

April 80

YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ PUBLICATION ~



Ypsilanti Historical Museum
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

REMEMBER THIS DATE !

APRIL 20th

GENERAL MEETING OF THE YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TO BE HELD AT THE LADIES' LITERARY CLUB HOUSE

218 N. Huron

FROM: Three until five

JUDGE ROSS W. CAMPBELL WILL SHOW HIS SLIDES OF AND
TALK ABOUT EARLY YPSILANTI.

Judge Campbell has long been interested in local
history, and he comes by his interest in this subject
naturally, for his own family settled in Washtenaw
County in 1826.

GUESTS WILL BE CORDIALLY WELCOMED.

APRIL 20th

THREE UNTIL FIVE

Ladies' Literary Club House- 218 N. Huron, Ypsilanti

YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY FOLLOWING CIVIL WAR TO 1880
(continued)by Foster L. Fletcher
City Historian

1872 June In 1871 the Chicago and Canadian Railroad began building a railroad to connect Niagara Falls Ontario with Chicago, Illinois. In June of 1872 the rail were laid as far as the Detroit River. A bridge was proposed across the river but the Wayne County Board of Supervisors denied such a structure saying it would bother the traffic on the river. (From an article furnished by our member James Fugsley). So a ferry service was established from Stoney Island off Grosse Isle to Gordon, Ontario, a small port just above Amherstburg, Ontario.

1873 John J. Bagley elected Governor of Michigan, serving two terms. He reorganized the State Militia into the National Guard.

March 1 The Governor appointed George H. Hopkins, Ypsilanti as his private Secretary. George had served with distinction in the 17th Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. He was a graduate of Michigan State Normal College in 1867 and University of Michigan Law 1871.

February Adv. in the "Commercial"

BORDINE BROS. LIVERY STAGLE

Horses, Carriages, Cutters, etc. Tip Top rigs at reasonable rates. Stable on Huron Street, just south of Congress at A.M. Noble's old stand (212 South Huron Street)

Feb. 8 John H. Wortley having found a business connection in Kalamazoo, the Directors of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Association (Farmer's Store on East Cross) tendered him a unanimous vote of thanks for the faithful service rendered the Association.

Feb. William H. Sweet with partner William Robbins, bought out the retail clothing business of Robert Lambie. Lambie did not sell the building at 120 W. Congress (Michigan Avenue)

Feb. Enrico Caruso, W.C.Handy ("St Louis Blues") and Feodor Chaliapin were born.

Feb. 3 Fire at Ypsilanti Cornwell Mill, loss \$16,624 (on the Huron River where the Ford Generator plant is).

1873

- February 25 Married: Elijah McCoy to Mrs. Mary E. Brownlow in the A.M.E. Church by Reverend Jesse Bass.
- February 27 Married: Herbert Sweet to Amada Seely at the residence of the bride's father, James Seely, South Washington Street.
- March 1 The Commercial typewriter came on the market.
- March 1 C.R. Pattison again assumed full management of the "Ypsilanti Commercial".
A quote from the "Commercial" of that date.
"The new Cross Street Bridge is ready for wagon and team traffic. It was built by the American Bridge Co., of Chicago. Two trusses 231 feet long, 37 1/2 feet wide.... Total cost of \$12,000".
- April 16 One Day Only - In Hewitt Hall, the great and original and renowned General Tom Thumb and wife - (Hewitt Hall 3rd floor- NE corner Michigan Avenue and Washington).
- May 1 David W. Livingstone died. It is also the date of the first postal card.
Marie Dressler (Leila Koerber) was born in Ontario. World Almanac lists her birth as 1869.
- July 4 Semi-Centennial celebration for the settlement of Woodruff's Grove. The celebration was held on Independence Island, an island in the bend of the Huron River at old Race Street.
- July 18 From the Diaries of William Lambie: "Paid Mr. Garrison \$4.75 for pew rent".
- August 1 Fire destroyed what was called the first Gymnasium of the Michigan State Normal College. The building was back of the old main building, south of Forest Avenue and East of where Starkweather Hall is now located.
- August 2 Cornwell & Co. Paper Makers, offer to donate \$1,000 toward purchasing a Steam Fire Engine for the City and kept "no farther North than Pearl Street and no farther West than Washington Street".
- August 16 A submarine diver from Detroit, Mr. Thomas Wilson, explored the river channel above the Iron Bridge (Old Congress Street-now Michigan Avenue) and found the big coffeesack containing the valuable City Records which had been stolen.
Mayor Watson Snyder came in a carriage and took the sack to Edwards, McKinstry & VanCline's

