

East Lansing

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University
Archives

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The purpose of this resource guide is to familiarize visitors of the MSU Archives with some of the available resources related to the city of East Lansing. In 1906, citizens in the area surrounding the Michigan State College (the area known as Collegeville) began discussing the chartering of a city. Briefly weighing the considerations of a village versus a city charter, the community overwhelmingly supported the organization of a city. The community had many suggested names for the new city to choose among. Names considered included Collegeville, Agricultural College, Oakwood, College Park, Montrose, and East Lansing. College Park received the most votes and the proposal was sent to the state government. The Senate approved but decided that East Lansing would be a better name. On May 8, 1907, Governor Fred Warner signed the bill authorizing the city charter.

Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs.

Medical Education

- 1. City of East Lansing report, 1986-1987. C00564**
 - 1 folder
 - The "Final Report of the East Lansing Historical/Architectural Survey 1986-1987" examines the Historic Districts Neighborhoods: Bailey, College Grove, Oakwood, Collegeville, Chesterfield Hills, and Hillcrest Village. In addition, Brookfield, Central, Glencairn, and the Street Light District areas were surveyed. The report includes a map and description of the survey areas; information about the research process; a list of landmark properties; an historical overview; architectural overviews for each neighborhood; and resource protection planning summaries covering agriculture, economic affairs and technology, education, growth and settlement, and social affairs. Note: The report was prepared by the East Lansing Historic District Study Committee. It was a required component for the approval of Historic Districts by the State of Michigan.

- 2. East Lansing Planning Commission records, 1944-1969. 00080**
 - 1.3 cu. ft.

Predominantly meeting minutes of the East Lansing Planning Commission, complete from 1958 to June, 1969; and numerous bound studies and reports, some done by the ELPC and others by outside consultants, dealing with the East Lansing and Lansing Tri-County area. Collection includes East Lansing progress reports, the creation of a central business district, and problems of streets, parking, sewage, and capital improvements. Also, long-range studies of the domicile preferences of Michigan State University faculty and staff, the creation of subdivision regulations, the comprehensive plan for East Lansing in 1980, and the Commission Handbook. Collection also includes minutes from the East Lansing City Council and the Tri-County Planning Commission, many advisory studies

from the Tri-County Planning Commission, the State of Michigan, and Michigan State University, and several miscellaneous pamphlets.

- 3. Grand River Beautification Committee Records, 1963-1970. c00535**
 - 1 folder
 - This collection contains records of a beautification project for Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan. It includes early thinking about the proposed improvement, a downtown parking study completed in April, 1970, and a brief history of the development of Grand River Avenue.

- 4. Kiwanis Club Records, 1915-1984, 1950-1984. 00117**
 - 2.4 cu. ft.
 - Records of this men's service club include general correspondence (1957-1971), weekly news bulletins (1955-1972), financial records (1956-1964, 1967-1970), materials about club projects, miscellaneous booklets and printed material, and newspaper clippings.

- 5. Marble School Historical Book, 1976. c00201**
 - 1 volume
 - This book gives a brief history and description of the Marble School in East Lansing, Michigan. Excerpts from the Marble School Newsletter are included, with sample class schedules, lists of staff and students, and descriptions of classes and special events. Note: Literary rights belong to the Marble Elementary School. This book was prepared by the staff and students of the Marble School as a Bicentennial project; the original was placed in a time capsule.

- 6. Woman's Club Historical Manuscript, 1903-1978. c00438**
 - 1 folder
 - This collection contains an 80 page unpublished manuscript of the history of the East Lansing Woman's Club, East Lansing, Michigan, written by Mae Belle McKune. Topics include: the subjects of each year's discussions, membership, and a one paragraph synopsis of the club activity year by year. Appended is a list of the club's presidents year by year.

People

- 1. Brook Family papers, 1877-1973. 00195**
 - 3.25 cu. ft.
 - The Brook Family papers (1877 - 1973) consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, and genealogy notes. The bulk of the collection is photographic material. The majority of the photographic images are of family members but there are photographs of events at Haslett High School and buildings where family members resided. There are six family albums, fourteen cased 19th century photographic portrait images (daguerreo-, ambro- and tintypes), and over 100 loose photographic images (tintype and paper). The albums are mostly undated and unidentified family members. Identified

photographs have been arranged into separate folders. Unidentified photographs have been arranged by size and type.

- 2. Kit Clardy Papers, 1950-1955. c00278**
 - 3 folders
 - This collection contains campaign literature, letters to constituents, newspaper clippings, and weekly "Washington Reports", which describe Kit Clardy's work to his constituents. Note: Kit Clardy (1892-1961), an East Lansing lawyer, was elected to represent Michigan's 6th district in Congress. He served on the House Un-American Activities Committee in this period of Anti-Communist fervor. He was defeated for reelection in 1954 by Donald Hayworth.

- 3. Joseph Druse Papers, 1917-1964. UA 17.230**
 - 1 cu. ft.
 - The bulk of the collection relates to Druse's experience with the University of Nigeria Project. Included are lecture notes, slides, photographs, and two issues of a Nsukka, Nigeria newspaper. Also included in the collection are several historical newspapers, an 1860 voter guide, maps, publications, materials relating to the MSU Centennial, war ration books, East Lansing air raid defense instructions, and a genealogical paper.

