

# HSGL Newsletter

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

March 1998

## *Breaking the Barriers 19th C. Lansing-Area Women*

Wednesday, March 18 • 7:00 pm  
Downtown Lansing Library

The women of Lansing were tough and resourceful.

When the earliest pioneers came to this wilderness, they lived in crowded cabins and traveled without roads. If the men left or died, the women carried on, often with the help of Native Americans in Okemos' band.

These women suffered losses in the Civil War, and ran businesses. They survived epidemics that carried away their children, and started a hospital.

Well before the turn of the century, some Lansing women became famous as early suffragettes, medical doctors, and ministers.

Lansing's strong women range from the little-known Lucy Cooley to the well-known Margaret Calhoun, a State Librarian and Gen. Custer's sister.

On March 18, Dr. Anna Ballard (1848-1934) will introduce you to about 20 of her neighbors.

Come join us.



The HSGL Newsletter is published bimonthly from September through May. Articles and news of historical interest may be sent to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 12095, Lansing MI 48901. Linda Peckham, President. Tel: 517/372-3385. Newsletter Editor- Paula Gangopadhyay

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April** Early Lansing Aviation  
- to be announced

**May 20** Annual Dinner &  
Lansing 1897 Exhibit  
- State Museum, 6 p.m.

**April 3-4** Michigan Preservation  
State Conference  
Central United Methodist Church  
Mich Historic Preservation Network  
Info: 248-625-8181

### Capital Area District Library (CADL)

Last December, on the recommendation of a county-wide task force, CADL voted to move all administrative offices and services of the new district library to the third floor of the Downtown Lansing Rosa Library. While this will cause some downsizing and reorganization of Downtown Library space, the move may also allow the relocation of the Local History Room to the second floor.

Local History would be more visible there and potentially more accessible. In any case, we are seeking financial support to help fund a part-time staff person to work in Local History.

Please call Linda Peckham at 372-3385 if you have ideas or donations, or would like to work on this project.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Diana Reedy on January 31. Diana belonged to the Historical Society and served on the Board for many years as secretary. Her research specialty was Darius Moon, and she volunteered countless hours at the Local History Room.

• We have accepted with regret the resignation of Donna Wynant from the Board. We have appointed Jerry Lawler to fill out her term. Thanks to Donna for her work with the Historical Society, and welcome to Jerry. We look forward to his expertise in Lansing history, especially as it relates to the State Legislature.

**Volunteers Needed.** If you would like to get more involved in specific projects, we'd love to hear from you.

We need someone to work on:

- Local History Room funding
- April program on Aviation
- May Annual Dinner
- Materials for elementary schools

**WANTED:** a copy of the  
*Michigan, Michigan*  
*Free Press*

Published in 1848

**\$500.00 REWARD**

Call the Historical Society

The Historical Society seeks donations of local historical materials, such as legal records, narratives, diaries or photos. All loans or donations are available to the public for viewing or research at the Local History Room, Downtown Lansing Library. Donations are tax deductible.

## REPORTS

**Programs:** Our November program at the State Archives was attended by over 100 people. Our thanks to John Curry and Dave Johnson for their work on an excellent tour and displays of photos, maps, and documents, some of which are rarely shown. The State Archives holds about 80,000,000 documents relating to Michigan's history.

On December 14, about 70 people enjoyed a ChurchWalk of five Downtown Lansing churches. We saw spectacular stained glass and intricately carved wood and Christmas decorations traditional to each church. We heard about the relationship of theology to space within the naves, women's suppers to raise money, and Gregorian chants which evolved into present-day hymns.

At the Presbyterian Church, we were given the Sesquicentennial Candle to hold for the next church celebration of 150 years, the Episcopalians in 1999.

A big thank you goes to Fr. George Michalek and the hosts at each church for arranging such a special event.

On January 14, the Lansing Capital Sesquicentennial officially ended with a beautiful ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Governor Engler and Mayor Hollister both spoke. Souvenir packages were distributed; music was provided by the Lansing Symphony.

**Treasurer's Report.** Due to the increasing membership, sales of books and maps, and sponsorship of our programs, our treasury holds \$4429.62 as of February 18, 1998.

