

Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing **NEWS**

November 2001

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Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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- Harry Emmons
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- David Rumohr
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- William A. Atkinson
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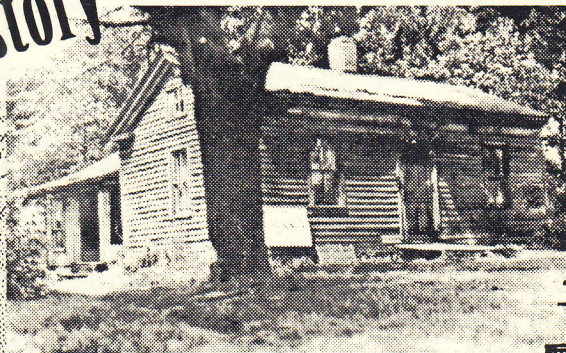
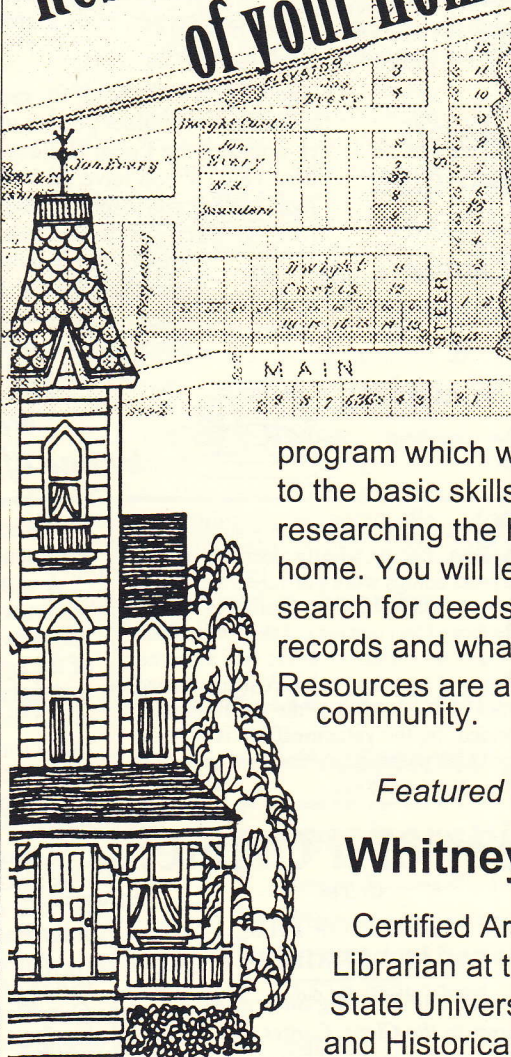
- Pat Heyden
- Jerry Lawler
- Jim MacLean
- Gertrude Mitchell
- Linda Peckham
- Ron Turner
- Seymour Vanderske
[Vacant]

How to contact us...

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
 P.O. Box 12095
 Lansing, MI 48901
 Tel: 517.394.4443
 Fax: 517.394.0579
 E-mail: cawhitford@aol.com

This newsletter is published during the months of September to May. Articles and news of historical interest are always welcome.

Researching the History of your Home



...and discover your community's secrets.

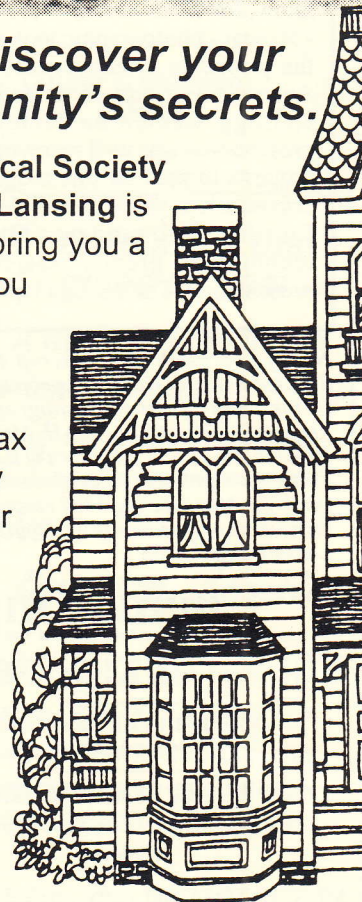
The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is pleased to bring you a

program which will introduce you to the basic skills needed for researching the history of your home. You will learn where to search for deeds, how to use tax records and what Local History Resources are available in your community.

