

Ypsilanti Gleanings

*Official Publication of the Ypsilanti Historical Society,
Featuring Historical Articles and Reminiscences of the
People and Places in the Ypsilanti Area.*

Summer 2003



*Ypsilanti Historical Museum
- 220 N. Huron Street -*

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YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

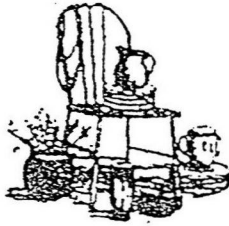
Museum Director	Dr. William Edmunds	483-5218
President	Joan Carpenter	971-9536
Treasurer	Karen Nickels	483-0636
Secretary	Diane Schick	483-2348

BOARD MEMBERS

Acquisitions	Grace Cornish	482-2108
Administration Board	Virginia Davis-Brown	484-0080
Building Improvements	Gerald Jennings	434-0117
Finance Committee	John Salcau Al Rudisill	483-3617 484-3023
Programs	John and Fofi Pappas	482-1462
Board Appointee	Kathryn Howard	482-7081

ARCHIVES

Archivist	Gerald Pety	Office 482-4990 Home 572-0437
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ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Chairman	Virginia Davis-Brown	484-0080
Secretary	Kathleen Campbell	483-5693
Treasurer	Grace Cornish	482-2108
Docents	Virginia Davis-Brown	484-0080
Displays	Joan Carpenter	971-0536
Textiles	Grace Cornish Doreen Binder	482-2108 483-3932
Tours	Joan Carpenter	971-0536

MUSEUM INFORMATION

The Museum, located at 220 North Huron Street, is owned by the City of Ypsilanti and is operated and maintained by volunteer workers in the public Interest of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

The Museum is open to the public at no charge. The days and hours are as follows:

Thursday2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Archives, located behind the Museum Building, is open for your convenience:

Monday9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Wednesday9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Sunday12 noon - 3:00 p.m.

Telephone: (734) 482-4990

Group Tours may be arranged by calling (734) 971-0536

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Heritage Festival time is here again and the museum staff have been busy getting the lovely, old house ready to welcome our guests. We do hope you will take some time to walk through the house and see the changes, additions and improvements that have been made.

A new exhibit, which features the Underground Railroad and the involvement of the people of Ypsilanti in this journey to freedom, is now on display.

We are very proud to have had the honor of working with, "The African-American Cultural and Historical Museum of Ann Arbor", and its president, Willie M. Edwards. She arranged for the tours which brought visitors, young and old, to our Museum to view the displays of the people, (conductors), and the places, (stations) that provided food, shelter and transportation to those who sought freedom in Canada.

The displays will be on exhibit throughout the Festival and on into the coming season. You shouldn't miss seeing it!

The Annual Meeting of the members of The Ypsilanti Historical Society will be held in the Museum on Sunday, September 21st at 2 p.m.

The general meeting will include the presentation of a proposed amendment to the Society Bylaws that would indemnify the Board members from personal liability and, if passed, it would be included in the Bylaws as Article VII.

The reports and business portion of the meeting will be followed by the election of Board Officers.

At the July 17th meeting of the Board of Directors, Alvin Rudisill was appointed to serve on the Trust Committee, filling the chair vacated by Jack Minzey. Other Trust Committee members are: Dr. William Edmunds, Peter Fletcher, Karen Nickels, and John Salcau. I'm certain you will all agree that we're in good hands! Thank you all for your time and work!

We hope you have had a wonderful summer and we also hope to see you during the Heritage Festival and at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Joan J. Carpenter

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

I really don't know where to start this report as we have been so busy this summer. I guess the first thing that we did was the Docent Training Day which was well attended by about 18 of our docents and they received their revised books. It was a great time as we shared ideas. Did you realize that it takes 25 docents each month to take care of the regular hours? We are very short of docent and in need of some help. How about you helping us. It is only a 2 hour a month commitment and I think you will find it very interesting. If you are interested me at 484-0080.

Our Docent luncheon was a great success with 34 people in attendance. This luncheon was to honor and thank all of those who do so much for the museum. The program was a lot of fun. We have all wondered, from time to time, if that Grand piano really was in very good tune and we found out that it wasn't bad as Diane Schick played it and we all sang.

Joan Carpenter is very busy right now with the final plans for the Heritage Festival. If you would like to help I know she would like to have you volunteer.

We are going to be working with a troop of Girl Scout to set up a program by which the girls can earn some special badges. We will also be working with one who is working on her Golden Award Project.

