



History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

February 2016

The Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderland

*Thursday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.
Downtown CADL - 401 S. Capitol Ave.*

Roy Finkenbine, Director of the Black Abolitionist Archive, will talk about Michigan's role in the Underground Railroad, helping freedom seekers who came from the South.



The History of the Library of Michigan & A Tour of the Martha W. Griffiths Rare Book Room

*Lecture - Saturday, February 27, 1:00 p.m.
Tour - Saturday, February 27, 2:30 p.m.
Library of Michigan - 702 W. Kalamazoo*

Librarian Bernadette Bartlett will lecture on the history of the Library of Michigan, from its early days in the first Capitol in Detroit to the present. Topics to be discussed will include the move to Lansing, the work of Harriett Tenney, the first female librarian in Michigan (and the first professional woman to work in the present Capitol), the traveling libraries created by Mary Spencer that sent books across Michigan, and the Cass Building fire in 1951.

Following Bernadette's presentation we'll have a special chance to tour the Martha W. Griffiths Rare Book Room in the Library of Michigan. The Rare Book Room not only contains books, but other materials related to the process of printing and the book as art. Some of the items that we'll see include *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* by John James Audubon, *The Lady of The Lake: A Poem* by Walter Scott, Esq., a Lithograph stone, and at least one local history treasure!



The Delta Township Historical Society would like to invite you to attend....

Stories from Delta Township

*Wednesday, February 17 - 6:00 p.m.
Delta Township District Library - 5120 Davenport Dr.*

Michigan Oral History Association President Rick Peiffer will share stories he has collected about the neighborhoods surrounding St. Gerard Church, including Bretton Woods, Robins Road and the Mar-Moor subdivision.



Lansing Has Fun! Exhibit February Update

HSGL's yearlong exhibit, Lansing Has Fun!, opened on January 27 with a mini-exhibit about Prohibition-The Wets Vs. The Dries. The exhibit will continue to grow with several more cases of artifacts and stories in February. February's portion of the exhibit--*Love, Dating, and Marriage*--will look at some of Lansing's most famous and unique love stories, and will include objects from places where we've dated, dreamed, and married throughout the city's history. This new portion of the exhibit will be open in time for Valentine's Day, so be sure to stop down at City Hall to see it!

Also, HSGL encourages all of our members to participate in the Lansing State Journal's online contest "How We Met" in which community members share their stories of how they met their spouse or partner. Contest winners will have their stories featured in our exhibit!

Club Exhibit Items Needed!

HSGL is looking for memorabilia associated with Lansing area clubs, fraternal organizations, and societies for our March mini-exhibit. If you have something that you would like to loan or donate, please contact HSGL at 517-282-0671 or info@lansinghistory.org.

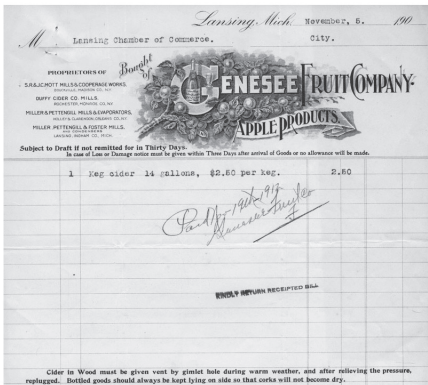
News from the Forest Parke Library and Archives at CADL

By Heidi Butler

Local History Online

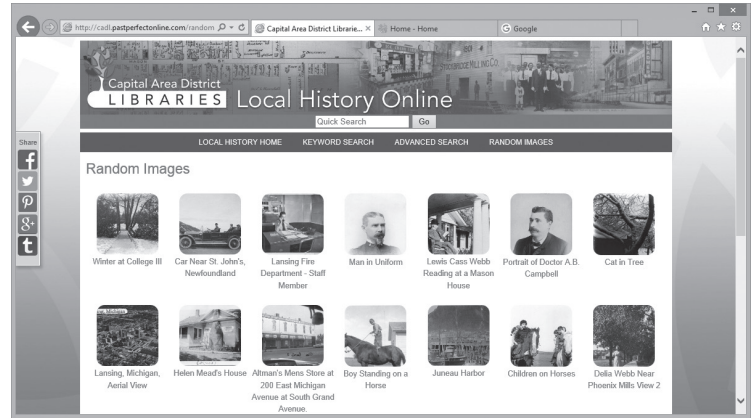
Over the past year, the Local History department (also known as the Forest Parke Library and Archives) at the Capital Area District Libraries has been hard at work on a number of projects. The biggest and most fun has been the reinvention of our presence on the Internet. If you remember the old Local History pages, they were full of wonderful content, but as technology has advanced, the way they were done became harder to maintain and add to. We now are using a database program called PastPerfect, which, with a web add-on, allows us to generate a publicly searchable collection of local history materials that we can add to easily all the time. Find it at <http://www.cadl.org/lh> - just click on Launch Local History.

