

History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

September 2013

Special Thank You to Susanne Palmer

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing would like to say a big thank you to Mrs. Susanne Palmer for her generous gift of \$1,000 to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing's museum fund. The gift was made in honor of her grandparents, P.J. and Minnie Creyts, who built the Creyts home, where HSGL houses our collections and mounts exhibits. This is the largest single gift thus far to our museum fund.

HSGL Upcoming Events

Lansing Eats! Exhibit Open

*Sunday, September 1, 2013 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Creyts House, 831 North Washington*

Satisfy your craving for Lansing history with a visit to our Lansing Eats! exhibit featuring local cookbooks, rare china, vintage restaurant menus, and more! Please note that this is the last day to view this exhibit.

September Meeting – Among the Enemy: A Michigan Soldier's Civil War Journal

*Thursday, September 19, 2013 7:00 pm
Downtown CADL, 401 South Capitol Avenue.*

Join HSGL for an evening with Mark Hoffman, Michigan Historian and DNR Chief Administrative Officer for a discussion of Michigan soldiers in the Civil War. Hoffman will share excerpts from his most recent publication, *Among the Enemy: A Michigan Soldier's Civil War Journal*, penned by William Horton Kimball, a member of the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics.

Old Town Walking Tour - Newly Added! *Saturday, September 21, 2013 12:30 pm*

Join HSGL for a repeat of our popular Old Town tour just before MICA's annual Blues Fest. The walk will be led by Valerie Marvin and Jesse LaSorda. The tour meets at Clark Hill parking lot at the intersection of Turner and Grand River Streets.

Lansing Votes!

HSGL is hard at work gearing up for our next exhibit, Lansing Votes! Items related to former (not current) city council members and mayors are being sought for the exhibit. If you have an item you'd consider loaning, please contact HSGL at info@lansinghistory.org or 517-282-0671.

Annual Silent Auction

*Saturday, October 5th 4:00 – 6:30 pm
John Dye Water Plant - 148 South Cedar Street*

Please support HSGL's efforts to establish a Lansing area historical museum by attending our annual auction! Proceeds from past auctions have made it possible to expand and properly house our growing historical collection, as well as mounting three pop-up exhibits. Your support is very much appreciated! At present HSGL's museum fund contains over \$23,000 and continues to grow, thanks to your support.

The auction is being hosted by the Lansing Board of Water and Light at the John Dye Water Conditioning Plant at 148 S. Cedar St. Valet parking will be available. The night will include a silent auction, a live auction, hors d'oeuvres, and a tour of the BWL plant, including a short talk about the WPA murals. Tickets may be purchased using the enclosed ticket form, by calling 517-282-0671, or through our website, www.lansinghistory.org.

Some of Our Unique Auction Items Include:

- A weekend stay in a condo at The Homestead in Glen Arbor
- A ride in a Lansing made REO
- A folk Victorian era chair
- Elmore Leonard signed books
- A ride in a vintage Michigan State Police Cruiser
- An Ultimate Getaway Package from the English Inn which includes a champagne dinner and an overnight stay
- The chance to watch Tim Barron host his morning show on WLMI 92.9 FM
- The use of a box at Cooley Stadium for a Lugnuts game
- Tickets to Common Ground 2014
- WPA Art walking tour of MSU with Prof. Susan Bandes
- Gift certificates to local restaurants, theatres, hotels, salons, golf, antique shops, and more

Mabel C. Mosher
Bread and Beer - A Lansing Family Tradition
by Jesse Lasorda

Mabel Mosher and her family had an impact not only on the Greater Lansing community, but also to a greater extent the nation during World War I; also before the war and after, as well.

Mabel was born in Lansing Michigan on April 23, 1885. Adelbert Mosher her father, was born in Bay, Macomb County, Michigan on January, 1 1861. He was a long time Lansing attorney and attended University Of Michigan "Class of 1894". His Law Office was located in the Jenison Block in downtown Lansing. Adelbert was a long time member of Knights of Pythias. Mabel's mother Bertha Weinman[n] was born in Lansing in July of 1859; she spent her entire life residing in Lansing and was charter member of the Pythian Sisters. Both of Mabel's grandparents on her mother's side of the family were from Germany. The couple married May 1, 1883 in the Capital City.

