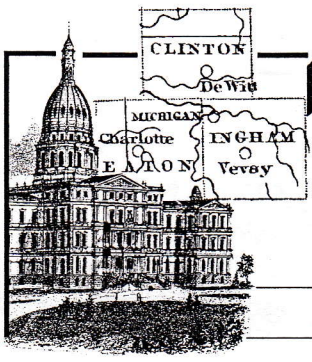


Picked up on
May 1-2009



History Explorer

A publication of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing April-May 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Live Alligator	1
HSGL Nominations	2
President's Corner	2
Collector's Showcase	3
Cover to Cover...	
Little Zoo by the Red Cedar	4
Bath Massacre	5
HSGL Program Calendar	6
May 2, 2009 Program	7
Gift Depot	7
Membership Application	7
April '09 Program	8

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

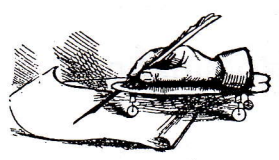
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Historic Explorer is published during the months of September to May by the HSGL. Articles and news of historical interest are always welcome.

LIVE ALLIGATOR LOOSE IN RIVER

HE'S SIX FEET LONG AND AN UGLY CUSTOMER TO MEET

Is the Property of Landlord Fogg of Leadley's Park But Was Raised by V.A. Lott - Escaped Wednesday Night

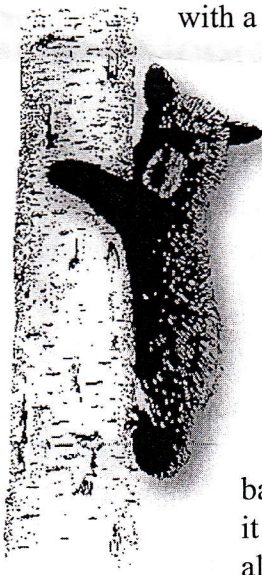
No One would suspect from outward appearances that Irving Fogg, the big, good natured proprietor of Leadley's Park, ever had his troubles. But just at present Mr. Fogg's usual serene peace of mind is greatly disturbed over the persistency with which some of the inhabitants of his zoological garden insist on asserting their rights as reptiles and beasts to roam the forests and swim the stream at their own sweet will and unrestrained by chain or cage.

It was only a few days ago that 'Tillie' the bear, the delight of the small boy visitor, whose appetite for peanuts and other good things to eat is only exceeded by her love for freedom, got gay and broke away.

Penned in a cage, securely fastened by a stout chain, "Tillie" isn't a bit ferocious, but turned loose with an entire county for a playground, Tillie

wasn't a bit funny, and she didn't care who knew it. As a last resort, to prevent from being again taken into captivity, 'Tillie' climb a nice tall tree and gave her pursuers a look that was very suggestive of a merry, ha, ha, and it was only by the most careful maneuvering with a lasso and a block and tackle that she was one more landed in here accustomed place.

But trouble never comes singly. Now Mr. Fogg's alligator has escaped and is having all kinds of fun with himself somewhere between Dimondale and Piatt's dam. Should there be any mysterious disappearance of small boys in the next few weeks, while bathing in the waters of the Grand, it can be accepted as fact that one alligator has had a square meal, and the fact that the aforesaid alligator is twelve years old, nearly six feet long, and has an appetite that ten pounds of raw meat daily does not seem to appease in the least, may



Continued on Page 3

Join Us...

