

February 1975

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ PUBLICATION ~



Ypsilanti Historical Museum  
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

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AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING  
Chronology by Foster Fletcher, City Historian

- 1787 Northwest Ordinance by Congress establishing Northwest Territory, the area which today includes Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. October 5. Gen. Arthur St. Clair appointed first Governor of the Northwest Territory.
- 1805 Territory of Michigan organized (lower peninsular) with Gen. William Hull the first Governor of the Territory and Detroit as the seat of Government. Two thirds of Detroit's inhabitants were French. Fire destroyed most of the log structure of the village the day Gen. Hull arrived to begin his administration.
- 1809 River Huron, easily navigable for most of the 25 miles inland from Lake Erie, brought three exploring Frenchmen who established a Trading Post on the west bank of the River Huron. This log structure was the first building built in what is now Washtenaw County. A plaque on the entrance of the Detroit Edison office building commemorates the 1809 Trading Post.  
The Frenchmen were: Col. Gabriel Godfroy, Romaine LaChambre and Francois Pepin.
- 1811 June 11, deeding of 2,63 acres running west from the Huron, to the three French explorers and known thereafter as the French Claims. F.C. 690 to Gabriel Godfroy, 612 acres; F.C. 691 to Romaine LaChambre, 622 acres; F.C. 680 to Godfroy's children, 556 acres; F.C. 681 to Francois Pepin, 562 acres.
- 1812 June 18. Congress by a small majority, voted a Declaration of War against Great Britain. William Webb Harwood from Palmyra, New York, came to what is now Washtenaw County and Ypsilanti but did not stay. The Godfroy Trading Post was the only structure in the area.
- 1819 September. Gen. Lewis Cass, second Governor of the Michigan Territory, concluded a treaty at Saginas with the Indians, whereby most of the land in the present south-eastern Michigan, passed to the United States Government. U.S. Survey began and thousands of acres of land were put up for Public Sale by Act of Congress in 1820.

- 1822 Boundries of Washtenaw County defined. July 1, Eli Kellog bought "...a portion of Section 9 & 10, Town 3 South, Range 7 East." containing 132 acres and on the east side of the River Huron. William Webb bought the 132 acres from Kellog and also some adjoining acres from Hiram Jones in 1822. Ezra Lay visited the area, prospecting for land in May of that year. In June, Eldridge Gee, age 21, visited the area with his father-in-law, Epaphras Matteson, Joseph Young and Giles Downer.
- 1823 February, Eldridge Gee "squated" on land in Section 13. April 22, Benjamin Woodruff, John Thayer, Robert M. Stitts, David Beverly, and Titus Bronson arrived on the high banks of the Huron where Benjamin J. Woodruff took registered title to 114 acres in Section 15 and 22. He established Woodruff's Grove on his land, the location being a mile below the present Michigan Avenue. There is a memorial boulder at the present intersection of South Grove and South Prospect. Hiram Tuttle settled further south and on the south bank of the river. Titus Bronson bought two fractions in 1823, and May 24, 1824, bought 160 acres in Section 32 in Ann Arbor Township. Thomas Sackridge was a purchaser of land and built a house in 1824, later moving to Lenawee County. Orante Grant bought land and bought his family to the area in April 1824. October 23, John Bryan and family arrived at Woodruff's Grove, bought land and built a house. Bryan was a carpenter and in the fall of 1827, built the first bridge across the River Huron, about where the 1825 US Survey placed the Detroit to Chicago Military Road.
- 1824 There were 14 purchasers of land in our area during this year. Hiram Jones was the 7th purchaser, locating on the east side of the Huron adjoining what had been the land of Eli Kellog. David McCord and Robert Fleming bought land and Robert Fleming built a sawmill in Section 25, Ann Arbor Township, in the summer, on what is now Fleming's Creek. He soon removed to lands west of Washtenaw County. Harvey H. Snow was the 10th buyer and owned Snow's landing, now Rawsonville. A year later he sold out to Abel Millington. Erastus Guilford was the 11th purchaser; David Cross the 12th and he sold out in

1825 and moved to Saline, then Manchester and back to Ypsilanti where he died February 15, 1875. George Joyes was the 13th purchaser but soon moved to Ann Arbor.

February, Alpha Washtenaw Bryan born at Woodruff's Grove, son of John Bryan. First white child born in County of Washtenaw.

July 4. First Independence Day celebration at the Grove.

September 9. John Stewart bought French Claim #691 from LaChambre, a total of 622 acres.

October 22. Walter Oakman died at the Grove. First death in the settlement.

1824 John Stewart bought all of French Claim 691, May 29th 1824. Judge A.B. Woodward bought French Claim #690 containing 612 acres. Each Claim 1/2 mile wide and two miles long from the bed of the Huron west to the present Hewitt Road.

1825 May. Rev. Elias Potter of Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church, a Circuit Rider, visited Woodruff's Grove.

May 31. Election held at the site of the old Godfroy Trading Post to elect a delegate to Congress.

June. Lyman Graves bought 320 acres in Section #28 (South of Textile, east of Hitchingham, north of Merritt Rd.) on both sides of the old Monroe Road, Whittaker. John P. Kelly and son son, Christian age 16, came to the area with Graves. Kelly was a blacksmith from Berne, Switzerland, and had emigrated to America in 1818. He had the first blacksmith's shop in Washtenaw County.

Spring- United States surveyors placed the Detroit-Chicago Road across the Huron where the present Michigan Avenue is; nearly a mile up the river from Woodruff's Grove.

July. Village platted on each side of the Huron where the Survey placed the new road. It was recorded in Detroit by three men: Judge A.B. Woodward; John Stewart and William W. Harwood. The Judge named the Village "Ypsilanti", honoring the Greek Patriot, Demetrius Ypsilanti. Settlers, now arriving overland on the new road, bought village lots and nearby land, causing the decline of the Grove.

John Stewart planned the West Public Square and gave the land for it. It was bounded by Adams to Hamilton on both sides of Congress with Pearson Street as boundary on the north and Michigan Street on the south.

(Michigan Street in now Ferris.)

William Webb Harwood gave the land for the East Public Square, bounded by Lincoln, Babbitt, Park and Parsons Streets.

William Wilson, age 30, bought 160 acres from his Uncle, John Shaw: NW 1/4 Section 22 (south side of Huron River, 3/4 mile west of Tuttle Hill Road - "about a mile south of Woodruff's Grove."

August 29. Judge A.B. Woodward sold 526 acres to Lucius Lyon.

October 26. Erie Canal opened, establishing a complete water route from New York to Detroit and Michigan Territory.

September 12. Deed for Lot 110 in Original Plat of Ypsilanti to Jonathan G. Morton. Consideration of \$5.00. Morton had first store in Village of Ypsilanti at NW corner Huron and Pearl Streets on Lot 110.  
December 7. "Wednesday, the schoolhouse in Woodruff's Grove entirely burned." ("Detroit Gazette", December 13, 1825).

