

History Explorer

A publication of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

September 2003

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Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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Historic Explorer is published during the months of September to May by the HSGL. Articles and news of historical interest are always welcome.

It's Pure History!

Historical Society of Greater Lansing Announces 2003-2004 Program Schedule


Plans for the 2003-2004 program season were finalized at the August 20th board meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. The organization will conduct six different programs in the coming year offering a broad range of topics for the community to participate in. Society President Craig Whitford stated, "Our programs are our most important benefit for the membership and the community."

In September members will be able to tour the Mt. Hope cemetery and learn about the history of some of Lansing's notable residents as well as discuss the symbolism of various monuments. The November program will feature authors Jim MacLean and Craig Whitford with a presentation of historic photographs from their forthcoming book entitled *Lansing: City On The Grand, 1836-1939*. The REO Motor Car Company Centennial is just around the corner. In January 2004, the Society program will feature MSU History Professor Lisa Fine who will provide a history of the workers and families of REO.

In March members have the opportunity to learn about the history of their home from the foundation up with Robert "Rock" Hudson's

program - History of Your Home II: Construction Clues. March will again provide local collectors and historians an opportunity to share their collections during the third annual David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase to be held in the Galleries of the Capital Area District Library - Main Library in downtown Lansing. Last years showcase featured a number of new participants and this year the Society hopes to "Fill the Galleries with History."

The final program of the season will be held in one of the state's most historic and beautiful buildings - The State Capitol. The capitol will celebrate its 125th anniversary during 2004. The Society's annual dinner in this majestic building promises excellent fellowship with area historians and history buffs alike...and President Whitford says "You won't want to miss the special dinner souvenir!"

Details of dates, times and locations will be found elsewhere in this issue of *History Explorer*. Questions regarding membership or our upcoming programs may be directed to Craig Whitford. He can be reached at 394.4443 or email him at cawhitford@aol.com. 

Advanced Publication Notice

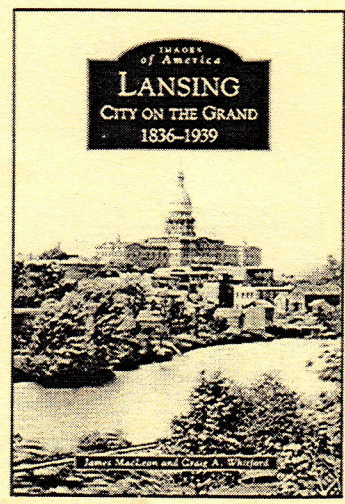
Lansing: City On The Grand, 1836-1939

By James MacLean & Craig A. Whitford

Published by Arcadia, An Imprint of Tempus Publishing, Inc.

Lansing's history as the capital of Michigan began with a legislative mandate in the 1835 State Constitution, which required that the seat of government be moved from Detroit in 1847. The result - the emergence of a new capital city on the banks of the majestic Grand River - allowed Lansing to cultivate a world-class community based in government, education, the automotive industry and entrepreneurial achievements. This book features more than 200 historic photographs that document the dynamic capital city during its pivotal first century - from the pioneer era to the inception of the Olds Motor Vehicle Company and through the eve of World War II.

Available in November from the Historical Society of Greater Lansing for \$19.99. Profits will be used to purchase archival supplies for the Forest Parke Memorial Library of Local History.

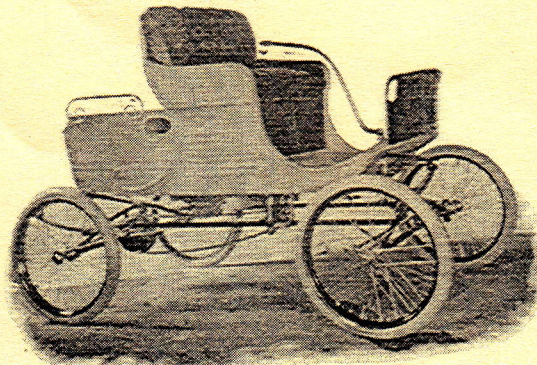


Lansing Automobile Works

From the "Lansing Journal 20th Century Edition, 1902"

Another of Lansing's twentieth century manufacturing institutions, which bids fair to become one of the representative industries in its field, is the Lansing Automobile Works. This firm is composed of J.W. Post and George J. Bohnet. The latter is the designer of the automobile manufactured by the concern, and Mr. Post handles the business end of the company. Their plant is located at 219 Washington Avenue North, and the business, although still in its infancy, gives every indication of rapid growth. It is altogether probable that in another year, larger quarters will be required by the firm.


