of Health.

FRANK WELLS, President of the U & I Club, was a druggist in Lansing.

H. B. CARPENTER, Secretary of the U & I Club, was a Lansing lawyer.

MRS. JULIA LUCE (GEORGE) HOPKINS was Governor Luce's granddaughter and still lives in Lansing.

BART THOMAN was of the Thoman Milling Company family and still resides in Lansing.

MRS. KATE M. KEDZIE was the wife of DR. FRANK KEDZIE, head of the Chemistry Department at MAC and President of the College.

REVEREND C. H. BEALE was pastor of the Congregational Church.

C. A. GOWER was Superintendent of the Boys' Industrial School.

MILO D. CAMPBELL was a politician.

MRS. MARY MOLITOR (THOMAS) HEDDIKEN is the granddaughter of Mrs. Mary C. Spencer, State Librarian for many years.

MRS. FLORENCE DOWNEY (CAREW) MARTINDALE was the daughter of the owner of the Downey Hotel.

BRUCE ANDERSON was manager of the Olds Hotel for many years and is now retired.

DR. LEMOYNE SNYDER was the son of JONATHAN SNYDER, President of MAC. Dr. Snyder was medico-legal expert for the Michigan State Police for a number of years and is now retired.

ZACHARIAH CHANDLER (1813-1879) was an American politician, U. S. Secretary of the Interior under President Franklin Pierce, 1875-77. He was the first U. S. Senator from Michigan (1857-75; 1879).

HENRY FORD (1863-1947) was the world's largest manufacturer of automobiles. Born in Greenfield, Michigan, he was a resident of Detroit from 1887.

ORLANDO M. BARNES was a Lansing pioneer and his son was ORLANDO F. BARNES. Both were mayors of Lansing and were engaged in many different kinds of business, and were lawyers and bankers.

MRS. ELEANOR BARNES (BARNARD) PIERCE is the daughter of O. F. BARNES. She resides in Lansing.

JAMES TURNER was the son of a pioneer Lansing merchant, Mayor of Lansing, banker and financier.

E. BEMENT SONS were engaged in the stove and farm implement business.

JIM PRICE was a confectioner by trade and an amateur actor.

R. G. JONES was a newspaper man and writer of amateur theatricals.

RANSOM E. OLDS (1864-1950), was one of America's foremost automobile pioneers. Credited with constructing the world's first practical automobile. In 1899 formed the Olds Motor Works, financed by S. L. SMITH, the copper baron.

MRS. HELEN STACK resides in East Lansing and is head of the Volunteer Bureau of the United Community Fund.

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Publication of this paper made possible by
MRS. GLADYS OLDS ANDERSON, daughter of
Ransom E. Olds .

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TO LANSING WITH LOVE

by Mrs. George C. Stucky

Lansing, in 1859, was a town of 3,000 people; not as large as Eaton Rapids, but slightly more than Williamston. The town was 12 years old. Cabins, frame houses and woodpiles provided such a constant fire hazard to the pioneer settlement, that volunteer fire companies were formed. To raise the necessary money for fire protection the "fire boys" gave an annual ball. The Fireman's Ball of August 31, 1858, was an item on the Lansing social calendar. It was given at the new printing establishment of Hosmer and Kerr, on West Michigan Avenue. The bill for the one in 1859 was advertised as \$2.50 and "must have been terrific" according to Mr. James P. Edmonds.

The Benton House on the northwest corner of Main Street and South Washington Avenue, was the best hotel, and the first brick building in the City. It was the center of social activity as well as political headquarters and contained 60 guest rooms and a large hall for dances and other public functions. The State Republican on November 20, 1855, prints this item:

"Thanksgiving Party: Mr. E. H. Peck, the proprietor of the Benton House, opens his rooms this day to the devotees of Terpsichore. We are assured that this is to be the affair of the season, and that the proprietor of the Benton House will have just cause to acknowledge that the welcome Lansing gives her stranger citizens is most hearty and cordial. Ah! We envy the light and exceeding fantastic toes that will be tripped that night, but trust the double blessing, 'He that giveth and receiveth' will encompass host and guest."

Two weeks later it is reported: "The party at the Benton House passed off very well, somewhere over 100 present, and everything up to the program, save the music."

However, for the following New Year's Party, it was announced that "unusual pains have been taken to secure the best of music--Supper from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m."

All important balls, receptions and banquets were held in the Benton House. Governor Kinsley S. Bingham sent this invitation to John W. Edmonds:

"Governor Bingham solicits the pleasure of your company at the Benton House, Thursday evening, January 20 at seven o'clock."

