

April 1981  
#31

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

## PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ PUBLICATION ~

April 1981



Ypsilanti Historical Museum  
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CITY OF YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
1 SOUTH HURON STREET  
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

March 19, 1981

Dear Friend:

Ypsilanti's great history began in 1809 when three French explorers -- Gabriel Godfroy, Romaine LaChambre and Francois Pepin -- established a trading post on the west bank of the Huron River, 100 yards north of the Old Sauk Trail (Michigan Avenue).

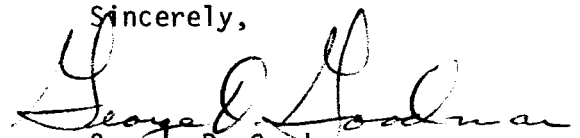
Their enterprise in laying out 2632 acres in 1811 for 4 French Claims is a splendid example to all generations to come.

The efforts of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, organized in 1960, have made us all aware of Ypsilanti's remarkable Heritage. Ypsilanti citizens as well as former residents of our area have become interested in the city's history and learning where their families fitted into scenes of the past.

Ypsilanti now has a fine Historical Museum at 222 N. Huron Street, expertly staffed by volunteers, which is visited every year by more and more people. The Society has a membership of more than 375 and publishes a quarterly known as "Gleanings".

If our Historical Museum is to continue to grow, we need continued financial support and additional family records, photos, diaries, letters and memorabilia.

Sincerely,

  
George D. Goodman  
Mayor

Mrs. Ada E. Holmes  
100 N. Huron St.  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

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GLEANINGS

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APRIL, 1981

Publication of the YPSILANTI  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Publisher of the Ypsilanti Commercial 1864-87  
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Letter from George P. Becker  
Mr. Becker, son of Charles and Julia, was born in  
the house at 601 West Forest Avenue.

Photo of Joseph H. Thompson and Spencer Davis  
in 1902 Motorette

NOTES from the Archives and Museum

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Cover illustrated by Arthur Howard

Contents of Gleanings may be reproduced if consent is  
received and credit given.

Author Note-- Charles Rich Pattison, who authored the  
genial history of Ypsilanti reprinted in part in this  
issue, was Editor-publisher of the Ypsilanti Commercial  
1864-87. Mr. Pattison came to Washtenaw County on May 3,  
1845, a graduate of Newton Theological Seminary and an  
ordained Baptist Minister.

He taught in district school 2 miles west of Ypsilanti  
on Chicago Road in the winter of 1846-47 and graduated  
from the University of Michigan in 1850.

Mrs. Pattison was Ellen Fry before her marriage, sister  
of Mrs. Lizzie Samson of Ypsilanti. Nine children were  
born to the Pattisons.

Mr. Pattison retired to Eustis, Florida in 1887 and  
died at Delant, Florida on February 1, 1908.

## YPSILANTI

### ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

(from Ypsilanti Commercial, May 23, 1874)

Our object in writing the present article is not to give a detailed history of the settlement and growth of Ypsilanti, but rather to show what advantages have been secured, and what still remain for the enterprising capitalist to come and develop. There is no question but that our city and vicinity afford us desirable, and in some respects better inducements, as any place in the State. But in order that what we have done may be known it has been thought best to briefly outline the settlement of the city, that thus a comparison may be made of its present condition with what it was but a few years since. The hope is also entertained that the little we shall have to say upon this subject may not prove uninteresting to the general reader.

### SETTLEMENT

For more than a century Detroit had been occupied as a point of much importance on the chain of Great Lakes, before any settlement had been made here. This, however, seems to have been a point of considerable interest to the native, for they had here an extensive burying ground; and a trail leading from Detroit to the West and upper lakes ran through this place, nearly on a line with the old Chicago Road. All the Indians occupying the extensive tract of land lying between lakes St. Clair and Erie, and those of the territory lying along the lake south and west, when going to the upper lakes, often passed through here. As they roamed through the forests they frequently made this a chief camping ground; and there is no doubt but the banks of the Huron have often witnessed all the varied rites of the social life of the red man.



Who can scarcely believe that three score and ten years have not yet gone by since Tecumseh passed through here endeavoring to incite the Indians to make a grand rally, and thus drive the whites to the east of the Alleghanies. Yet such is the case.

The first white men to settle here were Gabriel Godfrey, and his two companions Pepin and Le Shambre. These men in 1809 established a trading post for the purpose of barter with the Indians, near where the Arcade Block now stands (Arcade Block was 36 North Huron). For a long time the place was known as "Godfrey's on the Pottawattomic's trail". We state this fact for the special benefit of those people who have invented over forty ways of spelling Ypsilanti, in order to show them what they have escaped by the change in three names.

In 1811 these three men secured a patent from the Government for twenty-five hundred acres of land, which is known in the early surveys, and maps, as "The French Claim". For several years this venture of the traders proved profitable, but when the treaty was made by which the Indians were moved further west, their trade was lost, and the "post" declined in value until in 1820 it was wholly abandoned for trading purposes; the land, however, being retained.

During the year 1823 several families came up the Huron and settled about one mile southeast of the city, calling their settlement Woodruff's Grove, after the name of Major Woodruff who was one of the party. Captain Stitts, another member of the party, for two or three years ran a flat boat on the river for the benefit of the little settlement. The voyage down was easily made as the swift current provided all the motor required, but the poling-up was slow and tedious, still such commodities as were too heavy to be "packed" over the trail were brought in this way.

On the night of the 23rd of October, 1823, but little

more than fifty years ago, Mr. John Bryan gave his oxen to drink, for the first time, of the waters of the Huron. This was the first team ever driven through from Detroit; Mr. Bryan occupied four days in the passage, having been obliged to "cut his way". He was accompanied by his wife, who eight weeks after reaching here, gave birth to the first boy born\* in this county. In an account she wrote more than thirty years after, of the place as she found it, she says:

"It was amusing the first fall and winter to hear the corn-mills in operation every morning before daylight. There were two in the settlement. They were made as follows: A hole was burned in the top of a sound oak stump; after scraping this clean from coal, a stick about six feet long and eight inches in diameter, was rounded at one end and suspended by a spring-pole directly over the stump; a hole was bored through this pestle for handles, and the mill was done. A man would pound a peck of corn in half an hour so that half of it would pass through a sieve."

For nearly two years corn bread was almost the only bread used. The first mill ever erected here was built of logs, by Major Woodruff. Detroit at this time was the nearest point where grinding could be done, and the mills there were wind-mills.

In 1824, July 4th was, for the first time in the country observed as a gala day. The entire population of the county was present: the adults numbered about thirty souls. An ox was roasted, and "whiskey" was free to all who cared for it, and we are told that nearly all the men smiled several times during the day, yet no evidence can be brought today to prove that anyone, not even the chief,

\*The child born was Alva Washtenaw Bryan. A daughter was born to the Stitts a few hours later that night.

Blue Jacket, took a drop too much. Judge Robert Fleming presided at the table, and patriotic speeches were in order. We could make a goodly volume out of the incidents we have gathered concerning those days, from gray-headed men and women who were then the beaux and belles of the settlement. There are men now living with us who, as youngsters watched, or with their sinewy arms helped to work the "solid oak field-piece" which, on that first celebration of the National Independence did as well as metal cannon could have done, the honors devolving upon it.

"In the summer of 1825, Judge Woodward of Detroit, John Steward, and Wm. W. Howard brought the claim of Godfrey and his partners, and laid out a village on the west side of the river, and called it Ypsilanti. The reason for giving it this name may be stated in a few words. In 1821 the Greeks rebelled against Turkish rule, and chose Alexander, son of Constantine of the ancient family of the Ypsilanti as leader. In June of 1821 he was defeated, his army routed, and himself thrown into an Austrian prison. His brother, Demetrius, was now chosen as a military leader, who, as a semi-guerrilla warrior, displayed remarkable skill and bravery, holding in check with a handful of men, a large army under the command of Ibrahim Pasha, while the powers of Christian Europe, allied to put a stop to the cruel butcheries so constantly perpetrated by the Turks, were vanquishing the Turkish forces on the sea.