1873

August 16 Dry Kiln (NE corner Adams and Michigan Avenue).
At least nine tenths of the papers were saved.

August 16 Ad in the "Commercial":

\$500 REWARD

"The above reward will be given for such information as will lead to the detection and conviction of the incendiaries who set fire to the Normal School Gymnasium, and to the Barn and Sheds opposite the Follett Mill on the on the nights of August 1st and 2nd 1873
Watson Snyder, Mayor

August 26

The Stoney Creek Grange was organized.

The Deubel Brothers, William H. and James P., coming from Plymouth Michigan bought the Huron Flouring Mill located at the East end of Cross Street Bridge and on the North side of Cross Street, which had been owned by Nathan Follett.

During the same year, the father of the two Deubel Brothers, William D. Deubel, bought the Ypsilanti City Mill located on the East side of the Huron River below the the Congress Street (Michigan Avenue) Bridge.

At this time, there were several cigar makers. Growing tobacco plants was common in the Ypsilanti area during this decade and the largest cigar makers were: Schimmeld and Cook followed by Guild & Son.

L.C.Wallington converted the old Peck School House on East Forest, called Mill Street, in the old days, into a Malt House. He was followed by F.J.Swaine who enlarged the building and continued the business. He also built the handsome brick house that year at 201 East Forest.

September 13

The Arbeiters Versin had a big time in their Grove (South Grove, NE corner of Stewart Street) last Tuesday. It was preceded by the Parade of the Light Guards- they marched thru several Streets and made a fine appearance.

September 20

Great excitement in Wall Street - Jay Cook & Co. suspended from trading. A financial panic. They had dealt too heavily in Northern Pacific railroad. Ypsilanti Banks offered to give anyone their money if they

1873

September 20

wanted it. Very few withdrawals and most deposited next day.

The new Steam Fire Engine has come - It can be seen at Curtis' Carriage Factory (SW corner of Michigan Ave. and Adams Street).

September 27

Washtenaw County Medical Society Meeting at Follett House on East Cross Street. The all male membership was astonished by a membership application from Miss Gertrude Banker.

Dr. Batwell from Ypsilanti offered a Resolution excluding ladies from Membership. After much discussion pro and con, the Resolution was lost and Gertrude Banker accepted as a member.

October 4

Reverend A.T.Hall will succeed Reverend Jesse Bass as Pastor of the A.M.E. Church. Reverend Bass goes to a parish in Southern Indiana.

Advertisement in the "Commercial"

The Best seat in the Presbyterian Church for sale on reasonable terms. Inquire Champion's Drug Store (South Side of East Cross, opposite the Railroad Station),

Charles R. Champion

October 10

Eighth Annual Reunion of the 20th Regiment of Michigan Infantry - 120 Members of this Regiment met for their Reunion in Ypsilanti: Three Ypsilanti men were given credit for the splendid success of the affair: C. S. Wortley, Secretary-Treasurer; A.A.VanCleve and John Wise.

October 14

Mrs. Lois Ninde died from Typhoid Fever, daughter of George C. Crane and sister of Albert Crane, age 26.