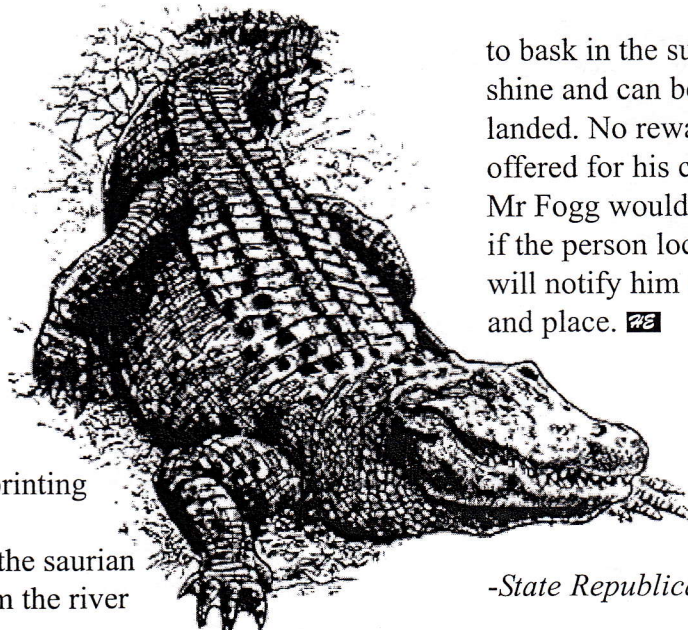
Monday, April 20, 2009 - 6:30 PM: Lansing in Photographs 1859-2009. This wonderful display of historic Lansing photographs in the lobby of City Hall was installed by the Lansing150 committee in celebration of Lansing's Sesquicentennial. Please join members of the Historical Society for the exhibit and self-guided tour through Lansing's past.

Live Alligator from Page 1

make bathing very unpopular in the river the balance of the summer.

The alligator was originally the property of V.A. Lott, and every summer for a number of years past he has been a familiar figure on the sidewalk in front of Lott's saloon. He became the property of Mr. Fogg this spring, and under the influence of fresh country air and plenty of fresh meat, has thrived wonderfully and attained a size that would make him an ugly customer to meet the facilities for sprinting were not A No 1.

Mr. Fogg says he expects to capture the saurian monster, as he thinks he will come forth from the river



to bask in the summer sunshine and can be lassoed and landed. No reward has been offered for his capture, but Mr Fogg would be very glad if the person locating his pet will notify him of the time and place. *RE*

-State Republican 7/23/1897

President's Message

Craig A. Whitford

GREETINGS and Welcome to a springtime dose of the History Explorer! It is my hope that you have been enjoying our monthly meetings and gatherings during this, the 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the City of Lansing. Our ongoing goal is to provide you with quality programming to whet your appetite for local history. Please be sure to check out page 6 of this issue which details the dates of our upcoming programs through September. We have a special Annual Dinner program scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2009 at Potter Park Zoo - Please watch your mailbox for details!

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is looking for members to enlarge a volunteer pool to assist in staffing the Local History Room and organizing and cataloging collections for the coming year. **We Need YOU! Local History Room Volunteers** The Forest Parke Library & Archives in the Lower level of the Main Capital Area District Library is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month from 10 AM to 2 PM.

If you have an interest in local history and research, and would like to participate in this very important project, please give Local History Librarian David Votta a call at 517.334.1521 or email him at vottad@cadl.org for further details and questions. Our goal is to Staff the Local History Room for 4 hours every other Saturday for historians and researchers and we need your assistance. We welcome your participation. *RE*



Election Time Approaching

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In June, we will elect Officers and four Trustees for the 2009-2010, 2009-2011 year.

If you are interested, or know someone who is, in serving as an Officer or Trustee please contact:

Doug Johnson, Nominations
Tel: 517.484.8802
johnsond72@comcast.net

Check out the Historical Society of Greater Lansing on the web at

www.lansinghistory.org

Celebrating 150 Years of Lansing History

The David R. Caterino

Collector's

Showcase

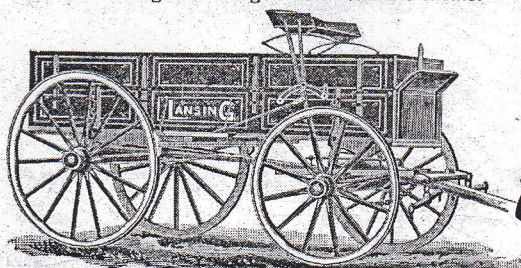
May 2, 2009

A few tables are still available!