It should be noted that the Weinman[n] family has a rich history connection to Lansing, Michigan dating back to at least the 1850's. Mabel's grandfather Frederick Weinman owned and operated one Lansing's first breweries which was located in North Lansing on the corner of Turner and Clinton Streets, the building still stands today. Former Capital Area District Librarian Dave Vota has written on Lansing breweries and the Weinman family as part of a series "Lost Lansing" which can be found on the CADL website.

The Mosher family by the 1890's had expanded to five with the arrival of two boys Walter (1889) and Roscoe (1892). The family resided at two different homes located at 408 and 412 Genesee; the latter home still stands today and is where the majority of their lives were spent.

Mabel attended Lansing schools she graduated with the Lansing High School class of 1904. After high school is

where Mabel Mosher's educational path took a most interesting turn from most women students in 1905. While at Michigan Agriculture College (MSU) she was involved in a field most women in the day did not attempt, chemistry. Also one has to remember Michigan Agricultural College was very slow in incorporating women into full programs as opposed to short courses. That changed drastically in 1896 when women's courses were offered.

The science world seemed a part of the Mosher and Weinman[n] family DNA. Mabel's two brothers Roscoe the younger brother (M.A.C. Class of 1920) was also a chemist and the older brother Walter was medical doctor in Ventura, California. Mabel's Brother Fred Weinman was a druggist in Lansing many years.

Mabel graduated from Michigan Agriculture College in 1908 with a B.S. degree. While attending M.A.C. she participated in both the Sororian and Literary Societies. The college thought enough of her talents that she was hired as an instructor in the Floor Technology

Department only a few short years after she graduated where she worked from 1913 through 1917. She also was employed by the State of Michigan in the Food and Drug Department as chemist, which again was remarkable for the era.



While World War I in Europe was escalating and the U.S. was drawn into the war, back home in the City of Lansing a young women Chemist named Mabel Mosher was busy doing her part for the war effort.

Mabel was deeply entrenched with her chemistry skills in squeezing the most out of the necessary ingredients to produce bread. Although this endeavor may seem rather small in the big scheme of things in the war effort, it certainly was not the case. Bread was beyond an important

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necessity for soldiers since the world has been involved in conflicts.

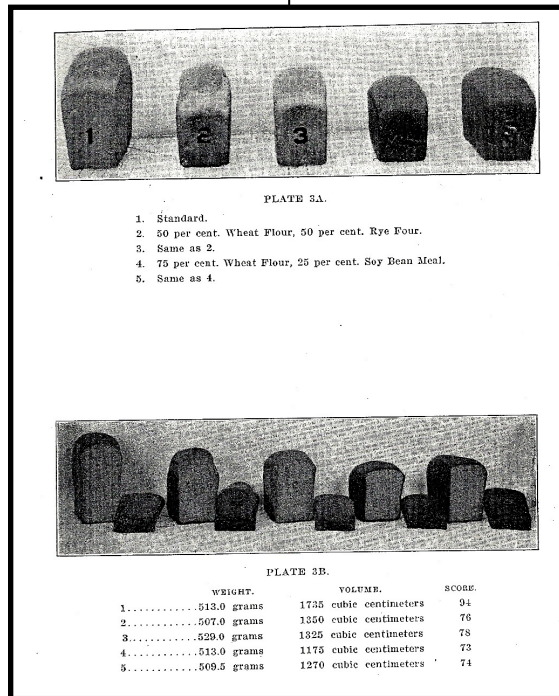
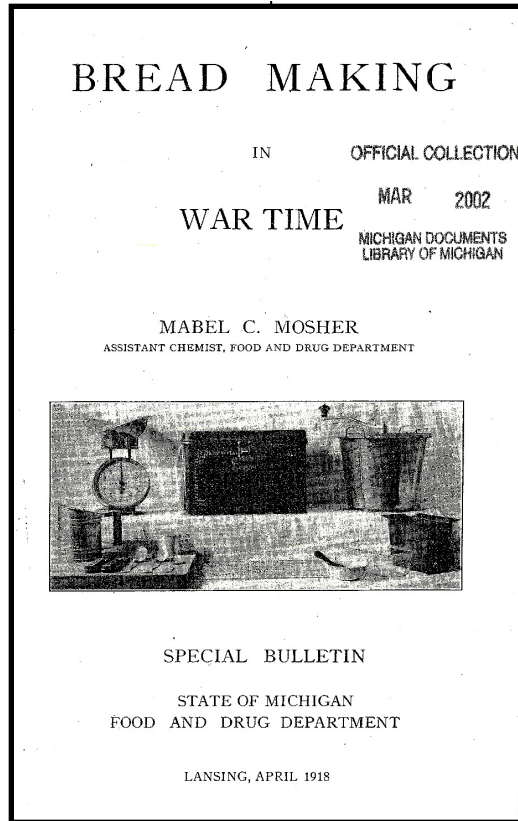
In April of 1918 Mabel Mosher was directly responsible for a Special Bulletin "Bread Making in War Time", while working for the State of Michigan Food and Drug Department as an assistant chemist. The United States wheat yield in 1918 was much lower than anticipated and President Hoover had grave concerns not only for the U.S. soldiers during the war but on the home front as well. In a speech to hotel men at the New Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 1918, Herbert Hoover said, "Our wheat situation is today the most serious situation in the food supply of the whole allied world."

