

LANSING CAPITAL SESQUICENTENNIAL

LANSING, MICHIGAN

1847-1997

Articles Published in the *Lansing State Journal*

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Table of Contents

- June 1: Detroit to Lansing Township
- June 8: James Seymour
- June 15: Lansing Parks: Potter, Moores, and Frances
- June 22: Lansing, 1847-1897
- June 29: Fourth of July 1844
- July 6: Near Westside Residential Architecture, 1850-1900
- July 13: Glorious Houses Gone
- July 20: Base Ball and Mosquitoes
- July 27: Camp Meetings
- August 3: Contagion and Hospitals
- Aug. 10: Architectural Scavenger Hunt
- Aug 17: Cigar Companies
- Aug 24: Transportation (Travel and the Horseless Carriage)
- Aug 31: Riverwalk Tour: Lansing as a River Town
- Sept 7: Gardens on Capitol Square
- Sept 14: Burials
- Sept 21: Naming of Lansing
- Sept 28: Pioneer Settlers: Abner Potter family
- Oct. 5: Pioneer Settlers: John Barnes family
- Oct. 12: Laying the Cornerstone of the Capitol
- Oct. 19: Richard Glaister, Master Stonecutter
- Oct. 26: Pioneer Settlers: The North Families
- Nov. 2: Other Pioneers: Jacob Cooley, Samuel Carl, Laura Gibson, Silas Rose
w/mention of McKeough, Goodwin, Dean, Turner, Proctor
- Nov. 9: Early Lansing Schools

Table of Contents. cont.

- Nov. 16: Higher Education: Michigan Female College & M.A.C.
Nov. 23: Lansing Police Dept.
Nov. 30: Pioneer Settlers: Skinner-Lundberg
Dec. 7: Methodists
Dec. 14: Presbyterians
Dec. 21: Episcopalians, Baptists, Universalists, First Lutherans, St Mary Catholic
Dec. 28: Architect Edwyn A. Bowd
Jan. 4: Manufacturer and Philanthropist William K. Prudden
Jan. 11: Moving State Capital to "Michigan"

Corrections: at end

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

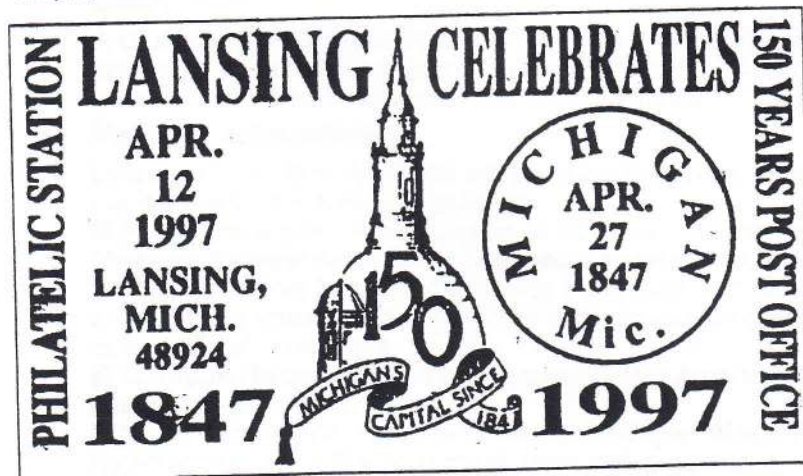
The first bridge is constructed over the Grand River at Main Street. The contract for construction of the new Capitol is awarded to Benjamin Porter of Jackson.

1897:

The Lansing baseball team has a record of 14 wins and 14 losses. The 39th state Legislature adjourns and more than 200 people leave Lansing after five months of work.

1947:

The end of sugar rationing is expected by August. Harry James is to play at the Dells. St. Lawrence seeks park land for expansion.



Lansing State Journal

History gets canceled: This is a copy of sesquicentennial postal cancellations that are available as part of Lansing's 150th anniversary as the state capital. They are available through Craig Whitford, 394-4443, or the Historical Society, 372-3385.

Heritage celebrations:

■ Lansing's 150th Birthday Party will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 14 on the Capitol lawn. It will feature ceremonies, cultural festivals, music, a parade of masks, clowns, magicians and cake.

■ Photos are needed for the sesquicentennial book, "Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Greater Lansing 1847-1897." Call Mike Ward, 485-0848.

■ Sesquicentennial postal cancellation and envelopes are available through Craig Whitford, 394-4443 or the Historical Society, 372-3385.

A look at yesterday:

In 1847, the capital city of Detroit was a bustling city. Lansing Township was called a "howling wilderness."

But on March 16, 1847, this spot was chosen as the new site for a capital, primarily because the land was undeveloped and few people would profit.

Nine months later, when Michigan moved its capital, an entire city had been created here. Platted as "Michigan, Michigan," it included street layout, parks and bridges, with the center at Main Street and the Grand River.

In addition to the new Capitol building, planners established hotels, schools and churches, grocery and drygoods stores, liveries and blacksmith shops, taverns and houses.

Richard and James Turner, Hiram Smith and Daniel Case joined earlier settlers. Pioneers in the outlying areas included Silas Rose, Alonzo Proctor, John Barnes, Abner Potter and Henry and Joseph North.

The post office was established on April 27, 1847. George Peck, the first postmaster, was also the Speaker of the House and a partner in one of the earliest stores. One of the store clerks became the deputy postmaster.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

First hotels are being built: the Seymour House at Center and Franklin (Grand River Avenue) and the Michigan House at Main and River streets.

1897:

Irving Fogg offers to build a bike path from Leadley Park (Waverly) to the Grand Trunk track on West St. Joseph Street, if wheelmen of the city will build it from there to the city limits.

1947:

A GI student at Michigan State College wins a model home in a drawing sponsored by a home builders exposition. A summer sport shirt for Dad costs only \$1.98 at J.C. Penney.

Heritage celebration:

Lansing's 150th Birthday Party will be celebrated June 14 on the Capitol lawn. The schedule includes:

■ **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.:** A Celebration of Cultures with the Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club at the special event station, an architectural scavenger hunt titled "Looking Up in Lansing," Civil War encampment tours of the Capitol and grounds including the sesquicentennial flowerbeds.

■ **12:15 p.m.:** Rededication of the Daughters of the American Revolution marker to 1847.

■ **1 p.m.:** Birthday ceremony with Gov. John Engler, Mayor David Hollister, Honorary Mayor Richard Letts and a parade by ART-SPACE with music by Second Time Around.

■ **1 p.m. to 4 p.m.:** Drawings for the "150" prizes, Magicians Guild of Lansing, old maps from the Historical Society and sesquicentennial souvenirs.

A look at yesterday:

James and Charles Seymour were bankers in Rochester, N.Y., whose cousin Horatio Seymour would become governor of New York.

They watched the Erie Canal funnel people into Michigan. They also knew that Michigan's governor, Stevens T. Mason, wanted to develop the interior of the state.

In 1835, the Seymours invested in land that would become Flushing. A year later, they bought with Frederick Bushnell large tracts that would become Lansing. Both areas had ready access to water power and were ideal for development.

By 1836, Flushing had a dam and a mill and the town was under way. But only a few settlers moved into the Lansing area. It wasn't until 1843 that James Seymour arranged with John Burchard to build a dam here.

Unfortunately, Burchard drowned while repairing the dam in 1844, and the site was abandoned.

Seymour had the dam rebuilt in 1845 and a settlement was finally established in North Lansing.

In March 1847, Seymour promised free property and drew red lines on a map of Michigan to show the legislators in Detroit that Lansing Township was the ideal site for the new seat of the state government.

The strategy worked, and "Michigan, Mich." was born.

James Seymour never lived here, but one of our major streets is named for him.

LSJ June 8, 1997

Capitol Report

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Three appraisers, French, Huntington and Ferris, set the value on land west of the river where the new capital city will be developed.

1897:

Residents are greatly annoyed by boys and men who bathe in the Cedar River and run naked about the banks. Labor commissioner will enforce a law that prohibits children under 14 from working in factories.

1947:

Kaiser and Frazer cars made at Willow Run "give a better ride than any car designed before the war." "Deception" with Bette Davis, Claude Rains and Paul Henreid is playing at the Southtown. About 3,500 veterans' bonus claims are checked here daily.

Heritage celebration:

■ **June 18:** Lansing Concert Band opens its summer schedule with a 7 p.m. concert at Frances Park.

■ **June 21:** "Mid-Summer Pole Raising" will be sponsored in East Lansing by the Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing.

A look at yesterday:

Lansing's parks carry the history of the city in their names.

James W. Potter, a wealthy businessman, gave 50 acres to the city in 1913 for a park, now Potter Park and Zoo. Potter was a lumberman.

He owned a sawmill in Potterville, a town his father founded in 1843, the same year James was born. By 1880, Potter was trading lumber to Kansas City for buffalo hides. About 1889, he built a furniture factory in Lansing, and later became president of American State Savings Bank. He invested in land.

James Henry Moores, another wealthy businessman, gave two parks to the city. Moores was president of Lansing Pure Ice Co., Lansing Stamping and Tool Co., vice president of Lansing State Savings Bank and director of Atlas Drop Forge.

Moores came to Lansing in 1866 to attend Michigan Agricultural College, but in 1868 he started a truck farm. By 1880 he ran several logging camps in northern Michigan pine forests and brought the first railroad to Missaukee County.

After 1886, he began building quality homes in Lansing, including Moores Subdivision on Moores River Drive, where his summer house still stands.

Then, like others in town, he lost his fortune in the depression of the 1890s. Unlike others, he rebounded, making a second fortune in Mississippi pine lands by 1905.

His gifts to the city? Moores Park in 1908 and Frances Park in 1918, given in memory of his second wife, Sarah Frances Goodman.

Capitol Report

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Plat registered for new "Town of Michigan, Michigan." First lots are sold the same day. Name changed to Lansing 10 months later.

1897:

R.E. Olds gives an exhibition with his horseless carriage at the races. WCTU ladies protest the Fourth of July being celebrated on July 3 with open saloons.

1947:

A park plan on River Street moves nearer to becoming a reality.

Heritage celebration:

■ **June 28:** "Lansing 1987" exhibit opens at the Michigan Historical Museum. The exhibit will run for a year. "Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Lansing, 1847-1997" offers a pre-publication price of \$29.95. Send orders to Visions Sports, P.O. Box 338, East Lansing MI 48823.

A look at yesterday:

In 1847, when the plat for the "Town of Michigan, Michigan" was registered, lots began to sell immediately.

Merchants, tavern keepers and printers (some of them legislators) raced to develop the town.

By 1850, the population of Lansing had jumped to 1,200 people. There were two mills, Buck's Furniture store, several general stores, hotels, a school, three religious groups, three bridges over the Grand River, the First Financial Exchange and the first newspaper.

The 1850s and '60s brought more mills and stores and hotels and church groups, and added the opening of Michigan Female College, Michigan Agricultural College, the House of Corrections for Boys, the Torrent Engine Company (firefighters), Oak Park Cemetery, the plank road to Howell and a high school.

A. Clark & Co. built carriages, Bement & Sons produced farm implements, Kositchek's offered men's clothing, Mead's Hall opened, the railroads finally arrived and losses were suffered in the Civil War. A man who settled here captured John Wilkes Booth. The population was over 5,200.

Between 1870 and 1890, the population increased to more than 13,000. Banks, the Gas Light Co., the City Water Works and industries related to carriage manufacturing were founded. A new Capitol and the first kindergarten in Michigan were opened.

Lansing was a thriving city, worthy of its 1847 promise.

When R.E. Olds drove his first steam engine "vehicle" through the streets one night in 1886, he was referred to as "that Olds kid." But in 1896, when he received patents on his gas vapor engine and his motor carriage, Lansing came to the attention of the world.



For the Lansing State Journal

A view from the past: Crowds gather at Grand River Avenue and Center Street in Lansing to view a parade on July Fourth, 1868. The city currently is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

655 June 29, 1997:38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

A dance was held on July Fourth at Mr. Hunt's hotel, the Michigan Exchange at Main and River streets. It was the first ball in Michigan, Mich.

1897:

Extensive use of "silent steeds" (bicycles) has caused the new problem of collisions. An ad read: Take No-To-Bac to quit tobacco using easily.

1947:

Harold Gross and son are rescued from Northport Bay after their sailboat capsized. "Flying saucers" are sighted southwest of Port Huron, definitely not fireworks.

Heritage celebration:

■ ■ **Fourth of July:** A parade begins at 10 a.m. downtown; Lansing Concert Band and fireworks, 8 p.m., Riverfront Park; Lansing Symphony, dusk, Oldsmobile Park.

■ **July 5:** Lugnuts baseball, Lansing "Vans" vs. "Flying Dutchmen," 7 p.m., Oldsmobile Park.

■ **"Lansing 1897"** exhibit open; will run for a year at Michigan Library and Historical Center.

■ **"Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Lansing 1847-1997,"** pre-publication price, \$29.95. Send to Visions Sports, P.O. Box 338, East Lansing MI 48823.

A look at yesterday:

In 1844, a few families gathered to raise the flag and celebrate the Fourth of July. The group included the North families, who had come from New York in 1837 and settled in Lansing and Delhi townships, and the Joab Page families, the first permanent white

settlers on the land that became Lansing.

Page and his wife, Abigail, their son Issac, and sons-in-law Whitney Smith, George Pease and Alvin Rolfe (and his father Benjamin Rolfe) had just come from Mason to rebuild the dam for James Seymour.

Their settlement would be called "Lower Town" and later still "North Lansing." They hired anyone available to help work on the dam and a sawmill for 50 cents a day.

Page served as justice of the peace and as county supervisor. In 1846, he organized a Methodist "class," the first religious group to hold services here. In 1847, he built the first school.

Also attending the 1844 holiday gathering were several local American Indian families, headed by Chief Okemos. The tribe was small by then, but their knowledge was invaluable. It had already saved the lives of those who came to settle on their hunting and fishing grounds.

Stories in journals and memoirs dating back to 1837 tell of whites rescued by American Indians when they got lost in the dense underbrush, of babies and adults nursed back to health, and of women and property looked after when the pioneer men were away.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

The first license for food is granted to Mr. Hunt of the Michigan Exchange Hotel. A liquor license is denied.

1897:

The Lansing Senators are whipped again as they played like decrepit ice wagons. John Okemos, son of the old chief, visits his famous camping ground.

1947:

President Truman awaits world reaction after he denounced the Soviet Union's stand against the Marshall Plan. Thousands of cases of undulant fever in the state cause the Health Department to urge the purchase of only pasteurized milk.

Heritage celebration:

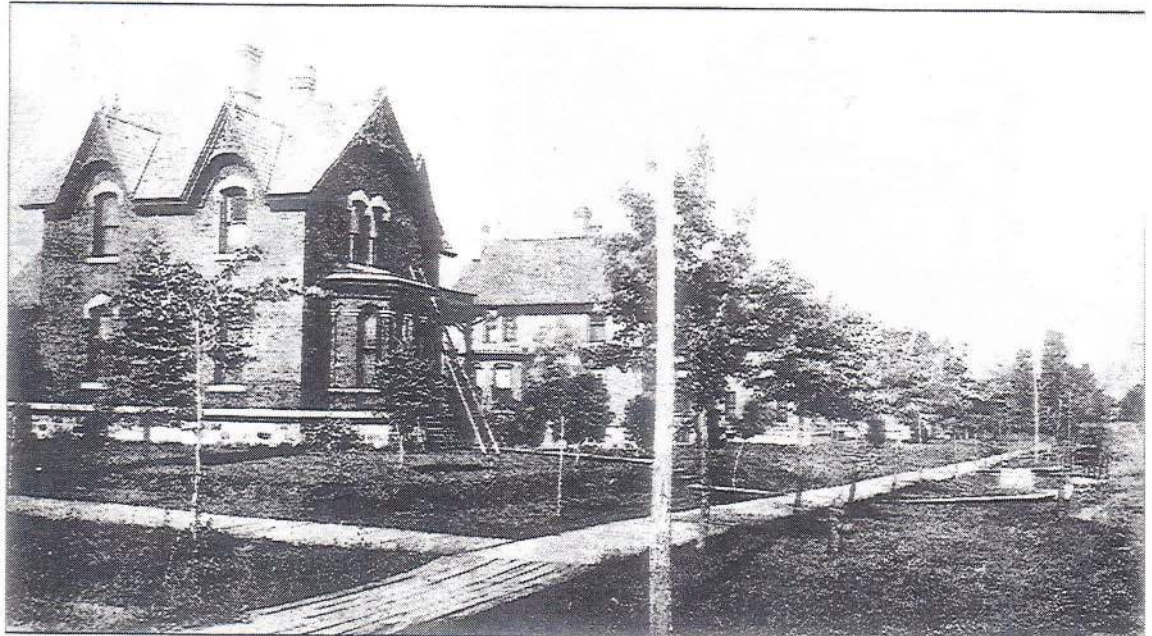
■ **Friday:** Historic Houses: A Walk on the Near West Side sponsored by the YWCA. Meet at the Capitol at noon.

■ **July 13:** Westside Garden Tour, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Westside Neighborhood Association, Advent House.

