

Ypsilanti Gleanings

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

November, 2004



*Ypsilanti Historical Museum
220 North Huron Street
www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org*

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Table of Contents

Ypsilanti Historical Society Board of Directors/Members	1
Administration Board Members	2
Museum Information	2
From the President	3
In Memoriam	5
Web Site	6
New Members	6
Administrative Committee	7
Archives	8
Acquisitions	8
From the Past:	
Beyer Memorial Hospital—Marilynn Woodside	9
Henry R. Scovill	13
Really	16
A Christmas Story	17
2005 Meetings and Events	20
Contributions to the Society	22
Deferred Pledge Agreement	23

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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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.

THURSDAY 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The **Archives**, located behind the Museum Building, is open:

MONDAY 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON
WEDNESDAY 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON
SUNDAY 12:00 NOON – 3:00 P.M.

Telephone: 734-482-4990

Website: www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

Group Tours may be arranged by calling 484-0080 or 971-0536

HOLIDAY HAPPINESS TO YOU ALL !

Dear Members,

The Holiday Season is here and the end of another year is approaching. The older we get the more quickly time seems to pass.

The Museum has been transformed into a “Winter Wonderland” of years gone by. One feels as though he or she has been transported back to the 1800s when they pass through the door.

Christmas trees, wreaths, candles, toys, clothing and displays will capture your attention and create a feeling of holiday happiness due to the many hours of work by the Museum elves. I’m certain you will agree with me when you visit here for there is something for everyone to ohh and ahh over, from childhood to elderhood.

As the year 2004 draws to an end, many thanks go out to the members who volunteer their time to the Museum. We greatly appreciate those who serve as docents, (those folks who spend hours explaining and showing off the lovely, funny, precious and strange items used by the people of the past), members of the Administration Board, chaired by Virginia Davis-Brown, who keep the House sparkling clean and plan the schedule and events that are held within this beautiful building, and to the members of the Board of Directors who take the responsibility of running the business end of the Museum. They all deserve a big round of applause!

It is with great regret that at this time I am resigning as president of the Board of Directors. The three years I’ve spent serving in this position has been one of the most interesting and wonderful experiences of my life. I thank you all for your support and wish my successor the wonderful experiences I’ve enjoyed.

Happy Holidays to you all,

Joan J.Carpenter

R E M E M B E R . . .

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 5, 2004

Museum Christmas

Open House

12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Short Business Meeting

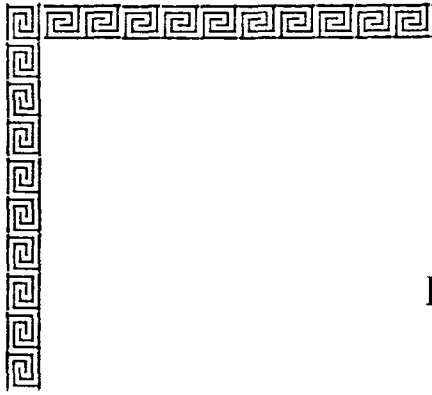
Come prepared to

vote on

Proposed Bylaws

1:30 p.m.





In Memoriam

Dr. William P. Edmunds

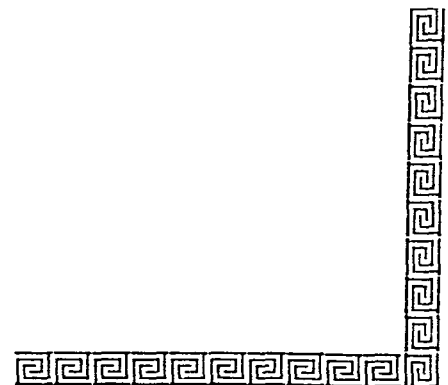
1925-2004

Dr. Edmunds was one of the founding members of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. He, along with other members, founded the Ypsilanti Historical Museum in the Old Post Office Building basement. After five years it was moved to the present location at 220 N. Huron Street. A complete renovation took place and it opened in 1971. His untiring efforts in helping restore the beautiful museum as it is will always be present.

Dr. Edmunds was on the Board of Directors from the beginning and was President several times. The City appointed him as a permanent Board member, as their representative. He was Director of the Museum at the time of his passing. He was totally dedicated to all he did. As a general practitioner he was devoted to his patients and to Beyer Hospital. He was instrumental in keeping the hospital open for many years and was Chief of Staff for several years. He practiced medicine from 1954 to 1993.

He was associated with Hope Clinic and during retirement volunteered countless hours to their patients. The Ypsilanti Room has been renamed the "Dr. William P. Edmunds Room" in his honor where a plaque will be placed. He was a wonderful humanitarian to all of the Ypsilanti community. We shall always miss you, Dr. Edmunds, "Bill".

Kathryn J. Howard



Web Site Has New Address

The Ypsilanti Historical Society web site can now be accessed at the following URL:

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

Make sure you bookmark this address on your Internet browser so you can keep up with YHS meetings and activities.

You can access the new Photo Archives Project through the "Archives" section of the web site. The photo project is a joint project with the University of Michigan Library System and involves the cataloging and scanning of more than 5,000 historical photographs located in the YHS museum and archives. The project will take more than five years to complete. The project will have search capabilities using key words so that photos can be viewed anywhere in the world from a computer connected to the Internet.

