

HSGL Newsletter

Official Publication of the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing **November 1994**

Ingham Attorneys With Non-Legal Passions

Ingham County lawyers have traditionally done much more than draft legal documents, try cases before juries and sentence criminals for their crimes. Many were multi-dimensional, being as industrious in the non-legal world as they were in the courtroom.

Many attorneys have spent their non-legal hours serving the community. Sam Street Hughes, a Lansing lawyer distinguished in World War II, municipal judge and mayor, was the first president of the Junior Chamber of

Commerce, the second president of the Lansing Civic Players Guild and an officer of the Lansing Community Chest.

It's a long tradition. Before he became Ingham County prosecuting attorney, Edward Cahill, a Civil War officer, recruited black soldiers in 1863 for the First Michigan Colored Infantry and fought with them in the South.

Orlando Mack Barnes opened a law office in Mason in the early 1850s and became a State Representative during the Civil War. He then added success in the business world, amassing a fortune in land development, real estate, banking, and Michigan railroads. His 1876 Gothic mansion, built on Main Street in Lansing, expressed an interest in aesthetics cultivated during his travels in Europe. In his spare time, Barnes was an organizer of the Pioneer and Historical Society, 1872, and a published amateur Shakespeare scholar.

Others also took a literary direction. Lawton

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Historical Society of Greater Lansing EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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.

T. Hemans, a Mason attorney and mayor, authored *The Life and Times of Stevens T. Mason* during the early part of the 20th century. He was instrumental in having Mason's body moved from an obscure cemetery in New York City to a more prominent grave in Detroit.

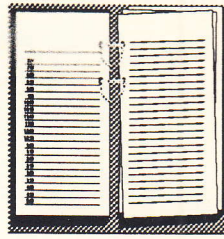
When Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Howard Wiest sat on the Supreme Court, 1921-1944, he was known for his integrity and fairness—and for being slightly eccentric. He refused to read by electric light and never owned a car. At his Williamston estate, which he named "Shagbark," Judge Wiest constructed a separate building to house his library and another for hosting dinner parties. His summer barbeques are legend.

The passions of these earlier lawyers have been repeated as stories, and we are glad this trait of storytelling also runs in the profession.

— Dave Thomas



Betty Gardner is looking for material about the **Women's Club House** on South Washington for an exhibit at the Women's Historical Center. Please contact her at 882-1002.



**1994-1995
PROGRAMS
Mark Your
Calendars
NOW!**

Wednesday, November 16, 1994

Lawyers and Lawyering in Ingham County

Wednesday, January 18, 1995

Lansing's First African/American Church

Wednesday, March 15, 1995

The Artistry of Charles H. Mead

Saturday, April 29, 1995

Lansing History Showcase

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

**Historical Society of Greater Lansing
Annual Dinner**

**Lansing Public Library
Local History Room Hours**

Tuesday

12-3 P.M.

Wednesday

12-3 and 5-7 P.M.

**First Saturday
of each month**

9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

HSGL November Program

Sponsored by

Dickinson Wright Moon VanDusen & Freeman

BLASTS From The Past

The following 'news' items have all been taken out of issues of the **Lansing Republican Weekly**, written in the style of the time.

A meteor weighing 200 pounds struck near Chicago recently. It must be a tough meteor that will tackle Chicago. LRW 11/28/1883

The Georgia papers are going wild over a young lady who sheared 30 sheep in 40 minutes. Well, that may be the cold, icy truth, but we have gold to wager that the Georgia young lady will walk up to a mirror and spend five hours and a half in clipping her bangs just the same. LRW 11/28/1883

The Grand Rapids Times says: Through the thoughtlessness or ignorance of subscribers to the telephone exchange it has been made necessary to discharge from the service one of the young lady operators for the reason that she slaks too much outside of her regular employment. "You would be surprised," said Manager Watson yesterday, "at the amount of silly, nonsensical 'taffy' sent over the wires to the operators. Men who might be better employed and who could only be heartily ashamed of themselves if their names were given, tend to make the whole service and the young lady attendants inefficient. The telephone system is a business convenience and was not erected in view of furnishing a few with amusement or hollow flirtations from the central office." The facts set forth in the above item are not solely confined to Grand Rapids. LRW 10/31/1883

The Historical Society seeks donations of local historical materials, such as papers or photos, especially of those related to our programs. All donations are made available to the public through the Local History Room at the Lansing Public Library. Please contact the Historical Society at 372-3385.

Board Meetings are held on the third Wednesdays of October, February, and April. Any business may be addressed to the Board before or at the meetings. All are invited.

Who do you know who should belong to the Historical Society? Send in your membership, and recruit a member.

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 the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is due by October 1, 1994 for the 1994-1995 program year. Please clip and return this coupon with payment.

New **Renewal**

Enclosed: \$10 Individual \$15 Family \$150 Life Gift

Name _____

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The *Historical Society of Greater Lansing* is a non-profit corporation, and we appreciate your support.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
proudly presents

Lawyers & Lawyering in Ingham County

Stories from the bench since 1837,
including the 1876 Marble murders,
the 1940's Senator Hooper case,
and others.

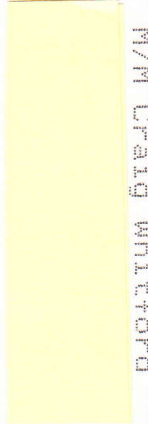
By Richard Frazier



7:30 P.M.

Wednesday, November 16, 1994

Friends Auditorium
Lansing Public Library
The Public Is Invited



M/M Craig Whitford

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*
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Lansing, MI 48901

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