I hope you will mark your calendar for Sept. 25-28 and Oct. 2-5 as we are having a QUILT SHOW here at the Museum. If you have a quilt or two that you would like to put on display please call me and I will get back with you on all the details. We have never done this before so we need all your help. I will also need some extra help as guides. If you would like to help please call me at 484-0080.

You must stop by the gift shop as we have some new and exciting things that just got here this last week. I think you will find some wonderful gifts and we also have a new book.

Virginia Davis-Brown

NEWS FROM THE FLETCHER-WHITE ARCHIVES

Since beautiful weather has arrived to this part of Michigan things have slowed down immensely at the Archives. So, if you seek a quiet, contemplative atmosphere to find that famous relative or that bit of history lost to the fog of time, this is actually a great time to visit us. We have rediscovered many more artifacts within the last year and organized more of the materials to make your search easier. I am also available to instruct you and help with searches and information retrieval on your home computers via the Internet.

We still need more volunteers to help with the work of organization and preservation at the Archives. If you have the time and dedication to Ypsilanti history we would love to have you join us! Special thanks to those who helped this past year to: Gail Rutherford, Sharon Bahadosingh, Katie Drow, Karen Nickels, Thomas Crocker and Mayor Rodney Hutchinson. Their hard work and dedication has been greatly appreciated.

We greatly appreciate the information so many of you provided concerning the Hiawatha Card Company. We will also be soliciting information for our new file concerning the businesses and enterprises of the past in the Ypsilanti area. If you have any of this material please contact us.

We also thank Jane Salcau for providing us with a vast amount of information concerning the Greek Theater that once was located in our city and Rochelle Balkam for donating, "The Victory Scrapbook of WWII". Both of these items are a wonderful addition to our Archives.

Have a great summer and visit us often!
Gerry Pety
Museum Archivist



How it all began

Ypsilanti began as Woodruff's Grove in 1823 and was renamed in 1825 for Demetrius Ypsilanti, hero of the Greek War for Independence. Ypsilanti was the second incorporated village in the State of Michigan and its Historic District has the distinction of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Festival is an annual event, made possible through the efforts of thousands of community volunteers, in cooperation with the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2002 - 2003 budget year was most successful. Our income budget was \$19,472.00 and we exceeded that sum by \$1,657.38. Our expense budget was \$19,472 and we underspent that amount by \$314.19. The fiscal year was from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

Our income is based on dues, donations, gift shop profit, and copies made at the Archives. We had a garage sale in June which generated a profit of \$1,902.60 this was a great help to our budget. THANKS to the many members who donated numerous items. We had the best garage sale ever!

Our expense budget covers gift shop costs, insurance, advertising, office operations, interior maintenance, and some yard work.

Our budget for 2003 - 2004 is: income \$19,622.00 and expenses of \$19,622.00.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 483-8896.

Karen Nickels, Treasurer



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Russell Jones

Ann Arbor

Joyce Ramsey & Ward Freeman

Ypsilanti

Steffan Szumko

Fairfax, Virginia

THE DRED SCOTT DECISION

Dred Scott's greatest dream was to be a free man. He was born in Virginia in 1799 as a slave of the Peter Blow family and he remained a slave for most of the rest of his life.

In 1820 Congress took the possession of Missouri from France and Missouri was admitted to the Union as a slave state. This occurred when a resolution, entitled, The Missouri Compromise, stated that the number of free and slave states must balance in number and no territory north of 36° 30' latitude could enter the Union as a slave state.

The Blow family moved to St. Louis where Scott was sold to Dr. John Emerson, a military surgeon.

Scott accompanied Dr. Emerson to posts in the Illinois and the Wisconsin Territories where slavery was prohibited. While posted in the north with Dr. Emerson, Scott met and married Harriet Robinson, a free negro, and together they had two children.

In 1842 the Scott family and Dr. and Mrs. Emerson returned to St. Louis. Dr. Emerson died in 1843 and Mrs. Emerson hired out Dred, Harriet and their children to work for other families in St. Louis. The Scotts did not like this arrangement.

Dred and his wife sued Mrs. Emerson for their freedom in the Circuit Court in 1846 and the Court ruled in favor of Mrs. Emerson but allowed the Scotts to refile their suit and the Scotts continued their case.

In 1850 the jury decided that the Scotts deserved to be free. This decision was based on their years of residence in the non-slave territories of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Once again, in 1852, the State Supreme Court overruled the Circuit Court and the Scotts returned to slavery. Dred Scott continued to fight for his freedom for the next four years, hiring attorneys as he could afford them.

