

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

June 1990

No. 65

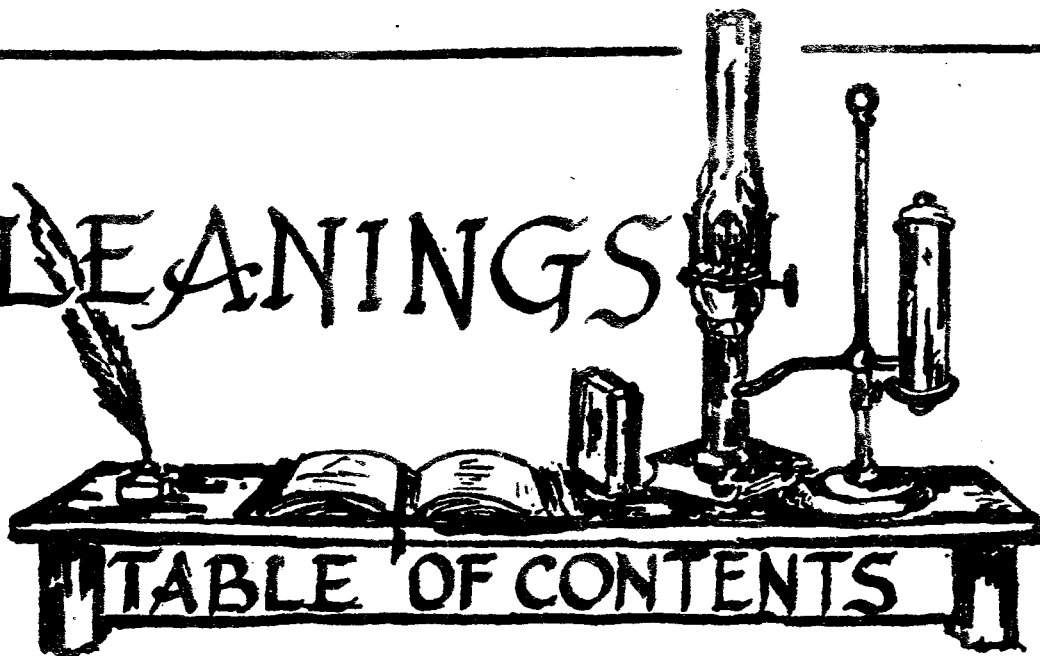


Ypsilanti Historical Museum  
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

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# GLEANINGS



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220 North Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

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## President's Letter

Dear Members:

Our Museum is entering it's spring and summer schedule of events with the Docents luncheon on June 13th at the Ladies Literary Club. Many new first time visitors to the Museum were present on May 17th for the Mayor's Exchange Day opening ceremony which was held at the Museum. As always, we made a great and lasting presentation of the History of Ypsilanti to our guests. Plans are under way for the participation in the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival and any input you might have would be welcomed. Please encourage visitation and participation in our Museum to visitors to our town and also local residents who have never seen what we have to offer.

Jack Miller

President, Ypsilanti Historical Society



## DOCENTS LUNCHEON

The Ypsilanti Historical Society Board and the Administration Committee will entertain the Museum Docents with a Luncheon and a program at the Ladies' Literary Club House, June 13, at 12:30 p.m.

This has been an annual affair by which the Society shows its appreciation for the assistance of the guides during the year.

### Mayor's Exchange Day

The Museum was the setting for the Michigan Week Mayor's Exchange Buffet Breakfast and Reception. Mr. Norman F. Kruse, Mayor of Muskegon, Mrs. Kruse and some members of the City Council were among the seventy-five guests. Mayor Clyde King and members of the Ypsilanti Council were hosts for the Reception at which President Jack Miller and several members of the Historical Society assisted.

### Visiting Groups

This is the season of the year when school groups visit the Museum and Mrs. Ann McCarthy, who is in charge of scheduling, enlists docents for each visit. The Waterford Bend Questors from Northville were very impressed with what the members saw when they visited in April.

