**Roads, Paths, and Landscape**

* Thinking about the landscape brings us to thinking about how students, staff, faculty, families, visitors, and non-human animals in the past moved around that landscape. How different would Campus feel if sheep and cows regularly traveled down Farm Lane and cars were rare?
  + <https://projects.kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/162-565-4560/A001710.jpg> - This photograph shows animals walking down a bridge on Farm Lane with farm houses and fields in the background. The text on the front reads: "View from Farm Lane, M.A.C. Lansing, Mich". Image courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections
* Before cars came to dominate the landscape, the main roads through campus passed between and among buildings, not around them. What we think of today as walking paths or sidewalks, were the primary way people, bicycles, goods, and horse-drawn vehicles moved about the College.
  + <https://projects.kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/162-565-4472/A001627.jpg> - This photograph shows people walking on the main path through campus. The text on front reads: "Main Walk, Campus, M.A.C. East Lansing Mich". Image courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections
  + <https://projects.kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/162-565-5782/A002824.jpg> - The postcard depicts a parade float pulled by horses and driven by a man in a top hat. On the side of the float is written "Prof's Special" and the head of six men a sticking out through holes. Image courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections
* CAP archaeologists often encounter archaeological evidence that gives insight into these past landscapes. The College Hall survey and the Beaumont West field schools uncovered a [[cinder path]] walked doing the earliest days of the College (Lewandowski and Brock 2010; Akey and Burnett 2020). Horseshoes were also recovered from the 2014 excavations in Munn Field, near the location of the old horse arena (Daggett 2014)[[1]](#footnote-1)
  + <https://live.staticflickr.com/8209/8226210285_802536a418_4k.jpg> - The dark soil is the base of the cinder path found during 2011 Beaumont West field school. Beaumont West - South, TP-1
  + <https://i2.wp.com/campusarch.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Munn-Field-Horseshoe.jpg> - One of the horseshoes found at Munn Field
* Historical documents also provide insight into how students saw their horse dominated campus, their hope for the future of automobiles, and how the cars shifted the relationships of humans and houses.
  + An article in the M.A.C. Recorder from 1900 hopes that horseless carriages will promise a future “free from the rumbling of heavy drays, and the clatter of the horses hoofs which make modern urban life more or less miserable…. Not only will the rumble of heavy trucks disappear, but the removal of the horse from the street will practically solve the problem of street cleaning. The repairing of roads will be reduced to a minimum” (Daggett 2014; M.A.C. Record 1900) [[2]](#footnote-2)
  + It is amazing to think of a world where horses were considered too noisy and harmful to the road. It is also interesting that in this article “heavy trucks” referred to large teamster wagons – the same complaint remains today, but with a different vehicle!
  + In fact, wagons were seen as so dangerous and unwelcome that in 1887 the College closed Faculty Row to the public, transforming it into “a quiet lane rather than a public highway” and allowed them to remove the fence that “teamsters off the lawns” (Kuhn 1955:114). This seems a good precaution, considering that the children of faculty would have played in and alongside the street.
* By the 1930s motor vehicles had become common and the perception of horses has shifted from ideas of labor and military preparedness earlier in the century to more of an aristocratic nature of the show, which still persists today (Daggett 2014). The difference can be seen in the two photographs below
  + <https://projects.kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/162-565-3781/A000649.jpg> - A cavalry member competes in a horse show. Text on the photograph reads: "Horse Show M.A.C. May 30, 1923. Photo by Harvey Photoshop. East Lansing, MI." Image courtesy of MSU Archives and Historical Collections

Code –

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<div class="center">One of the horseshoes found at Munn Field</div>

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### <div class="center">[[Home|HomePage]]</div>

### <div class="center">[[References|Other References]]</div>

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1. Adrianne Daggett, 2014, “Transportation In and Around Campus During Its Early Years: A Brief Look”, Blog, <http://campusarch.msu.edu/?p=3058> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. M.A.C. Record, 1900, Volume 6, Michigan Agricultural College [↑](#footnote-ref-2)