Political and social bigwigs attended the Governor's ball each year, even as they do now. Mr. Edmonds reports Governor Bingham's reception and

banquet "one which will go down in history as the most hilarious ever held in the Benton House--joy was unconfined!"

When a new business section near the Capitol was started, the Benton House gradually declined and the Lansing House, on the corner where Knapp's store now is, became the first class hotel. The old Benton House still stood on the corner across from my home at 101 West Main Street when I was a little girl, and my grandfather, Edward Cahill, sold the property to R. E. Olds for his home.

In 1861, the energies of Lansing were directed toward fighting and winning the Civil War. When Lee surrendered, Ingham County had 2,100 men under arms. One of the bright pages in Lansing history was the capture of John Wilkes Booth, President Lincoln's assassin, by Lieutenant Luther Baker and his cousin, General Lafayette C. Baker, life-long resident of Lansing. The General was the head of the Federal secret service.

Lieutenant Baker was Katherine Baker (Mrs. Paul) Yull's grandfather. She has prepared an interesting story of her grandfather's life, illustrated and annotated by his letters and personal papers. Part of the reward money was used to build the successor to the Benton House--the Lansing House. To quote from Birt Darling's book, "City in the Forest":

"Here indeed was the last word in culture and refinement-- huge mirrors, marble furnishings in the lobby, luxurious ferns and tasseled upholstery."

By 1871, our State had sufficiently recovered from the Civil War to make plans for a capitol worthy of the great State of Michigan, to replace the original buildings which now had become inadequate. In a nation-wide competition, Elijah E. Meyers, Springfield, Illinois, was chosen as the architect.

From Mrs. Katherine Smith (Archibald) Diack's "Things Remembered", I quote:

"As we were growing up, Lansing itself was growing. The State was building a new Capitol to take the place of the old white one with the green blinds with which we were familiar. The new building was right on our street only a block away and one block away on the other side of us lived the architect who was supervising the building. He was an old man of 40 or so, who passed our house every morning. He wore a long sort of frock coat and kept his pockets full of peppermint candies which he passed out liberally to children he met. The number grew as his qualities became known. We knew he was a wonderful architect."

The laying of the cornerstone for the Capitol was held October 2, 1873. It was a most impressive ceremony and was the outstanding event in the early history of Lansing. The procession was more than a mile long, made up of military bodies and civic organizations from all parts of the State,

accompanied by 16 brass bands. Long before the parade started, the streets were jammed with humanity--the greatest crowd of people ever in Lansing. All churches, as well as other organizations, conducted eating houses; hundreds of citizens held open house and tried to feed all comers. It was indeed a great day for Lansing.

January 1, 1879, the building was ready for occupancy and dedicatory exercises were held in the House of Representatives. The Knights Templar Band of Lansing, considered the best in the State, furnished music and many of the ex-Governors of Michigan spoke.

From Lansing's very beginning, state government and state officials were part and parcel of the community. Inauguration balls and political rallies have always been part of our social structure. When John J. Bagley, Governor of Michigan from 1873-76, brought his wife to visit in Lansing, she carried with her news which interested the new friends she found in Lansing. With Mrs. Bagley's help and encouragement, the Lansing Woman's Club was formed in 1874.

It is the same club you read about in the social news of the State Journal today. It still meets every Friday afternoon; keeps itself a culture study group, listening to papers prepared by its members and occasional guest speakers. Included in its present membership are several third generation members: Eleanor Barnes Pierce and Doris Porter Person, to mention a few.

A little more than ten years later another club for both men and women was formed, for social as well as intellectual diversion, which, too, has been continuously active. It is called the U & I Club, and it meets weekly on Monday nights, in members' homes to listen to and discuss papers prepared by one of its members. This club, too, remains in Lansing society because of the prestige of its members. Supreme Court Judges have always been among its members. Doctor Henry Baker, the first Secretary of the State Board of Health, several Governors, clergymen from many churches, members of the faculty from East Lansing, in addition to Lansing men and women interested in intellectual pursuits.

The following is an account of a garden party for the U & I Club from an original clipping from the State Republican June 21, 1887:

"GOOD BYE TO U & I! The Closing of the U & I Club's Season Last Night--Captain and Mrs. Edward Cahill Prepare Their Lawn for a Fete in Honor of the Event--Delights of the Evening--

"Capt. and Mrs. Edward Cahill and their engaging daughters, Misses Clara and Maggie, have had their entertaining capacity taxed a good deal during the past week or two, with regimental reunions and the like, but last evening it expanded into accommodating the entire membership of the U & I Club, with a number of their friends, who were kindly invited to join in a lawn fete, at the Captain's residence on Main Street, arranged by the Club

as the closing event of its profitable season.