LANSING area authors, collectors, historical & genealogical societies will be displaying a variety of Lansing, Ingham & Eaton County history from their collections including Photographs, Postal History, Books, Bottles, Antique Firearms, Railroads & Interurbans, Post Cards, Lansing Advertising & Cigar Boxes, Olds & REO Memorabilia, LFD & LPD History, MAC/MSU items; Manufacturing. . .and Much More!

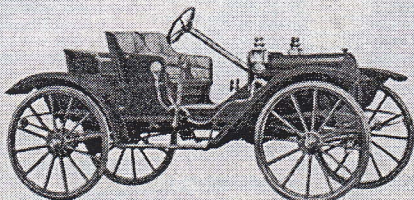


The Lansing Farm Wagon—With Thimble Skeins.



The Lighter thoroughly and

NEW CLARK MOTOR CAR



Manufactured by **CLARK & CO., Lansing, Mich.**
DELIVERIES WILL BEGIN TO BE MADE IN AUGUST



Join Us. . .
May 2, 2009
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Lower Galleries
Capital Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing

You are invited to bring items to share or ask questions about.

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

For more information or if you would like to exhibit please contact: Craig A. Whitford, 694.0556 or Email: cawhitford@aol.com

Cover to Cover

New Books of Local Interest

Little Zoo by the Red Cedar: The Story of Potter Park Zoo

By Kevin Hile

One of Michigan's best-kept secrets is tucked away between a railroad and a river near downtown Lansing. Founded in 1920, Potter Park Zoo is the state's oldest accredited zoo, yet today there are still Lansing residents who have never heard of it.

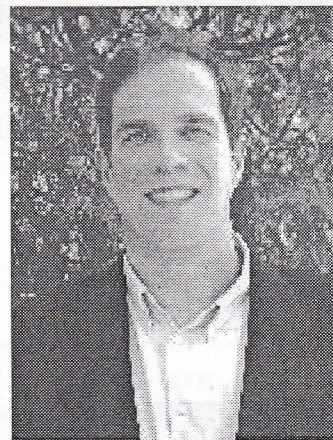
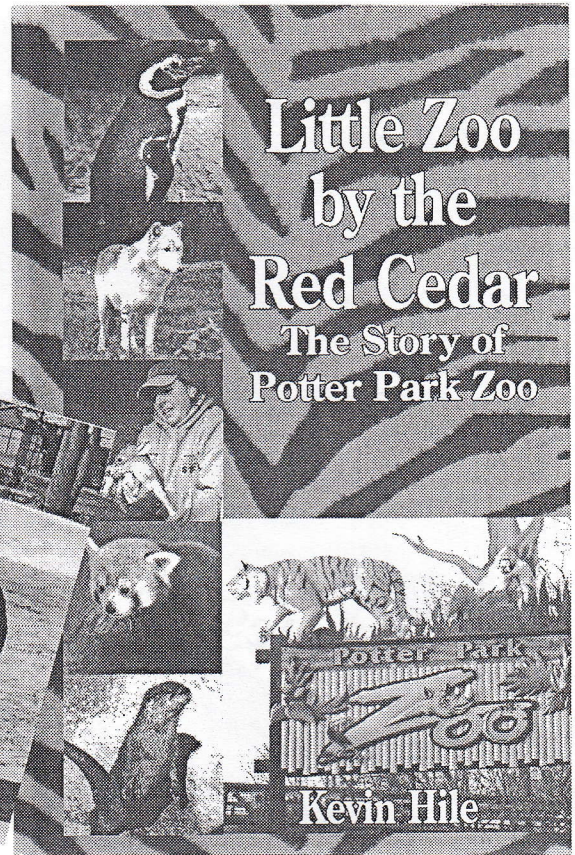
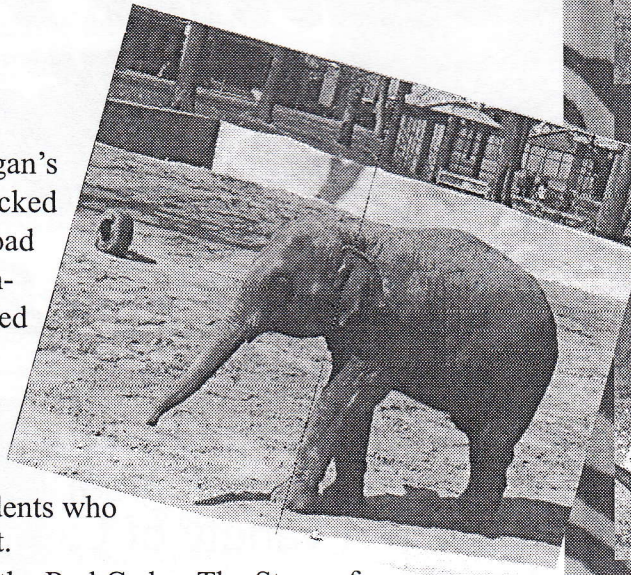
Little Zoo by the Red Cedar: The Story of Potter Park Zoo makes up for this neglect by revealing the true story of how caring people have kept the zoo alive. Small and largely under-funded, the zoo has survived to become a respected educational and wildlife research center – and a fun place to spend the day!

