

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

## PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY~ PUBLICATION~



Ypsilanti Historical Museum  
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## COMING EVENTS

At  
THE MUSEUM

GENERAL MEETING - April 20th - Sunday from 3 until 5  
At the Ladies' Literary Club House - 218 N. Huron  
Judge Ross W. Campbell will show his slides and talk  
about early Ypsilanti. Guests will be cordially wel-  
comed.

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.

SPECIAL EVENT - At the Museum from two until four.

Jane Salcau will once again demonstrate the beautiful  
art of decorating eggs in the Ukrainian style. After  
watching Jane decorate some eggs and listening to her  
instructions - try one for yourself - undecorated eggs  
will be waiting for you to test your skills. For older  
children and adults. March 30th - two until four.

Watch the articles in The Ypsilanti Press for further  
publicity on this event and Judge Campbell's program.

YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY FOLLOWING CIVIL WAR UP TO 1880

By  
Foster L. Fletcher  
City Historian

1776 That was the year fifty six members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence, thirty five of these men died before the year 1800.

News about our Postal System which really is remarkable, is always interesting and these two old items deserve repeating and attention:

President James K. Polk was born November 2 1795 in North Carolina (five of our Presidents have had birthdays in the month of November). He was installed as President March 4th 1845. During his term, Postage Stamps were introduced; gas installed in the White House, the sewing machine patented and it was the first year of the Rotary Printing Press. The United States Naval Academy was established during his Administration, Gold discovered in California and there was the Mexican War. He was our 11th President and died a natural death June 15 1849.

Zachary Taylor, our 12th President, was born in Virginia November 24 1784. He spent most of his life in the Army and did not vote until he was sixty two years old. He did not learn of his Presidential Nomination for time because he refused to pay Postage Due on a letter from the Nominating Committee. President Taylor was in office only 127 days, dying July 9 1850.

1865 August 24, John Hopkins University Chartered. John Hopkins (1795-1873) American financier and philanthropist, gave more than three million dollars to found this world famous Hospital.

1866 In Ypsilanti William McAndrew joined James I Wallace and William J. Clarke in the furniture and undertaking business.

William S. Henderson and Henry P. Glover bought out the Samuel Post Drygoods store. In a short time Henderson withdrew and the business was owned and managed by H.P. Glover, located 102 W. Congress (Michigan Ave.).

- 1866 April 29, General John A. Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, spoke at a Memorial Day celebration in Carbondale, Illinois. It was mostly a local celebration and the first generally observed Memorial Day was May 30th 1868. The Confederates observe a different date honoring their dead.
- 1867 March 30, Russia sold Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million. Secretary of State William H. Seward negotiated the deal, often referred to as 'Seward's Folly'.
- July 1, Proclamation of the British North American Act established the Dominion of Canada.
- Money Order Division established in the Post Office and Miss Frances Stewart became Deputy Post Mistress of the Ypsilanti office, the only woman in our history to serve as such.
- 1868 Thomas D'Arcy McGee, great promoter of the British North American Act, was shot, the first Canadian political assassination.
- President Andrew Johnson impeached but later acquitted when tried by the United States Senate.
- In Ypsilanti Josiah F. Sanders and Clark S. Wortley bought the men's clothing stock of S. Hesslein and opened for business as 'Sanders & Wortley'. In 1872 Sanders succeeded Wortley and in 1873, Clark S. Wortley opened his own men's clothing store.
- December 25 President Andrew Johnson extended pardon, absolute, 'to all directly or indirectly who participated in the late Rebellion'.
- Scott Joplin, the great Black composer and musician was born.
- The first Transcontinental Railroad was completed. Women were given the right to vote in the Territory of Wyoming.
- In Ypsilanti O.A. Ainsworth came from New England and bought the old Benjamin Woodruff Greek Revival house on the Chicago Road just west of Ballard Street, as well as more than 100 acres adjoining farm land. He began with one cow and sold milk to neighbors, expanding to 100 cows and dominated the local retail milk business for many years.
- The Feninsular Paper Co., began making paper. Daniel Lace Quirk was one of the stockholders in that company incorporated in 1867.

1868

Before coming to Ypsilanti in 1860, he had been in several business ventures in Chicago where he was well known.

He knew the owners and publishers of the Chicago Tribune and obtained a contract to make news print for the Tribune with the proviso that Peninsular would build a second mill so that production would not be interrupted in case of fire. Such mill fires were common in those days.

Soon after the close of the Civil War in April 1865, James N. Wallace and his father-in-law, Parmenis Davis, bought ten acres of land on the south side of East Congress Street, between South Grove Street and Center Street and built several brick houses, two of them on South Prospect. The one near the Prospect-Congress corner became the James N. Wallace home, now gone. The Ypsilanti Real Estate Co., was formed and included Wallace, W.J. Clarke, Don C. Batchelder and Robert W. Hemphill.

This company bought for developement, most of the property from Normal Street down to Ballard Street and between West Cross and Emmet Street. Brower Street, now College Place, was opened from Cross south across old Ellis, now Washtenaw, and almost to Pearl Street.

These men appear many times in Ypsilanti history during the next four decades.

1869

March 4th, Ulysses Simpson Grant became our eighteenth President. He was born in that quaint little town of Point Pleasant, Ohio April 27, 1822 and died July 23, 1885.

September 12 National Prohibition Party organized.

September 24th Jay Gould, James Fiske, Jr., Abel Corbin and others attempted getting a corner on gold.