This Special Bulletin on "Bread Making in War Time" can to this day be found at many wonderful universities such as U of M, Illinois, Minnesota, and New York Public Libraries.

Bakers in the United States were hard at work trying to squeeze as much as they could out of what little wheat that was available. Bakers were given directives to use less sugar and fat and use 25 percent less flour. They used some of the ingredients we take for granted today such as corn, cottonseed, peanut, sesame, coconut, palm oils and nut margarines. Some of the sugar substitute's that were used were molasses, honey, and malt extract. Many variations of muffins were developed as well barley, rye, rice and hominy. Being a bread lover I can only imagine what some of these combinations tasted like and I am sure food allergies in 1918 were ignored or were not realized at the time, most likely the latter.

Bread making was developing into a science thanks to large part by an assistant chemist from the Capital City of Michigan, Mabel Mosher.

After the War had ended in November of 1918 Mabel was off to Portland, Oregon where she was employed as a chemist at a flour mill. Mabel remained in Portland until the latter part of the 1920's.



Mabel's father Adelbert passed May 1, 1929 and it was not long after his passing Mabel was back in her hometown of Lansing with her mother Bertha who was 71 years old by then.

It seems by 1930 Mabel's career was sidetracked and her focus was on caring for her aging mother. Mabel's mother Bertha passed on August 4, 1937 at 78 years old. One can only imagine that the Great Depression took a toll on Mabel's desired to remain in Lansing as well.

By 1937 Mabel was 52 years old; her chemistry career seemed to be permanently in the background by then. Part of the large home at 412 Genesee Street it seems was rented out in the 1940's for extra income possibly. In 1948 she was working as a receptionist for unknown business. It does not appear Mabel ever married or had children.

Mabel remained connected to Michigan State University and her sorority sisters at Kappa Alpha Theta & Patriarch throughout her lifetime.

On April 26, 1964 Mabel Mosher's trail blazing early life come to an end at seventy-nine years old. What she had accomplished in those short early years was quit remarkable and one can only imagine if she had lived in a different time and era what might have been.

Mabel Mosher's finally resting place is at Mt Hope Cemetery in Lansing, alongside her mother, father, uncle, and grandparents. Her youngest brother Roscoe is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Lansing; he passed in 1946. Coincidentally, the President

of Michigan Agricultural College during the time in which Mosher attended, Jonathan L. Snyder, is buried only a short distant from the Mosher family burial lots.

The next time you are in one of the Greater Lansing's pubs enjoying a sandwich and a beer, remember the Mosher and Weinman families and their lasting impact on Lansing's rich history.



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:

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$30 Family Membership
- \$100 Business Membership
- \$_____ Additional Gift to HSGL

Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Please Send The Newsletter
Via Email

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.*