December 3. Convention held in Ann Arbor to nominate County Officers - Delegates: "B.J. Woodruff and Thomas Sackrider from Woodruff's Grove; Dr. Rufus Pomeroy from Ypsilanti Village; Oliver Whitmore, Mulletts Creek; Roswell Britton, Cyrus Beckwith, Dr. Cyril Nichols and David E. Lord from Ann Arbor; Sylvanus Noble, Mill Creek; Anthony Case from Simes Settlement; Capt. John Dix, Dixborough. Nominees were: S.W. Dexter, 1st Judge; Oliver Whitmore, 2nd Judge; Henry Rumsey, 3rd Judge; Anthony Case, Judge of Probate; B.J. Woodruff, Sheriff; David E. Lord, Register and Recorder." ("Detroit Gazette", December 13, 1825.)

1826 January. Party of young people from Ypsilanti visited Rumsey's Tavern in Ann Arbor.

1st Post Office established at Dixborough, Major John Dix first Postmaster.

April. Meeting held at Woodruff's Grove to discuss military organization and request for such was sent to proper authorities.

May. Military Company organized with Andrew McKinstry, Capt.; Jonathan Kirt, Lt.; Alvin Cross, Ensign.

May 17. Messers Ely and McKinstry killed an enormous bear at the Grove that weighed 350 pounds.

August. Lyman Graves and Olive Gorton married.

John Stewart established the first sawmill, west bank of the Huron River at Forest.

August 26. Bethuel Farrand, one of the original members of the Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor "...Noble Character, and enterprising business man worthy of notice served as Elder of the Church for 21 years..."

(from the Reminiscences of Lorrin Mills) "Deacon Bethuel Farrand drove the stage (a lumber wagon) from Detroit to Ann Arbor and also brought the mail..." Bethuel Farrand bought acreage in Section 33, Ann Arbor Township, East 1/2 of SW located 2 miles East of Ann Arbor on Dixboro Road. He was made Judge of Probate for Washtenaw County and his portrait is in the Ypsilanti Historical Archives.

November. Michigan Legislative Council establishes Washtenaw County. Prior to this time, Washtenaw was part of Wayne County for administrative purposes.

- 1827 January 2. Lucius Lyon sold his land holdings to Jacob Larzalere.  
June. Mark Norris arrived, having walked from Detroit to Ypsilanti.

Michigan Legislative Council set off original Township of Ypsilanti, comprised of Town 1, 2, 3 & 4 South of Range 7 East, and Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 5 and 36, and South 1/2 of Sections 13 & 14 in Town 3, South of Range 6, East (part of Pittsfield Township). This covered Salem, Superior, Ypsilanti, Augusta Townships, and Southeast corner of Pittsfield Township.

The first Hawkins House - the nucleus of this hotel, known as Tolland's Trading House, was built by Tolland, son-in-law of John Stewart, about 1827. Abiel Hawkins bought the site and the structure in 1834.

Old Colby House - two miles east of Ypsilanti, erected by Zolva Bowen - became "most pretentious building between Detroit and Ypsilanti. Wm. Colby later conducted the business and sold to E.D. Lay who in turn sold to Wiard.

Isaac Powers appointed Post Master by President John Quincy Adams. Ypsilanti's first Post Master.

- 1828 Pioneer Historical Society established by Governor Cass. The Historical Society of Michigan ranks in the first 9 Historical Societies formed in the Colonies, Territories and States and was the first Historical Society in the Middle West.

Loyal Sprague, in 1901, said that in 1828, William Hornbeck kept on of 3 stores in Ypsilanti.

Ypsilanti Mill built by Harding and Reading, east side of River Huron and North of East Cross at the end of the Mill Race.

A 3rd Flouring Mill was built on the east bank of the river and south of Congress Street bridge. The mill was built by William W. Harwood.

Isaac Kimball arrived in Ypsilanti and worked for

Philander Stevens in the grocery store on the south side of Congress and west of Huron.

June 30. The Michigan Legislative Council set off Towns 1 & 2 South of Range 7 East, as a separate Township known as "Panama". "That from and after the passage of this act, all that part of the Township of Ypsilanti, North, including Township numbered 1 and 2 South...shall be known by the name of Panama... and that the first Township meeting be held at the house of John McCormick". This new Township of Panama comprised the present Townships of Salem and Superior. in 1831, the southern part of Panama organized the Township of Superior, a name selected by Henry Kimmel.

July. First Methodist Sunday School established in a log structure on North Huron Street.

- 1829 July. Presbyterian Church organized by Rev. William Page of Ann Arbor (Foster-pg 22)  
 October 20. Mark Norris succeeded Isaac Powers as Post Master.  
 December 18. Presbyterian Temperance Society formed by Rev. William Jones (Foster pg 12).

- 1830 January 3. Meeting at Oliver Whitmore Hotel to adopt measures to select candidate for Delegate to Congress. Solmon Champion, Jr, Chairman; Marcus Lane, Secretary. ("Emigrant" 1-19-1830)  
 Judge Jacob L. Larzelere built first brick house in Ypsilanti. (Present address 202 S. Huron)-SW corner of South Huron and Woodward Street.  
 June. Rev. Ira M. Wead became 2nd Pastor of Presbyterian Church but was not formally installed until October 1834  
 October 4. The First Congregational Society (Foster pg 2 of Ypsilanti formed for Church government.  
 Jacob Larzelere had a race dug and a sawmill erected near the later site of the Cornwell mill. Larzelere continued his sawmill until 1842 when it was converted to a paper mill, after a felt-woolen mill was operated there.  
 April 6. Joseph Smith organized the Mormon Church in Fayette, Seneca County, New York.  
 Anti-Masonic groups were strong in the County. "The Western Emigrant", published in Ann Arbor, led the attack on the Masonic Order.  
 December 25. First regularly scheduled passenger train service in the United States, using steam power, opened at Charleston on the South Carolina Railroad with a 3 1/2 ton U.S. built locomotive.



Stackhouse built a Hotel on East Congress (Michigan) beyond the river and on the north side of the street. A log structure was put up by one Tolland on the NW corner of Congress (Michigan) and Washington Street prior to 1830. It was sold to one Foster who made the building into a crude hotel. In 1830, Foster built a story frame building west of the log building. These buildings were sold to a Coy and then to Dr. Millington. Abiel Hawkins bought the property in 1834. First Cemetery owned by the Village of Ypsilanti. It was located at the corner of Summit Street and Chicago Road (Michigan Avenue).

W.W. Harwood built a small single story brick building on the north edge of the East Public Square of the original Plat, midway between River Street and Mill (Park) Street. This building became the first School House. It was a girl's school.