- 4. John M. Gram research paper, 1996. C00585**
 - 1 folder
 - The John M. Gram papers contain one typescript of a research paper Gram wrote for the Great Lakes Research Associates called, "Historical Development of the Grand River Road, East Lansing, Michigan." The paper chronicles the changes made to Grand River Road.

- 5. Alan P. Grimes papers, 1950-1952, 1999. c00558**
 - 2 folders
 - This collection consists of the papers of MSU Professor Emeritus Alan P. Grimes. "Remembering Lantern Hill, 1950-1952" is about the early history and development of the Lantern Hill Housing subdivision. Founded by a group of MSU faculty, the essay describes the development of the idea for a cooperative, steps taken to purchase the land and to design the houses, and some setbacks encountered along the way. Originally a part of Meridian Township, Lantern Hill subdivision was annexed by the City of East Lansing in 1958. Appendices include a list of the founders, plat of the subdivision, bibliography, and scanned images from the early 1950s. Also included are photocopies of personal papers relating to the creation of the Lantern Hill subdivision and the building of Grimes' house. The papers include the organizational materials of Home Sites Inc. such as bylaws, articles of incorporation, certificate of membership, and protective covenants. Home Sites Inc. was the unit created by the faculty to buy the land for development. Also included are documents related to the construction of Grimes' home such

as correspondence, contracts and lists of work; mortgage documents; receipts for minor work done on the house; plat of the subdivision; and newspaper articles.

- 6. Richard Hammerstein Collection, 1872-1959. c00300**

 - 21 folders
 - This collection contains magazines, railroad timetables, maps, photographs, and other materials dealing with the history of railroads in Lansing, Michigan, most of which are from the C&O Railroad. Most materials are from the 1950s, but photocopies of some earlier (1872, 1907, 1909) timetables are also present. The collection also includes programs for East Lansing's Golden Anniversary in 1947 and Lansing's Centennial in 1959.

- 7. Robert E. Hicks Family Papers, 1836-1986. c00538**

 - .33 cu. ft.
 - The Robert Hicks Family papers consist of documents, oral history interviews, memorabilia, and two published family histories. An album and three folders contain photographs, news articles, documents, family histories, and a history of the development of the "Flowerpot" neighborhood in East Lansing, Michigan. Album also contains an outline of Thurber family history, an account of Robert Hicks' life from 1972 to 1986, and minutes from a Hicks Family Reunion. Letters discuss family activities, encyclopedia sales in Indiana, and farming in Canada. Oral interviews detail the life of Robert Hicks, his parents, and the development of the "Flowerpot" neighborhood. Also included is a history of the Sickie Family.

- 8. Kinney Family papers, 1848-1970. c00547**

 - 9 folders
 - The Kinney family papers cover three generations, and family members were located in Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska and Ohio. Edward Porter Kinney's papers comprise a large portion of the collection. Since E.P. Kinney lived and worked in the Lansing area, much of the material in this collection pertains to East Lansing and Lansing, Michigan. Also, a majority of the material included in the family papers pertain to electricity or electrical engineering, since many of the family members worked in this profession. Other family members' papers include: Daniel Bishop Kinney; Edward Cornelius Kinney; Edward Porter Kinney; Harry Allen Kinney; Frank F. Kinney; Ernest A. Kinney; and Sarah Moffett Graham.

- 9. Chace Newman Papers, 1894-1951. UA 17.37**

 - 4 folders, scrapbooks, 1 v.
 - The papers of Chace Newman consist of correspondence, newspaper articles, and papers. Two papers on the history of East Lansing are dated 1916 and 1927.

10. Walter Neller family scrapbooks, 1924-1991. 00196

- 6.6 cu. ft.
- This collection contains 13 scrapbooks which span from 1924 to 1991. The scrapbooks are mostly general in content; however, several of them contain newspaper clippings, correspondence and memorabilia highlighting the Neller's social life in Lansing and East Lansing. There is also information on the R.E. Olds Museum and the real estate business in Lansing, and East Lansing. Note: Walter H. Neller founded the Walter Neller Company, a real estate company in the Lansing, Michigan area.

11. Marilyn Noller photographic collection, 1918-1921. 00592

- 1 folder
- The collection contains photographs that are of East Lansing and Michigan State University's campus, featuring views of the Agriculture Building and its mechanic's room, as well as several pictures of the Veterinary Building, the Dairy Barn, and the Dairy Building. There are several photographs of Bill's champion cow "Johanna" as well as a Belgian Stallion and pigs that belonged to Michigan State University.

12. William Purdy Peters papers, 1983. UA 10.3.105

- 1 folder
- William Peters papers consist of a nine-page paper entitled "Opening Closed Doors," which describes Michigan State University from about 1926 to 1928, when Peters was a student. The paper discusses classes (physical education, English, and animal husbandry), Reserve Officer Training Corp, professors, students, student activities (including hazing and class rush), and the city of East Lansing.

