

History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

July 2016

HSGL Summer Walking Tour Schedule

North Washington Ave. Tour

Thursday, July 14, 2016 - 7:00 pm

*Tour meets at the Creyts House, SW corner of
Washington and Oakland*

Join the Historical Society of Greater Lansing on Thursday, July 14 for a walking tour showcasing some of what once were some of Lansing premier family homes in the 800, 900 and 1000 blocks of North Washington Ave. Now mostly occupied by businesses, these homes showcase beautiful workmanship a variety of architectural styles. Three of the homes featured on the tour are the work of Lansing architect Darius Moon. The tour, which will be led by Bill Castanier and Karla Barber, begins at the Creyts House at the corner of N. Washington and Oakland Ave. Most us drive by these wonderful homes and wonder who lived there? Now find out why this neighborhood just a few blocks from Old Town and one block from the Grand River is so special.

Moores River Drive Architectural Tour

Thursday, August 4, 2016 - 7:00 pm

*Tour meets at the Lansing Country Club sign
2200 S. Moores River Dr.*

Take a stroll down historic Moores River Drive and enjoy stories from one of Lansing's most elite historical neighborhoods. The homes on Moores River Drive are a three dimensional textbook of popular 20th century architectural styles and forms, from Tudor Revivals to Bungalows, and Colonial Revivals to mid-century Moderns. The tour will include information about the founding and evolution of the neighborhood, stories about some of the original home owners, and tips for identifying architectural styles and features.

Lansing Cemetery and Eastside Park Tour

Saturday, July 23, 2016 - 10:00 am

*Tour meets at the Old Oak Park School
620 Leshar Place*

Join HSGL for a tour that includes the old Lansing Cemetery, also known as the Oak Park Cemetery, an active burial site from 1852-1874. We'll also visit Eastside Park (Oak Park) with its wading ponds and beautiful fountains - once considered one of Lansing's premier parks. We'll stop at the former Ransom E. Olds building on Leshar Place, built in 1910, and the Leshar Place School and Oak Park School, built in 1916. Finally, the tour will end at the home of one of mid-Michigan's premier architects, Darius Moon.

MSU Sports Complex Tour

Saturday, August 20, 2016 - 10:00 am

*Tour meets at IM Circle West on MSU's campus
308 W. Circle Dr.*

On the second annual tour of the historic MSU campus, join Stephen Terry and see the development of the mighty Spartan nation on a visit to the athletic facilities of the University. Beginning at the no longer standing 1885 armory and the first military drill field, we'll see the only building left on the campus that displays the Michigan Agricultural College logo, gather around and learn about the origins of the Spartan, see the earliest athletic fields of the campus and view the current athletic complex.

A History of Delhi Township

By Jacob McCormick

President, Holt-Delhi Historical Society

The history of Delhi Township dates to the 1820s when the area was surveyed by well-known state surveyors John Mullet, Lucius Lyon, and Musgrove Evans. All surveying of interior and exterior boundaries of the township was completed between 1825 and 1827. The first settlers arrived within ten years. Frederick R. Luther, Delhi's first resident settled on May 4, 1837. Just after Mr. Luther, John Norris arrived on May 22, 1837. Among Delhi's earliest families are Phillips, Douglass, Thompson, Abbott, North, Everett, Holmes, and Thorburn.

The state of Michigan officially entered the Union of the United States on January 26, 1837, just months before Delhi's earliest settlers arrived. Ingham County was informally established on October 29, 1829 from Shiawassee and Washtenaw Counties. In 1838, after Michigan joined the Union, Ingham's government was formally established. On March 5, 1838, Alaiedon Township was politically established. Originally, Alaiedon Township was the entire western half of Ingham County.

On February 16, 1842, Act No. 57 of the Public Acts of 1842 formed Lansing Township, Meridian Township, and Delhi Township in Ingham County. The townships were formed from the original Alaiedon Township that had earlier been established. It is said that pioneer settler Roswell Everett inserted the name "Delhi" into the petition for the new township. Delhi Township held its first meeting on April 4, 1842 at the Delhi Township District No. 4 log schoolhouse located at Delhi Center. The government of the township was established at the first meeting.