- 1831 In the election for candidate for Territorial Congress, the Masonic candidate won, but there was a large anti-vote cast. By 1835 the Masonic issue was forgotten. Edwin Jerome, with a party of Surveyors on their way to survey the Northwest Territory west from Lake Michigan, wrote: "The first day's march, on a graded road, with a French pony team and a buffalo wagon to carry our tent, blankets, and equipment, bought us to Ypsilanti where we found good fare and a choice of the softest boards in the barroom floor for our beds during the night...". John Stewart sold his holdings to Jason Cross and moved west. September 8. An ad. in the "Detroit Free Press" states: "Two Stage Lines are now running from Detroit to Ann Arbor, Jacksonburg and Tecumseh, via Ypsilanti". The Michigan Legislative Council set off the South Half of Panama Township and named it Superior.
- 1832 April-September. Black Hawk War pushing the Indians across the Mississippi. First Public Schoolhouse was known as the White Schoolhouse on the west side. A one room structure was on the lot now numbered 137 North Washington Street. Chauncey Joslin taught there in 1837 and continued to 1845. Salmon Champion erected a building near the Sw corner of South Adams and Congress Streets on the South edge of the West Public Square.
- 1833 August 13. Public Meeting held to open navigation on the River Huron.

August 27. Construction of flat bottom freight boat started by Hiram and James Ashe, to be called "The Enterprise".

October 5. Seventeen members of the Ypsilanti Presbyterian Church seceded to form the PRESBYTERIAN Church of Stoney Creek.

April 1. Michigan Legislative Council set off the north half of Panama Township and named it "Salem".

April. William R. Post came to the Village from Stephentown, New York and located 3 1/2 miles south of town.

Abiel Hawkins arrived with his son Walter.

Miss Emily Wead became the teacher in the school, then married Salmon Champion. She was followed in 1834 by Miss A.G. Nichols.

1834

John Bryan moved to Ann Arbor - built the County Court house that year - then moved to Constantine and died in 1871.

House built by Arden Ballard on North Huron the SW corner of present Washtenaw.

May 10. Timothy Showerman and family arrived in Ypsilanti.

September. Miss Ruth Parker opened "Young Ladies Select School" in a room over the shop of Mr. Vanderbilt. (Miss Parker later became the wife of Rev. Worthington).

October. Rev. Ira M. Wead formally installed as ~~ann~~ Pastor of Presbyterian Church.

July 6. Gov. George B. Porter dies in Detroit as 2nd Cholera epidemic begins.

Isaac Kimball and Harry Gilbert discovered a mysterious underground room about 20 rods south of the Chicago Road on Prospect Street, 10 feet square and 8 feet high. Supposed to have been made and used by counterfeiters in the early days of the Godfrey Trading Post.

Toledo War over boundary between Ohio and Michigan.

(Toledo is shown as being in Michigan on the 1834 maps). Michigan was not admitted to the Union because she would surrender the Toledo Strip. The area was finally surrendered in exchange for the western section of the Upper Peninsular.

1835

March. Troop of Calvary from Ypsilanti mobilized by Capt. Forsythe to fight in "Toledo War". Went to Toledo and came back home in a few days.

April 6. 2nd Town Meeting of Pittsfield Township held at school house near McCrachen's Inn.  
 October 25. John Scott Horner, unpopular Secretary and Acting Governor of Michigan Territory, appointed by President Andrew Jackson, stopped overnight in Ypsilanti. During the night, his lodging place was pelted with stones and other missiles and treating the distinguished guest to the indignity of an old time charivari. (see "Life and Times of St. T. Mason" by Lawton T. Hemans).

Road between Detroit and Chicago opened. It was known as the Sauk Trail. Dr. Parminio Davis arrived and also James Hutchinson, father of Shelley B. The Tax Roll was made up by William R. Post and the list named 121 Tax payers in the Village, the largest tax was \$86.50 and for A. Lagullum.

December. "Ypsilanti Sentinel" newspaper established by Gen. John VanFossen.

1836

Benjamin and Freelove Sanford Woodruff came from New York State and settled on 80 acres at Carpenter's Corners, Pittsfield Township. This family included their son Charles Woodruff who had a tremendous influence on higher education in the State of Michigan as well as in the local schools.

Rev. John D. Pierce became first Superintendent of Public Instruction. He lived in Marshall, Michigan at that time - and is buried there.

Dr. Fairchild lived in the 2nd house south of the Starkweather-Ladies' Library. The Doctor had built this frame structure.

First Bank, Legislation passed chartering the Bank of Ypsilanti. Incorporators were: Henry Champion, Arden H. Ballard, Marcus Lane, Mark Norris, Silas French, Grove Spencer, Timothy Treadwell and Donald Ballentine. The bank operated for three years but the management changed and bankruptcy followed the next year.

June 15. Congress accepts Michigan's Constitution; agrees to admit Michigan as a State upon condition that Michigan accept Ohio's boundary.

September 26. At Convention of Assent held in Ann Arbor, Ohio's claims are refused.

October 1. Michigan Southern (Erie & Kalamazoo) Rail road is first to operate in Michigan. Horse-power train travels between Toledo and Adrian. First locomotive in State is put in operation on this line the following year.

First meeting of the Baptist Church Society held in school house on east side. Elder S. Twiss from Ann

Arbor presiding. ("Ypsilanti Press" 2-19-1937).  
 November 23. Presbyterian Church on Pearson Street  
 dedicated (Colburn-pg 99).  
 December. Quaker preacher 'employs underground rail  
 road' to bring Slaves into Cass County, and movement  
 of fugitive and freed slaves into State begins.

- 1837 Michigan is admitted to the Union as a free State.  
 United States Government orders removal of the Indians  
 from the States west of the Appalachians and also  
 Michigan.  
 The next Addition was by Post and Larzelere. It was  
 south of the original plat and on both sides of South  
 Huron Street.  
 George King came from England to Ypsilanti. Other  
 prominent names arriving in 1837: Walter A. Buckbee,  
 lawyer, John Van Cleve and Chauncey Joslin who are  
 mentioned elsewhere, Francis K. Rexford, M.D. who  
 formed a partnership with Richard F. Morse, M.D. and  
 it lasted until 1850.  
 The Village of Ypsilanti had 121 houses with a popula-  
 tion of about 600.  
 February 22. Michigan flag first introduced. Originated  
 by Gov. Lewis Cass before Michigan became a State.  
 April 3. Journeymen Carpenters go on strike and parade  
 in Detroit Streets. The beginning of the economic  
 depression.  
 October 4. Dr. Richard Morse succeeded Mark Norris as  
 Postmaster and continued for 4 years.  
 October 18. Benjamin Woodruff died.  
 Post & Larzelere Addition, south from Catherine on  
 both sides of Huron, added to the Village.
- 1838 February 8. Railroad from Detroit reaches Ypsilanti.  
 April. Detroit elects first School Board in Michigan  
 under State Law.  
 July 3. St Luke's Episcopal Church dedicated (Spire  
 and pews finished 1842).  
 First newspaper "Ypsilanti Republican" started by John  
 W. Wallace.  
 December 15. Ypsilanti Vigilante Society organized at  
 home of Abiel Hawkins. James R. Gillis, President,  
 James M. Edmunds, Secretary, M.V. Hall, Treasurer,  
 Chauncey Joslin, Mark Norris, Abraham Sage, Marcus Lane,  
 D.C. McKinstry, Arden Ballard and W.B. Hewitt, Executive  
 Committee.  
 Colonel D.C. McKinstry contracted to built the railroad  
 from Detroit to Ypsilanti and moved to Ypsilanti that  
 year. He bought the Champion house, SE corner Congress

and South Adams.

