



History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

August 2017

Upcoming Events

Moores River Drive Home Tour

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Brunch 11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m.,

Home Tour 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Join HSGL for a peek into some of Lansing's grandest and most beautiful historic homes in the Moores River Drive neighborhood on Sunday, September 17. The tour will include access into six beautiful homes. The group includes a variety of architectural styles, including Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and arguably Lansing's most stylish bungalow.

The day begins at 11:00 a.m. for brunch at the Country Club of Lansing, followed by the Home Tour, which starts at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m.. Tickets for the tour only are \$20, and tickets for the brunch and the tour are \$50. Tour tickets are available for purchase at www.lansinghistory.org, by sending in the enclosed form with payment, or at the Country Club of Lansing the day of the event. Brunch tickets must be purchased by September 11 at www.lansinghistory.org or by calling 517-282-0671.

The homes on the tour include:

- Harry and Ragna Harper Home - 1408 Cambridge
- Joseph and Catherine Knapp Home - 1435 Cambridge
- Allan and Irene Black Home - 2117 Moores River Drive
- Theodore and Margaret Foster Home - 2011 Moores River Drive
- Wallace and Harriet Olds Home - 1908 Moores River Drive
- Carl and Etta Pearson Home - 1607 Moores River Drive

Volunteers are also needed to staff the homes for the tour. Volunteers will be expected to work for two hours,

and will receive one complimentary home tour ticket that they can use to view the homes during the other two hours. To volunteer contact Joan Bauer at jeb1211@sbcglobal.net or 517-285-1946.

This fundraiser for the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is being generously hosted by the Moores River Drive Neighborhood Association and the Riverside Home Association. All proceeds benefit HSGL.

Old East Campus - MSU Tour Series

Saturday, August 19 - 10:00 a.m.

Tour meets at the Student Services Building, 556 E. Circle Dr.

The 2017 MSU campus tour will cover the history of MSU's old east campus, which is closely intertwined with the explosive growth of the campus before and after World War II, when President John Hannah found the resources to convert a small cow college into a major university. Highlights of the tour will include Berkey, the Student Services Building, the East Campus residence halls, the Natural Sciences Building, Giltner, and the Auditorium.

Beal Botanical Garden - A Historical Perspective

Thursday, August 24 - 6:30 p.m.

Tour meets at the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden, 330 W. Circle Dr.

MSU's Beal Garden owes its existence and its name to Prof. William James Beal, who decided not long after arriving at Michigan State Agricultural College in 1871

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Lansing Street Naming

by Timothy Bowman

Have you ever wondered how the streets in Lansing got their names? The following is a compilation of how some of them came to be. About three years ago, I was told about index cards in CADL's Local History Room that had short synopses of how the city's streets were named. They had dates at the end, which I was told referred to newspaper articles. I looked for the sources in *The State Journal* microfilms and discovered that most were written by Ted Foster from 1938 to 1958. He was a prominent real estate developer in the early 1900s and an early board member of the HSGL. Over the last few years I found more clippings at CADL, the Library of Michigan, and other places. Recently I decided to combine all these in a list for others to see. Here are some of my favorites.

Allen Street – Named for Abram Allen of the firm of Allen and Hall. B.F. Hall, an early lumber mill operator and real estate developer, opened the subdivision in which the street lies. It was only natural for him to select the name of his partner for a street name. Both men were active in all phases of the early development and affairs of the city (Foster 01-21-1940).

Bailey Street – Named for J.W. Bailey, who for years was Lansing's leading real estate broker and leader in its real estate development operations. There has probably been no one operator and broker in the city who has seen a greater volume of business transacted through his office (Foster 03-24-1940).

Barnes Avenue – Located in J.H. Moores' Park place addition, it was named for the Barnes family who were so long vitally interested in Lansing's early industrial growth. Very few phases of the city's early development can be found in which they were not participants in some manner. The family was one of the early pioneers, having come to Ingham county in 1836 (Foster 02-09-1941).

Bement Street – The Lansing Improvement company was named for the Bement family. G.W. Bement, A.O. Bement, and C E. Bement were all engaged in various manufacturing enterprises of the young and growing city. Edwin Bement came to Lansing in 1869 and in 1870 began the manufacturing of plows, stoves and bobsleds under the name of E. Bement and Sons. At the time Bement street was named, A.O. Bement was mayor of Lansing (Foster 02-09-1941).

Butler Street – (now Boulevard) Originally consisted of Butler, Claypool, and Charlotte streets. It was named for Orange Butler, who came to Michigan in 1835 from Orleans county, New York. His son, Charles Butler, arrived in the city in 1849. Both were active and respected citizens. Orange Butler was at one time part-owner of the old Mineral Well hotel, located on River Street just south of the River Street bridge (Foster 12-10-1939).