The automobile manufactured by this company is propelled by steam, that being the most reliable motive power known. The auto complete is a machine combining great power, ease of operations, and economy. It is compact, durable, odorless, noiseless and without vibration. The material used is of the highest grade and the work is done by skilled mechanics. The body of the auto contains the engine, boiler and tanks. No changing gear is used, connections being made directly from the engine to the compensating gear on the rear axle. Change of speed



is had by means of the throttle, just as in a locomotive. The engine is double-acting, link motion, with or without ball bearings. The frame is of phospho-bronze, with gray iron cylinders, larger than any other in use, and the other parts are of drop forged steel. The boilers are seamless steel sheets, one-quarter inch thick. Asbestos coverings and steel jackets enclose them and they are perfectly safe, there being no chance for an explosion. An automotive steam pump supplies the water to the boiler.

The burner is of late design and the base contains hundreds of little holes for the gas to come through. It will burn a powerful blue flame, generating 150 pounds of steam in three minutes. An eight-gallon seamless tank holds the gasoline, which is used for fuel. This is placed under the footboard, away from all danger. The tanks are carefully tested and supplied with check valves. The tank, in the back of the

vehicle, will hold from 28 to 32 gallons of water, so arranged that it cannot splash about. Strainers make it impossible for any dirt to reach the boiler. The engine exhaust heats the coils of copper tubing through which the water passes on its way to the boiler, and thus enables a great saving of fuel. The exhaust passes through a condenser, an invention of Mr. Bohnet's and is consumed entirely, also preventing any noise.

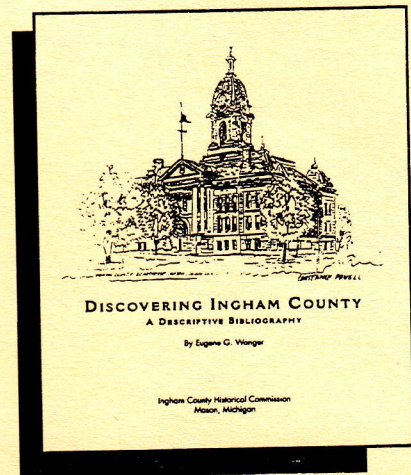
The running gear is made of the best Shelby steel tubing, seamless, and is covered with five coats of enamel. The hubs are turned from bar steel, the wheels are 28 and 30 inches, with three-inch tires. A clever steering device, which is directly in front of the operator, is a feature of the automobile. It is adjustable to any height or angle and has a ten inch ball bearing head. It will not jar or vibrate. The reverse lever is on the outside of the carriage, by the side of the operator. The machines are equipped with tops of the best equality and special design. The aim of the Lansing Automobile Works is to please its customers, and a full guarantee accompanies every machine sold. 

Local History Room Orientation Date Set

Saturday, October 25, 2003
2:00 P.M.

On Saturday, October 25, 2003, Head Reference Librarian, Jim MacLean will provide an orientation session for those interested in volunteering in the Forest Parke Memorial Library of Local History. The session will begin at 2 P.M. and last between one and two hours. Jim will provide an overview of the collection and the work that volunteers can assist with. As soon as we have enough volunteers to staff the local history room for 2 hours on two weekends of each month, the room will be reopened to the public for research. The orientation will be held at the **Main Downtown Library of the Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing.** Please give Jim MacLean, 517.367.6323 or Craig Whitford, 517.394.4443 a call to let them know you will be attending.