The case had lingered on and on and the defense lawyers, many of whom worked little and made Scott pay dearly, finally passed the case over to a young lawyer from Ypsilanti.

Lyman Norris, son of Mark and Roccena Norris, became the Scott Family's lawyer for a fifty cent retainer fee, and an agreement that if a positive decision was achieved, a reward of \$400.00 would be forthcoming to Norris.

In a letter that Lyman wrote from St. Louis to his mother in Ypsilanti, on March 31st, 1852 he says: (The following is a part of his letter, in his own written words, and may be a bit difficult to translate into today's language.)

"I went into it. (the trial) On full investigation I argued it twice before the old Bench of Justice.

I won it you can see from the Opinion (newspaper?) – Previous to arguing it the last time, my faith in the correctness of the legal principals I maintained all the while increasing. I told Dred I should beat him and proposed to him that I would buy him and his family for \$400.00 from his Master which I could easily have done, as he had no hopes of winning the case – and then Dred must make an agreement to pay me \$100 a year, take care of my room, etc. until it was paid (little over two years) and he would be free – but he was certain of winning and thought it would be a waste of money and he is now a slave for life – hard is it not?...Before the decision Dred and his wife had to work day and night to live, he wore old clothes and always had a thin, anxious, worn look that belongs to a poor free negro... The moment the matter was settled and his Master took charge of him again, gave him a house, clothed him warmer and fed, he was another man, his face shines with fat and contentment – you can hear his loud guffaw a mile, and nothing does him more good than to sit on a Box in the sun and abuse “poor white folks” – Perhaps you say poor fellow he don’t know any better. Yes, I admit he is in a poor state of existence but that is not his fault or his Masters – There he must remain, a happy and contented slave, than a poor squalid, disturbed free negro...”

Lyman D. Norris

In 1857 Mrs. Emerson remarried. Her husband was opposed to slavery and she returned the Dred Scott family to the Blow family who gave the Scotts their freedom.

Dred Scott died of tuberculosis in 1858 and is buried in St. Louis.



Built between 1831-1833, the Norris home still stands at 213 North River Street.



ROCCENA NORRIS



MARK NORRIS

These original portraits are permanently displayed in the formal parlor at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.



LYMAN NORRIS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special **THANK YOU** to Ron Miller for donating the funds to purchase antique school house lighting for our new museum kitchen. They look wonderful! A great improvement from the previous ceiling fluorescent lighting.



Also, a big **THANK YOU** to Reynold Lowe of Materials Unlimited for assisting us in selecting the appropriate lighting fixtures for our museum kitchen.

MEMORIES OF LIFELONG YPSILANTIAN

LOIS HOPP KATON

My story begins with my parents, Clayton J. Hopp and Ruth McAllister, who were both born in 1904. He met the pretty young teacher from Roberts School (where his three younger brothers were pupils) when she was invited to dinner at the Hopp farm one evening. They began courting and were married January 31, 1925 at THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH in Ypsilanti. Clayton was Yard Foreman at SCOVILL LUMBER CO, and built a small 3-room house which they moved into. She continued to teach until their son, Clayton, Jr., was born a year and a half later. In 1927, I arrived at (old) BEYER HOSPITAL and the following year baby sister, Ruth Loraine, was born prematurely weighing just 3 lbs. & 3 ozs. My folks called her their Little Pudding, then Puddy, and later just plain Pud which she is still called today after 75 years.

Having outgrown our little house, my family moved across the road from Grandma and Grandpa Hopp's Farm 5 miles W. of town for a short period. While playing Hide and Seek one day, my brother and I hid our little sister in a cupboard, where she promptly fell asleep. Mother was frantic until she found her! Another time we woke up from our nap and discovered a bowl of Cherry Jello set on the porch to chill for later visitors. We sneaked out and stuck our bare feet in it, and squealed as it jiggled between our toes. Needless to say we were discovered and put in our little chairs where mother daily taught us the A-B-Cs, little songs and poems, and favorite stories from our well-worn Story Book. Some favorites were: THE RAGGEDY MAN, LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE, and THE LITTLE RED HEN.

Mother was very resourceful and made tiny dresses, rompers, and gowns from dad's old shirts and frayed sheets. We were always dressed in white, but she carefully embroidered pink rosebuds and colored smocking on the simple little bodices.

We moved back to town when my brother started school, then a year later I started Kindergarten at Central School in a new East Wing of Ypsilanti High School. Our family lived at 409 Olive Street and there were 27 kids on both sides of the street and around the block. What fun we had playing games, roller skating, bike riding and building snow forts.