Notes from Ann Arbor: Land was plenty when the University got its 40 acre Campus and so we have a good ballground giving plenty of impulse to base and football. Considering ourselves as good as anybody, we have challenged Cornell University to play us a match game of football in three weeks... (The game was cancelled by the Presidents of both Universities).

October 25

City Council was asked by Cornwell Fire Company for water wells to be made at the

1873
October 25

end of Congress Street at the Bridge (now Michigan Avenue), Cross and Forest Avenue bridges and for an Engine House.

Reverend G.P. Tindall completes ten years as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

Bishop Wyman of the A.M.E. Church preached in the A.M.E. House of Worship last week to a crowded house. He resides in Baltimore, Maryland (from the "Commercial").

More from the "Commercial": We give credit to George Carr for closing his saloon, but we see it open again, conducted by a third person we suppose. It seems to us, George, that you might have retired in full of your laurels last week. We are informed that you cleared \$500 Tuesday evening. An eyewitness told us that at 12 o'clock a large crowd was in front of the saloon waiting their turn to get in.

"Commercial" advertisement:

Ypsilanti Medical Institute, Arcade Block (next door south to Detroit Edison office building on North Huron Street).

Health Life - Electric Baths - Russian Baths - The Swedish Movement
These and other remedial agents are here used in the treatment of Rheumatism, Paralysis, Catarrh, Dysepsia, Disease of Females of the Kidneys, Liver, Eye and Ear, etc.
W.H.Hall, M.D. & O.E. Good, M.D.

November 15 "The hanging of 48 Americans by the Spanish authorities in Cuba, is an outrage upon modern civilization".

December 20 I. Burdine, teacher of the Colored School, is elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, A.Y.M. (colored) of the State of Michigan.

The new fire engine pumped water for two hours into the new cisterns but they did not hold water.

December 27 William G. Shipman has leased the Barton House and proposes to keep a Temperance Hotel (corner of North Washington and Pearl Street NW).

1873

Nineteen divorces in Washtenaw County

FROM THE ARCHIVES ----

The Grove-Lower Huron
October 27, 1823

Messers F. & T. Farmer:

Please to pay the bearer Mr. Beverly, for me, four
dollars and fifty cents in goods out of your store and
oblige yours -

Henry H. Snow

(Henry H. Snow owned the land where Rawsonville is located
and was known as "Snow's Landing").

Woodruff's Grove
November 13, 1823

Messers F. & T. Farmer

Please to send me by Mr. Cross, the bearer, 2 gallons
whisky - 4 lbs sugar - 1/2 powder and 2 lbs shot and charge
same to Sir, yours,

Henry H. Snow

1 lb powder delivered, in addition to the above send one
pound of tea and your bill if you please - H.H. Snow

Woodruff's Grove
January 17, 1824

Messers F. & T. Farmer

Please deliver the bearer, Benjamin J. Woodruff, goods
out of your store to the amount of five dollars and charge
the same to your humble servant -

Henry H. Snow

Woodruff's Grove
February 13, 1824

Messers F. & T. Farmer

Please to let the bearer, G.W. Noyes have three dollars
out of your store and charge to me.

Henry H. Snow

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ALAS, 'THAT' SEASON IS HERE AGAIN!

THEY'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT CYCLONE THAT SPREAD
RUIN IN THE CITY 40 YEARS AGO.

Ypsilanti, May 6 - Some heavy winds may have struck Ypsilanti,
but if the old-timers of the city - such as Tracy Towner,
Tom McAndrew, John P. Kirk, Dan Quirk and others - are to
be believed, they were mere zephyrs when compared with the
big wind that hit just 40 years ago. (April 12, 1893)

It was a freak storm. It dipped down and passed over the

trees in the west section, landed squarely near the corner of Congress St. and Chicago Ave. (now Michigan Ave.) bounded like a huge ball down Congress St. through the business section, then veered slightly northeastward and ripped through a few places along Pearl St. and Huron St., crossed the river to strike down once more on River St. and disappeared as mysteriously as it had come.

