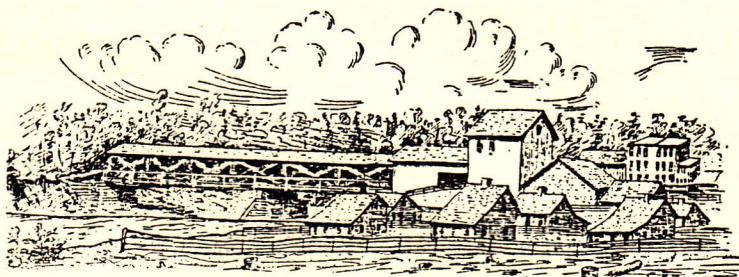


HSGL Newsletter

Official Publication of the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing **September 1995**



Settlement in North Lansing

When early Lansing entrepreneur J. Gottlieb Reutter arrived here in July 1884, he bore a ticket issued in Stuttgart, Germany, for travel to North Lansing, not Lansing, Michigan. North Lansing was then, had been since 1847, and remains today, a distinct, coherent community within the greater social and economic community of Lansing.

Settlement here, like most pioneer settlement, was determined by geography. This is the point at which the ancient, winding Indian trail from the southeastern corner of the peninsula encounters the banks of the Grand River at a wide rapids suitable for the installation of a dam, the principal source of millpower in the 19th century. John W. Burchard's 1843 dam did indeed become the first of several which served to power North Lansing saw and grist mills for generations. The small hydroelectric plant presently located here, in what is now Burchard Park, attests to the enduring power of water.

But the trail was an equally important influence on North Lansing. Even as the river built the industrial base of the town, the corduroy and plank roads built on the route of the trail

Continued on Page 2

The *HSGL Newsletter* is published bimonthly from September through May.
Articles and news of historical interest may be sent to the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901.
Linda Peckham, President. Tel: 517/372-3385.

R:7th. Sept. 14-1995

served to stimulate trading and provisioning establishments on Turner Street and Grand River (then Franklin) Avenue. The second architectural generation of these survives in the impressive Italianate and Romanesque storefronts now undergoing a revitalization as part of North Lansing's rebirth.

In addition to industry and commerce, complete urban communities have a third component, residences. Several of the Lansing area's earliest and most significant residential structures survive in North Lansing. The massive brick Turner/Dodge House, which has this year enjoyed the benefit of a complete and careful restoration program, is well-known. But the early Greek Revival house of Amos Turner is also here, as is the Federal-style residence of James I. Mead, one of North Lansing's and, later, Lansing's most important early citizens.

All the essential elements of North Lansing's historic coherence as a vital community have left a visible, tangible legacy which serves still as a paradigm of urban growth in North America. North Lansing's quest for a new basis for survival and growth is exemplary of the hope of urban centers everywhere for a means to endure into the 21st century as genuine human communities, capable of sustaining and enriching the lives of those who choose to call them "home".

- Robert J. Morris

**Historical Society
of Greater Lansing
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Newsletter Editor

Craig Whitford

*We sadly announce the
unexpected death of
Dick Frazier,
long-time board member
of the Society.
He will be greatly
missed.*

BLASTS

From The Past

The following 'news' items have all been taken out of issues of the **Lansing Republican Weekly**, written in the style of the time.

Fruit-tree agents (of which there are four or five now canvassing the city) sometimes have queer ways of announcing their presence. On Monday last one visited a house on the East Side, and just as he reached the steps he doubled up like a rubber ball - became a "horizontal reducer" as it were - and came against the door with a thump which sounded as though his velocity was about 20 miles an hour. It is almost needless to announce that he made no sales there. *LRW 2/20/1884*

The uncovering of the Washtenaw street sewer at the Grand street sewer causes a kind of dizzy, delirious, and decomposed smell in that neighborhood, which has a tendency to cut short street-corner visits there. *LRW 10/31/1883*

Wallace Glazier, who works at the stove factory, thumped a tramp, on Friday, who was prowling around his premises and frightening the women. In so doing he broke his little finger, which should teach Wallace that in all subsequent encounters of that nature a club is a more effective and at the same time a more pleasant weapon. *LRW 8/15/1883*

The rise in print paper is having one good effect. The news papers throughout the state are weeding their subscription lists and dropping many of their old subscribers with left-handed blessings for their "unremitting" kindness. *LRW 3/24/1880*

This is the season of the year to load your wheelbarrow up with a gloomy and eccentric collection of old peach cans, shoes, hoop-skirts, and other bric-a-brac, and then leave the whole business out by your front gate so that some unfortunate human being may come along in the irky blackness of the night and plunge madly over it. *LRW 4/30/1884*

The Historical Society seeks donations of local historical materials, such as papers or photos, especially of those related to our programs. All donations are made available to the public through the Local History Room at the Lansing Public Library. Please contact the Historical Society at 372-3385.