Each night at bedtime mother read chapters from Classics like BLACK BEAUTY, LITTLE WOMEN, & TREASURE ISLAND. Each of us made Christmas gifts and May baskets to put on door knobs in the Spring. We were also allowed to go barefoot and splash through puddles during spring rains and sit in a galvanized tub of sun-warmed water on hot summer days.

At age 5 and 6, my sister and I washed dishes, made beds

and ironed handkerchiefs, pillow cases & dish towels. We were taught to embroider, and sew pot-holders and simple things on our old SINGER treadle sewing machine.

Before church each Sunday we climbed on dad's lap while he read our favorite comics; and on Christmas Eve he took us to deliver gifts while mother put up the tree and presents. When we returned he went in first to see if Santa had come. When we saw his big snowprints on the rug we knew for sure that Santa had just been there. It was a few years before we caught on to this little scheme!

Besides his day job, Dad was a Deputy who served Process Papers in the evening from local attorneys. With a young family to care for in the Depression, he took on another part-time job at Ypsilanti Credit Bureau. Each night he loaded his family into the old Essex, and went to collect 25¢ or so on each delinquent account. We played guessing games or sang songs while he was making his stops. He was sometimes asked to repossess a washing machine or to serve an eviction notice for non-payment of rent. Being a kind and generous man, dad often returned later with groceries or a pair of shoes for some poor little child.

Mother was a wonderful household manager and a genius at juggling money during the Great Depression. She planned weekly menus, and bought only groceries for the various meals. She also made a monthly budget and kept a record of each expenditure. Sometimes at the end of her budget she listed: "Miscellaneous, 5¢"

She doled out 10¢ allowance for each of us, where 5¢ was designated for the Sunday School Basket, and five cents left to spend on penny candy at Pepper's corner store. Often we saved the nickles for next week to buy tickets to movies of Shirley Temple, Mickey Rooney or Our Gang.

The neighbor kids ran to pet Mr. Predmore's horse when he drove his wagon down our street. He carried a big folding chest of tools to sharpen knives & scissors, replace hinges on cupboards or repair door knobs. He was a welcome Handy-man to the neighborhood. Marsh's Ice truck came each week to deliver big chunks of ice for home Ice Boxes, and kids ran to get a small broken piece to suck on. Two familiar town characters in the 1930s were Harry Pinckney riding to town on his horse, and Smiley Brown in his goat cart. Both lived out of town on North Prospect Road.

On my 8th birthday in 1935 we moved to a big 10-room house at 964 West Cross. It had 5 bedrooms, and a music room to house our player piano and roll-top desk. Our playroom in the attic had dress-ups, toys, games and an electric train.

Recreation Park had summer activities like Paddle Tennis,

Checkers, Crafts, Baseball, etc., also a big wading pool. Children decorated bikes and made costumes and floats for the July 3rd Kid's Parade. The American Legion sponsored the Happyland Carnival at Recreation Park, with 5¢ rides on Children's Day. On the 4th, a spectacular parade with beautiful decorated floats, bands, scouts, Service Clubs, and a fantastic display of fireworks after dark.

Mother canned hundreds of jars of fruits and vegetables in the summer. Dad would bring a couple bushels three times a week, and we would recruit neighborhood friends to join us on the back porch to pit cherries, snap beans, husk corn, shell peas or skin peaches or tomatoes. We had fun telling jokes, singing songs, or trying to aim pits in each others open mouths. After all the gleaming jars lined the kitchen table, mother gave each of us a nickle to buy a double-dip ice cream cone at Superior Dairy Store a few blocks away.

Holidays were special family occasions. We hosted the 4th of July Picnic and Thanksgiving Dinner. In the winter we ice skated on the Artificial Pond or went sledding back of Roosevelt School with all our cousins. What a lot of fun!

Christmas was at Grandma & Grandpa McAllister's where the 3 of us and our cousin, Roman Parks, would hide under the table and sneak olives to put on each of our fingers.

New Years we enjoyed roast goose with all the trimmings at Aunt Christina & Uncle Harold Parks on Vreeland Road. We would slide down the hill or tramp through the woods, and invariably fall through the ice on the creek. Cold, shivering, and soaking wet, we'd trudge back to the house to warm and dry clothes in front of the cozy pot-bellied stove. Old Jim Spawn (Gramp) lived there for 30 years and sometimes took us for rides in his horse and buggy. He was a Civil War Veteran, died at 96, and is buried in Highland Cemetery.