The "Museum Collection" section of the web site allows you to take a pictorial tour of the museum. There are brief descriptions of the various rooms in the museum along with a partial list of some of the items you will see when you visit. The house in which the museum is located was built in the 1860s by Asa Dow.

The "Volunteer" section of the web site lists a number of volunteer activities that YHS members can become involved with throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the museum.

Al Rudisill



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rod & Karen Parish Foster	Whittaker, MI
Joseph Klein	Ypsilanti, MI
Rita Sprague	Ypsilanti, MI
Richard Linsk & Alice Telesnitsky	Ann Arbor, MI

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Isn't it a wonderful time of the year? Mother Nature has out done herself this fall with all the beautiful color she has given and in some places there are still lovely red trees trying to hold on to there beauty a little longer.

In the stores, when I have gone shopping, I hear the tinkle of bells and hear the Christmas music which makes me realize the year of 2004 has almost ended.

It has been an eventful fall for us at the Museum. The Quilt Show was a success with over 100 quilts on display for all to see. Some were unique, some beautiful and some were made with love for the use that a quilt was made for, just to keep warm. I want to thanks all these 40 people who so generously let us use their treasures, Without them we could not have had such a wonderful display and thank you to all the extra docents who volunteered so we could be open extra hours

After a couple of weeks we realized we only had a few days to start decorating the museum for Christmas. The crew of Museum Elves put on their pointed toe shoes and red hats and went to the basement to see what could be used this year. After the consultation on design and color, they were off on Monday morning, and low and behold by Thursday the museum was ready for inspection. You must stop by as it looks like the pages of your favorite Home Design magazine.

Our hours this year will be Thursday , Friday, Saturday and Sundays from 2 P.M. to 4P.M except for December 5, our Open House, then they will be from 12P.M. to 5 P.M. These hours start on November 26, and run through December 31 when we again will be participating in the annual New Years Jubilee . What a wonderful celebration when children, parents and grandparents can all go to good clean entertainment. Again this year, we will be honored to have Joseph Pratt, the classical guitarist. Of course you can have your favorite cup of hot chocolate or coffee and a snack. Our building is free but donations are always accepted to help with the upkeep of the Museum.

This will be a perfect time to take a few minutes to browse in our gift shop and maybe pick up a gift or two, Remember that we have a lot of books on the City and History of Ypsilanti.

Now on behalf of the Administration Committee and the Ypsilanti Historical Museum we wish you a HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Doreen Binder
Kathleen Campbell
Joan Carpenter
Grace Cornish

Virginia Davis-Brown
Kathryn Howard
Betty Kerr
Karen Nickels

News from the Fletcher-White Archives
"The collective memory of the Ypsilanti area"

What a summer we had around here. Besides the new acquisitions from our contributors, Karen Nickels has been digging out all kinds of wonderful artifacts from the basement of the museum. We now have O. E. Thompson's scrapbook about the early advertising of Dodge automobiles in Ypsilanti and a tremendous amount of ephemera about his dealership and associated items. This will be in the archives for viewing about the time you receive this issue of the Gleanings. My volunteer, ex-mayor Rodney Hutchinson said he is coming back after a summer of poking a ball around the local golf courses. Welcome back, we need your help! Several other people have asked to help in the archives and join our little cadre of volunteers now that the weather is turning cooler. We welcome you all with thanks!

We have been blessed with visitors from all over the US: California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Tennessee, Kentucky and Wisconsin just to name a few. Wow!! All of these people came to Ypsilanti to research their ancestral roots in this area. This and research on local "Historic District" homes are some of the things people are really delving into. The best part has been meeting these extremely interesting people and exchanging stories with them and helping to find what they seek. Also, we have been extremely busy sending information we have to people scattered all over the US and now to Canada too!

We also have established what I call the Ypsi-Pipsi file. A file about the everyday people who do something positive to make this a great city and area. We are saving newspaper articles about these little "pips"! Why should their achievements only be given 15 minutes of fame? Well, these are the people that we will admire as we look back from the future to the years of 2003, 2004 and so on. You might say they are "the Ypsi-pips that roared"!

Besides a number of small contributions, Peter Fletcher gave us something his father collected a long time ago; an assortment of obituaries and other interesting items concerning Ypsilanti folks, some almost 100 years old! This will fill many holes in our obituary files and the GSWC genealogy files. Thanks also to Betty Campbell for some city directories, ones we did not have until now. Any information and particularly pictures of old Ypsilanti are always welcome and we appreciate every last one of them. Thanks to all of you for your support, contributions, and kind words. Now come on down to the archives and see what we are doing!

Gerry Pety



ACQUISITIONS

- Blue and white 1800's coverlet, Penny Square quilt,
and an O. G. mid 1800's clockMrs. Thomas Herman
- Cigar molds and tools for making handmade cigars.....Mrs. Kathryn Howard
- Blue and white quilt (drunkards path)Mrs. Shirley Schlotka
- Two fansMrs. Wilma Chaltry
- Towner House history archival materialReverend Jasper Pennington

Beyer Memorial Hospital

by
Marilynn Woodside

Beyer Memorial Hospital was actually three hospital buildings during its eighty-two year history. In the midst of a flu epidemic and World War I, the first Beyer Memorial Hospital was built and dedicated in June of 1918 using money provided by Augustus Beyer in his will. The first structure occupied land immediately north of Bortz Health Care on Prospect and was managed by an Ypsilanti City Council committee. A second Beyer Hospital was built and dedicated in September of 1944 using federal government Public Works Project money. This second Beyer Memorial Hospital now is Bortz Health Care of Ypsilanti. Before regionalism ever became a popular governmental issue, a property tax district composed of the City of Ypsilanti and a couple of neighboring townships was formed in 1945. This district was called the Peoples Community Hospital Authority (PCHA) and relieved the City of Ypsilanti from managing the hospital. PCHA later expanded and included hospitals in Wayne County. These first two hospitals were connected into one and served the Ypsilanti community until the a new third structure on the east side of Prospect across from both of the first two Beyer Hospitals opened in 2000.