Read about the history of Potter Park Zoo, and learn how zoos across the country have evolved. You'll discover what it takes to be a zookeeper, as well as how medical and conservation sciences have become a key part of Lansing's zoo.

Along the way, you'll meet friends like Herman the white-furred Mexican burro, who teases his keepers and zoo guests relentlessly, and Bingo, the bouncy baby elephant who captures the hearts of Lansing's children and adults. You'll also get to know the zoo staff and volunteers who have given their time, money, and hearts to Potter Park Zoo.

Little Zoo by the Red Cedar is a story of the joys of meeting new friends and the pain of saying good-bye. It is a tale of the heartaches and triumphs of working together to save wildlife!

Strategic Book Publishing, 2008
Hardbound, 237pp, well illustrated
Available at local bookstores for \$27.50



Kevin Hile is a freelance editor and writer and has been a docent at Potter Park Zoo for nine years. He lives in Mason, Michigan, Kevin has a B.A. from Adrian College, and has written and edited dozens of books.

**Meet the Author
& Book Signing**
Thursday, June 11, 2009

Kevin Hile will be our guest and featured speaker at the Annual Dinner of the HSGL - Thursday, June 11, 2009 -- 5:00 PM (Dinner at 6:15) at Potter Park Zoo. Watch your mailbox for details!

Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing

By Arnie Bernstein, University of Michigan Press (2009)

The village of Bath, Michigan is about 10 miles from the state capital of Lansing. In 1927, that distance could easily have been 1,000 miles. This small farming community was in many ways the essence of rural America. The Roaring Twenties seemingly bypassed the town. In fact, Bath was just catching up to the rest of the country, with the installation of roadside poles and electrical wires providing power, rather than the old fashioned generators that townspeople had relied on for most of the decade.

Another innovation was the consolidated school, which opened in November 1922. This modern facility didn't come cheap. A first rate educational institution required proper funding, translating into higher taxes for Bath residents.

That didn't settle well with Andrew P. Kehoe, a 55-year-old farmer, electrician, and school board member. Some considered him fiscally responsible. Others viewed Kehoe as nothing more than a penny-pinching crank.

In the latter camp was the school superintendent, Emory E. Huyck. Kehoe felt Huyck was overpaid and inefficient. In turn, Huyck resented the constant political games Kehoe seemed to relish playing during board meetings.

While Kehoe tried to maintain control of the school, his own life was rapidly falling apart. Mismanagement of his affairs put Kehoe into severe financial straits. His wife was constantly ill, suffering from a variety of ailments that often required hospitalization. Faced with a failing farm and bills he could not pay, Kehoe was a desperate man.