Such was the state of affairs, when in 1823 Henry Clay was re-elected to the House of Representatives, and warmly seconded the efforts of Daniel Webster, to secure the recognition on the part of our Government, of the Greeks as an independent nation. During this session of Congress Henry Clay made one of his soul-stirring speeches, which painted in vivid colors the cruelties sustained by the Greeks and the brave deeds wrought by Ypsilanti and his heroic followers, and this name, which had already

flown on the wings of fame over mountains and seas, by the aid of Clay's ringing tones, penetrated the wilderness, and when the little band of pioneers whose cheeks were still flushed with the victory we had so recently wrung from a would-be tyrant, had platted their village on the banks of the beautiful Huron, they showed their love and sympathy for these far away fellow patriots by giving it the name of the man who of all their number was best known to them; and to this day old men's eyes kindle with youthful fire whenever they recount the brutal murders perpetrated by the Turks and the brave deeds of the Greeks, with nearly the same vividness as when they tell of the days of 1812-13. They rehearse the stand made at the mills of Lerna almost as enthusiastically as they do the day when Perry struck so vigorous a blow for our nation's honor; and Ypsilanti is to them what it ought to be to all, a name fraught with historical interest. and to us who are citizens of this city it should be ever a bond of union.

Ypsilanti town was first attached to Wayne County, the officers and magistrates receiving their appointment from the Territorial Governor. In 1825, the Detroit and Chicago road was surveyed to this place and was "a hard road to travel," especially in the wet season of the year, for a long time.

"The first town meeting was held in the spring of 1827, fifty-nine votes were cast. Fr. Abel Millington was elected supervisor, and Asa Reading, Clerk. In 1828 a bounty was offered for the scalps of wolves and bears." In 1829 the good people concluded that there was a little too much drinking of whiskey for the good of the town and it was concluded to have less of the business done, but there seemed no need to waste the stock on hand, and it is said that the whole town turned out for a "jollification" prior to closing it out. This effort seems to have proved abortive, for in the winter of the same year we

find a missionary here reading Dr. Beecher's sermons on the "Use of Intoxicating Drinks," and organizing a temperance society, the first in the county. The first death, that of David Beverly was in 1824. The community does not appear to have been "over-righteous". The first public prayer in the county was made by Deacon Ezra Maynard in 1824, while he was passing through, on his way to settle near Ann Arbor. Sundays were prolific of evil rather than good. From 1830 and thereafter there were with more or less regularity religious services of some sort on the Sabbath. The first School was taught by Miss hope Johnson at Woodruff's Grove in 1826-27. The first school house was a 16 X 16 feet log building. The second one was the brick building now forming a part of the malt-house on Forest Avenue east. The first Sabbath school was held in July 1828. Fourteen children and five adults were present. No one could pray. Mr. E.H. Skinner read a chapter from the New Testament and the school "being divided into two classes, Mrs. Mark Norris took one and Mrs. Doolittle the other."

In 1830, Rev. I.M. Weed, a man noted among the early settlers, and who was for seventeen years the faithful pastor of the Presbyterian church made his home in this city.

During the spring of 1838 the Michigan Central Railroad ran the first train of cars that ever left Detroit from that place here. Gov. Mason, the governor of the newly created State, Hon. John D. Pierce who has so long resided here and who was then Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commissioner Wells and the other State officers together with the members of the Legislature then in session were invited by the officers of the road to make the trip. An ambitious Quaker of Battle Creek was eager to run the train as engineer, and being permitted brought the party out in good shape, but on the return burned out the flues

of his engine, thereby compelling the entire party to make the last two miles of the homeward trip on foot, and causing the company an expense of five hundred dollars for repairs. What a wonderful change between that first "run" of a passenger train through the dense forest then standing between here and Detroit, and the hundreds of trains which today rush in all directions from Detroit through the State and Canada! And yet the world is scarcely thirty-seven years older than it then was.

In 1838 Benjamin Follett a man of large enterprise and who did more than any other one man to build up the city came to Ypsilanti.

In early days the frontier settlements were often made places of resort by the worst class of people, who, having committed a crime in one locality, would move to a more distant settlement. For the punishment of such characters, the law seems to have been wholly inadequate, and the people were obliged to unite for self-protection, hence it was that in 1838 the "Ypsilanti Vigilance Society" was organized. Several citizens still living here were among its members. It was confidently expected that the best citizens had in every case been selected for the work to be done by the society, but when the various committees had been appointed after the organization of the society, it was found that some of the worst rogues in the community had been chosen to ferret themselves out. That need for such an organization existed is proved from the fact that during the first year of its existence over one hundred criminals were arrested, and many hundreds of dollars worth of stolen property recovered. Thus much may we say of the history of our city--more would be foreign to our subject.

#### CHURCHES

The citizen points with pride to our churches. Few cities of our population can boast of a larger attendance

upon Divine worship.

Methodist--In point of age, the Methodist Society stands first. The present building was erected in 1844, but was enlarged and greatly improved in 1868. The property of the church is located at the corner of Washington and Ellis Streets, and is worth about \$20,000. Rev. J.M. Fuller is pastor, and the present membership is three hundred.

The African M.E. Church Society has a commodious house of worship on Adams Street. It is in a flourishing condition, having about eighty members. Rev. A. T. Hall, pastor.

Presbyterian--The Presbyterian is the second church society in regard to age. The present church building, situated on Washington Street, was dedicated in '57. It is of brick, and is 55 X 96 feet, with a lecture room in the rear 23 X 50 feet. The spire is one hundred sixty-two feet high. The property belonging to the society is worth \$30,000. Rev. Geo. P. Tindall is pastor having been called to the position in 1863. The present church membership is four hundred fifty.

Episcopal--The third church organization in the place was the Episcopal. The building which the society now occupies was built in 1857. It is a fine brick structure, situated on Huron Street--Rev. Jahn A. Wilson, the present pastor has faithfully served his people since 1847, over a quarter of a century. The property, including parsonage, is worth \$30,000.

Baptist--The Baptist Society was organized in 1836. The present building was erected in 1850, and was enlarged and improved in 1865. It is 40 X 80 feet with a large basement used for prayer and lecture room. The property, situated on the corner of Cross and Washington Streets, is worth \$15,000. The society recently re-

solved to build a brick edifice, the initiatory cost to be \$30,000. Rev. J.S. Boyden is pastor, and the number of members is three hundred forty-seven.

The Colored Baptist Society occupies a Chapel on High Street, belonging to the First Baptist Church. Rev. Caleb A. Lamb is pastor, and the society is in a thriving condition.

Catholic--The church and other property of the Catholic Society is situated on Cross Street, and is worth about \$23,000. The buildings, save one, are of brick. The church was erected in 1856 and is 36 X 100 feet. Father Murray is pastor. The congregation numbers about one thousand. The school numbers one hundred fifty pupils.

Lutheran--This society occupies a church of its own on Congress Street. Rev. Mr. Matschert is pastor, and the membership is about one hundred eighty.