The elected offices created at the first meeting were Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, three Highway Commissioners, three School Inspectors, four Justices of the Peace, two Directors of the Poor, and two Constables. David Wait



served as the chairman of the first meeting. Henry Harrison North was elected the first township supervisor with 19 of 22 votes. Caleb Thompson was elected the first township clerk with 20 of 22 votes. Roswell Everett was elected first township treasurer with 20 of 22 votes. It is said that the first meeting "proceeded smoothly."

The main community in Delhi Township was originally called Delhi Center and was located at the "four corners" at the modern day intersection of Cedar Street and Holt Road. On February 10, 1860, the name of Delhi Center was changed to Holt. The name change occurred because of postal confusion with Delhi Mills in Washtenaw County. "Holt" was chosen to honor then Postmaster General of the United States Joseph Holt. While the name change affected the post office, most residents continued to call the community Delhi Center until the turn of the twentieth century when many of the pioneers had died. Holt is an unincorporated community, its function is largely as the name for the post office and the school district.

Holt and Delhi Township are known for having many churches. Several of the congregations were established in the 1860s, including the Holt Presbyterian Church, the Holt German Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Holt English Methodist Episcopal Church. Holt had a large German population at the time, which is why the community had a separate German church. In 1875 about fifty percent of Holt's population spoke German. By 1930, the two Methodist Episcopal Churches merged because of a fire at the English church.

Holt's fire department was established in 1924, on an entirely volunteer basis. The first fire chief was George Shaw, then a township trustee. Holt has seen many organizations over the years including a Holt Masonic Lodge, the Holt Odd Fellows Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, Daughters of Rebekah, and many others, none of which exist today. The Kiwanis Club of Holt was founded

Continued next page

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901

www.LansingHistory.org

Officers & Board Members

Bill Castanier – President	Mary Kwas – Trustee
Valerie Marvin – Vice President	Jesse LaSorda – Trustee
Ron Emery – Secretary	Zig Olds - Trustee
Tim Kaltenbach – Treasurer	Joan Bob Rose - Trustee
Bauer - Trustee	Anne Wilson - Trustee
Harry Emmons – Trustee	

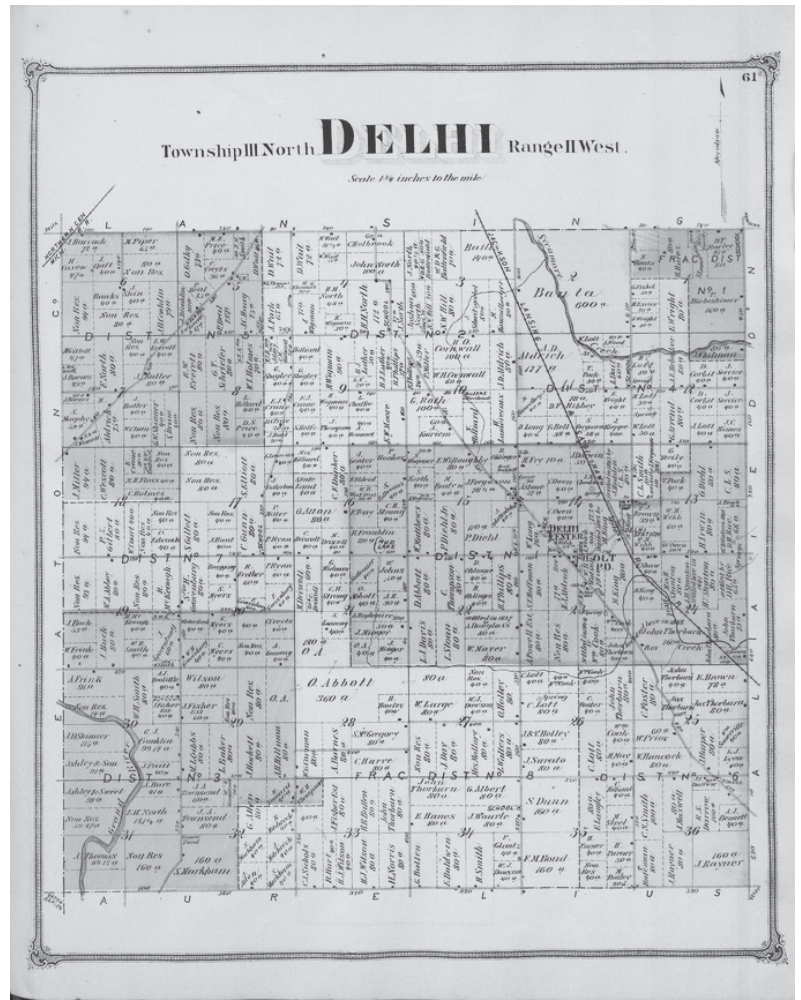
in 1949, and the Holt Lions Club was established in 1968 – both organizations are still going strong.