"The lawn was tastily embellished with tables and chairs; hammocks swung lazily from tree to tree; and down at the end of a romantic path which ran, twisting its way by earthen steps, to the brink of Grand River, were several boats for the pleasure of such as preferred the water to the lawn and flower beds. Shortly after 6 o'clock, when an hour had been employed in following such impulses as the surroundings provoked, the guests were collected at the tables, and enjoyed one of those semi-picnic luncheons, which are agreeable to friendship, to the appetite and to an excellent digestion. After the collation,

"With Its Merriment and Wit,

"Was over, the pleasures of the river and other objects in nature were renewed until it grew damp, then the older folk played cards indoors, but the younger ones continued outside upon the lawn, which was flooded with a light from an electric lamp arranged there for the occasion, and talked the thoughts uppermost in their minds, mingling conversation with song. The evening was delightfully spent by all, and the hospitable home and pretty lawn were left with regret."

When Cyrus G. Luce came to Lansing to be Governor 1887-1890, he became a member of the U & I Club. My father, Doctor H. S. Bartholomew referred to him as "that great and good man, Cyrus G. Luce." When his term as Governor was finished, he returned to Coldwater to his home, and invited the Club to visit him--which they did in 1893.

The following is copied from a clipping from the State Republican, Darius D. Thorpe, Proprietor (Editor), February 1893:

"U and I at Coldwater--Ex-Governor Luce Proves a Royal Entertainer--The U & I Club's Annual Banquet is an Affair Long To Be Remembered.

"The annual U & I Club banquet at the home of Ex-Governor Luce in Coldwater Monday night will long remain in the memory of those who attended. Certainly never in the history of the organization has a more pleasant and profitable evening been spent by the Club as a body. The very air seemed permeated with wit, humor, and merriment. Everyone seemed in perfect sympathy with the occasion, and not a drawback appeared. Appreciation was never more perfect, repartee never more apt or brilliant. All were at the best, and Ex-Governor Luce, as host, has won encomiums profuse, as being without peer. Nearly seventy people left the Lake Shore depot in Lansing at 1 o'clock Monday afternoon to attend the event. The trip was quickly made and was pleasant in the extreme. At 3:45, Coldwater was reached and the entire party was cheerily welcomed by Ex-

Governor Luce himself, at the head of a score of sleighs and spirited horses. The Coldwater art gallery was visited, and then the party divided, part going to the home of Ex-Governor Luce, and part to the home of Milo D. Campbell to be entertained.

"At 7 o'clock all met at Ex-Governor Luce's handsome mansion, and the pleasure of the evening began. The Ex-Governor's speech of welcome was a feeling one, eulogizing the Club, and the great aid it had been to him in a social way during his residence in Lansing, and recalling many pleasant recollections of Lansing life among its members. The response from Honorable O. M. Barnes was a very happy one, and one that must have caused considerable gratification to the Ex-Governor. In conclusion Mr. Barnes said some of the members of the Club would not be surprised if some day the Club should make an excursion to Washington, D. C., to visit Senator Luce.

"President Frank Wells' annual address was as able as usual and replete with fine points. It brought home the spirit of the progress of the age by means of the rapidly-approaching fourth centennial of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. Secretary H. B. Carpenter in his annual report gave a history of the past year of the Society, gave extracts from papers read, and recounted a great many of the pleasant things that had happened to the Club during the year. It was a witty, terse, and humorous report, made entertaining as only Mr. Carpenter can make things entertaining, and was very well received.

"A piano selection from Mrs. Kate M. Kedzie rendered in this artist's best style followed the Secretary's report.

"A banquet followed that was all that could be desired, and one that admirably displayed the host's excellent taste. Reverend C. H. Beale acted as toastmaster and it was remarked that he was never seen in a happier or more entertaining mood. His reign as master of the feast was one continual round of witty stories that were always in place and touched the matter in point in a pertinent manner that kept the guests in a continually pleasant frame of mind, a wonderment over what had happened mixed with a delightful anticipation over what was coming next.

"In reponse to the toast 'Hallucinations', C. A. Gower gave a droll, facetious illustration of the difference between hallucinations and phantasms. It was eloquent and very funny and one of the best things of the evening.

"Mrs. Edward Cahill's response to the toast, 'Our Benedicts', with the sentiment: 'A husband is generally a careless, domineering thing', was very pleasantly received and was full of pretty little speeches, neatly turned, and gave, in an inimitable and charming way, amusing incidents from accounts of the life of married men.

"A musical solo from Miss Irma Haight followed, and was very well received.