### A New Look

Two upstairs rooms, the Costume Room and the Library have been redecorated and rearranged. This has been needed for a long time and now both rooms have a completely new look. The Costume room has been papered with a victorian style wall paper, the display cases have been painted and new displays put in them, Rugs from the Lewis House are on the well polished floor.

The Library, on the south side has been freshly painted and now contains some of the chests, the dining room table and chairs from the Lewis House. It now can be used as a meeting room.

Enough credit can not be given to those who worked diligently on moving furniture, cleaning, rearranging, etc. Mrs. Kathryn Howard was in charge of planning the decorating and she was ably assisted by Mrs. Elnora Miller and Mr. & Mrs. Herb Cornish. Others who assisted with the work were Mrs. Ann McCarthy, Mrs. Billie Wardell, Mr. Michael Miller and Mr. Ron Miller.

We urge you to visit the Museum and especially the two rejuvenated rooms. You will be pleased with what you see.

Doris Milliman  
City Historian

# Acquisitions

Mrs. Bancroft Brien

Wedding Dress of Mr. Brien's Mother and accessories 1899  
Baby Bunting, Various baby books and baby cap.  
48" yard stick (honest) that belonged to Mr. Turnbull that once was City Engineer.  
Wedding Dress of Mrs. Turnbull  
Crutch, Button Hook, square wooden box.

Margaret Johnson

Small basket, apron, Huge Hat Pin, safety razor.

Evelyn Edwards

2 Ypsi Dixits  
Cavalcade of America- from the American Legion.

Irene Mews

Book on Coverlets by Irene while a grad student at EMU 1990

Reade S. Pierce

A picture of Michigan Volunteer Annual Reunion of Infantry May 1916  
A picture of 31st Michigan Volunteer enroute to Georgia and met by President Herbert Hoover 1930.

Mrs. Bancroft Brien

Set of Tinkertoys  
Set of Anagram letters in Original sack.  
Post Card Album with cards from 1882, 1910 and 1914.  
1 doll "Lilybel" she is a dear.  
Doll canopy bed.  
Concertina and 1 picture of Lily Turnbull.

Mr. Douglas

Michigan State Normal Flag

## Sheldon Crittenden

The following was written by Duane Crittenden who retired from Ypsilanti a few years ago to live in Bonita Springs, Florida. The story is about his Grandfather.

The Crittenden family originated in the County of Kent, England, but was driven from England by religious persecution and took refuge in Holland.

During the early 1600's the English government persecuted Puritans. Some Puritans moved to the Netherlands and were known as Separatists. By 1620 most of these Separatists became dissatisfied with life in the Netherlands and looked for other places to live. Some sailed to America on the ship Mayflower and founded the Plymouth Colony.

The first Crittenden to come to America was Abraham Cruttenden (Cruttenden was the earlier spelling of the name) in 1639.

Abraham Cruttenden, who was born about 1610, was one of the first settlers of Guilford, Connecticut, and one of the signers of a plantation covenant in 1639. He was probably married in England to Mary ?. Mary died in 1664, and after her death Abraham married Joanna \*Chittenden, who died in 1668. He had seven children all by his first wife. Abraham Cruttenden died in January of 1683. The name began to be spelled Crittenden around the turn of the century.

Samuel Crittenden, the great great grandson of Abraham Cruttenden was born on February 17, 1734. Samuel married Sarah ? and moved to Conway, Massachusetts, where he and his wife had seven children. The five oldest sons served with the Revolutionary forces during the Revolutionary War, and Samuel was on a committee of thirteen that pledged help to the Continental Congress, if it declared independence from Great Britain, on May 24, 1776.

