

# The Artistry of Charles H. Mead

## A Public Exhibition of Treasures from the Edmonds Collection in the Forest Parke Archives & Library of Local History

It has often been repeated that "A picture is worth a thousand words." For Lansing historians, the pen and ink drawings accomplished by Charles H. Mead between 1868 and 1873 are priceless images of the Lansing landscape under change.

The late 1860s and early 1870s ushered in the Industrial Age for the city of Lansing and the rest of the nation. During this time Mark Twain lectured in one of Lansing's first theaters – Mead's Hall and the State's new capitol was constructed.

Charles H. Mead was the son of Lansing pioneer merchant James I. Mead. Charlie, as he was called, worked in his family business through mid-1876 when the Lansing Republican reported that he had purchased Engleharts Photograph Gallery and "once again occupies a place where he can do some good."



Careful review of his drawings reveals that Sundays were his day to take pen and paper in hand and capture various street scenes and activity throughout the city. His artistic skill and business sense prepared him for his venture into photographs and portrait art.

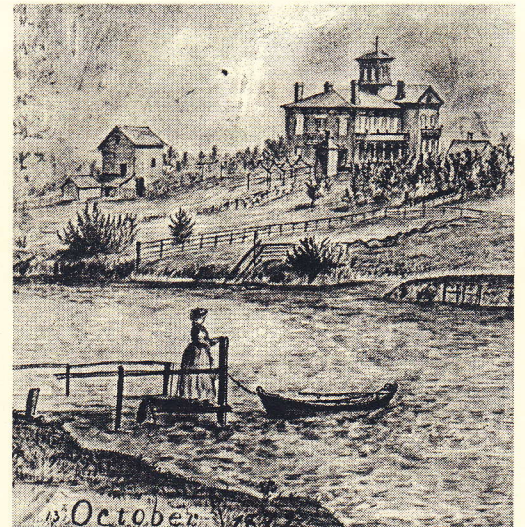
A new enterprise requires advertising to get the word out. Mead took charge with both his wit and art creating "comic-like" characters such as Mr. Pod Snap and Mr. Slinkbottom to appear in his newspaper display ads. His skillful hands produced detailed wood carvings for illustrating trade cards, hand bills and newspapers throughout Michigan. During his lifetime he was a traveling agent, patent medicine merchant and hamper manufacturer. Mead died in Lansing on November 7, 1912.

Sometime before Mead's death, Lansing historian and author, James P. Edmonds came into possession of more than 40 of Mead's drawings dating from 1868-1874. The collection is housed in the Forest Parke Archives and Library of Local History within the Capital Area District Library.

*Please join us for this Unique Art Exhibition*

*Wednesday,  
November 16, 2005  
7:00 P.M.*

*Forest Parke Archives & Library  
Lower Level, Capital Area District Library - Main Library,  
401 S. Capitol, Lansing, Michigan*



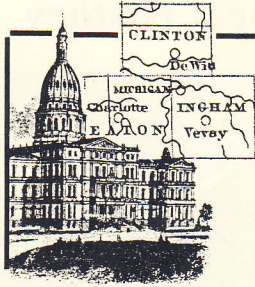
*Sponsored by the Capital Area District Library & Historical Society of Greater Lansing*

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# Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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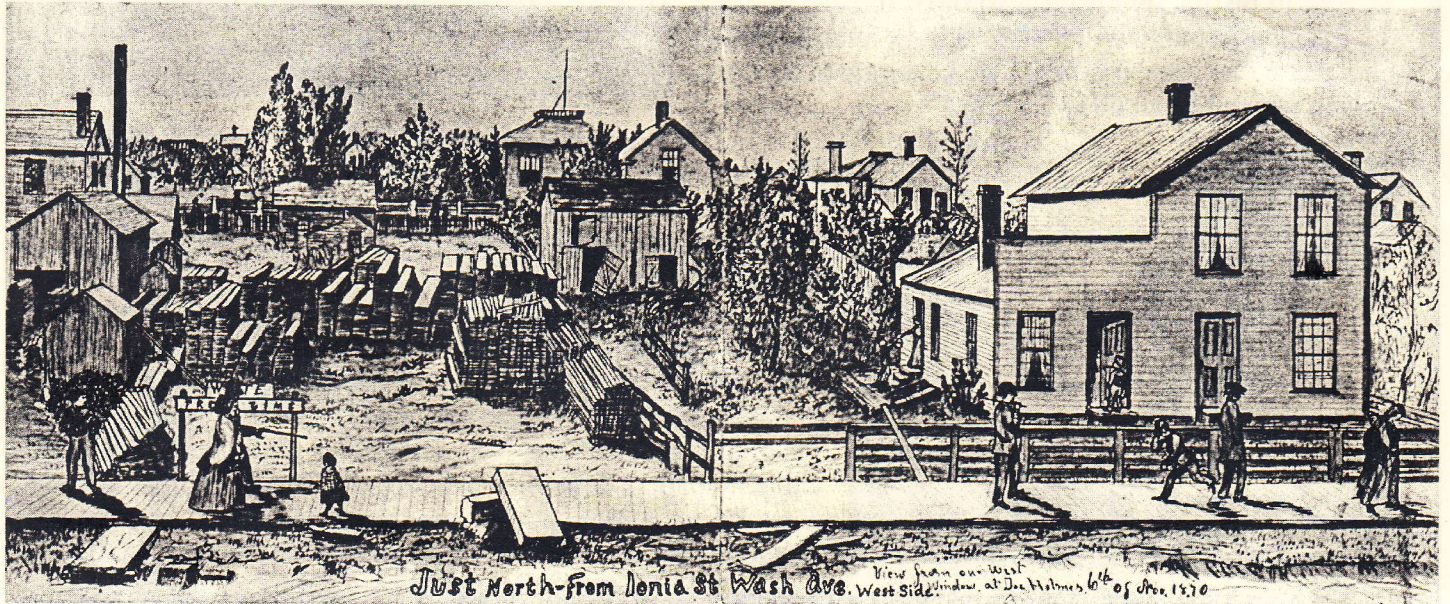
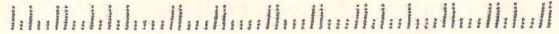
Please *RUSH* to:

LIFE  
Robert Morris & Linda Peckham



*Your Invitation to  
Unique Public Exhibit*

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*Just North from Denia St Wash Ave. West Side. View from our West window at Die Holmen 6th of Dec. 1870*