Corbin was a brother-in-law of President Grant. Gould managed to drive the price of Gold to 162 1/2. The Government stepped in and sold millions in gold from the Treasury and the price dropped to 133.

The conspirators were warned of the Government action by Daniel Butterfield who was a member in the Treasury and knew of the Government action.

Four- February 1980

- 1869 The Mays of Ypsilanti during the post Civil War years were: David Edwards 1867-68; Parmenio Davis 1868-1870; both had been alternating Mayors from 1861 to 1868.
- 1870 January 10th Standard Oil was incorporated.  
Franco-Prussian War began.  
February 2nd - Madelon Stockwell enrolled as the first woman student in the University of Michigan. She was born in Kalamazoo Michigan in 1845.  
During the 1870-1880 Decade, there were many fires in Ypsilanti. After the great fire disaster in 1851 that burned out so much of the downtown block bounded by Michigan Avenue, Huron Street, Washington Street and Pearl, all of the replacement structures in that block were built of brick but there were many frame structures very close to the downtown.  
February 27th - The Bucklin House, a frame structure at the SE corner of West Congress and South Huron burned completely.  
Dr. Parmenio Davis completed his 2nd term as Mayor of Ypsilanti, 1868-70.  
Ezra Lay had served as Ypsilanti Township Supervisor 1867-68 and was succeeded by W. Irving Yekley who served from 1868 to 1878.  
Lee Yost was the Ypsilanti Supervisor 1868-72.  
March 5th - Hon. C.L. Yost has been re-elected Superintendent of the Farmers' Store and William Campbell, Cashier.  
March 12th from The Commercial, the weekly newspaper (there were fourteen weekly newspapers in Washtenaw County and one Daily).  
"March 4th terminated the first year of the Administration of General Grant (President). Its results may be summed up in brief. It has reduced the Taxes and yet raised \$26,000,000 more Revenue than was raised in the last year of President Johnson. It has spent but \$314,000,000 against \$374,000,000 spent by Andrew Johnson's Administration in 1868. It has reduced the Public Debt \$97,000,000.  
The 6 per cent U.S. Bonds of 1861 within a few days have sold at Par in Gold. The surplus in the Treasury is \$97,000,000."

Five-February 1980

1870

April 16th - from The Commercial: "Wrestling Match - A wrestling match is expected to come off in Detroit in May between Jacob Martin of Ypsilanti and J. H. McLaughlin of New York for \$500 a side".

Jacob Martin was a powerful young man who was born on a farm south of Ypsilanti and worked as a butcher for fifteen years in various Ypsilanti meat markets. Louis S. White has written on Jacob's biographical card: 'at one time he was World Champion Wrestler' but the source for such is not stated. About 1895, his parents lived at 306 South Huron Street.

The Ypsilanti St John the Baptist Catholic Church enlarged their building NW corner Cross and North Hamilton.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, 405 South Adams, remodelled the small Church that had been erected in 1858.

William S. Hart, Dustin Farnam and Harry Lauder were born that year.

H.R.Scovill, who in 1861 had been in the first list of Volunteers from Ypsilanti served his three months enlistment and then gone to California, returning in 1864 and after serving in several jobs, joined George B. Follmer in a sawmill and lumberyard on Frog Island where they made window sash, doors and blinds until washed out in the Spring flood of 1904.

C.S. Smith, wholesale and retail meats was in the first block of North Huron Street and soon moved to the south side of the 100 block of Congress Street (Michigan Avenue) above Huron Street. He took in Harrison Fairchild as a partner. Within a few years they divided, Smith locating on East Cross Street about where 40 East Cross is, and Fairchild staying on Congress Street. Smith was succeeded by his son H.H. Smith and then in 1911 the business was bought by Emil Schafrick and Mathew Sinkule.

O.E. Thompson & Sons having acquired the big brick building, NE corner of River and East Cross, moved their wagon making to that location and kept on making carriages and hand garden tools...

June 9th - Charles Dickens (John Huffam) died.

Ypsilanti population - 5471. There were twenty divorces in Washtenaw County that year.

1870

As early as December 1868, there was a proposal to build a railroad from Ypsilanti to Hillsdale and on into Indiana. Business men from Hillsdale came to Ypsilanti and soon a Corporation was formed. Work was begun on the railroad with D.L. Quirk as superintendent of the project. Charles King, F.K. Rexford, the Doctor-business man, and Captain Edgar Bogardus. Hillsdale subscribed \$1000., Ypsilanti \$50,000 but would have pledged more, Superior Township voted aid as well as Salem Township and Augusta. The Railroad was called the Detroit, Hillsdale and Indiana Railroad and later passed into the ownership of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern and as a branch of the New York Central-Michigan Railroad.

October 1st - The Detroit, Hillsdale and Indiana Railroad completed as far as Manchester.

November 4th - from the Diary of William Lambie - "Went up to Manchester on an Excursion Train as a Stockholder of the Railroad - I had been given one share of stock by my brother Frank - pleasant ride - the engine broke at Saline - a crowd of strange faces gathered but we were given a free dinner".

1871

January 18th - William I of Hohenzollern proclaimed Emperor Kaiser.

The Methodists built a brick Parsonage at 212 Ellis Street (Washtenaw).

A great Temperance movement... Mayor Watson Snyder was opposed to the Saloons and was supported by Joseph Estabrook.