"Finally Milo D. Campbell's response to the toast 'Good bye' closed the banquet, and closed it very pleasantly and eloquently. It was 12 o'clock when the entertainment closed and the Club left the Ex-Governor's home for Lansing with much regret. The train left Coldwater at 12:30 o'clock and arrived in Lansing at 3:30 o'clock and every member says a more pleasant annual was never spent and that a better or happier host than Ex-Governor Luce does not live."

Another State official who endeared herself to Lansing through the many years she served at the Capitol was Mrs. Mary C. Spencer, State Librarian. May I read you some comments by her granddaughter, Mrs. Mary Molitor (Thomas) Heddiken, who herself lived in Lansing during her childhood:

"My grandmother was still Librarian of Michigan when she died at 83. I should think she had held that office for thirty years. It had always been a political appointment.

"At one point a new Governor decided to appoint someone else, at which the leaders of both parties called upon him and explained that Mary C. Spencer was the State Librarian! In her prime she made it the finest Law Library--State, I mean--in the country.

"She also founded the traveling library which went to the country schools. Along in her sixties she gave up most of her social life, but she liked young people--young men!--around her and the top place for a young man in Lansing was in her house.

"Carew Martindale lived there until he married Florence Downey. One story I like is that one night Carew arrived home with a couple of friends, one was Bruce Anderson, and a bucket of oysters and roused her from her bed to make oyster stew which she most happily did, clad in a very gaudy rose silk kimono with gold embroidery. One of the young devils was inspired to call the State Journal to give a social item which was featured, that Mrs. Mary C. Spencer had entertained with an oyster supper!"

Many people who came to Lansing to work in State Government, did not set up residence here, but took a room and patronized the boarding houses established for them. Miss Bopp's, of long-standing, fine reputation, was situated on North Capitol Avenue, across from the Temple House. There actually was a waiting list of hopeful customers--. Once you had a place there, you never gave it up for any reason. It was a much-prized and coveted possession.

Following Miss Bopp, who finally retired, was Mrs. Weld's which was on West Ottawa, also close to the Capitol. Her food was delicious and her tables much in demand.

Of course, now our State Government is so complex, we are not in such close contact with its members. However, you and I share friendships with many of them, whether they come only for a legislative session, for a few months, or stay many years. The State Journal's Society Note Book for April 19, 1959, featured in a very attractive page, a number of the wives of our present State officials.

Another influence, which has brought prestige to our Lansing community is Michigan State University, which used to be M. A. C. (Michigan Agricultural College). When M. A. C. was a small school and East Lansing a village, the faculty took the streetcar down to Lansing to go to church, to come to the U & I Club, and to shop. The faculty has always been generous to Lansing with its talents, lending them unstintingly over the years. I can think of one prominent member of the faculty, head of the chemistry department, and then president, who made his home in Lansing, Dr. Frank Kedzie. Dr. LeMoyne Snyder gave a delightful talk at the time of the Michigan State Centennial at the U & I Club, in which he described, as now I am trying to do, early days on the Campus.

I must mention the gala day in 1907, when President Theodore Roosevelt came to Lansing and East Lansing to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of M.A.C. I remember the excitement of the parade--we watched from the second floor store windows on East Michigan Avenue. I can recall exactly how those famous men in that REO car looked; maybe because I have seen those medallions so often in the elevator in the Olds Tower.

Certainly it was an exciting day--elaborate parade, and LeMoyne says the hundreds of distinguished guests from all over the United States, gathered on campus that day, were fed on the lawn, just beside the old mansard-roofed President Jonathan Snyder's house, at the head of Faculty Row, with food planned and prepared in his mother's kitchen.

President and Mrs. John A. Hannah today, are generous to Lansing with their hospitality, entertaining many groups in their home. I, myself, and probably some of you, were guests there last spring, at a beautiful garden party; enjoying a walk in the lovely spacious garden, and a cup of punch from a table set with a handsome bouquet of red roses, matching the color of the punch bowl.

The students, too, have been a part of our Lansing society. They have used and still do, our hotels, and entertainment houses, for dances and banquets each year. For several years the J Hop was held in the Masonic Temple. Not the present Temple, but the one recently torn down. It also was the scene of many private parties. I believe the first Charity Ball was held in the ballroom of the Temple.

When Ransom E. Olds built a Clubhouse for the Women's Clubs of the City, there was another ballroom, which attracted the students to hold their dances in, instead of in the old armory, on the Campus, or even on the third floor of Ag Hall. News got around that we had a punch bowl. We lived two short blocks away--and it was not unusual to have a worried young man appear at our door Friday or Saturday night to ask could he borrow our punch bowl. He could, until the night it was not returned, and that ended that.

