

The Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections has a variety of primary sources relating to the 2015 History Day theme "Leadership and Legacy." Below are a sampling of topics and corresponding resources available online and in person at the MSU Archives in East Lansing, Michigan. Included are past MSU presidents, leaders in science, early women at Michigan State, and leaders within the State of Michigan.

Past Presidents at Michigan State University

John A. Hannah

As twelfth president of Michigan State University, John A. Hannah served from July 1, 1941 to April 1, 1969. His tenure was characterized by extensive growth of the University, in both size and enrollment. President Hannah's activities were not limited to the University, however, as he filled a variety of positions in both the federal government and private industry. In the late 1940s he began the Spartan Roundtable which provided students a forum in which to present their concerns directly to the president. He oversaw the reorganization of the faculty governance structure, as well as the creation of the "Rights and Freedoms of Students." The Administration building is named after him with a statue to commemorate him outside the building. Hannah stood for Civil Rights, and was appointed chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Online Resources:

[President Hannah's Commencement Address \(Audio\)](#)

[John Hannah, The Legacy \(Video created for the celebration of John Hannah's 25th year at MSU\)](#)

Photographs:

[President Hannah with Eleanor Roosevelt, 1940](#)

[Civil Rights Commission meeting with President Kennedy, 1961](#)

[John Hannah at Commission on Civil Rights](#)

[President Harry S. Truman, Governor Williams, and John Hannah, 1960](#)

[John Hannah shakes Ngo Dinh Diem's \(President of South Vietnam\) hand](#)

[John Hannah and Civil Rights Commission Board](#)

[Hannah with campus map, 1964](#)

[Hannah poses with Nigerian visitors](#)

[The Russian Farm Delegation and President Hannah in 1955](#)

[Students meet with President Hannah, 1949](#)

[Richard Nixon and President Hannah, 1957](#)

Resources at the MSU Archives:

Hannah Speeches 1946-1951 – Reading Room (Shelf D)

John A. Hannah Papers ([UA.2.1.12](#))

John A. Hannah by Richard Niehoff, 1989 – Reading Room (Shelf D)

A Memoir by John A. Hannah, 1980 – Reading Room (Shelf D)

MSU Information Files - Presidents. Hannah, John A.

Media Communications Records ([UA 8.1.1](#))

Biographical Files. Hannah, John. A. (Box 2711)

Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.

Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr, 14th president of MSU, was the first African-American to serve as president of any major university in the United States. His term in office was often turbulent, featuring student demonstrations in 1970 and 1972, and a National Collegiate Athletic Association investigation of the MSU football program. Wharton's major achievements were his successful efforts to maintain the quality of MSU's academic programs despite budget reductions, his commitment to the education of the economically and educationally disadvantaged, and the integration of the College of Osteopathic Medicine with the other medical schools. Major innovations implemented under Wharton's tenure included the Presidential Commission on Admissions and Student Body Composition to study future enrollment policies and a Presidential Fellows Program to allow selected students and junior faculty members to gain experience in university administration. Wharton's most lasting contribution to the University was a new center for the performing arts. The building, dedicated in 1982, was named in honor of Wharton and his wife Dolores, in recognition of the strong support, which they gave the project. Wharton resigned from Michigan State University in December 1977 to accept the Chancellorship of the State University of New York.

Online Resources:

[Trial & Triumph: The Wharton Years 1970-1978. A tribute to Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. & Dolores Wharton](#)

["Visit with Wharton" News Bulletin](#)

Photographs:

[Clifton Wharton with John Hannah, 1969](#)

[Clifton Wharton with Family, 1969](#)

[Clifton Wharton in the classroom, 1973](#)

[Clifton Wharton at his first press conference, 1969](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr. papers ([UA 2.1.14](#))

Thomas H. Greer papers ([UA.17.21](#))

People. Wharton, Clifton. Newspaper clippings 1969-1975 (Box 2907, Folder 53)

People. Wharton, Clifton 1971-1977 (Box 2907, Folder 54)

Vice President for Student Affairs Student Protest files ([UA.7.0](#))

"Wharton's year: a little of everything" *MSU Faculty News*, January 5, 1971 (Box 1050H, Folder 24)

MSU Information Files - Presidents. Wharton, Clifton Jr.