Cesar Chavez Avenue – (obsolete) In 1994 Grand Avenue was changed by the city council to Cesar Chavez Avenue, in honor of the Hispanic leader of the United Farm Workers of America organization. The name was changed back the next year via a public vote (LSJ 03-15-1994, 09-16-1994, 06-15-1995).

Christiancy Street – Was named by Judge Rollin Person when he dedicated the plat of land that was formerly the old Christiancy homesite. Judge Isaac P. Christiancy came to Michigan in 1836 and to Lansing in 1858 to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court. He resigned in 1875 to take a U.S. Senate seat (Foster 02-09-1941).

Clippert Street – Located in the plat of Urbandale and was named for George C. Clippert, who with O.E. Spaulding operated the old brickyard located on East Michigan Avenue (Foster 04-06-1941).

Durant Street – In Durant subdivision, the street was offered to the public by the J.W. Bailey company. It was named for William C. Durant, who was active in the automotive industry in the city and who had recently organized and built the plant of the Durant Motors that became the main Lansing unit of Fisher Body (Foster 03-16-1947).

Eighth Street – Originally named Kerr Street. It was changed at the requests of those who resided on the street who claimed that it was offensive when the conductor of the street car would call the street name of "Kerr" to have some joker call out "all dogs out." The residents of South Kerr Street wanted one name and those who resided north of Michigan Avenue wanted a different one, so at the suggestion of our present auditor general, Vernon J. Brown, who was a councilman at that time, the compromise name of Eighth street was selected (Foster 02-09-1941).

Franklin Avenue – (obsolete) No doubt the name was selected in honor of Benjamin Franklin (Foster-03-06-1938). The street was renamed Grand River Avenue in 1925. The change in name of the thoroughfare was part of a scheme to have a Grand River Avenue extending across the state as suggested by the state administrative board (State Journal 09-29-1925).

Hungerford Street – Was named for Mrs. Morgan B. Hungerford, owner of the land. She was the daughter of Dr. William H. Haze, who was one of Lansing's early pioneers and at one time was mayor of the city. Dr. Haze owned considerable land on the west side of the city and Haze and Hungerford streets were thus named for his family (Foster 03-02-1958).

Jessop Avenue – Now called Cavanaugh Road, was originally named by the subdivider of Jessop's Home Gardens in

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901

www.LansingHistory.org

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honor of the family who owned the land that comprised the plat of Maple Hill on South Cedar Street (Foster 03-16-1947).

Leshar Place – Was named for C.P. Leshar who resided in the 500 block of North Pennsylvania Avenue and for a great many years was engaged in the manufacture of the famous C.P.L. cigar, one of the best-selling cigars in this vicinity (Foster 03-24-1940).

Main Street – (obsolete) Was so named because of the fact that there was a business and mill development near the confluence of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers. In 1847 there were three hotels located on the street, and to the pioneers it certainly must have appeared to be the “coming” street of the new community (Foster 03-06-1938).

Malcolm X Street – In 2010 Main Street was renamed Malcolm X Street, in honor of the civil rights leader (born Malcolm Little) who had lived part of his youth in Lansing and Mason (LSJ 09-14-2010).

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard – In 1989 Logan Street was renamed Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, in honor of the civil rights leader. At first the two street names were shared as Logan Street-Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. But in 1994 the city council dropped the Logan Street name (LSJ 04-25-1989, 08-22-1989, 03-29-1994).

Mifflin Street – Was named by Prof. Jonathan Snyder of the Michigan Agricultural College for his wife, Clara Mifflin Snyder (Foster 02-09-1941).

Museum Drive – Named changed from Mill Street in December 1981 by the City Council because that street now boasts the R.E. Olds Museum and the Impression 5 Museum (LSJ 03-19-1982, The Onlooker column).

Orchard Street – A selected name given the street by Jones and Porter in their Fairview Addition. The land was adjacent to an old apple orchard, which became the street’s namesake. A bird’s-eye view of Lansing published in 1866 shows the orchard as occupying all of the land north of the main building of the old boys vocational school (Foster 03-24-1940).

Pennsylvania Avenue – Could be named for the state of Pennsylvania, or what is more probable, it was named for Pennsylvania Avenue of Washington D.C., the street over which the Union troops passed in review at the close of the Civil War. The latter explanation seems more reasonable, as it was in the early 1870s that the city was expanding and the “old soldiers” were beginning to play an active part in the affairs of the city (Foster 12-10-1939).

Poxson Avenue – Was named for Elijah Poxson, one of the stockholders of the South Lansing Land company who platted the Elmhurst subdivision. Mr. Poxson was at one time sales manager of the REO Motor Car company and a member of the parks board (Foster 03-16-1947).