People Feared Judgment

The tornado cut a swath, possibly a block wide, uprooting trees, unroofing buildings and bringing fear of the Judgment Day to the people of Ypsilanti. Its roar was eerie - like a dozen hayracks racing down Michigan Ave., MacAndrew says, or much like the Wolverine racing through at top speed, according to Towner. But as the town had never seen nor heard a tornado before and this one passed in two minutes, an exact description is impossible.

Towner, eighty-nine-year-old lawyer, is perhaps best informed concerning the holocaust. He was the 'Free Press' correspondent here at the time and that night was working as a clerk in the postoffice.

"I had hardly opened the window and started handing out the mail when I heard a strange noise", he relates. "Seconds later I heard the pounding of something on the tin roof of the building and before I could think further, the roof simply up and left. The people in the office went into a panic, most of them yelling, 'Save me, save me'. I remember looking at Mrs. Randall, the assistant postmaster, and her eyes simply popped. I hurried through the crowd in the front out into Pearl St. There I saw a man unconscious and with someone else, carried him over to Doc. Patterson's. He was the only man hurt, so far as I know, and he had been blown out of his buggy.

"Of course, I had to have the particulars for the paper, so I went around on Congress St. There I saw where one of the walls of the opera house had been blown out and in falling had cut through a section of the Hawkins House like a paring knife through a potato. A funny thing about it was that a drummer (salesman) who had been carried up to his room on the second floor of the hotel and put to bed drunk, had crashed through the dining room and awakened uninjured but as sober as a deacon. His room had been No. 13.

"The Chinaman who ran the laundry where the Masonic Temple now stands lost everything. 'No washee-all blow to Hellee' was about all he could yell. And Dick Whiting, who had a nice stand of white whiskers, had them dyed when a paint pail blew his way.

"John McAllister's place was damaged in an odd way. A vacuum formed all around it and the pressure from inside bluged all the walls.

"Of course, the wires were down, so I gathered and wrote news until 11 p.m. and then took it into Detroit on the train and hurried down to the office with it. Frank Codrington was State Editor then, and he took the stuff and told me to write everything more I could. The 'Free Press' beat the world on that one".

MacAndrew, now 81 years old, told the story as he sat in front of a stove in his furniture store. "I was sitting right here with Henry Curtis when it happened", he relates. "The day had been warm and the wind was blowing hard. I went out to get a center table that was standing at the curb and just as I got back the cyclone hit. When it got here it took the ventilator off the top of the building, left the next two untouched and then struck at the one next to the corner. Meanwhile, it had taken the tower off Cleary College (N. Adams and Michigan Avenue) and hit the Opera House and Hawkins House, on the other side of the street. By the time most of us realized what was happening, it was over.

"It's a good thing that it didn't go farther north than it did. A revival meeting was going on in the Methodist Church over on Washtenaw and Washington and it was full. If the cyclone had hit there, a good many people might have been killed".

Reprinted from "Detroit Free Press" May 6, 1933

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Tracy Towner was working in the Postoffice on that Sunday night, April 12 1893, when the devastating cyclone struck Ypsilanti. It was the most destructive disaster that ever happened in Ypsilanti. At that time the Postoffice was in the building at the south west corner of North Huron and Pearl Street. Tracy became an attorney and his office was in the Ypsilanti Savings Bank building (19-21 Congress (Michigan Ave) corner Huron Street) and he lived at 303 N. Huron until his death in 1943.

The Archives of the Museum has many photographs of the damage wrought by the cyclone - part of our Florence S. Babbitt collection.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT FROM THE ARCHIVES

To the Hon. Edmunds, a Judge of
the Circuit Court of the Territory
of Michigan for the County of
Washtenaw, a Court of Record.

Humbly petitioning herewith your
Honor your Petitioner Benjam J. Woodruff of Ypsilanti in
the County of Washtenaw and Territory of Michigan.