Available For Purchase



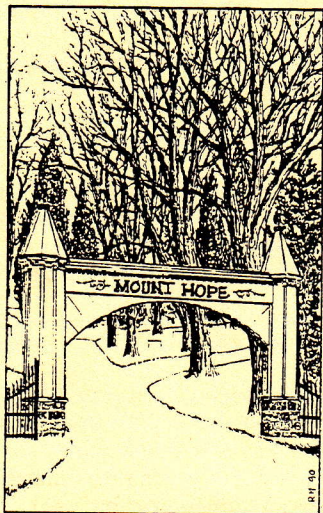
Discovering Ingham County

A Descriptive Bibliography

By Eugene G. Wanger

This 100+ page edition is a sequel to Mr. Wanger's *INGHAM COUNTY HISTORIES: An Annotated Bibliography for Students, Buffs and Collectors...* "an interesting and useful guide for discovering the history and historical resources of Ingham County, The Capital County of Michigan..." Published by the Ingham County Historical Commission.

Available from the Society at \$15 each plus \$4 postage; or send \$15 in advance and you can pick up your copy during our program.



Drawing by Robert J. Morris

A Brief History of Mt. Hope Cemetery

By Linda Peckham

When Mt. Hope Cemetery opened in 1874, it was Lansing's fourth public cemetery. Some earlier burials, after 1845, took place at the northeast corner of Turner and Franklin (Grand River Avenue). In 1848, the state gave land to the new town for a burial ground on Saginaw near Larch. Only a few burials were made before that site was abandoned.

Then in 1851 James and Horatio Seymour sold 20 acres to the town for a cemetery on Saginaw nearer

Pennsylvania, the site of the present Oak Park. This cemetery was in use until 1874.

In 1873, the city had purchased the 80-acre Miller farm at Mt. Hope and Aurelius for a larger cemetery, and from 1874 to 1880 nearly 1100 bodies were moved from Oak Park to Mt. Hope.

Mt. Hope is now one of three city cemeteries. North Cemetery, the oldest, began as the North family burial ground after their settlement here in 1836. It became the Delhi Township Cemetery in 1852 and was annexed to the City of Lansing in 1960. Evergreen Cemetery opened in 1930.

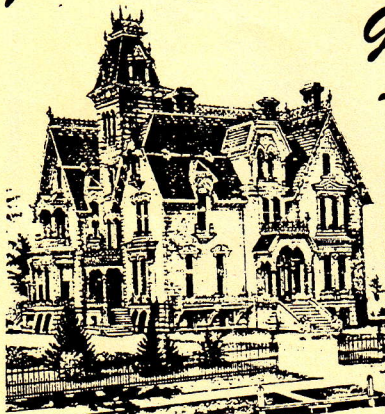
Mt. Hope is a beautiful rolling cemetery above Sycamore Creek. You will find Catholic and Jewish and Islamic sections; old sections for babies and paupers and the Boys' Vocational School; and for Latvians, veterans, and victims of the Kern's Hotel fire.

As you walk, watch for typical monuments with willow trees, symbols of death; unusual monuments, such as the stumps of the Longstreet family; and the special monuments to Civil War veterans and the unknown firemen.

Mt. Hope Cemetery owes its developed beauty to H. Lee Bancroft, Supervisor of Parks and Recreation from 1914-1957, who established the plans for landscaping and maintenance of all of the parks and cemeteries in Lansing.

Join Us For...

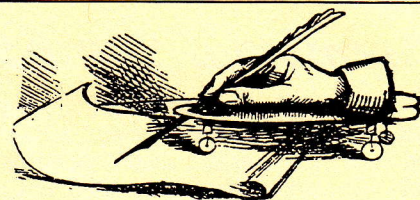
Ghostwalk 2003
Lansing's Notables
& Monuments



Sunday, September 21, 2003
2:00 P.M.

