

History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

September 2015

HSGL's Auction at Eastern High School Field House

Saturday, October 10 - 4:00pm-6:30pm

\$15 per person

Tickets may be purchased by returning the enclosed form, online at www.lansinghistory.org, or at the door.

Grab your favorite Quaker and head down to Lansing's 1928 Eastern High School to support the HSGL museum fund! HSGL is pleased to partner with the Lansing School District for our annual auction, which will be held at the Eastern High School Don Johnson Field House. Originally built for the Boys Industrial School, a reform school founded by the State of Michigan in 1855, the field house was acquired by Eastern High School in the 1970s.

The event includes the opportunity to bid on 100 items, including unique antiques, gift certificates to local businesses, homemade treats, theatre tickets, weekend vacation getaways, MSU memorabilia, vintage records, auto services, memberships and tickets to Michigan museums, and more! A partial list of auction items will soon be made available online at www.lansinghistory.org, and will appear in next month's History Explorer.

To donate an item for the auction, or to purchase tickets, please fill out and send in the enclosed forms. Tickets are \$15. The evening includes both a silent and live auction, light hors d'oeuvres, and a tour of part of Eastern High School, including a classroom, the auditorium, and the historic social room.

Eaton County Courthouse Tour

Thursday, September 3 - 6:00pm Grounds Tour

7:00pm Interior Tour

Tour meets at Courthouse Square, Downtown Charlotte

Take a trip back to the 1880s when downtown Charlotte was home to a new courthouse, designed by architect David Gibbs, architect of the Wyoming State Capitol. Enjoy the exhibits created by Courthouse Square and learn about the architectural design theory behind Gilded Age public buildings. Topics to be discussed include the construction of the building, David Gibbs' career, the 1894 fire (we'll even stand on the spot where the courthouse's original dome crashed through the interior of the building during an 1894 fire), allegorical art, the history of domes, and 19th century building practices.

Glendale Cemetery Tour

Sunday, September 13 - 2:00pm

2500 Mt. Hope Rd, Okemos

Enjoy an autumn walk through Okemos' Glendale Cemetery, established in 1887 on land owned by R.P. Soule and J. Blakley. Today the cemetery, which contains over 9,000 grave sites, is home to a wide variety of gravestones and memorials. We'll be telling the stories of a few interesting Glendale residents, including a Vietnam Veteran, a member of the World War I Polar Bear Regiment that played a role in the Russian Revolution, an MSU professor, a victim of the Bath School disaster, a prominent African-American business owner, and several Michigan State Police officers.

Ingham County Courthouse Tour

Thursday, September 17 - 6:00pm Grounds Tour

7:00pm Interior Tour

Tour meets at Courthouse Square, downtown Mason

Explore the beautiful Ingham County Courthouse in downtown Mason that has served as the seat of county government since its opening in 1904. Designed by Edwyn Bowd, the classical Beaux Arts building was full restored over a period of 15 years, culminating in 1995. The tour will include information about the art and architecture, as well as early trials held in the historic courtroom.



From Sepia to Selfies: 150 Years of Lansing Photography

Opening Friday, September 18 - 5:00pm

Open Mon-Fri 10:00 am-5:00 pm;

10:00am-4:00 pm the second Saturday of every month

Fourth Floor, Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo

HSGL is pleased to partner with the Library of Michigan and Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library for our newest exhibit, From Sepia to Selfies. The exhibit chronicles the history of the photographic process, while showcasing more than 150 Lansing photos, many of which have never been publically exhibited before.

The photos by professional and amateur photographers will showcase more than 150 years of Lansing photographic history and explore how we saw ourselves and our environment. Included are dramatic photographs of calamities, fires and disasters; tender loving photographs from family albums and photographs of Lansing celebrities along with photographs of people, places and things no longer here.

More than 130 photographers called Lansing home from the invention of the photograph in the 1800s to the 1930s and a collection of cabinet cards from those talented portraitists will be on display along with photographs representing more than 125 years of demonstrations and celebrations at the State Capitol.

Photographs and cameras representing both amateurs and professionals will walk us through thematic explorations of trains, boats and planes, Lansing daredevils, how we view photographs, news photography, aerial photography, cultural milestones, parades and celebrations and lost Lansing.

You will be shocked by some photographs and touched deeply by others and that's what we've always expected from the art of photography.