■ **July 20:** Triple Treat Day: Baseball Festival, Oldsmobile Park, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., 1850s baseball at 3 p.m.; Sunday in the Park, Ferris Park, 10 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tea in the Garden, Cooley Gardens, noon to 5 p.m.

A look at yesterday:

A small Greek Revival house stands at 426 W. Ionia and probably was built before 1860. A block away at 427 W. Shiawassee, stands a shingle style house built in 1893. Just north and west of the Capitol you can find exam-



For the Lansing State Journal

A look back at Lansing: Ionia Street is shown from a vantage point along Sycamore Street in this undated photo from the archives of the city's sesquicentennial committee. It was taken during a time of dirt roads and wooden walkways.

ples of every architectural style built in Lansing from 1850 to 1900.

The early Greek Revivals were frame houses that resembled the log cabins that preceded them. Both had two rooms down with a loft under the eaves and a kitchen wing on the back.

Variants of this style give us the classic "Michigan farmhouse," even though most of these were built in towns. Recognized by their two-story gable front and wing, with a porch in the notch, they were built from 1850 to 1920. Examples stand at 421 W. Ionia and 307 N. Chestnut.

Gothic houses are characterized by steep roofs, several gables, gingerbread and narrow windows. Built from 1865 to 1885, pure Gothics had center doors like the early Greek Revivals, but were two-story houses with steep center gables. Examples, both variants, stand at 620 and 626 W. Ionia.

From 1865 to 1885, large, squarer Italianate houses were being built. Tall houses, often brick, with long windows, double entry doors, and heavy brackets, they had four main rooms per floor and a shorter kitchen wing on the back. The gabled styles had no cupolas;

the hipped-roof versions had elaborate cupolas. Examples stand at 602 W. Ionia and 403 N. Sycamore.

Second Empire houses were built in the 1870s. The house at 311 Seymour shows the typical mansard roof, tower, long grouped windows, high sill line, and double entry doors. The Gothic peak is unusual.

Queen Annes date from the mid-1880s to 1900. Asymmetry reigns in roof lines and window placement. Features include exuberant porches and round towers, gingerbread and stained glass. Examples stand at 403 Seymour and 222 W. Genesee.



For the Lansing State Journal

Classically Gothic: The Orlando Barnes family moved into this Gothic mansion at Main Street and South Capitol Avenue in 1878. It was torn down in 1957



For the Lansing State Journal

House of innovations: Auto pioneer R.E. Olds built this large brick house at South Washington Avenue and Main Street just after 1900. It was demolished in 1966 to make room for I-496.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Daniel Case and H.H. Smith open a general store at Franklin (Grand River) and Center, the first building erected for a store after the Capitol was located.

1897:

A scheme for a combined patrol wagon and ambulance is suggested. When the bridge over the mill race collapses near Hart Mill in north Lansing, several men, a team, wagon and 27 barrels of flour fall into water. The high temperature is 104 degrees.

1947:

Roads are hurt by the loss of a liquor tax and Gov. Sigler's veto of an increased tax on gasoline. Ninety sellers are in the stalls at City Market on Saturday. The temperature on July 22 is 45 degrees, a record low.

Heritage celebration:

■ July 13: Westside Garden Tour, 2-6 p.m., Westside Neigh-

borhood Association, Advent House, \$10.

■ July 20: Baseball Festival, Oldsmobile Park, 1 to 7 p.m.; 1850s baseball at 3 p.m.; Art in the Park, Ferris Park, 10 to 5 p.m.; Tea in the Garden, Cooley Gardens, 1 to 5 p.m.

A look at yesterday:

The biggest, most glorious houses in downtown Lansing are gone. The Case house, the Davis house, the Barnes house, the Olds house — all demolished.

The Daniel Case house, built in the 1860s, stood in the 800 block of North Washington Avenue. Case opened the first general store in "Michigan" in 1847 with H. H. Smith. Case's house was a large stone Italianate, used later as a hospital by the Sisters of Mercy, and was then owned by Supreme Court Justice Howard Wiest until 1945. Wiest never had an automobile, but did have 10,000 books. The house was razed for parking in 1962.

The B.F. Davis house, another big Italianate from the 1860s, re-



For the Lansing State Journal

Italian influence: The B.F. Davis house was built in the 1860s in the 500 block of South Washington Avenue. It burned down in 1972.

modeled as a Queen Anne about 1900, was built in the 500 block of South Washington Avenue. Davis was the son of Lansing

pioneers, a businessman, land developer and a banker. The house, badly deteriorated but being worked on, burned down in 1972.

In 1878, the Orlando Barnes family held an open house in its new Gothic mansion at Main and South Capitol Avenue. Barnes was an attorney, investor, mayor and land agent for a railroad. In the house, each room was trimmed in a particular wood: maple, cherry, black walnut. In 1957, after the house had stood empty for three decades and had been rejected as a possible governor's residence, it was taken down.

R.E. Olds, automotive pioneer and creator of the Curved Dash Runabout, built a large brick house at South Washington Avenue and Main Street just after 1900. It had a built-in pipe organ in the music room and a turntable in the "automobile" room so that Olds would not have to back his automobile down the drive. In 1966, the house was demolished to make room for I-496, which was then named for him.

LST July 20, 1997:38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

James Turner's brothers build the first frame dwelling in North Lansing. The Seymour House hotel also is being raised.

1897:

The Senators, Lansing's baseball team, strike for back salaries and refuse to go to Jackson for a game.

1947:

Lansing industry employment is up 27 percent over 1946. Martha Truman, mother of the president, dies at 94. The city declares war on house flies. Its main weapon will be a DDT solution.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Today:** Baseball Festival, Oldsmobile Stadium, 1-7 p.m. Tickets at the gate cost \$2. Children 12 and under get in free.

The over 30, co-ed All Stars will be at 1 p.m.

An 1850s baseball game will be played at 3 p.m.

The City League first- and second-place teams will appear at 5 p.m.

■ **Today:** Sunday in the Park, artists and activities, Ferris Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

■ **Today:** Tea in the Garden, A Gay 90s Afternoon, Cooley Gardens, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$3 for adults and 50 cents for children.

A look at yesterday:

As soon as the land for the new Capitol was cleared in 1847, the workers organized a game of round ball, a game that would soon be called "base ball," written with two words. No record exists of the winner.

The rules for baseball were simpler then. No balls, no strikes, unless the game was slow. The umpire could call them or not. His primary purpose was to keep order and fine players 25 cents for swearing. No one wore a glove, the pitching was underhanded and runners could be tagged out by throwing the ball at them. A nine-inning game took about an hour and a half.

What the players really needed was bug spray. This area was made up of woods and swamp, "a howling wilderness," according to one of the legislators who



For the Lansing State Journal

Early Lansing dream team: This photograph submitted by the Lansing sesquicentennial committee is from the local history collection at the Lansing Public Library. The names of the team and its players are unknown.

was less than pleased with the selection of the new site for the state government.

Dr. F.N. Turner wrote that while workmen were building Turner's house in 1847, "They had to fight deer flies, mosquitoes, snakes and other pests." They had to fight them all the way from Mason. He wrote the "first shingles were riven with an old-fashioned hand froe by workmen in Mason, then hauled by ox teams over the hogsback road through the almost unbroken wilderness to the old Capitol city."

Joshua French built a house on East Washtenaw Street earlier in 1847 with panes of glass in his windows. Even so, his "stay was very short, he becoming very discouraged on account of mosquitoes, ague and the absence of the conveniences and luxuries of his eastern life."

In 1858, Frances Carnahan came to visit from New York. Looking back she wrote, "During the warm weather, mosquitoes, flies and cow bells were plenti-



For the Lansing State Journal

A championship season: This photo from 1913 shows the REO Champions baseball team. It was submitted by the Lansing sesquicentennial committee.

ful; the cows ran wherever they chose during the day and at night sleep was almost impossi-

ble, as they tossed their heads incessantly to rid themselves of the tormenting mosquitoes."

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Commissioners clears off some streets in "Michigan" and the state house absorbs most of the seasoned lumber.

1897:

A camp meeting draws an immense crowd of 2,500 at Leadley's Park.

1947:

An Annual Adventist Meeting is to attract 5,000 campers. Cherries cost 10 cents a pound and raspberries cost 48 cents a quart.

Heritage celebration:

■ Aug. 8-10: JazzFest, Turner Street, North Lansing.

■ Aug. 8-10: History of Jazz: Gallery Exhibits, North Lansing.

■ "Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Greater Lansing" will be published in September. Prepublication price is \$29.95. Call toll-free at 888-715-6500 or check the Internet at www.150years.com.

A look at yesterday:

Late July and early August is the traditional time for reunions of all kinds.

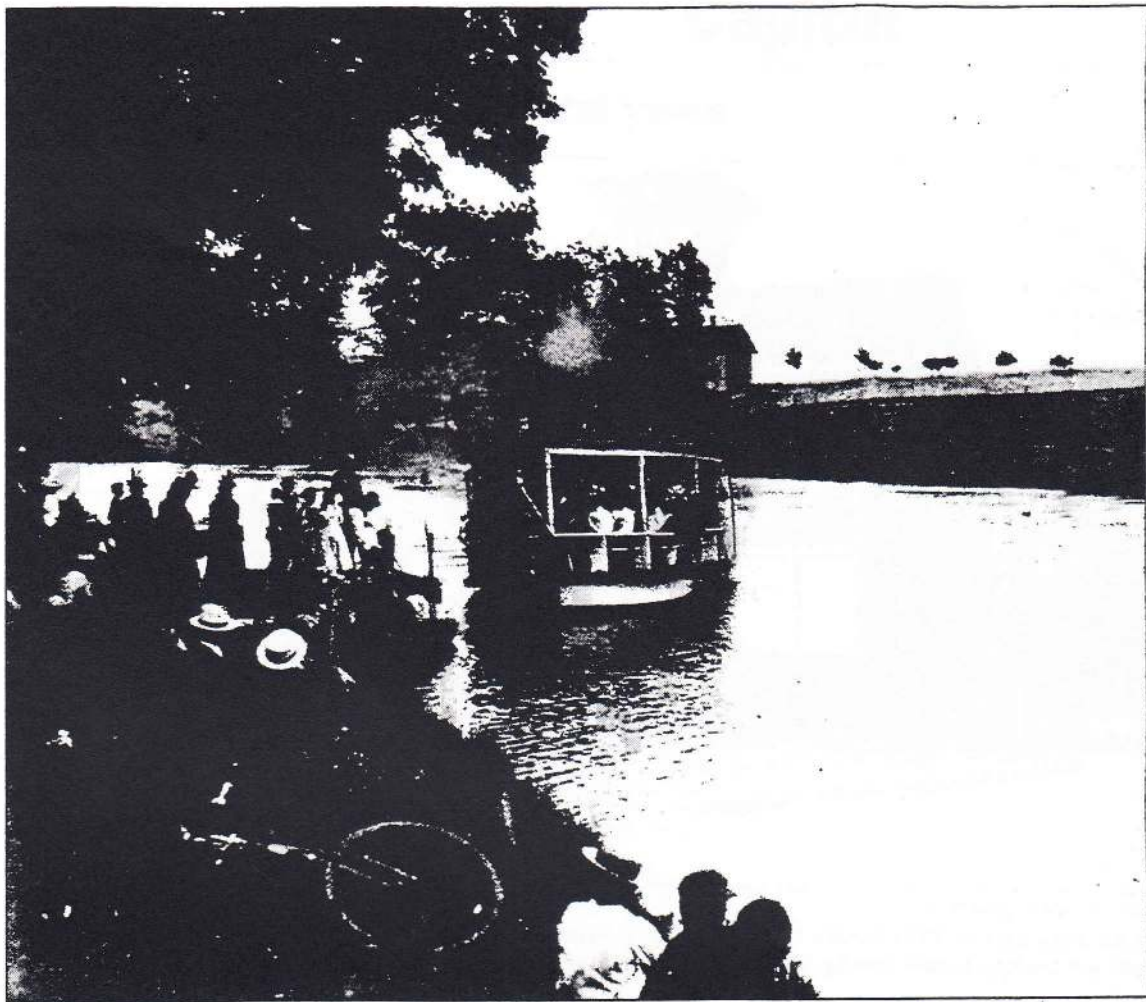
"Camp meetings" often were organized by religious or fraternal groups. For many years in the 19th century, the Spiritualists held camp meetings at Pine Lake (Lake Lansing). Eaton Rapids still holds camp meetings at its campgrounds.

Adventists held the largest camp meetings. For 100 years, Adventist families from around the state set up a city of tents every summer, until recently at their campgrounds in Grand Ledge.

Camp meetings also were popular at Leadley's Park (Waverly Park), along the Grand River at Waverly Road.

Both Pine Lake and Leadley Park were resorts with amusement parks. Some of the earliest streetcar lines ran from the city out to these parks. Operators of the parks built these lines to entice summer visitors to enjoy pavilions, food, music, dancing, rides and boating.

After 1880, your pleasure boat operator near Leadley's Park might have been the teenaged Ransom E. Olds. Pine Lake fea-



A ride on the river: Lansing-area residents arrive by boat for a camp meeting in 1880 at Leadley's Park — now known as Waverly Park — along the Grand River at Waverly Road. The photo is from the Lansing Public Library's historical collection.

tured a beautiful carousel, now at Dorney Park in Allentown, Pa. A second Pine Lake carousel has found a home at Dollywood.

Another type of camp meeting each summer was the county fair. The Ingham County Agricultural Society was formed in 1854 and held its first county fair in the same year. Like any camp meeting, participants come year after year to exhibit their wares and enjoy their friends.

The idea of a camp meeting was so common that in 1847, when the sale of lots brought a rush of speculators and their families who erected tents, log shanties, or "more pretentious shanties of boards," one person described the scene as "not unlike a primitive backwoods camp-meeting."



A spiritual afternoon: Participants of a camp meeting take a break at Pine Lake, now known as Lake Lansing. The photo is from the Lansing Public Library's Mills Collection.

LJ August 3, 1997: 38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

The first Capitol is raised. Dr. Burr and Dr. Newbro are among the first settlers in the new capital city.

1897:

A woman preacher from AME Church gives an interesting address on "The New Woman" to a crowd of 2,500 at Leadley's Park. Ladies of the board of directors of the Lansing hospital ask City Council for \$5 a week.

1947:

Ingham County sets up a countywide Board of Education and buys old City Contagion Hospital. Doctors acclaim streptomycin a "miracle drug" for TB.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Aug. 8-10:** JazzFest, Turner Street, North Lansing.

■ **Aug. 8 to 10:** History of Jazz: Gallery Exhibits, North Lansing.

■ **Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Greater Lansing** will be published in September. Pre-publication price is \$29.95. Call toll-free at 888-715-6500 or check the Internet at www.150years.com.

A look at yesterday:

Contagion often caused multiple deaths in cities. Dr. Burr, Lansing's first physician, and several children died of "brain fever," or "spinal fever" in 1848-49.

Another epidemic, in 1861, is unnamed but apparent in the Oak Park Cemetery records. In August and September of that year, 38 people died. In those months a year earlier, only seven had died.

The epidemics continued:

■ **Typhoid:** Common until the arrival of treated water and refrigeration. Even the ice taken from the Grand River for cooling was polluted.

■ **Diphtheria:** In 1900, the high school was closed and fumigated to keep the disease from spreading.

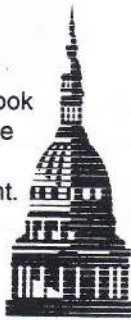
■ **Smallpox:** In June 1901, a



For the Lansing State Journal
Early health care: The Mead house on North Cedar Street was built about 1870. It was used as a hospital in about 1899 and later was the city recreation center. The photo was supplied by the Lansing Sesquicentennial Committee.

Under the dome

Here is a daily look at activities of the Legislature and state government. If you've got ideas for stories, call Chris Andrews at 377-1054 or Greg J. Borowski at 377-1157.



tent city was set up in North Lansing to isolate those affected; the residents, in anger and fear, burned down the tents.

■ **Scarlet fever:** disobeying the red quarantine signs was a punishable crime.

In 1872, two Lansing men

helped to establish the state Board of Health. Dr. Robert Kedzie, professor of chemistry at Michigan Agricultural College, became an early president of the board. He campaigned for better ventilation and soil analysis, and got arsenic banned from wallpaper.

Dr. Henry Baker, a Lansing physician, was secretary of the board for its first 30 years. Also head of vital statistics for the State Medical Society after 1870, his plan for recording and tabulating diseases was adopted nationwide.

Several short-lived hospitals were started: the Sisters of Mercy in the Case house, early 1890s; Dr. Foster's Hospital on Allegan, 1906-12; the Karlsbad on East Willow, 1914; Lansing Sanitarium (Neller's), same site, 1930-40; the City Hospital, East

Michigan, 1934, which became the Ingham County Convalescent Hospital in 1947, and then E.W. Sparrow East, 1951-60.

But some were long-lived. In 1896, the Women's Health Association, all volunteers, established a hospital in a house, a common practice in many cities — first in the DeViney house and soon in the Mead house. They became part of E.W. Sparrow Hospital when it was built in 1912. The Ingham County tuberculosis sanitarium opened in 1917. St. Lawrence opened in 1920, and McLaughlin (Lansing General) opened in 1942.

With the widespread use of penicillin, streptomycin and sulfa drugs in the 1940s, and polio and measles vaccines in the '50s and '60s, the old epidemics no longer swept through Lansing.