### SCHOOLS

One of the most interesting portions of the history of Ypsilanti is that of its schools. In very early times, the place was noted for its excellence in this direction and as early as 1842-3 people desiring good teachers came here to find them. The men and women who did the labor necessary to produce this state of affairs are for the most part living among us. Some of our younger readers may be surprised to learn that as early as 1837, Chauncey Joslin commenced to "hew out his fortune" by teaching in the district school of the village. Mr. C. Woodruff, now editor of the Sentinel also taught Greek and Latin in Mr. Landreth's Classical School, to which the young men whom the broken-up branches of the University had let loose, came for instruction. Afterward he conducted the school on his own account. The large brick hotel erected where the Seminary now stands,



(NW corner of Cross and Washington) the terminus of a railroad projected from this city to Adrian, was purchased by Rex. J.H. Moore, who established a seminary under the principalship of Prof. Eaton, a fine scholar and teacher (now deceased), but whose name and virtues are enshrined in the hearts of many of our citizens, at that time his pupils. Rev. Mr. Tindall was for a time an efficient assistant. Time was when Mrs. Mark Norris felt that the children of the place must have better instruction than could be got from the meagre facilities afforded them and opened a "select school" in her own house. We could name others who are not recognized as teachers now who have taught--and that successfully--in our schools. E.J. Mills, A.C. Blodget, C.R. Pattison, Mrs. Estabrook, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Blackman, and Mrs. Webb, are among the number. In 1849 the present public schools were organized under a special act of the Legislature authorizing the Board to "adopt any system of schools it saw fit which would not conflict with the school laws of the State. Then was the intelligence of our citizens manifested. The seminary building was bought of Mr. Moore and the pioneer Union School of Michigan was established. Prof. Estabrook was secured for principal in 1853, and remained for nearly fifteen years. The good this school did for other towns prior to a more general establishing of similar schools is too well known to need repetition here. It has graduates far and near who can speak for it. At present there are employed by the Board, at an annual expense of about \$10,000 eighteen teachers. The high school building was erected in 1857 and is 46 X 95 feet, with two wings each 37 X 69 feet. The building is three stories and basement, the first story being twenty feet high, the second and third each fifteen feet high. It is equalled but by one school building in the State. The building in the Fifth Ward is two stories and basement,

and is built of brick, and is large and commodious. In addition, there is a school for colored children which differs from the other schools in naught save color. The building is of brick; the same course of study is followed as in the other school and just as efficient teachers are employed.

Many of our citizens have come here for no other purpose than that of educating their children, but owing to the peculiar advantages the place affords for beautiful and yet not expensive residences, have remained permanently, and others are following the example of these.

Tuition to residents is free, and non-residents are required to pay only a small fee for incidental expenses.

Normal School--On the west side of the river, at the head of Cross Street, are the buildings of the State Normal School. The central building was erected in 1851-2, in accordance with an act of the Legislature passed in 1849. The citizens of Ypsilanti and vicinity, besides the ground gave \$13,000 toward its erection. It is of brick, 58 X 100 feet, and three stories above basement. It was dedicated to its peculiar uses October 5th, 1852. The building at the left was erected in 1865, and is used as a Model School. It is built of brick and is three stories high. The school employs a corps of twelve professors and instructors, besides the aid it derives from its pupil-teachers, by whom the work in the Model School is largely done. Prof. Daniel Putnam superintends this department.

A.S. Welch, President of the Iowas Agricultural College, was Principal of the school during the first thirteen years of its existence. He was followed by Prof. D.P. Mayhew, at present a member of the State Board of Education. In 1871, Mr. Mayhew retired from

the position, and Prof. J. Estabrook, who now fills the position, was elected to the Principalship.

The school has graduated more than four hundred trained teachers. In addition to its graduates, it has sent forth an army of young men and women who have instilled into the primary schools of this and neighboring States the intelligent enthusiasm and love of a higher education which they received while here.

Tuition is free, a small fee for incidental expenses only being charged.

Thus it will be seen that Ypsilanti still offers, as it did in earlier days, when it stood forth as the pioneer school town of Michigan, the most favorable opportunity for acquiring a thorough and liberal education.

NOTE--For instruction in both vocal and instrumental music, Ypsilanti offers the best of opportunities. It has long been known as the home of some of the best musical talent to be found, and its teachers in both departments cannot well be surpassed. Vocal music is taught as a branch of study both in the State Normal and in the public schools. Instruction in instrumental music can be had upon reasonable terms and from the best masters.

Since 1868 there has been constantly growing in our midst a love for oil painting which has developed into a good degree of excellence. Able teachers have given such valuable instruction, and have found such apt pupils as to already furnish regular instructors to those seeking aid in this direction.

This fascinating early history of Ypsilanti will be continued, due to its length, in the next Gleanings.

This old letter from George P. Becker has so many Ypsilanti names in it as well as State and National people -- Mike Rice, the Methodist Minister in Detroit, James Melton, tenor with the Metropolitan Opera, Gene Goldkett who owned the Greystone Ballroom in Detroit managed several dance bands and recorded for RCA.

Lewis James was born in Dexter, Michigan and the family moved to Ypsilanti about 1905. He went on to become a member of "The Revilers", retiring from singing in 1934 to become Musical Director of WGN, the radio station owned by the Chicago Tribune.

George Becker, son of Charles and Julia Becker, was born in the house at 601 West Forest Avenue. This is the house with a history that has fascinated a number of people. George reports that when his father bought the house he thought it ordinary and added the tower and made other changes to make it more attractive.



June 22, 1973

Dear Fletch,

I was born in Ypsilanti September 19, 1891. I was graduated from the Ypsilanti High School in 1910. I entered MSNC (now called EMU) and was graduated from there with a B.S. and what was called a "Life Certificate to Teach". I took this to the U of M and entered there and was graduated in 1916 with an A.B.

During my High School days in Ypsi, some of my classmates were as follows: Roy and George Parsons, Lenord DO'ooge, Barry & Percy Colvin, Joe Thompson, Leo Whitemire, Alfred Wortley, Mary & Walter James, Mary Lambie, Marie Goetz, Laura & Eva Proctor, and Anna Allen.

The High School male quartette was composed of Lenord DO'ooge, Roy Parsons, Lewis James and myself. This quartette traveled "very extensively!" We sang in Belleville, Milan, Saline, Manchester and Pontiac (incidentally, I sang the tenor role in the cantata called "The Rose Maiden" three years in succession. in the later town).

I sang all during my college days in the U of M Glee Club, but mostly in Detroit with the Gene Goldkett orchestra. Then at Temple Bethel for four years -- and the Metropolitan Methodist Church with Mike Rice for another three years. Radio was just coming in and our church mixed quartette sang over WJJ several times, and I had a commercial program twice a week for one-half hour on WJR for the Orie Bakery. The same day I was graduated from the U of M, I went to Kansas City and joined an older well-known male quartette which had a long list of engagements including the Red Path Chautauqua Circuit for that entire summer.

You mentioned in your letter about Lewis James, and I want to say that he was one of the finest chaps that I have ever known. He had a beautiful tenor voice, but he was plagued constantly with mental quirks and phobias. He was a friend of Jimmie Melton's -- and Lewis and Jimmie were in Chicago at a downtown club when I was at the Palmer House. I called Lewis and he came over and had dinner with me and spent the evening. The last time I saw him was in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, several years later. He was in good spirits, but terribly crippled with arthritis -- in a wheel chair -- and attended by Leah.

I was married in 1920 to Doris Crier of Standish, Michigan. She attended one year at MSNC. We lived in Detroit, and for 15 years I was with Whitehead and Kales Company. Then we moved back to Ypsi, and I bought out Mel Lewis in the Michigan Ladder Company. I retired when I was 65, and sold my stock to Art Misly's son, Bob.

If you come to Florida, be sure to call me and we can have dinner together. Joe Thompson, Jeff Silkworth and Carl Johnson live nearby.

My general health is pretty good, although I cannot remember names or where I park my car any more!

I have not been in Ypsi for over 4 years, so I am looking forward to being there possibly next year.

Cordially,

George P. Becker (signed)  
(con't)

letter from George Becker con't.

P.S. While at the U of M, I studied vocal with William Howland of the School of Music there. As I recall, Lew James studied in Ypsi with Marshall Pease and coached a little with Fred Alexander. I did a lot of solo and Male Q. for several Masonic Bodies including Detroit Commandary and Consistory. In Ypsi, 2 years Congregational and 2 years Methodist Churches.

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PLEASE NOTE.....

In the calendar you will see a reminder of Peter Fletcher's talk, "An Assortment of Ancestors", scheduled for April 12th. When we realized Gleanings would not reach you in time, a special notice was mailed to the membership.