First Beyer Memorial Hospital, 1918

I was born on May 13, 1939 in the original first building. Weighing just 4 pounds 4 ounces at birth and losing down to 3 pounds 12 ounces, I spent three to four months in an incubator until I was ready to leave the care of the hospital. Dr. J.J. Woods was my mother's

physician. As a new born, I spent more time in Beyer than most. No one could have predicted that I would spend 42.5 years in Beyer as an employee, more than anybody in the history of the hospital.

After graduating from Ypsi High in June of 1957, I enrolled in the old Cleary College at the corner of Michigan Ave and Hamilton. Like many high school grads, I looked for a part-time job to pay my school bills. Our next door neighbor on Carver Street was Ruth Knaup Remington, head pediatric nurse at Beyer Hospital. With Ruth's recommendation, I applied for part-time employment and I was hired starting work on October 5, 1957. Elvira Peppiatt was the Personnel Department Head at my time of hire. Ruth Remington now lives in the Gilbert Residence and Elvira Peppiatt still lives in Ypsilanti with her sister. Looking back, the time I spent after leaving the incubator and starting my employment was all preparation to return to the hospital.



Second Beyer Memorial Hospital, 1944

My first Beyer job was perfect for being a student. I worked Saturday and Sunday and alternated shifts with the late Julia Cornett Matheny. Using an address-o-graph, I was responsible for preparing steel plates for new patients in the admissions department. I also checked patient charges and prepared the hospital census that listed all of the inpatients for the day. One time, the arm for the letter "a" on the address-o-graph broke. Mr. Freysinger, the hospital administrator at the time, got me going again by switching the "z" arm for the broken "a" arm. As technology progressed, I graduated from the address-o-graph and manual typewriter to an electric typewriter and eventually several generations of computers.

A connection was built between the two Beyer Hospital buildings. The original first building housed Physical Therapy, Pediatrics, Personnel, and Payroll. A connection between the two buildings was built and became known as the Annex. The Annex was occasionally used as an overflow when all of the beds were full. After lights out one night, I walked through the dark Annex when a patient rolled over in a bed that had been

temporarily moved into the hallway. Expecting the Annex to be empty, the noise scared the daylights out of me!

Before I started at Beyer, a small building was built on the hill west of Beyer and was used as a contagious ward. When I started employment, the building was used as a residence for nurses. Before it was torn down after a fire, it was used as our employee credit union.

After graduation from Cleary College, I started full-time at Beyer on September 2, 1958. I worked in the Admitting Department where emergency and out patients registered. My job consisted of filling out insurance forms, registering new patients, and collecting money. There was never a dull moment working in the Emergency Department. The City Dump next to I 94 burned the day after Christmas during the early 1960s. The smoke caused a thirteen car pile up which sent five patients to surgery. Medical staff from all over the hospital came to the aid of the Emergency Department that day. The day Officer Downing was killed during a bank robbery at Park and Michigan and the day realtor Jack Brown was shot in his office on Michigan Avenue were sad days at the hospital. The most unusual case in emergency was a patient treated for skin burns as a result of spraying Raid on his groin because of an insect infestation.

The years of 1969 and 1970 were special when my mother, Dorothy Woodside, worked at Beyer as a receptionist.

When I first started, Dr. William Edmunds, Dr. Elliott, Dr. R. Fisher, Dr. Frost, Dr. Brad Harris, Dr. Scott Harris, Dr. Martin, Dr. Milford, Dr. Delbert Pearson, Dr. Scovill, Dr. Wicht, Dr. Williamson, Dr. Weisman, and Dr. J.J. Woods all practiced at Beyer. Art Forche, Mr. John Frysinger, and Alan Case were hospital administrators at old Beyer.

Beyer's employee cafeteria served a Blue Plate Special before KMart made the phrase famous. It consisted of meat, potatoes, and a vegetable, all for fifty cents.

The original St. Joseph Mercy Hospital was on the north side of Ann Arbor and most Ypsilanti residents used local doctors who primarily worked out of Beyer Hospital. As health care needs grew, Peoples Community Hospital Authority recognized the need for a new hospital and bought the homes that filled the block bordered by Towner, Arnet, Davis, and Prospect streets. The houses that filled the block were either demolished or sold and moved in 1965 with construction starting soon after. The third new Beyer Hospital opened on April 11, 1970 with seven patient rooms in the Emergency Department where I worked. This compared to three patient rooms in the previous Beyer. A later addition expanded the number of patient rooms to ten. The original first Beyer building was torn town shortly after we moved into this new hospital.

My first assignment at new Beyer was at the registration desk from 1970 to 1975. I transferred back to the Emergency Department in 1975 as a Desk Secretary and worked at that position until the hospital closed in 2000.

Hospital administrators at new Beyer included Laura Wang, Mary McCormick, Mary Finn, and Rick Hilbom. Mary Finn was well liked by all.