Board Meetings are held on the third Wednesdays of October, February, and April. Any business may be addressed to the Board before or at the meetings. All are invited.

Who do you know who should belong to the Historical Society? Send in your membership, and recruit a member.

Lansing Public Library Local History Room Hours

Tuesdays

12-3 p.m.

Wednesdays

12-3 and 5-7 p.m.

First Saturday of each month

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Recent Donations

- *The Oracle '94* (1894), year book of Lansing High School
- *Supreme Court Docket 1902*, State of Michigan
- *Martha, Child of the Prairie, 1917-1934*, an autobiography by Martha Lee Garrison which includes her adolescent years in East Lansing.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing
proudly presents

A Walking Tour of North Lansing

By Robert J. Morris,
President of City Visions, Inc.



A walking tour of historic North Lansing, covering the restored, the unrestored, and the much-changed. The tour will feature the area of Lansing's earliest settlement and include 1850's industrial sites, 1890's store fronts, the 1876 and 1914 North Lansing depots, the Turner-Dodge House, and an 1840's house, possibly the oldest in Lansing.

2:00 P.M.
Sunday, September 17, 1995

The tour will begin at **Brenke Fish Ladder, Burchard Park**, south of Grand River Ave., east side of the Grand River. *Parking is available.*

Sponsored by COMERICA Bank

We Listen. We Understand. We Make It Work.

The Public Is Invited

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*
P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

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The Historical Society of Greater Lansing seeks donations of local historical materials, such as papers or photos, especially of those related to our programs. These materials will be made available to the public for viewing and research in the Local History Room at the Lansing Public Library. Please contact the Historical Society at 517-372-3385.

The Local History Room at the Library is open Tuesdays from 12-3 p.m., Wednesdays from 12-3 and 5-7 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 9:30-1:30. For more information, contact JoAnne Jager, Local History Librarian, at 517-325-6400.

Board Meetings of the Historical Society are held on the third Wednesdays of October, February, and April, and several times during the summer. Any business may be addressed to the Board before or at the meetings. All are invited.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Newsletter Editor
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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

1995-1996 PROGRAMS

Walking Tour of North Lansing Sunday, September 17, 1995

A walking tour of historic North Lansing, covering the restored, the unrestored, and the much-changed. The tour will feature the area of Lansing's earliest settlement and include 1850's industrial sites, 1890's store fronts, the 1874 and 1916 North Lansing depots, the Turner-Dodge House, and an 1840's house, possibly the oldest in Lansing. Conducted by Robert J. Morris, President of City Visions, Inc., a restoration design company in Lansing. Start at Burchard Park . . . 2:00 p.m.

Treasures of the Local History Room Wednesday, November 15, 1995

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, JoAnne Jager, Local History Librarian, will showcase special items of Lansing history from the Local History collections. Reception will honor past presidents of the Society. Announcement of Sesquicentennial Family History Project for 1997. Lansing Public Library Galleries . . . 7:00 p.m.

The Woman's Hospital Association Centennial Wednesday, January 17, 1996

The Woman's Hospital Association – later associated with Edward W. Sparrow Hospital – has responded for 100 years to disasters in the community: typhoid epidemics, the Kern's fire, the Bath School bombing, and more. Program presented by Jean Frazier, from her book on the history of the hospital which was managed by women. Sparrow Hospital . . . 7:30 p.m.

Centennial of the Automobile Industry Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Dating from 1896 nationally, with Ransom E. Olds coming on the scene just a few months later, the new automobile industry staged major public relations events to promote the new transportation. Our program will cover races, stunts, and cross-country drives, as well as lesser-known individuals and companies in Lansing. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum . . . 7:30 p.m.

Stained Glass in Downtown Lansing Saturday, April 20, 1996

A special program presented by Betty MacDowell and Barbara Krueger, directors of the Michigan Stained Glass Census, a state-wide project sponsored by the MSU Museum. Lecture, lunch, and walking tour of stained glass in Downtown Lansing. Central Methodist Church . . . 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Annual Dinner Saturday, May 18, 1996

Annual Dinner with Business Meeting and Elections will follow historical displays and workshops. Lansing City Market, West Wing . . . Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Shouldn't you belong to the Historical Society in Michigan's Capital City?
You will receive advance program information, special discounts, and a newsletter of Lansing history.
Send in your membership. Recruit a friend.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of GREATER LANSING

P.O. Box 12095 Lansing MI 48901

Annual membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is due by *October 1, 1995*
for the 1995-1996 program year. Please clip and return this panel with payment.

New _____ Renewal _____

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Enclosed: ___ \$10.00 Individual ___ \$15.00 Family ___ \$150 Life _____ Gift

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a non-profit corporation, and we appreciate your support.