The turnout was large on a rainy Sunday and the speaker in "fine fettle" as he detailed parallels in his own modern lifestyle to the endeavors of his Ancestors. Mr. Fletcher, first reflecting on his father's expertise as City Historian, went on to trace the chromosomal links to his profession (Ypsilanti Credit Bureau), his politics (Republican), his religion (Methodist) and even his bachelorhood. It was an entertaining and witty presentation of early Ypsilanti anecdotes spiced with clever verbosity!



## CALENDAR

APRIL 12th  
2 - 4 PM

Peter Fletcher, Member of the Board of Regents, Michigan State University, local businessman and member of our Historical Society.

Topic: "An Assortment of Ancestors"

Place: Ypsilanti Historical Museum

May 17th  
3 - 5 PM

Nathalie Edmunds, City Councilwoman and member of our Historical Society.

Topic: 1980 Heritage Festival  
(Nathalie is Chairman of the 1981 Heritage Festival)

Place: Ladies Literary Club



January 30th

Mary Manning, coordinator for Project Transition, and a group of residents from Share House toured the Museum. Doris Milliman, LaVerne Howard and Rene Moran were special guides for the afternoon and they were delighted to see the special interest in Jacob Thumm's arrowhead collection, one of the largest in Michigan. Jacob ranged as far south as Belleville along the Huron River in his searching. Ypsilanti was at the intersection of great Indian trails - the Sauk and the Pottawotomie - and a rich source for artifacts.



FEBRUARY 3rd

Dottie Disbrow and Foster Fletcher escorted Cub Scout Pack 232 Den #4 on a trip into Ypsilanti's past. Jean Nelson was the leader accompanying the group. The special display of Washington and Lincoln historical panoramas from the DAR clothespin doll collection caught their imagination in this wonderful month of birthdays.

Notes from the MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES con't



February 8th



One of the highlights of the year is the Sunday each year before Valentine's Day when the children of Ypsilanti are invited to the Museum to craft their own valentines. Doilies, ribbons, laces, red hearts and poetry were all disbursed along with help, when needed, by Linda Hahlbrock, Ann McCarthy and Rene Moran



February 22nd

The new and thriving Ypsilanti Postcard Club met at the Museum from 6:30 to 9:30. Foster Fletcher and Sharon Patterson welcomed the members to the Museum while Judy and Terry Towler hosted the meeting itself. It is interesting to see the extent of the collections and how the history of our city is reflected in postcards. The Archives has some fine examples of early photo in the collection and they were of special interest to the membership.



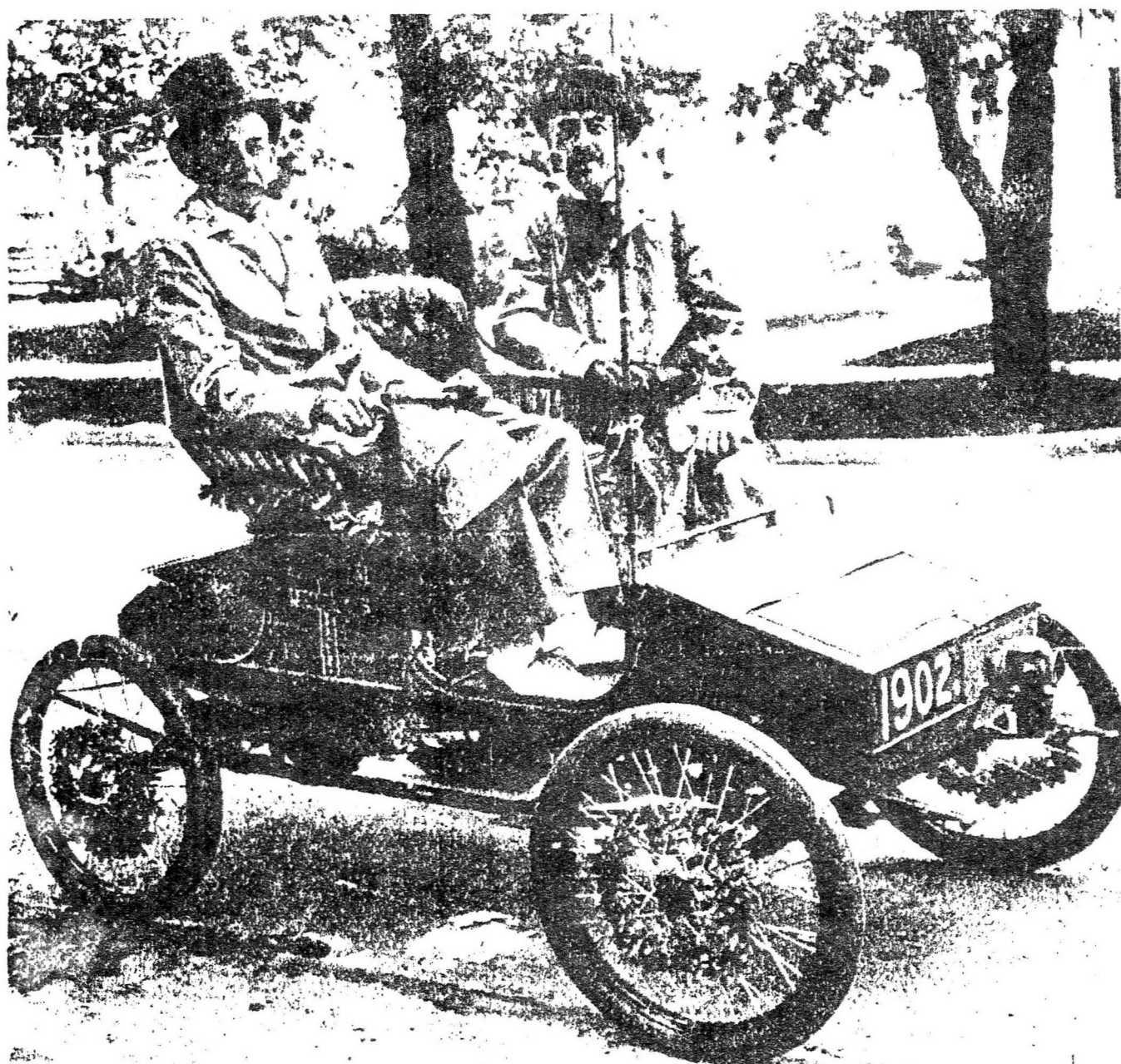
ARCH 15th

The March meeting of the Ypsilanti Historical Society was entrallled with John Harriman, former Director of Programming at the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Historical Museum. His slide presentation of the reconstruction of this early Fort and the men and women who reconstruct life at the Fort for the thousands of yearly visitors was intriguing. Each person totally adapts the character they portray and dress, speech, and lifestyle are accurately portrayed. The meeting was well-attended and certainly enjoyed by all!

The Museum has had a host of visitors from throughout the State these last few weeks. Our guides have graciously given of their afternoons to make their trip a valuable one indeed, and citizens of Hartland, Westland, Battle Creek, Dearborn, Plymouth, Pinkney, Detroit, Belleville and Haslett have been some of our guests.







EVERYTHING IS JUST DANDY when Joseph H. Thompson dons his motoring togs and dashes through the streets of Ypsilanti in this 1902 model called the Motorette. Years ago this little car made a trip from Lockport, N. Y., to Michigan under its own power, and it still chugs along the highways when the occasion demands. Spencer Davis is the assistant engineer, standing at right.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Floyd B. Walls  
Ypsilanti, MI

The Road That Led To Somewhere by  
Dr. Bryan E. Walls

4 copies of a map of the Underground railroad.

Gordon and Virginia  
Cahours  
Ypsilanti, MI

Polk's Ypsilanti City Directories 1929, 1930, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1948, 1951, 1954, 1955, and 1957. From the estate of Frank Blaha, father of Virginia.

Wystan Stevens  
Ann Arbor, MI

Report cards of Lena Warner, Ypsilanti Ypsilanti Seminary student 1872, 1873.

Confirmation certificate of Maria Magdalena Werner, dated Sept, 1858 at Ypsilanti. In German.