Featured Speaker:

Whitney Miller

Certified Archivist and Librarian at the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections.



Join Us. . .
November 14, 2001
7:00 P.M.

Friends Auditorium
 Capital Area District Library
 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

President's Message

Craig A. Whitford

Dear Friends:

Our November 14, 2001 Program will be one that you will not want to miss. Our featured speaker Whitney Miller will provide you with the basics you will need in order to research the history of your home. Whitney is a Certified Archivist and Librarian with the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections. We all look forward to seeing you in November.

Trustee Joe Maguire has decided to step down as trustee. I would like to thank Joe for his several years of service as a trustee and his contributions to furthering the goals of the Society at large. I look forward to working with Joe in the future. A board vacancy now exists which the board needs to fill. If you have an interest in local history and would like to be considered for the position as trustee, please contact me.

October was a very busy month for Lansing history presentations. As many of you know, Jim MacLean and I presented a brief - 50 year - photographic look at Lansing to the public in attendance at the Italian-American Heritage conference held at the Kellogg Center on October 3. The presentation was well received and several requests to provide this program to other organizations were offered, thus the reason for the following request. Modern technology greatly assisted in our presentation. The use of a laptop computer

**HSGL
Wish List:
A Used
Laptop
Computer
&
Multi-Media
Projector**



and multi-media projector did the trick. The Society does not own a laptop or a projector. Our wish list is for the donation of a used laptop computer with a somewhat current operating system and also for the donation of a used multi-media projector. If any member knows of a possible avenue for these two pieces of equipment, please let a board member know, or contact me directly. The Society is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation and the donation may be tax deductible.

Membership Renewal

Just a reminder... It's membership renewal time and if you have not already done so, please forward your membership dues to our treasurer, Bill Atkinson. Bill will also be on hand before and after our November program to collect dues. If your membership label doesn't read 01-02 in the upper right hand corner, your membership dues are payable for the coming season.

The Society is looking for members to create a volunteer pool to assist in re-opening the Local History Room next year. If you have an interest in local history and research, and would like to participate in this very

important project, please give me a call. Our goal is to open the Local History Room for 4 hours every other Saturday to historians and researchers and we need your assistance.

We Need YOU! Local History Room Volunteers

May your upcoming holiday season be one of peace and great joy

Nearly two years ago, a scrap book was donated to the Society. Its contents are rich in the work of artist, photographer and Lansing merchant Charles H. Mead dating from the late 1870's to the turn of the century. Below is the beginning of an adventure involving Mead during 1889 recorded in his own words and drawings as published in the *Lansing Republican*.

Enchanting Trip.

READ IT IN THE REPUBLICAN TO-MORROW.

Chas. H. Mead's Inimitable Sketches of Grand River - The Boat Pirates' Capture.

Mr. C.H. Mead and party arrived home on Friday, after a most enjoyable trip on (the) Grand River from Lansing to Grand Rapids, and THE REPUBLICAN will commence tomorrow a series of illustrated sketches of the voyage, written in Mr. Mead's own racy style, and illustrated by himself.

The trip was exceedingly pleasant and was only marred by the circumstance of the arrest at Portland, previously reported. To Lansing people, who had known the members of the party for years, as among the best citizens, this brilliant (?) movement of our law officers presented only a ludicrous or ridiculous face;

but to Mr. Mead, who was not only subjected to inconvenience, but to wholly needless bill of costs, the proceedings wore a different aspect. He regards them as a cold-blooded attempt to "bleed" him, in the face of fact that the old skiff was almost worthless, and they tried in vain to find an owner for it, for several days, and believed it abandoned. His account of the capture of the "boat pirates," single-handed, by the valiant officer is rich and will be read with pleasure by all. Look for it. (The *Republican*, August, 1889)

Story of a Crime;

Or The

CRUISE OF THE SARAH BERNHARDT

A Romantic and Thrilling Story of Adventures in the Glens, Corges and Rapids of Grand River and its borders, by one of the Gang.