That your Petitioner is insolvent
and unable to pay his debts.

That the following is an inventory
of your Petitioner's property both real and personal, viz:
one hundred sixty four acres of land in the State of Ohio
being the north east quarter of Section eleven Town line
Range eight,, 3 bedding, one table, the necessary wearing
apparel, one watch, one mantle clock.

That your petitioner has a note
against Henry Messenter of thirty dollars.

That your Petitioner has unsettled
accounts with Arden H. Ballard, Edwards & Godden, Nelson
Burnam, Oliver Whitnirc, Thompson & Mundy from whom or to
whom balances may be due to or from your Petitioner.

That the following is as near as
your Petitioner can now remember a list of your Petitioner's
creditors with the amount due each.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|----------|
| Marcus Seine | about | \$5.00 |
| Jas. T. Allen | " | 15.00 |
| | | \$200.00 |
| Samuel Champion | " | 150.00 |
| Brown & Co. | " | 60.00 |
| Alexander S. Fraser | about | 60.00 |
| Austin S. Wing | " | 40.00 |
| S.W. Osgood | " | 36.00 |
| Richard Smith | " | 27.00 |

Hence your Petitioner prays that his
estate real and personal may be assigned for the benefit
of all his creditors and that he may be discharged for all
arrests and imprisonment on any civil process and from the
liability that by reason of his debts now existing.

B.J. Woodruff

Territory of Michigan)
Washtenaw County ss) I Benjamin J. Woodruff do swear
that I am an inhabitant of the County of Washtenaw in the
Territory of Michigan where I now actually reside that
the inventory of my property and list of my creditors, here-
with delivered are in all respects just and true: that I
have not any any time in any manner whatever made over or

disposed of any part of my estate for the future benefit of myself or family or in order to defraud any of my creditors and that I have in no instance created a debt for a greater sum than I truly owe in intent to aid my discharge under the act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

B.J.Woodruff

Sworn and subscribed this 22nd day of
December A.D. 1834 before me

E. Mundy, Circuit Court Judge

Let notice be given to the creditors of Benjamin J. Woodruff an insolvent debtor for two weeks successive in a newspaper printed at Ann Arbor in the County of Washtenaw called "The Michigan Whig" to the end that such creditors may appear before me at my office in the village of Ann Arbor aforesaid on the first day of January 1835 at 12 o'clock, noon, to show cause any they have why the insolvent should not be discharged according to the Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

Dated at Ann Arbor aforesaid the 22nd Day of December A.D. 1834.

E. Mundy, Circuit Court
Judge

A CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS ---

BALLARD, David
9585 Harbour Cove
Ypsilanti

GAUNTLETT, David, Mr & Mrs.
204 Wallace
Ypsilanti

GOOD, Charles, Mr. & Mrs.
2006 Medford
Ann Arbor

HOHLBROOK, Donovan, Mr. & Mrs.
1666 Conway
Ypsilanti

LUSHBY, Victor W., Mr. & Mrs.
3375 East Michigan-Lot #290
Ypsilanti

MILLER, Frank, Mr. & Mrs.
1211 N. Congress
Ypsilanti, Michigan

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Mary Liskow
Ypsilanti

Donald Disbrow
Ypsilanti

Bly Quigley
California

Robert Randolph
Ypsilanti

Wilma Price
Monroe, Michigan

Doris Milliman
Ypsilanti

Old buttons, 1908 Christmas
cards, miniature portrait,
old German silhouette.

"Reference Book of Dun and
Bradstreet, State Edition,
Mich., January 1952" - news-
paper clippings of interest

Blue & white patchwork quilt
made by Mrs. Sarah Gallup of
Ypsilanti about 125 yrs. ago.
Photograph of Frederic
Alexander at age 3.

Old German Bible

AURORAS for 1929 & 1930 and
75th Anniversary Program of
Michigan State Normal-1852-1927
1927.