Capitol

LST August 10, 1997: 38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

C.C. Darling opens a store and bakery and rafts the first sawn timber used in Lansing from Eaton Rapids.

1897:

More than 700 bicycles have been sold in Lansing this year for a total of \$40,000; average price about \$50.

1947:

Nation's bankers warn: "Excessive debt should not be made attractive and merchandised in easy payments."

Heritage celebration:

■ Today — JazzFest, Turner Street, North Lansing, noon to 7 p.m.

■ Aug. 15 and 16 — Car Capital Celebration, downtown Lansing, noon to 9 p.m.

■ "Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Greater Lansing" will be published in September. Pre-publication price: \$29.95. Call toll-free at 1-888-715-6500 or check the Internet at www.150years.com

A look at yesterday:

Ready for a historic architectural scavenger hunt? If you look up in downtown Lansing, you can still see interesting architectural features on the older buildings. Match the verbal clues and drawings to the correct building.

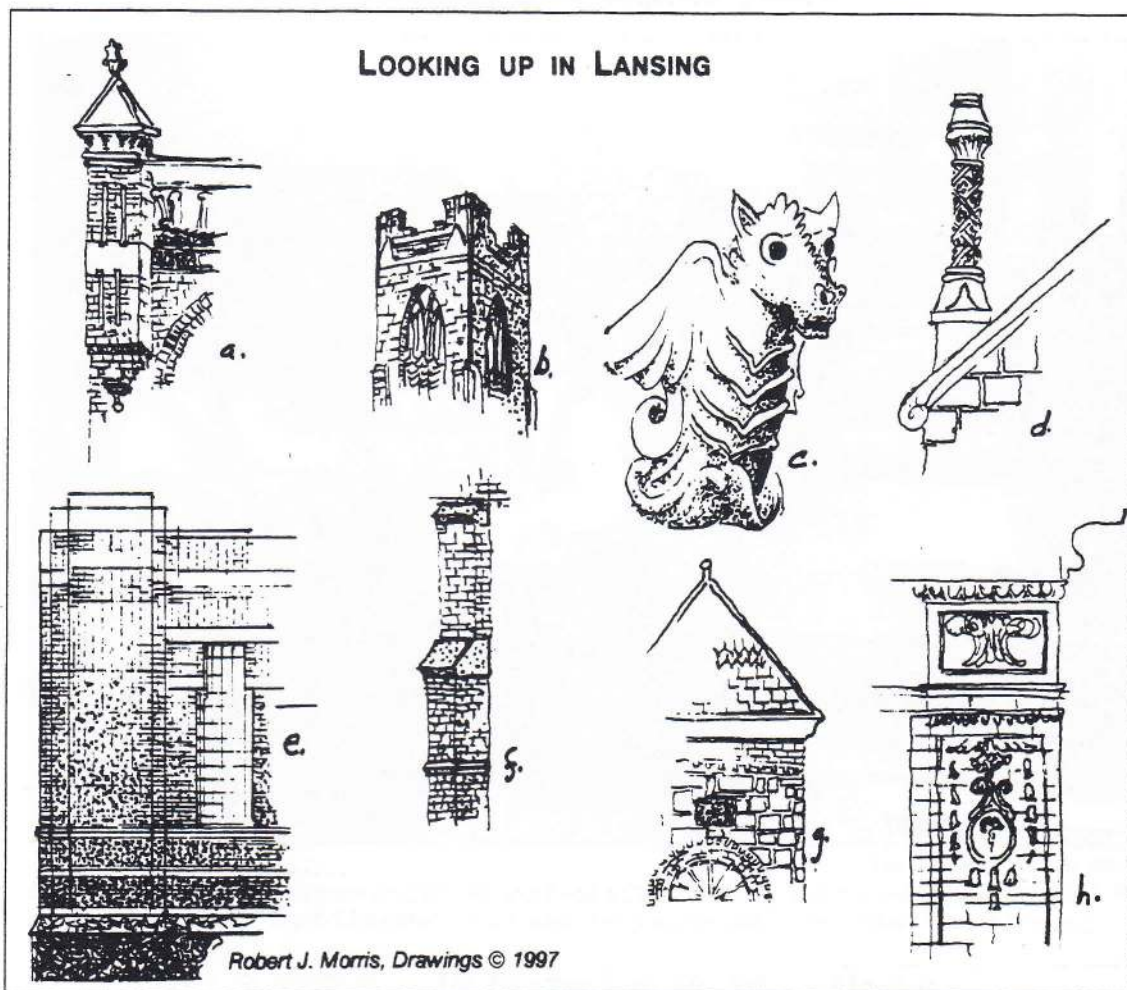
Clues

a.) A building with a little turret and an owl nearby to scare away the pigeons.

b.) A building with a large Norman Gothic tower that looks like a fortress.

c.) A limestone building with a bronze griffin, like a sea horse with wings, above the door.

d.) A Romanesque building with the fanciest chimney pot in town.



Robert J. Morris, Drawings © 1997

For the Lansing State Journal

Look up at the landmarks: The above is a collection of drawings that shows architectural devices that appear on Lansing landmarks. It was adapted from a larger series prepared for a scavenger hunt that was part of the city's sesquicentennial celebration in June.

- e.) A brick building whose walls change from black at the bottom to cream at top, to represent the burning of coal.
- f.) A brick Gothic building with 35 buttresses to help hold up the roof.
- g.) A stone building with one huge stone made out of hundreds of tiny stones.
- h.) A building with a fancy top

story and cornice made of white terra cotta, looking like a birthday cake.

Buildings

- 1.) St. Paul's Episcopal, 1914, Ottawa and Seymour
- 2.) Prudden Building, 1922, Washington and Michigan
- 3.) First Baptist, 1892, Capitol and Ionia
- 4.) Michigan Millers, 1890, 120

W. Ottawa

- 5.) St. Mary Cathedral, 1913, Seymour and Ionia
- 6.) City National Bank (Comerica), 1931, Washington and Michigan
- 7.) Central Methodist, 1889, Ottawa and Capitol
- 8.) Ottawa Power Plant, 1930-40, Ottawa and Grand

LST August 17, 1997:33

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Quite a number of families have put up temporary dwellings near the junction of the Grand and Cedar rivers, on both sides of the Grand.

1897:

The cigarmakers union has made up a purse of \$5, which has been forwarded to the striking coal miners.

1947:

Fighting continues in Indonesia with the Dutch. They ignore a United Nations order to halt.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Aug. 14 to 24:** Michigan Festival, Michigan State University.

■ **Aug. 20 to 23:** Oldsmobile Centennial Celebration, downtown Lansing.

■ **Aug. 23:** Parade of Historic Oldsmobiles, downtown Lansing.

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A look at yesterday:

Beginning in 1893, a major part of Lansing's economy was going up in smoke as the city became home to about two dozen cigarmakers.

One prominent company was the Queen Bee Cigar Co., 223 N. Washington, maker of the "Auto City," the "City Hall" and the "New Jack" cigars.

The Creole Cigar Co. was in North Lansing, on the second floor above 1216 Turner St. The building, still standing, was a typical store front on the first



For the Lansing State Journal

A puff of history: The interior of Canrike and Paul's Cigar Factory is shown in Lansing in 1905. The company made the "Zach Chandler" and was among about two dozen cigar firms in the city.

floor, with space for offices or small "factories" on the second floor.

Canrike and Paul's Cigar Factory manufactured the "Zach Chandler." In the photo above, the company had just moved its equipment and stock into quarters above a store in North Lansing.

The Otto Ziegler Co. was a cigarmaker from about 1896 through the 1930s. Ziegler offered retail and wholesale cigars.

The Hammell Cigar Co. was owned by James Hammell, mayor of Lansing from 1900 to 1903. Although all of these companies started as cottage industries, according to the Lansing Journal in 1902, Hammell Cigar was the largest cigar factory in the state outside of Detroit. Employing 100 hands and five traveling salesmen, Hammell manufactured 3 million cigars annually.

Hammell was known for lighting his cigars with dollar bills.

Under the dome

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LST August 24, 1997: 38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

A bill was introduced to incorporate the Dexter and Lansing Plank Road Co. It passed the House.

1897:

A new company has been formed to manufacture horseless carriages in Lansing and will be called the Olds Motor Vehicle Co.

1947:

The old Simons' home is torn down on the new Journal plant site to make room for the future. Radar cooking (microwave) is to be explained to restaurant proprietors at the Hotel Olds.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Today:** Michigan Festival, Michigan State University.

■ **Monday:** Garden Party and Awards Ceremony, Neighborhoods in Bloom, Cooley Gardens.

■ **Friday:** Riverfest, lighted float parade.

A look at yesterday:

On Aug. 23, 1897, the State Republican announced the organization of a company to manufacture the Olds' Horseless Carriage. The Olds Motor Vehicle Co., the first in the state to make "motor-cycles," was capitalized with \$50,000. E.W. Sparrow, E.F. Cooley, A.C. Stebbins and Ransom E. Olds were elected officers.

The horseless carriage marked a major advance in a long series of attempts to make travel easier.

In the 1830s, pioneers who came to mid-Michigan often bought wagons and teams of oxen in Detroit to pull their goods. But woods and swamps were typical and passage was difficult. W.A. Dryer remembered that it took five days to get from Detroit to Dexter in 1836.



For the Lansing State Journal

Olds in his mobile: R.E. Olds and his family are shown in one of his horseless carriages that is parked in the first attached garage in 1896. The organization of the Olds Motor Vehicle Co. was announced in the State Republican on Aug. 23, 1897.

There was no road after Dexter, only foot trails in Ingham County.

Although John D. Reeves took a stage coach from Detroit to Ann Arbor in the same year, he walked the first 10 miles to help get the wheels out of ruts all along the way.

The road was worse north from Jackson because of a long section of dense swamp. Such areas were soon bridged with logs. This was not an ideal solution, because horses and oxen would get their feet hung in the

logs. As late as 1859, it still took two days to get goods from Lansing to Jackson.

In 1851, the Lansing and Howell Plank Road opened, connecting to the Howell and Detroit Plank Road. Hewn timbers were laid across stringers, making a solid road and cutting travel time drastically.

A section of this plank road was discovered in East Lansing in 1995 when Grand River Avenue was opened for road work.

Although the Michigan Central Railroad reached Jackson

from Detroit in 1841, it was another 20 years before the railroads came to Lansing. Many people in Lansing who saw the coming of the railroads also witnessed the introduction of Mr. Olds' horseless carriage.

The new vehicle was economical and so easy to operate that it could be managed by a lady; it had been run without trouble by Mrs. Olds. Mr. Olds drove from Grand Ledge in one hour and 15 minutes at a cost of only 4 cents.

Compiled by Linda Peckham of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

LST August 31, 1997:33

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Charles P. Bush, acting lieutenant governor and investor in Benton House, is building a fine residence on Main Street.

1897:

People can now insure their property against burglars. Michigan Agricultural College shows boom in attendance; the freshmen class already numbers more than 200. Ordinance to tax wheel riders in the city is a nightmare.

1947:

Nearly 12,000 veterans' bonus claims have been paid in Ingham County. Over Labor Day weekend, 19,680 vehicles are ferried across Straits of Mackinac. City buys houses on Townsend for first off-street parking lot.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Monday:** Walking tour on the Riverwalk, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Starts at north Lansing dam in Burchard Park; ends at Michigan Avenue.

A look at yesterday:

In the 1830s, James Seymour, William Townsend and other early speculators bought property here along the great bend of the Grand River, one of Michigan's largest rivers.

Water power was essential for running mills, and if you look at Lansing from the river, you will see that it developed as a river town.

Seymour was granted water rights by the state in 1843 at the rapids in what is now north Lansing. Under this grant, John Burchard came to build a dam, and the first cabin in the wilderness. Unfortunately, he drowned the next spring repairing the dam, and the site was abandoned.

Seymour soon commissioned



For the Lansing State Journal

Rolling on the river: Before Riverfront Park was built in 1976, the banks of the Grand River were lined with industrial and commercial businesses.

Joab Page, from Jackson and Mason, to rebuild the dam. By 1845, Seymour's sawmill was in operation.

Two years later, the settlement was assured when the capital was moved from Detroit to Lansing Township. New settlers invested in more saw mills, grist mills and a foundry — all dependent on water power.

The new Capitol and State Office Building were not situated near the dam, however. They were farther up river, where a second area of development began along the river from Saginaw Street to Main Street. The boom growth came after 1860, when industries were built on

the flats along both sides of the river.

James I. Mean built a grist mill and chair factory on the east side of the river, north of Shiawassee Street. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad depot was built in 1874, between Shiawassee Street and Michigan Avenue.

Across the river, Bement & Sons manufactured the world-famous "Peerless Plow" stoves and bobsleds. From 1880-1900, Bement was the city's largest employer. By 1908, the steam and electric power station was located on this site.

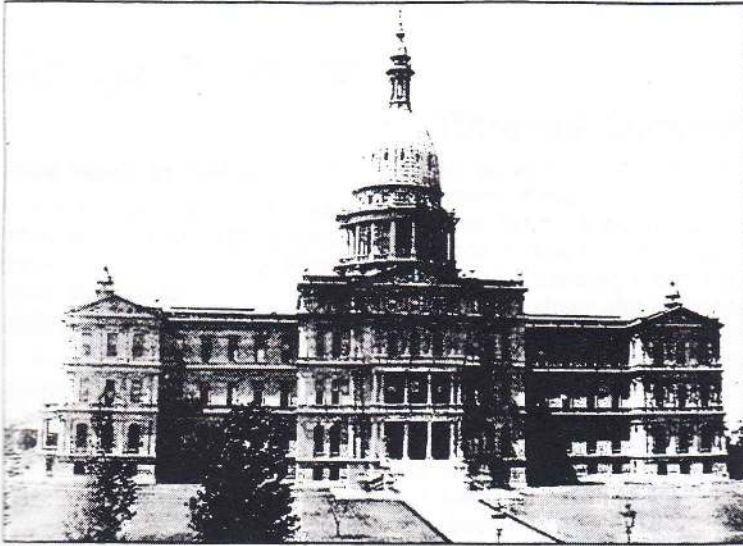
South of Michigan Avenue, Clark & Company made sleighs

and carriages, some of which became the bodies for R.E. Olds' new invention. P.F. Olds & Son (R.E. was a son) manufactured stationary steam engines at their factory farther south along the river.

These industrial uses continued, with all of their dilapidated warehouses and pollution of their river, for many decades.

In the 1970s, people began to view the river as an asset again, for a new purpose.

Riverfront Park opened in 1976, the Brenke Fish ladder was dedicated in 1980, and you can now enjoy a walk on the River Trail from north Lansing to Michigan State University.



For the Lansing State Journal

A tree grows in Lansing: The largest catalpa tree in the nation stands in front of the Capitol in Lansing. It measures 107 feet tall, 85 feet across the crown, and more than 20 feet around its trunk.

The photo at left shows a tiny version of the tree between 1879 and 1887. At right is a larger version in about 1900. The photos were supplied by the Lansing Public Library.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Mrs. Burr, wife of Dr. Burr, opens a school under the trees on River Street with nine pupils.

1897:

People advised: "Don't Go to Alaska to Seek Gold — Boats Overloaded and Condemned." Special trains bring 3,009 visitors to Lansing for dedication of a new flag by the Lansing Arbeiter Society.

1947:

A driver training course is turned down by the Lansing school board. It is proposed by the YMCA at Townsend and Lenawee streets to be six stories. Board of Police and Fire Commissioners recommends new city jail.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Thursday:** Heritage Gardens/Seeds and Stories, Foster Par, 6:30 p.m. Garden Project/Otto Middle School.

■ **Friday to Sept. 14:** History Mystery Tour, North Lansing. Old Town Main Street Program.

■ **Sept. 17:** Pioneer Ghost Walk, Mt. Hope Cemetery, 6:30 p.m. Historical Society of Great-

Under the dome

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er Lansing.

A look at yesterday:

Many are familiar with the spectacular restoration of our 1879 Michigan Capitol. September is also a good time of year to look at the grounds on Capitol Square. In 1878, during the final year of the construction of the Capitol, Adam Oliver of Kalamazoo was retained to lay out the grounds around the building.

His plan called for a double row of trees around the outside edge of the square, to make a pleasant promenade for stroll-

ers. The interior of the square was to be left open, to provide prominence to the Capitol Building. In July 1878, Oliver had 47 men, two waterboys and six teamsters working on the grounds.

Over the years, though, the plan was forgotten, and new trees and shrubs obscured the building from view. Now, in cooperation with Michigan State University, the original planting scheme is being recreated. The interior of the square is gradually being cleared and the promenade re-established.

Herbaceous borders of flowers also curve again around the front of the Capitol. These perennial gardens are based on the late-1800s designs of Gertrude Jekyll of England. The plants sweep away from the front entrance in drifts of color, moving through the spectrum from warm reds near the steps to cool blues at each end of the building.

The modern annuals that flank the front walk reflect the practice of carpet bedding, authentic to the period of the Capitol. This practice of planting flowers in

geometric patterns first appeared in England in the 1860s and soon spread to Europe and the United States. This year, the beds feature red, white, and blue flowers in a waving flag pattern in honor of Lansing's Sesquicentennial.