Mt. Hope Cemetery
Corner of Mt. Hope & Aurelius Road

Members Write



Historic Cemetery Arch to be Replaced

From Mia Tioli, July 31, 2003...I contacted Sue Cantlon about the demise of the Mt. Hope Cemetery arch and she sent me this message from Carol Abbott in the Lansing Parks Department, "The Mt Hope Cemetery Arch has been removed because it was structurally unsafe and was in danger of falling. The wooden interior was rotted and could not be fixed. A new replica of the arch will be arriving soon and should be in place by the end of August. It is made of fiberglass with a steel frame along with a new foundation. The bases will look the same as before with stone on the surface and the arch itself, is an exact duplicate. We have saved the metal finials from the old arch which will be attached to the new one."

If you have items to share about the history of the greater Lansing community, please send them to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, Box 22026, Lansing, MI 48909 or email us at cawhitford@aol.com.



Memorial Symbols

H Y G H D U Q N C P N D D P F Z V T C D
A A X R A O W V O I R T M P X R R U R N
N W C Q A O G Z F T O A W V Z I P M J W
D E K L R P M I F K C W G A A I F R G H
H T B C Q E E Y I Y A U O N R R E C A S
E A A X O X J S N A D O G F O E Y E T H
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D M P E N H W Q F T N E K N J S K J D S
P U F V Q R A N P E V O D B D Q D F F U
V Z R F O S A K F R X C B M J S X G C Q
B F G H I S W F E F N D X A B Y B T D D
T E C N F D Q O R L J V F L E P F Y P R
J N M X F T V X L Y G M K E X N K U I T
A M U Y E J R W W L D D Q J B Z F Y W K
R P Y H C M O U R N I N G D R A P E H Y
J U J G D S M V D R R W B R I D G E V C
Z R C R O S S J A L T V U U W K M I T F
X R H O H S E B J Y E D F J D S J L Q R

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|
| ACORN | DOVE | LAMB |
| ANCHOR | EAGLE | MOURNING DRAPE |
| BRIDGE | EYE OF GOD | ROSE |
| BUTTERFLY | GATEWAY | STAR |
| CLOCK | GRAPES | STEPS |
| COFFIN | HAND | TRIANGLE |
| CROSS | HANDSHAKE | URN |
| CROWN | HARP | WILLOWS |
| DOG | IVY | |

Answer on Page 5

Memorial Symbolism

Cemeteries can provide the living with a history lesson of customs, culture and architecture. With a little research, genealogists and local historians can unlock their past by bringing the history of early pioneers, family, inventors, and notables alive. Beyond the history of those in their final resting place, many of the monuments feature symbols or unique architectural features that carry a special meaning – symbols or forms that convey abstract concepts or ideologies of a society.

Lansing's Mt. Hope Cemetery features a large number of monuments bearing various symbols including willow trees, crowns, anchors, shaking hands and crosses. Many of the monuments are fashioned in the shape of a lamb, tree stump, obelisk, draped urn or other forms. Whether expressed by symbols or architecture, they make their statement in a special way that invites individual interpretation without a lengthy written explanation.

On **Sunday, September 21, 2003**, members of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing will take you on a gravesite tour of some of Lansing's most notable citizens – men and women who shaped our area. As we walk from gravesite to gravesite we will stop and talk about the symbols and architecture of several monuments and headstones. In preparation for your afternoon tour we have provided a brief outline of many of the symbols you might encounter during your visit. The descriptive list is not all inclusive and further study is always encouraged. We look forward to seeing you on **Sunday, September 21, 2003 at 2 P.M.** The tour will begin near the front of the cemetery on the corner of Mt. Hope and Aurelius.

Selected Memorial Symbols

Acorn As the seed of the oak, the acorn represents a symbol of potential.

Anchor Commonly used in the 18th and 19th centuries to represent a seafaring profession. An early Christian symbol expressing Hope, Confidence and Salvation.

Angel Represents the life beyond, often seen pointing heavenward, glorifying God and symbolizing faith.

Book Faith, often seen with a cross lying on it.

Butterfly The Resurrection. Based on its evolution from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly it symbolizes the soul, transformation and rebirth, the creation of life from apparent death.

