



History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

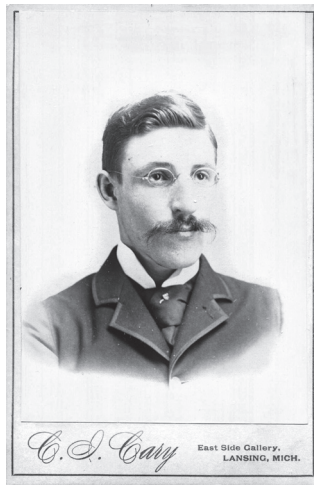
January 2017

Upcoming Events

HISTORY OF LANSING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Thursday, January 19, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.
East Lansing Public Library – 950 Abbot Rd.

Join the HSGL for a lecture by Jacob McCormick covering the extensive history of photography in Lansing in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The lecture is based on research by the late David Tinder who amassed an amazing collection of photographic images. Tinder's collection now resides at the University of Michigan William L. Clements Library. Before commercial photographers like R.C. Leavenworth arrived in Lansing, portrait photography was the standard. Many longtime studios and operations—such as Cheney, LeClear, Riley, and more—will be explored, as well as many short-lived photographers, several of whom lasted in business for just a year or two. Forms of photographic technology, like carte de visites and cabinet cards, and techniques of dating photographs will also be addressed. A collection of local photographs will be on display in conjunction with the program.



All collections suitable for family viewing are welcome. One collection will receive the People's Choice Award, chosen by visitors the day of the event.

In addition to HSGL, the Collectors Showcase is co-sponsored by the Delta Township Historical Society and the Delta Township District Library. The event will be held at the library, at 5130 Davenport Dr., located off Elmwood across from Sharp Park. For more information or to register as a collector, contact Thomas Moore, DTDL Adult Services Librarian, tmoore@dtld.org, or 517-321-4014, or check the library website under Events at www.dttl.org/collectors.

HSGL TREE AWARDED 'MOST UNIQUE'

In December the Turner-Dodge House hosted the 5th annual Festival of Trees. Sponsors from throughout the greater Lansing area decorated trees that filled every room in the three-story mansion. Participants included Potter Park Zoo, Capital Area District Libraries, the Photography Club, Elderly Instruments, and many other organizations and small businesses. Proceeds from visitor admissions help to support the historic house.

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CALLING ALL COLLECTORS

Saturday, March 18, 2017 - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Delta Township District Library - 5130 Davenport Dr.

This year HSGL will be co-sponsoring the 3rd Annual Collectors Showcase to be held March 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Delta Township District Library. Collectors willing to display their collections and talk to the public about their passion are needed for this just-for-fun, no buying or selling event. Collections at past events have included both antique and contemporary collectibles, such as Pez dispensers, vintage hats, postcards, dolls, Dionne quintuplet memorabilia, Lansing dairy items, and salt and pepper shakers.



Pursuing Lansing's History

By

Bill Castanier, HSGL President

It's the new year and our life is filled with annual reports, lists of resolutions, and best-of lists—even Charles Schultz's Snoopy is hard at work in today's comics busily filling out the annual report to the head beagle.

Number one on my to-do list is to heartily thank everyone who contributed in so many ways to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing's success in 2016. The genuine interest of thousands of Lansing-area residents in our many lectures, walking tours, and exhibits continues to be remarkable at a time when more and more people are tied to a computer screen.

You have come out on the nastiest nights of winter for a lecture and on blistering hot summer days for walking tours. Thank you! We will try again in 2017 to ensure our programming is provocative, entertaining, and worth stepping out for.

In 2016 our exhibit "Lansing Has Fun" explored the myriad ways Lansing residents entertained themselves and others across the city's long history. Along the way we discovered little-known but remarkable feats of residents, such as Peter Morris who twenty-five years ago won the first-ever Scrabble World Championship, and explored important social movements, like Prohibition and its impact on Lansing.