PCHA built the new hospital using property taxes from their taxing authority. PCHA dissolved in 1991 and sold Beyer to Oakwood and we became know as Oakwood Hospital, Beyer Center. We old timers never acknowledged Oakwood and always considered we were Beyer employees. After the new St. Joseph Mercy Hospital was built near Ypsilanti and assumed more of the Ypsilanti health care needs, the number of patients declined at Beyer and led to Oakwood closing the hospital on April 10, 2000. The third Beyer Hospital served Ypsilanti one day short of thirty years.

Oakwood put the building up for sale and, because the building was built with PCHA tax money, the City of Ypsilanti filed a law suit against Oakwood in an effort to protect that tax investment. The hospital was eventually sold and became the present Forest Hill Medical Center. The law suit was settled by the formation of a health care foundation by Oakwood for Ypsilanti area residents. The foundation is named the Beyer Memorial Foundation in honor of Augustus Beyer who provided the money for the first hospital in 1918.

Since I spent my years at Beyer in the admitting and emergency departments, it seems like I met most of the people who lived in Ypsilanti at one time or another. Strangers now come up to me whom I met as patients. I was recently stopped at a traffic light when I heard from a car next to me, "I have a headache, let's go to Beyer!"

I had a good time at Beyer and I now enjoy going to our annual employee reunions that started in 2000.



The building pictured above was used as...
the Contagious Ward,
a Nurse's Residence, and
an Employee Credit Union

Henry R. Scovill

During the one hundred and eighty year history of Ypsilanti, many people have had a major influence on the history of the City. Henry Scovill's influence was social, financial, and political during his Ypsilanti years.

The son of Amasa and Laura Scovill, Henry was born in Cleveland, Ohio on January 28, 1843. His father moved the family to Ypsilanti in the 1850's. When the Civil War erupted, Henry could not resist President Lincoln's call to arms and was one of five members of the Light Guards who volunteered. He saw the battle of Bull Run and participated in a number of skirmishes with Confederate troops.



Henry R. Scovill

On his return to Ypsilanti he was restless and set out for the West, going as far as the railroad would take him and then continuing by boat to Omaha, Nebraska. There he secured employment as a driver for a mule team freighting outfit serving Salt Lake City and for weeks drove across unbroken prairie. He soon mastered the trick of wielding a black snake whip and driving six mules with aid of one line and the use of mule language. For all of this, he earned fifty cents per day. The only Indians encountered on the trip were bent on mule stealing. He met some of the leading gunmen of the day, among them one known to the Mormons as "The Quieting Angel," no doubt a reference to the permanency of the sleep his guns provided.

It took Henry two months to drive his six mules to Salt Lake. With \$30 saved, Henry bought passage on a wagon train to California. In California he worked on a ranch and hunted gold in his spare time. The search was unsuccessful and he eventually returned by ocean steamer to Nicaragua, traveled across the isthmus by river boat and mule pack. From Nicaragua he went by ship to New York and finally back to Ypsilanti.

Back in Ypsilanti, Henry married Mary Jarvis, daughter of William and Ann Jarvis on February 15, 1868. After the death of Mary, he married Nina Mavis on January 25, 1888. Together, Henry and Nina built and lived in a large brick home at 160 North Washington.

In 1869, Henry started Scovill Lumber Company adjacent to the mill race that surrounded the east side of our present day Frog Island Park. The Huron River was used for power and nearby forests furnished the lumber. The saw mill was an important factor in business life when scores of farmers brought huge loads of logs on sleighs from all sections of the surrounding country to be sawed into lumber for summer building. He did import white pine from the Saginaw area. After a flood that wiped out his lumber company and with the coming of electricity, the lumber company moved to the corner of Jarvis and North Huron. Pine lumber recently occupied the site. Self storage units are now for rent at this location.

Henry was first elected Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1881 and was reelected in 1882 and 1883 for three successive one year terms. In his first inaugural address, he recommended that the council proceed at once to build a number of cisterns at different places about the City for fire protections. Several of them were built and kept filled with water until the City put in a water works system. During his second term, payment of road bonds was an issue. The City lost a law suit and, through the tax payers, were forced to pay \$10,000 each year for ten years to pay the bonds off. One wonders what the alternative method of payment might have been. After serving three years as mayor in the 1880's, Henry was elected again for two one year terms in the 1890's. After serving these terms, he declined to run again and retired from politics. D. L. Davis, a long time associate of Henry, is quoted saying "Mayor Scovill's administration was noted for its economy and business like management and I feel that we owe him a debt of gratitude for what he did for the City of Ypsilanti at that time."

Like many Ypsilanti residents who never expected to spend their lives in Ypsilanti, Herbert Bisbee came to Ypsilanti to attend college, Cleary College in his case. He met and married Henry's daughter and joined the Scovill Lumber Company in 1910.

In 1929, Henry drove his horse drawn delivery wagon on North Huron as he frequently did. At the intersection of Forest Avenue, an automobile collision resulted in fatal injuries for Henry.

The business became Scovill-Bisbee Lumber Company and continued in business until September 3, 1962. The family run lumber company operated continuously for 93

years. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scovill and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bisbee are buried on a hill in the northwest corner of Highland Cemetery overlooking the Frog Island site of Scovill Lumber and the Huron Street site of Scovill-Bisbee Lumber.