Cabinet Card of unidentified man. Photographer J.J. Stephenson, Ypsilanti.

Copy of the Advisor of Washtenaw County dated December 19, 1973.

Copy of The Ypsilanti Advisor dated February 4, 1974.

Copy of Ypsilanti Arts Council "News and Views" dated April/May, 1980.

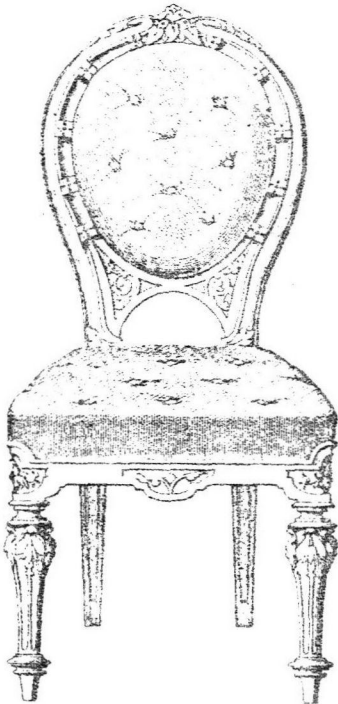
Photograph and data sheet on United States Post Office, Ypsilanti, MI at 229 West Michigan (now City Library).

Men of Progress sketches of Thomas Birkett, Daniel Lace Quirk, and Mark Norris. Copies of originals Detroit Evening News Anns, 1900.

Five 8 X 10 glossies. 1 Ypsilanti Township Tax Review 1980, Ford Lake Heights 1980, Idea Home--Solar, Heritage Festival 1980--Looking East on Cross St., Black Parade--Ypsilanti Eddie Edwards-Marshall.

Mr. Peter Fletcher  
Ypsilanti, MI

Invitation to the Inauguration, the Reception, the Inaugural Ball, the Dinner and the Gala of Ronald Wilson Reagan as President of the United States of American.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS con't

Thomas Dodd  
Ypsilanti, MI

Calling Card Collection of Rachel Catherine Sowens, b. August 17, 1878. Grandmother of Thomas Dodd. (a scrap-book).

Foster Fletcher  
Ypsilanti, MI

Three pair leather baby shoes, button-hook. One pair of leather baby shoes, laced. Two angora baby caps. White lawn baby cap with shadow lace. One pair of wool baby mittens. Mitten stretcher, wood. Baby smock, lined and embroidered.

Harold K. Sole  
Ypsilanti, MI

Pen and ink sketch, panorama of 200 block Huron St, Ypsilanti. 18" X 40" and matted.

Mrs. Charles Upson  
Ypsilanti, MI

City of Ypsilanti booklet entitled "Your 1966-67 Annual Report"

Color postcard of New York Central Depot in City of Ypsilanti, MI



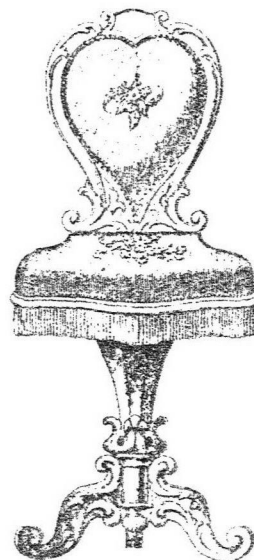
Paper prepared by Dean E. Tyson entitled "130th Anniversary - Commemorating Completion of Railroad to Ypsilanti, Michigan". 2 copies.

Clipping from Ypsilanti Press dated November 20, 1967 on Breakey residence.

Mrs. George Adams  
Ann Arbor, MI

Poster announcing appearance of Mr. Anthony J. Whitmire, Violinist from Michigan School of Music. dated 1914.

Ruth Taylor (Mrs. Clarence) Ypsilanti, MI Plaster mannequin of a young boy.



## NEW MEMBERS

Don Ballard  
Box B  
Vina, California

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell  
207 Wilson Ave.  
Ypsilanti, MI

Judith L. Peterson  
847 Green St.  
Ypsilanti, MI

Dr. & Mrs. Donald Proctor  
1832 Midvale Ave.  
Ypsilanti, MI

Mr. & Mrs. Rex Richie  
1065 Mapewood  
Ypsilanti, MI

Bart Thompson  
847 Green Street  
Ypsilanti, MI

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Towler  
1610 Margarita Av.  
Ypsilanti, MI

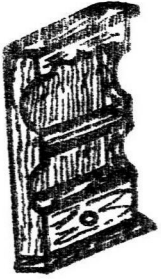
Marilyn Wiltse  
40 East Cross St.  
Ypsilanti, MI



C. Latham Sholes invented and patented a crude typewriter in 1867. He made many changes and improvements and in 1873 sold his patent rights to Philo Remington.

It is said that Mark Twain saw a woman demonstrating a typewriter in a Boston store window in December, 1874. Mark bought one, paying \$125 and later became the first author to submit a typed manuscript for publication - it was his Life on the Mississippi.





YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETYS'  
2ND ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW AND SALE  
AUGUST 29th and 30th



In conjunction with the YPSILANTI YESTERYEAR HERITAGE FESTIVAL our Annual Fund Raising Project will be held at the old YPSILANTI HIGH SCHOOL GYM (Community Education Building) at 210 West Cross Street in Ypsilanti.

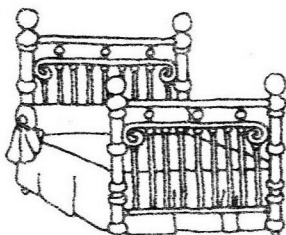
In your annual Spring Cleaning, please keep in mind we will be very happy to sell your antique items at our booth for a 25% Commission.....OR to accept your gift to the Society and profit 100% from your generosity and support!

GIFTS ACCEPTED ANYTIME!!! ARTICLES FOR CONSIGNMENT SALE ACCEPTED  
FROM 6 AM ON THE DAY OF SALE

For more information or early donation pickup please feel free  
to call      Kathryn and LaVerne Howard      482-7081  
                Herb and Grace Cornish              482-2108  
                Dr. Bill Edmunds                      482-5218



We will again this year be asking for your help at the Museum and at the Antique Show and Sale as the time approaches. It's an exciting time for Ypsilanti....plan to be part of it!



WORTH NOTING...

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation will meet Tuesday Evening at 8 P.M. at Highscope. The speaker will be Deputy Joe Marshall of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. TOPIC: The Theft and Protection of Art and Antiques.

The Washtenaw County Illustrated Atlas reprint is selling well and it is a quality publication. The 1874, 1895 and 1915 are faithfully reproduced and combined in one 11 X 14 volume complete with old engravings and Birdseye views of Ann arbor, Chelsea, Manchester and Ypsilanti. Price \$41.60.

The Chronology of Ypsilanti up to 1874 is another new publication by City Historian, Foster Fletcher, and it is also selling well at \$3.00. There are still paperback copies of The Story of Ypsilanti by Harvey C. Colburn available at \$6.50.

And because the response to the Salescase has been so enthusiastic recently, we want you to remember we do stock a nice selection of items, many of them reproductions of early toys. We price competitively and will be continually looking for new items suitable to the Museum.

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## The History of the Naming of the Streets of Ypsilanti

Author Elizabeth Teaboldt

A Master's Thesis

Elizabeth Teaboldt was born June 25, 1878, in Bridgewater Township, the daughter of George and Ella King Rawson. She taught in the Clinton and Ypsilanti schools for many years. This "History of the Naming of the Streets of Ypsilanti" was placed in the Archives by Mrs. Teaboldt in September, 1947 as a permanent part of the history of our City.

Elizabeth Teaboldt lived a long life passing away at Ann Arbor on August 25, 1972.

We conclude this fine piece of work in this issue and note the original is in the Archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, City of Ypsilanti, MI.

Morse's Addition Part II

Registered October 23, 1869

This plat is in the southern end of the Morse Addition Part I.