Dr. Helen McAndrew formed "The Band of Hope" which held weekly meetings and Sunday afternoon. Fred Cutler led "The Band" and others were Cub Berdan, Carl Webb, Al Stuck and John Wise. All young male members were called "Red Ribbon Men".

January 23 - the Detroit, Hillsdale and Indiana Railroad completed to Hillsdale.

Francis P. Bogardus, Mayor 1871-73.

February - Common Council asked State of Michigan for permission to vacate the West Cemetery. It was located NW corner of the Chicago Road and South Summit Street. One of the Cross ancestors wrote that she remembered when there were 100 graves there... no record so far of any names for those 100 graves.



1871

February 28th - News from New York: "Gold has reached the level of 111, at which it closed today have drooped and varied 1/2¢."

Adv. in The Commercial: Nice Dwelling house for \$1,000.00 - Terms \$50 down and balance in small weekly payments. J.N. Wallace.

Pensions for those who served sixty days in the War of 1812, or their surviving widows are entitled under a recent Act of Congress to \$8.00 a month.

May 13th - from The Commercial: "Two Grand Exhibitions - Van Amburgh & Co's, Great Golden Managerie! The largest and Best show on this Continent! Van Amburgh is the man who goes to all the shows; he goes into the Lion's Den and tells you all he knows. He puts his head in the Lion's Mouth and keeps it there awhile, and when he takes it out again he greets you with a Smile. The elephants now go round and round, the Band begins to play, Those boys around the monkey cage had better keep away..."

There were twenty-three divorces in Washtenaw County in 1871.

Winnipeg Universities in Manitoba, Dominion of Canada started.

Frank K. Owen having graduated in Medicine from the University of Michigan elected to come to Ypsilanti to practice.

August - Theodore Dreiser, Louise Homer were born.

August 19th - Ypsilanti Markets -

Apples 35¢ bushel  
Butter 16¢  
Cheese 14¢  
Eggs 10¢ dozen  
Potatoes 35¢ bushel

The Cornwell Paper Mill at Lowell was extensively damaged by fire.

The Shade block built at NE corner of old East Congress and Park Street by Leopold Shade.

November 10th - Henry M. Stanley found a man in the wilds of Africa and greeted him: "Dr. Livingston I presume?" It was indeed Dr. David Livingston. This famous explorer died in the wilds of Africa May 1 1873.

1871

October 8th - The Great Chicago Fire, loss of lives 250, property loss, \$196 million. The Peshtigo, Wisconsin fire was later that same night; loss of lives 1182, the greatest fire loss in the United States.

October - Ig has been reported that fire has destroyed timber from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.

October 14 - From The Commercial: "North and South, east and west, all around us fire is the order of the day. The villages of Elm Creek, Center Harbor, Sand Beach, Huron City and New River -- all in Huron County - have been completely destroyed by fire - Port Hope reported gone except for Staffords Store and Home. Manistee is in ashes. Windsor, opposite Detroit, is in ashes... Hundreds are burned out and have lost everything. The ladies one and all, in the City of Ypsilanti are asked to meet until further notice at Samson's and Follette's Halls, at 1 o'clock to make comforters and such other work as may be presented to the needy".

J.M. Chidister, E. Sampson, W.H. Hawkins, County Committee.

October 23rd - From the Diaries of Wm. Lambie who lived in Superior Township on the north edge of Ypsilanti Township: 'plowed in front of the house and in front of the orchard to save us from the fires - dense smoke at night from the forest fires in the north. William Campbell, my son Frank and I went to see the fire in Palmer's Marsh - like many of life's fears, it was as bad when we came to it as we had imagined.

October 31st - 'rain, rain, rain, showers of blessings - it will refresh our parched earth'.

November 11th - The Commercial reports: "Our Presbyterian Friends are excavating under their Church for a more spacious Sunday School room. The Sunday School has pledged \$500 toward the improvement.

November 22nd - from Ann Arbor - Professor A. D. White of Cornell University was in Ann Arbor last week ... especially noting the effect of women on the University. He was accompanied by Mr. McGraw who proposes to give Cornell \$250,000 provided women be admitted as at the University of Michigan.

1872

January 14th - a 2nd destructive fire at the Cornwell Mill one mile SE of Ypsilanti.

Editorial from The Commercial: "We say here, we

1872

we must have an efficient fire Department - a paid one if necessary'.

Ann Arbor letter a week later in The Commercial:  
"We should like to enquire if the people of Ypsilanti have a Fire Department and if so, what were they doing at the time of the fire? Not a single firebell was rung and no one made an effort to get the Fire Engine out.

At last, the Cornwells sent their own team to get the engine. But at first the man who had care of it refused to let it go.

It is a shame that a City of 6000 inhabitants should not have at least one well managed Fire Company to come on such an occasion as this and help save a property that pays at least a third part of all the City Taxes.

We are informed that a few months ago the Common Council tried to build some large cisterns for water and some of the very prominent business men refused to allow water to be used or taken from their buildings to fill the cisterns".

January 20th - From the diary of Wm. Lambie: 'Deep snow, went to town in the sleigh to attend the Annual meeting of the Farmers' Store Meeting. 20% again declared. Paid \$5. for framing the big picture of the American Authors of the United States.

Mr. Chidister elected Superintendent of the store by a vote of the Directors.

Francis P. Bogardus Ypsilanti Mayor; from 1871 thru 1872.