Lansing hosts and hostesses used the new ballroom in the Clubhouse. I remember dancing there with my grandfather, Edward Cahill. I had reason to be glad he had wanted to teach me the old-fashioned waltz. In later years, when I was dancing with Mr. Henry Ford, who was a stickler for correct, old-fashioned dancing, and himself a beautiful graceful dancer, I was able to follow with pleasure the old-fashioned waltz.

I am sure many of you remember the Barnes House. A monument to Victorian elegance, it was built by one of our pioneers, Orlando M. Barnes, lived in by him and his family, and by his son Orlando F. Barnes and his family.

On January 15, 1878, the social event of the season was the opening of the elegant new Barnes mansion. Here is a copy of the original clippings, one marked Lansing Journal and the other State Republican, which I quote:

"LANSING JOURNAL--THE BARNES RECEPTION:

"The finest social event of the season, and one not soon to be surpassed, was the reception given last evening by Hon. and Mrs. O. M. Barnes at their residence on Main Street at the head of Capitol Avenue. The stately building at the head of the Avenue was brilliantly illuminated and presented a most attractive picture suggestive of light and warmth and the generous hospitality of the host and hostess, whose doors are ever 'on the latch'. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes received their guests in the spacious hall between the east and west parlors, greeting with stately courtesy and warm cordiality perhaps not less than 600 guests between the hours of 7 and 10.

"Elaborate refreshments were served from 9 to 12 in the dining hall, whither the guests repaired at their leisure. The gathering was probably the most brilliant one ever assembled at the Capital, embracing not only the beauty and chivalry of the Capital City itself, but a large number of notables from abroad, including state dignitaries, members of both houses of the Legislature, many of whom were accompanied by their wives, and also many leading representatives of both political parties, called here by the approaching Senatorial election. Ex-Secretary Zachariah Chandler and Governor Charles M. Croswell were among the honored guests on this occasion, which will long be remembered as one of the most brilliant in the social life of the Capital City."

"REPUBLICAN--A BRILLIANT SOCIAL GATHERING

"On Tuesday evening last the largest social gathering ever assembled in Lansing and the most brilliant one also, took place at the palatial residence of Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Barnes. The guests commenced assembling at about 8 o'clock and from that time until 2 o'clock, the scene was one of pleasure and social enjoyment. Dancing commenced at 9 o'clock, and refreshments, prepared and served in princely style, were furnished from 10 o'clock until the close of the festivities. The guests were composed of representatives of the Supreme Court, State officers, and the leading citizens of Lansing and their wives and daughters, and certainly no City in the State can furnish a more intelligent, handsome and elegantly attired audience than the Capital City. The arrangements made by Mr. and Mrs. Barnes were complete in every particular; the music for dancing furnished by Richmond and Jordan's Band was excellent and the programme a good one. The brilliantly illuminated and handsomely furnished residence had the appearance of a castle, and certainly the hospitality extended to all the guests was of a royal character."

Other gala affairs held in Lansing at this time were the New Year's Day "At Homes". There was always a list in the State Republican, of the ladies who would have open house. Different hostesses would ask special friends to receive with them. It was always in the afternoon, and of course, all stores and businesses were closed. The men, young and old, would form groups, and make their calls together, after consulting the published lists. These groups of gentlemen designed special cards to be used at this time; some formal, some intentionally humorous. A sort of buffet supper was served in the dining room with an especially pretty woman pouring tea and coffee. There were also punch bowls in some homes too. My mother relates "Clara and I used to pass things, and we might ask young daughters of the ladies receiving with Mama if we wanted to. If a group came, and were a little boisterous, such as the Boat Club arriving in a boat, on wheels, in the snow, the older men might move on. No group stayed very long, there were so many places to leave their cards. Of course we girls had to answer the doorbell; two maids were kept busy in the kitchen."

One of my grandmother's gowns for a New Year's "at home" was made of ruby velvet--silk backed. It had a skirt with a train, a dark red petticoat with a plaited ruffle and a fitted waist, three-quarter sleeves --the sleeves and neck being trimmed with Dutchess point lace.

The entertainments of those days shine down the years as spectacular achievements, administered in the kitchens of Lansing hostesses, by a Mrs. Petersen, a Danish cook, reputed to have served as second cook in the royal household in Copenhagen. Her services were eagerly sought for both public and private entertaining. How she or her husband happened to stray into Lansing, we never knew, nor why they left it, as they did,

to everyone's concern. But another talented person was growing into a cateress, and Eliza Remus became the staff on which hostesses in Lansing leaned. Eliza spent the day at our house the day of my wedding, and I was fortunate to have her assistance in my own home. She always had more work than she could do, and was cheerful, extremely competent, and a fine cook. There were no short cuts in those early days, and the gracious hospitality in the form of polished silver, heavy spotless linen, sparkling glass and china flowed from the homes in Lansing town.

