

HSGL Newsletter

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

November, 1997

Finding Your Roots

Wednesday, November 19th, 1997

7:00 p.m., State Archives

The State Archives of Michigan has been preserving Michigan's documentary heritage since 1913. The State Archives' statutory mandate is to identify, preserve, and make available for research state and local government records of enduring value, as well as nongovernmental historical papers, maps, archives relating to the history of Michigan. However, the State Archives has focused upon preserving government records over the years. Today, its holdings include over 80,000,000 documents, 330,000 photo images, and 500,000 maps all dealing with Michigan.

Why are records preserved by the State Archives? In a real sense these carefully selected records serve as Michigan's memory. Historians, attorneys, genealogists and others study archival records for data on people, places and events to obtain a better understanding of Michigan's rich heritage.

The State Archives is located in the impressive Michigan Library and Historical Center at 717 W. Allegan in downtown Lansing. Hours are weekdays Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Staff is available to assist patrons with their research. For the best service, call or write to inform them when you are coming and what questions you hope to answer.

John Curry

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.
Newsletter Editor- Paula Gangopadhyay

R: Wed. Nov. 12 - 1997

Calendar of Events

November 19th, 1997

Finding your Roots, 7:00 p.m., State Archives. 717 W. Allegan St.

December 14th, 1997

Candlelight & Carols, a Downtown Church Walk. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Starts at Ottawa & Seymour Streets.

December 31st, 1997

Fest Eve, 1847 Dance.

January 14th, 1998

150th Anniversary of Legislature in Lansing. Capitol Rotunda.

March 18th, 1998

Significant Women in Lansing's History, 7:00 p.m., Lansing Library.

April 1998

Showcase of Early Aviation. To be announced.

May 20th, 1998.

Annual Dinner & Salute to Early Lansingites. 6:00 p.m. Michigan Historical Center. 717 W. Allegan St.

Reports

Pioneer Ghost Walk, September 17th, 1997: Nearly 200 people attended the Ghost Walk in Mount Hope Cemetery and we have had many calls asking for a repeat of the program. Thanks to all the volunteers who told us about some of Lansing's pioneers and made the fall evening most enjoyable.

Family History Project: Applications continue to come in from families who have lived in the Greater Lansing area for at least 100 years. We are receiving invaluable records and narratives, and thanks to Rick Cantwell the names are being indexed on computer. All of the material will be available in Local History in a few months.

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

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.

Announcements

Linda Peckham has been named to a sub-committee to look at the function of the Lansing Public Library by the new Capitol Area District Library Board.

Volunteers Needed: We need help with the membership list, distribution of publications, and the collection of material on Lansing women. Interested?

Available & Free

Significant People Buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery: A walking tour brochure with biographies of 33 people.

Historic North Lansing: A walking tour of Lansing's "Old Town".

Publications & Such

The following items are now available at the State Museum Gift Shop, 717 W. Allegan Street.

*We have reproduced two rare maps suitable for framing:

1848 Hazen map, 11x 17 \$3.00

1866 Bird's Eye View of Lansing
18x24 \$10.00

*Book on Metta and R.E Olds.

Loves, Lives, Labor, published by HSGL member Pat Heyden, covers the work and personal life of this Lansing family, known world wide, 100 pp., many rare photos, Stuart Publishing Company. \$17.95

**Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Lansing 1847-1997.*

\$36.95

* Sesquicentennial T- Shirts printed with historic photos. \$15.00

Give A Gift That Gives All Year...

Membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Membership Application			
Historical Society of Greater Lansing P.O Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901			
Annual Membership in HSGL runs from July 1st through June 30th each year. Please clip and return this coupon with payment.			
NEW RENEWAL			
Enclosed \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$150 Life Gift			
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____
The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a non-profit corporation and we appreciate your support.			

A red dot on the mailing label indicates that we have not received dues from you for this year. Time to renew your membership!