**Nominations.** Gary Bender is chairing the Nominations Committee this year. If anyone is interested in running for the Board, either as a Trustee (2-year terms) or as an officer, please call Gary at 339-9703.

### Membership

Membership in HSGL costs only \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family. For \$10 more, you'll receive a Sesquicentennial poster and reproductions of two rare maps.

<b>Membership Application</b>			
Historical Society of Greater Lansing P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901			
Annual Membership in HSGL runs from July 1st through June 30th each year.			
Please clip and return this coupon with payment.			
NEW		RENEWAL	
Enclosed __\$10 Individual __\$15 Family __\$150 Life __ Gift			
Name _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	Phone _____
<i>The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a non-profit corporation and we appreciate your support.</i>			

Sponsored by Rossman Martin & Associates



*The Greater Lansing Historical Society is pleased to present:*

*Breaking Barriers:  
Nineteenth Century  
Lansing Area Women*

March 18, 1998

Downtown Lansing's Rosa Library  
Friends Auditorium (on the lower level)  
Free Program and Parking

6:30 PM

Refreshments and Displays  
Local History Room open

7:00 PM

Program

*You are invited to meet the women who were Lansing's pioneers  
and the area's leaders in the fields of  
medicine, education, religion, and social issues of the day.*

*Your host for the evening will be Dr. Anna Ballard (1848-1934).*

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

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of Greater Lansing**

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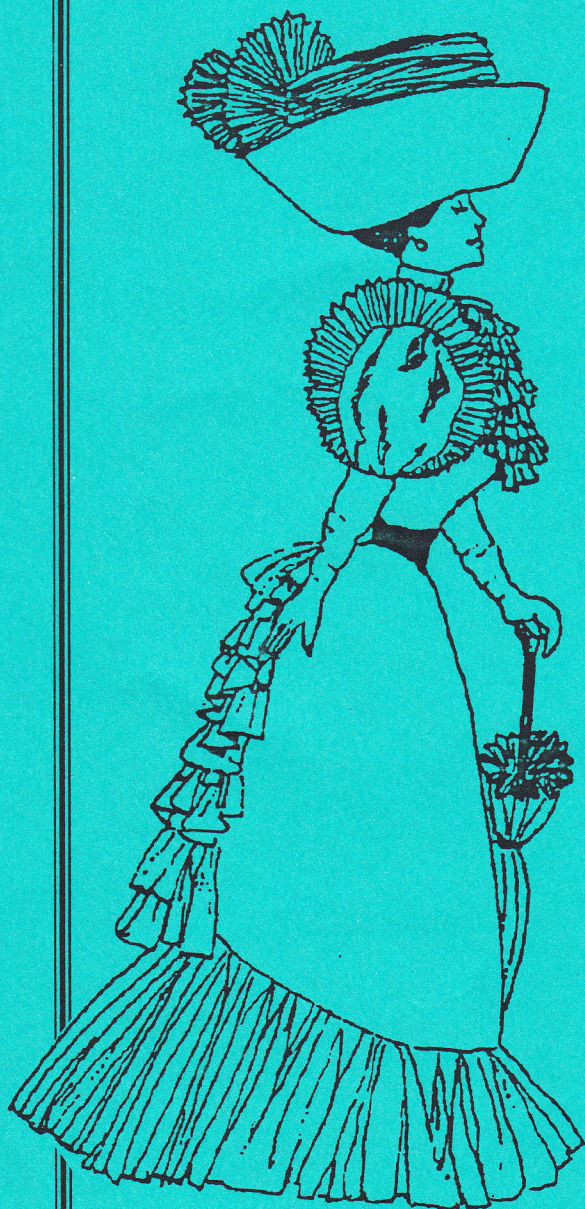
Fr. George Michalek