The Capitol lawn also boasts a famous old tree, the largest catalpa tree in the nation, now supported with crutches. Certified by the American Forestry Association's National Register of Big Trees, in 1992 it measured 107 feet tall, 85 feet across the crown, and more than 20 feet around its trunk. Its nearest rival is in Walla Walla, Wash.

The giant tree, and a companion that no longer survives, may have been planted in recognition of the catalpa's role in the settlement of the state. Catalpa wood does not rot easily and was favored by settlers for fence posts.

Based on photographs taken during construction of the Capitol, the tree is estimated to be about 130 years old.

Compiled by Linda Peckman of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

LST Sept. 7, 1997:38

L SJ Sept. 19, 1997: 38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Henry Jipson and W.W. Upton receive a license for \$5 to keep a tavern in the Lansing House, near the Capitol.

1897:

Mr. Edward W. Sparrow is guest of honor at a dinner given by B.F. Davis and attended by E.F. Cooley, S.S. Olds, A.H. Whitehead and others, all members of a hunting club. Sparrow, 50, weds Helen Grant two days later.

1947:

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, convinces the AF of L board to refuse to sign "anti-Red" pledges, causing the AF of L to be ineligible to use the National Labor Relations Board.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Today:** Mexican Fiesta, Hispanic Cultural Center, noon to 7 p.m.

■ **Wednesday:** Pioneer Ghost Walk, Mt. Hope Cemetery, 6:30 p.m. Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

A look at yesterday:

Last week, a man on Lansing's far southwest side uncovered a tombstone while he was tilling his yard.

The stone marked the burial of Jane H., wife of Ira C. Horton, aged 23 years, who died on Sept. 15, 1858.

We can guess from her location and age that she was a farmer's wife, and that she died in childbirth.

This discovery points out a typical pattern of burials in Lansing — and all over the country.

Many of the earliest pioneering farm families who died were

simply buried on their property on a spot of high ground.

These farm cemeteries are common in New York, the origin of many of Lansing's families. The stones show the relationships of extended families, such as those in the Rolfe Cemetery on Barnes Road or in the North Cemetery on Miller Road.

In the towns, a common burial site was always established.

In Lansing, a few burials may have been made near Grand River Avenue and Turner Street from 1845 to 1848.

Then the state granted land for burials near Saginaw and Larch, along the Mason esker.

The best ground for a cemetery is on a glacial esker, a high gravel ridge that is easy to dig and drain, often above a stream.

Many cemeteries dot the line of the Mason esker from Mason to the Looking Glass River.

The Larch Street site was abandoned in 1851 when James and Horatio Seymour sold 20 acres to the city for a cemetery on Saginaw near Pennsylvania, also on the esker.

Called Oak Park, this site was used for several years.

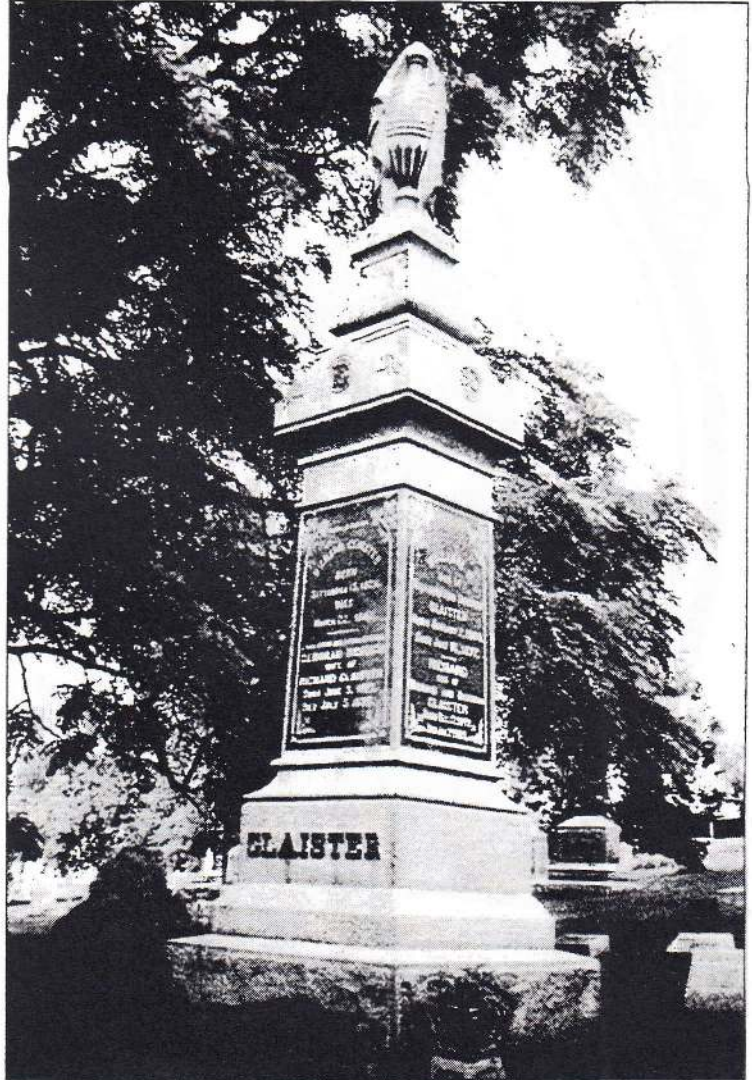
In 1873, the city bought the 80-acre Miller farm on the esker at Mt. Hope and Aurelius roads for a larger cemetery.

After an unusual decision, between 1874 and 1880 nearly 1,100 bodies were moved from Oak Park to Mt. Hope Cemetery. They missed a few.

In the summer of 1897, five coffins were unearthed at the old Oak Park Cemetery by workmen excavating for a sewer.

The coffins, though, were in the Potter's Field, the section for the poor; probably relatives were unable to buy new plots in Mt. Hope.

Mt. Hope Cemetery is a beauti-



LINDA PECKHAM/For the Lansing State Journal

Remembrance of things past: The Glaister Monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery was erected after a son's death by Richard Glaister, master stonemason of the 1879 Capitol.

ful rolling park above Sycamore Creek.

The cemetery was developed by H. Lee Bancroft, supervisor of Parks and Recreation from 1914-1957.

Bancroft, incidentally, established the landscaping of all of the parks and cemeteries in Lansing.

Compiled by Linda Peckham of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

Capitol

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

LST, Sept. 21, 1997: 3B

This week in 1847:

Dr. John Goucher, from Ohio, and Dr. William Wells, Howell, arrive in Michigan. Cedar Street School being built.

1897:

Huge number of veterans and General Wilcox attend 23rd reunion of the Ingham County Soldiers and Sailors Association. New bicycle ordinance prohibits riding tandems on sidewalks.

1947:

Mayor Crego breaks ground for the new Navy Armory on Saginaw Street. International House proposed on Michigan State College campus for \$300,000.

Heritage celebration:

■ Oct. 4 to 5: American Heritage Festival, Woldumar Nature Center.

■ Oct. 4 to 5: Hmong New Year's Celebration, Frances Park.

A look at yesterday:

When our town was founded in 1847, it was named Michigan, Mich. By 1848, people were clamoring for a name change. We might have become Algoma or Okeema. Or Thorbush or El Dorado. Or Pewonagawink or Swedenborg. Twenty-six names were suggested and argued.

Lansing Township had been established in 1842 and named

by the North-family. The Norths were the township's earliest settlers and arrived here in 1837-38 from Lansing, Tompkins County, N.Y.

Lansing, N.Y., had been named in 1790 for John Lansing, chancellor of New York and a descendant of the old Dutch Lansing family. Lansing was a Supreme Court judge, a member of the New York Assembly, and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention with John Jay and Alexander Hamilton. After the Revolutionary War, John Lansing, secretary to General Schuyler, was in charge of making grants of land to the soldiers for their service, land located in Tompkins County.

In January 1848 in Michigan, Joseph E. North and others petitioned the Legislature to change the name of the new capital city to Lansing. The House introduced the bill. The Senate wanted Okeema. The House held out for Lansing. The Senate recommended Algoma, then Okeema again. Then amendments amended the amendments back and forth for Huron, LaSalle, Franklin and so on, until April 1 when the Senate and the House agreed on the name of Lansing.

Compiled by Linda Peckham of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial



For the Lansing State Journal

The original Lansing: The state capital was named after John Lansing in 1848. Lansing was a Revolutionary War official and former chancellor of the state of New York.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

The Lansing House on South Washington is the center of stage coach and mail activity.

1897:

The \$40,000 school budget is approved. Olds' Horseless Carriage is a great hit at county fairs.

1947:

The state is suffering a severe shortage of bricklayers.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Saturday and Sunday:** American Heritage Festival, Woldumar Nature Center.

■ **Saturday and Sunday:** Among New Year's Celebration, Frances Park.

A look at yesterday:

As a Sesquicentennial project, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing has been collecting family histories of the earliest settlers who still have descendants in the area.

Several families have made their homes here for 160 years.

The oldest family we have found is the Abner Potter family from Allegany County, N.Y. Potter and two older sons scouted for land here in 1835.

The population of Ingham County was less than 500, and Michigan was not yet a state.

In 1837, Potter, his wife and seven children, a Quaker family, settled in the wilderness southeast of Mason on what would become Potter Road. They came in a covered wagon, pulled by oxen, and carried items that still survive: six silver spoons, a carved walnut chair, a candle mold and a family Bible.

Elijah Potter, a younger son (1827-1918), purchased his own land in 1850, married Abigail Dewey, had three children, and then in 1857 left for California, with several men from the area, to find gold.

He walked to Jackson, took the train to New York City, and embarked on a boat bound for California.



For the Lansing State Journal

Early settlers: Elijah P. and Abigail Dewey Potter were among the early mid-Michigan settlers. Elijah's family settled in the wilderness southeast of Mason on what would become Potter Road. He and Abigail went on to own a 600-acre farm and were among the wealthiest people in Ingham County.

Under the dome

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He wrote home, complaining that the rush time had passed, and telling his brothers not to come. But the climate apparently was good for his health — he had suffered with malaria since he was a boy — and he stayed for five years.

Because he had vowed that he would never travel through the Straits of Magellan again, on his

return trip, he went by sea only as far south as Panama. He walked across the torrid jungles of the isthmus, and caught another ship to New York City.

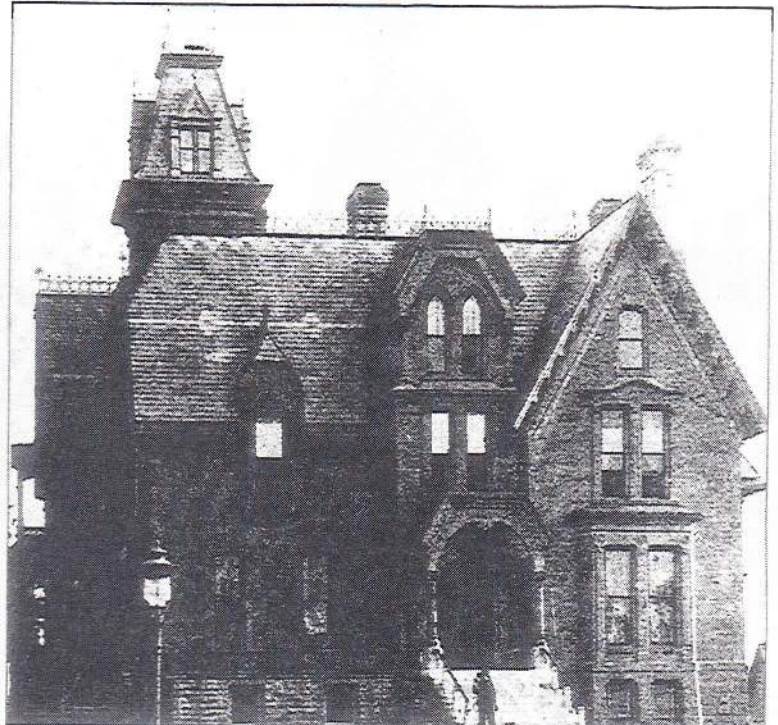
Ironically, he had missed his first booking from San Francisco, and the ship he was supposed to be on went down. Some time later, Abigail was notified of his "death," and he arrived home just in time to attend his own funeral.

Abigail (1827-1914), who had been something of a "peeler" as a girl, had managed the farm successfully in his absence. They had three more children. Elijah expanded the farm to 600 acres, invested in other land and held mortgages for neighbors.

The Family History project continues. If you are from an old family, please contact the Historical Society of Greater Lansing at 372-3385.

Compiled by Linda Peckham of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

LST Sept. 28, 1997: 3B



For the Lansing State Journal

A founding family: Orlando Mack Barnes was a lawyer who became Ingham County prosecutor in the 1850s and state representative in 1863. A family portrait (left) shows Mariette, Orlando Mack, Orlando Fleming, Amanda and Edward Barnes. The photo

was taken at about the time their house (right) was built in 1876 on Main Street in Lansing. The house was torn down in 1957 after being rejected as a governor's residence. The photo was submitted by Mary Kerr, a Barnes descendant.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

H.H. Smith and Daniel Case are operating a general store at Franklin and Center.

1897:

Lt. Peary talks to a crowded house at Baird's, announcing that he will go back to Greenland for five years to search for the North Pole.

1947:

Two weeks' realty sales again top a half million.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Today:** American Heritage Festival, Woldumar Nature Center.

■ **Friday- Oct. 12:** Old Town Art & October Fest 97, North Lansing.

A look at yesterday:

Another of the earliest families to settle in the Greater Lansing area was headed by John Barnes.

Barnes, his wife Anna, and some of their 12 children came in 1837 from Aurelius Township,

N.Y., to an area south of Lansing on what is now Barnes Road. John helped form the government of the pioneer settlement, and is said to have chosen the name of Aurelius for the township here.

One of the sons, Orlando Mack Barnes (1824-1899), graduated from the University of Michigan in 1850 and, after studying law with a firm in Jackson, began a 20-year law practice in Mason. He became Ingham County prosecutor in the 1850s, and state representative in 1863.

In 1876, he and his wife, Amanda Fleming, built a large Victorian house in Lansing on Main Street at the foot of Capitol Avenue. The house, a stone Gothic designed by L.D. Grosvenor of Jackson, contained two parlors, a library, dining room, bedroom and bath, kitchen, and conservatory on the main floor. Each room featured a different type of wood trim: walnut in one room, cherry in another, and so on.

Barnes was elected mayor of

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Lansing in 1878 and spent the rest of his life contributing to the growth of the city. He was a principal in the Jackson-Lansing Railroad, Lansing Iron & Engine Works, Lansing Wagon Works, Michigan Knitting Co., banks, and several other businesses. He was also a Shakespearean scholar, a writer and a historian.

Orlando Fleming Barnes, the oldest of the three children, graduated from U-M in 1880, became mayor of Lansing in 1882,

and was active in banking and real estate.

Eleanor Barnes Pierce, the youngest of O.F.'s six children, was a 1913 graduate of Vassar College and a lifelong contributor to Lansing's cultural and civic affairs. She died in 1991 at the age of 98.

The family fortune had been greatly reduced by the financial panic of 1893. After 1922, the beautiful old house stood empty for nearly 30 years. In the 1950s, it was suggested as the governor's house. Unfortunately, it was rejected by a person who thought that Victorian was ugly; he favored something modern. The house was torn down in 1957.

The Family History project continues. If you are from a family that has made its home in the Lansing area for at least 100 years, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact the Historical Society for an application at 372-3385.

Written by Linda Peckham of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

This week in 1847:

The Old Territorial Capitol in Detroit will be dedicated to education when the state vacates it.

1897:

Ray Bristol organizes an orchestra to play at Baird's Opera House this winter.

1947:

Whitehills Estates begins the sale of lots. An addition is planned to TB Sanatorium.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Today:** October Fest '97, Old Town, North Lansing.

■ **Saturday and Oct. 19:** Apple Butter Festival, Fenner Nature Center.

■ **Oct. 19:** Westside Home Tour: Westside Neighborhood Association & Advent House.

A look at yesterday:

On Oct. 2, 1873, about 30,000 people attended the ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone for the new Capitol building. The population of the city was less than 6,000, and it was the largest event Lansing had seen.