Newspaper clippings concerning
events & Special Exhibits at
the Museum

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

On March 27th our member, Dr. Meredith Klaus from Eastern Michigan University brought her 'Folklore' class of twenty-seven for a tour of the Museum. Foster Fletcher spoke to the group giving them a brief history of our City and answering questions and Ann McCarthy and Dorothy Disbrow showed them through the building. This is the fourth visit Dr. Klaus has made with with different classes. She said she considered a visit to the Museum a 'special treat' for her students.

Jane Salcau's Ukrainian Easter Egg decorating event March 30th was most successful as always. An over-flow crowd of children and adults spent a very happy two hours following Jane's careful instructions. Their finished eggs were indeed colorful and beautiful.

The Guides for that Sunday were; Doris Milliman, Ada Holmes and Mildred Gilmore.

A local artist, Pat McConnell, brought in for the sales case a basket of eggs she had decorated in the Ukrainian style.

OF DIXBORO;LEST WE FORGET by Carol Willits Freeman.

A fascinating history of our neighbor, Dixboro, in Superior Township.

This illustrated paperback with 153 absorbing pages is on sale at \$6.00 at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

It is a splendid example of how to make pioneer days interesting as well as authentic and other communities might do well to use it as a model.

Mrs. Freeman is a member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

March and April have brought guests to the Museum from as far away as Albuquerque New Mexico; Honolulu Hawaii and Chile. Guests from other sections of Michigan came from Eaton Rapids, Garden City, Lansing and Howell. And many more visitors came from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti to see the display of beautiful plates loaned to us by Marge Gauntlett and Foster Fletcher.

We very much appreciate the articles by Janet Shubitowski of "The Ypsilanti Press" giving such fine publicity for our Special Exhibits and Events. We also appreciate the willingness of our friends and members to show their collections at the Museum.

For May and June the Special Exhibit at the Museum will be that of the many lovely and unusual quilts and cover-letts owned by the Museum. Many of these fascinating items are on permanent display on the 2nd floor of the Museum but there are many more in storage, equally beautiful, which because of their age we do not have on permanent display.

Come on you "over 65" people out there, and win \$25.00! Just send in your fond memories of past holidays or old times in Ypsilanti. Second prize is \$15.00 and third \$5.00. Just be certain you are over 65 and submit your article before May 15th.

At the Annual meeting of the Historical Society Frank Burgess was reelected for a second term as a member of the Board. The Board elected Ann McCarthy to be our new President with Rene Burgess as Vice President. Fred Peters continues as Treasurer and Dorothy Disbrow as Secretary.

Our Schools are starting their Spring trips to the Museum - we always look forward to taking the children there. One class from Adams School came on April 15th and another on April 17th - and we hope there will be lots more of the school children coming with their teachers for a tour of our Museum.

Something we all mean to do - but many of us forget!