*Scovill Lumber Company
Between Mill Race and Freight House
North of Follett House on Cross Street*

Really?

After hearing some really strange tales about Ypsilanti and sightings of ghosts and other spirits that inhabit our older homes in this area, it is only fair to spin a few yarns at this time of the year near Halloween.

As we all know this area is plentiful in graveyards and cemeteries as this area has been settled for more than 200 years. Over the course of time these old burying places, for one reason or another, have to be moved. In fact, cemeteries in the Ypsilanti area have moved so much that they should have been made mobile right from the start! This would have saved a lot of time and effort years down the line. But my story continues...

I'll bet you never knew that there was a cemetery behind the store on Michigan Avenue and Summit Street. (Now known as the Summit Grocery/ party store) Sometime in the late 20's or early thirties, as the story goes, this very small cemetery and its "residents" were moved to Highland Cemetery on North River Street. Since then strange things have been known to happen in this neighborhood, to hear some of the older folks talk. Apparently, the population of the living was creating a demand for the property along Michigan Avenue and the city fathers decided they would move it's "residents" to a more out of the way place to make way for a new batch of taxpayers. As everyone knows, the dead are notorious for not paying their taxes in a timely fashion! This possibly could explain where the term "deadbeat" comes from. Well anyway, there being no exact science to finding everyone buried over many generations in a graveyard, some "body" is bound TO GET LEFT BEHIND! Next time you walk past this area think about what I just related to you. Notice the different age of the homes in the area. Their style. See any other differences? Did they get everyone? Ponder what I just said.... Just maybe... they didn't. Really!

Have you ever visited the Willow Run School District Administration building on Spencer Lane, in Willow Run? Ever notice the small but stately monument on the left of the building. No it's not a lawn ornament, or an Egyptian artifact, nor even a birdbath. No, it is definitely none of those things! According to what carved on its side, this commemorates the removal of the headstones of this graveyard to make room for the "new" school building, but most of its residents still repose on the grounds just under your feet. (Goes to show you what happens when you no longer have a valid voter registration card, the politicians and bureaucrats will walk all over you!)

And of course everyone is aware of Prospect Cemetery. Oh! You might know it by its more recent name: Prospect Park. In the late 1860's all of its occupants were evicted to the just-opened "garden" style park named Highland Cemetery. The newspapers at the time claimed they got every last one of the inhabitants moved to their new home at Highland. But was this fact or just speculation on the newspapers part, you'll never know, really.

Or have you ever heard the story about the little village just West of Ypsilanti situated near the intersection of what is now Packard and Carpenter Roads. This area was farmed by, I believe two related people, possibly brothers, named Carpenter in the latter part of the 1800's. This area was known as Carpenter's Corners and was a very small village with its own cemetery. Sometime in the early part of the 20th century (c 1910) a parcel of this land, including the cemetery, was sold to another farmer. This farmer being a practical person, and wanting to get the most return on his farm investment decided to move the cemetery by himself. Well, being a very, very, very practical farmer, he just decided to just toss the head stones into a near by stream and save himself the ghoulish task of moving the inhabitants. Who would know or remember where that old cemetery was anyway. With all of these obstacles now out of the way he just farmed over the entire area. If you visit this cemetery look at the brass plaque located there. In the 1930's the DAR and another civic group decided to try and rebuild the cemetery as well as they could. The result was the Terhune Pioneer Cemetery just off of Terhune Street in Ann Arbor. The stones are still gone but the residents remain. So if you should venture your way into the Brandywine Subdivision just look for a wooden staircase just about halfway down Terhune Street. Its there....stop in....say hi. It is a very very quiet, restful place-Really!

So just when you thought that cemeteries and graveyards were some distant, out of the way place where your aunt Maude is buried, think again! You might be living next to, passing by, or standing right on top of an old cemetery. **Really!!**

Gerry Pety

A Christmas Surprise for Grandma

By Gloria J. Shuttleworth

Grandma lived on Sugar Creek Mountain all alone. It was a beautiful mountain, with tall cedar trees all over the mountain top. In the middle of the mountain was a crystal clear lake. The water in the lake was the prettiest blue you've ever seen. When the water was calm, you could see the fish swimming around in the lake.

I loved sitting by the lake when I was a little girl. Grandma would pack us a lunch, and we would sit at the lake for hours on end. Hour after hour, grandma would tell me stories about her life on the mountain.

I remember the day that grandpa drowned in the lake. My parents had tried to talk grandma into moving into town, but she wouldn't hear of it. My parents knew not to argue with her, because they knew that grandma was set in her ways.

"I've been on this mountain for so long that I've forgotten which is the oldest, me or the mountain," grandma had said, with a twinkle in her eyes. I knew my parents worried about her being alone, because grandma was the only person who lived on Sugar Cliff Mountain.

Today I was going to visit grandma, and the excitement grew inside me at the thought of spending time on the mountain once more. After all, it had been ten years since I had seen grandma. It's hard to believe that my career had kept me away for so long. As I approached the top of the mountain, I could see grandma staring out the window of her little log cabin home.

Grandma greeted me at the door with a big hug. "I am so happy that you could come to visit with me," said grandma. This Christmas is going to be so wonderful! I have a special surprise for you dear. Little did grandma know that I had a very special surprise for her as well.

"Well, we can't stand around here all day," said grandma. There's a lot of work to get done. I have invited the people from the village to come to my Christmas party on Saturday evening.