Mark Norris built the Western Hotel anticipating the railroad, located on the triangle formed by Maple (old Mill Street), River Street and the railroad right of way, and north of East Cross Street. The early railroad station was on the west side of the track and north of East Cross Street. Platted real estate additions increased the size of Village and were as follows: Case & Perry Addition, SW of Forest and Hamilton. The Norris Addition which included land between East Cross and Maple Streets, and from River Street to PROSPECT; Larzelere added land between Race (Catherine) and Spring Streets, east of South Huron; the Clarkville Addition was south of the Larzelere Addition.

1839 The Morse and Ballentine Addition included land west of Ballard between Cross and Ellis (Washtenaw) Streets. Arden Ballard opened the Eagle Flouring Mill near Forest.

1840 The State population was listed 212,267 and with 500 sawmills operating in the State. Rev. H.P. Powers came as Rector of St Luke's Church. George King built a frame structure for his grocery store on the SW corner of Congress and South Huron, having been located for a short time on East Congress Street. A Plank Road was planned from Ypsilanti to York. William R. Post was offering to buy; butter, eggs and other farm produce, S. Ostrander advertised as a blacksmith and wagon maker. Francis Griffin established a school. He used the meeting room of the Presbyterian Church on Pearson St. and later located in the "Nunnery" on Congress Street. Griffin was followed by a man named Landreth who established an academic school in the Larzelere block. Both Griffin and Landreth advertised the teaching of Latin and Greek, but they were not successful, and Charles Woodruff undertook carrying on the academic school in the Larzelere block.

1841 April 17. Memorial funeral services for President W. H. Harrison. The Invocation was given by Rev. I.M. Wead; prayer by Rev. Simmons; sermon by Rev. H.P. Powers; benediction by Rev. Alvin Billings. A crowd of several hundred men, women and children, headed by a band, paraded from the Hawkins House to the Methodist Church on

on River Street, and back to the Episcopal Church and then to the Presbyterian Church.

May 3. William R. Martin became Postmaster.

October 24. Dr. Parmenio Davis married Carlistra Showerman, daughter of Timothy Showerman.

- 1842 Dr. T.M. Town built his brick home at 102 South Washington.  
 "The winter was very severe. Started November 17th and stayed until April, except for a slight thaw in January. There was good sleighing on Election Day, the first Monday in April". ("Ypsilanti Commercial" April 12, 1893)  
 Detroit opened the first free, tax supported school in the State.  
 First black families moved to Ypsilanti and included Robert Morton, Henry Johnson and possibly George McCoy. Prominent people in the Village during this decade: Loveridge & Camp in a general store; D.F. Tompkins, tailor; Samson offering fine brandy, port and Madiera wines, Holland gin and other items for medicinal purposes.
- 1843 March "...the floor gave way at a Methodist Revival meeting, injured some." Rev. G.L. Foster locates the building as "now the South Schoolhouse on east side."  
 March 28. Construction of Methodist Church commenced.  
 September. New Methodist Church completed.  
 Dec. 20. 1st issue of "Ypsilanti Sentinel" John Van Fossen, publisher.
- 1844 Feb. 5. Charles Woodruff opened an "Academical School" in the Larzelere block (SW corner Michigan and Washington) opposite the Hawkins Hotel (NW corner Michigan and Washington).  
 Feb. 26. Lots in Ypsilanti Cemetery offered for sale at public auction.  
 April. Miss Jane Willard opened a school for children in common branches of English in a building near the depo. ("Sentinel" 4-25-1844)  
 April 26. Bishop Peter LaFevre of Detroit, purchased the lot on which the Catholic Church now stands, from Charles W. Lane. In 1845 the first Catholic Church, small frame building was built on it.  
 April 27. Second 11 week term of "Academical School" opened in Larzelere block.  
 July 4. The Superintendents, teachers and scholars of all Sabbath Schools in the vicinity met at the Methodist Church at 9:30 A.M. and marched to the Grove where

where refreshments were served and several addresses were enjoyed.

August 14. Ypsilanti Seminary opened. The academic year is divided into two terms of 22 weeks commencing 1st Monday of September and 2nd Monday in February. Tuition \$3 to \$8. Board and room \$14 per quarter of 11 weeks. William L. Eaton and Mary B. Brown, Principals; L.H. Moore and Wm.A. Moore, Proprietors. ("Sentinel" 4-30-1845).

1845

April 7. Annual Ypsilanti Township Meeting held in the "White Schoolhouse" on west side of Huron River in the Village of Ypsilanti. ("Sentinel" 4-2-1845).

May 19. The 4th term of the Ypsilanti Seminary will commence on May 19th.

May 27. Abiel Hawkins became Postmaster.

June 26. Dr. Francis Rexford succeeded Hawkins as Postmaster.

July 4. "Independence Island" christened by Rev. H.P. Powers.

July 12. A meeting was held to consider a canal or navigation Ypsilanti to Gibraltar. Walter Buckbee, Edmunds and Van Fossen to investigate.

August 27. (From the "Sentinel") Last week two skeletons were exhumed by workmen excavating the road west end of the new bridge. One was full grown, the other smaller. Buried about 3 feet below the surface, the large one horizontal position enclosed in a coffin, without trinkets, which indicated it was not an Indian.

Sept. 17. Wyandotte Lodge #10 L.O.O.F. was formed in Ypsilanti.

Oct. 22. A General Election for Ypsilanti Township will be held in the house of John W. Putnam on Tuesday, November 4.

November 5. Meeting will be held in the office of C.W. Lane to form an Association of Teachers in Ypsilanti Township, auxiliary to County Association if any exists.

November 10. At 11 p.m. a barn on the east side, owned by Jacob Emerick and used by A.A. Hunter as a storehouse for empty barrels, burned. Four dwellings also burned, 3000 barrels burned. Medad Curtis stayed on top of his house with pails of water and put out sparks as they fell.

November 13. Meeting to be held in the Chapel room of the Seminary, Thursday 13th, to discuss establishment of Primary Department in the school and a Literary Association.

November 24. Dr. Inglis of Detroit, lectures this evening at the Seminary. The Ypsilanti Literary Asso. will meet in the Chapel room at the Seminary, Monday

November 24. One or two short addresses will be given.

M.A. Parks advertises that he has established himself in clock and watch repair business in the part of the Book and Drug store of E. Samson.