Philip Siebert

Penny Zago

## **BREAKING the BARRIERS: 19th C. LANSING-AREA WOMEN**

- **Lucy Barnes Cooley** Pioneer Settler, Lansing Twp., 1837  
1804-1870
- **Christiana North** Pioneer Settler, Lansing Twp., 1838  
1791-1854
- **Marian Munro Turner** Pioneer Settler, Lansing, 1847  
1818-1912
- **Eliza Powell (Bush)** First Teacher, Lower Town, 1847  
c. 1830- ?
- **Laura Burr** Second Teacher, Upper Town, 1847  
c. 1830-?
- **Abigail Rogers** Founder of Michigan Female College, 1855  
1818-1869
- **Augusta Chapin** Second Female Minister in U.S., 1863  
1836-1905
- **Harriet Tenney** First Female State Librarian in U.S., 1869  
1834-1899
- **Gertrude Howe** First Methodist Female Missionary  
to China, 1872  
1846-1929
- **M. Adele Hazlett** "Queen of the Michigan Platform"  
1837- ?
- **Dr. L. Anna Ballard** Lansing's First Female Doctor, 1879  
1848-1934
- **Sarah V. Emery** Writer, Suffragette, 1875-95  
1838-1895
- **Dr. Cora Ganung** Lansing's Second Female Doctor, 1890  
c.1863-1923
- **Margaret Custer Calhoun** State Librarian, 1891  
1850-?
- **Mary Spencer** State Librarian, 1893  
1842-1923
- **Kate Marvin Kedzie** Founder of Matinee Musicale, 1894  
1862-1934
- **Amanda Barnes** YWCA, Women's Hospital Assoc.  
1825-1921
- **Metta Olds** YWCA, Women's Hosp. Assoc., Philanthropist  
1864-1950
- **Olivia Woodman** Minister, Chaplain for State Grange  
1846-1929
- **Dora Hall Stockman** "Bard of the Grange"  
1872-1948
- **Genevieve Gillette** Mother of Michigan State Park System  
1898-1986



**Historical Society of Greater Lansing**  
**Breaking the Barriers: 19th C. Lansing-Area Women**  
Lansing Downtown Rosa Library  
March 18, 1998 7:00 pm (6:30 Displays)

Women's Resource Center  
Union, MSU  
March 17, 1998 12 noon

**Time:** About 35 min.

**Equip:** Two tables  
6 chairs  
2 slide projectors, 1 screen  
Costumes

**Format:** Narrator & Speakers - Re-enactors in costume  
Slides on back screen.  
All seated on stage. Freeze frame.  
Step forward individually into spotlight. Talk 3 minutes.  
Activities on stage during talks: reading, sewing, talking

**Date:** 1898

**Participants:**

Narrator	Linda Peckham	*Dr. Anna Ballard	1848-1934
		Dr. Cora Pope Ganung	c. 1863-1923
Educators (woven through)	"	Eliza Powell	
		Laura Burr	
		Abigail (&Delia) Rogers	1818-1869
		Kate Marvin Kedzie	1862-1934
Pioneers	Penny Zago	*Marion Munro Turner	1818-1912
		Christiana North	(m. 1813)
		Lucy Barnes Cooley	1804-1870
Religion	Elizabeth Porter	*Augusta Chapin	1836-1905
		Gertrude Howe	1846-1929
		Olivia Woodman	1846-1929

State Librarians	Jane McClary	*Harriet Tenney	1834-1899
		Margaret Custer Calhoun	
		Mary Spencer	1842-1923
Politics	Irene Dean	*Doris Stockman	1872-1948
		Sarah Van Der Vort Emery	1838-1895
		M. Adele Hazlett	1837- ?
Social	Pat Heyden	*Metta Olds	1864-1950
		Amanda Barnes	(c. 1830-c. 1920)
Ending	LP	[Helen Martin	1889-1973]
		[Genevieve Gillette	1898-1986]

## Narrator Notes for Breaking the Barriers: 19th C. Lansing Women

1. Set the scene for 1898: A big town (20, 000??). Stretches from x to x and x to x.

Electric street cars, telephone exchange for nearly 20 years, new City Hall and Post Office, five new big churches Downtown within the past few years - in spite of recession.

Lots of business and industry: Iron Works, Wheelbarrow Works, Knitting Co, Beet Sugar Co, Cigar Companies, Lansing Wheel Co, Bement & Sons Foundry, Friedland, Potter's and Buck's furniture companies, Gas Light Co, Michigan Supply Co, Bates Engines, Young Bros & Daley, Silver Lead Paint, Michigan Millers, Kositchek's already 30 years old, many banks, Clark Carriage Co, Olds Steam Engines - and young Olds took out a patent on a motor carriage last year. Now he's producing them!