Another person much in demand, for a far different reason, was Marie Aruda, a Jamaican nurse. She visited a home when a baby was expected, and stayed as long as she was needed. Her weeks and months were booked far in advance. She wore a pink uniform with stiff white cuffs and standing starched collar. Mrs. James Appleyard cared for her in her last illness--she died in Mrs. Appleyard's home.

Other welcome visitors to Lansing homes were the seamstresses or dressmakers who came for a week or two in the fall and spring, to repair and prepare the family's wardrobe for the change of season. I remember well Kitty and Emma Wolff--sisters--who worked as a team: Kitty did skirts and Emma waists, and neither knew a thing about the other's work. Whenever possible my grandmother and mother worked with them, and I pulled bastings. One room was turned over to them, and by the end of the visit, it was a confusion of pins, ravellings and bastings. There was always a flurry in the household when the Wolff girls came. They arrived in time for breakfast coffee and whatever else was on the breakfast table. The noon meal, usually luncheon in our house, was dinner, and was prepared with the girls' favorite dishes--one of which was always boiled dinner, corned beef and cabbage.

Following later in their footsteps was Miss Emma Fiedler, who used to come for several days visit. She made my wedding dress from my mother's. The year my mother was married, her sister, and a cousin brought up in the family as a sister, were also married. My grandfather bought up a bolt of white satin to take care of these festivities. After I had a family of my own, I was lucky enough to have Mrs. Snell come to sew for me and help keep my household's clothes in order.

I can't leave this mention of household helpers without recalling the butter and egg woman, who drove in from the country every Saturday morning with fresh farm produce. Her weekly visit was an event, really a social call. She always came in and sat down and visited a little before leaving butter in stone crocks, eggs, maple syrup, fresh horse-radish, country sausage, or maybe cider. In my childhood it was Mrs. Robbins who used to tie her horse to our horseblock--later it was Mrs. Cunningham who came to my home on Osborne Road.

Near the point where the Red Cedar and the Grand rivers flow together, stood the famed Mineral Wells Hotel. It was built in 1870, to take advantage of the mineral water found there--a beautiful flowing well, the water gushing over the top of 5-inch casing, about 1,600 gallons

per hour. There were about 25 small bathrooms and a larger plunge, or pool 25 feet x 40 feet, built with varying depths of water, same as our modern pools. Patronage from well-to-do people in this neighborhood, as well as other parts of the State, started a boom. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, built rails straight up to the grounds, with a depot. In 1876, the elaborate three-storied, wide-verandahed hotel burned to the ground and was never rebuilt.

Captain A. P. Loomis advertised in 1873 that he was prepared to furnish private parties and Sabbath School picnics with excursions on the Grand River. "The Sea-Bird", "Minnie Case" and "Pickwick" were the names of the boats which docked every 30 minutes at Michigan Avenue, plying between North Lansing, Mineral Wells, and Benton House bridges. Evening cruises were a part of the summer relaxation for oldtime Lansingites.

Another one of Lansing grande dames, who was a contemporary of Mrs. O. M. Barnes; Mrs. O. F. Barnes; my grandmother, Mrs. Edward Cahill; my mother, Mrs. H. S. Bartholomew, and an intimate friend of mine and even my children, was Mrs. James Turner, whose husband was the son of the pioneer, James Turner. In my acquaintance, she was the epitome of the elegant, gracious, dignified Victorian lady. She lived in several homes in Lansing, but the first one I remember was on Franklin Avenue (now West Grand River Avenue). I recall being asked to serve punch for a garden party at this home--riding from my home on Main Street in an open streetcar, dressed in my best white dress, with hair ribbons and sash to match. Japanese lanterns were strung around the garden to lend a festive air. The refreshment tables were inside in the elegant dining room as well as in the garden. I remember Mrs. Pierce telling me she remembers a similar party of her grandmother's, Mrs. O. M. Barnes, where lanterns were strung outdoors. A few years before her death, Mrs. Turner built the handsome Mt. Vernon house which now houses the Michigan Historical Commission Museum, located in the 500 block on North Washington Avenue. Although she was quite old, she enjoyed entertaining in this home, made beautiful by her handsome ornate silver; dark, heavily-carved furniture. In spite of her years, she was interested always in the contemporary life --she wanted to know all about my friends, my children, and what was going on around her.

Another kind of hospitality, which I think originated in my mother's living room on South Grand Street: There came a time when E. Bement Sons closed their offices at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon instead of running until 5 or 6 as was usual. To celebrate the event my mother was "At Home" Saturday afternoon after 3 to her friends, many of whom stopped on their way home from Bement's, two blocks north of our house. She used a brass samovar from which she served tea, brewed over the charcoal fire in the samovar, and hot gingerbread. Shades of the 5 o'clock cocktail hour!