Once again, the exhibit would not have been possible without the loan of hundreds of unique items like Carrie Nation's hatchet pin and the baseball uniform of the Lansing legendary baseball coach Paul Cook. Please don't throw anything away. Your drawers, attics, basements and garages are filled with items that tell an important story.

Forming partnerships is one of HSGL hallmarks and in 2016 we worked closely with the Library of Michigan, the Capital Area District Library, the MSU Archives, the MSU Museum, the Michigan Historical Museum, the MSU Press, Fenner Nature Center, the Mid-Michigan MSU Alumni Association, the R.E.Olds Transportation Museum, the Lansing Poetry Club, and the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

Our six walking tours explored REO Town (what a difference a few years makes), the historic MSU Sports Complexes, Moores River Drive, the Eastside Park (Oak Park), the North Capital gateway and Riverside Cemetery in

Okemos where we liberally shared mosquito spray. We peeked into windows and snuck down alleys while we learned more about architecture and the history of the people who lived and worked in our community.

Walking tours are incredibly popular and an easy way to learn about the history of Lansing. Who knew about the apple orchard at Boys Training School or the "hidden" brick sidewalk at Oak Park that dates back a century?

Again this year we were graced with authors who wrote about everything from mid-Michigan Modernism to the Tucker automobile. Through their eyes and words we explored the Civil Rights Movement with Bob Green; MSU's 1225 engine; the Tucker automobile; and Mid-Century Modern architecture along with some of the most memorable MSU Sports events with Jack Ebling.

Our members also were generous with donations both of cash and historical items. Just yesterday I was looking at the incredible photograph donated by the Stebbins family of an early Lansing High School football team. One of the persons in the photograph is the legendary MSC and University of Michigan football coach Harry Kipke. (See photo and list of names on page three.)

In late fall fellow HSGL Board Member Zig Olds and I even met with Santa Claus (really) to accept a donation of a graduation certificate from a Lansing business school. And HSGL partnered with Wonder Women Estate Sales Service in Old Town to decorate a Christmas tree for the Turner-Dodge House annual Festival of Trees. We won the most unique tree, which used egg crates saved from a Holt farm. Wonder Women also hosted a fundraiser this past summer where guests brought in antiques for appraisal.

Sometimes it's the laborious projects that are done behind the scenes that need to receive thanks, including HSGL member Timothy Bowman's digitizing the 60-plus years of HSGL Newsletters (you can access them online at lansinghistory.org) and his tireless work with the Forest Parke Library and Archives to organize and publicize the Stebbins Historical Real Estate Cards, which show images of homes and commercial structures across Lansing. Another HSGL member, Karen Mahoney, has used her considerable wood-working skills to help us out with exhibits.

A thank-you would be very incomplete without kudos to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and his staff who allow us to use space in the lobby of City Hall for exhibits and programming. Thank you for tolerating and even embracing some of our crazy ideas.

As much as we heard about fake news this past election cycle, I want to commend the 2,600-plus members of our active Facebook page, who consistently post interesting photographs and ask for help with history-related questions. The discussion is friendly and helpful, and adds to what we know about the history of Lansing.

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Historical Society of Greater Lansing	
P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901	
www.LansingHistory.org	
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1921 LANSING HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM
LEFT TO RIGHT:

TOP ROW: ① HOWARD ASTLEY ② RUDY RICHARDS
③ RON FITZPATRICK ④ HARRY KIPKE

NEXT TO TOP ROW: ① RED FULLER ② ERNIE DEACON ③ RON CRANE ④ RON CULVER
⑤ DR. CAMPBELL ⑥ R. DRANE (COACH) ⑦ ~~WILSON~~

NEXT TO BOTTOM ROW: ① LEWIS ② WELLS F. FLETCHER ③ ROT BUD
④ WALTER MARTINI ⑤ ED ROH ⑥ WILCOX
⑦ EUGENE COOLEY ⑧ THURLOW MATCH ⑨ SPIKE JOHNSON