HE aggregate of 145 years, divided according to accident of birth between five people, concluding that Lansing city atmosphere was too much adulterated for the purposed of good health, resolved on a voyage down the raging Grand

- to be continued until weariness, or the great lake, was achieved.

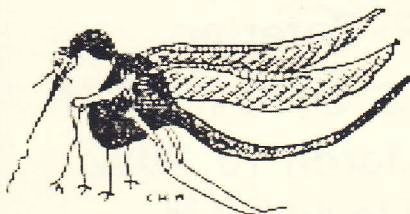
A clinker boat and a canvass canoe were ready at hand, but some sort of a baggage van was required, and this the younger part of the aggregation were delegated to procure. Instructed by the elders to be sure that no cloud should rest on the title to whatever craft they could get, they made inquiry among the boys and men who used an old veteran scow, water-soaked and badly banged, as to its owner. No one seemed to know, neither did the occupants of several houses where inquiry was made. The boat seemed to be an orphan in need of adoption, and that is the way we stole that boat.

An afternoon sun filtered through the fringe of foliage on the river bank where our party finally embarked, and with whistle and song and laughter and empty stomachs floated down through rapids, ripples and reptiles, amidst islands, and more or less magnificent scenery, until hunger and the head of the Delta dam made it convenient to draw up under the overhanging boughs of the trees and lunch.

Passing Delta dam, with idle machinery at either end of it, we picked our way among boulders and shoals, ripples and rapids, until lengthening shadows, a convenient spring, and table conveniences with picnic characteristics induced us to pitch our tent, about three miles above Grand Ledge. A wall

Story of a Crime, continued,

tent about 10 feet square afforded ample room for our baggage, etcetera, and before morning we also found that there



was room for 14,000,000 mosquitoes of the variety which frequent picnic grounds. You can always tell that kind of mosquito. They have a business directness of purpose and promptness in getting their little auger at work, that distinguishes them from every other variety.

Boiled ham, hot coffee, and bread and butter was the bill of fare for supper. For breakfast we had cold boiled ham and some other things. There are a million or more reasons why that first camp is not pleasant to think of. There was a beautiful spring of water flowing out from under a big tree - the only thing we wouldn't forget.

Sliding our fleet over the Grand Ledge dam, we were soon in the gorge among the beautifully wooded islands which affords the principal charm of this popular resort. The numerous attractions of a well-stocked picnic detained us until late in the afternoon. Pulling out in the edge of the evening

is a thing no veteran campers would do; but amateurs like us are expected to do just such foolish things. The dam below the picnic grounds, though of less fall than any other we encountered, was to us more difficult, but was only a forerunner of the tribulations attending the next stage of our voyage.

The bed of the river here was evidently the track of a former glacier some years since - say a million or so. Boulders from the size of a small house to a grain of sand abounded, between, around and over which flowed the river. To pick a channel with the stones and gravel far enough from the bottom of our boats to admit of our passing, was a piece of fine art which none of us accomplished. Boating was simply horrible, and so was walking; but that was what we had to do. Descriptions of shooting the rapids were vivid in our minds; but mentally we said "Shoot the rapids." Darkness found us still in the midst of tribulation and stones. Should like to say something about the scenery - about the fish, and the clear, pure air. We were conscious of a sun-bath, and we have impressions of overhanging trees, etc. The fish were there, gliding about us, smiling as we sailed. We declined to take any. A fine boiled ham, and a ham to broil with etcetera, seemed to discourage fishing just then.....

To be continued...

HSGL 2001-2002 Calendar

Reserve these historic dates now!

November 14, 2001

Researching the History of Your Home
with Whitney Miller

Friend's Auditorium - 7:00 P.M.

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

January 16, 2002

Michigan and the Civil War

with Shirley Hodges

Friend's Auditorium - 7:00 P.M.