The first Crittenden to come to Michigan was the great grandson of Samuel, Mortimer Crittenden. Mortimer was born in Gorham, New York, on September 18, 1810 and on January 16, 1832 he married Jeanette Hurd. They had ten children. The family moved about 1840 from New York and traveling through Canada had to cross the Detroit River during the winter when it was frozen over. Mortimer and his family came to Washtenaw County and settled on a farm a couple of miles from Ypsilanti. Mortimer was killed by lightning in 1865, and his wife, Jeanette, died at the home of her youngest son in 1894.

Ypsilanti was first settled seventeen years earlier in 1823 by Benjamin Woodruff and was known as Woodruff's Grove. In 1825 Woodruff's Grove became a village, and its name was changed to Ypsilanti. The name Ypsilanti came from the Greek General, Demetrius Ypsilanti, who became world famous in his struggle for Greek independence from Turkey at this time.

\*The name Crittenden and Chittenden are not related.



Sheldon Crittenden continued:

During the 1840's Ypsilanti still retained a rugged pioneer look. Many of the stores and houses were made of timber. Few buildings were made of stone or brick. Most of the land around the village was uncleared, all kinds of game could be seen like wild turkey, deer, squirrel and sometimes bear.

Sheldon E. Crittenden was the third child of Mortimer and Jeanette. He was born on October 23, 1837 in Gorham, New York, and at the age of three came to Michigan with his parents. The family lived on a farm about two miles east of Ypsilanti for about one year and then moved to another farm a mile away. The family dwelling was a framed house with a few acres of cleared land surrounded by woods. Sheldon was interviewed in 1915 by the Ypsilanti REcord and spoke about earlier times. Many household items that are common today were rare in the middle 1800's. Clocks were uncommon in Ypsilanti. Sheldon said, "We told time by the shadow of the sun reaching a mark on the floor. When there was no sun we told time by our appetites". Because there was no electricity, fire was used for heating and cooking. Fires were precious and were kept going most of the time. Sheldon remembered that his father once made him go half a mile to get coals from a neighbor when their fire went out. Sheldon lived with his parents on the farm until he enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War.

In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States. Because the South was unwilling to live under Lincoln's antislavery principles, they seceded from the Union. The Civil War started on April 12, 1861, with the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and President Lincoln quickly called for 75,000 troops to suppress the rebellion. The only major battle in the first year was the First Battle of Bull Run in July in which Confederate Forces pushed the Union Army back to Washington, D.C. For the first time the North realized that it faced a long fight. Lincoln appointed General McCellan, Commander of Union Forces in the east (Army of the Potomac) and in March of 1862 McCellan set out on the Peninsular Campaign. The South won a number of battles, and the campaign ended in failure with the Federal Army retreating back to Washington once again.

Because of high expectations in the North, recruiting dropped off. But in early summer Lincoln called for 300,000 more volunteers to join the cause and end the rebellion. The War Department called for 23 regiments from Michigan, and all throughout the state, War meetings were held to get new enlistments. Because so many were needed so quickly, War meetings were organized. Such meetings were held in churches, halls and schools with speeches usually made by respected community leaders appealing for more volunteers. One such War meeting ended in a riot when a few sympathizers of the South disrupted the crowd. Because of this humiliation the governor decided to go over the quota and raise 24 regiments instead of 23.

The 24th Michigan Infantry Regiment was raised in Wayne County under the command of Colonel Henry Morrow. Recruiting for the regiment started on the 19th of July, 1862, and went on into August until the regiment was full with ten companies and 1,030 men.

Sheldon Crittenden continued:

Sheldon Crittenden enlisted in this regiment on July 30, 1862, at the age of 25 and was assigned to Company F commanded by Captain Edwards. The first camp was in a park in Detroit and was called "Camp Barns". Here the recruits trained and learned the arts of war until they departed for the front on the 29th of August 1862.