Media Communications Records ([UA 8.1.1](#))

Biographical Files. Wharton, Clifton R. (Box 2714)

Science at Michigan State University:

Barnett Rosenberg

"Barnett Rosenberg was a scholar interested in many areas of science but is best known for his discovery of cisplatin, a platinum compound with anti-cancer properties. The initial discovery occurred in 1965 when Rosenberg and Loretta Van Camp subjected E. coli to an electric field created from electrodes coated with the metal platinum. The electric field caused the E. coli. to grow into long strands instead of dividing normally. Further research by Thomas Krigas and Andrew Thompson led to the understanding that the strands were caused by the use of the platinum on the electrodes. With cancer research in mind, Rosenberg then began research into the effects of the platinum electric fields on various chemicals. He eventually found the ideal compound and called it cisplatin. Rosenberg and the members of his lab then began researching the use of cisplatin on cells in cancerous tumors and in 1968 they confirmed that it could inhibit cancer cells. In 1971 cisplatin was used in clinical trials in humans. The drug cisplatin was approved for use by the FDA in 1978. Later Rosenberg and James Hoeschele began experiments with carboplatin, another platinum compound. It too was also used to treat cancer." (On the Banks of the Red Cedar website)

Online Resources:

[Exhibit - Barnett Rosenberg \(On the Banks\)](#)

<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Object/1-4-47A/commencement-address-by-barnett-rosenberg-june-1989/>

[News and Comments Newsletter, January-March 1971 Sesquicentennial Oral History Project - Barnett Rosenberg](#)

Photographs:

[A chart showing the cure rates of leukemia in rats using cisplatin](#)

[Barnett Rosenberg and Loretta Van Camp with photographs of normal bacteria and bacteria that have been treated with platinum](#)

[Equipment used by Barnett Rosenberg, 1965](#)

[Portrait of Barnett Rosenberg, 1971](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

Barnett Rosenberg papers ([UA 17.289](#))

MSU Information Files – People. Rosenberg, Barnett

Media Communications Records ([UA 8.1.1](#))

Biographical Files. Rosenberg, Barnett. (Box 2688, Folder 100)

Lyman Briggs

In 1889, at the age of 15, Lyman Briggs entered Michigan Agricultural College where he would graduate with a degree in Agriculture in 1893. He went on to receive a M.S. in physics at the University of Michigan and a P.H.D. at John Hopkins University. In 1896, Briggs married his college sweetheart Katharine Cook and took a job in the Department of Agriculture in the Bureau of Soils to support his marriage. In the run up to World War I was requested by the Department of Commerce to join the Bureau of Standards. Briggs was tasked to organize a division within the Bureau to develop a certification of gauges for the manufacture of munitions. In 1932, Briggs was named acting director of the Bureau of Standards by President Herbert Hoover and was officially nominated to the position by President Franklin Roosevelt. There is now a college within Michigan State University, named Lyman Briggs College, after him.

Online Resources:

[Exhibit - Lyman Briggs](#)

[About Lyman Briggs College](#)

["Dr. Lyman Briggs Looks Back at 80 Years" Newspaper Article](#)

[Dean of Atomic Sciences Newspaper Article](#)

[Lyman Briggs Membership to National Academy of Science and Cosmo Club](#)

Photographs:

[Lyman Briggs Portrait](#)

[Lyman Briggs National Defense I.D.](#)

[Lyman Briggs War Department Award](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

Lyman J. Briggs papers ([UA.10.3.137](#))

Lyman Briggs College records ([UA.15.15](#))

Lyman Briggs: Biography (File Drawer, Folder 4)

MSU Information Files – Lyman Briggs College

William J. Beal

In 1871, William J. Beal began his long association with Michigan Agricultural College as a professor of botany and horticulture. A pioneer in teaching "The New Botany" as outlined in his 1880 address, Beal placed great emphasis on independent learning through observation.

Several of his students went on to become prominent scientists. Beal established the Beal Botanical Gardens (still on campus today) for both teaching and research, for he believed experience outside the classroom was crucial to learning. In 1877, Professor Beal performed the first documented genetic crosses to produce hybrid corn which lead to increased yields.

Online Resources:

The Eagle publication

["Professor Beal"](#) (vol. 1, no. 1, February 10, 1892)

["Dr. Beal"](#) (vol. 3, no. 4, March 31, 1892)

M.A.C. Record

["Dr. Beal on Agriculture Education"](#) (vol. 6, no. 1, September 18, 1900)

["Why Attend College?"](#) by Dr. W.J. Beal (vol. 7, no. 37, June 10, 1902)

["William James Beal"](#) (vol. 14, no. 23, March 9, 1909)

["Walks and Talks with Dr. Beal"](#) (Vol. 16, no. 6, October 25, 1910)

["Dr. Beal's History Nearly Completed"](#) (vol. 21, no. 5, October 19, 1915)

Photographs:

[A portrait of MAC faculty in 1888 \(Beal included\)](#)

[A path in the Beal Botanical Garden](#)

[Beal and students in lab](#)

[The Beal Party, 1888](#)

[Dr. Beal in the Botanical Gardens](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