Rogers Street – (obsolete) Ran from Maple Street north to

Willow Street at the west side of the School for the Blind land, which was formerly owned by the Michigan Female Seminary. The school or seminary was owned and operated by the Rogers sisters, Abigail and Delia, who were active in the early educational development of the young city (Foster 01-21-1940).

Turner Street – Was named in honor of James Turner who was one of the most active and influential men of the young community. He came to the Town of Michigan in the spring of 1847 from Mason where he had settled after coming to Michigan from Cayuga County, New York (Foster 03-06-1938).

Turtle Street – (obsolete) In the original plat from the Grand River north, the second street west of Turner Street was early vacated and later occupied by the Auto Body company. The name was selected by James Seymour when he laid out the original Town of Michigan, which is now Lansing. At that time there was a Turtle Street and a Fish Street in Rochester, New York, and it is probable that Seymour selected street names from his old home town (Foster 03-16-1947).

Washington Avenue – Named for President George Washington (Foster-03-06-1938). The seven blocks of Washington Avenue between Lenawee and Shiawassee streets were renamed Washington Square in 1970 for the newly built downtown pedestrian mall (State Journal 10-27-1970).

Want to learn more about the history of Lansing’s streets? Check out Timothy’s blog, <https://lugnut215.wordpress.com/>.

Timothy Bowman was the first recipient of the Robert Morris & Linda Peckham “Towering Achievement” Local History Award in June 2017.

Upcoming Events *Continued from page 1*

Beal Botanical Garden - A Historical Perspective

that the school needed a campus botanic garden. Within a year this able and ambitious man established a nursery featuring plants from around the world, including England’s Kew Garden. Over the next several years he worked across the campus cultivating trees, plants, and grasses in the area known as Sleepy Hollow and the arboretum. He worked tirelessly to grow these humble efforts throughout his career, and in 1924, following his death, the State Board of Agriculture named the botanic garden in his honor at the request of the Department of Botany. The tour will include stories of Beal’s work, as well as the efforts of his successors who reimagined and redesigned the garden in the mid-20th century, inspiring the American Society of Horticultural Science in 1955 to pronounce the newly organized garden the finest teaching facility in the country.



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:

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- Renewal Membership
- Gift Membership

in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

I have enclosed:

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

Member Name _____

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Please Send The Newsletter Via Email

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*The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.
Thank you for your support of our programs and activities.*

Moore's River Drive & Cambridge Road Historic Home Tour

Sunday September 17

2017

A Tour - to benefit the
Historical Society of
Greater Lansing

Home Tour only - \$20
1:00 to 5:00pm

Home Tour and Brunch - \$50
Brunch at 11:00am
at the Country Club of Lansing*

*Tour Tickets available at www.lansinghistory.org, or at the Country Club of Lansing the day of the event.
Brunch tickets must be purchased by September 11 at www.lansinghistory.org or by calling (517) 282-0671.



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Moores River Drive 2017 Historic Home Tour

A Tour to Benefit the Historical Society of Greater Lansing,
 Generously Hosted by the Moores River Drive Neighborhood Association

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Brunch at the Country Club of Lansing 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Home Tour 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Home Tour Sponsorships

- \$2,500 – Platinum Sponsor**
 Top billing on all promotional materials, full-page advertisement in tour booklet (back cover or inside covers),
 8 home tour tickets, 8 brunch tickets
- \$1,000 – Gold Sponsor**
 Full-page advertisement in tour booklet, 6 home tour tickets, 6 brunch tickets
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 Half-page advertisement in tour booklet, 4 home tour tickets, 4 brunch tickets
- \$250 – Bronze Sponsor**
 Quarter-page advertisement in tour booklet, 2 home tour tickets, 2 brunch tickets
- \$100 – Copper Sponsor**
 Name included in list of sponsors in tour booklet, 2 home tour tickets

Home Tour Booklet Advertisements

- \$200** – Full page advertisement in tour booklet
- \$100** – Half-page advertisement in tour booklet
- \$50** – Quarter-page advertisement in tour booklet *See reverse for advertising information*

Donor Information

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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/HSGL**

Advertising Information

Below are representations of the sizes of advertisements for various levels of sponsorships. 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 300 dpi resolution, if possible. Please email artwork by August 25, 2017, to daveumich@gmail.com. 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

Quarter Page Ad
Finished Size 2.5" wide x 4" tall

Half Page Ad
Finished Size 5" wide x 4" tall

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
Moores River Drive Historic Home Tour
Sunday, September 17, 2017

Number of brunch and home tour tickets \$50.00 per person _____ Total enclosed \$ _____
Brunch tickets must be purchased by September 11, 2017.

Number of home tour (only) tickets \$20.00 per person _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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