In 1871 the Ypsilanti City Schools and the Teacher Training Department of the Michigan State Normal College, decided to try an integration. It seemed like an excellent plan. Professor Joseph Estabrook had served as head of the Seminary and been hired by the 'Normal' as well as other prominent teachers from that thriving institution.

The High School students of the Ypsilanti Seminary were admitted to classes in the 'Normal'.

The plan was only partially successful and after a little more than a year it was abandoned but caused a slight decline in the prestige of the Seminary.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dunham came to Ypsilanti in 1871 and served the Public Schools in many capacities for seventeen years. Her work in the primary grades was unusual and outstanding. Professor Joseph

1872

Estabrook said: "Mrs. Dunham was really the first Kindergarten teacher in America and the best primary teacher I have ever known".

April 5th - Local Markets:

Apples \$2.00 barrel  
Butter 25¢ lb.  
Cheese 12¢ lb.  
Chickens, dressed 10¢ and 12¢ lb.  
Live chickens 7 ¢ lb.  
Eggs 15¢ Dozen  
Hams 13¢ lb.  
Turkeys (live) 10¢ lb.  
Turkeys (dressed) 12½¢ lb.

May 11th - Hugh Downey has been arrested and taken before M. Warner, Justice of the Peace time and time again without any effect for reformation, but visa versa. He says we can nab him as many times as we like, we cant make a complaint against him under the Statute for a common drunkard; he says it wont hold for a man that has not drawn a sober breath for eleven years is an UNCOMMON drunkard and the Statute does not provide for such cases.

May 25th - NOTICE - Proposals will be received at the City Clerk's office two weeks from this date (June 5th) for repairing, winding and keeping in order the City Clock for one year from July st next.  
C.N. Ganson, City Clerk

May 25th - Tubal Cain Owen has bought the Ypsilanti Milling Company, the well known flouring mill on the north side of East Cross Street and the East end of the Bridge. Owen comes as an energenic young man who has spent three years as a sailor on the Great Lakes.

June 3rd - Orville E. Hoyt and Caleb S. Pitkin are now managers of the Commercial with C.R. Pattison remaining as Editor.

P.C. Sherwood and his brother, A. H. Sherwood, who come from Pittsfield Township, have bought the shoe business of Aaron Aber in the Worden Block, NE corner of Huron Street and Congress Street (Michigan Avenue).

June 27th - Birth date of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, famous Negro poet.

July 4th - Calvin Coolidge born in Plymouth, Vermont.

July 7th - Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Pastorate of Reverend John Wilson at the St.

1872

Lukes Episcopal Church, one of the longest Pastorates in the State of Michigan. The entire citizenry of Ypsilanti responded.

The Ladies' Library Association, founded in 1868, having outgrown the original modest quarters, have moved to the second floor of the Arcade Block in 1872.

Two intrepid women Doctors, Dr. Ruth Gerry and Cynthia Smith were in charge of the Free Hospital, 615 Pearl Street, assisted by twenty-one prominent women of the City who represent the members of the Free Hospital Association.

July 6th - Ground broken for the 2nd mill of the Peninsular Paper Co. across the river from the original mill.

September 17th - The Commercial reported about Sojourner Truth's visit to Ypsilanti. She spoke to a large gathering in Barnard Hall.

"She is really a remarkable person, over 80 years old, erect, strong voice and truly eloquent. Having pled for thirty years the cause of the poor slave, she now regards her great mission to be the securing from the Government of a territory to be set aside for the infirm and helpless of her race".

"She described her visit to Abraham Lincoln and how courteously she was received. It was quite different with the visit to President Johnson. She has also visited President Grant and says he is next to Abraham Lincoln the noblest man God ever made".

August 6th - Elijah McCoy applies for Patent for his Lubricating Cup as 'Improvement in Lubrication'. Elijah McCoy was a resident of Ypsilanti for about fifteen years after he had been apprentice Engineer from 1861 to 1865 in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was while in Ypsilanti he reached his peak in engineering design, producing more than 70 items for Patent.

September 21st - William Gardner Shipman, an honored Civil War Veteran, says: "I have been using Elijah McCoy's Patent Lubricating Cup for some time and pronounce it the very best Lubricating Cup I have ever used. They will be manufactured and sold in this City by McCoy and Hamlin". Shipman was an Engineer with Edwards, McKinstry and Van Cleeve.

1872

October 10th - the Seventh Annual Reunion of the Twentieth Michigan Infantry was held in Jackson, Michigan. About sixty members of the old Regiment were present.

The following Ypsilanti Veterans were elected: William Gardner Shipman, President; Secretary and Treasurer, Clark S. Wortley. John W. Wise and A.A. VanCleve to the Executive Committee. The Mortuary Committee reported that there have been no deaths among the members of the Regiment during the past year.

November 16th: from The Commercial: The new Fourth Ward School at the corner of Oak Street and Cemetery (Prospect) is now in full running order. Constructed by Herschel Goodspeed. It is a two story brick building, divided to turn into four rooms and cost \$3566.50.

Miss Emma Barr is in charge of the West Room on the first floor, Miss Mary Holbrook, the East room and Miss Drury is temporarily in charge of the West room on the second floor.

December 21st - The big fancy Band Wagon, owned by the City, has been sold at Auction by D.W. Thompson, City Marshall.

There were twenty divorces in Washtenaw County in 1872.

Winnipeg University in Manitoba, Canada, was founded in 1871 but in 1818 the Dalhousie University was founded in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada; McGill University in Montreal, Quebec and in 1857 The University of Windsor. All of them founded while Canada was known as 'Great Britain of North America'.