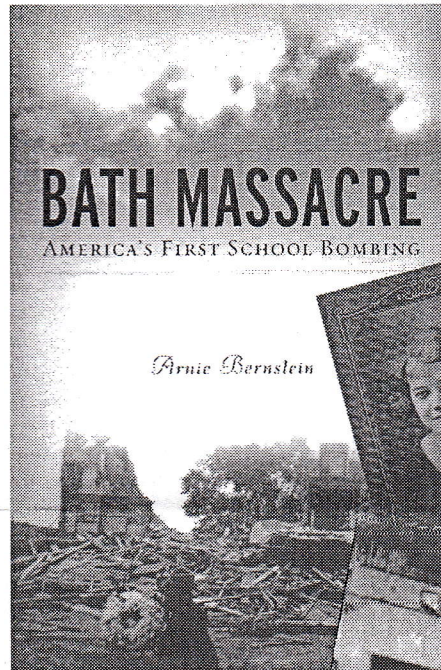
On the morning of May 18th, neighbors saw smoke pouring from the buildings Kehoe's farm. Calm and collected, Kehoe got into his truck, and headed into town.

Shortly before, as they did every morning, students arrived at the Bath Consolidated School. Deep inside the school basement, a cheap clock ticked

away. At 8:45—the same time as Kehoe's farm caught fire—a wire attached to the clock was electrified. It ignited several hundred pounds of explosives Kehoe had planted.

The explosion lifted the north wing of the building four feet in the air. As it fell back to the ground, the walls split apart, sending the roof crashing down. The air was filled with smoke, dust, and the unearthly screams of children trapped inside the rubble.

Word quickly spread through town and a rescue effort was coordinated. Nearby homes became impromptu triage centers. Bodies were laid out in on the school lawn in a hastily established morgue. Older boys who'd escaped injury joined the men of the town, pulling out the dead, dying and wounded.



Ruins of the north wing
Photo courtesy Bath School Museum

Superintendent Huyck was frantic. Had a boiler exploded? How many children were dead? How could they save those left inside? His mind was racing. Just then Andrew Kehoe pulled up.

Kehoe motioned to Huyck. When the superintendent neared the truck, Kehoe set off a dynamite charge hidden inside the vehicle. The two men were

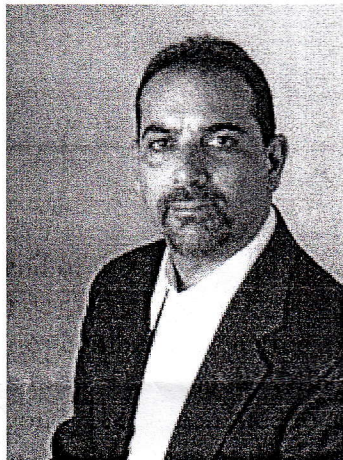
Continued on Page 6

Bath Massacre continued from Page 5

instantly obliterated. At the end of the day, 38 children and six adults (including Kehoe) were dead.

The next day authorities combed the charred debris that was once Kehoe's farm. They found Nellie Kehoe's remains, burned beyond recognition, tied to a hand truck, her skull caved in. On the edge of the farm, lashed to a fence, they found a sign Kehoe left behind, carefully stenciled with the words "Criminals Are Made, Not Born."

Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing is a definitive account of how Kehoe killed so many, search and rescue efforts, and the long healing process for survivors and the town itself. Told in the tradition of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, author Arnie Bernstein recreates the moment-by-moment horror of the explosion and its immediate aftermath. Readers are thrust into the killing zone, trapped inside the rubble with victims and experience the heart-pounding intensity of rescue workers and mourn with heartbroken parents shocked and grieving by the annihilation of Bath's children.