Cross, Crucifix The most widely used of all Christian symbols. It calls to mind the death of Jesus of Nazareth who died on the cross for human salvation. The Latin Cross is the basic form and is sometimes referred to as the true cross. The Celtic Cross includes a circle around the crosspiece, symbolizing eternity.

Crown Righteousness. Usually seen above the symbols of the Christian religion.

Dog Loyalty, Vigilance, Courage, Faithfulness

Dove or Dove with Olive Branch Holy Spirit, Peace, Spirituality. In Christianity, the Holy Ghost of the Trinity is often portrayed as a dove.

Grapevine Truth. It is seen as the elixir of life because of the wine it produces.

Hand and Handshakes Seen in many positions, raised it symbolizes voice and song; pointing upwards it symbolizes the hand of God showing the way to heaven; two hands joined represents union or clasped may represent farewell. Handshakes symbolize greeting, friendship, good bye.

Heart Affection, Love, Devotion.

Hourglass Mortality, Father Time

Interlocking Rings Marriage and Everlasting Love.

Ivy Symbolizes memory, immortality and eternal life. It typifies memory in the sense it is a vine and it goes on and on. The ivy represents immortality because the vine is ever reaching and growing. Because the ivy cannot exist without clinging to something, it is known as a symbol of friendship and everlasting loyalty.

Lamb Purity, innocence, gentleness and sacrifice. In Christianity it represents the sacrificial crucifixion of Christ for the sins of the world. Most often seen on the grave of a child.

Menorah Represents the Jewish symbol of divine wisdom. The seven branches of the candle represent the seven days of creation; the sun, moon and planets; the seven heavens; and the seven stars of Ursa Major.

Obelisk Eternal life, from the Egyptian sun worshiping symbol. Monuments in the form of columns and obelisks were inspired by interest in Egyptian

and Greek cultures and were very popular in the United States between the 1860s to the 1890s.

Rose A symbol of love, beauty and wisdom. Meanings change depending on the color, shape and number of petals. A rose also signifies completion, achievement and perfection.

Scroll Symbolizes a divine listing, such as the Book of Moses or the Book of Life.

Star Symbolizes the spirit, divine presence, enlightenment and human aspiration. It is connected with the birth of Christ and the star represents birth and life. It is a guiding light from this life to another.

Tablets The Ten Commandments; laws of God for man as given to Moses as Mt. Sinai.

Torch Life and the regenerative power of fire. It also represents purification through God's illuminating the spirit and Christ as the light of the world.

Tree Represents life, regeneration and immortality. A **tree stump**, popular in the late 1800s, symbolizes mortality as in the tree of life cut down. Other symbols may be associated with the stump such as a cross, flowers, scroll etc. In monuments with branches, the trunk symbolizes descendants.

Urn Draped and empty it symbolizes sorrow. Another common symbol of the Victorian era.

Willow Tree(s) Grief, mourning, earthly sorrow, the symbolic tree of human sadness.

For more information we suggest:

Cirlot, J.E. 1995. *A Dictionary of Symbols*. Barnes & Noble Books, NY.

Gibson, Clare, 1996. *Signs & Symbols: An illustrated Guide to Their Meaning and Origins*. Barnes & Noble Books, NY.

On the web:

www.monuments.com

www.tombstonetravel.com

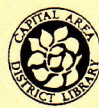
www.morbidoutlook.com

How do I keep Grandma's love letters? Safeguard Your Collections.

Jeanne Drewes, Assistant Director for Access and Preservation at the Michigan State University Libraries, will share information on proper storage and handling techniques for a variety of collections, from paper to photographs to objects.

Saturday, September 27
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Presented in conjunction with Expanding the Legacy: Kresge Art Museum Collects, 2000-2003, on view at Kresge Art Museum September 2 - October 26, 2003.



MAIN LIBRARY
401 S. Capitol Avenue | 367-6346
www.cadl.org



Michigan Council for
Arts and Cultural Affairs

An equal opportunity employer.