For the first couple of months the 24th Michigan made camps at various sites around the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. They had not yet been officially admitted to the Union Army. During this time General Lee, who was in command of the Army of Northern Virginia, invaded Maryland but was driven back to Virginia after heavy losses in the Battle of Antietam. Antietam was one of the bloodiest battles of the War. After the battle General McClellan gave the name "Iron Brigade" to the brigade commanded by General Gibbon because of the valor it displayed in holding their ground like a wall of iron against the enemy: this brigade well deserved the title. By the end of the War the "Iron Brigade" sustained, in proportion, greater losses than any other brigade.

October 9, 1862, was the formal date of entry of the 24th Michigan into the Army of the Potomac. It was assigned to the "Iron Brigade". The "Iron Brigade" was made up of 2nd, 6th and 7th Wisconsin and the 19th Indiana. General McClellan wanted another western regiment to join the brigade, so the 24th Michigan was chosen. About a month later General McClellan was relieved of command and General Burnside took over as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

The first battle that the 24th Michigan fought in was the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. General Burnside decided to attack the Confederates at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the Rappahannock River. The battle was a total failure for the North, which lost more than 12,000 men compared to Confederate losses of only 5,000. The 24th Michigan had 36 casualties during the battle. General Burnside, by his own request, was relieved of command, and General Hooker took his place. After the battle the Union Army settled down for winter. The winter quarters for the 24th Michigan were named "Camp Isabella" after Colonel Morrow's wife. Over the winter there were some deaths and resignations due to sickness.

Continued in next Gleanings.

## News from other Museums in the Area

### Plymouth

Two classes are being offered: One, A Dulcimer Class taught by one of the Historical Society members, and another, a Piecemakers Quilt Group.

An Exhibit "Unisys and Plymouth, A Partnership in the Community since 1937", opened May 15, 1990. It is designed and funded by the Unisys Corporation.

### Dexter

A Quilt Registry is being formulated for the purpose:

- (1) Compiling a local liveing history of quilt making.
- (2) Identification of Quilts and their makers.
- (3) Building an index of Quilts available for study and or display.
- (4) Gleaning local history and genealogy as stitched into Quilts.
- (5) Teaching Quilt preservation methods.

### Green Oaks

A program on Photography was given by a Photographer from Howell. He told the group how to preserve old pictures and how to care for them.

### Canton

At the May meeting, the video "Michigan's Capitol, A Symbol Renewed" was shown. This documentary highlights the restoration of the Cápitol Building in Lansing. Craftsmen from all over the World were brought in to work on what was the First Dome Style Capitol in the United States.

### Saline

A preservation workshop was held and a trip was made to the 1895 Victorian Layher-Bondie home on North Maple Road. The house was built by a wealthy lawyer from New England. The Layher Family purchased the home and it was lived in by three generations of that family, and after being vacant for some time, was purchased by Jean Bondie in 1987 and she is restoring it.

We have recently been given some copies of the Ypsilanti Record for 1922 and are including some articles from it.

### Baptist Church

The men of Dr. Barss class will meet at the Church for the Monthly Social Hour. All men of the Church and all men who do not attend any other Sunday School Classes are invited to attend.

### 1-12-1922

The fine day Sunday brought out a large attendance at Sunday School.

On Tuesday evening the B.Y.P.U. held a Business and Social at the Church Parlors.

The men of Dr. Barss class of the Baptist Sunday School met at the parsonage on Friday evening, January 6, and enjoyed a fine "Talkfest" and a "Get Your Own" Luncheon. Mr. Ben Burbank, as chairman of the entertainment committee made this novel lunch possible. Mr. R.A. McCracken, class president, laid plans for the next two months and a good time is in store.

### Presbyterian Church

#### January 5, 1922

Motion Pictures Sunday night at 7:00, "By Their Fruits" and two reels on Mexico.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor elected the following officers Monday evening: President, Dorothy Squires; Vice President, Flossa Earl; Secretary, Ethel Lathers; Treasurer, Harold Kiddoo.

### Lutheran Church

#### February 16, 1922

Has Perfect Attendance for nine years.