Bernstein's penetrating insights into Bath's terror and its often shocking aftermath are bolstered by exclusive interviews with survivors of the bombing. With unprecedented access to archives, newspaper accounts of the day, and never before seen photographs, Bernstein vividly portrays the worst act of school violence in American history...and the powerful resiliency of the human spirit in the wake of epic tragedy. **RE**

Meet the Author & Book Signing

Saturday, May 2, 2009 - 1 P.M.

Author Arnie Bernstein will be at the Capital Area District Library - Main Library, Friend's Auditorium on Saturday, May 2, 2009 - 1 PM for the Official Michigan release of his book during the David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase. Please be sure to join us!

HSGL 2009 Calendar

Reserve these historic dates now!

Saturday, May 2, 2009

The David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Collectors & organizations from throughout Ingham County and beyond 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
Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

Saturday, May 16, 2009

Parade of the Decades - Lansing at 150 Yrs
Step off at 11:30 AM.

Downtown Lansing
Visit www.Lansing150.com for details

Thursday, June 11, 2009

An Evening at the Zoo - HSGL Annual Dinner
Tour at 5:00 P.M.; Dinner at 6:15 P.M.

Our Annual Dinner this year features Author Kevin Heil discussing his book *Little Zoo by the Red Cedar: the Story of Potter Park Zoo*. A book signing will follow. Come early and tour the zoo. A catered picnic dinner will be the fare for the evening - Watch your mailbox for details.

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The Art and Artistry of Charles H. Mead
with Craig A. Whitford
7:00 P.M.

Local historian and author Craig A. Whitford has updated his presentation on local artist and photographer Charles H. Mead just in time for the 150th celebration.

Friend's Auditorium, Lower Level
Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

Thursday, August 13, 2009

The Mayors of Lansing with David Votta
7:00 P.M.

Capital Area District Library Local History Librarian David Votta will look back at the movers and shakers that served as Lansing's Chief Executive over the last 150 years.

Friend's Auditorium, Lower Level
Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Cemetery Tour of Lansing Pioneers
with the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society
2:00 P.M.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing has teamed up with the members of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society for a fresh and exciting cemetery tour of Lansing's Pioneer families. Our September cemetery tour is always a Must Attend event and this is one you will not want to miss.

Mt. Hope Cemetery
Corner of Mt. Hope and Aurelius

The Gift Depot

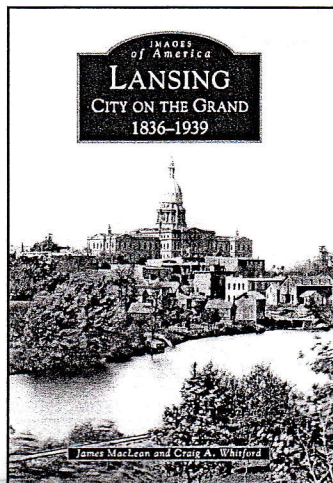
The following gifts will be available for purchase during our May Collector's Showcase

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

Individual Memberships: \$15/year
Family Memberships: \$25/year

2 Lansing: City On The Grand, 1836-1939

By James MacLean & Craig A. Whitford



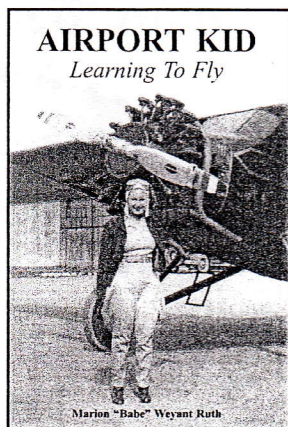
Lansing's history as the capital of Michigan began with a legislative mandate in the 1835 State Constitution, which required that the seat of government be moved from Detroit in 1847. The result – the emergence of a new capital city on the banks of the majestic Grand River – allowed Lansing to cultivate 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.