(to be continued)

## NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

On December 16th it snowed and sleeted - and for the first time it looked as though there would be no one at the Historical Societies' Annual All City Christmas party except the committee members. But soon the salt trucks got out and guests started to arrive! Most of the Christmas cookies disappeared, and we are very appreciative of those who contributed cookies. The spiced cranberry punch did disappear! Over one hundred guests admired the house decorations put up by Lavern and Katherine Howard and their Committee; the tree from Art Howard's farm and decorated by the Ypsilanti Garden Club, under Deci Howard's supervision, decorated in 'Danish' style; enjoyed talking to old friends and listened with pleasure to the youthful voices of the Junior Choir of the Methodist Church brought to the Museum by their Choir leader Sally Scheer. It was a friendly affair.

On January 28th forty-five ladies belonging to the Great Lakes Lace Association met here from ten in the morning until two in the afternoon with their President, Kathy Campbell. Some of the ladies came from as far away as; Farmington, Grosse Pte, Lansing, Troy and Monroe. They came to see our collection of laces, which were on display for them, and examine and discuss them they did! They were very impressed not only with our laces but with our Museum as well.

The Special Exhibits for January-February were the candlestick collection belonging to Mr. & Mrs. Max Oberneyer, Jr. and the Hour Glass Collection belonging to Mrs. Richard Fairfield.

The March Special Exhibits will be plate collections loaned to us by Miss Doris Milliman, Mrs. David Gauntlett and Mr. Foster L. Fletcher.

### WARD SWARTS MEMORIAL FUND -

With the purchase of THE ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES OF EARLY AMERICA we feel that a most fitting memorial has been found for our famous, talented member Ward Swarts. The eight volumes are being purchased from the Fund set up by Ward's many friends. Four of the eight books have been delivered to us and are in the bookcase in the front room. They are: EARLY HOMES OF MASSACHUSETTS; COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE IN MASSACHUSETTS; COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE IN NEW ENGLAND and EARLY HOMES OF RHODE ISLAND. These may be examined at the Museum but not borrowed.

Sixty-four authors, photographers, and draftsmen, worked for twenty four years to assemble the original material

presented in these volumes.

Our Museum will be ever indebted to Ward and LaRea Swarts for their efforts in establishing our Museum.

#### BRADLEY M. HARRIS MEMORIAL FUND -

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hagler have given a gift of money with which to purchase a flowering tree for the lawn of the Museum in memory of Bradley M. Harris, F.D., who was one of the early Presidents of the Historical Society and a long time Chairman of the Historical Commission of Ypsilanti.

Several years ago the Haglers gave a gift of a flowering Dogwood in memory of Mildred Harris who had a great interest in our Museum and was the first Chairman of the Administration Committee.

#### A CONTEST -

A chance to write your Ypsilanti memoirs of Holiday or other events! A writing contest for folks sixty five and over! Put your memories of life in Ypsilanti on paper and win a prize in this writing contest.

The prize of \$25. for first; \$15. for second and \$10. for third is offered by friends of the Museum's Archives. Honorable mention to five or more in the opinion of the Judges.

Entries should be typewritten, if possible, and mailed to the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 North Huron, Ypsilanti 48197, before May 1st 1980.

#### COME TO THE FAIR ---

The Seventh Annual Pioneer Crafts Fair will be held in the Dexter High School Gym, 2615 Baker Road, Dexter from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 15th. Artists and craftsmen will all be demonstrating techniques used during the pioneer day way of life. Many will be selling their creations. Lunch will be available. Admission by Donations: Adults \$1.00; Grades 9-12 50¢, Grades 1-8 Free.

#### PERHAPS YOU FORGOT - - -

If you have forgotten - 1980 dues for the Historical Society are due. \$5.00 per family, \$3.00 single membership and \$10.00 Contributing. Dues should be sent to:

Mr. Fred Peters  
1206 Westmoorland  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197



## A REVIEW OF SOME EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM IN 1979

### JANUARY

At the Annual Meeting Herbert Cornish and William Riccobono were re-elected to the Board and Rene Burgess and Stanley Harbison elected as new members. Jim Westfall entertained with his humorous talk of off-beat memories of Ypsilanti. At the organization meeting of the Board Herbert Cornish was elected President and William Riccobono Vice President with Dorothy Disbrow continuing as Secretary and Fred J. Peters as Treasurer.

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum was host to many visitors, some coming from as far away as Caracas Venezuela, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, Boca Raton Florida, Seattle Washington, Fayetteville North Carolina, and of course Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.

A special display of old fashioned Christmas cards was carried over from December.

### FEBRUARY

It was during this month that we attended the third Annual meeting of the State of Michigan Black Sites organization, followed by a dinner at the Grainery, hosted by General Motors. A.P. Marshall spoke at the dinner on the early history of Blacks in Ypsilanti.

Vans, courtesy of Ford Motor, brought the group to the Museum to see the displays arranged by Nathalie Edmunds and others. An Important and unusual event to be long remembered.

At the General meeting Mrs. Ruth Reynolds spoke on "Victorian Costuming Throughout the Day" using clothing from our collection as display.

Diane Anderson entranced 110 youngsters with her 'how to make Valentines'. Display cases were full of quaint and antique Valentines from our collection.

There were guests during the month from Windsor Ontario, Moorehead Kentucky, Washington D.C., Lakeland Florida, Leicester England, Lansing, Detroit and other Michigan cities. Also the Ypsilanti Garden Club met at the Museum.