William James Beal papers ([UA.17.4](#))

MSU Information Files – People. Beal, William

An American Pioneer in Science: The Life and Service of Williams James Beal by Ray Stannard Baker and Jessie Beal Baker, Reading Room (Shelf D)

Madison Kuhn collection ([UA 17.107](#))

Faculty and Staff. Beal, William J. (Box 2409, Folder 29)

Early Women of Michigan State University

Mary Mayo

Mary Mayo, one of the first female members of the State Grange, was ahead of her time when she called for a women's curriculum at Michigan Agricultural College. She believed, along with much of the faculty at the college, that higher education was just as necessary for women as it was for men in order to solve "many of the social and poor problems" which she saw in late 1800s society. Her efforts led to the creation of a women's program in 1896, the first of its kind in Michigan. Mary Mayo has a Residence Hall named after her, location in West Circle within the North Neighborhood.

Online Resources:

[Early MAC Women](#)

M.A.C. Record

[“Practical Education for Young Women”](#) by Mary Mayo (vol. 01, no. 14, April 14, 1896)

[“Special Studies for Young Women at M.A.C.”](#) by Mary Mayo (vol. 01, no. 20, June 2, 1896)

Photographs:

[Mary Mayo](#)

[Mary Mayo Hall Room](#)

[Mary Mayo Hall](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

Mayo Family Papers ([00040](#))

Documents relating to Michigan State Grange and to the dedication of Mary Mayo Hall, Michigan State University 1930-1931 (Box 1, Folder 8)

Publication concerning Mary Mayo's part in rural social movements (Box 1, Volume 4)

College of Human Ecology Records ([UA 15.3](#))

Speeches by Faculty Members and University Administrators. Mayo, Mary 1881 (Box 364, Folder 27)

Photographs Collection – People. Mayo, Mary

Dora Stockman

In 1919 Dora Hall Stockman became the first woman elected to the State Board of Agriculture (now called the Board of Trustees), Michigan State University's governing board. With this election, she became the first woman elected to a statewide office in Michigan, and the first woman in the United States to serve on the board of a Land Grant College. In this position until 1932, Dora championed the expansion of curriculum to include the liberal arts, while urging more emphasis on higher education of women at Michigan State and elsewhere. In 1934, Michigan State recognized Dora's contributions to the Board, education and agriculture by awarding her an Honorary Doctorate of Laws. She was the first woman to receive this honor from Michigan State.

Photographs

[Laying the cornerstone of Beaumont Tower, 1928](#)

[Speakers from the Farm Convenience Train, undated](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

Dora Hall Stockman papers ([00109](#))

Alumni Association Records ([UA 10.2](#))

Biographical Files. Stockman, Dora (Box 435, Folder 129)
MSU Information Files - Stockman, Dora H.
Media Communications Records ([UA 8.1.1](#))
Biographical Files. Stockman, Dora H. (Box 1546, Folder 25)

Linda Landon

Linda Landon was one of the most popular librarians in Michigan State's history. Reputedly, she knew every student who visited her shelves. In 1891, Mrs. Linda Landon began her 41 year long career as the college librarian. She loved the students and took great interest in them, which improved the quality of the library. Landon developed the first cataloging system for classifying books at M.A.C., based on the Cutter system. She was also instrumental in the development of the college's library; there were 16,466 volumes in her care in 1891, a number that doubled during her term. Landon also taught English at M.A.C. and Landon Hall in West Circle has been named after her.

Online Resources:

[MSU Timeline - Linda Landon Begins Career 1891](#)

[Early MAC Women \(On the Banks website exhibit\)](#)

M.A.C. Record

["Mrs. Landon Prizes Friendships with Students at College Library"](#) (vo. 34, no. 05, January 1929)

Photographs:

[Faculty, 1893](#)

[Miss Landon and students in the Experiment Station Library](#)

[Miss Landon in Linton Hall library](#)

[The Library at Linton Hall](#)

[Linda E. Landon Residence Hall Postcard](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

Alumni Association records ([UA.10.2](#))

Biographical Files. Landon, Linda (Box 435, Folder 70)

MSU Information Files – People. Landon, Linda

Madison Kuhn collection ([UA 17.107](#))

Faculty and Staff. Landon, Linda (Box 2409, Folder 74)

Maude Gilchrist

Miss Maude Gilchrist was the Dean of Women and Dean of the Home Economic Division of Michigan Agricultural College (now known as Michigan State University). The changes Maude Gilchrist made after 1901 in the curriculum directly led to a 125 percent increase in female

enrollment during this period. Maude Gilchrist herself was a strong advocate for having a Women's Building that was separate from their classrooms, which could very well have been due to the fact that the required coursework for M.A.C. females was quite demanding. Gilchrist was one of the founders of the society Omicron Nu. She was also the first president of the Michigan Agricultural Woman's Club. Maude Gilchrist is the namesake for one of the residence halls in West Circle, Gilchrist Hall, which originally was a dorm for only women.

Online Resources:

[Early Women at MAC](#)

M.A.C. Record

["Dean Gilchrist Resigns"](#) (vol. 18, no. 27. April 8, 1913)

["Miss Gilchrist, 90, Receives Shower of Birthday Letters"](#) (vol. 57, no. 02, March 1, 1952)

["Miss Maude Gilchrist Now Residing in Ft. Dodge, Iowa"](#) (vo. 55, no. 07, November 15, 1950)

Photographs:

[Class of 1907 with Dean Gilchrist](#)

[Omicron Nu founders, 1941](#)

[Gilchrist Hall](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

The First Three Decades of Home Economics at Michigan State College by Maude Gilchrist
East Lansing Woman's Club historical manuscript – Gilchrist First President ([c.00438](#))

MSU Information Files – Gilchrist, Maude

Media Communications Records ([UA 8.1.1](#))

Biographical Files. Gilchrist, Maude (Box 1522, Folder 72)

Leaders in Michigan:

Ransom E. Olds

Born in Ohio, his family moved to Lansing when Olds was 16. During the 1880s Olds devoted many hours to perfecting a lightweight internal combustion vehicle. By 1893, Olds filled the first order for his car, and in 1897 formed the Olds Motor Vehicle Company in Lansing. The company was incorporated in 1899 with a working capital of \$150,000. In the first year of production 450 cars were produced and sold. By 1902, 4000 were sold. In 1904, Olds sold out his stock in the Olds Motor Company and organized REO Motor Car Company. He was President and General Manager from 1905 to 1924, at which time Olds retired from an active part in REO. He was chairman of the board from 1924 to 1936. During the later years of his life, Olds built financial security for his family and himself in stocks, bonds and real estate. Olds was also a philanthropist, donating to a wide variety of social and moral reform societies. R. E. Olds Hall was constructed in the 1910s, named after Ransom Olds.

Photographs:

[Olds Hall with R.E. Olds](#)

[President Roosevelt rides in a Reo Motor car, 1907](#)

[President Roosevelt arrives at M.A.C., 1907](#)

Materials at the MSU Archives:

Ransom E. Olds papers ([00027](#))

REO Motor Car Company records ([00036](#))

Jacqueline D. Holecek papers ([UA.10.3.154](#))

Oldsmobile; The First 75 Years by L. Scott Baily - Reading Room (Shelf F)

The Automotive Career of Ransom E. Olds by Glenn A. Niemeyer - Reading Room (Shelf F)

Lansing Magazine publication ([c.00445](#))

This issue contains two articles on Ransom E. Olds -- "How Lansing lost and Regained Oldsmobile" and "The Incredible Saga of How R. E. Olds Got the Boot"

John Harvey Kellogg

John Harvey Kellogg was born on February 26, 1852 in the small farming community of Tyrone, Michigan and later moved to Jackson, Michigan. John Harvey Kellogg was a sickly child who had little formal education until he started high school. Upon completion of his high school degree, he decided to become a teacher. Acting upon this desire, he enrolled in the teachers' training course at Michigan State Normal College in Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1872. However, in the fall of 1872 John Harvey was back in Battle Creek for a "family council". His family wanted him to attend Dr. Russell Trall's Hygieo-Therapeutic College in Florence Heights, New Jersey along with three other young men from the Church. John Harvey reluctantly agreed to their decision when it was explained to him that the Western Health Reform Institute was in need of trained doctors. In October of 1876, he took over as physician-in-chief of the Western Health Reform Institute. In 1877 Kellogg decided that a change of name would improve the institution's public image. On his own initiative he renamed the Institute the Battle Creek Sanitarium. He also expanded on the initial premise of the Institute regarding cures without drugs. Actively experimenting with foods, he developed meat substitutes from various grains and nuts. His most widely known achievements were the development of peanut butter, granola, and the process for flaking grains. Additionally, he introduced the concept of regular exercise for maintaining good health. The same year Kellogg organized the Sanitarium Food Company as a subsidiary of the Battle Creek Sanitarium. Feuds over label changes and food between John Harvey and his brother Williams caused issues that resulted in court battles. Today, Michigan State's campus is home to the first Kellogg center, financed by the William K. Kellogg Foundation.

Materials at the MSU Archives:

John Harvey Kellogg, Father of the Health and Food Industry by Richard W. Schwarz

John Harvey Kellogg papers ([00013](#))

Questions, comments, concerns? Contact the archivists at the MSU Archives!

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