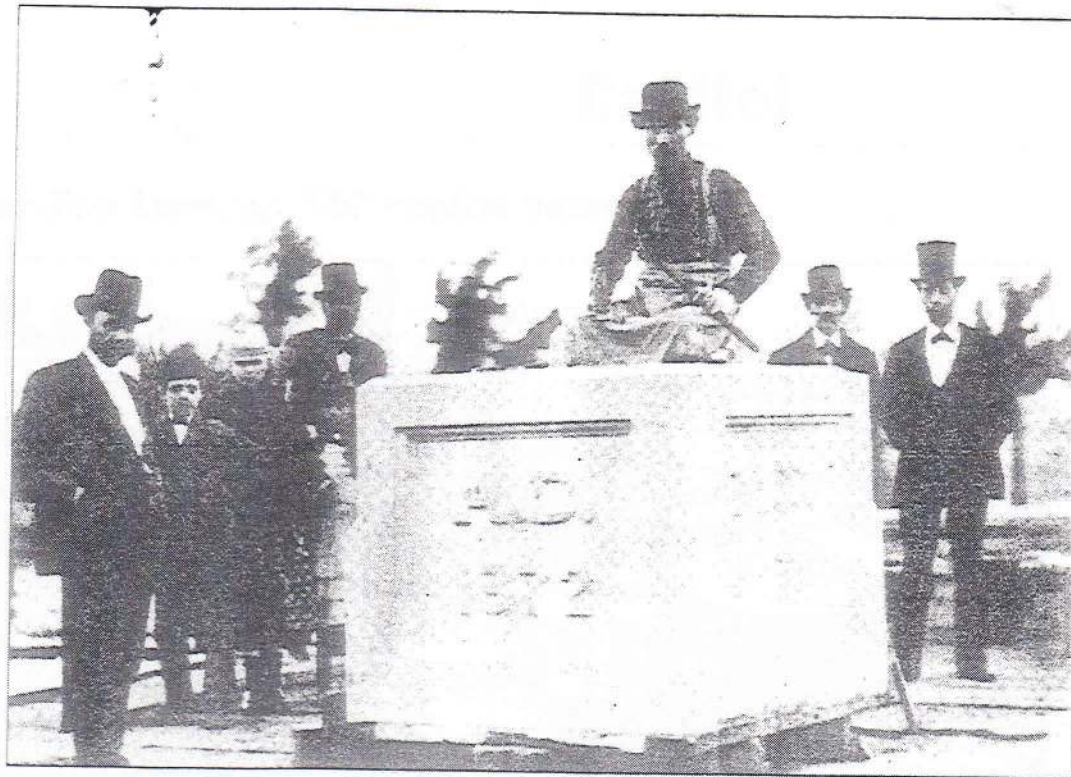
Special trains brought celebrants from all over the state. Hotels were full. Ladies from the downtown churches sold food. Masons and Knights Templar marched and bands played. Tattered Civil War battle flags flew from the grandstand.

The cornerstone was a five-ton block of Massachusetts granite carved in Philadelphia. It arrived by train on Sept. 29, and was pulled to the Capitol site by four horses.

And that's when they discovered that the "casket" for artifacts would not fit the cavity provided in the cornerstone. The 16-inch box, made of copper and lined with glass, would contain among other things a history of Michigan, two legislative manuals, a plate inscribed with the mayor's name, gold and silver coins, and daily newspapers published in the state.

Richard Glaister, master stonecutter for the Capitol, instructed two workmen to chip out a larger opening. The chips were eagerly taken as souvenirs.

At two o'clock, a long parade led by Lansingite Lt. Baker, the famed captor of John Wilkes Booth, began to pass down Washington Avenue in front of the 1847 Capitol. On the site of the new Capitol, the crowd stepped around the 10 huge der-



For the Lansing State Journal

Written in stone: Stonecutter Eban McPhee expands the opening of the cornerstone for the Capitol. The vault where artifacts were to be placed was found to be too small when the building was dedicated on Oct. 2, 1873. These photos were supplied by the Capitol Building Archives.

Under the dome

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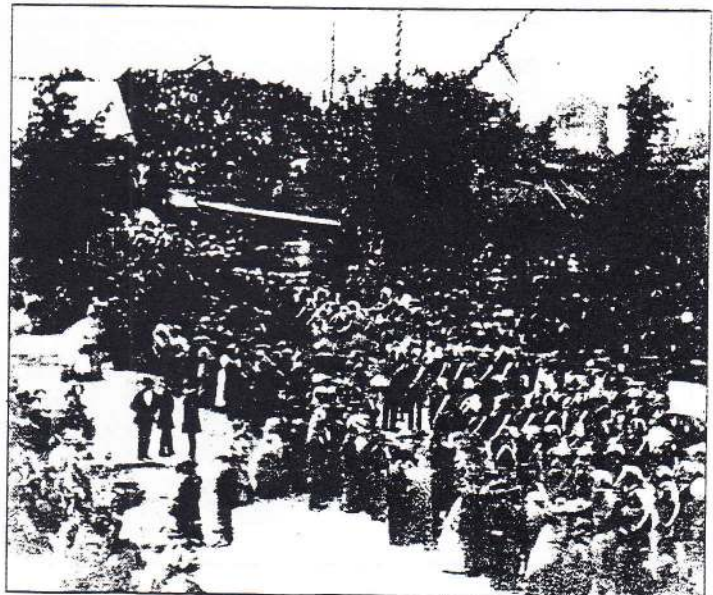
If you've got ideas for stories, call Chris Andrews at 377-1054 or Greg J. Borowski at 377-1157.



ricks and ropes set up to maneuver stones into the foundation. By six o'clock, speeches had been made and the cornerstone sealed and set into place.

In an early skirmish, Adele Haslett reported to the American Women's Suffrage Association that large groups of patriotic women were ignored, that only men were assigned a place in the procession or invited onto the grandstand. In response, the newspaper claimed that Lansing women were delighted with the profits they made from their food sales.

In 1920, Charles Emery discovered in his basement an old neg-



For the Lansing State Journal

Witnessing history: Some of the 30,000 people who flocked to Lansing for the dedication of the Capitol cornerstone are shown on Oct. 2, 1873.

ative of the cornerstone, taken nearly 50 years earlier. The State Journal published the photo, asking for identification of the people.

The cornerstone is on the

northeast corner of the Capitol. The last "8" was added when the Capitol was completed in 1878.

Written by Linda Peckham. Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

Capitol

LSJ October 19, 1997: 38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Daniel Buck, 19, arrives in Lansing from Lansing, N.Y., and opens furniture manufacturing business.

1897:

Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow are honeymooning in Ireland and London. Average wage for a day laborer is \$1.25 a day.

1947:

Gen. Charles DeGaulle's party wins election in France. Coffee is 39 cents a pound at McConnell Bros. Grocery.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Today:** Apple Butter Festival, Fenner Nature Center.

■ **Today:** Westside Home Tour: Westside Neighborhood Association & Advent House

A look at yesterday:

In 1872, Richard Glaister, master stonemason, was contracted to be superintendent of the stone work on the new Capitol in Lansing.

The foundations were 3-foot thick limestone blocks, and the entire building was faced with Amherst limestone, all of which had to be cut, shaped, smoothed, and set in place piece by piece. For the next six years, Glaister was one of the most important men on the project.

After a long, slow winter, the foundations were in place when the cornerstone was laid in the fall of 1873. By January 1876, with saws operating in the sheds summer and winter, and sometimes day and night, 28 stonemasons were working on the decorative cornices and balustrades above the third story.

Steam engines in the sheds powered the saws and polishers. In the yard, 10 derricks with block and tackle, run by hand cranks, easily moved the huge blocks of stone around.

Glaister came with an impres-



Lansing State Journal

Capitol ingredients: Limestone for the Capitol is stacked during construction in 1872. The foundations are made of 3-foot thick blocks and the building is faced with Amherst limestone.

sive background. Born in 1828 in England, as a young man he became superintendent of stone work on the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Canada. In 1864, he and his wife, Deborah Brough, moved their family to Ottawa. By 1868, he was superintendent on Detroit's City Hall, then Trinity Church in Pittsburg.

The family decided to settle in Lansing, and in 1876 built a 13-room, \$7,000 Italianate house at 402 S. Walnut St. An identical house was built for James Appleyard, superintendent of construction for the Capitol.

The Glaisters attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church across from the Capitol, and Glaister became an alderman in the city. Daughters Orah and Lizzie, probably the girls in last week's photo, married A.M. Emery and Dr. Iddings.

The Glaisters were saddened in 1877 by the death of their eldest son. He was only 29. Glaister's despondency is thought to have contributed to his own suicide in 1887. Two years later,



Lansing State Journal

Building a landmark: Stonemasons are shown at the Capitol construction site in 1872. These photos were submitted by the Capitol Building Archives.

the second son also died.

The Glaister house is still standing. Glaister's own work on the Capitol and in other cities

offers us a major exhibition of this master stonemason's work.

Written by Linda Peckham of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

LST October 26, 1997:38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

C.C. Darling's daughter visits him in Lansing for a week while he works on the Capitol. He boards with the Dearin family in a small cabin.

1897:

Post office regulations establish a line for ladies so they won't become ill from fumes of liquor and tobacco.

1947:

Forest fires rage in northern Michigan with more than 100 blazes listed. The Community Chest raises \$287,000.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Thursday:** Great Halloween Caper, downtown Lansing.

A look at yesterday:

The first immigrant to settle in Lansing Township was Joseph E. North Jr. His move to this area typifies many of our early settlers.

In 1836, North came with a group of neighbors from Lansing Township, Tompkins County, N.Y., to look at some of the first land offered for sale here. They were interested in Biddle City, a town still on paper, and good farm land. The owners of the property were the Ford brothers. Like speculators today, the Fords were selling potential to develop a new area.

North didn't buy in Biddle City, but he and others in the group, including Levi Buck and Stephen Ludlow, bought land nearby.

In the spring of 1837, North exchanged his land in Ingham



For the Lansing State Journal

Early area inhabitants: Mrs. and Mr. Henry H. North are shown in these drawings from "A Michigan Sesquicentennial History of Delta Township." North arrived in the area in 1836 from Lansing Township in Tompkins County, N.Y., to view some of the first land offered for sale here.

Township for land in Section 32 of Lansing Township, on Jolly Road, west of Cedar Street. That fall, his brother, Henry Harrison North, bought land in Delhi Township at Miller Road and Cedar Street. Other brothers — and the parents — followed, a pattern created in many families.

Soon the North families owned about 1,300 acres between Aurelius Road and M-99, before the townships were organized or the roads established. They named both Lansing Township in 1842 and the city of Lansing in 1848 after Lansing, N.Y. They were all active in local

governments.

One family story tells of John, a brother, being treed by wolves for an entire cold night on Grovenburg Prairie. Other stories tell of Chief Okemos passing once or twice a year with his band, camping near the houses. Another story tells of Henry's son, Dr. Seymour North, courting his wife, Kate Everett Saxton, for seven years before she consented to marry him. She was a young pregnant widow when he met her; he cared for her during her delivery.

Joseph North Jr. married Emily Rolfe, daughter of a pioneer

Under the dome

Here is a daily look at activities of the Legislature and state government. If you've got ideas for stories, call Chris Andrews at 377-1054 or Greg J. Borowski at 377-1157.



family near Mason. Two of his brothers married two of Levi Buck's sisters. Levi was a brother of Daniel Buck Jr., one of our most prominent businessmen, who came here in 1847.

All of the North houses are gone. The North School is gone. But the North Cemetery on Miller Road, where five generations of Norths are buried, attests to the prominence of these early settlers from New York. Several descendants still live in the area.

If you are from a family which has made its home in the Greater Lansing area for at least 100 years, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact the Historical Society for an application in the Family History Project at 372-3385.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial.

Capitol

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years 255, Nov. 2, 1997: 3B

This week in 1847:

The building commissioner for the Capitol pulls the contract back from the builder and will take charge of it himself.

1897:

Henry Pattengill says ignorance and biogotry are the greatest foes of education. Old Daddy Converse dies. He built freaks, such as human-faced chickens, for P.T. Barnum.

1947:

Motor Wheel and Reo Motors both report a post-war financial boom. Lowell Thomas packs Michigan State College Auditorium.

A look at yesterday:

Early pioneers established farmsteads all around the present city of Lansing, years before Lansing was settled.

One of the earliest settlers in Lansing Township was Jacob Cooley. Also from Tompkins County, N.Y. Cooley moved first to the Leslie area, then in 1837 to land along what is now Waverly Road, south of Mt. Hope Road. He was a tailor, working in Jacksonburg in 1840 when his son Nathan was born.

Nathan is thought to be the first white child born in Lansing Township. Lucy Barnes Cooley, Jacob's wife, spent long periods raising children alone, often befriended by the local Indians. The Cooleys later owned many acres around the original homestead.

In 1832, Samuel Carl came to Ann Arbor from New York. He

married Mariah Hudson, and by 1837 they had settled in Alaiendon Township. They had 15 children. Samuel lived to be 93.

Samuel's daughter, Sarah, married the Rev. John Gibson from Meridian Township. He was the son of Laura Gibson, a widow with young children when she moved her family from New York the year after her husband died to Pine Lake Road, now Lake Lansing Road.

John and Sarah always lived on the Gibson farmstead, now part of Whitehills Estates.

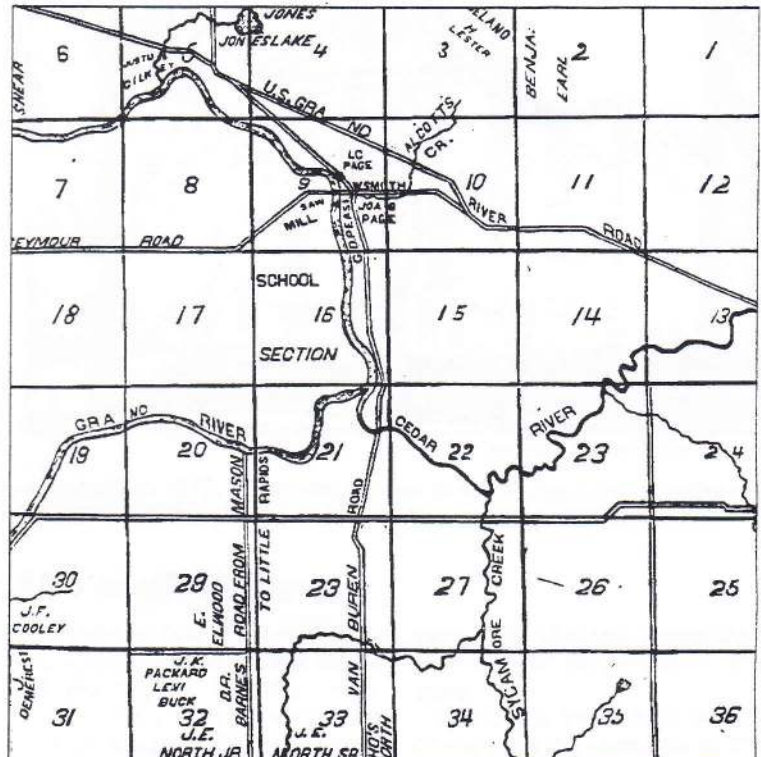
Issac Carl, Samuel's brother, settled in Meridian Township, also along Pine Lake Road. He set aside land for the old Carl School near Park Lake Road.

In 1838, the Silas W. Rose family moved from Washtenaw County, where they had operated a hotel for two years, to a 320-acre farm in Ossowa Township, Clinton County. Originally from Bath, N.Y., Silas Rose took part in naming Bath Township when it was formed, and the town of Bath.

Rose was elected the first supervisor of Ossowa Township, and the first clerk of Bath Township. Rose Lake also carries this family name.

By 1847, when "Michigan" was platted as the new state capital, we had added the names of other pioneer families whose descendants still live in the area. Barnes and North and Potter have previously been written about.

Add, too, the families of Royal McKeough, Watertown Town-



For the Lansing State Journal

Area's earliest inhabitants: This map shows how land was divided for settlers in Lansing Township in 1845. The map was drawn by land agent James Turner and lists the names of early tract owners. The dot in block No. 9 is the current location of the dam in Lansing's Old Town.

ship; Zebedee Goodwin, Portland Township; David Dean, Kalamo Township; Richard and James Turner, Town of Michigan; and Alonzo Proctor, Meridian Township. Proctor's Toll House, the building used to collect fees for use of the plank road in the 1850s, now stands in the Meridian Historic Village.

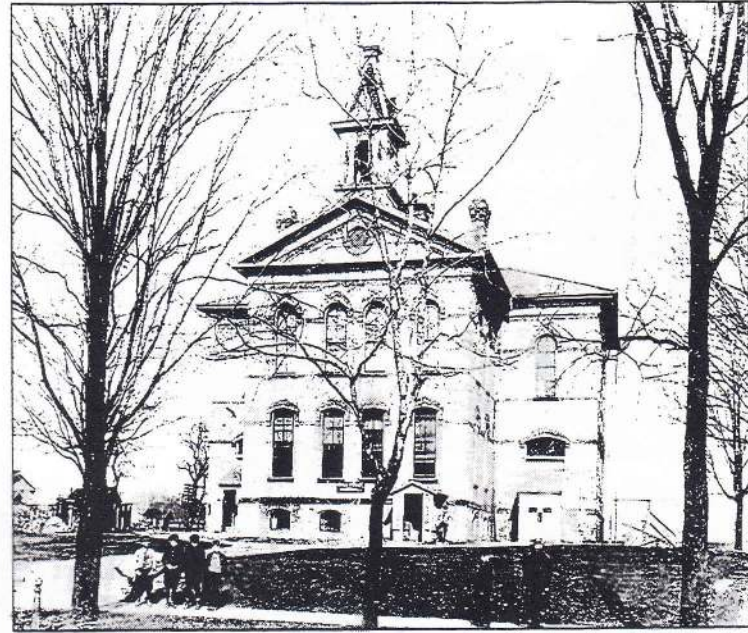
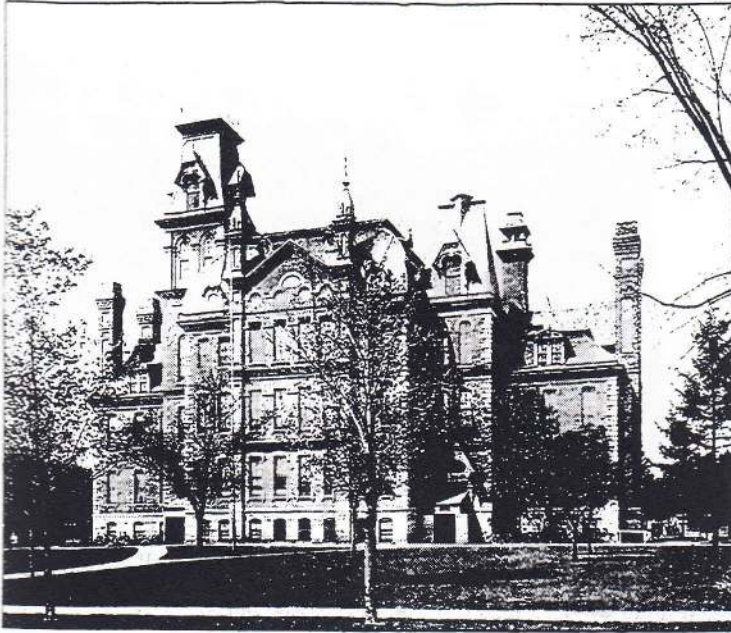
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Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

Capitol



For the Lansing State Journal

The history of learning: The former Lansing High School (left) is shown as it appeared in the Oracle, the class yearbook, in 1904. It

was built in 1875. The former Cedar Street School (right) is shown in 1876. These photos are from the Lansing Public Library.