Holt also was home to its own dairy for many years – the Holt Dairy Company, which after two iterations existed from the 1920s through 1968. Holt is home to many longtime businesses like the Crystal Bar and the Holt Products Co., which have both been staples since the 1930s. Businesses like Hitchens Drug Store, which was a mainstay in Holt from 1939 through 1997, gave Holt a small town feel even through a period when the community was growing and expanding.

Delhi Township and the community of Holt was largely a rural farming community until the post-WWII era. While Delhi Township existed before Lansing became the state capital in 1847, it largely suburbanized beginning in the 1940s. White flight of the 1950s and 1960s, while not as significant as Detroit, was also prevalent in the Lansing area. Many families moved out of the city and to surrounding communities including Delhi Township/Holt. Many of Holt's suburban neighborhoods developed in the 1950s and 1960s.

Delhi Township was originally bound by Jolly Road on the north, College Road on the east, Waverly Road on the west, and Nichols Road on the south. Between 1960 and 1965 the City of Lansing annexed four sections of Delhi Township, which included over 8,000 residents. In 1958, Lansing made an attempt to annex the North District of Delhi Township. On September 30, 1960, the city successfully annexed that district which includes the Miller Road area, the North School District, and North Cemetery (named for the pioneering family). The second annexation was the old dump located east of Aurelius Road, north of Miller Road, on December 5, 1960. That land is today the Kenneth A. Hope Soccer Complex – Hope was a longtime Delhi Township trustee and Ingham County commissioner. The third annexation was the Maple Grove area in July 1964, which included the area north of Bishop Road and South Logan Street (today Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd). The fourth annexation occurred in 1965 and included the piece of land located south of Willoughby Road known as Willoughby Park – the southernmost point in the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing's annexations resulted in a debate over the future of Delhi Township in the 1960s. The feeling was that there were three options for Delhi's future: first, becoming a charter township, second becoming a city, or third fully merging with the City of Lansing. In September



1961, the Delhi Township Board of Trustees put it up to a vote. Township residents decided, by a 550-324 margin, in favor of becoming a charter township. Delhi Charter Township was officially created on September 18, 1961. The charter township option is only available in Michigan and gives townships the same rights and responsibilities of self-government as a city or a village.

Today, Delhi Township has a population of over 25,000 and has a rich history including terrific schools, longtime businesses, popular festivals, successful organizations, and much more! The Holt-Delhi Historical Society was established in 2014 in order to educate, preserve, and share the history of Delhi Township and Holt. Delhi Township will celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2017.

The Holt-Delhi Historical Society, in cooperation with the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, is hosting a walking tour of North Cemetery on Sunday, July 17, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Representatives from both societies will be presenting on families such as the North family and Everett family – who both played a major role in Delhi Township and Lansing. Originally known as North Delhi Cemetery, the grave yard is the final resting place for many of Delhi Township's earliest residents.



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.*