



History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

May 2011

Upcoming Events

On May 19, retired Michigan State Capitol Historian Kerry Chartkoff will speak on the career and private life of Governor Austin Blair. Best known as the Civil War Governor of Michigan, Blair's political rise and fall was marked by huge success and terrible failure. A founder of the anti-slavery Republican Party, Blair was a radical who decried the death penalty and fought for decades for women's suffrage. Chartkoff will speak on Blair at the Capitol Area District Library's downtown branch at 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 19.

Mark your calendars now for HSGL's cemetery tour, which will take place at 2:00 pm on Sunday, August 21. This year's walk will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, on Lansing's west side. More information will be coming soon on this event.

The Lansing – Jackson Interurban

On Thursday, April 21, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing had the distinct pleasure of hosting guest speaker Norm Krentel, an active volunteer at the Illinois Railway Museum. A Lansing native and son of a railroad enthusiast, Norm grew up visiting the tracks of old railroads and inter-urban lines, both in and outside of Michigan. His father's enthusiasm for the topic quickly became his own, and he has spent a great deal of time over the last few decades doing his own railroad research, and restoring historic train cars.

In his talk, Norm focused on the old Lansing Jackson Inter-urban line. He showed many excellent photos of the old line, both when it was running, and in its present state. Included in his presentation was information about the long-running confrontation between the Inter-urban line and the City of Mason. His knowledge of this event, as well as his obvious enthusiasm for his topic, made the evening enjoyable for the large audience that attended.

HSGL Annual Meeting

Thursday evening, June 16 is the date of this year's annual meeting, which will consist of a walking tour of four of downtown Lansing's most beautiful and historical churches, followed by a dinner and short meeting. The churches featured on the tour are: Christ Community (the old First Baptist Church), Central United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral.

The event will begin at 5:30 pm sharp at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. All those participating will meet in the Merrifield Room. Parking will be available at the Roosevelt Parking Ramp located on the corner of Ionia and Seymour streets downtown. From there a historical society board will direct you into St. Paul's Merrifield Room. We'll then split into smaller groups, for ease of traveling, and each group will tour all four churches.

Upon completing the tour, we'll all reconvene at St. Paul's Merrifield Room, where we will enjoy a wonderful dinner from A Catered Affair. The menu will consist of three meal choices – beef (top round steak with mushroom sauce) chicken (Michigan cherry chicken), and a vegetarian option (fettuccine with mushrooms and asparagus spears). You'll need to let us know which option you prefer when you purchase your tickets.

The cost of the tour is \$20 per person for historical society members, and \$25 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased by filling out the form enclosed with this newsletter and sending it to HSGL at P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, 48901. You may also bring this form to the May meetings and give it to either Valerie Marvin or Bill Atkinson then. If you have any questions about the dinner or the event, feel free to contact Valerie at vrmarvin@sbcglobal.net or by calling 517-282-0671.

Bylaws Changes

Below you will find the current set of bylaws for the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. The sections that we wish to change are those that have been ~~struck through~~. The new language proposed by the board is written in ***bold italics***.

As the bylaws state that the proposed changes must be distributed to the general membership at least two weeks in advance, we've chosen to include them in the May newsletter, instead of the June. If you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to contact any of the board members.

The "purpose" clause was revised to provide additional indication of principal priorities for Society activities. It is not seen as narrowing the scope of the Society in any way.

Another change that you will notice is the abolition of the society's life membership. If you are already a life member of the HSGL, your membership is grandfathered in – that is, we will still count you as a life member. We will not, however, continue to offer *new* life memberships in the future. Also, dues will be effective for twelve months after payment instead of for an arbitrary, fixed period; this will allow members to get a full twelve months' value from their dues, regardless of when paid.

The change providing that the Executive Board members must be members in good standing simply makes explicit an assumption already widely accepted. The final proposed change, providing an attendance expectation for Executive Board members, is needed in view of the increased number of activities and decisions needed in order to carry out the activities of the Society.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing	
P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901 www.LansingHistory.org	
<i>Officers & Board Members</i>	
Valerie Marvin – President	Harry Emmons – Trustee
Doug Johnson – Vice President	Sarah Anthony – Trustee
Richard Hathaway – Secretary	David Votta – Trustee
Bill Atkinson – Treasurer	Robert Hudson - Trustee
Nathalie Winans - Trustee	Lille Foster - Trustee

The Bylaws of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

~~I. The Purpose of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is to promote an interest in the history of the Greater Lansing region and to conduct projects of a historical nature.~~

I. Mission Statement
The Historical Society of Greater Lansing strives to enhance our community by promoting a greater understanding of history.