At the Lutheran Sunday School Sunday morning, Albert Tackman was presented with a handsome Bible, in appreciation of him having a perfect attendance for nine years. Others receiving prizes for perfect attendance for one year were: Martha Vial, Elizabeth Becker, Betty Fenker, Rosina and Albert Tackman, Edward Root and Luther Fänker.

### News Items-

#### January 26, 1922

##### Now Cutting Ice

The Ypsilanti Ice Company began the cutting of Ice on the Huron River on Tuesday. They are taking this so that there might not be another shortage of ice here next summer. The Michigan Central Railroad Company also let the contract for the cutting of Ice at Shanghai Pit.

##### Ypsilanti Has Cold War

Ypsilanti people for the past few days have been experiencing some real winter weather. Sunday night the thermometer registered around zero. Monday night it dipped to four below. Tuesday night it started to go to the bottom, but stopped at 10 below. Some say it went as low as 16. Mr. Conger promised warmer weather for the latter part of the week.

### RAINED FRIED CAKES

Early Monday morning it fairly rained Fried Cakes at the corner of Huron and Cross Streets. Two Fords came together at this corner, one of them laden with Fried Cakes. The iron fence at the Wm. Murdock residence, located on the corner, came in for damages, as well as some shrubbery. Both cars were more or less damaged.

### HURON MARKET GOING STRONG

July 22, 1922

Twenty-six automobiles lined up at the curb on Huron street Wednesday morning and 26 or more Farmers prepared to sell their Produce. Several who were too late to get in line were forced to go to Ann Arbor.

Everything was offered for sale from Cottage Cheese done up in little paraffin paper packs to sweet corn. Celery and raspberries, huckleberries, plums, potatoes, apples, beets, eggs and everything were much in evidence. Shoppers cleaned up everything by 10:30.

August 5, 1922

The Huron Street Market grows steadily. Twenty-eight automobiles lined up on Huron street Wednesday morning loaded with every conceivable kind of Produce from surrounding farms. Buying was brisk, and by 10:30 cash and produce had changed hands to everybody's satisfaction. Besides affording the Ypsilanti Housewife a chance to purchase from a variety of vegetables and fruits, all laid out for inspection. The Market also provides the opportunity for morning gossip with friends and acquaintances, a social as well as a shopping expedition.

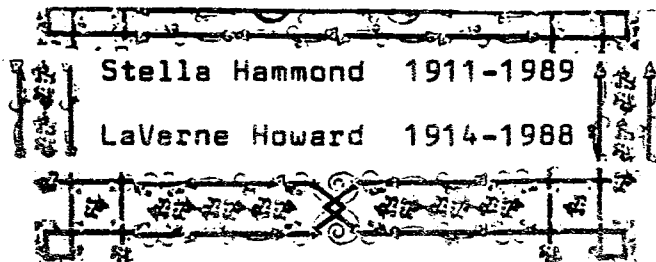


CHURCH NEWS OF 1990  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Historic First Presbyterian Church dedicated a twenty-five Note Tubular Organ Chimes, Sunday, May 27, during the regular church service. They were installed by the Lima Pipe Organ Company which has serviced the church organ for fifty years.

The Chimes were given in Memory of Mrs. Stella Hammond and Mr. LaVerne Howard, both were devoted members of the church. Mr. Howard had sung in the Presbyterian Church Choir for many years and was President of the Historical Society at the time of his death. Mrs. Hammond had held various offices in the church and was generous with her money to the church and to many other organizations.

The public was invited to the service of dedication for the Memorial for these two well known members of the church and of the community.



Doris Milliman

## FANS

Fans may be considered frivolous, delicate, whimsical, dainty implements, even weapons with a history and beauty all their own. Fans are manifestations of cultures and passionate feminine nonsense. They reflect the art and crafts of the periods and the countries that create and use them.