Focus on History



Broas Clothing Store Handbill, 1887. Banknote sized advertising handbills with the look of currency were popular with businesses during the Victorian era. Lansing's Broas One-Price Clothing House utilized this National Base Ball League - Season of 1887 handbill to promote their goods of clothing, hats, caps and furnishing goods. The face of the "note" features an image of the League's manager, W.H. Watkins at the left and a uniformed Detroit batter at the right, while the back depicts portraits of the Detroit players.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Proudly announces the 3rd Annual

David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase

Saturday, March 20, 2004

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.

Help us fill the Gallery with History!

For an application or more information contact:

Craig A. Whitford 517.394.4443 email: cawhitford@aol.com

HSGL 2003-2004 Calendar

Reserve these historic dates now!

September 21, 2003

Notables & Monuments - GhostWalk 2003

Spend a Sunday afternoon in Mt. Hope cemetery learning about Lansing's Notables and Monument symbolism.

Mt. Hope Cemetery - 2:00 P.M.

Corner of Mt. Hope & Aurelius, watch for the signs

November 19, 2003

Lansing, City On The Grand, 1836-1939

with James MacLean & Craig A. Whitford

A presentation of historic Lansing photographs.

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

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

January 21, 2004

Reo Joe: Work, Kin & Community

with Lisa M. Fine, Associate Professor of History, MSU

A REO Centennial Program exploring the workers and families of the REO Motor Car Company.

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

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

March 17, 2004

History of Your Home II: Construction Clues

with Robert "Rock" Hudson

Learn about the history of your home from the foundation up with this informative presentation.

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

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

March 20, 2004

The David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase

Collectors from throughout Ingham County gather to share their collections of photographs, memorabilia and more. There is no charge for displaying your collection of local history artifacts.

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

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

May 19, 2004

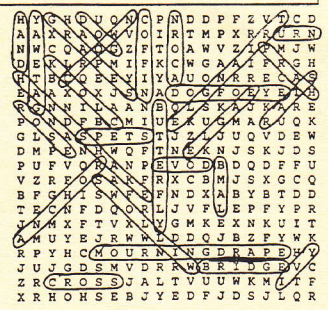
125th Anniversary of the State Capitol

Annual Membership Dinner & Election

State Capitol, Lansing

Reservations are required for this evening filled with the history of our State Capitol. Enjoy fellowship with area historians and history buffs, as well as a tour of the Capitol building during it's 125th Anniversary celebration.

Give the Gift of History with a membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

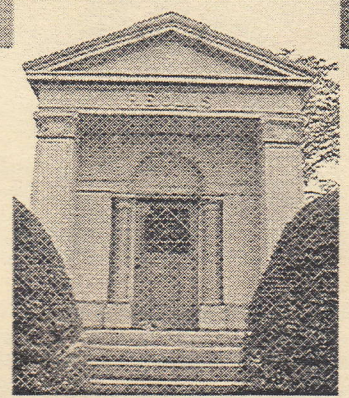
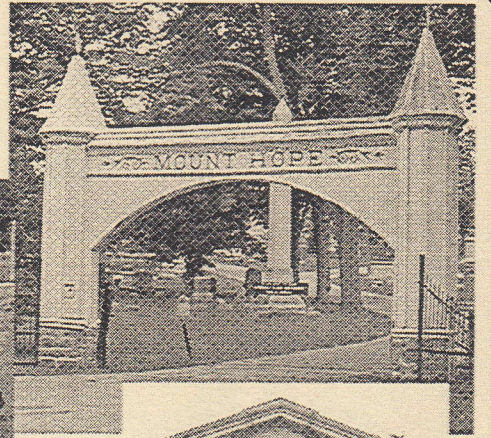
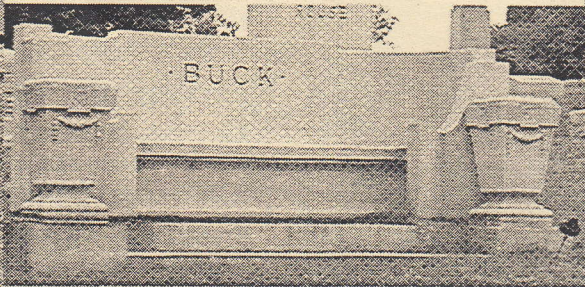


Ghostwalk 2003

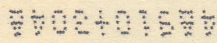
Lansing's Notables & Monuments



Bring your comfortable walking shoes and an umbrella - just in case.