After I had freshened up a bit, we spent the day baking all sorts of cookies and candies. Grandma had a story to tell as we baked the goodies for the party.

She told me about how she used to bake apple pies for grandpa.

"He loved apple pies," said grandma. Those were his favorite.

She said that after the pies would cool off, that grandpa would send her into the living room, under the pretense that he would clean up the kitchen. Grandma knew what he was really up to, but she never let on that she knew. Grandma would go into the living room

and sit in her rocking chair. She would sing some of the songs that she knew grandpa loved. About an hour later, grandma would wander back into the kitchen.

"Why Henry!" she said kitchen, grandma retired for the evening. I made myself a cup of tea and sat down in front of the fireplace.

Sitting alone in the quiet house, I pondered my childhood memories of my grandparents. They had always been such a fun loving and happy couple. Shortly after they were married, grandpa built the log cabin home for his "Little ole Emmy", as he called her. Just before Christmas, almost twelve years ago, grandpa was outside gathering firewood, when grandma heard a horrible scream and a terrible noise. She ran outside to find that an area of the ice on the lake had fallen through. She yelled for grandpa over and over but no reply ever came. They searched the lake for over a week, but no trace of grandpa could be found. Finally, they called off the search. One of the men who had helped in the search said they'd probably never find grandpa now.

Just then, as my thoughts were still racing around in my head, my grandmother brought me back to reality. "We have to be up very early in the morning dear, so off to bed now," she said. I slowly walked to my grandmother's room, and kissed her goodnight.

Morning came early at grandma's house. As I entered the kitchen I could smell the homemade biscuits and gravy cooking on the stove. "What's on our list of things to do today?" I asked. "The men are coming from the village this morning to put the lights on the trees, and we have lots of presents to wrap for the children," she said.

Just then, there was a knock at the door. It was the men from the village ready to start putting up the lights. Grandma was so excited as she stepped back to watch them.

"Let's wrap those presents now Laura," said grandma. As I watched grandma wrap the presents and tie the ribbons, I knew that so much more was being placed around them. With each piece of wrapping paper grandma was also wrapping them with love. After the last present was wrapped, we realized that we'd been wrapping presents all day! It was now getting dark outside and grandma wanted to go outside to view the lights. As we stepped out onto the porch, we gasped. The sight that met our eyes was so beautiful to behold! The snow was glittering and the reflection of the lights on the snow was beyond words! It was breathtaking!

That night I went to bed with a heart full of love for my grandmother. I knew that someday I wanted to be just like her, full of love for others. Saturday evening the village people started arriving just after dark. Grandma always waited until evening to have her Christmas party, because she loved the lights. All the guests gathered around in the front yard and began to sing Christmas carols. Oh, how grandma loved that!

Ole Ben was a jolly fellow who worked at the village store, and he was chosen to help Santa hand out the presents. The children shouted with glee, as they unwrapped their gifts. Grandma said, "Laura, come here dear, I have a surprise for you." As she handed

me the present, I could see the love and pride in her eyes. "I love it grandma", I said, as I bent down to kiss her cheek, "I will cherish it forever." Grandma had made a quilt out of some of my dresses that I had worn as a little girl.

"Grandma, if you could have just one special gift for Christmas, what would it be?" I asked her. Without even stopping to think, she replied, "I would like to see your grandfather just one more time, so I could feed him the apple pie that the horses quit snatching when he left us."

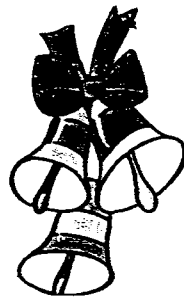
Just then grandma's face lit up like the lights on the Christmas tree! Everyone turned to see what grandma was looking at. Walking slowly toward her, with an apple pie in his hand, was grandpa! There was two slices missing from the pie that he was holding. The village people were speechless, as they thought they were seeing a ghost. Grandpa chuckled, as he yelled out, "Emmy, those darn horses snatched the pie and got away with two pieces. difference to me, but slowly my memory started to return.

I remember now going out to gather firewood. There was a nice piece of wood on the lake. I thought the lake was frozen over so I stepped out on the lake to get the piece of wood. I remember hearing the lake crackle and that's the last I remember about the accident.

"Laura, how can I ever thank you for bringing grandpa home to me?" asked grandma. Laura replied, " Seeing the happiness and the love you have for each other is all the thanks I need."

As Laura retired to bed that night, she couldn't help but think about the surprise that she had given to grandma for Christmas. She knew in her heart that it was the best surprise present that grandma would ever get. What a warm and wonderful feeling came over Laura as she fell asleep, thinking of her grandparents.

The End



**Ypsilanti Historical Society
Quarterly Membership Meeting
February 20, 2005**

The February Quarterly membership meeting program will be given by Barry LaRue. He will speak about Ypsilanti. Barry will have a slide presentation comparing and contrasting buildings 100 years ago to the 1960's to structures presently being restored.

Mr. LaRue has been a life long resident of Ypsilanti and has been dedicated to collecting Ypsilanti history. He was a long time member of the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission and presently serves as Ward 3 Ypsilanti City Council representative. Community memberships include Riverside Arts Center board and our Ypsilanti Historical Society. He is a most entertaining speaker and enjoys having audience participation during his presentation. This should be a most informative and interesting program.

Refreshments will be served.

Mark your calendars for February 20, 2005 at 2 p.m. in the Museum.