HSGL Values

- ***Collaboration – Working with the Capitol Area District Library and other entities to accomplish shared goals***
- ***Education – Interpretation through events and exhibits***
- ***Preservation – The safeguarding of structures, objects, materials, and information***
- ***Access – Facilitating Research***

II. The Membership includes anyone who pays the dues of the society

A. General membership dues are established by the Executive Board.

~~B. Other Membership categories and their dues are:~~

- ~~1. Family Membership: One and one half that of general membership~~
- ~~2. Organization and Business Memberships: Ten times that of General Membership~~
- ~~3. Life Membership: Twenty times that of General Membership and are paid once during the member's lifetime.~~

~~C. All dues are payable by October 1.~~

B. Other Membership categories and their dues are:

- 1. Family Membership: Two times that of one general membership, minus \$10***
- 2. Organization and Business Memberships: Five times that of one general membership***
- C. Dues may be paid at any time, and are good for one year.***

III. The Officers of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing are president, vice president, secretary,

treasurer, and up to eight trustees, constituting the Executive Board.

- A. The president chairs the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board and appoints and is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- B. The vice president acts in place of the president when the president is absent and chairs the Programs Committee.
- C. The secretary conducts the correspondence and records all proceedings.
- D. The treasurer keeps accounts of receipts and expenditures, and makes payments of accounts as authorized by the Executive Board.
- E. The president, vice president, secretary and treasurer serve one year terms; the trustees serve two year terms, up to four elected in each alternate year.
- F. Officers and trustees are nominated at the May meeting and elected at the annual general meeting, with new terms beginning at the end of the annual general meeting.
- G. A vacancy in office will be filled for the balance of the term by a member chosen by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- H. All members of the Executive Board must be members in good standing.**

IV. Duties of the Executive Board consist of those actions necessary to act on behalf of the general membership of the society.

V. Meetings include general meetings set by the Executive Board and an annual membership meeting held in June. Special general meetings may be called, after seven days' notice, at the request of any twelve members of the Society.

A. Executive Board meetings are held at least every three months, as called by the president. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called, after seven days notice, at the request of a majority of the Board.

B. A quorum of any general or special membership meetings consists of those members present. A quorum at any Executive Board meeting consists of a majority of elected Board members.

C. Board members must attend at least five board meetings every year. Elected board members who do

not attend at least five meetings each year may be asked to resign their position.

VI. Committees can include such groups as Programs, Ways and Means, Information, Membership, and special committees designated by the Executive Board.

VII. Parliamentary Authority is the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, which governs in all applicable cases where it is not incongruous with these Bylaws or with special rules of order of the Society.

VIII. Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a 2/3 vote of members present at any general meeting, with two weeks prior notice being given to members of the amendments.

IX. Upon Dissolution of the Society, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all the assets of the Society, exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such matter, or to such organization or organizations, organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Other Historical Happenings

The Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society meeting for Wednesday, May 25, 7 pm is a Panel Presentation: "Personal Experiences with DNA" at Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48912.

The Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society is sponsoring a free "Who Do You Think YOU Are?" mentoring workshop for genealogy beginners. (about 4 sessions). Please contact Judy at pfaff@msu.edu or Jim at jimmypnl@gmail.com. Date(s), time & place to be announced.

The East Lansing Historical Society will meet to discuss the Chesterfield Hills area of East Lansing on May 22, a Sunday, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center at 2 PM. That neighborhood dates from 1916 and 1923, when it was platted.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Historical Society of Greater Lansing - Membership Application

Please accept my application for:

- New Membership
- Renewal Membership
- Gift Membership

in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

I have enclosed:

- \$15 Individual Membership
- \$25 Family Membership
- \$150 Life Membership
- \$_____ Additional Gift to HSGL

Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Make Checks Payable to
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

*The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.
Thank you for your support of our programs and activities.*