New street names:

Division

This street is not in this plat but in the Bartholomew plat which adjoined it. The surveyed opening across the plat appeared in the Bartholomew plat but was unnamed. Here it appears as Division Street. It divided the plat into two nearly equal parts.

The R. W. Hemphill Addition, Part I

Registered May 30, 1873

This adjoined the previously mentioned Hawkin's Addition on the southeast.

New street names:

Hawkins

This street is named after the Hawkins family mentioned in connection with another plat. The Hawkin's House was continued a long time under the management of Abiel Hawkins and Walter, his son.

Post's Addition

Registered February 2, 1875

This plat was bounded on the north by Cross, on the east by Brower, on the southwest by Ann Arbor Road.

New street names:

Brower

Brower Street was named for Richard D. Brower who owned land near to the present location of the Normal. Frequent mention was made in City Council proceedings earlier of "extending streets across the Brower property" so the date of the first mention of Brower is probably much earlier than the date of this plat.



### Scovill and Tuttle Subdivision

Registered October 22, 1890

It was bounded by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad on the northeast, Huron Street on the east, extended south of Jarvis Street on the south, and to Lowell Street on the west.

New street names:

Jarvis  
Jenness

Jarvis is a short street, running from Lowell on the west to Huron on the east, parallel to and south of St. John St. It is named after the Jarvis family, mentioned in connection with the Jarvis addition.

Jenness Street is named after the Jenness family, which like many another family came early and became prominent. An early ancestor was John Sedgwick Jenness, born in 1811, one of the first grocery and crockery dealers in Ypsilanti.

### The Park Ridge Subdivision

Registered April 24, 1891

It lies in the extreme southern part of the city next to the corporation line, and extends from the corporation line on the west to South Huron on the southeast. It consists of four parallel streets running from southwest to northeast.

New street names:

Watling Boulevard  
Jefferson Avenue  
Madison Boulevard  
Monroe Avenue  
Third  
Second  
First

Watling Boulevard is the most southerly. It is named for William Watling who owned property nearby, beyond the city.

Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, are without doubt, named for presidents as were Washington, Madison, and Jefferson before, although I have no proof to this effect.



First, Second and Third Streets cut across the long street at right angles and appear in that order, starting westward from an extension of Hawkins which appears to the east. Hamilton has a two block extension into Park Ridge east of Hawkins, in this plat also.

### **Volkening and Company's Subdivision**

**Registered January 2, 1892**

It is bounded on the north by Davis Avenue, on the east by Emerick Street, on the south by land probably unplatted at that time, on the west by Prospect Avenue.

**New street names:**

Maus Avenue  
Davis Avenue  
Emerick

Maus Avenue was named for Lewis J. Maus. Ellen Volkening sold to Lewis J. Maus "lots 49, 50, and 51, and other lands" all in the Volkening Subdivision. Lewis J. Maus and Mary M., his wife, then sold off the lots. The abstract of Mrs. Delvya Vealey, living on Maus, shows Mr. Maus as a previous owner of the lot. Mr. Artis Vealey, a retired carpenter, once bought three lots of him. Taxes are recorded as having been paid by Mr. Maus in 1899, 1900 and 1905. Reports are that he lived in or around Detroit, and undertook this project as a business venture.

Davis Avenue was named for Dr. Parmenio Davis, for whom the Davis Subdivision was named also and who was mentioned in connection with it.

Emerick Street lying at the east of this plat and east of two other plats also is named for the family of the same name who came to Michigan in 1832 and settled in Ypsilanti Township. The street is probably named in particular for Benjamin Emerick, one of the sons who came with the father Jacob. (History of Washtenaw County 1881). The Gault Bairy is part of the Emerick farms (Miss Woodard).

### **Normal Park Addition**

**Registered December 15, 1892**

This plat was bounded on the north by Cross, on the east by Westlawn and Elm Gardens Additions, on the south by Congress and South Congress and on the west by Orchard Park and Willow Grove Additions.

New street names:

Grant  
Sherman  
Sheridan  
Elm  
Oakwood Avenue  
North Congress  
South Congress  
Sheridan Court  
Hiawatha  
A surveyed but unnamed boulevard

The land was owned by Captain James N. Wallace, who platted it at this time and built a number of houses. He was a captain in the Civil War, and the story is that he named Sheridan, Sherman and Grant after Civil War Army officers. Congress Street at the west end of the city was divided into North and South Congress.

Elm and Oakwood are said to be named for trees. Certainly these trees were common in this area. The boulevard in the west side was named Wallace after the proprietor, but I have been unable to find the date.

Sheridan Court appears today on the city map as the first street south of Cross, extending less than a block eastward from Wallace. It is in alignment with Sheridan Street to the east but no street has been cut through.

Hiawatha is not much more than an alley extending south from West Cross to Sherman in the 1000 block of West Cross. I do not know who named it, but assume it was for the Indian character by that name.

College Place Addition

Registered October 20, 1897

It was bounded on the north by Ellis, on the east by Perrin, on the south by Stuck's Addition and on the west by the Cross and Bagley Addition.

No new street appears on the plat but Brower Street south of Ellis became College Place, after the name of the plat.

### Gray's Subdivision

Registered May 7, 1917

It was bounded on the north by Forest Avenue, on the east by Holmes Street, on the south by Oak Street and on the west by Charles Street.

New street names:

Virginia Place

No information is available on the background of this name. An abstract in the area has been read, and all available sources investigated.

### Young's Subdivision

Registered August 13, 1920

The plat extended northeast and east a short distance from the southern end of Miles Street to Holmes Street, and was narrow from north to south.

New street names:

Youngs

Youngs Street is named for Bert and Effa E. Youngs the proprietors. Mr. Young's grandfather took up land from the government on what is now Tuttle Hill Road.

### Driscoll Court

Driscoll Court does not appear on any plat as it was opened after any plat in this area was made. It is a narrow street running east from Ballard, between Pearl and Washtenaw and is less than a block long.

Mr. S. E. Driscoll of 212 North Hamilton says he had this court opened up about 1920, with the usual procedure. He then began to build, finishing three houses in all, one of which he and his family occupied for some time.

The court is named after Mr. Driscoll the man who owned the property.

### Ainsworth Park Subdivision

Registered December 24, 1920

This is a large area bounded on the northeast by Michigan Avenue, on the east by Hamilton, on the south by unplatted land, and on the west by Hawkins Street.

#### New street names:

Ainsworth Drive  
Ainsworth Boulevard  
Ainsworth Place

Ainsworth Drive leads into the area from South Hamilton, a little distance south of Michigan. It runs across the northern end of the area, with Ainsworth Boulevard running through the plat on three sides. Ainsworth Place connects Ainsworth Drive on the north with Ainsworth Boulevard on the south; however Ainsworth Place is now called Middle Drive.

The name Ainsworth is derived from O. A. Ainsworth who came here in 1868. He was proprietor, in time, of a large dairy herd on his farm just west of Ypsilanti on present Washtenaw Avenue. He owned most of the land through which the plat extended - this from Miss Woodard and Dr. Colburn's book.

### College Heights Subdivision

Registered September 22, 1922

This again was a large area. It was bounded on the north by the north corporation line, on the east by the east corporation line and Michigan State Normal property, on the south by Washtenaw most of the way, and on the west by Virginia Road.

#### New street names:

Oxford Road  
Cambridge Road  
Collegewood Drive  
Kingwood Avenue  
Roosevelt Boulevard  
Ainsworth Lane  
Fairview Circle  
Hillside Court  
Virginia Road  
Whittier Road  
Washtenaw

This property was platted by the Ypsi-Ann Land Company and the information is from Mr. J. Karl Malcolm, one of the firm.

Oxford and Cambridge were both named for streets in Ann Arbor, but these two streets along with Collegewood Drive are related to college associations. Kingwood was for a Mr. King living upon the property. Roosevelt Boulevard was for Theodore Roosevelt. Ainsworth Lane was for the Ainsworth family, previously mentioned. Fairview Circle was because of the semi-circular drive, and the fact that the land drops down toward the north. Hillside Court was a court on the side of the hill. Virginia Road was named for the state of Virginia. Whittier Road was named for the poet.