LSJ
November 9, 1997: 38

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

There were 193 votes cast here, 109 of them for winning Gov. Epaphroditus Ransom, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

1897:

Despite the failure of three Lansing banks during a panic, Lansing Iron & Engine Works is now operating at full capacity and prospects are good for others.

1947:

The first of Lansing's war dead return. About 1,500 march in a "Truce Day" parade.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Nov. 19:** Finding Your Roots, State Archives, 7 p.m. Historical Society

■ **Nov. 21:** Silver Bells, Downtown Lansing

A look at yesterday:

In addition to general stores,

hotels, blacksmith shops, a post office, and a Capitol building, the people of the new town of Michigan, Mich., immediately set up schools for their children.

The first public school opened May 1, 1847 in Lower Town (down river in North Lansing) on or near the Cedar Street School site. Until a larger school was built in the fall of that year, Eliza Powell taught 10 pupils in a "wretched one-room contrivance with holes cut in the sides for windows." She earned \$2 per week.

Also in 1847, Laura Burr started a private school in Upper Town (up river around Main Street). The nine pupils sat outdoors along the Grand River Street. By fall, the "River Grove School" had 80 pupils and a building. Within two years, though, many children and Laura's husband, Dr. Burr, died of an epidemic "brain fever," and the school closed.

In Middle Town in 1849, a public school opened a block south of the Capitol. In 1850, more than 100 children attended classes taught by Ephraim Longyear, Clarinda Grager and Sarah Burt. Another school opened on the east side of the river in 1851.

In 1861, the town organized the schools as the Lansing Public Schools, and elected its first Board of Education. Ephraim Longyear became president; Charles Butler, clerk. The budget was \$1,700.

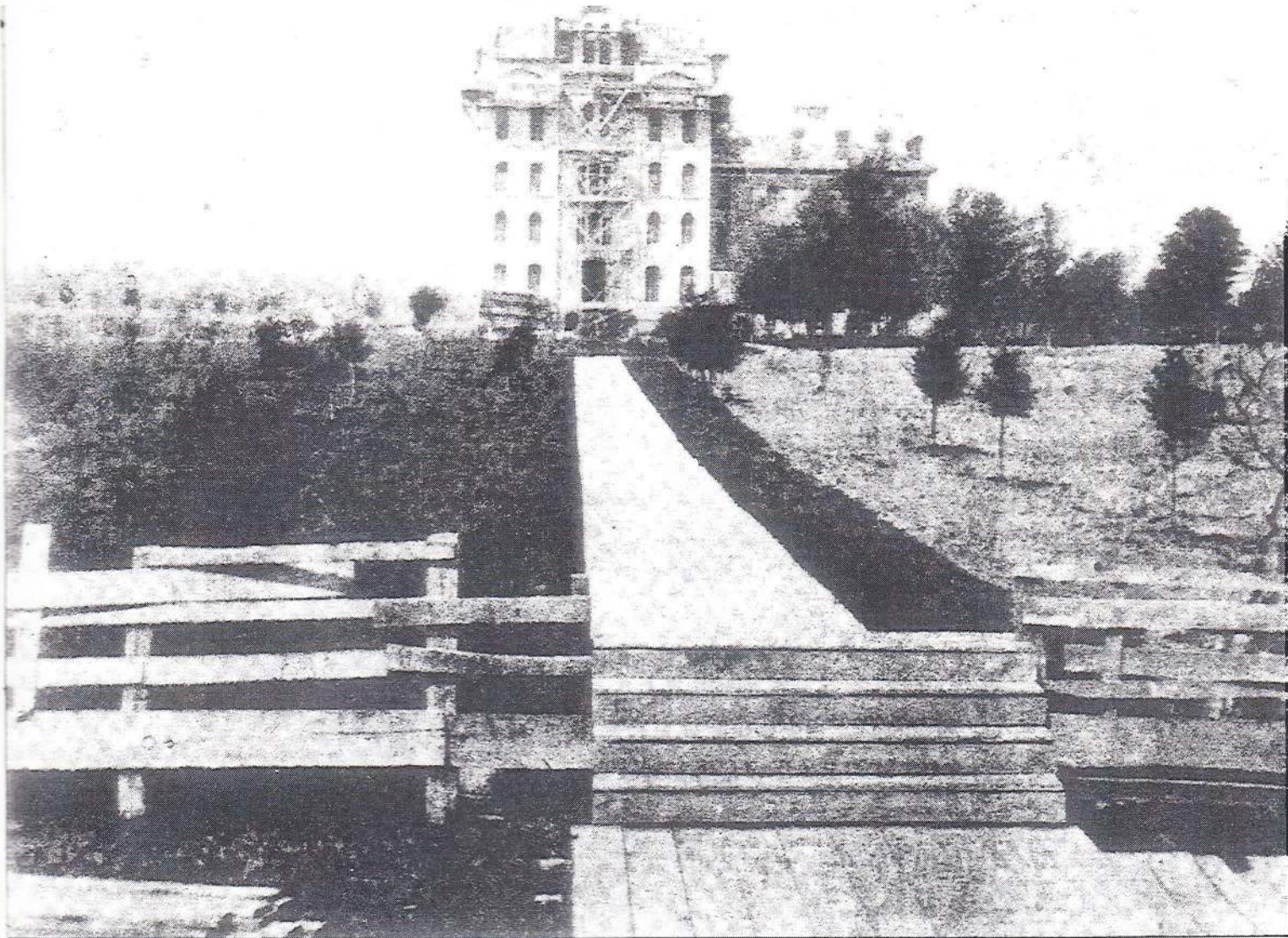
The population of the town continued to grow, and more classroom space was always needed. In 1868, the board added two identical primary schools, one on Walnut Street and one on South Street. The same year they added a high school on Capitol Avenue, where a student in the third year of the general course was required to take surveying, rhetoric, and French or German. In

1871, C.B. Stebbins introduced the first kindergarten in the state.

In 1875, a larger high school opened, on the same site as the old one. In an unpopular change of policy, this \$50,000 Second Empire school was funded with an 8 percent bond. By the time it was paid off, it had been repaired many times, it was too small and everyone knew how much interest had been "lost."

But with two additions, the building served as the only high school for another 50 years. Eastern High School opened in 1928, and the old school became "Central" High School. In 1942, classes were moved out of Central to the new J.W. Sexton High School. "Old Central" became a vocational building, and then home to the new Lansing Community College in 1957.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial



For the Lansing State Journal

Historic school: The Michigan Female College — shown here in a photo from 1870 — educated nearly 1,000 students in its day. The

school, located at North Pine Street and Grand River Avenue, later housed the Michigan School for the Blind.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Lithograph maps of Michigan, made at cost of \$149.

1897:

Discussions continue on privatizing the city's Electric Light Plant. Short course in Dairy Culture inaugurated at M.A.C.

1947:

England celebrates marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten. "Possessed" showing at Gladmer.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Wednesday:** Finding Your Roots, State Archives, 7 p.m. Historical Society.

Friday: Silver Bells, downtown Lansing

A look at yesterday:

By the mid-1850s, Lansing was home to two special types

of education — an academy for young women and the state agricultural college for men.

In 1855, Abbie and Delia Rogers organized the Michigan Female College, erecting a large classroom and dormitory building on North Pine Street at West Franklin (Grand River Avenue). They invested several thousand of their own dollars and received liberal contributions from supporters, including James Turner and Zachariah Chandler.

They taught the higher branches of learning to girls from the best families of Lansing, Jackson and Detroit. Their purpose was to prepare the girls for entry into the University of Michigan and other colleges.

In the same year, Michigan Agriculture College was organized by the state of Michigan. Classrooms, offices, a library,

and housing were laid out around a circle in the countryside three miles east of Lansing.

M.A.C. was the first land grant college in the country, and the study of agriculture was its focus, of course. But because its purpose was "to make men citizens as well as farmers," the men also studied language, philosophy, constitutional law, political economy and several branches of mathematics. Four years of classes in the morning and work in the afternoons led to a bachelor's degree.

Many names from the early days of M.A.C. dot the landscape today. Among them: Abbot, Beal and Kedzie. The Rev. Abbot, president from 1862 to 1884, led the college through the dark days of the Civil War when enrollment dropped to 48 and the legislature considered closing

the school. Beal, professor of botany from 1870 to 1910, pursued studies on plant species, germination and seed vitality. Seeds which he buried in an experiment were recently dug up and found to be alive. R.C. Kedzie, professor of chemistry, 1863 to 1902, helped secure the state Board of Health in 1873.

By 1870, the 20-acre Michigan Female College had closed. They had educated about 1,000 young ladies, but after Adelia Rogers died, her sister was no interested in continuing the school.

Rebuilt and added to, the original building became part of the Michigan School for the Blind in 1880, a use that continued until 1996.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial

LST Nov. 16, 1997; 38

Capitol

LJ Nov. 23, 1997: 33

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Under the direction of the auditor general, \$1,400 has been paid for improving streets in town.

1897:

Events held on Thanksgiving Day include weddings, dinners, card parties, and the Boat Club's annual social.

1947:

Residents on Harton and Clipper streets file a complaint against a sewer contractor for failing to make streets passable.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Dec. 14:** Presbyterian Sesquicentennial Rededication.

■ **Dec. 14:** Candlelight and Carols: Church Walk Downtown.

A look at yesterday:

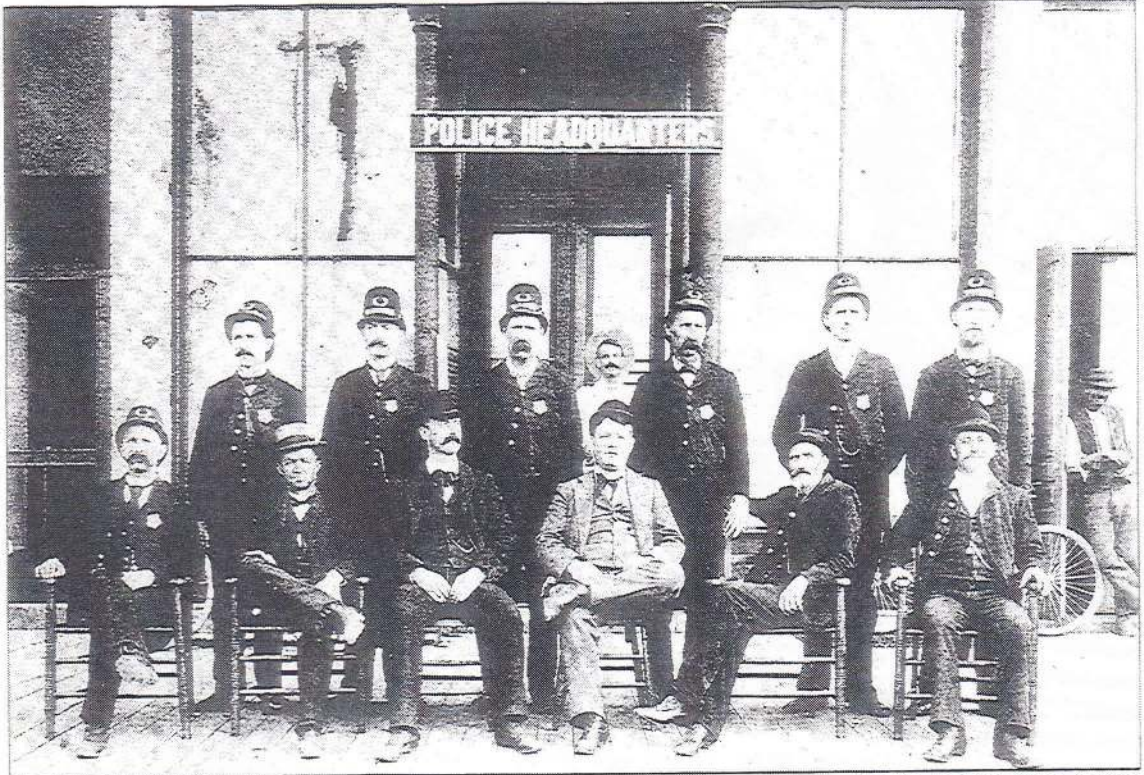
The first Lansing law enforcement official was a city marshal appointed in 1859 by the mayor, the aldermen, and prominent businessmen.

Because the term of office depended on political patronage, 21 men served as city marshals from then until 1893 when the Lansing Police Department was organized.

The city marshal appointed a "city watch" of three men to report fires, keep drunks off the streets, rescue runaway horses and keep loiterers away from the railroads. Each man was given a nightstick, a belt and a dark lantern.

The city marshal had to be in his office from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. He and an Ingham County sheriff, who also held jurisdiction in the city, shared quarters on East Allegan Street in a building that housed the jail and the fire department.

By 1880, each of Lansing's six wards was represented by two



For the Lansing State Journal

Protecting and serving: The Lansing Police Department is shown in this 1894 group photo. Chief John Sanford is wearing a suit in the middle of the front row. The photo was supplied by Pat Heyden of Lansing.

aldermen, one a Democrat, one a Republican. The aldermen were responsible for regulating everything from locomotives to undertakers, and for preserving the peace of their wards. An additional three watchmen were appointed, and a group of "special service men" assisted them.

In 1893, the city charter provided for a police department managed by a nonpartisan board. Police officers were required to be able to read and write English. They worked 12-hour shifts and had no days off. The primary duty of an officer was to "by his vigilance, render it extremely difficult for anyone

to commit crime on his post."

They also assisted lost children and took abandoned infants to the station house. Delinquent boys were sent to the Industrial (Reform) School on East Michigan Avenue, a training school established by the state in 1856 and used for 100 years. Later, when George Palmer, a truant officer, found that many truant children had no shoes, he started the "Palmer Shoe Fund," which still gives aid to needy children today as the "Old Newsboys Fund."

By the turn of the century, the rapid growth of bicycles, street-

cars and automobiles added traffic control to the duties of an officer. A policeman stood in the intersection of Michigan and Washington Avenues, turning a sign on a post that indicated "Stop" or "Go." Bicyclists could be fined for driving too fast and, as late as 1917, regulations required motorists to turn off their engines when they stopped next to a horse.

In 1896, the Police Department took space in the new City Hall at Ottawa and Capitol, an arrangement that still exists.

Written by Linda Peckham and Pat Heyden of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial Committee

Capitol

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This Week In 1847:

Land Office reports that 183 lots worth \$18,233 have been sold in Michigan, Michigan, since July 1.

1897:

Stockholders in failed People's Savings Bank ordered to pay defendants. Professor W.N. Ferris, principal of the Big Rapids Industrial School, lectures in Lansing on "Success."

1947:

United Nations votes to create Jewish and Arab states of Palestine.

Heritage celebration:

■ Dec. 14: Presbyterian Sesquicentennial Rededication.

■ Dec. 14: Candlelight and Carols: ChurchWalk Downtown, 2 p.m., Historical Society.

A look at yesterday:

In order to settle on their land southwest of Lansing in October of 1837, John Skinner and his two brothers had to cut a road from Spicerville, near Eaton Rapids. The road became M-99 and the area was named Windsor Township, after their old home in Windsor County, Vt. John Skinner became the first township supervisor and was re-elected six times. The brothers owned 960 acres, and descendants still live in the township.

In 1842, Oramel Skinner deeded 10 acres of his property to the Indians for a camping ground to keep them from over-running his cultivated land. During an epidemic many of the tribe died, Oramel Skinner built coffins for them, and they were buried on this property. In the early 1850s, when the government moved



Home on the farm: Benjamin Skinner bought 80 acres on old M-99 where he built a shanty, then a house, and then a seven-room farmhouse in 1898.

the Indians to reservations, the chief returned the deed, but the property has continued to be used as a cemetery.