**Historical Society Garage Sale
June 4, 2005**

We are collecting items for the 2005 garage sale. When doing your winter and spring cleaning please consider bringing your unwanted items to the museum. Thank you to those who have already brought in items. If you need things picked up call Karen & Bill Nickels at (734) 483-8896. Our sale last June was very successful.

Donations for the sale can be brought to the museum, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., or making special arrangements to deliver them to the museum. Call the museum at 482-4990.

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.

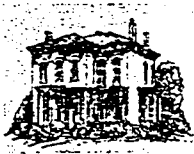
Special Projects - donors may contribute to a project initiated by the donor or suggested by the Historical Society.

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.



Deferred Pledge Agreement Ypsilanti Historical Society

The Internal Revenue Service has designated the Ypsilanti Historical Society an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

AMOUNT OF PLEDGE: On this _____ day of _____, 20____, I agree to contribute and hereby pledge to the Ypsilanti Historical Society the sum of \$_____.

FUND OPTIONS: (please check fund for which pledge is being made):

- _____ A. **Endowment Fund:** Contributions to the Endowment Fund are placed in long term investments and the interest income from the fund is used to provide a secure and permanent income stream to support the operation of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives.
- _____ B. **Capital Development Fund:** Contributions to the Capital Development Fund are used for major physical improvements to the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives such as providing handicapped access to the Museum basement.
- _____ C. **Unrestricted Fund:** Contributions to the Unrestricted Fund may be used in support of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives as determined by the Board of Directors.

METHOD OF PAYMENT (please initial):

- _____ A. An immediate payment of \$_____ with annual payments of \$_____ in each succeeding year for a period of _____ years.
- _____ B. An immediate payment of \$_____ with the balance of \$_____ payable through my estate upon my death. I have consulted a lawyer and I understand the balance is an irrevocable pledge that my estate will be obligated to pay to the Ypsilanti Historical Society. This Deferred Pledge Agreement may also be satisfied in part or in full by payments made by me at my discretion during my lifetime.
- _____ C. I pledge that the total amount of my contribution to the Ypsilanti Historical Society will be payable through my estate upon my death. I have consulted a lawyer and I understand this is an irrevocable pledge that my estate will be obligated to pay to the Ypsilanti Historical Society. This Deferred Pledge Agreement may also be satisfied in part or in full by payments made by me at my discretion during my lifetime.

EXECUTION: Executed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Donor: _____ Signature: _____

Witness: _____ Signature: _____

ACCEPTANCE: The undersigned, being a duly authorized officer of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, does hereby accept the within pledge.

Ypsilanti Historical Society Officer Signature: _____ Date: _____

INTERPRETATION: This Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of Michigan.