Historical Society of Greater Lansing

P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901

www.LansingHistory.org

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The Mystery Painter of the Capitol Muses

By Tonya Blust

For 129 years, eight painted figures have stared down at visitors from inside the state Capitol dome; for most of that time, no one knew exactly who had created them. The figures, known as the muses, each represent a different means (i.e., agriculture, art, astronomy/science, commerce, education, industry, justice, and law) through which Michigan citizens can prosper and brighten the state's future.

The paintings are absolutely gorgeous, and for years historians believed they might have been the work of Lewis Ives, a well-known late 19th century Detroit artist responsible for many of the gubernatorial portraits in the Capitol's collection, as well as the design for the tympanum in the front pediment of the, called "The Rise and Progress of Michigan." Then, in 1992, a visitor named Geoffrey Drutchas entered the building, looking for works by a 19th-century Italian artist. Drutchas's inquiry led to an investigation that ultimately revealed the paintings' true creator. But more on that later; first, a quick background into how the muses became part of the Capitol in the first place.

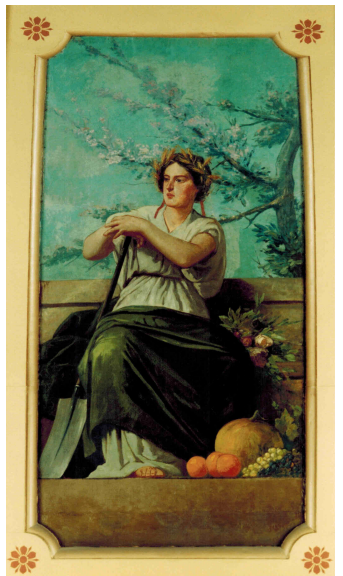
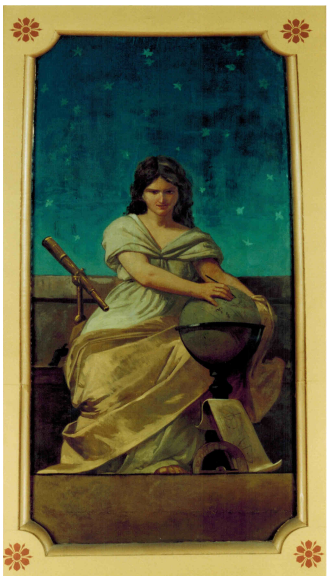
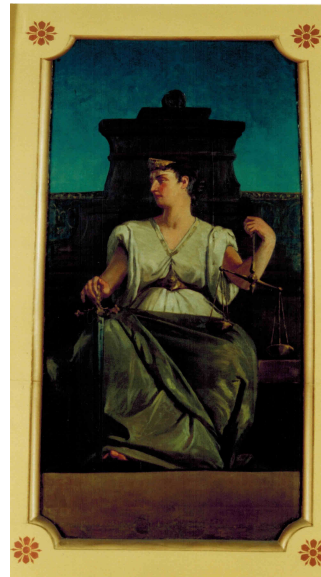
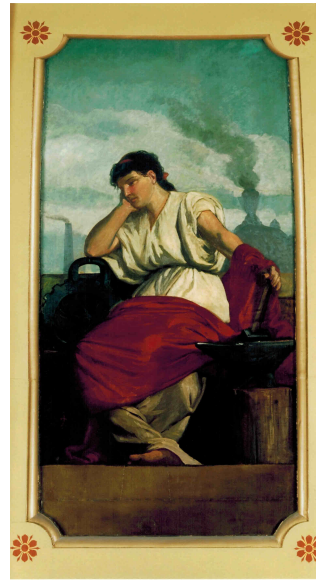
The current state Capitol opened in 1879. For the first few years of its existence, the Capitol's walls were bare, as the state couldn't spare any money for artwork. Eventually the state decided to fund the interior decoration of the building. William Wright, the owner of a Detroit decorating company, was awarded the contracts to execute the interior artwork. Among the spaces that needed to be decorated were large blank panels in the Capitol's interior dome. Though the Capitol's architect, Elijah E. Myers, originally suggested they be painted with scenes of Michigan pioneers, the decision was later made to feature a collection of eight female muses. At first glance, the women in the paintings that Wright delivered are simply figures from Greek mythology. However, if a viewer looks at the paintings closely, he or she finds that each muse holds or is surrounded by items that represent a specific aspect of Michigan's economy and culture.