John Skinner built a log cabin and brought his family down the river from Eaton Rapids on "rubber ice" in March of 1838. They avoided the river after that. John and Clarissa had nine children. One winter, after an early frost killed their crops, they lived on turnips and cornmeal. The farm was successful, though, and in 1854 they built a large house with a bedroom for each child.

Besides farming, John bred and raised fine carriage and work horses. In 1874, while haul-

ing logs in Dimondale, one of the chains broke and John was crushed under a rolling log.

Benjamin Skinner, John's son, fought in the Civil War. He attended President Lincoln's second inauguration in 1865, and wrote in his diary that he "shook hands with the old fellow." In April, he attended Lincoln's funeral.

When he returned from the war, Benjamin Skinner bought 80 acres near his parents on old M-99, or Bailey Road. He built a shanty, then a house, and then a seven-bedroom house in 1898. He also built three barns, but in a November storm, lightning struck

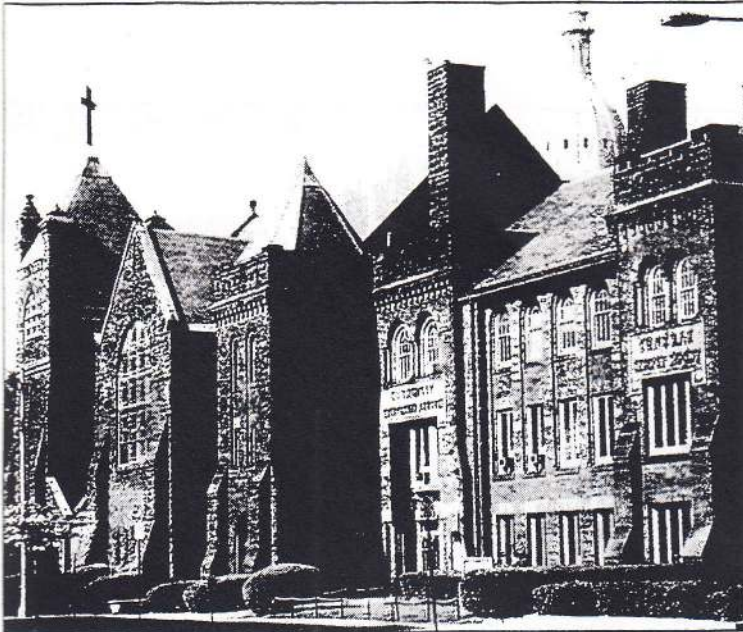
one and all three burned. They were replaced by a single large barn in 1917.

Benjamin and Adah Skinner added to the acreage, as did their daughter and her husband, Nellie and Elmer Lundberg, and every generation that followed. The 390-acre Skinner-Lundberg farm is still being worked; and the house, the barn, and several farm outbuildings are still being used. Benjamin Skinner wrote in his diary until his death in 1928, an incredible 63-year chronicle of daily life.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial Committee.

LST Nov. 30, 1997: 38

Capitol



Free to practice religion: Some of the oldest congregations in Lansing are associated with Central Methodist Church, which is shown downtown with the Capitol dome in the background. The



For the Lansing State Journal

Wooden Church (right) was the home of First Methodist Church in this photo taken in 1870. The area's first Methodist "class" was formed in 1876.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

No sales are being offered yet in the northwest section of the town.

1897:

Boys from the Industrial School will give entertainment at the Opera House. Tickets are selling briskly.

1947:

Firemen fight three-alarm fire at REO Motors. Surplus predicted for Michigan schools.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Dec. 14** — Presbyterian Sesquicentennial Rededication.

■ **Dec. 14** — Candlelight and Carols: Church Walk Downtown, 2 p.m., Historical Society.

A look at yesterday:

The migration of people always carries with it the migration of religions. In 1846, a few settlers in the wilderness near the dam organized the first religious group here — a Methodist "class" of four led by Joab Page.

Page and his extended family had established the first permanent white settlement in the land that became Lansing when they came from Mason to rebuild the dam for James Seymour. Page expanded his cabin to use as a boarding house for the men hired to work on the dam, and a large room downstairs became the "church" room on Sundays.

From 1848 until 1852, the Presbyterians and the Methodists shared space converted to a chapel in Seymour's warehouse, a building that became known as "God's Barn." The Methodists used this chapel until they built a wooden church at Franklin (Grand River Avenue) and Cedar streets in 1870. A new church was built in 1905 and again in 1917 to serve a growing membership and using the stained glass from the 1905 church. It is still standing on the site.

In 1850, a second Methodist class was organized in Middle Town, following the growth of

population there. These Central Methodists met at first in the Capitol and then built a church in 1863 at Washington and Ottawa streets on land given by the state. Pastor Sapp's salary was only \$136, but he also received a salary as chaplain of the state Legislature.

In 1890, the Central Methodists dedicated a new church at Ottawa Street and Capitol Avenue. The church, possibly designed by Elijah Meyers, housed a \$5,000 pipe organ run by a water-powered motor. Rental of pews was continued. The Temple House was added in 1923, and the Mary-Sabina Chapel in 1942, both gifts of Richard Scott and his wife.

The member lists of the congregations include many other prominent Lansing names. The families of James Turner, S.G. Scofield, F. Parmalee, W.S. Calkins and W.A. Dryer were among members who reorganized First Methodist in Lower Town in 1855. At Central, Dr. Haze, Dr.

Hagadorn and Mr. Hungerford were members, as was Gertrude Howe, Methodism's first woman missionary to central China. She served from 1872 until 1929. Stained glass commemorates other early members.

Another Methodist congregation, the German Methodist, was established in 1854. By 1864, they built a church at Seymour and Saginaw streets, replacing it in 1893 with the church building that still stands there. The church drew members from the German immigrants and services were held in German until 1933. In 1968, the Seymour Avenue Methodists merged with the First Methodists in their new church at Delta River Drive and Waverly Road.

Methodism has been a strong presence since a year before the town of Michigan (Lansing) was founded.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial Committee

LST Dec. 7, 1997: 32

Capitol

LST Dec. 14, 1997: 33

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

Books from the State Library are moved from the Capitol in Detroit to the new Capitol in "Michigan."

1897:

The Wentworth Hotel opens at Michigan and Grand avenues.

1947:

East Lansing students are the first from out of state to attend Clear Lake outdoor camp. Oldsmobile announces its golden anniversary car, the "Futuramic."

Heritage celebration:

■ **Today:** Presbyterian Sesquicentennial Rededication, 10:30 a.m.

■ **Today:** Candlelight and Carols: Downtown ChurchWalk, 2 p.m., Historical Society.

A look at yesterday:

The Presbyterians, Lansing's second religious group, were organized in the new "town of Michigan" on Dec. 17, 1847. They were assisted by a missionary sent to help establish frontier churches.

For a few years they met at various sites, including the North Cedar Street school and the House Chambers in the new Capitol, but usually they shared space with the Methodists in "God's Barn," a warehouse owned by James Seymour in North Lansing and converted to a chapel. Seymour was a founding member of the Presbyterian church.

In 1852, they erected Lansing's first church building for their 46 members. The site, fol-

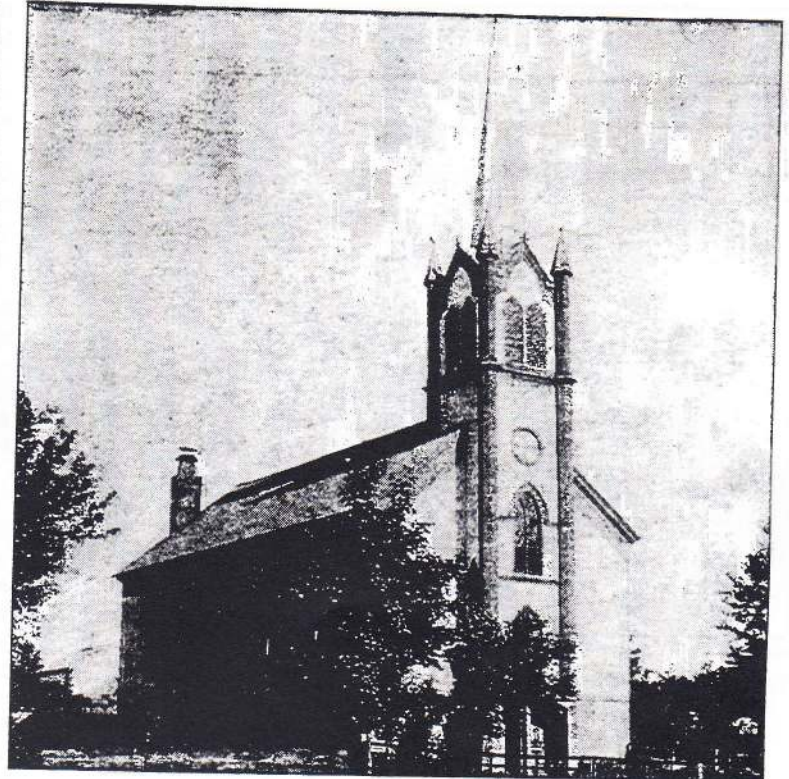


For the Lansing State Journal

No bell in belfry: First Presbyterian Church was dedicated in 1889 on Allegan Street. The tower has never included a bell. This photo is from a church newsletter printed in 1947.

lowing the location of popular growth, was halfway between Lower Town and Middle Town, at Washington Avenue and Genesee Street. The frame building cost \$3,700, measured 30 feet by 58 feet and had a tall steeple to which a bell was added in 1856. The only bell in town, it was rung three times a day, and for fires. The Rev. George Duffield, author of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," served as pastor from 1876 to 1879.

In 1889, a new church building was dedicated at Allegan Street and Capitol Avenue, across from the new — 1879 — Capitol. Constructed of sandstone, the church could seat 450 people in the sanctuary. The State Repub-



For the Lansing State Journal

Lansing landmark: Lansing's first church building was this structure built by Presbyterians in 1852 at Washington Avenue and Genesee Street. The frame building cost \$3,700.

lican called it an "elegant temple" and described the ventilation and heating system which could be "entirely controlled by the janitor . . . from his position near the main entrance."

Orlando Barnes, a former mayor of Lansing, an elder of the church, and chairman of the building committee, pledged \$5,000 to the building fund. One of his stipulations was that a bell never be placed in the belfry,

and even though he died within a few years, no bell ever graced the belfry.

In 1948, the congregation, still growing, moved again, to its present site at Chestnut and Ottawa streets. Meeting for several years in the basement of the unfinished building, the Georgian church was dedicated in 1953.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial Committee

Capitol

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1847:

O.A. Jenison arrives from Detroit and finds two hamlets, one at Main Street and the river, the other at Center and Franklin streets.

1897:

City Council considers an ordinance to tax street railways by 3 percent.

1947:

A U.S. plane flies faster than the speed of sound. Proposed new U.S. 127 to bypass Leslie and Mason.

Heritage celebration:

■ Dec. 31: FestEve, Sesquicentennial, Lansing Center, 8 p.m.

A look at yesterday:

Following the Methodists and Presbyterians, five other religious groups were organized within Lansing's first 10 years.

In 1849, Episcopal laymen organized a missionary congregation and built a church 10 years later on North Washington Street at Ionia Street. For 125 years, the Episcopalians have occupied the corner of Ottawa and Seymour streets, facing the Capitol.

A wooden Gothic church, built there in 1873, was replaced by the present brick Gothic church in 1914. The church is noted for its exceptional stained glass windows and wood carvings, many done by a former rector, the Rev. Williams Hill.

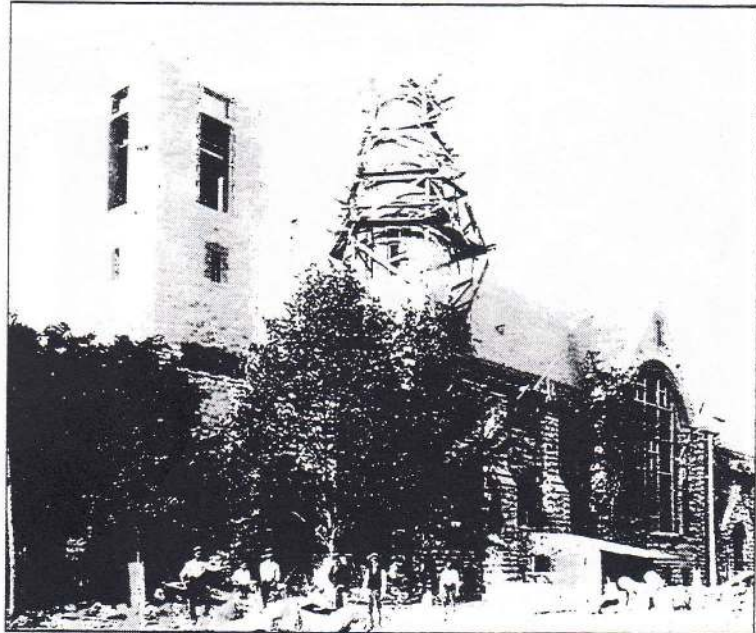
The First Baptist Church of Lansing was chartered in 1851.

In 1857, a white frame church was built at Capitol Avenue and Ionia Street, a site they have occupied for 140 years. The present Romanesque church was begun in 1892 and completed in two years, in spite of the 1893 Depression, under the direction of Dr. Henry Pattengill, building chairman and state superintendent of education.

The women of the church held suppers to raise money for the beautiful stained glass windows. The family of R.E. and Metta Olds, members of the church, donated funds for the Children's Center.

In 1852, the Universalist congregation was registered and served by itinerant preachers. They were granted land on Grand Avenue at Allegan Street by the state in 1853, but until the church was built 10 years later they met in the Senate Chambers. About 1896, they built a church at Ottawa Street and Capitol Avenue on land given by Sarah Emery. Emery was nationally known in women's suffrage and temperance movements, both supported by the Universalist Church. August Chapin, another member, was one of the first women ordained in any denomination in the country, in 1863.

The first Catholic Mass was celebrated in 1854 in the log cabin of Thomas and Eleanor Saier. Served by a missionary priest until St. Mary parish was established, a church and convent were built in 1864 at Madison



For the Lansing State Journal
A house of worship: First Baptist Church is shown while under construction along Capitol Avenue in Lansing in 1893.

and Chestnut streets. The present Norman Gothic structure, at Seymour and Ionia streets, was built as the parish church and consecrated in 1913. Its nave is 108 feet long and 63 feet wide. In 1937, St. Mary became the cathedral for the new Diocese of Lansing, with Joseph Albers as the first bishop.

In 1855, the First German Lutheran church (now Emanuel) was organized with 52 members. Since 1857 they have occupied the block of Kilborn Street between Capitol Avenue and Seymour Street. The first frame

church was replaced with a large stone Gothic structure dedicated in 1916. Descendants of the Seeger family, charter members, still attend the church. Frederick and Karl Krauss, father and son, served the church as pastors between 1909 and 1979. All services were in German until 1920, and there is still one service in German each Sunday.

By the mid-1860s, the Congregational and the African Methodist Episcopal churches had also been established here.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial Committee

L.S.J. Dec. 21, 1997: 33

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years *LST, Dec. 28, 1997:38*

This week in 1847:

A bridge is recommended across the Grand River at Michigan Avenue as soon as possible next spring.

1897:

Hundreds of teachers attend an annual state convention here.

1947:

Food is being gathered for the "Friendship Train," to be sent to Europe from Michigan cities in January.

Heritage celebration:

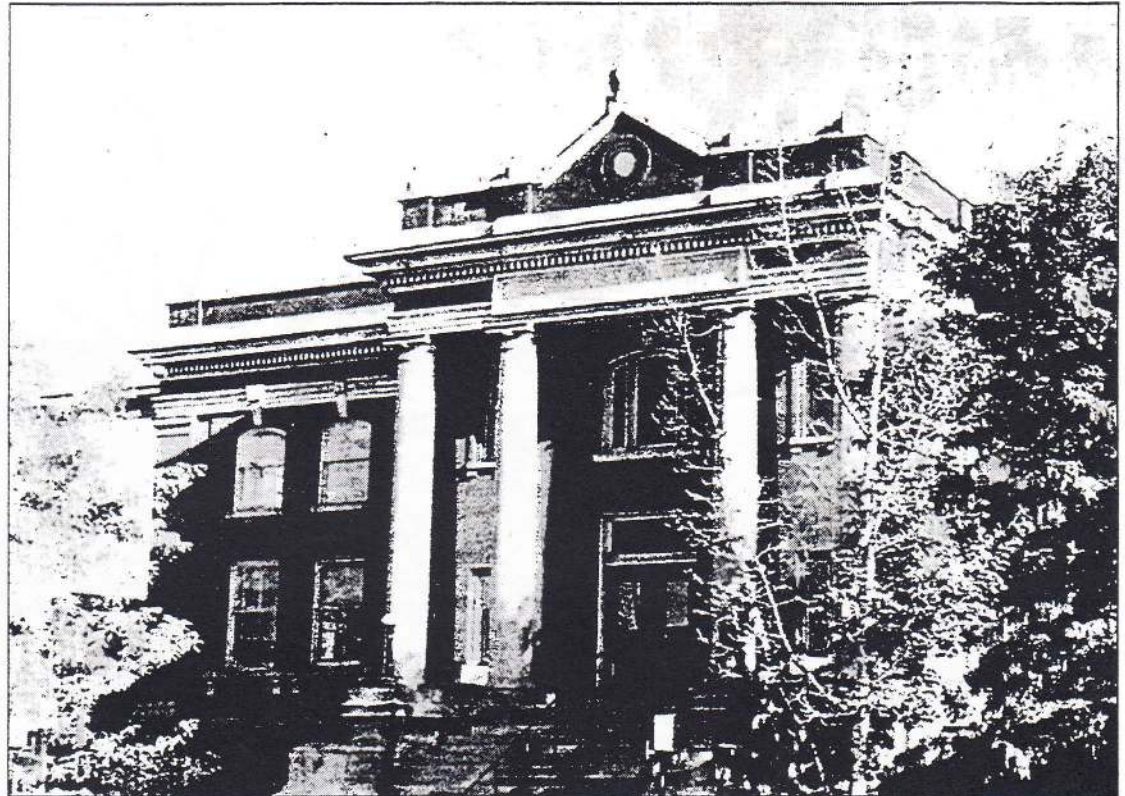
■ Dec. 31: FestEve, Sesquicentennial, Lansing Center, 8 p.m.