Mrs. Ralston, a writer for Ladies Home Journal staff at this time, fresh from Paris, said "A woman can be well dressed on six gowns a year: Two washable cotton gowns for summer, two tailored suits, and two dressy gowns. The suit will be worn at least three years, so choose a dark

inconspicuous color, and put all your money (between \$10 and \$15) into the material and cut."

Down in North Lansing, the growing number of German immigrants founded the Lansing Liederkrantz Society. Bringing their European traditions with them, they, too, took advantage of the pleasures of the Grand River. They bought property on North Grand Street, near the Shiawassee Street Bridge on the river bank. There they had large family parties in their clubhouse, singing their old country airs and enjoying band concerts on Sunday afternoon. During the annual Sangerfests, the river banks would ring with song and merriment. Singing groups from Detroit, Jackson, Owosso and Battle Creek would participate. It was a picturesque setting for a very active center. Captain Loomis' river steamer tied up to the dock at the back gate.

In 1872, was organized the Grand River Boat Club, which Mr. Edmonds says was probably the "most popular and long-enduring athletic and social club in Lansing." Each year the club held its annual regatta, at which crews from neighboring towns were represented. The Club also took a leading part in the social affairs of the City. They were sponsors for various dances, balls and some of the minstrel shows, put on in the opera house. The annual ball was always an important and successful event. It was not uncommon to have 250 couples, guests from all over Michigan.

Now, if I may start back at the beginning again, at least in time: Local men and women hungry for dramatic entertainment, got their first theater when Capital Hall was opened over two stores at 109 South Washington Avenue in 1862. This hall was used as a community center as well as for shows of traveling entertainers. After the Civil War, Mead's Hall took its place. It was more elaborately furnished with chairs and scenery, located on the second floor of a building on the corner of Ottawa and North Washington. Plays, lectures, fairs, and dances furnished regular entertainment. In 1874, Mark Twain entertained there at one of his famous lectures.

In 1872 Buck's Opera House was built. It had plush seats; the walls were elaborately decorated with gilded, handcarved figurines. The wall adjoining the stage had a series of boxes. The grand opening was March 1, 1873, when Edwin Booth appeared in "Macbeth". The seating capacity was 1,100, and every seat was taken. Mr. Edmonds reports practically every famous actor and actress appeared on its stage. It was in Buck's Opera House that the high school graduation exercises were held. My mother graduated in the class of 1889, and she recalls she was the class prophet, and wore a pale yellow silk Empire dress.

In 1890, James J. Baird bought the theater and changed the name to Baird's Opera House. They usually had two road shows a week, but if things got a little slow, the young people would put on a minstrel show or other local talent. Jim Price had a magnificent physique, and dressed in white tights, would put on a series of statuesque poses against a black velvet drop. R. G. Jones, a newspaper man, acted as general manager, and author of most of the skits. Mention must be made of the bass singer in these

minstrel shows. Bart Thoman and Julia Luce Hopkins, as well as Mr. Edmonds describes the deep bass voice of Mr. Elton Esslestyn, singing a full octave below the key in which it was written--"Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep."

When I was in High School, the J-X was an important amateur entertainment given by the Junior Class in High School. The fraternities and sororities, which were then active, contrived to reserve all the boxes in the theater, and always attended in their best party clothes to watch their friends in the Junior Class perform under the direction of Miss Mary Derby.

It was in Baird's Opera House where I saw Mrs. Patrick Campbell perform "Pygmalion"; the ancestor of "My Fair Lady"; Minnie Maddern Fiske, and even as recently as 1930, "Green Pastures" was shown.

The Gladmer, which is the same theater, received its name from the names of the children of the new owners: Gladys Williams, and Merritt Stahl. Very occasionally Gladys was allowed to entertain her friends on the stage. We could plan a "feed", pot-luck today, and we would eat from tables set on sawhorses on the bare floors of the stage. Another lark for Gladys' friends was when her father would call up just before curtain time and tell her to bring her friends down to enjoy the performance.

The Lansing House became the Downey House and until Knapp's store was built in 1936, was the leading hotel in Lansing. "Downey House--Hotel of Class". That it was, also the center for a great deal of political activity. It has been said that more legislation was made in the Downey Hotel than in the Capitol. Many a governor was made or unmade in the lobby, or more likely, in the hotel bar. On the second floor was the parlor, elegant with heavy velvet curtains and upholstery--where ladies might sit, if they did not care to sit in the marble lobby furnished with deep black leather armchairs, in front of wide windows reaching to the floor. Margaret and Florence Downey are my contemporaries--they lived in a family apartment on the second floor of the Hotel with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Downey. I have enjoyed their hospitality and friendship since we were children together.

