

The **HISTORICAL SOCIETY** of **GREATER LANSING**

March 2001

The Grand River History March 25 • Sunday • 2:00 p.m.

**Michigan Library and
Historical Center**

This year, the **Historical Society of Greater Lansing** is celebrating the vital role of the Grand River in the development of Lansing. The longest river in Michigan has been known by many names: Wash-ten-ong, Wash-ten-ong-sepe, O-washtenong, Wash-be-you, Great, LeGrande, and finally the Grand River.

The Grand River, flowing through the capital city of Michigan, was a highway for Native Americans as well as a source of food for them. Fur traders transported trade goods up the river to their trading posts and pelts down the river to the shores of Lake Michigan.

The Grand River was a highway for migrating settlers and their provisions, enabling them to locate and reach lands in the Grand River Valley without traveling over almost impassable wetlands and forests. The river's waters were used to power sawmills and gristmills vital to the development and sustenance of the pioneer settlements.

Wheat, produce, and lumber, the early exports of Michigan, were transported out of the valley along the magnificent Grand River.

The building of dams, bridges, and roadways across the Grand River required permits from the State Legislature. Hence, the records of such activities exist and provide rarely-known dates and names of requestors.

On March 25, Jerry Lawler, Executive Director of the Michigan Capitol Committee and a master researcher of Lansing history, will relate the early history of the Grand River. The program will be held at the Forum Auditorium of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 717 West Allegan, Downtown Lansing.

There is parking on the street and a lot directly south of the Center.

Join us on Sunday, March 25
Grand River History
2:00 p.m.
Forum Auditorium
717 W. Allegan

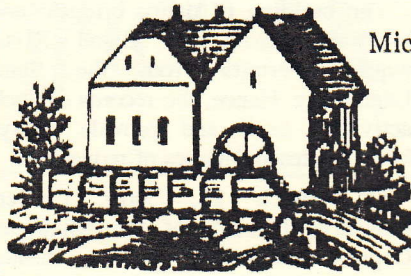
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On May 16, 2001, we will hold the Annual Dinner on the Michigan Princess Riverboat. Details inside.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing supports the Local History Room at the Lansing Public Library, and offers programs, projects, and publications about mid-Michigan history. We welcome donations of papers and photos.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing
invites you to hear about

“The Early History of the Grand River”
presented by Jerry Lawler



Michigan Library and Historical Center
Forum

717 West Allegan

Parking is available in the lot
on the south side of the Center

Sunday, March 25, 2001

2:00 p.m.

Learn about the history of Michigan's longest river
and the important role this crucial resource has played in the
development of Lansing and of Michigan.

Sesquicentennial Commemorative Candle

On January 28, President Rick Cantwell accepted the Sesquicentennial Commemorative Candle for the HSGL, when the First Baptist Church returned it for safekeeping. During the previous year, the candle was an honored part of the monthly celebrations leading up to the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist congregation.

The idea of the commemorative candle was initiated by the Presbyterians, and it has been passed from church to church for their sesquicentennials through the HSGL. The fifth denomination to start a congregation here was the Universalist Church in 1852.

Board Election

The HSGL will elect officers and trustees at the Annual Dinner in May. The four officers and the terms of four trustees expire each year. Some will run for re-election, but we need a nominee for president and at least one trustee. We are also looking for a Newsletter Editor. Anyone interested in these positions should contact a Board Member or Rick Cantwell, President, at 886-5230.

Italian-American Heritage

The Italian-American Club of Lansing has recently published a *Book of Memories* which records the stories of over 80 Italian families that immigrated into Lansing beginning in the 1890s. For information, call Charles Spagnuolo at 694-5104. Price: \$25.00

Ghost Gardens

A woman has contacted the HSGL asking if anyone knows of any "ghost gardens" in the area. She describes these as abandoned formal gardens which still show some structures or terracing. She is collecting material for a book. Contact Rick Cantwell.

Annual Dinner • May 16, 2001

In keeping with our river theme, on Wednesday, May 16, we will hold the Annual Dinner aboard the **Michigan Princess Riverboat** on the Grand River. Plan on a little cruise, a little music, a fine dinner, and historic photos and commentary along the route. Time: 6-8:30. Tickets: \$35.00. Mark your calendars!

Book Fair • April 1

The HSGL will have a table at the **Genealogy & History Book Fair** on April 1, in the Lansing Center-Hall B. Admission to the hall from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. is \$2.00.

Historic Districts

Under the auspices of the Historic District Commission of the City of Lansing, a Study Committee has presented a report to City Council on the establishment of several Historic Districts in Downtown Lansing. The study includes valuable research and photographs of buildings. Buildings within a Historic District are eligible for consulting assistance from the City and tax credits for restoration from the State of Michigan. Contact your Councilperson with support!

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P.O. Box 12095 Lansing MI 48901

Membership Form

Annual membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing covers Aug. 2000-July 2001

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ New _____ Renewal _____

_____ \$15.00 Individual \$ _____ Donation

_____ \$25.00 Family \$ _____ Local History Fund

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501c3 non-profit corporation; we appreciate your support.

The
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of **GREATER LANSING**

Michigan's Capital City Since 1847

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing sponsors a variety of programs, projects, and publications of local historic interest:

Sample Programs and Projects:

- Walking tours in Downtown Lansing, in North Lansing, in the cemetery . . .
- Speakers on Pioneer Women, R.E. and Metta Olds, Trinity AME Church, the Polish pioneers . . .
- Pioneer Family History Project

Publications:

- Note Cards, 1870s Drawings by CH Mead
 - Historic Architectural Scavenger Hunt
 - Brochures on Pioneers
 - *Significant People Buried in Mt. Hope*
 - Rare Maps
 - *Lansing Through the Years*, Photo Book
-

Board Members 2000-2001

Pres. Rick Cantwell	Sec. David Rumohr
V-Pres. Harry Emmons	Treas. Ron Turner
Bill Atkinson	Linda Peckham
Jerry Lawler	Seymour VanDerske
Joe Maguire	Stephanie Whitbeck
Gertrude Mitchell	Penny Zago

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