

# The HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

September 2000

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## RiverWalk Walking Tour September 20 6:30 p.m.

This year, the **Historical Society of Greater Lansing** will celebrate the importance of the river in the development of Lansing. We will kick off the year with a walking tour of the sites of Lansing's earliest development along the river. We will end the year in May with the Annual Dinner on the riverboat.

In 1836, land speculators began to buy property here, and a few settlers began to clear farmland. But even though the land along the Grand and Cedar Rivers was ideal for a town, no settlement grew.

In 1843, James Seymour, one of the speculators, had John Burchard build a dam at the rapids (now North Lansing) to encourage settlement, but Burchard drowned the next spring and the site was abandoned. About 1845, Seymour hired Joab Page to rebuild the dam and start a sawmill, but still no town developed.

Then in March of 1847, after a heated debate, the Legislature voted to move the capital from Detroit to Lansing Township. This was the impetus the area needed.

Within nine months, an entire town was platted and built. Settlers erected houses, stores, and churches in two distinct areas, one near Turner Street and Franklin (Grand River Ave.), and the other along Main Street and Grand. The State Legislature moved into the new Capitol Building in January 1848.

First named Michigan, Michigan, the town name was changed to Lansing a year later for the early settlers from Lansing, New York. The new town grew rapidly, and mills and factories soon lined the river between "Upper Town" and "Lower Town."

The Walking Tour will focus on Lansing as a river town, featuring the earliest settlements and industrial sites along the river from 1843-1860 and the boom growth from 1860-1880.

The walk will start at the dam and move south for about ten blocks. Park in Burchard Park by the dam.

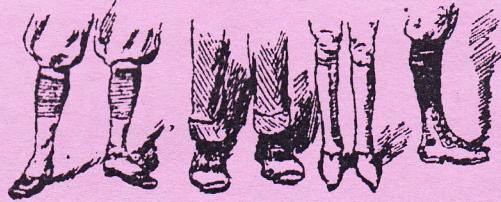
**Join us on September 20 at  
6:30 p.m. for RiverWalk 2000.**

Tour led by Robert Morris, President of City Visions, Inc., a restoration and design company in Lansing.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing supports the Local History Room at the Lansing Public Library and offers programs, projects, and publications about mid-Michigan history. We welcome donations of papers and photos.

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**The Historical Society of Greater Lansing**  
presents



## **RiverWalk 2000**

*A Walking Tour on the RiverWalk*  
September 20, 2000  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

### **Lansing's Development as a River Town**

**Early Settlements • Early Industries • Early Government**  
**19th C. Seeds of Growth**

Conducted by Robert J. Morris

*The Public Is Invited*

**Start at the Dam in Burchard Park, North Lansing**  
Tour moves south on RiverWalk to Michigan Avenue  
Parking at Burchard Park

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Annual Dinner

The HSGL would like to thank all those who helped make the Annual Dinner at the Michigan Historical Museum possible and to those informative volunteers and docents who conducted tours of the three museum areas.

**\*\* A DUES REMINDER \*\***

If you received this through the mail, and the letters DNC appear on the mailing label, it means our records indicate your membership Dues are Not Currently paid from August 2000 to July 2001.

If your mailing label indicates NEW, you have received this newsletter at your request, to find out more about the HSGL. By becoming a dues-paying member, you will continue to receive the newsletter.

Future newsletters will highlight upcoming HSGL programs and events, along with articles on people, places or things of historical interest.

Election of Officers

Please refer to the Board Members 2000-2001 section to view the results of the annual election of officers.

Programs

Due to vacation schedules of the people we were trying to contact and other unforeseen circumstances, the HSGL was unable to put together the calendar of events usually published in the September newsletter mailing. We have worked diligently over the past three months attempting to present a river theme for our programs this year. As you will note, we begin with the river walk and end with the annual dinner on the riverboat. In between, we are talking with boat clubs, Native American groups and others who might be willing to present river related programs. Watch your future newsletters for these upcoming events.

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**HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING**

P.O. Box 12095 Lansing MI 48901

**Membership Form**

Annual membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing covers August 2000-July 2001.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Individual

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Family

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Local History Fund

*The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501C3 non-profit corporation; we appreciate your support.*

The  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
of **GREATER LANSING**

*Michigan's Capital City Since 1847*

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The Historical Society of Greater Lansing sponsors a variety of programs, projects, and publications of local historic interest:

**Sample Programs and Projects:**

- Walking tours in Downtown Lansing, in North Lansing, in the cemetery . . .
- Speakers on Pioneer Women, R.E. and Metta Olds, Trinity AME Church, the Polish pioneers . . .
- Pioneer Family History Project

**Publications:**

- Note Cards, 1870s Drawings by CH Mead
  - Historic Architectural Scavenger Hunt
  - Brochures on Pioneers
  - *Significant People Buried in Mt. Hope*
  - Rare Maps
  - *Lansing Through the Years*, Photo Book
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**Board Members 2000-2001**

Pres. Rick Cantwell	Sec. David Rumohr
V-Pres. Harry Emmons	Treas. Ron Turner
Bill Atkinson	Linda Peckham
Jerry Lawler	Seymour VanDerske
Joe Maguire	Stephanie Whitbeck
Gertrude Mitchell	Penny Zago

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**Become a Member for \$15**

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