### MARCH

For the General Meeting the "Sweet Adelines" of Ann Arbor entertained with their songs and also led the many guests in a 'sing-a-long'.

Jane Bird and Esther Ensign demonstrated Easter Egg decorating. Esther does an elaborate panoramic type egg and Jane decorates her eggs with material in a style most unusual.

## MARCH

Visitors came from Kalamazoo, Buffalo New York, Interlocken, Toledo and elsewhere.

## APRIL

At this month's General Meeting Ivor Schmidt told the interesting history of Schmidt's Antiques.

Frank C. Wilhelm was at our meeting representing the State of Michigan Historical Society, honoring four Ypsilanti places of business which have existed for 100 years or more. Special Citations were given to Atwood McAndrew for Mack and Mack, the Clarence Goodsmans and William Stevens for Mellencamps,, the B.P. Koerbers and the Jerry Goodings for the National Bank of Ypsilanti, and Edward Gremban for Peninsular Paper Company.

Norma Cichanski entertained at the Special Events program with her talk on the History of Herbs and cooking with them.

Visitors came from Hayworth New Jersey, Austria, Kansas City Missouri, Williamsburg Virginia, Maybee, Manistique and many other Michigan cities.

## MAY

A large group from the Adams School came to learn more about the old 4th Ward School. A class from Eastern interested in Folklore toured the Museum and a second group to see our quilt and clothing collection. Three adults and twenty-two youngsters from the Fletcher School and fifty-six children, and teachers, from Ardis School visited the Museum.

Annual Society picnic at the rural home of Grace and Herbert Cornish. Marvelous food and a lovely affair.

## JUNE

Thirty students from the Chapelle School were given a special tour of the Museum. Questions were sensible and all seemed very interested in Ypsilanti History. Eighteen children from Mrs. Robert Hunt's First Grade from the Willow Run schools. Don't know just what goes on in a first grader's mind!

Special information was requested and given about the old days of the Railroad Station area, the history of the old City Hall, former residence of D.L.Quirk, and the Ladies' Library building.

The Special exhibit was that of antique ink wells. This fabulous collection was loaned to the Museum by Mrs. James Baker.

Visitors from Lexington Kentucky, Texas, Portland Oregon, Grosse Ile and many other Michigan towns.

## JULY

Rene Burgess her children and their friends built a "Year of the Child" float for the American Legion July 4th Parade, winning third place in their division. The trophy they won is on display at the Museum.

We were busy preparing for the Ypsilanti Yesterday Festival.

The Special Exhibits were the most interesting collection of antique bottles loaned by Mrs. John Kirkendall and large and beautiful pitchers from Foster Fletcher and miniature pitchers loaned by Mrs. Carl Miller, some no larger than a finger nail.

Visitors from Rochefort-on-Valdaine France, Karachi Pakistan, and Leicester and London England.

## AUGUST

Visitors from East Haven Vermont, Silver Springs Maryland, Apache Junction Arizona, Ironwood Michigan and McKeesport Pennsylvania.

The Ann Arbor Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild came for a meeting and a tour.

Ypsilanti Yesterday Festival - August 24, 25 and 26th - -  
The Museum was delighted to be over-whelmed with visitors, more than 2200 people toured the Museum and Ethel O'Connor, Museum Guide Director, had to call on every available guide

Rene Burgess and her helpers made a new float for the Festival Parade and the float, a model of an old house, was on display on the lawn for the Festival Days.

A collection of sea shells and one of model boats were loaned by Mrs. Donald Disbrow, Mr. Phil Wheeler and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J Howard for the Special Exhibits.

## SEPTEMBER

An interesting group of Eastern Michigan University foreign students spent three hours touring, admiring and asking intelligent questions about early Ypsilanti and the Museum. Turkey, India, China, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Cameroon and Japan represented their source of origin. The State Department would have been proud of the warm friendly manner the guides, Ada Holmes, Mary Warner and Doris Millinan handled the group.

The Special Exhibit, at the Museum over six weeks, was a fascinating display of handmade Indian beadwork made by Mrs. Joyce Tinkham, a member of the Nishga Indian tribe. Each piece of bead work had a card explaining its use and directions for making it.

## OCTOBER

Thirty members of the University of Michigan Faculty Woman's Antique Group were given a special Museum tour by three special guides, Anne McCarthy, Doris Milliman and Dorothy Disbrow. The group were very generous in contributing to our Donation Cannister and later sent a handsome poinsettia plant to the Museum.

Seventeen members of Girl Scout Troup 432 visited the Museum. There were other visitors from Sedona Arizona, South Bend Indiana, Houghton and other Michigan cities.

This was the month when we had our Annual Dinner. One hundred and fifty-six attended the roast beef dinner at St. John's Catholic Church and heard our member Charles Hagler tell all about the moving of the old Ezra Lay house from East Michigan Avenue to its present location and revitalization on Berry Road. A tremendous undertaking, thoroughly documented and illustrated.

The Special Exhibit for October-November was that of the vast collection of lovely laces owned by the Museum. This display was prepared and set-up by Mrs. Ruth Reynolds and Mrs. Mrs. Robert Campbell.

## NOVEMBER

Six teen students from Eastern Michigan's Home Economics Department spent time admiring the Museum with special attention to our collection of splendid old coverlets.