Join Us... **Sunday,**
September 21, 2003
2:00 P.M.
Mt. Hope Cemetery
Corner of Mt. Hope & Aurelius Road

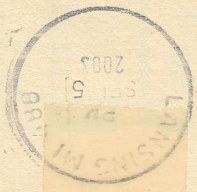


00-01
Timothy J. Bowman
401 E. Willard #10
Lansing, MI 48910

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Membership
Renewal
Time

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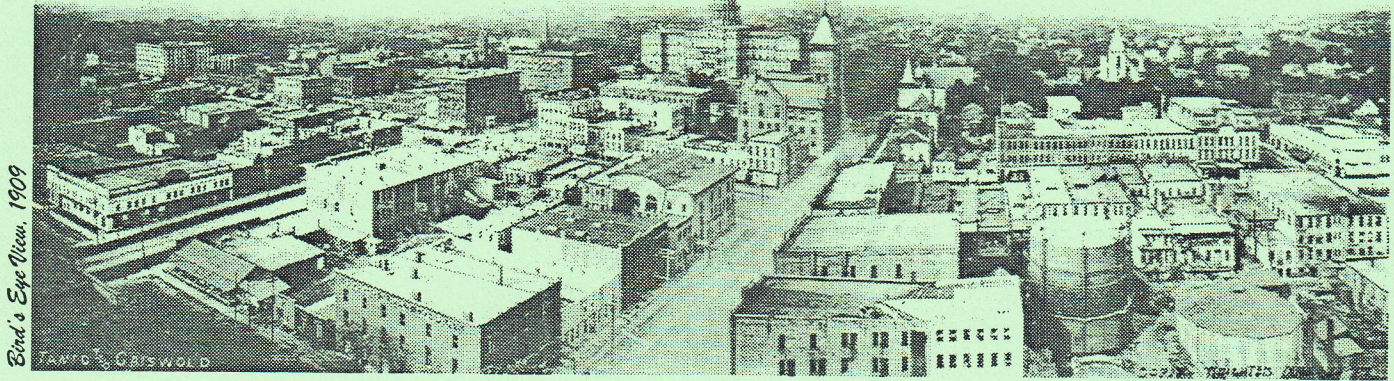
Please FNS# to:



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

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Membership
Renewal Time



2003-2004 Program Schedule

Sunday, September 21, 2003 - 2:00 P.M.

Ghostwalk 2003 - Lansing's Notables & Monuments

Spend a Sunday afternoon in Mt. Hope cemetery learning about Lansing's notables and headstone symbols

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Lansing, City On The Grand, 1836-1939

with James MacLean & Craig A. Whitford

Historic Lansing photographs based on their forthcoming book.

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Wednesday, May 19, 2004 - 6:30 P.M.

125th Anniversary of the State Capitol

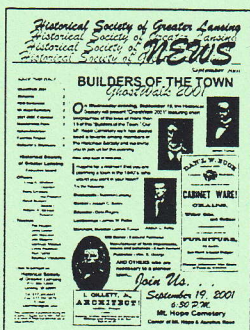
Annual Dinner & Election

Reservations are required for this evening filled with the history of our State Capitol. Enjoy fellowship with area historians and history buffs, as well as a tour of the Capitol building during it's 125th Anniversary celebration.

Members receive a copy of the *News*, issued five times a year providing up to date information on our programs, news of additional events throughout the year as well as informative articles. Most of our programs are held at the Capital Area District Library - Main Library in downtown Lansing. For more information please feel free to write or call us. We look forward to having you as a member.

We Invite You to Join Us Today!

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*



P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

Tel: 517.394.4443
Fax: 517.394.0579

Email:
cawhitford@aol.com

Membership Application (New & Renewal)

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: _____ E-mail: _____

Please complete and mail with your payment to:
Historical Society of Greater Lansing, 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.