\$19.99

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

3 AIRPORT KID - Learning To Fly

By Marion "Babe" Weyant Ruth and Craig A. Whitford



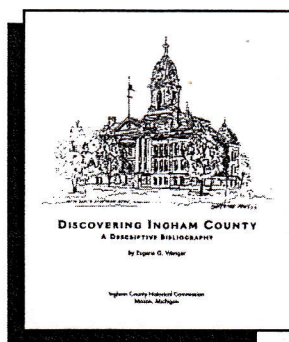
The true account of Lansing's most famous aviatrix - Marion "Babe" Weyant, a teenage girl with a passion for aviation and a desire to take flight. Originally written by Babe in 1936, the story traces her adventure from 1931 until soloing at the age of 18 in 1936. Over 150 photographs and vintage news clippings are featured in 96 pages, capturing the excitement of her journey, the pilots she encountered and her interest in aviation which she continues to share.

\$20.00

Published by
Michigan Historical Press, Lansing

4 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.

\$15.00

Published by the
Ingham County Historical Commission

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Proudly announces the 10th Annual

**David R. Caterino
Collector's Showcase**

Celebrating Lansing's 150th Birthday!!

Saturday, May 2, 2009

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

517.694.0556; Email: cawhitford@aol.com

Give a Friend a Gift Membership in the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Membership Application

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

\$15 Individual \$25 Family
 \$150 Life or \$ _____ Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____

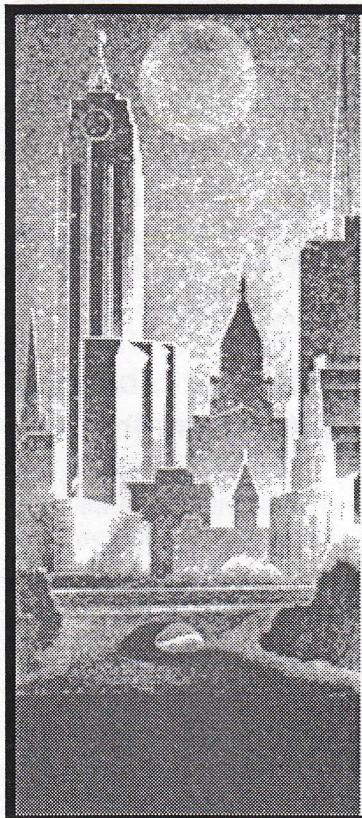
Email: _____

*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.



Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Join Us For...

Lansing In Photographs 1859-2009

An exhibit and self-guided tour of historic
Lansing Photographs

With Members of the Historical
Society of Greater Lansing

Monday, April 20, 2009

6:30 P.M.

City Hall Lobby - Lansing City Hall

124 W. Michigan, Lansing, Mich.

Celebrate
Lansing's 150th
with History!
1859-2009

Please RUSH to:

Change Service Requested

P.O. Box 12095 Lansing, MI 48901

Historical Society
of Greater Lansing

Art & Artistry of Charles H. Mead

A Presentation of Historic Sketches, Advertising & Photographs with Craig A. Whitford & the Forest Parke Archives & Library

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 Lansing's landscape under change.

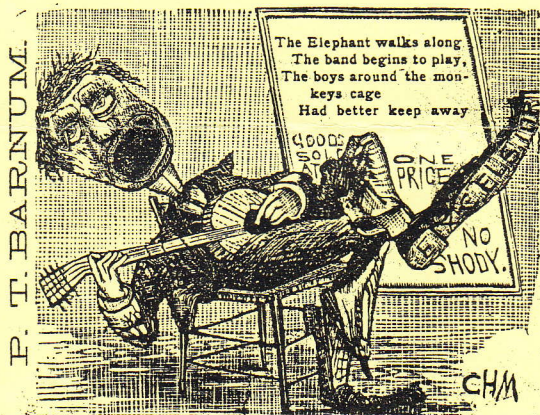
The late 1860s and early 1870s ushered in the Industrial Age for the city of Lansing and the rest of the nation. During this time Mark Twain lectured in one of Lansing's first theaters – Mead's Hall and the State's new capitol was constructed.

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."



A 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 craft 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 Presentation

Thursday, July 16, 2009
7:00 P.M.

*Friend's Auditorium and
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