Ann Arbor Road and Ellis Street were finally combined into one street and renamed Washtenaw. The name is, of course, after the county; but it seems to have an Indian origin, appearing as Washtenong and Wushtenong, and meaning "Land Beyond". This information is from "Past and Present of Washtenaw County" by Samuel W. Beakes.

Virginia Road was changed to Cornell Road by the Council April 15 1929 to avoid confusion with Virginia Place in the Gray Subdivision and again the college name is obvious.

#### Prospect Garden's Subdivision

Registered January 19, 1923

This plat was bounded by Towner Street on the north, Emerick on the east, Davis Avenue on the south and an assessor's plat on the west.

New street names:

Arnet  
Mildred  
Ford

Arnet Street was named for Mr. Vincent Arnet one of the proprietors. Mildred for his daughter, and Ford for the late Henry Ford - this from Mr. Arnet.

The R. L. Owen Subdivision

Registered March 6, 1923

This plat was bounded on the north by Washtenaw, on the east by the McCormick Subdivision, on the south by Cross and on the west by Normal Heights Subdivision.

New street names:

Owendale Avenue  
Anna Avenue

Owendale Avenue, of course, was named for the proprietor, Richard L. Owen, son of Tubal Cain Owen.

Anna Avenue was for the mother of Mr. Owen, Anna Foote Owen, daughter of Professor E. M. Foote of the Normal.

The Breakey Subdivision

Registered April 7, 1923

It was bounded on the north by West Cross Street, on the east by the Gee property, on the south by Westmoorland, and on the west by unplatted land beyond Mansfield and beyond the city limits.

New street names:

Westmoorland Road  
Mansfield

Westmoorland was named by the late Mrs. Breakey, mother of Judge Breakey. She was one of the proprietors. Judge Breakey says his mother had recently returned from visiting her sister, who lived on Westmoreland in Los Angeles and that she liked the name. She preferred the middle syllable spelled "more", Judge Breakey said. Mrs. Gee, also one of the proprietors, said Mrs. Breakey looked to the West and said "West more land". Practically all of the land to the west is still unplatted.

Mansfield Street was named for Charles W. Mansfield who had a farm in that area. Mrs. Breakey wished it so name. Mr. Mansfield had no children and this was a way to keep his name alive.

## Prospect Park Subdivision

Registered April 19, 1923

The land was bounded on the north by Holmes Road, on the east by Prospect, on the south by East Forest, and on the west it extended half-way to River Street.

New street names:

Dwight  
Hemphill Road  
Stanley  
Gordon Avenue  
Holmes Road

This land was a part of the original farm taken from the government by Joseph Peck, grandfather of Mr. Dwight Peck and Mr. Charles Peck. Their father was exchanged during a few terrifying moments for a papoose of the same age because the Indian mother failed to understand an American joke told by signs. The property, at least this portion of it, was sold to the Ypsi-Ann Land Company previously mentioned, a member of whom made these explanations.

Dwight Street was named for one of the owners. He and Mrs. Peck live in the homestead on East Forest.

Hemphill Road was named for Robert W. Hemphill, farmer, business man and banker. He once owned the farm, later owned by Mr. Beyer who donated to Beyer hospital.

Gordon Avenue was named for the maiden name of Mrs. Sink, wife of Mr. Sink of the University. Mr. Sink was financially interested in the Ypsi-Ann Land Company.

Stanley Road was named for Dr. Stanley of the University School of Music. He was an associate and friend of Mr. Sink.

Holmes Road was named for Edgar D. Holmes, father of Mr. Harvey C. Holmes, so long the city clerk. The family came about 1873 and owned the farm adjoining until 1919 - this from Mr. Harvey C. Holmes.

## Martin Place Subdivision

Registered July 10, 1924

This plat extended westward in a narrow parcel of land from Miles to Prospect, and lay almost opposite the Young's plat.

New street names:

Martin

Martin Street was named for two of the platters, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Martin of whom I know nothing further.

#### The Woods Subdivision

Registered November 7, 1925

This plat lay directly south-east of Recreation Park.

New street names:

North Woods Road  
West Woods Road  
South Woods Road  
East Woods Road

The Woods Subdivision and therefore the street names are so called because Mrs. Gill, mother of Mr. Orlo Gill, kept a nursery here before the land was sold and platted. March 16, 1931 by petition to the City Council, North Woods Road was left as Woods Road and the other three were combined and changed to Pleasant Drive.

#### Emerick Heights Subdivision

Registered August 11, 1926

The plat lay with unplatted land to the north and west, Emerick Street to the east, and Belleville Road on the south.

New street names:

Ashland  
Winona  
Belleville-Tyler Road

One of the platters, Mrs. Charles Fulford, said Ash trees grew abundantly on a portion of the land, and that they chose Winona just because they liked it. However these are not listed as streets now as the land was allowed to go back into acreage.



Belleville-Tyler Road runs from South Grove to Emerick, just north of the Express Highway and then eastward beyond the city where it eventually joins the Express Highway, and leads toward Belleville.

However, I believe Belleville itself should be traced to someone whose first or last name was Belle. As long ago as December 17, 1866, the City Council attempted to name the southern end of Grove, south-east to the Corporation line, Belle Street. The name occurs in the settlement of Belleville, too, which is in Wayne County. I have been unable to go beyond mere conjecture, however.

#### Altus Subdivision

Registered May 5, 1928

This consisted of a very small area lying north and east of the Davis Addition.

New street names:

Ecorse

Ecorse Road, for a short distance, in making the turn from Michigan Avenue to Emerick, lies within the city limits. It is named as it is because it is the leading road to Ecorse.

#### Cherry Court Subdivision

Registered June 8, 1928

This small plat extended from North River on the west to the Prospect Park Subdivision on the east and is two lots in width.

New street names:

Cherry Court

The story is that a few cherry trees were growing there, and so the court that was platted was given the name it bears. A resident near to the court supplied this information.

#### Ainsworth Park No. 1 Subdivision

Registered May 24, 1929

This plat lies in the northeastern part of the Ainsworth Park Subdivision No. 2 already located.

New street names:

Ferris

The old name of Michigan Street was discontinued June 5, 1916 by act of the City Council to avoid confusion with Michigan Avenue. The street was named in honor of former Governor Ferris who served two terms - 1911 and 1913.

O. R. Beal's Subdivision

Registered August 3, 1929

The part here platted is lot number one of the Woods Subdivision.

New street names:

Linden Place

The large lot, number one, was arranged with short lots, and a drive running north in front of them. The drive is named Lynden Place just because the name appealed to the platters.

The Franklin Worden Property  
-an unrecorded plat-

This property was bounded by Michigan Avenue on the northwest, Hawkins Street on the east, Frederick Street on the south, and First Avenue on the west.

Streets were surveyed and opened up for the public with acceptance by the City Council, December 15, 1930.

New street names:

Franklin  
Worden  
Orchard  
Hill  
Short

Mr. Franklin Worden's Widow said she named Franklin Street after her husband's given name, Worden Street after his last name, Orchard Street because "We had a peach orchard there", Hill Street because there was a hill, and Short Street because it was short.

### Haig Subdivision

Registered July 12, 1941

This plat was bounded on the north by Gilbert's Eastern Addition, by unplatted land on the east, by Young's Subdivision on the south, and the Cross and Shutt Addition on the southwest.

New street names:

Garland Avenue  
Vinewood Court

The platters made the statement that there was no particular reason for choosing these names, merely a personal choice.

### Ender's Subdivision

Registered April 20, 1944

This small plat was bounded on the north by Harriet, on the east by the Willson Subdivision, on the south by Park Ridge Subdivision, and on the west by unplatted land.

New street names:

Perry  
Ballard Avenue

The street runs parallel to the southern extension of Ballard Street - called Ballard Avenue here - to the east of it, and is only one block long. It was named for Mr. George Perry who worked for thirty-five years for Mr. Everett Wiard, the proprietor.