Local History Online is a mix of newly processed collections and some familiar things from the old site, including City Planning Division photographs of Lansing street views, indexes for the Eugene G. Wanger REO Collection, the Birt Darling Collection, the Mead Family Collection, the Ford Ceasar Collection, the Hotel Kerns Fire Collection, and more that you may have used



An example from the Lansing Letterheads Collection

in the past. Some of the previously online collections have been flagged for reprocessing to make them more easily accessible and may take longer to reappear, but be assured that they will be back.



Collections that are new to the CADL web site include a selection from the excellent David Caterino Postcard Collection, which contains many rare views; the Lansing Letterheads Collection, a gift of the Friends of Lansing Libraries that features beautifully illustrated and engraved letterheads and receipts from Lansing area businesses in the late 19th and early 20th century; indexes to the Local History subject and biographical files collection that was thoroughly reorganized in 2015; indexes to a number of smaller collections such as papers from former Lansing mayor Gerald Graves, materials from the Friends of the Rivers organization, Martha Dixon's recipe newsletters, and a collection of Lansing-area cookbooks; and lots more. From the Local History link above, you can find an About page that lists all the collections we have available online, get brief descriptions, and link directly to those materials.

Local History Online provides easy interaction with the library as well. Suppose you notice an error in an image description, or you would like to request a high-resolution copy of a file. Every page has a "Send us Feedback" or "Request Image" link that will pop up a form you can send directly to library staff. You can also send an item link to a friend, and if you are using Internet Explorer, you will see built-in ways to share items on Facebook, Pinterest, and other social media platforms.

If you aren't looking for anything in particular, try clicking on the "Random Images" link to bring up a selection of images from across our collections to browse. You can also try the Keyword Search or Advanced Search to find more specific material. All of the collection items that we have posted in PDF format are keyword-searchable; for example the Lansing Republican Death Notices collection (currently covering the years 1855-1872 with more to come) includes PDFs for each year which can be searched for individual names.

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Historical Society of Greater Lansing
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www.LansingHistory.org

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Oral History Project

In addition to Local History Online, the Forest Parke Library and Archives has been fulfilling our mission as part of CADL's Outreach department by working with branch library communities and their respective historical and genealogical societies to facilitate an Oral History project. Along with expertise and guidance from Geneva Wiskemann, the library has been able to provide hardware and software for digital recording, editing, sharing, and preservation of interviews in the communities. The first of the oral histories, featuring Dorene White of Stockbridge, is now available in Local History Online. Branch libraries and the societies will also receive copies on disc as they are completed. We encourage all societies in CADL's service area to be involved.



A new control desk at Lansing Fire Department Station No. 1, 1949

Local History Blog

Each month this year, you will see one of our area historical or genealogical societies, including HSGL, featured in the Local History section of the CADL blog (<http://www.cadl.org/news>). There are many throughout Ingham County, and they are all up to interesting things. Read about their events, how to become a member, and more.

Other 2015 Projects

In the past year, Local History supported area groups and organizations in some fun and interesting ways. We were able to visit Lansing Fire Department's Station No. 1 on several occasions, to clean, organize, and inventory their collection of daily log books that go back as far as the

1850s. We scanned an album of photographs from the opening of the new Station in 1949 and have provided space on Local History Online for the Fire Department to share them.

We provided Lansing Rotary access to a range of local history materials, and trained some of their members to use our software and scanners. They were able to collect information and photographs for presentations on each decade of Rotary's history, and for a centennial book that will be produced later in 2016. We will be the long-term home for Rotary's archival material as well; this is a perfect fit with all of our other collections from area civic and social organizations.

We also assisted in the Moores River Drive Neighborhood Association's centennial project, providing access to the Stebbins Real Estate Collection for house research, as well as contextual information from City Directories, plat and fire insurance maps, biographical material, and more.

All of these things would not be possible without the great staff and volunteers who assist the Local History Librarian in the daily operations, projects large and small, and surprise requests that come in to the Forest Parke Library and Archives, or the donors who keep our collections rich and interesting.

Local History is located on the lower level of the Downtown Lansing library. We are open every Wednesday from noon to 8pm, and the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 4pm. You can also find us online 24 hours a day at <http://www.cadl.org/lh>, call (517) 367-6313, or write to us at localhistory@cadl.org.

In Sight, and Hopefully Not Out of Mind: Historical Awareness of Black History in Michigan, a Community Conversation.

Tuesday, February 9, 4:00 pm
LCC's Center for Engaged Inclusion
252 Gannon Building - 422 N. Washington Sq.

Join LCC faculty for a discussion on awareness of African-American history in Michigan. Facilitated by David Siwik.



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
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