Dec. 1. Prof. Ten Brock of the University of Michigan will lecture before the Ypsilanti Literary Asso. at the Seminary, and his subject will be: "Proper Choice of Miscellaneous Reading".

Dec. 8. The Ypsilanti Literary Society met, "No lecturer but a pleasant hour was spent in conversation.

Dec. 12. The house of Loyal Tuttle burned.

1846 May 13. United States declared war on Mexico/  
August 16. Charles Kellogg married Lucina Showerman, daughter of Timothy.  
September 17. Cornerstone for a new Baptist Church was laid, SE corner of Washington & Cross Streets.  
Rev. H.P. Powers resigned as rector of St Luke's Church.

1847 Baptist Church - dedicated - NE Forest and North Huron.  
July 11. Rev. John A. Williams became Rector of St Luke's Church.

November. First Telegraph message sent from Detroit to Ypsilanti. Exact date not known. "The Advertiser" Detroit - says: "The telegraph from this toward the setting sun began yesterday forenoon between this point and Ypsilanti. We were unavoidably absent but we hear the lightning passed smoothly and that there were some flashes of wit as well as electricity sent to and fro. Several congratulations and best wishes were sent to our neighbor Harmon on his patriotic self devotion in the Mexican War. Mr. Haviland is the operator here and he discharges his duties with skill and alacrity. The whole line to Chicago will be in operation in a short time."

The State Legislature voted to locate the State Capitol in "The township of Lansing, in the County of Ingham".

1848 Cicero Millington married Dorlisca Showerman, daughter of Timothy Showerman.

January 24. Gold discovered near Coloma, California.

1849 March 23. The Legislature approved an Act that a Teacher Training School be established in or near some Village in the State. The Act was amplified March 25, 1850, placing the authority for such a school under the direction of the State Board of Education. The State provided 25 Sections of swamp land to be sold to raise



funds. The expense of the buildings and equipment was to be borne by the community where the school located.

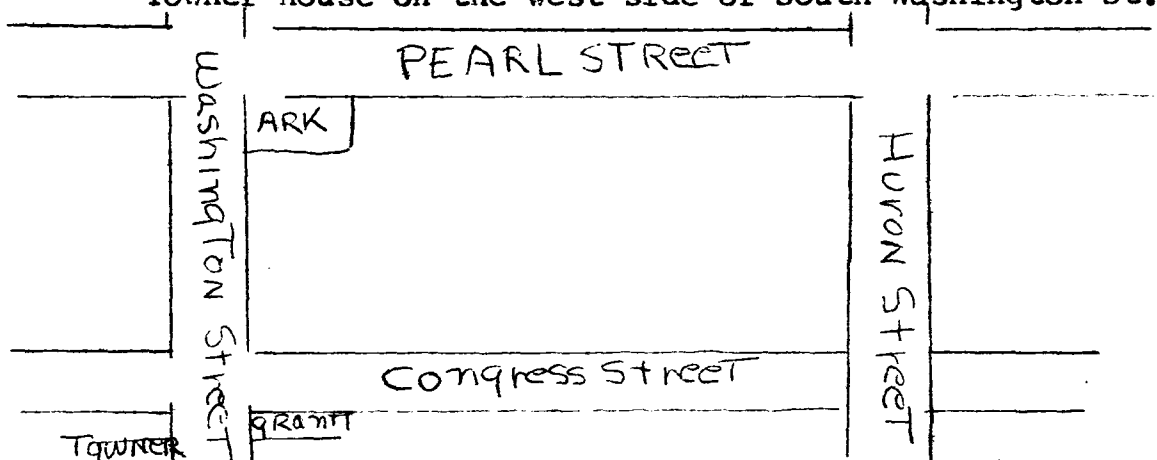
Several communities, Jackson, Marshall, Niles and Ypsilanti offered sites for the school. Ypsilanti offered the gently rising land on the north side of Cross Street from Brower Street west. Ypsilanti also pledged the money to construct a building and pay the salary of the Principal for five years. At this time, Mr. & Mrs. John Starkweather, close personal friends of John D. Pierce, gave generous support and influence to have the school located in Ypsilanti.

March 29. A Special Act of the Legislature increased the number of School District Board members to 6 to serve for six years. The Act gave the Board the authority to adopt any educational system that would not be contrary to State Law. The District Board began immediately to make changes in the interior of the Tecumseh Hotel building and the Model School opened in October.

- 1850 Bernard C. Whittemore became Treasurer for the State of Michigan. (In 1856, Mr. Whittemore bought lots from Mark Norris and built the brick mansion now standing at 223 River Street).  
Construction began on the new Presbyterian Church in the new location on North Washington Street. John Ferris was the builder and died before the work was completed.  
June. Friends Church organized and located in Ypsilanti Township.  
September 4. New Baptist Church dedicated.  
Dr. Rexford retired from medical practice and became a partner with Benjamin Follett in a general store.  
Hiram Batchelder, age 23, came from Orange County, Vt., the Granite State, and established a marble and monument business with his brother Don C. Batchelder.  
Daniel B. Greene opened a law office. Dr. A. F. Kinne began medical practice.  
Normal School Addition platted and added to Ypsilanti, the area between Forest and Cross and Ballard to Brower.

- 1851 March 28. A great fire destroyed 14 stores, the lumber yard of Gilman Davis, a wagon shop, the brick store buildings of Van Cleve and Vorheis, W.B. Hewitt's two stores on the NE corner of Congress and Washington, the Sunnery and Dr. Millington's house on North Huron. Most

of the buildings were wood construction. The Ashley Minor residence, a blacksmith's shop and a house at the corner of Pearl and Huron were untouched as was the "Ark" even though it was threatened. March 27. Elijah Grant had died at his home, SE corner of Congress and Washington. The fire the following day was so fierce the Grant house seemed to be in danger and volunteers removed the coffin to the Towner house on the west side of South Washington St.



- 1852 <sup>TOWNER</sup> June. The first class graduated from the Seminary, said to be the seconded graded High School in the State. ("The Evening Times" 3-11-1899).  
 October 5. The first building for the Normal School was dedicated with A.S. Welch as Principal.  
 Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" published.
- 1853 March 29. First term of 17 weeks opened at Normal School.  
 George Moonman came from Rawsonville and conducted a grocery business in Ypsilanti until 1878.  
 May 3. Walter H. Hawkins became Postmaster.  
 Brick addition constructed at the Seminary, and in April, Rev. Joseph Estabrook became Principal with Miss Harriet McCutcheon (sic.) as his first assistant.
- 1854 A Department of Music established at the Normal School with Albert Miller as the Instructor.  
 Dr. Francis Rexford bought the business of Buck and Beach on the NS of Congress St. in the 100 block. He was joined in the venture by his 3 sons. One son, Edgar became prominent in local business and political affairs and also served on the State Board of Education  
 Benjamin Follett, Isaac N. Conklin and Samuel Y. Denton operated a bank known as "Follett, Conklin and Company" near the railroad station. In 1854, Charles H. Tisdale