Coming Events:

Finding Your Roots: People and Property

When: Wednesday, November 19, 1997, 7:00 p.m.
What: Get an inside look at the records housed in the State Archives
Where: State Archives of Michigan
Michigan Library and Historical Center,
2nd Floor East
717 West Allegan, Downtown Lansing

This event is sponsored by Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC

Candlelight & Carols: Downtown Church Walk

When: Sunday, December 14, 1997, 2:00 p.m.
What: A walking tour of 5 downtown Lansing churches with holiday decorations and music.
Where: Begin at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Ottawa at Seymour

*Trinity P. Pearson
401 E. Willard #110
Lansing, MI 48910*

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



Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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DOWNTOWN LANSING CHURCH WALK

December 14, 1997

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

218 W. Ottawa at Seymour

In 1849, a group of Episcopal laymen organized a missionary congregation in Lansing, and the church was accepted into the Diocese of Michigan in 1856. The Rev. John Bramwell of Monroe was the first rector of the parish. The first church was built in 1859 at the corner of N. Washington and Ionia, later the site of Daniel Buck's Opera House, which became the Gladmer Theater. A wooden Gothic church was built on the present site facing the Capitol in 1873, the same year that construction began on the State Capitol building. This church was replaced by a brick structure in 1914, to which a large parish house was added in 1952. The church is noted for its exceptionally beautiful stained glass windows and wood carvings, many done by the Rev. William S. Hill, who served the congregation for many years.

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

215 N. Capitol Avenue at Ottawa

The first religious group organized in Lansing was a Methodist class that met in the cabin of Joab Page, near the dam in what is now North Lansing. The date was 1846, a year before the town was founded. Soon the congregation met in "God's Barn," a building belonging to James Seymour which he converted into a chapel. The First Methodists used this chapel until they built a frame church at Cedar and Franklin (Grand River Ave.) in 1870. A second Methodist class was organized in 1850 in Middle Town. These Central Methodists built a brick church at N. Washington and Ottawa in 1862. In 1890, their present fine stone church, with beautiful stained glass windows, was dedicated a block away. The church may have been designed by E. E. Myers, architect of the State Capitol. The Temple House (1923) and the Mary-Sabina Chapel (1942) were gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Scott. In 1951, a carillon of 36 bells was placed in the tower.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

227 N. Capitol at Ionia

In 1848 a group of Baptists organized a church in Lansing, securing a site for a building near the new State Capitol. This effort did not succeed,

and in 1850 another group began meeting. They chartered the First Baptist Church of Lansing in 1851, and a white frame church was built on the present site in 1859. In 1892, a new church of dressed fieldstone with beautiful stained glass windows, designed by Bowd and Mead, was begun under the direction of the Rev. Levi Temple and Dr. Henry R. Pattengill, Building Chairman and State Superintendent of Education. The Rev. Julius Fischbach served as pastor from 1936-1961. The Children's Center was built with funds donated by the R. E. Olds family, members of the church. The sanctuary was extensively remodeled in 1959.

ST. MARY CATHEDRAL

219 Seymour at Ionia

The first Catholic mass was held in Lansing in 1858 in the log cabin of Thomas Saier. The Catholic population was served by missionary priests from Detroit until 1862 when the Bishop sent Father Van Driss to establish a permanent parish in the city. In 1864, a church was built on Madison near Chestnut, the tower and spire being completed in 1880. Father Brancheau, who came to St. Mary in 1897, was instrumental in the building of the present elegant Norman Gothic structure, which was built as a parish church and consecrated in 1913. Designed by Bowd, its nave is 108' long and 63' wide. In 1937, St. Mary became the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Lansing, with Joseph H. Albers as the first bishop.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

211 N. Chestnut at Ottawa

The Presbyterians were organized in the "Town of Michigan" on December 17, 1847, by the Rev. Calvin Clark, a missionary sent to help establish frontier churches. For a time, they shared space in God's Barn with the Methodists in Lower Town (North Lansing). In 1852, they built the first church building in Lansing, on N. Washington at Genesee. The Rev. George Duffield, author of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," served as pastor from 1876 to 1879. In 1889, a new Romanesque church was dedicated at Allegan and Capitol, which served for nearly sixty years. In 1948, they moved to their present site, meeting in the basement until the church was completed in 1953. The elegant, spare Georgian church includes a unique wineglass pulpit. In 1984, the Molly Grove Chapel was a gift of Nan Wood Holmes; in 1986, the Hall of Christian Pioneers opened, a display of ten paintings that depict various Christian influences in Michigan.

April 19, 1998
St. Paul's Episcopal

VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE

A memorial videotape will be made featuring interior and exterior views of the church, conversations and interviews with church members and friends, and the Remembrance and Appreciation service. It will later be shown on Lansing's local-access television station.

The video will be available free of charge to anyone wanting a copy.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please so indicate on the enclosed response card.