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HSGL Newsletter

Official Publication of the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

January 1996

Centennial of Woman's Hospital Association



One hundred years ago, in 1896, several prominent women from Lansing formed the Woman's Hospital Association and opened the first hospital in the area. After that, extremely ill people could be cared for in a hospital by trained nurses. The original "hospital" was a house at 310 W. Ottawa Street. Within a few years more space was needed, and in 1899 the hospital moved to the beautiful old James Mead house on N. Cedar.

In 1910, Edward W. Sparrow donated land and \$100,000 to the Woman's Hospital Association to build a hospital building. It has been expanded many times since then, but part of the original building can still be seen on E. Michigan Avenue.

E. W. Sparrow was an Irish immigrant (b. 1846) who came to Lansing in 1858 and became a major Lansing businessman and investor. He was one of the founders of the Lansing Improvement Co., formed in 1873, which promoted the city as a busi-

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.

ness capital; President of Lansing Wheelbarrow Co.; and founder of City National Bank in 1886. He had close ties with R. E. Olds and was first president of Olds' Motor Vehicle Co., 1897. He owned land in five states, Canada, and Brazil.

His interest in hospitals came from the unfortunate death of his first wife, Helen Grant, in 1899, after the birth of their son. Helen's mother was one of the charter members of the Woman's Hospital Association. The Edward W. Sparrow Hospital opened in 1912, but Sparrow, who had been living in New York City, died the next year without ever seeing it.

Jean Frazier's program will focus on several crises that impacted the hospital, including the Kern's Hotel fire (1934); the birth of the Morlock quadruplets (1930), all still living; and the Bath School disaster (1927), the worst premeditated disaster in the United States until the recent bombing in Oklahoma City. For 100 years, a Woman's Board of Managers has been part of the administration of the hospitals.

- Linda Peckham

**Historical Society
of Greater Lansing
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HSGL Bookshelf Suggestions*

**Books will be available for purchase at meetings of the Society.*

1878 Lansing City Directory

★ Under the auspices of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, board member Dave Caterino has reprinted and cross referenced Mudge's 1878 Lansing City Directory. The directory is indexed alphabetically by business and street. The reprint with index is 200+ pages. Available at \$15.00 (Add \$2.00 postage if ordered by mail).

**Behind the Badge: The History of
the Lansing Police Department**

By Pat Heyden

★ This 256 page book features 85 photographs and illustrations, bibliography, glossary, index and a library binding. "Takes us on a historical walk through a century of police organization and development from its primitive beginnings to its current professional and technical excellence" - Noel Bufe, Director of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Available at \$22.98 (Add \$2.50 if ordered by mail).

Announcements:

History of the Automotive Industry March 20, 1996

Tour of Stained Glass in Downtown Lansing April 20, 1996, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., presented by Betty McDowell of the Michigan Stained Glass Census. Cost of \$8.00 includes lunch.

Notecards of Lansing, made from drawings done by Charles H. Mead in the 1870s, are available at The Mole Hole in Downtown Lansing, Curious Books in East Lansing, and the Local History Room of the Lansing Public Library. Price: \$6.00 for eight cards and envelopes. Special prices to members of the Historical Society at the Local History Room. Proceeds will be used to restore the drawings.

Family History: Sesquicentennial Project In 1997, the Historical Society will recognize families who have lived in the area for 100 years or more. Applications from 372-3385 or at the Local History Room.

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.

Lansing Public Library Local History Room Hours

Tuesdays

12-3 p.m.

Wednesdays

12-3 and 5-7 p.m.

**First Saturday
of each month**

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

*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 for the 1995-1996 program year. Please clip and return this coupon with payment.

New **Renewal**

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

*The Historical Society of Greater Lansing
proudly presents*

The Woman's Hospital Association Centennial

By Jean Frazier

The Woman's Hospital Association - later associated with Edward W. Sparrow Hospital - has responded for 100 years to crises in the community: typhoid epidemics, the Kern's fire, the Bath School bombing, and more. Program presented by Jean Frazier, from her book on the history of the hospital which was managed by women.

7:30 P.M.

Wednesday, January 17, 1996

Sparrow Hospital Auditorium

Take elevator to basement at East end of Main Floor

Sponsored by Sparrow Hospital

The Public Is Invited

Lansing Public Library
401 S Capitol Ave
Lansing, MI 48933

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

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