- replaced Samuel Denton in the organization and the bank moved to the second floor of the new Hewitt building, NE corner Congress and Washington. African Methodist Episcopal Church organized with 12 members including Jesse Stewart and wife, Isa, Eliza Johnson and Washington York.
- 1855 Elder W. P. Pattison became Pastor of the Baptist Church.  
Dec. 24. The railroad bought the land where Mark Norris had built the Great Western Hotel.
- 1856 The first Fire Department was organized on the East side.  
October. The Egle Mills burned (Eagle)
- 1857 Seven graduated from the Seminary.  
Ypsilanti Home Association organized.  
September 23. New Presbyterian Church with single tower dedicated. Rev. Gustavus L. Foster installed as Pastor.  
Eliza Ann Gorton first Clerk of Friends Church.  
November 13. East Ypsilanti established on the east side of Huron River.  
Frank Smith having graduated from Dartmouth College, came to Ypsilanti to join his brother-in-law, Dr. A. F. Kinne, in a business venture, a drug store in the 100 block of Congress Street.
- 1858 February 2. The State Legislature approved a City Charter for both Villages, Ypsilanti and East Ypsilanti, providing they became one city. There was considerable debate by both units and then the two villages united and became the City of Ypsilanti.  
First Mayor, Chauncey Joslin who estimated that the total population of the new united city, to be at least 5000.  
A City Hall was built on the north side of Cross St. at the west end of the river bridge.  
January 22. General John Van Fossen died.  
January 20. The Ypsilanti Gas Light was organized under a Legislative Act. The organizers were, Chauncey Joslin, M.A. Parks, E. Samson, Benjamin Follett, Isaac Conklin and Delos Showerman.  
June 2. A Woolen Mill was erected at Rawsonville. (County Clerk's Misc. records, Vol 1. pg 9.).  
New Episcopal Church completed in June.  
August 17. New Seminary building ready for use. Dr. Francis Rexford, President of the School Board. The new

Gas plant was put into operation.  
 Ezra Meade Foote succeeded Miller as head of the  
 Music at Normal School and organized the first Normal  
 Choir.

Foote's daughter became Mrs. T.C. Owen.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was built at  
 SE corner of South Adams and Buffalo Streets.

- 1859 January 7. Horace Greeley lectured at the Seminary:  
 Subject; "Great Men".  
 Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church organized.  
 Construction started on the Gilbert Home, on the west  
 side of North Grove and north of the railroad. (From  
 the memory of Gertrude Woodard.)  
 March 29. Seminary burned.  
 October 28. The original Normal School building burned.  
 During this decade, a schoolhouse stood on the SW  
 corner of Washington and Woodard Streets. During the  
 1858-59, there were 76 pupils enrolled.  
 In the 1850's, the Cross Street bridge was built thru  
 the efforts of Mark Norris and the decade saw 12 platted  
 real estate additions made to the City.  
 July 4. The Follett House Hotel on East Cross Street  
 opened for business with John Davis as Manager and an  
 "Independence Ball" was held in the new hotel. Honorary  
 Managers: Horace Welch, Samuel Casey, Billy Wilson,  
 L.D. Norris, David Edwards, W. H. Hawkins, J. H. Phillips  
 John Starkweather, Jason Cross and J.W. Babbitt.  
 Special Committee: George Wanless, G. J. Cross, R. H.  
 Smith, C.B. Bush, A. M. Noble, Julius W. Smith, H. H.  
 Tisdale, J. M. Crane and J. M. Forsythe.
- 1860 Daniel Lace Quirk came from Belleville to live in  
 Ypsilanti.  
 Edgar and F. P. Bogardus organized a banking firm.  
 The black school children were transferred from the  
 Seminary to a school at the NE corner of Adams Street  
 and Michigan Avenue. The first teacher was John Hall.  
 Washtenaw County gave Lincoln a majority of six hundred  
 and fifty-six.
- 1861 The secession of eleven States from the Union.  
 The firing on Fort Sumter.  
 Lincoln's first call for seventy-five volunteers was  
 read from the pulpits of some of the churches. Ypsilanti's  
 organization of citizen soldiers, known as the  
 Ypsilanti Light Guards, was one of the first companies  
 of the State to offer itself for Federal Service.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
1974-75

In the past year the Ypsilanti Historical Society has made notable progress in several directions. The development of the Museum has continued with the initiation of a paid Directorship, first financed by our Society and later by the City through its annual appropriation. We hope that in this time of recession that this part of the program will continue. The major renovation of the Archives space has been completed and the display area has been enlarged. Significant additions to the equipment of the archives, as well as storage facilities have been made through the city's support.

The hall project of re-decoration was completed through the efforts of the Administration Committee, (formerly the Presentation Committee) headed by Mildred Harris.

Two major fund raising projects were undertaken, the publication of the Washtenaw County Atlases, and the Rummage-Antique sale - the profit from the Atlases is presently about \$700 and more is yet to come as future sales are made. The Rummage sale, which was the effort of many people and especially Doris Milliman, Mildred Harris, Eileen Harrison and all of the Administration Committee, netted approximately \$1849.00.

Our membership has continued to expand but we need new and especially younger people involved with our organization to carry on its work and message and to spread the gospel of the significance of our own local history and traditions in broader picture of State and National History.

I especially wish to thank all the members of the Society who have given so generously of their time and effort to develop; display and present our Museum to the public. It is only through the efforts of many, many volunteers that our Museum and Society will continue to grow and prosper.

Respectfully submitted,  
William P. Edmunds, President  
Ypsilanti Historical Society  
January 19, 1975

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At the General Meeting of the Society the following members were elected to the Board of Directors: Dr. Elizabeth Warren (third term), Mr. Carl Scheffler (second term), Mr. LaVerne Howard, (first term)

At the Board meeting following the general meeting Dr. Warren was elected President and Carl Scheffler, Vice President of the Society.

A MOST CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS -

BROWN, Ruth D., Mrs.  
809 Congress

GILDEN, Ralph, MRS.  
5851 Ellis Road

HOOD, Carl, Mrs.  
1218 Westmoorland

JORDAN, Hoover, Mr. & Mrs.  
719 Collegewood

LEHMAN, Carl, Mrs.  
1309 Kingwood

MATEVIA, A., Mr. & Mrs.  
1129 N. Congress

MORRISON, Eugene G., Mr. & Mrs.  
311 N. Hewitt Road

O'NEILL, Jack, Mrs.  
551 Glenwood Blvd.

PARSONS, Barbara, Mrs.  
2012 McKinley Avenue

ROBB, Richard, Mr. & Mrs.  
5632 Pineview Drive

ROBBINS, David, Mr. & Mrs.  
3366 Martin Cummings Drive  
Ann Arbor 48105

SCHATZ, Lillian, Miss  
114 N. Hamilton

THOMPSON, William B.  
11764 Dexter Pickney Road.  
Pickney, 48169

THRONE, Paul E.  
8343 Stony Creek

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SILKWORTH, Donald M. (7/19/1899 - 12/6/1975)  
With the passing of Donald McClure Silkworth, the Ypsilanti Historical Society has not only lost one of its loyal members, but there is great loss to Ypsilanti and the entire Community.