“Agriculture” rests her arms on the handle of a shovel, a bounty of fruits and vegetables at her feet. “Art” perches next to a marble bust, a palette of paint in one hand, and a plumb line in the other. “Astronomy/Science” peers straight ahead as she clutches a celestial sphere, or globe, ready to view the night sky through the telescope at her side. “Commerce” sits before a ship, gazing into the distance at the new horizons to pursue. “Education” rests beside the lamp of knowledge, a pile of books at the ready. “Industry” holds a hammer to an anvil while smokestacks fill the sky with black smoke behind her. “Law” sits straight and square, clutching a scepter and tablet as representations of the human experience. "Justice" grips a sword tightly in one hand while balancing scales in the other.

Wright never revealed who created the paintings, and as the years passed, their origin became even hazier. The natural assumption was that Ives had created the paintings, and this theory prevailed for the next several decades. During the Capitol's 1989-1992 restoration, art conservators noticed that the paintings seemed to have been signed with a symbol that looked like a stick figure, and no one at the Capitol knew what—or who—the symbol represented.

Then Drutchas entered the picture (no pun intended). The Taylor resident was a fan of 19th-century Italian painter Tommaso Juglaris, who had lived in Boston during the late 1800s. Drutchas read that some of Juglaris's work was in the Michigan State Capitol, so he took a trip to Lansing. His query raised a few eyebrows, as staffers had never heard Juglaris's name attached to the muses. However, after some research (including a trip to Italy during which Drutchas found the mysterious stick-figure signature on works that Juglaris was known to have painted), as well as the 2003 discovery of sketches that Juglaris had made of four of the muses, Capitol staff could officially state that Tommaso Juglaris had painted the dome's artwork. (The "stick figure" signature is actually a combination of Juglaris's first and last initials.)

How did Juglaris's work go undetected for so long? At the time he painted the Capitol muses, only American citizens were supposed to work on public buildings and projects. Though Juglaris lived in Boston, he was a citizen of Italy, so his work for the state Capitol was technically forbidden. Wright, who had commissioned the paintings from Juglaris, got around that fact simply by stating that the paintings came from his company. Consequently, while Juglaris got paid for his work, he didn't get official credit—at least not until over a century years later, when a visitor's curiosity wrote a chapter for Juglaris in the Capitol history books.





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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Historical Society of Greater Lansing - Membership Application

Please accept my application for:

- New Membership
- Renewal Membership
- Gift Membership

in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

I have enclosed:

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$30 Family Membership
- \$100 Business Membership
- \$_____ Additional Gift to HSGL

Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

- Please Send The Newsletter
Via Email

Make Checks Payable to
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

*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

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Silent Auction Event Sponsorships & Auction Donations

HSGL Silent Auction - Saturday, October 10, 2015 - 4:00pm-6:30pm

- **\$5,000 - Platinum Sponsor**
 Top billing on all promotional materials, full-page advertisement in auction booklet (back cover or inside covers), 8 tickets to event
- **\$1,000 - Gold Sponsor**
 Full-page advertisement in auction booklet, 6 tickets to event
- **\$500 - Silver Sponsor**
 Half-page advertisement in auction booklet, 4 tickets to event
- **\$250 - Bronze Sponsor**
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- **\$100 - Copper Sponsor**
 Name included in list of sponsors in auction booklet, 2 tickets to event
(See reverse for advertising information)

● Auction Item Donation

I can help the Historical Society by donating the following auction item(s):

Item Value \$ _____

- I will mail my items
- Please pick up my donation; it will be available for pick-up by _____

Donor Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I understand that my donation may be used by HSGL in any way necessary to benefit HSGL Programs.

Signature _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to the **Historical Society of Greater Lansing.**

Advertising Information

Below are representation of the sizes of advertisements for various levels of sponsorship. Advertisements must fit inside these dimensions to fit appropriately in the event program. Your black and white camera ready artwork should be in PDF or JPG format at 300dpi resolution, if possible. Please email artwork by September 25, 2015 to davemarvin@sbcglobal.net. If you have any questions or would like us to help prepare an advertisement, please feel free to call David Marvin at (517) 282-1156.

Full Page Ad

Finished Size 5" wide x 8" tall

Third Page Ad

Finished Size 5" wide x 2.75" tall

Half Page Ad

Finished Size 5" wide x 4" tall

Historical Society of Greater Lansing Silent Auction Ticket Order Form

Saturday, October 10, 2015 - 4:00pm-6:30pm
Eastern High School - 220 North Pennsylvania, Lansing

Number of tickets _____ Total enclosed \$ _____ (\$15.00 per person)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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

Make checks payable to the **Historical Society of Greater Lansing**. Mail to P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901