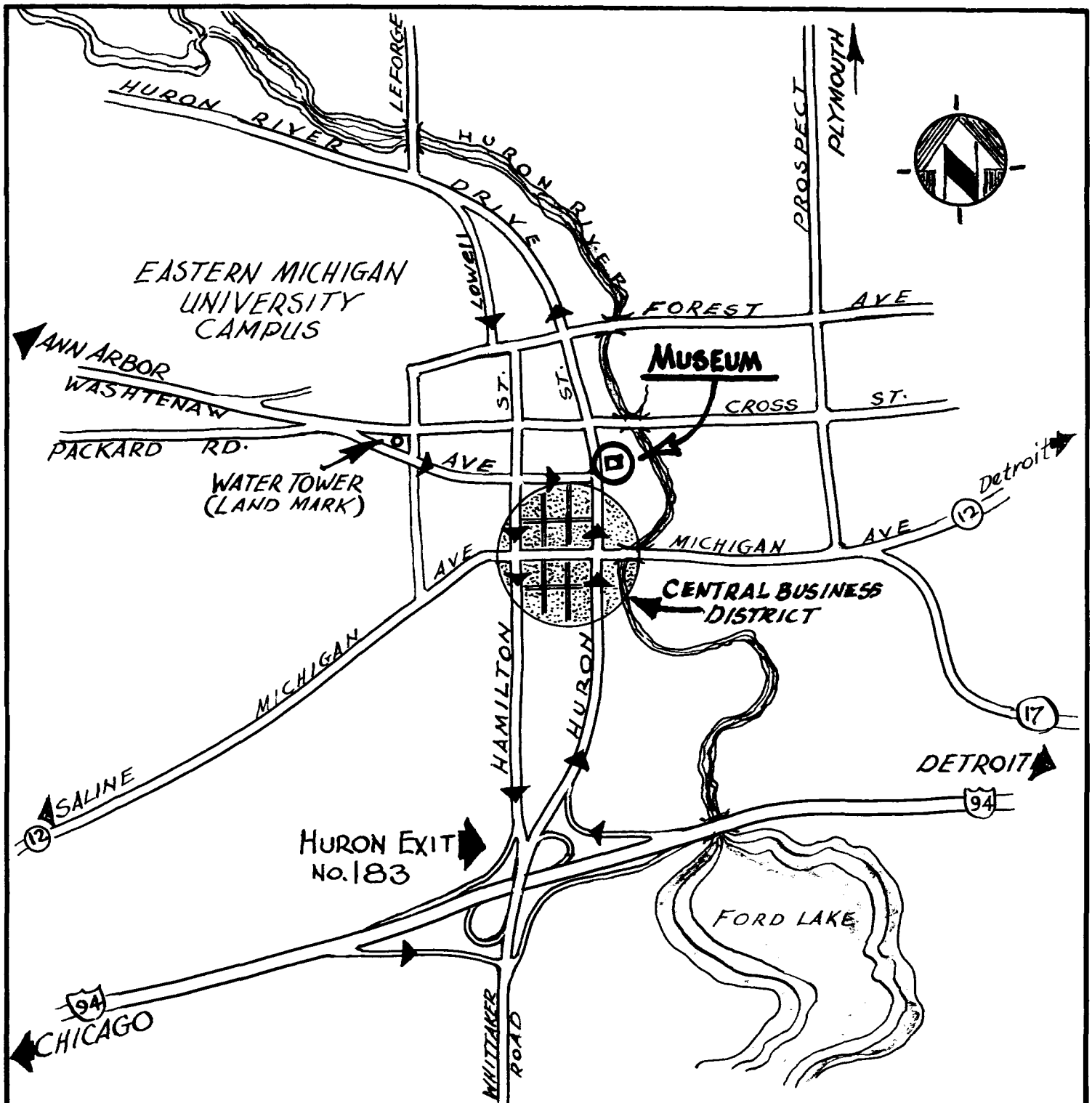
DUES for membership in our Historical Society.

The dues are: \$3.00 single membership, \$5.00 for a family, \$10.00 contributing, \$25.00 Institutional, \$50.00 Sustaining and \$100.00 Life Membership.

Dues may be sent directly to the Museum, 220 N. Huron or to our Treasurer, Fred Peters, 1205 Westmoorland.

If you have any questions about your dues - call 482-4990 in the mornings.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE 20th AT THE LADIES' LITERARY CLUB TO HEAR JUDGE ROSS W. CAMPBELL TALK AND SHOW HIS SLIDES ON EARLY YPSILANTI - 3-5 April 20th (Sunday)



Upsilanti Historical Museum

220 North Huron Street - Upsilanti - Michigan
 Zip Code 48197

Phone (313) 482-4990

Foster Fletcher - Historian
 Dorothy Disbrow - Archivist

- Museum Hours -
 Fri. Sat. & Sun. 2-4 PM.
 Archives - By Appointment