Don came to Ypsilanti in 1917 from Manchester, Michigan. With the exception of several years in LaSalle, Illinois, he devoted fifty years to the social and business life around him in Michigan, giving generously of his tremendous energy and unusual business ability.

ROBINSON, Sarah, Mrs. (Jefferson) (3/29/1916- 1/19/1975)  
"Sally" was a charter member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society and besides numerous duties she performed for the Museum she was for many years the Corresponding Secretary of the Society.

She was the daughter of the late Professor Mark and Clara Frances Jefferson. For the last few years she had lived in Adrian, Michigan.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Mrs. Patsy Chandler

"Le Taxiphote"- this unusual piece was originally given to Mrs. Chandler by Dr. Katherine Chamberlain of Ann Arbor. Dr. Chamberlain, who taught Chemistry and Physics at Wayne State Univ. was a photography buff. It measures 16 inches by 12 and is a sophisticated form of the more familiar stereoptican viewer. It also has a drawer full of slides which Dr. Chamberlain took on trips to Europe in the early 1900's. It was restored and repaired by Arthur J Howard.

Julia Quirk Elliott

The lovely rug on the floor of the L.S. White room at the Museum

Mrs. Jack Willoughby

Fancy white apron belonging to Margaret Mead- Mrs. Willoughby's grandmother.

Mr. Foster Fletcher

"Ypsilanti Dixits" for 1902, 11, 1915, - "Aurora" 1899, 1902- "Portrait & Biographical Album" 1891 - 7 books of research interest- Photograph of Francis Lambie in beautiful wooden frame. Francis Lambie (1794 Scotland-1869 Windsor, Canada) was the great-grand-father of Mrs. Minnie Clark, Mrs. T. Fred Older & Foster Fletcher 1905 'Ypsilanti' Souvenir booklet. 1892 "Souvenir Ypsilanti, Michigan compiled by young people of Presby Church.

Raymond E. Spokes  
Ann Arbor

Photograph of Huron Mill at Ypsi. Mr. Spokes' grandfather was employed there.

Mrs. Carl Miller

Yellow plush teddy bear- small china doll, small celluloid doll, black haired doll-eyes open and close - doll pillow & blanket

Mr. Phelps Crouse

World War one sleeve stripes, W.W. One army identification, Class list for "Normal" 1910

Recent Acquisition-page two

Mrs. Norvald C. Borgerson

Quilt made in the early 1930's by members of the 'Mayflower Guild' of the Congregational Church. The blocks were made by Mrs. Frances Watling and the quilt completed by other members of the Guild. Each person whose name is embroidered on the quilt paid ten cents. The names were written by Miss Gertrude Murray and embroidered by other members. The quilting was done by an aunt of Mrs. Helen Fuller. When the quilt was completed, it was presented to the Rev. and Mrs. Colburn. After their death it was given to Mrs. Borgerson by the Colburn family. Mrs. Borgerson gave it back to the Guild to be given to the Museum.

Mrs. A. D. Allen  
Bay City, Michigan

A beautiful 1905 Christmas glass (clear red) given to Mrs. Allen's brother Joseph Trim McIntire. Book-"The Birds' Christmas Carol" Calendar of 1901-picture by Harry Luce Howard - PROGRAM %) Anniversary of Ypsilanti Methodist Church (1892-1969)  
Red & white Christmas dress (1903) for doll Helen-dress and panties made by Mrs. Allen's grandmother. Doll shoes-Christmas and New Year cards- Candle holders for Christmas tree & birthday cakes - A.B.C. blocks and dominoes.

Miss Marian L. Rouse  
Saline, Michigan

1890 wooden quilt rack

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Barrett

Antique Christmas card  
1960 calendar from Chapman Poultry Market (6 W. Cross) which was first Ypsilanti City Hall.

Mr. Charles K. Bohn

1952 Program of Thanksgiving and Dedication held at the Ypsilanti Highschool for the completion of the Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible (9-30-1952)



Recent Acquisitions-page three

Mr. John Cottrell	Beautiful old Christmas tree balls and tree candle holders.
Fulton B. Taylor	Wedding invitation for the 1901 wedding of Elmer Warner to Susan E. Crittenden- Adv. card for "B.D. & Son-Pure Bred Shropshire Sheep" Ypsilanti-undated.- 1883 invitation to Mrs. & Misses Pester (City Mail) to attend meeting of "Ladies' Aid Society M.E.Church"at the home of W.B. Clarke
Sister Mary O'Connell (formerly of Ypsilanti)	YPSILANTI - a comic song
Mr . James Westfall	Pictures- results of June 1911 hurricane - Dr. Floyd Westfall and friends in early automobiles - Dr. Westfall in early automobile.
Mrs. Barbara Weiss	Two party dresses from 1920 period- one peach silk with darker peach ribbon trim-one tan silk with lavender lining & purple sash & flowers. Mrs. Joseph Warner's 1893 wedding hat.
Mr. Wystan Stevens Ann Arbor	Duplicate of an adv. for Ypsilanti Mineral Baths from 1898 "Michanensi U. of M. Yearbook
Mr. Milton Barnes	Mr. Barnes' tape and his story of "Ypsilanti Opera House"
Estate of Elizabeth Baker	Patchwork quilt believed to have been owned by Mrs. Lucy B. Loomis , elected Librarian of the Ladies' Library Association in 1887. Mr. & Mrs. Loomis lived at 708 Congress. It is believed the quilt was made about 1880.
Mrs. A. D. Allen (Bay City, Mich.)	China cup "Love the Giver", 2 cups to match Chocolate set in Allen case in dining room. Mouse trap purchase in 1902 at Mich. State Fair in Detroit.