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

March 16, 2002

The David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase

Library Galleries, Lower Level - 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

May 15, 2002

"Dinner on the Rails"

Annual Membership Dinner & Election

Clara's, Michigan Avenue, Lansing

Watch & Listen for Details



Give a gift that gives all year...

A membership in the
*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*

Enjoy the benefits of membership in the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Publications...

- **Historical Society of Greater Lansing NEWS**
- **The Quarterly Review published by the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum & Oldsmobile / GM Heritage Center**

Membership Application 2001-2002

Annual Renewals are due October 1, 2001 for the 2001-2002 program year.

Please accept my New Renewal membership in the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing. I have enclosed:

\$15 Individual \$25 Family \$150 Life \$ ___ Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

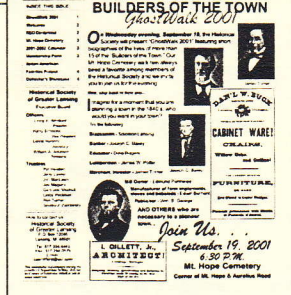
Tel: (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*

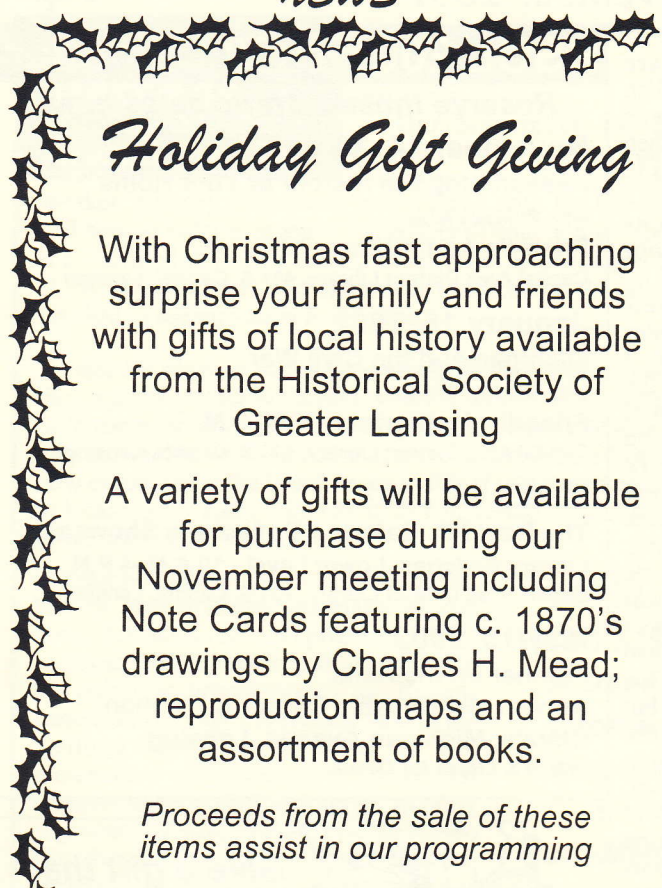
P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.

Thank you for your support of our programs and activities.



Join Us TODAY!



Holiday Gift Giving

With Christmas fast approaching surprise your family and friends with gifts of local history available from the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

A variety of gifts will be available for purchase during our November meeting including Note Cards featuring c. 1870's drawings by Charles H. Mead; reproduction maps and an assortment of books.

Proceeds from the sale of these items assist in our programming

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Proudly announces the

David R. Caterino

Collector's Showcase

Saturday, March 16, 2002

10:00 AM to 4:00 P.M.

Capital Area District Library

401 S. Capitol, Lansing

If you collect history of the greater Lansing area and would like to share it with the public we invite you to join us as an exhibitor.

If you are a local author or artist of the greater Lansing area we also invite you to participate.

Please contact us today!

For an application or more information contact:

Craig A. Whitford

517.394.4443

Harry Emmons

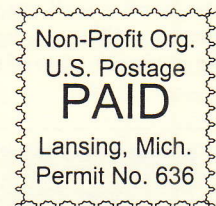
517.485.5998

email: cawhitford@aol.com

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of Greater Lansing*

P.O. Box 12095 Lansing, MI 48901

Change Service Requested



It's Membership Renewal Time

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Please RUSH to: