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Cemetery's notable role recognized

Mount Hope receives state historic marker

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A new Michigan historical marker graces the lawns of Mount Hope Cemetery on Lansing's east side.

More than 30 people, including some dressed in Civil War-era clothing, gathered Tuesday morning on the southern edge of the 1709 E. Mt. Hope Ave. burial place for a dedication ceremony.

"The state of Michigan thinks this place is important, and the information on the marker needs to be shared with all who pass by," said Laura Ashlee of Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office.

Mount Hope's new marker recognizes that the cemetery holds the remains of some of Lansing's more prominent residents.

Costing the city \$3,175, according to Lansing officials, the marker also notes that Ransom Eli Olds, pioneer botanist Dr. William J. Beal, and two-time Medal of Honor winner and surgeon Dr. George Ranney are buried there.

The cemetery opened in 1874 near Sycamore Creek. There, history buffs can find Catholic, Jewish and Islamic sections and locations for Latvians, veterans and victims of the Kerns Hotel fire.

"They're honoring our ancestors," said June Lloyd, a 68-year-old Williamston resident who attended the ceremony. She is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, based out of Jackson, and has an uncle buried at Mount Hope.

According to Ashlee, the cemetery joins more than 1,600 other locations across the state with markers, including cemeteries, private residences and well-known locations including the once-booming Idlewild, a resort area that drew black families, in northwest Michigan.



Greg DeRuiter/Lansing State Journal

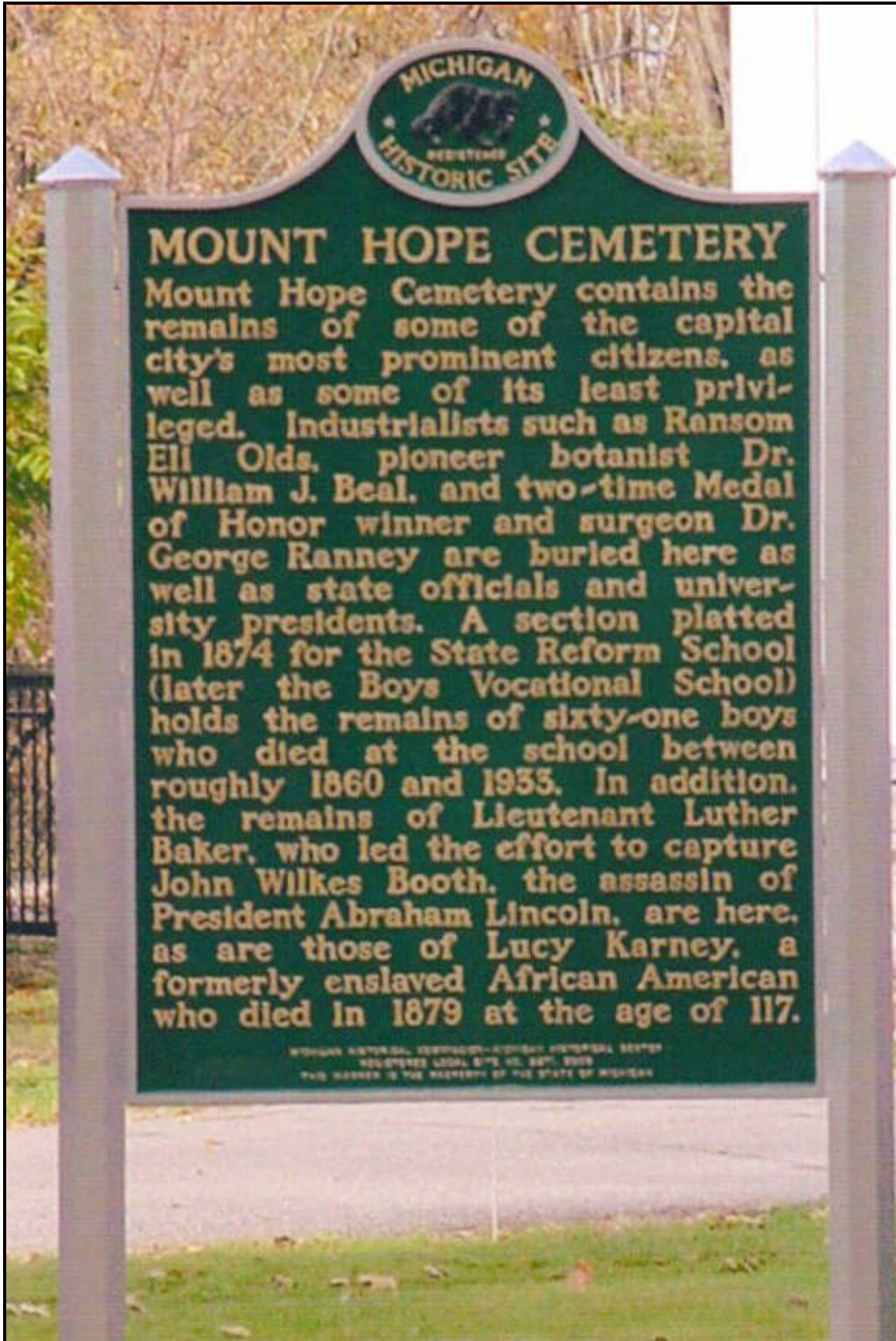
Taps for dedication: Mark Heath, of Jackson, play taps Tuesday as a Michigan Historical Marker honoring the Mount Hope Cemetery in Lansing was dedicated.



Greg DeRuiter/Lansing State Journal

Paying tribute: George Roux (left) of Lansing and Ken Rousseau of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were part of the ceremony.

Dedication of Mount Hope Cemetery Historical Marker
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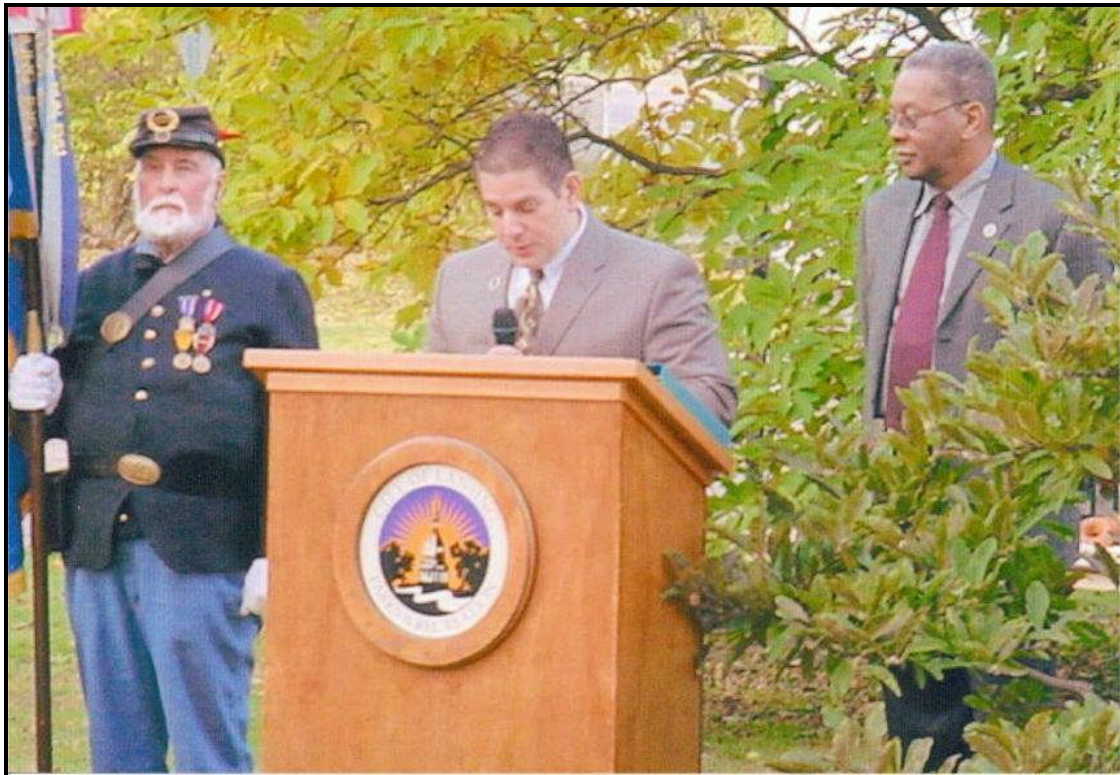


MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

Mount Hope Cemetery contains the remains of some of the capital city's most prominent citizens, as well as some of its least privileged. Industrialists such as Ransom Eli Olds, pioneer botanist Dr. William J. Beal, and two-time Medal of Honor winner and surgeon Dr. George Ranney are buried here as well as state officials and university presidents. A section platted in 1874 for the State Reform School (later the Boys Vocational School) holds the remains of sixty-one boys who died at the school between roughly 1860 and 1935. In addition, the remains of Lieutenant Luther Baker, who led the effort to capture John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, are here, as are those of Lucy Karney, a formerly enslaved African American who died in 1879 at the age of 117.

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION—MICHIGAN HISTORICAL SERVICE
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