Warren and Habel Johnson, Port Clinton Ohio, and close friends of our member, Ruth Boughner, spent an interesting time in the Museum and Archives. The Johnsons are very much interested and involved in a new Museum in Port Clinton where they have something we do not have - a lighthouse!

## DECEMBER

Arthur J Howard brought a handsome tree for our Christmas tree "in the parlour" and Deci Howard and members of the Ypsilanti Garden Club made the "Danish" decorations for it. LaVern and Katherine Howard and their Committee, Doris Milliman and Lynda Hohlbrook decorated the rooms.

Arthur J had managed to get our new Museum outside sign installed so that every thing was prepared for a large attendance at our Annual Christmas Party but the weather did not cooperate. Rain changing to sleet prevented many attending - but more than one hundred came and enjoyed the singing of the Junior Choir of the Methodist Church.

The Special Exhibit for December was the beautiful display of antique dolls loaned to us by some of the residence of the Gilbert Residence and arranged by Mrs. Katherine Carstens and her daughter. Mrs. Bancroft Brien generously allowed us to display her charming collection of Bavarian china doll cishes.

## DECEMBER

Eleven young ladies from Brownie Scout Troop 120 visited the Museum. Other visitors came from Iowa, Lakewood Florida and far away Argentina.

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Total attendance through the year 1979 was close to 4,000.

Ethel O'Connor has been the Chairlady of the "Scheduling Committee" for our Guide Program since the Museum was first opened in 1970. Not only does she make up the "Volunteer Guide Schedule" but she also conducts Guide orientation programs and has charge of getting guides to conduct tours for special groups who do not come in on our regular Museum 'open' days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Some of our guides have been faithful workers since 1970.

The guides for 1979 were: Miss Hazel Stitt, Mrs. Edmund Block, Mrs LaVern Kelly, Mrs Lillian Nissly, Miss Gertrude Murray, Mrs. M. Benson, Mrs. R. Campbell, Mrs Perry Thomas, Mrs. C. Osborn, Mrs. R. Shelley, Mrs J. Ervin, Mrs.R.Binder, Mrs.J. Fitzharris, Mrs. C. Birleson, Miss M. Kilpatrick, Mrs. B. Wheeler, Miss Ethel O'Connor, Mrs. H. Jordan, Mrs. Ann Hatch, Mrs. C. Parsons, Mrs.R. Brown, Miss H.M.Wallace, Mrs. R. Pate, Mrs. R. Southgate, Miss D. Milliman, Miss Lucille Langworthy, Mrs.D.O.Gilmore, Miss Ada Holmes, Mrs. Esther Ensign, Mrs. N. Wood, Mrs.D. Orbits, Mr. Wm. Riccobono, Mr.& Mrs E. Morrison, Mrs. R. Warner, Mr. & Mrs W.Graubner, Mrs.L.M. Philbin, Mr. & Mrs.Earl Studt, Mrs. A. Hanna, Miss E. Harrison, Mrs.O.B. Spratt, Mrs. Hazel Thayer, Mr. Wm. McCarthy, Mr. & Mrs.F. Burgess, Mr. David McGaffin.

We thank each and every one of them for their dedicated volunteer service to the Museum.

A CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS - -

BRISTOL, Hubert, Mr. & Mrs.  
14 Segovia Drive  
Hot Springs Village  
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

BURGESS, Lanee Dara  
5065 Bosuns B-4  
Ypsilanti  
Smeaton, Robert W.  
5065 Bosuns B-4  
Ypsilanti

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Doris Milliman  
Ypsilanti

THE NEW RIAL WINDOWS - Brief description of the Memorial windows in the Sanctuary of the First United Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti.

A.P. Marshall  
Ypsilanti

SOUVENIR PROGRAM - honoring Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bass, Dec 8, 1979.

Mr. & Mrs. Courtland  
D. Snidecor  
Ypsilanti

Three antique glass pieces- 2 amethyst vases and 1 vasoline perfume bottle.

Mr. & Mrs. D. Wardell  
Ypsilanti

Three cakes of "Sal Mineralis Sapon" soap from "Atlantis" Mineral Well Co., found in house at 213 N. Huron.

Mr. Arthur J Howard  
Ypsilanti

1855 Moore Family account books. Eli Way Moore operated a saw mill and manufactured agricultural implements-

Mrs. Merle Hatch  
(formerly of Ypsilanti)

Trunk used by grandfather of Mr. Hatch all through the war and imprisonment at Andersonville prison. W.W. I. uniform and war items used by Merle Hatch. Clothing from Mrs. Hatch's family and books.

A Friend

NORMAL COLLEGE NEWS (bound) from 1911 to 1940, photographs, and other material concerning Ypsilanti bussiness houses.

A Friend

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY YEAR BOOK (Wolverine) 1947 - EASTERN MICHIGAN "AURORA" 1967

Mrs. Richard Skinner  
Ypsilanti

Plaid grograin dress, velvet trimmed belonging to Mrs. Plinny Skinner - 1890 period