A look at yesterday:

By the end of December in 1847, two structures stood ready on Washington and Allegan for the transfer of state government, a new frame Capitol and a Greek Revival house for the auditor general. The Capitol burned in 1882, but the house is still in use.

The house, possibly the oldest in Lansing and often referred to erroneously as the "Governor's House," was rescued in 1924 by Edwyn A. Bowd, who moved the house to 2003 W. Main St. to use as his own residence. Bowd had a natural interest in historic structures: he was a prominent Lansing architect.

Bowd was born in 1865 in Cheltenham, England, graduated from Orset College, Dover, and came to Lansing in 1888 to work for John Appleyard, who had been superintendent of construction on the 1879 Capitol. Bowd's first large commission, with E.H. Mead, was the design of the First Baptist Church in 1889. In 1903, Bowd designed the Ingham County Courthouse in Mason. That replaced the county's first courthouse, a frame structure built in 1843 for



For the Lansing State Journal

Still in use: The Carnegie Library, still used by Lansing Community College on Shiawassee Street, was designed by architect Edwyn A. Bowd in 1903.

\$800.

Also in 1903, after Andrew Carnegie, the New York philanthropist, gave money to cities to build libraries, Bowd designed the neo-classical Carnegie Library, still being used by Lansing Community College on Shiawassee Street.

In 1904, Bowd designed the buildings for the new Reo Motor Works for R.E. Olds. In 1918, he designed the State Office Building, now called the Lewis Cass Building, on South Walnut. In 1930, he designed, with Munson, the Art Deco Power Plant at Ottawa and Grand for the Board of Water and Light. Planned to be built in two halves, the north part was added about 10 years

later. A generator intended for the new section was confiscated by the government during World War II and sent to Oak Ridge, Tenn., to provide electrical power for the Manhattan Project.

From 1902 until his death in 1940, Bowd was the official architect for Michigan Agricultural College. His designs include Agricultural Hall (1908), Wells Hall (1917), the Horticulture Building (1924), the Museum (1927), Giltner Hall (1931), and Jenison Field House (1940).

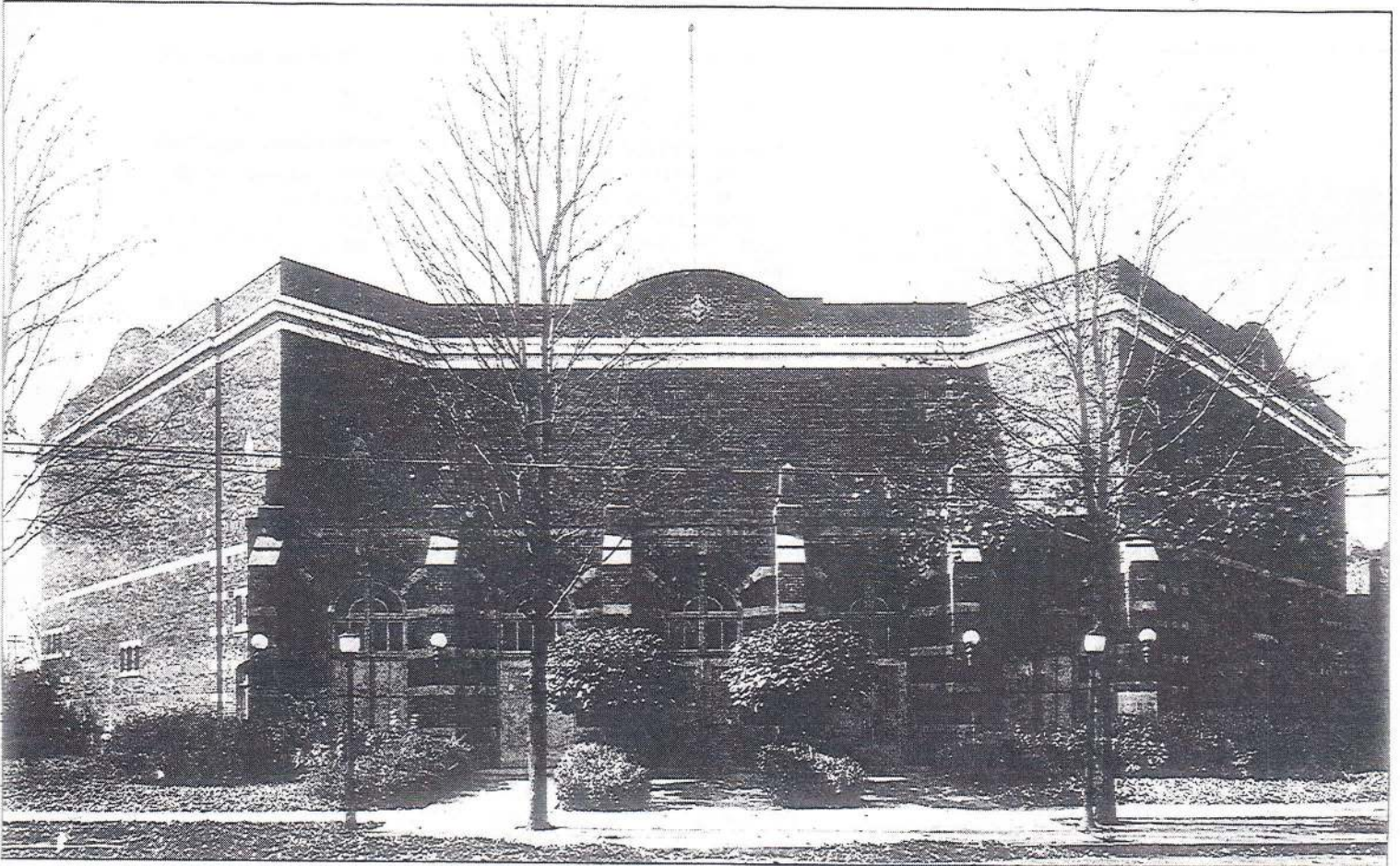
Bowd's unique tombstone in Mt. Hope Cemetery features a bas-relief of his profile.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial



For the Lansing State Journal

Tower of power: The Board of Water and Light's Ottawa Street power plant was designed by Bowd in 1930.



For the Lansing State Journal

No longer: William K. Prudden donated this 3,000-seat hall to the city of Lansing in January 1914. Prudden Auditorium, which was

in the 100 block of South Walnut Street, was torn down in 1959 to make room for the parking lot of the Lansing Civic Center.

Early-century hall was hub of civic activity

By Linda Peckham

For the Lansing State Journal

Lansing celebrated its sesquicentennial as Michigan's capital in 1997. While Lansing was named the state's capital in 1847, the first meeting of the Legislature here didn't take place until January 1848. Here is a continuing look at the history of Michigan's capital city.

In January 1914, William K. Prudden donated a 3,000-seat "hall" to the city of Lansing.

The late-Romanesque, hexagonal building was the site of plays, music, meetings and ceremonies. Built in the 100 block of South Walnut Street of brick with stone band

courses, Prudden Auditorium served as the center of civic activity for 45 years.

William K. Prudden was a wealthy manufacturer in Lansing. Born in Macon, Ga., Prudden came to Michigan Agricultural College as a young man, graduating in 1878. For a few years, he clerked for James M. Turner (son of pioneer James Turner), who had just finished a term as state representative. Turner was involved in the railroads, and would be Lansing's mayor twice.

By 1888, Prudden had made money in timber lands in his own right and held half interest in the Lansing Wheel Company. This was a con-

vergence of business and hobby, as he raised and bred race horses on 40 acres just outside of town. He was widely known for his wins as a driver of his trotters, and the wheels on the sulkies were important to those wins.

Prudden also became president of Michigan Knitting Co., president of American State Savings Bank, and director of Ingham County Savings Bank.

In 1903, he founded the Prudden Wheel Co. and produced wheels for Olds Motor Works. Prudden Wheel became one of Lansing's largest industries. The factory, much expanded, stands on Saginaw between Larch and Pennsylvania — the

name still on the chimney stack.

Prudden Wheel, Auto Wheel, Gier Pressed Steel and Weis & Lesh Manufacturing merged to become Motor Wheel Corp. in 1920, a company that became internationally famous and maintained manufacturing operations in Lansing until 1995.

Prudden married Jennie Whitney in 1883. They raised two daughters at their home in downtown Lansing.

And Prudden Auditorium? It was torn down in 1959 to make room for the parking lot of the new Civic Center.

Linda Peckham is executive director of the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial Committee.

Timeline Lansing: 150 capital years

This week in 1848:

The state Legislature holds its first session in Michigan, Mich.

Heritage celebration:

■ **Wednesday:** 150th Anniversary of Michigan Legislature in Lansing. Capitol Rotunda. Reception at 10 a.m.; ceremony at 11 a.m.

A look at yesterday:

The opening ceremonies of Lansing's Sesquicentennial last March commemorated the signing of legislation which designated Lansing Township as the site for the new capital city for Michigan.

This also marked the 150th birthday of the city of Lansing, which was founded to be the capital city. The closing ceremonies this week will mark the 150th anniversary of the first legislative sessions held in Lansing.

Not everyone was happy with the choice in 1847. One member of the Legislature, then in Detroit, said, "What? Shall we take the Capitol from a large and beautiful city and stick it down in the woods and mud on the bank of the Grand River?"

But in only nine months, we carved a rough town, known for years as "Michigan," out of the woods. By May 1847, the town was platted from East Street (present CSX tracks) to one lot west of Sycamore, and from North Street to South Street. Lots were sold, a few streets were cleared, and we began a building boom that brought many people to the area. In the wilderness, we built mills, houses and hotels, grocery and

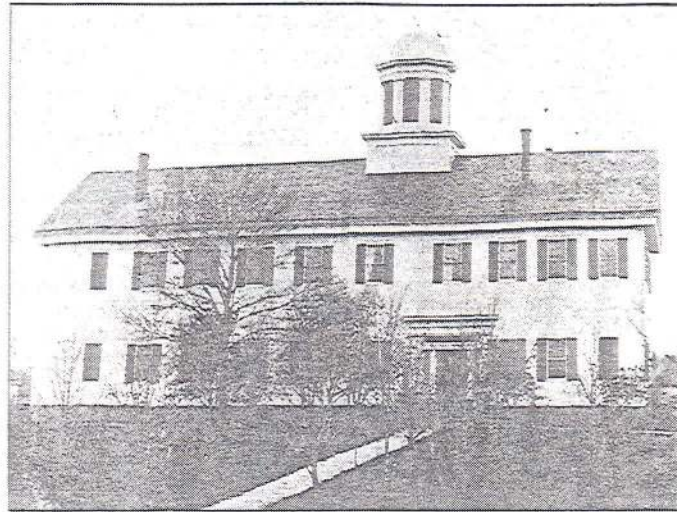
drygoods stores, liveries and blacksmith shops.

The state appropriated money for a "temporary" Capitol building. It was a beautiful two-story white frame Federal structure, only 60 feet by 100 feet, with green shutters and a cupola covered in tin. Located on a square bounded by Washington, Capitol, Allegan and Washtenaw streets, it cost \$22,513.

In December 1847, the state's documents, maps, books and furniture were moved from Detroit to Michigan. It was a difficult trip. One wagonload left Detroit on a Thursday, and the movers stayed in Jackson that night. The next day they traveled to Eden in time for lunch, and reached the Capitol at 7:30 that night.

The \$1,000 allowance voted for the move did not include the claim of John Kean for a horse lost in the service of the state. State officials wanted the move made as rapidly as possible. The final trip exhausted Kean's horse, which collapsed on Main Street and died the next day. The state paid \$75 to replace the horse.

Memoirs of the pioneers speak of helping to haul the teamsters out of the mire, of the cluster of buildings that formed the town, of the stumps still standing in the streets. On Dec. 25, 1847, O.A. Jenison arrived in the new capital city, a "hole in the woods," and found it impossible to secure lodgings in the crowded town. "For the first three weeks I was here I do not remember seeing a bed but once ... I sat in a chair in the barroom



For the Lansing State Journal

Original seat of government: The first Capitol in Michigan, Michigan, later renamed Lansing, is shown in this 1847 photo from the Michigan State Capitol Archives.

Capitol Question: Tax cuts in 1998

As the state prepares its budget for 1997-98, there are questions about whether there is enough room to include a tax cut and still pay other priorities, such as higher education and the five new prisons called for by Gov. John Engler. Should the state cut taxes this year even if it means reducing spending for other priorities?

Please respond by Thursday; results will be published in Sunday newspaper.

You can:

- Call 485-5463 and press 8978 to leave a voice-mail message
- Mail it to Capitol Question, 120 E. Lenawee St., Lansing MI 48901
- Fax it to 377-1298.
- Send E-mail to lsj.news@internetmci.com

every night, and in the morning a number of us would go outdoors, build a fire and turn around, like a turkey on a spit, to keep warm."

Happy birthday, Lansing. Hap-

py anniversary, state government in Lansing. After 150 years, Lansing is still Michigan's capital city.

Written by Linda Peckham, Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial Committee

Unfortunately, some errors crept into the text upon publication in the paper. I have corrected typographical errors on the articles, but the following corrections also should be noted. - LP

- June 8: Under "Heritage Celebration," the DAR marker is dedicated to the 1847 *Capitol*.
- June 29: Add at end: "Orselia Page Pease was unable to attend that Fourth of July celebration in 1844. She was giving birth to Marshall Pease, the first white child born in Lansing."
- July 20: The team in the top picture is not known, but the players are named on back of photo.
- July 27: 1847 note should read, "Commissioners *clear*...." *Leadley's* is the correct spelling. Last paragraph should read, "... when the sale of lots *in Michigan, Michigan*, brought...."
- Aug. 3: "Women's Health Association" should be *Woman's Hospital Association*.
- Aug. 10: "Cornicle" should be *cornice*.
- Aug 24: Change at traveling through swamps: "Such areas were soon bridged with logs, *making a corduroy road*." Add after description of plank roads: "In 1854, David Ward rode his horse the 85 miles from Detroit over the new plank road in just 18 hours. Travelers paid one cent per horse per mile at toll houses along the route."
- Sept 7: Under 1947, it should read, "Proposed YMCA building ... to be six stories."
- Sept 21: John Lansing was of the old Dutch *Lansingh* family.
- Sept 28: Add to Elijah Potter's return trip from San Francisco: "Because the Civil War had broken out, train connections were difficult to find from New York City to Jackson. His return trip from San Francisco took about six months."
- Oct. 5: Orlando M. Barnes was a partner in the Jackson-Lansing-*Saginaw* Railroad.
- Nov. 9: The 1875 High School operated for 50 years, not *another* 50 years. Add at end: "If you go in the alley behind Old Central, you can still find parts of the 1875 structure."
- Nov. 16: Under 1847, the lithograph maps were of *Michigan, Michigan*. The sisters' names were *Abigail* (or *Abbie*) and *Delia*; and the "sister was no *longer* interested in continuing the school."
- Dec. 7: Photo caption should say that *one* of the oldest congregations is associated with Central Methodist and that the First Methodist class was formed in *1846*, not 1876.
- Dec. 14: Add at end: "The sanctuary seats 750, and contains a unique wineglass pulpit with a suspended soundboard. In 1984, the Molly Grove Chapel was added to the church, a gift from Nan Wood Holmes in memory of her mother, Molly Grove Wood. In 1986, the Hall of Christian Pioneers opened, displayed ten paintings by Gijsbert van Frankenhuisen which depict the various Christian influences in Michigan. The First Presbyterians are the oldest continuous congregation in Lansing, and parent to all of the Presbyterians here."
- Dec. 21: The Children's Center at the Baptist Church was added in the 1950s. *Augusta* Chapin was the second woman ordained in the country.
- Dec. 28: Photo caption should read *Edwyn* A. Bowd. Bowd also designed St. Mary Church, built 1913.
- Jan. 4: The Prudden home stood at 602 W. Ottawa. One of their daughters married Victor Pattengill, son of Henry R. Pattengill; the other married Scott Turner, son of James M. Turner.
- Jan. 11: The name of the town was changed from "Michigan" to Lansing less than a year later. From Eden to Lansing was only 16 miles.