### Lindsay Gardens Subdivision

Registered December 18, 1945

This plat is in the northeastern part of the city. Holmes Road runs on the north of the eastern stretch of the plat. The east Corporation line runs on the eastern edge of this strip. The western strip runs through to North Prospect on the west, and east to the north and south strip just mentioned.

New street names:

Thomas  
Carver

Mr. L. M. Thomas has informed me that Thomas Street was named for his father's family who came here in 1916, and purchased a sixteen acre tract in the area. Mr. Thomas also said Carver Street was named to honor Dr. Carver, the Negro scientist.

- - - - -

A few streets in unplatted land need to be mentioned.

#### Chidister Street

This street runs from north to south between Race Street and Spring Street, nearly at the foot of the embankment. May 4, 1871, a quit claim deed was received by the city from Mr. Cornwell and other parties "for some land lying in this area.

Chidister Street was named for James M. Chidister who lived in the present Dr. George house, northeast corner Race and South Huron. He was a businessman, also alderman from the first ward, 1858.

#### Race Street

Race Street also lay in the area obtained by the quit claim deed just mentioned in connection with Chidister Street. Race Street now is the name from South Huron opposite Catherine, eastward and then southward to the bridge at the junction of Spring and Race. It formerly applied only to the north-south stretch which ran parallel to the old Race, Catherine being given to the east-west stretch of present Race.

The name was derived from an early constructed race or ditch that was dug to bring the Huron river waters more directly to the mill.

#### Armstrong Drive Armstrong Court

Armstrong Court runs at right angles across the southeastern stretch of Armstrong Drive. Both Armstrong Drive and Armstrong Court were named by the City Council in 1944 in honor of Mr. Samuel Armstrong, who died January 7, 1940, and who worked for the city for many, many years.

First Court runs eastward from First Avenue and is surrounded by Armstrong Drive.

## **YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES**

President ..... Mrs. William (Ann) McCarthy  
Vice-President ..... La Verne Howard  
Secretary ..... Mrs. George (Sharon) Patterson  
Treasurer ..... Fred Peters

### **Board Members**

Ann McCarthy, La Verne Howard, Fred Peters, Rene Burgess, Doris Milliman, Phoebe Miller, Margaret Bemis, Linda Halhbrock, Foster Fletcher, William Edmunds, M.D., and Sharon Patterson.

### **Administration Committee**

Doris Milliman, Chairman, Rene Moran, Ann McCarthy, Eileen Harrison, Flora Block, Deci Howard, Marge Gauntlett, Ethel O'Connor and Sharon Patterson.

Miss Ethel O'Connor, Chairman of Museum Guides  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Howard, Plant Room  
Ruth Reynolds, Clothing Curator

### **Lewis House Board**

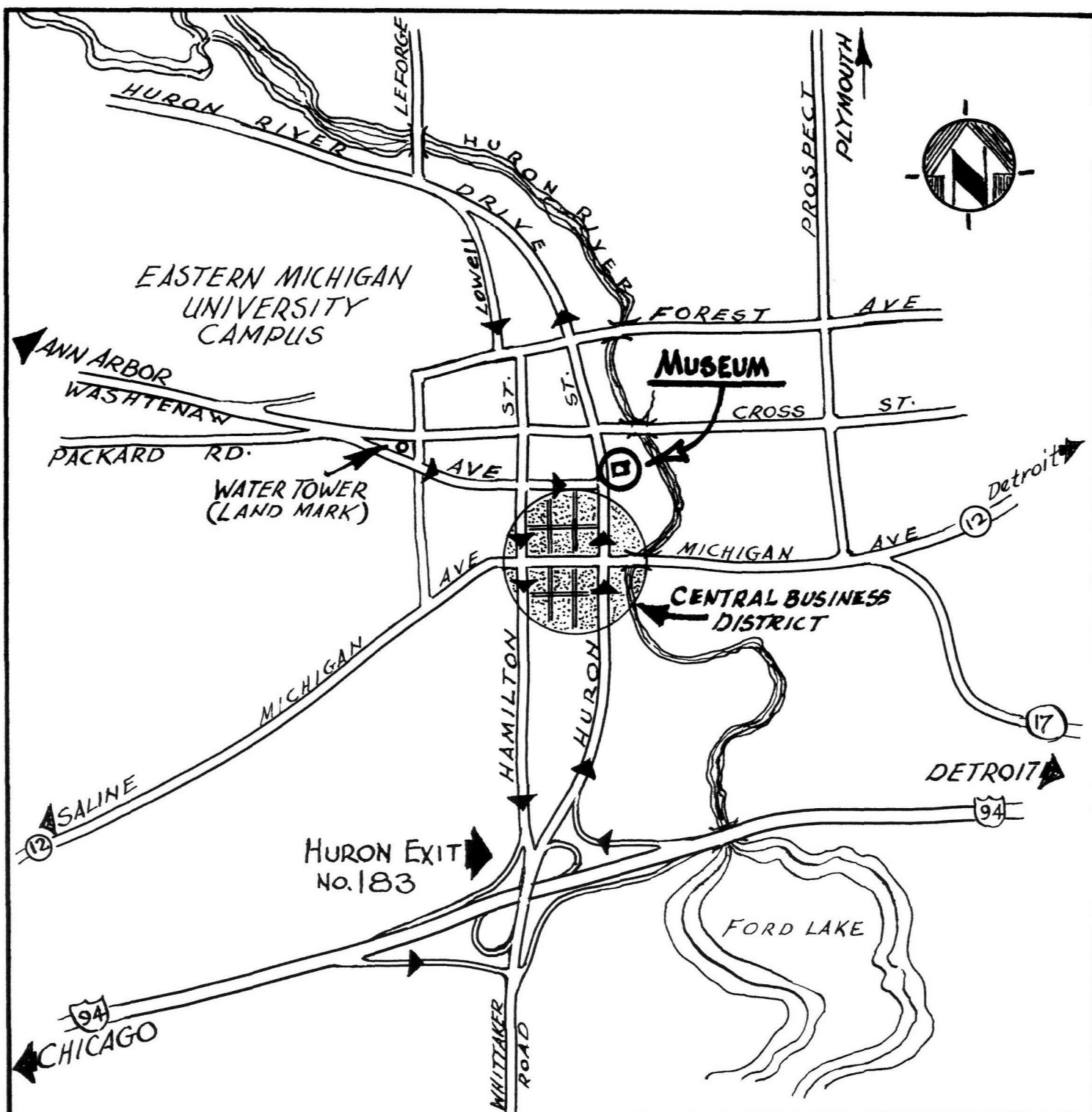
Arthur Howard, Chairman and Treasurer, Evangeline Lewis, La Verne Howard, William Edmunds, M.D., Secretary and Horatio Lewis



State legislation was passed in 1957 authorizing local governing bodies (Ypsilanti City Council) to "raise and appropriate money" and help with "any activity or project which...tends to advance historical interests" of the community. Public Act 213, 1957 applies to cities and villages.

February 2, 1960, Mayor Rodney E. Hutchinson appointed the following to serve as a Historical Committee: Mrs. H. Z. Wilber, Mrs. George Ennen, C.D. Bassett, T.S. Webber, Westly M. Dawson, Harry F. Shaefer, Miss Clara Sweet, Mrs. Elson (Ruth) Shaw, F.B. McKay, Mrs. M.I. Stadtmiller, E.R. Isbell, Albert W. Brown and the Mayor as Chairman with Louis S. White serving as City Historian.

October 10, 1960, the organizational meeting of the Ypsilanti Historical Society was held in the Estabrook School.



# *Upsilanti Historical Museum*

*220 N. Huron St.*

*Upsilanti Michigan 48197 Phone 313 - 482-4990*

*Foster Fletcher - Historian*  
*Sharon Patterson - Archivist*

*Museum Hours*  
*Fri. Sat & Sun. 2-4 P.M.*  
*Archives - By Appointment*