When I was a little girl, there was Mrs. Wright's dancing school. Mrs. Diack mentions the dancing master in Lansing in her girlhood, "Professor Pinckney, a professor of dancing came to town. He opened two sessions of dancing; one from 7 to 9 for beginners and the other from 9 to 11 and sometimes it was rumored they danced until 12 o'clock."

As I remember Mrs. Wright, she was a tiny person, with a high grey pompadour and wore exaggerated high heels. I, also, remember well the accordion plaited dresses my sister and I wore to dancing school, hers blue and mine brown; very effective to hold out at arms' length on either side and run the length of the dance floor.

During High School days, another Mrs. Wright held "assemblies" on the second floor of a building on the corner of North Washington Avenue and Shiawassee. Great was the suspense during the week, wondering if we were

going to get a "bid" for Friday night. To be sure, these were public dances, and my mother wasn't too pleased to have me go. But, just as now, majority influenced consent, and almost every Friday night I did go. Mr. Satterlee's orchestra played, and I always had a wonderful time. At closing time, with slipper bags under our arms, we walked home--remember I lived on the corner of Main and Washington--I walked to High School and back four times every day, and home from every dance except the Christmas dances, which called for a little more elegance.

The Christmas parties were held either in the Masonic Temple or the Woman's Clubhouse. Either Porter's or Carr's Hack Barn furnished the hacks. Great was the hilarity when we were called for, in a large hack, seating three or four couples--one designed for pallbearers at a funeral. Sometimes we were fortunate enough to be invited to ride in someone's automobile--someone whose father would let him drive. Here, I might mention the mighty Oldsmobile Limited, a model which was the epitome of elegance and comfort, and was rare luxury, even in Lansing, the home of the Oldsmobile. All the ones I remember were grey, they held seven passengers, if you put up two bucket seats in the back, after the people were comfortable on the rear seat. The Downey's had one, and Mrs. Downey with her chauffeur often called at High School to pick up a load of young people on a pleasant day, for a ride in the country.

I haven't said anything about the Olds family, and I want to, because they have been a part of Lansing for many years. We lived across the street from each other from early girlhood until we were married. Gladys and Bernice and I have been friends and neighbors. We have shared many memories through the years. While we were growing up, so was the automobile-fringe-lunch. The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Olds was a beautiful, elaborate occasion, given by their daughters, at Woldumar, Gladys' new home at that time. The invitations were engraved in gold, and bid the guests to come in the late afternoon of a June day. The gardens surrounding the home and sloping down to the river's edge were resplendent in color, especially the large, formal rose garden. Guests came from all over the country. It was hoped Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford would come, and I am ashamed to say, I can't remember whether they did or not. An elaborate supper was served; the guests ate al-fresco on the spacious porches facing the river, on the broad steps leading from these porches, and a few in the dining room. An unusual feature was the myriads of waitresses, serving food to the many guests. They were dressed in pastel colored uniforms and perky caps--a real departure, at that time, from the conventional black with white organdy aprons and caps. The State Journal says there was a dance pavilion, which I dimly recall. It was a beautiful summer evening and a lovely way to honor one's parents.

I am not going to tell you any more. If you are interested in Lansing society today, join one of the country clubs, or the City Club--buy a ticket to the Charity Ball or the Pink Ball--call Mrs. Helen Stack who is head of the Volunteer Bureau of the United Community Fund and resides in East Lansing, and volunteer to help on a community project--attend the Town Hall lectures or the Lecture Concert series on the Campus, and you will BE in society.

Now, may I thank you for asking me to share with you this nostalgic reminiscence. I give you its title "To Lansing--With Love." Apologies to Arthur Meeker.

SOURCE MATERIALS:

1. Edmonds, James P. Early Lansing History.
2. Darling, Birt. City in the Forest.
3. State Journal Co. Lansing and Its Yesterdays (1932)
4. Dr. and Mrs. H. S. Bartholomew, memories to their daughter Juliette.
5. Mrs. Eleanor Barnes (Barnard) Pierce, the original clipping re the Barnes reception.
6. U & I Club, Secretary's book, the original clipping re the garden party.
7. Mrs. Katherine Smith (A. W.) Diack, Ann Arbor, collection of informal recollections written and published privately.
8. Meeker, Arthur, author of To Chicago with Love for his suggested title "To Lansing with Love".

Date Due

All persons interested in the historic past of the Greater Lansing area are cordially invited to membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Annual dues are \$2, and publications are sent free to all members.

P.O. Box 515, Lansing

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To Lansing with love.