The word fan is derived from the latin "vannus" which was an implement used to winnow grain. Circulating the air and whisking flies has always been their main purpose. However, they long ago became a sign of rank and royalty. Beautiful fans were sought by the wealthy while less ornate fans were used by other people for practical and ceremonial purposes. In our country current fashion has dictated their use. By 1900 they became fluttering billboards for advertisers. Soon after the women of our country realized they could not keep track of fans while driving, smoking or holding a cocktail, the American Fan Company went out of business. Their usefulness further waned as air conditioning became popular in hotels, restaurants and stores.

The oldest recorded use of fans is found in the Boulak Museum, China. It came from a 17th century B.C. tomb. The earliest personal use was by Chinese royalty and wealthy men and women. When LaSalle first came up the Mississippi the Indian Chief Taenaas greeted him with royal fan waving. These early fans were all "Screen" or "Rigid" fans made of wood, feathers, shells, metals, leather and eventually paper. By 100 A.D. the broken or "brise" fan became popular. This type of fan has many blades held together with a rivet and ribbon or string. By 740 A.D. the Japanese invented the folding fan we are so familiar with today. The blades of a folding fan are called sticks. The leaf is of paper, silk, linen, cotton or leather. The leaf is usually painted, printed or decorated by some other method. The outer sticks, called guards are heavier and often more ornate.

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum has 47 folding or brise fans. used by Ypsilanti women in the last 100 years. Possibly the most valuable one by today's standards is the white Duchess lace fan with the Mother-of-Pearl guards and sticks, an ornate metal ring and french tassel. It is displayed in the what-not cabinet in the south east corner of the livingroom. This fan is from Mrs. Kenneth McDonald estate. The open lace prevents the fan from creating much of a breeze, but in 1880 - 1890 it was very fashionable.

The fan cases in the upstairs hall contain two unusual fans. The small wooden brise fan is signed by members of Edmund Ketchen's Presbyterian Sunday School class about 1870. The other has red wooden sticks and heavy red paper covered with small logos or names of hotels, clubs and restaurants. It is from the Jessie Swaine estate and probably a reminder of places she had visited.

## Fans Continued

In these cases you will also find typical fans from 1890 to 1920. The black ostrich feather fan has imitation tortoise sticks. The white satin fan with feather tips has bone sticks. Bone was cheaper than ivory and difficult to identify if sticks were well made. The blue satin fan has wooden sticks with the wood grain painted on. Silk and paper leaves on wood or bamboo sticks were produced by the thousands, especially in Japan from 1880 until today. One such fan in the case has bone guards with the bamboo sticks. The small 3 inch gilded fan with the jewels added is an ornament. The gilded stick fan with the wide ribs on the white cotton leaf is an Italian style from about 1900. The brown linen fan with hornbeam wood sticks is a typical American Fan Company fan made about 1870 in Wymouth, Mass.

The Costume case #1, on the east side next to the window, has three fans displayed. The fan on the shelf is a circa 1900 "Graduation Fan", carried at school graduation ceremonies. It has silk leaf and bone sticks but no ornamentation. The "cockade" fan is opened to show the leaf forming a complete circle and the guards forming a handle. This type was popular in the 1880's. The bone brise fan with the stamped out blades is typical of oriental export fans. There are fans stored in the costume room drawer and several others being repaired.

The Museum also owns cardboard screen fans widely used for advertising from 1890 to the present day. Most of them advertise funeral parlors, local stores, or national products such as the Putnam Dye Fans. There is a fan with General Ypsilanti's picture advertising Mellencamp's store. Perhaps the newest fan has been given out at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival by the Washtenaw-Livingston Education Association asking all to be a fan of Education.

After over 50 years of being forgotten by American women, fans are becoming more popular. Many are being used as decorative items today. The fans being imported from many countries usually have plastic sticks and are very beautiful. Perhaps the personal use of the fan will again become fashionable in our future.