Town 50 years old in 1897. . . .

2. Describe Anna Ballard - 50 years old. Drop back to 1848. [Hazen map]

The rush to the new capital. . . .

Ballard family spent two weeks on the road moving from southern Ohio to Lansing. Traveled with two canvas covered wagons, a carriage, and seven children. Mother 6 months pregnant with me. I was born in plank house on east side of Grand River near center of town. But at least she wasn't alone.

Earlier pioneers....

3. Introduce \*Marian Munro Turner, pioneer - (Penny) 3 min.  
Cristiana North  
Lucy Barnes Cooley

4. Already a bridge at Main St. Town center shifted across river to west side and Father moved our house - floated it on raft - up the river a bit to south side of Main St. at foot of Grand Avenue.

Schools. Mrs. Burr's School (tell her story).

Moved to Okemos to farm. Ague. Wolves. Back to town. Father and brothers ran store on Washington. Sold everything from codfish to pitchforks. Store burned. Moved to farm on northeast side of town.

First school started in North Lansing by Eliza Powell.

Women educated .... Attended Michigan Female College. Started in 1857 by Abigail and Delia Rogers. More here....

M.A.C.

5. Introduce \*August Chapin, minister - (Elizabeth) 3 min.  
Olivia Woodman  
Gertrude Howe



6. Memories of 60s:

Railroads. Ramshorn came through farm.

Civil War. Three brothers left for War on train 1861. (Four brothers served.)

- James, eldest, Third Mich Inft., died on the March into the Wilderness in Virginia.
- Henry, Second Reg, Mich Sharpshooters. Wounded.
- Alonzo, only 17, First Reg Mich Sharpshooters. Wounded at Gettysburg. Served in hospital duties until end of war.
- David, already pioneering in Kansas and elected to First Kansas Legislature 1860, organized Co H Second Kansas Cavalry. Became Quartermaster General of the State and re-elected to Legis 1878.

Taught at Lansing High School 2 years.

Worked for Dr. Topping in DeWitt - druggist, taught me medicine.

Women working....

7. Introduce \*Harriet Tenney, State Librarian - (Jane) 3 min.

Margaret Custer Calhoun

Mary Spencer

8. Graduated from Woman's Medical College of Chicago and returned home to start practice here in Lansing in 1879.

Scene: new Capitol Bldg., Buck's Opera House, Lansing Library & Literary Assoc., Lansing Woman's Club, Ingham Co Hist & Pioneer Soc., Pioneer Society of Mich

Women getting more voice....

9. Introduce \*Doris Stockman - (Irene) 3 min.

Sarah Emery

Adele Hazlett

10. In 1890, another woman doctor: Dr. Cora Pope Ganung from Albion. Graduated from U of M. Husband a music professor. More here....

Kate Marvin Kedzie, music teacher, starts Matinee Musicale.

Women getting more involved....

11. Introduce \*Metta Olds - (Pat) 3 min.

Woman's Hospital Assoc.

YWCA

12. Ending: And that's where we are in 1898. My path made easier by colleagues, Dr. Hagadorn and old Dr. Shank. In fact, women generally treated well in Lansing.

Look to the "future". . . .

New baby - Genevieve Gillette - b. this year out near Dimondale, will go to M.A.C. at 16, tried to drop out because she disliked "Women's Program". Steered into botany and chemistry by President Kedzie, graduated in first class of landscape architecture, and became the mother of Michigan's State Park System.

*Undated LSS article*

### A look back at the past

Lansing had many women who were pioneers in the fields of medicine, education, religion and social issues.

Wednesday, we'll get to hear more about some of them at this month's meeting of the Greater Lansing Historical Society. It will begin at 7 p.m. in the Friends Auditorium of the Lansing Public Library.

Among those we'll hear from are **Dr. Anna Ballard, Lucy Barnes Cooley, Marion Munro Turner, Sarah Vandervoort Emery, Harriet Tenney, Metta Olds, Kate Marvin Kedzie and Augusta Chapin.**

Historical Society participants who will bring these individuals to life are **Linda Peckham, Penny Zago, Jane McClary, Irene Dean, Elizabeth Porter and Pat Heyden.**