Each Sunday afternoon the Hopp Clan gathered at Grandma's and Grandpa's farm. Dad was the oldest of seven children and all his sisters, brothers, and children gathered for softball and storytelling. What fun the 17 cousins had playing hide and seek in the corn field, climbing trees in the Apple and Peach Orchards, watching cows milked, and eating balogna sandwiches, ice cream and water melon on the back porch.

Easter was spent in Dearborn at Aunt Viola & Uncle Rufus Wilson's and all the other 35 aunts, uncles, and cousins. Uncle Rufus "Red" was Henry Ford's private chauffeur from 1925 until Mr. Ford's death in 1946. Their Greenfield Rd. home was adjacent to FAIRLANE, the Ford Estate. Each day when he reported for work, Mr. Ford would race him to the barn where the cars were kept. We envied cousins, Dick and

Ruth Wilson, who went to school in Greenfield Village, graduated from Edison Institute, and could visit Ford Rotunda any time. They often received bicycles or such gifts from Mr. Ford after returning from trips around the country to purchase old buildings for Greenfield Village. Uncle Rufus drove Mr. & Mrs. Ford to visit Grandma Hopp at her farm each summer. She (Emma Morrel) and Clara (Bryant) Ford were girlhood friends in Redford, and great-grandpa Morrel farmed with Henry Ford in their younger days.

My baby brother, Billy, was born on Mother's Day in 1939, and was a toddler when World War II was declared in 1941. Soon, War Bond Sales, Scrap Metal & Paper Drives, and Red Cross work kept everyone busy. The Ford Bomber Plant was built at Willow Run and thousands of people moved here to get jobs. 18 year old boys joined the service, and teens took jobs in the local stores. The U.S.O. was opened for soldiers stationed at Beck Road AIR FORCE BASE, and a TEEN CANTEEN was popular on Saturday Night for High Schoolers. I was active in sports, Girls Drum & Bugle Corps, Scouts, Thespians, Ypsi Sem & Yearbook Staff, and Honor Society.

Roger Katon was President of the Student Council, Sports Announcer, and member of National Honor Society. We began dating in 1943, and enjoyed Dime Dances after Sport games and Methodist Youth Fellowship on Sunday evening. Gas was rationed so we walked on most all our dates. He walked for miles from my house, to town for a movie, to Miller's Ice Cream Store, then back to my house and home again. He left for the ARMY AIR CORPS on June 6, 1944. After the war we both attended Michigan State Normal College, then married in 1947.

We built a little house on the Hopp Farm and lived there nine years. Roger worked at Haywards Mens Wear, and I was a stay-at-home mom for a daughter, Cheri, and three little sons: Roger, Rick, and Randy. We moved back to town, next door to my folks on Sheridan Street in 1958 where our son, Robby, was born in 1960. We were busy with Little League, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cheer Leading, Drum & Bugle Corps, Football, Wrestling, Plays, Band Boosters and 26 years in the PTA.

I had a state-licensed Nursery School in my home until our youngest was in first grade, then took a job during school hours only (8:30-3:30) at the U-M Medical Center.

Roger and I both retired in 1988, and we volunteer at our Methodist Church, The Historical Museum, and The Thrift Shop. We have 6 grandchildren and enjoy visiting them.

We celebrated our 56th Wedding Anniversary in July. 2003.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIETY

Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible.

Capital Fund for Development

This will provide funding for a handicapped entrance to the museum basement and increase meeting space for groups.

Endowment Fund

Presently pays the lease for the archival space and the salary of the archivist. As the fund grows, it will hopefully pay for a professional museum director.

Dues & Unspecified Donations

Helps with the daily operation of the museum and general maintenance of museum interior and artifacts.

Specified Donations

Memorials - Families may remember their loved ones by initiating a memorial fund in their name.

Special Projects - donors may contribute to a project initiated by the donor or suggested by the Historical Society.

Archives

Local family histories are eagerly accepted.

Collections

The museum will accept collections for a short term exhibition. We also accept collections for a tax deductible contribution.



