

# HSGL Newsletter

Official Publication of the  
*Historical Society of Greater Lansing*

**May 1997**

## *Celebration of Pioneer Families*

**Awards & Annual Dinner, May 22  
6:00 p.m., Lansing Center  
Governor's Room, 2nd Floor  
*Sponsored by Wolverine Development***

In the past eighteen months, we have collected exciting information about our pioneer families. Through our Family History Project, we have received rare records, photos, and narratives of nearly 50 families, families who have lived in the Greater Lansing area for at least 100 years. Five of the families can verify 160 years.

The oldest families carry such names as North, Barnes, Potter, Rose, and Gibson. Other older names include Turner, Dell, Stebbins, Whitman, Weaver, Dean, Pollok, Carpenter, McKeough, Hamilton, and Shipp.

The material from all of the families is being indexed by Rick Cantwell. To date, he has indexed over 1200 names, with birth, death, and marriage dates indicated. The material also includes invaluable property records. All will be made available for viewing and research at the Local History Room, Lansing Library.

On Thursday, May 22, at the Annual Dinner, Mayor David H. Hollister will award certificates to representatives of the families who have lived here for 100 and 125 years. In honor of Lansing's Sesquicentennial, special recognition will go to those who have lived here 150 years or more.

*Join us on May 22!*



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.

## *Celebrate the Sesquicentennial!*

This year, Lansing is celebrating 150 years, all of it as the Capital City of Michigan. Between now and January 1998, you will find publications, speakers, exhibits, and several activities, such as walking tours, the Michigan Parade, the Sesquicentennial Birthday Party, Vintage Base Ball, and a New Year's Eve costume party. We are co-sponsoring many of these events.

On March 18, the Opening Gala of the Sesquicentennial was attended by 400 people and broadcast by MGTV. The March 20 program, "The Race to the Capital," by Jerry Lawler, brought out 100. And on April 12, many roamed the Rotunda of the Michigan Historical Center to hear speakers and see displays and rare maps and documents related to Lansing history.

The Sesquicentennial brochure, with a Calendar of Events and a Timeline of Lansing: The First 50 Years, is being distributed widely. Printing was donated by the John Henry Co., and HSGL members Harry Blanchard, Dave Caterino, John Curry, Jerry Lawler, Linda Peckham, Craig Whitford – and others – worked on the Timeline.

The television spots, "Lansing Stories," should begin soon on WLNS, Channel 6. These have been generously managed by HSGL Trustee Mark Ducker, assisted by members Rick Cantwell, Dave Caterino, Jerry Lawler, Jane McClary, Linda Peckham, Jacquie Sewell, and Martha Taylor.

### *Events to note:*

- May 10 "Lansing Land Use and Landscape," Tour, Soc of Arch Historians
- May 12 Exhibits in City Hall, Hist. District Commission, 5 p.m.
- May 17 Michigan Parades into the 21st Century, 11:30 a.m.
- May 22 Pioneer Families Awards/Annual Dinner, Lansing Center, 6 p.m.
- June 14 Sesquicentennial Birthday Party, Capitol Lawn, 1-4 p.m.  
Also: Architectural Scavenger Hunt, Hist. Dist. Comm.  
and "A Celebration of Cultures"

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### **WANTED:**

a copy of the

***Michigan, Michigan Free Press***

**Published in 1848**

**\$500.00 REWARD**

Call or write to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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The Historical Society seeks donations of local historical materials, such as records, papers or photos. All loans or donations are available to the public for viewing or research at the Local History Room, Lansing Library.

Donations are tax deductible.

Contact the Historical Society at 517-372-3385.

## News & Announcements

• **Volunteers Needed.** Thanks to all who have called to help with HSGL projects and with the Sesquicentennial. We still need volunteers to help with the following:

- The Mead Cards
- New Brochures: write, layout
- Distribution of material
- The Michigan Parade Entry

• **Nominations.** On May 22, we will elect Officers for 1997-98 and four Trustees for 1997-99. Nominations are:

Officers -

- President, Linda Peckham
- Vice-President, Rick Cantwell
- Secretary, Jane McClary
- Treasurer, Irene Dean

Trustees -

- Gary Bender
- Paula Gangopadhyay
- Fr. George Michalek
- Penny Zago

• **Publications.** We have reproduced two rare maps, suitable for framing:

- 1848 Hazen Map of Lansing,  
11x17. . . . \$2.00
- 1866 Birds Eye View of Lansing,  
18x24. . . . \$10.00

Brochures on Darius Moon, James Turner, Metta and R.E. Olds, and Charles H. Mead are in the works.

*Significant People Buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery*, a brochure with biographies of 33 people, and *Historic North Lansing: A Walking Tour of Lansing's "Old Town,"* are at the printers.

• **New Book. Metta & R.E. Olds: Loves Lives Labors**, published by HSGL member Patricia Heyden, covers the work and personal life of this Lansing family, known world wide. 100 pp., paper, many rare photos. Price: \$17.95 from Stuart Publishing, 882-9913.

• **Historic Marker Dedication.** To honor Lansing's circus owner Joseph E. Warner, a marker will be dedicated in Riverfront Park on May 13, along with a picnic dinner and a circus performance. Cost: \$25, with 50% going to Turner-Dodge. Reserve at 323-4353 by May 7.

• **Capital Area Library District.** A new District Library Board has been formed to manage and seek funding for a county-wide library system. This looks promising. We will continue to monitor the Local History Collections housed at the Library.

• **Historic Preservation Week, May 10-17.** Architectural tour of Lansing, May 10; exhibit and reception in City Hall, May 12.

### Membership

New or renewal, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing costs only **\$10** for an individual, **\$15** for a family. Special: dues paid now will be entered for the 1997-98 year. For **\$10 more**, you will receive the brochures and reproductions of the rare maps.

Mail check to the address on front.

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**Reservation Form**

**Annual Dinner**

**Deadline: May 15**

6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 22, 1997

Governor's Room, Lansing Center

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Beef & Broccoli \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey Picatta \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of dinners \_\_\_\_\_

x 16.00

Make check payable to the Historical Society  
PO Box 12095, Lansing MI 48901

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Lansing Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coins & Badges

Sesquicentennial  
Set of 4  
Elongated Coins  
Includes:  
Cent, Nickel, Dime  
& Quarter  
\$2.50 per set

Sesquicentennial  
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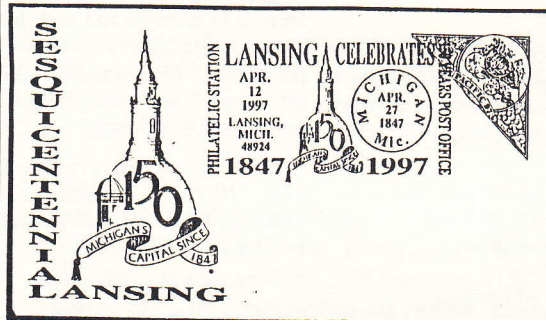
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### Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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**Pioneer Families Awards  
and  
Annual Dinner**

Historical Society of Greater Lansing  
Governor's Room, Lansing Center  
May 22, 1997

- 6:00 Family Displays  
6:30 Dinner  
7:30 Annual Meeting & Elections  
7:45 Presentation of Certificates  
David C. Hollister, Mayor of Lansing

*In Honor Of The  
Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial  
1847-1997*

Pioneer Family Awards

Cake pie

Photo by Linda Peckham