Submitted by  
Grace Cornish



News from the Archives Office:

Hello Everyone,

We have had a busy two months, decorating being done upstairs, yard work getting caught up, collecting material for the Gleanings and to top it off, it turned cold-Blue Cold!! However John McMurray ASSURES US THAT IT IS GOING TO GET WARM SOON!! But when?????

Things are under way for the Heritage Festival already. Preparations is on the way at the Museum for the annual event. We always have such a good time and meet so many new friends along with our regular ones. (Mrs. Claus has been approached to find out if she is going to be here for the Festival of Lights) Time sure flies.

We have some lovely new things in our Doll Room. Mrs. Bancroft Brien gave 2 lovely dolls "Flossie" and "Lilybell" and they are waiting to see you.

Mayor's Exchange Day was May 17th, Norman F. Kruse from Muskegon along with his Officials graced our Museum. We were very proud to show our Museum and Archives. The Heritage Festival Committee generously furnished the delicious food for the Coffee Hour. I still hear compliments about the delicious food, especially the sausage roll. ummm good.

We are very fortunate to have Grace Cornish, Virginia Davis, Betty Kerr and Ann McCarthy (and their assistant Herb Cornish being the gofer and doing the heavy work) taking care of the lovely displays. Thank you, we appreciate each and everyone of you, you are important to the Museum. (Good Help is hard to get at any cost)

Petunias have been planted out front and they look great. Special Thanks to Bill Ealy. The iron railing at the steps leading to the Archives has been repaired. We are raring to show off the Museum.

We thank and appreciate Mr. Bonner of Bonner Associates Landscape Designs for his expertise in what, where and how to plant in our yard in order for it to look good with a minimum of care and yet reflect the yards of long ago. It has been suggested that a Sun-dial would look great in the yard. Any ideas????

Our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Frank Jackson for her donation to the Endowment Fund in memory of her husband, Mr. Frank Jackson.

We have approximately 46 Life members now. You don't have to wait until the first of the year to become a life member, anytime is good, as a matter of fact now is an excellent time.

Next publication we will print the list of paid members. So if you want your name in print--Send in your dues.

Tear out the Renewal form and send your dues in. They are a little late. We depend on them to help defray the cost of the Gleanings. If you have sent yours in, thank you.

Remember when you move, let us know. The Post Office will furnish you with cards to send to your correspondents and magazines (you do have to put a stamp on them). When the Gleanings is returned it costs us .30 cents.

Don and Lucy Gridley came down from Mackinaw City a couple of weeks ago to get warm. Were they ever surprised as that happened to be another of our cold spells. It was nice talking with Don about the old airport that used be at Carpenter and Morgan Roads and now is U.S. 23. There is an enlarged picture that Lucy took way back when, showing the Airport hanging on the Wall upstairs in the Cafe at Meijer's.

What a birthday celebration was had May 15th for Ada Holmes at the Gilbert Residence. 100 years wow!!!! She had several parties and she deserved them all.

A little sign in my office  
helps me get through the day.

LORD,  
Help me to remember that  
nothing is going to happen  
to me today that YOU and I  
can't handle.

Do drop in and see us.

Billie Zolkosky  
Archivist

MEMBERSHIP

January 1, -December 31

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
220 NORTH HURON STREET  
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of:

INDIVIDUAL \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

SUSTAINING \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

PATRON \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE \$1000.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