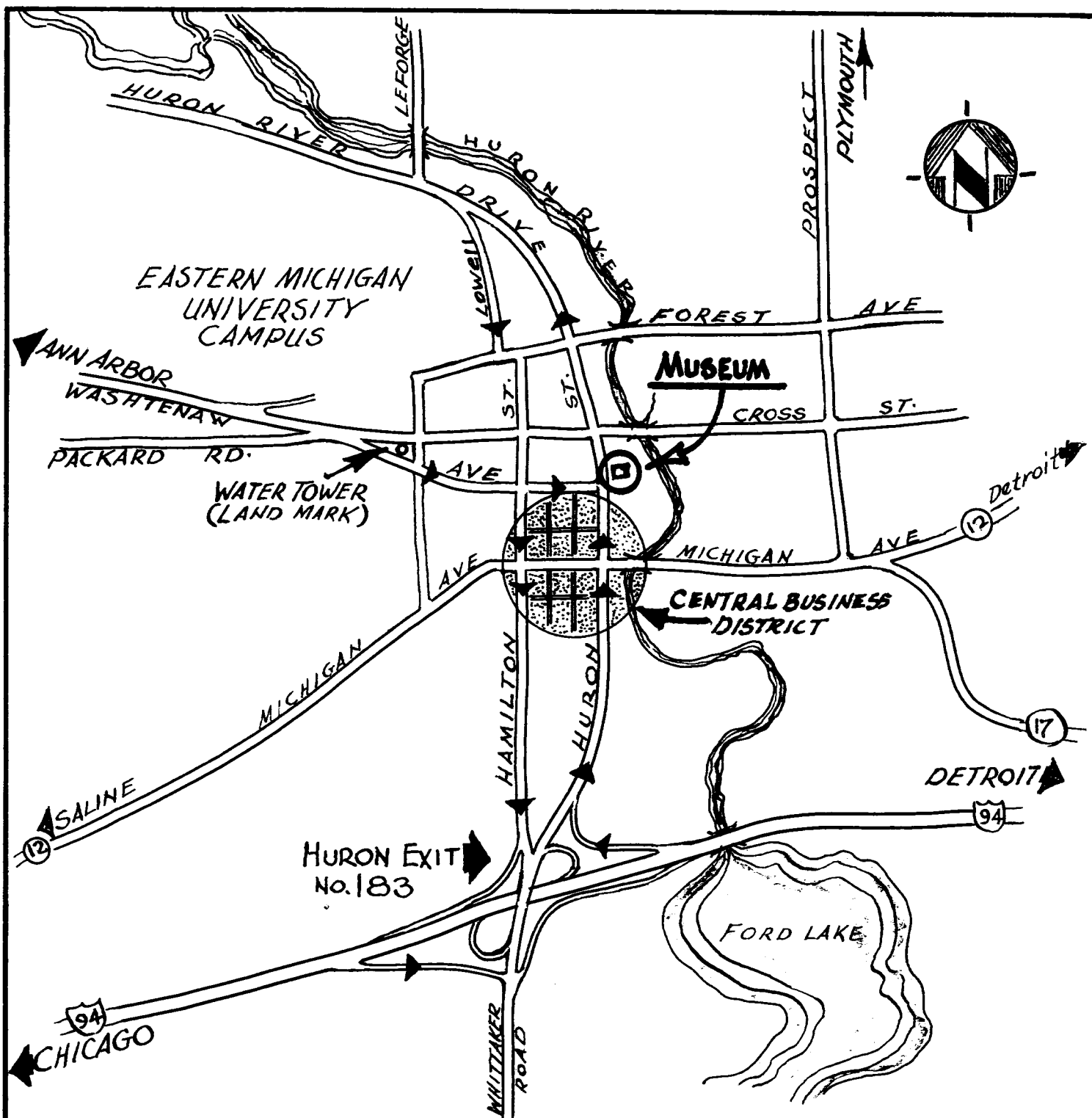
Acquisitions (continued)

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|---|---|
| Mrs. Ralph McDonald<br>Ypsilanti              | 1880 Bible belonging to Mr. Samuel Parsons and given to Mr. McDonald by Mrs. Parsons.   |
| Mr. George Campbell<br>Ann Arbor              | Copies of postals of old Gymnasium at Eastern Michigan - destroyed in 1950s and of old Cleary College, Adams & Michigan, torn down in 1960s. Historical material on First National Bank of Ypsilanti. |
| Mrs. Jack Weis<br>Ypsilanti                   | Trunk, fans, clothing, linens, table cloths, etc., belonging to the family of the late Joseph Warner.   |
| Mr. James Westfall<br>Ypsilanti               | THE FIRST LADIES, biography of President's wives, 2 photographs of Gas Storage tanks at 602 N. Huron- torn down about 1950.   |
| Mrs. Wm. Ely<br>Ypsilanti                     | Photograph of Methodist Church Junior Chor-taken at the All City Historical Society Christmas party, Dec. 1979.   |
| Miss Evangeline Lewis<br>Ypsilanti            | Wig to be used for mannequin  |
| Mr. Richard Boatright<br>Manchester, Michigan | Blueprint plan of Willow Run Plant (undated)- 80th Anniversary book of Peninsular Paper Company 1867-1947   |
| Mr. Kenneth MacDonald<br>Ypsilanti            | Wooden shoeless ice skates c. 1880-90 - lace curtains with beautiful medallion in center.   |
| Mr. A. P. Marshall<br>Ypsilanti               | Program- "Jaycees & Rotary '80 Follies" Jan. 1980   |

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And a Cordial welcome to these new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Ogden  
2020 Collegewood Drive  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197



Upsilanti Historical Museum  
 220 North Huron Street ~ Upsilanti-Michigan  
 Zip Code 48197 Phone (313) 482-4990  
 Foster Fletcher ~ Historian ~ Museum Hours ~  
 Dorothy Disbrow ~ Archivist Fri. Sat. & Sun. 2-4 PM.  
 Archives ~ By Appointment