Board Members Of The

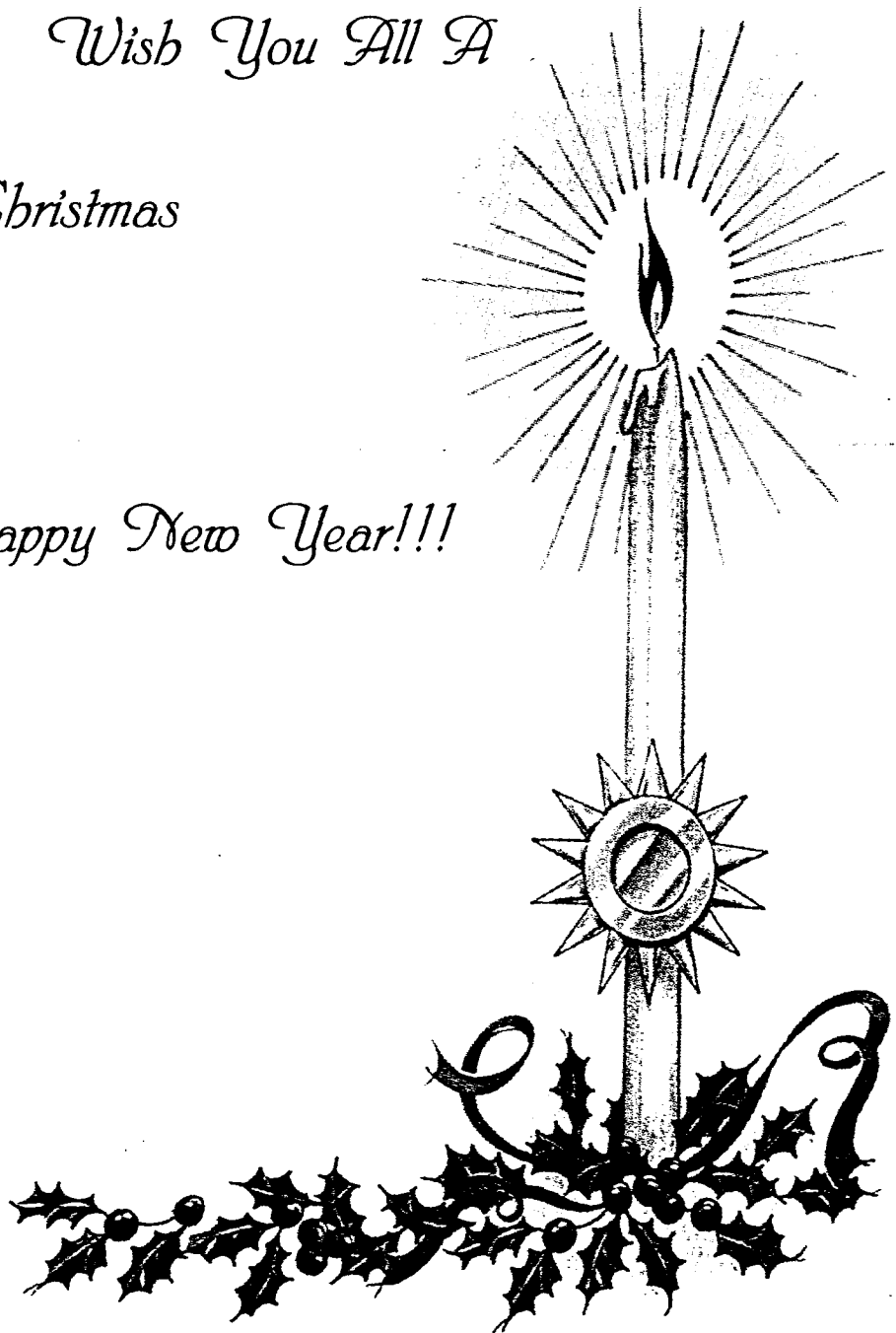
Upsilon Historical Society

Wish You All A

Very Merry Christmas

And

A Happy New Year!!!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

		New	Renewal
Single	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

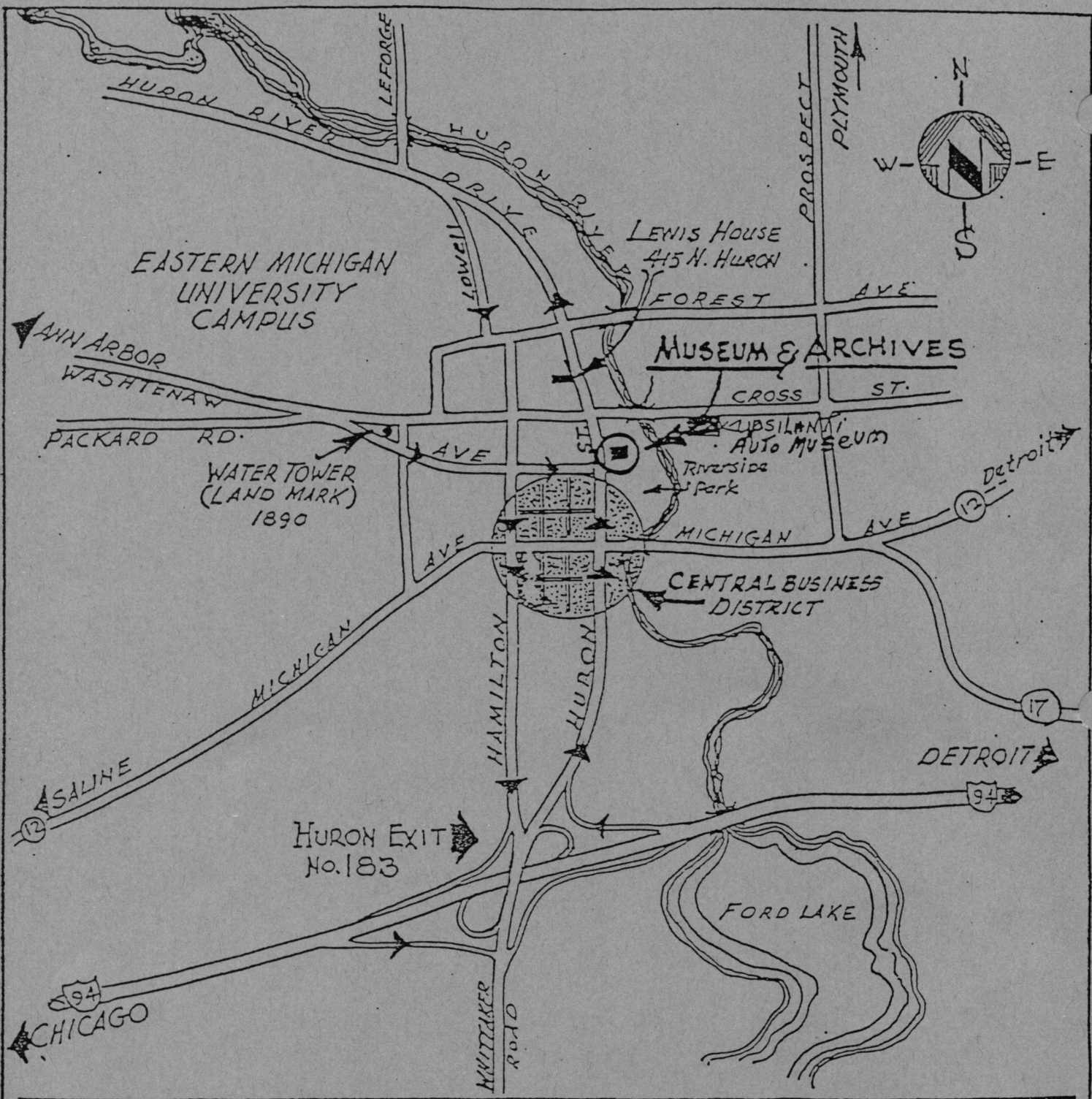
Telephone _____

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.



Upsilon Historical Museum
 220 N. Huron Street, Upsilon, Michigan 48197
 Phone: 734-482-4990
www.upsilantihistoricalsociety.org