13. Roy James Robb Papers, 1824-1957. 00067

- 1.3 cu. ft.
- Survey field books, maps, and diaries of Roy James Robb, of East Lansing, Michigan. Primarily Ingham County, Michigan, but also of other Michigan counties including Clinton, Barry, Mackinac, and Iosco. Many older survey papers and field books done by previous Ingham County Surveyors (1824-1908) purchased by Robb for reference, which include a field book of Menominee County, Michigan, surveys. Of particular interest here is a fragile, hand-drawn map of Lansing Township (1896), which is only partially preserved (some has broken or rotted off). Robb's work includes surveys done for Ingham County, the Clinton County Drain Commissioner, and the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club (Mackinac County). Diaries contain brief notes pertaining to the surveys.

14. Ruth Ryder St. John papers, 1925-1997. UA 10.3.123

- .3 cu. ft.
- This collection contains a great deal of correspondence, including many to and from family and friends while Ruth Ryder was in the American Red Cross.

Other subject materials cover the topics of the June 10, 1945 alumni reunion in Manila, the establishment of the Edward H. Ryder and Georgia R. Ryder Scholarship Fund, and the East Lansing High School Class of 1931 Fifty Year Reunion. The scrapbook in this collection is dedicated to the Manila reunion and contains lists of attendants and correspondence received by Ryder on the occasion. There is also a large series of photographs for this collection that reflect the materials and include pictures of the Ryder and St. John families, as well as American Red Cross activities overseas.

15. Emory W. Tappan Papers, 1928-1953. 00065

- 6 cu. ft.
- Survey notes, sketches, and certificates of Emory W. Tappan of East Lansing, Michigan. Early surveys relate to his association with Postiff and Tappan of Detroit, Michigan, whereas later ones are his independent work in the Lansing area. Some certificates of survey include negatives (box 3), while others are photocopied with pictures of buildings. Notes are accompanied by related correspondence, blueprints, and plat maps. Most surveys are from Ingham County, Michigan, and were done for Lansing area institutions and individuals, as well as the State and Local governments. Others are from Clinton, Eaton, Ionia Otsego, and Antrim Counties. Some relate to proposed sites for the Abbot Road, East Lansing, Post Office, and others include surveys for Michigan State College cross-country courses and for University President John A. Hannah. Includes surveying notes for a St. Johns, Michigan (1935) Works Progress Administration project, which also contains a proposal for the development of a city park and various construction notes.

16. James D. Towar Manuscript, 1760-1933. c00373

- 1 folder
- This collection contains the unpublished manuscript written for the East Lansing Public Library in 1933, detailing the history of East Lansing. Reference is made to pre-Revolutionary times, but the bulk of the data deals with the years 1850-1930.

17. Eugene G. Wanger bibliography, 2003. c00571

- 1 item
- This collection consists of "Discovering Ingham County: A Descriptive Bibliography" by Eugene G. Wanger and published by the Ingham County Historical Commission of Mason, Michigan. The bibliography covers general works on Ingham County; Lansing; East Lansing; Meridian; Haslett; Okemos; Mason; Williamston; as well as a few entries for other places in Ingham County. Also included are Michigan State University; state institutions; R.E. Olds; businesses; private associations; and churches. The bibliography also contains biographical and fiction works, historical files, and historical artifacts. Also included is an index to the entries; a directory of archives, museums, historical and genealogical societies in Ingham County and a list of members of the Ingham County Historical Commission.

18. Ada Hunt Whitehouse Papers, 1849-1972. 00124

- 1.3 cu. ft., 11 volumes
- Primarily financial records of Ada Hunt Whitehouse, her family, and the Hunt Food Shop, pertaining to property holdings, taxes, wages, bank accounts, and outstanding debts. Also some bonds, insurance papers, a will, general ledgers, farm ledgers, and auditors' reports. Some personal correspondence, notes, and agricultural materials.

19. John L. Whitelaw Papers, 1883-1900; 1945. c00379

- 2 folders, 2 volumes
- This collection contains two folders of correspondence from Brigadier General Whitelaw, who was stationed in Germany during World War II, to relatives in East Lansing, Michigan. His letters describe the Ruhr Valley and Berlin after the German surrender. Comments on the Russian soldiers, trains, and the civilian food situation are included. There are also two scrapbooks compiled by Whitelaw when he was a child. They consist mainly of 19th century pictorial advertisements and newspaper clippings of early "Mutt and Jeff" comic strips.

University Publications

1. **MSU Yearbooks** (1877 to present)
2. **Student Newspapers** (The Holcad 1909 - 1925, State News 1925 - present)

Other Resources

1. **MSU Info File**
 - a. East Lansing State Bank Bonds
 - b. East Lansing
 - c. East Lansing [Relationship]
 - d. East Village
2. **MI Info Files**
 - a. East Lansing
 - b. East Lansing. Dialog
 - c. East Lansing.Historical Society
 - d. East Lansing.Historical Society.The Lamplighter
 - e. East Lansing.Film Festival
3. **Postcards**
4. **Photographs.Michigan.East Lansing**
 - a. Churches
 - b. Commercial Buildings
 - c. Homes
 - d. Schools
 - e. Street Scenes