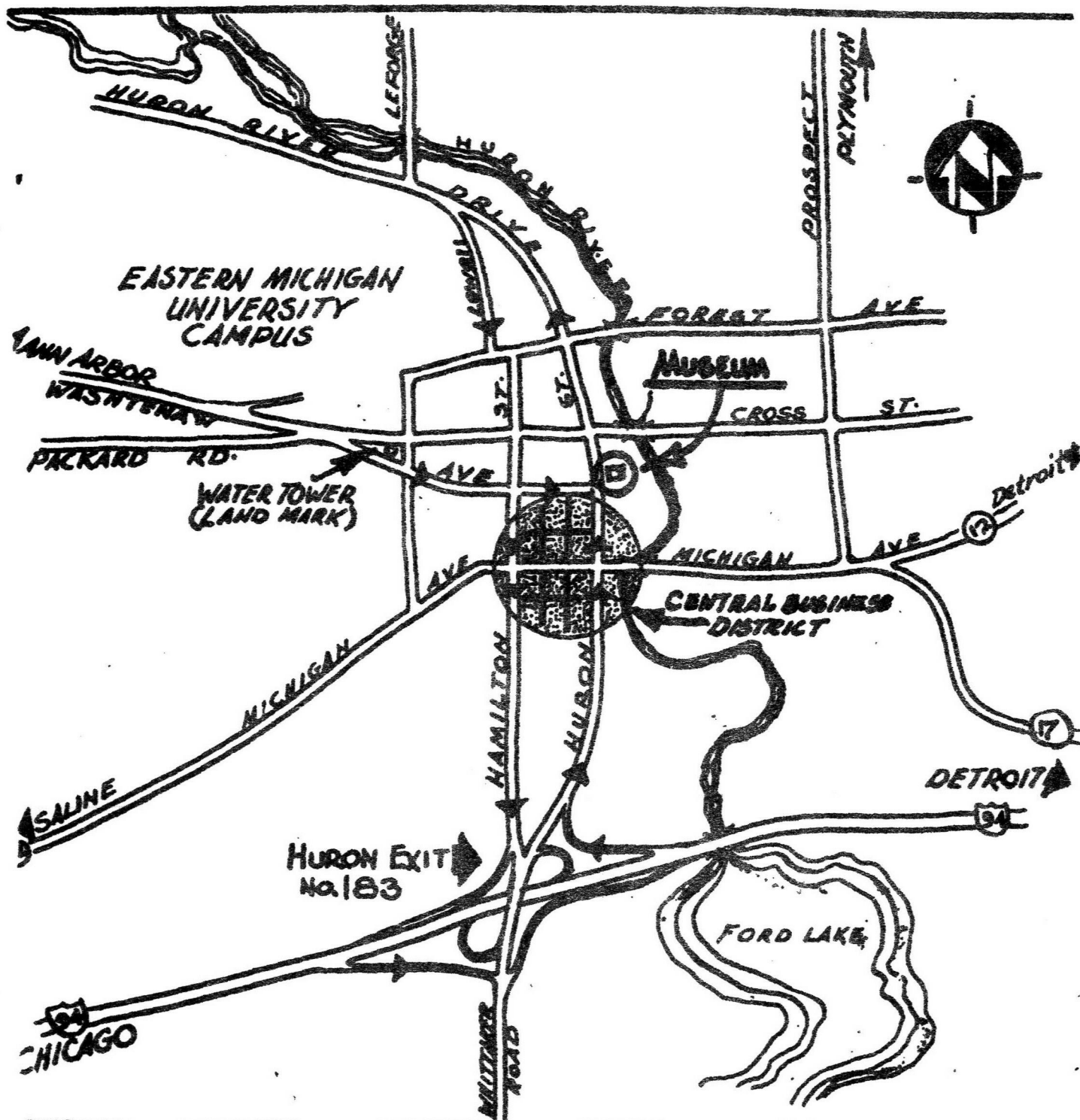
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in assisting in the Museum \_\_\_\_\_

We need help in the Museum in the areas of Docents, minor repairs,  
light yard work. If you can help give us a call.

Challenge your friends and neighbors to become a member!!!!!!



**Upsilon Historical Museum**  
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 Zip Code 48197 Phone (313) 482-4990  
 Doris Milliman - Museum Hours -  
 City Historian - Fri. Sat. & Sun. 2-4 PM.  
 Billie Zolkosky - Archives - By Appointment  
 Archivist -