BOTTOM ROW ① KEW RUMSEY ② JIM STEWART ③ JIM OADE
④ TED MESSINGER ⑤ ANDY SCHOLMASTER ⑥ BUD BROWN
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Through our free lectures we all learned about some amazing aspects of Lansing history, including Lansing aviatrix Babe Ruth and Emma Mae Watson who went to prison for life for selling a pint during Prohibition. In researching our Eastside Park walking tour I was amazed to discover that during the height of the Depression more than 10,000 Lansing residents turned out for the annual Lansing Parks summer pageant. And former WILS DJ Bob Pearson is to be commended for working with me on the presentation on MSU in the Sixties.

This is the fun time of year, but also the craziest, as we plan programs and exhibits for the upcoming year. Right now we are working with an eclectic group of historians and labor officials to recognize the 1937 Lansing Labor Holiday that was one of the few general strikes in the U.S. On June 7, 1937, tens of thousands of workers literally shut the city down for a day.

As part of that commemoration, HSGL will explore what was going on in the world around us during the tumultuous year 1937 and what we might learn from it. You'll have a chance to learn more about the movies, literature, major events, and the people who made a difference in the year 1937.

We expect to sponsor at least six walking tours again this year and will be spreading our wings to East Lansing. We have on our radar walking tours in Old Town, downtown, and

on the MSU campus. Our lectures will cover a wide array of topics including a program on the Benton Harbor House of David amusement park and baseball team by Wally Jung, the postcard man who will be using post cards from his collection to illustrate the phenomena.

We also will be holding programs on the 1967 Detroit Riots, Governor Frank Murphy, the rise of the Black Legion, and the Golden Age of comics in the 1930s, among many others.

I also want to thank the many local businesses who have contributed in so many ways, including Kevin Schoen CEO of ACD.net that underwrote video of Lansing City Pulse Publisher Berl Schwartz talking about his 50 years working as a journalist; Ray Walsh of Archives and Curious Books; and Tim Grinold of Denny's Auto, who is as handy with a video-editing program as he is with a wrench. Also, thank you to the Lansing State Journal, LCC Radio, City Pulse, WLNS-TV, and other media outlets which provided us with great media coverage.

We encourage you to email us or call us with ideas for programming and walking tours. And this year we will be working with the Moores River Drive neighborhood to host a fundraiser that includes a tour of six elegant homes along the Grand River. We also will be hosting a unique night with an Elvis and Johnny Cash impersonator who will highlight the music of the '50s and '60s. Elvis died 40 years ago August 17, 1977, but he will definitely be in the building for HSGL.

Please join us for another historic year. Follow us on Facebook, visit lansinghistory.org, and consider joining or renewing you membership with HSGL, which you can do by mail or online. Membership fees allow us to continue our amazing programs and help us continually upgrade our archival material. Also keep us in mind as you do that New Year's housecleaning.

Upcoming Events *Continued next page 1*

A team of HSGL members, in partnership with Wonder Women Estate Sales, built "The History Tree" (aka "The Poul-tree") in the third-floor ballroom out of old wooden egg crates from the Wrook family farm in Holt. The crates were stacked atop each other in a tree shape, then interwoven with small lights. The open-front crates were then filled with white batting "snow," and plastic eggs and chickens, while scanned images of vintage Christmas cards, sheet music, photographs, and shiny ornaments were added to fit the Christmas and history themes. When completed, the HSGL tree looked so good it even surprised the builders.

Various awards were presented at the opening night reception, and we are pleased to report that the HSGL tree won the award for "Most Unique."

The annual event is sponsored by the Friends of Turner-Dodge House and Lansing Parks and Recreation Department. Thanks to all the volunteers from HSGL and Wonder Women who helped make our tree a winner.



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:

- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$35 Family Membership
- \$100 Business Membership
- \$_____ Additional Gift to HSGL

Member Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Please Send The Newsletter Via Email

Make Checks Payable to
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