Recent Acquisitions-page four

- Mrs. Wayne Haushalter Photographs: Wm. & Chas Clarke-founders of Wallace & Clarke and Clarke-Augustus Furniture Store (208 W. Michigan)- Carlisle M. Augustus in the 1920's - 13 interior shots of Clarke-Augustus store (1920-1927)- Sign from store "A Small Deposit Will Hold Any Article Until Needed" - Mounted Auction notice of farm stock by Frank Augustus in 1911, Charles Thompson, Auctioneer. C & A. corporate Seal.
- Professor & Mrs. Robert Pate Ann Arbor Book (autographed) HOMESTEADING WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL by Professor Pate's mother, Gertrude Sewell Pate, the story of her childhood in Red Willow County, Nebraska in the 1870's & 1880's - living in a sod house.
- Mrs. Edward Green 1893 Sewer assessment roll- Cross-from Summitt to Oakwood- signed by W. S. Carpenter-Deputy City Clerk.
- Mr. Donald W. Disbrow Booklet-1964-64 COUNTY, CITY TOWNS AND VILLAGE OFFICERS- Washtenaw Co compiled by Luella M. Smith.
- Mrs. J.J. Woods Black silk parasol - folding - about the period of 1886.
- Mrs. Gerald Stewart Program- "Semi-Centennial Commemoration" 1861-1911 G.A.R. Biographical and historical information on the 'Towner' family of Ypsilanti and of the 'Towner House' at 303 N. Huron.
- Mr. & Mrs. David Robbins Ann Arbor Two large glass display cases which will be used in the 'document' room
- Mrs. Harry Mosley Belleville Handmade American flag with 32 stars (Minnesota was the 32nd state admitted to the Union in 1852). Made by Mrs. Kaleb Barlow-assisted by the 'Helping Hand' Society of the Rawsonville M.E. Church.
- Donor unknown Magazines: ATLANTIC MONTHLY April BALLOU'S MONTHLY Nov.1868, SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY May 1874, NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW April 1887

NEWS FROM -

THE MUSEUM:

March 15 & 16 two until four  
CANDLEMAKING - Mrs. Omer Robbins, Jr.  
EASTER EGG MAKING & DISPLAY  
Mrs. Esther Engisn

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April 19 & 20 two until four  
QUILTING - Mrs. Clayton Hopp  
NEEDLEPOINTE - Mr. James Westfall

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THE ARCHIVES:

In January Mr. Michael J. Smith and Mr. Alex Steffie from the Department of State, Michigan History Division, came to the Archives Section to research the material we have on Florence Smalley Babbitt, Michigan's First Antique Collector and Ypsilanti. Their Division is preparing a booklet in honor of this lady. The men toured the Museum and were most flattering in praise of the work which has been done. They also made valuable constructive suggestions regarding the displaying of some of our items.

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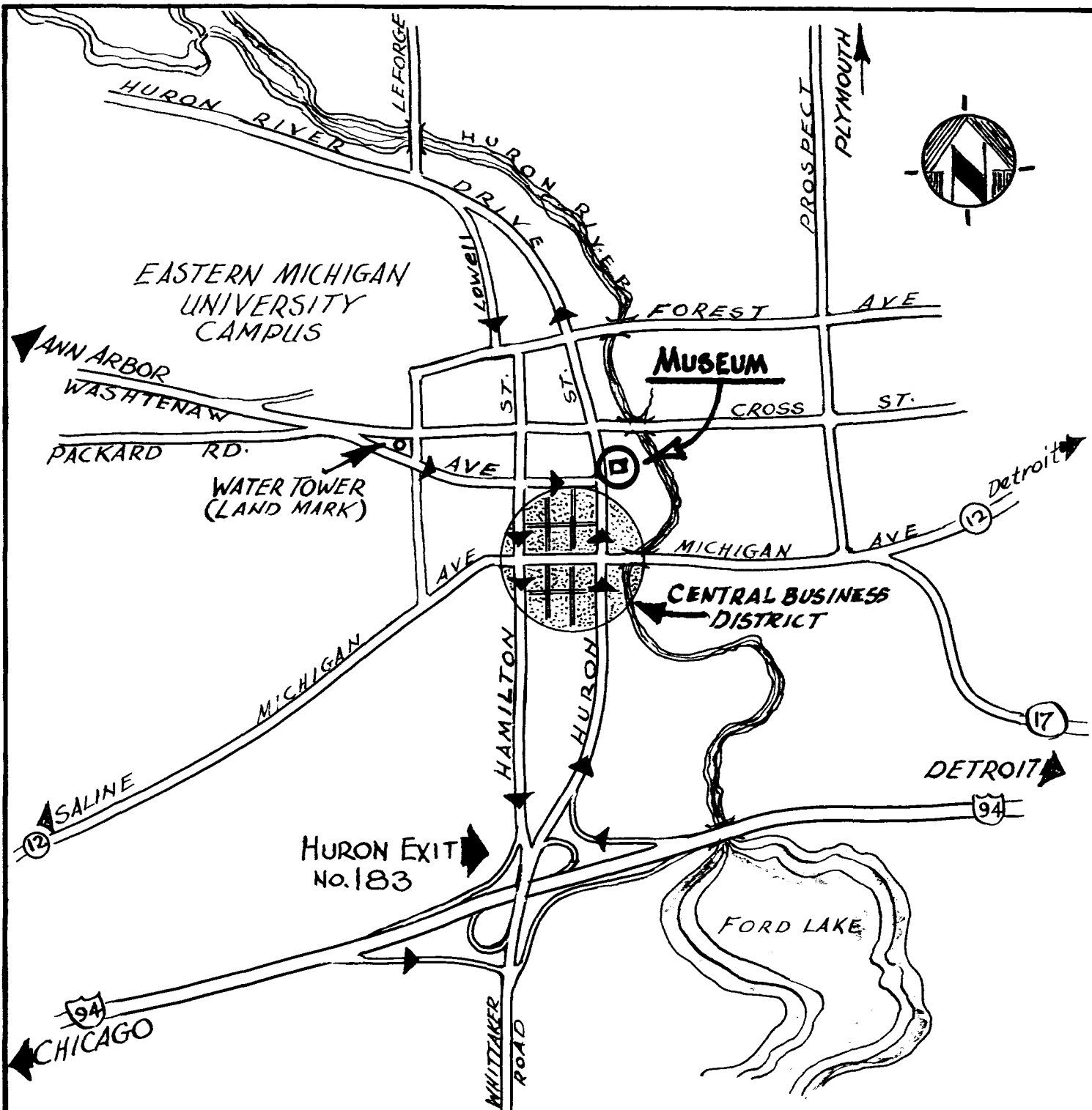
Recently Mr. Irving E. Rantanen, Program Policy Officer (West Europe) of the U.S. Information Agency informed us that the material sent about Demetrios Ypsilanti (upon his request) was now in Athens, Greece: "Mr. Vittorio Pons, says his organization plans to commemorate the U.S. Bicentennial by issuing medals bearing the likenesses of Europeans who participated meaningfully in the events of the American Revolutionary period. The medals would be presented for sale in albums containing short descriptions of each European's role in early U.S. history..."

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"The Ypsilanti Advisor" is now running short articles and photographs of historical houses of Ypsilanti. The pictures and background material are taken from our archives.

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We have found that page 75-76 was inadvertently left out of the reprint of the 1874-1915 'Washtenaw County Atlas'. If you have purchased a copy of the atlas and wish to have the missing page please call 482-4990.



**YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
 220 NORTH HURON STREET ZIP CODE 48197  
 YPSILANTI - MICHIGAN PHONE 313-482-4990  
 MUSEUM HOURS FRI - SAT & SUN - 2-4 PM.  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1960  
 FOSTER FLETCHER ~ CITY HISTORIAN.  
 LAREA SWARTS ~ MUSEUM DIRECTOR.  
 DOROTHY DISBROW ~ ARCHIVIST.