JOHN KING

1885

JOHN G. LAMB



LAMB GROCERY (1910) 101 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE
FORMERLY, KING GROCERY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single	\$10.00	Family	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$25.00	Business	\$75.00
Life	\$200.00		

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

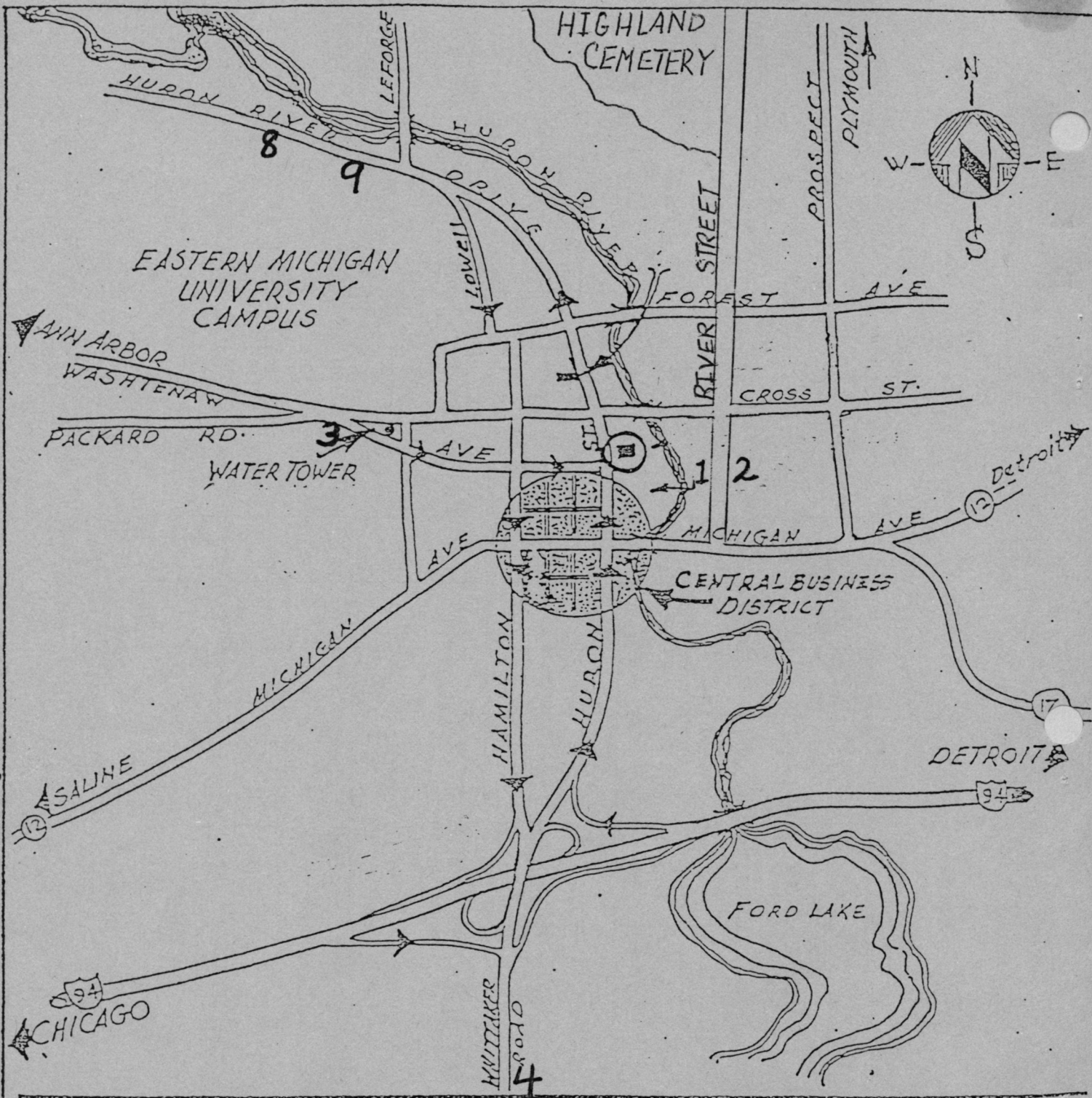
Telephone _____

Please make check payable to: YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Would you like to become a docent? _____

Would you like to assist in the Archives? _____

The Ypsilanti Historical Society is a non-profit organization



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD STATIONS

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Mark Norris
213 North River St. | 4 | Prince Bennett
Tuttle Hill Road | 7 | Roswell Preston
Michigan Ave.
Pittsfield township |
| 2 | Eurotas Morton
214 North River St. | 5 | Asher Aray
Michigan Ave.
Pittsfield Township | 8 | George McCoy
Starkweather Farm
Huron River Drive |
| 3 | Leonard Chase
West Cross at Summit | 6 | Harwood Farm
Michigan Ave.
Pittsfield Township | 9 | Prescott Family
Log Cabin near
Peninsular Paper Co. |

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