

April 1995

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

## PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

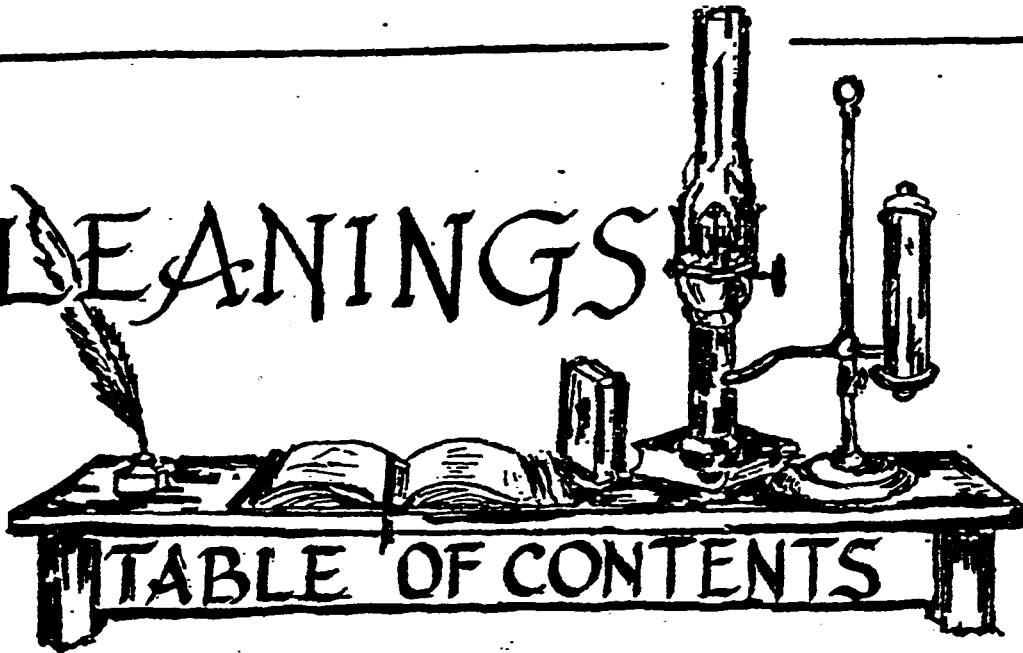


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~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

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# GLEANINGS



April 1995

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Office of Ypsilanti Historical Society is at 220 N. Huron Street,  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197.

The Museum is owned by the people of the City of Ypsilanti and  
operated in the public interest by the Ypsilanti Historical  
Society, a non-profit group of public spirited volunteers.

March 19, 1995

Dear Friends and Supporters of Ypsilanti,

We of the Ypsilanti Historical Society are fortunate to be a part of this community.

Ypsilanti has given so much. She encourages historical preservation and growth by supporting this society in its declared purpose to bring us together as a people interested in Ypsilanti History and to collect, preserve and publicly display significant things of whatever kind to foster an even greater appreciation of our heritage.

There are many who give of themselves in seemingly tireless effort to the end that there shall be an ever expanding community involvement, enjoyment and awareness of whom we are, bringing to mind the part that Ypsilanti has had in making to happen the things that count. To those active in the society it is not possible in this letter to thank and praise each of you by name. I say to each of you, "THANK YOU! without you there would not be the progress we have made and our spirit would be dulled".

To each public official and public employee whose cooperation and help have done so much, a hearty "THANK YOU!".

There are many accomplishments and on going plans worthy of mention. Brevity forbids their mention, except this one: Due to our perceived need and the active support from the Ypsilanti Director of Community and Economic Development Department, Director Jennifer Goulet and Grants Coordinator Kevin Walker, arrangements are being made with Preservation Eastern at Eastern Michigan University for some volunteer maintenance work, and for a survey of the museum building needs and potential, basic maintenance requirements of the building and more efficient space utilization.

We expect that this arrangement with Preservation Eastern and the studies underway will be very helpful and be a significant benefit to the work of the society.

As is always the case we invite each reader of this letter to use the museum and to invite others to become members of the society.

Suggestions and volunteer services are always important to the continued progress of the society. You are invited to telephone 313/482-4990 with suggestions or for further information.

Very respectfully,  
Robert V. Fink  
President, Ypsilanti Historical Society

E.H. Chapelle Elementary School  
111 South Wallace Boulevard  
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Considerable research was done to select the site of Chapelle School. A survey was made of the number of children of school age in the area and the number of homes being built, as well as the availability of Land and of utilities.

The Board of Education spent many hours planning the building which had to be approved by the Michigan Department of Education and by the Federal Government. No local funds were used in the construction of this school which opened March 15, 1954. A Federal law had been enacted to assist School Districts where there had been a large influx of students due to defense related industries in the area. The furniture for the original lobby-lounge area, the Teachers' Lounge and some office furniture was donated by the Architect, R.S. Gerganoff.

The School was named for Earnest H. Chapelle who had been Superintendent of Ypsilanti School for nineteen years. Some of the highlights of the School Board's Resolution to name the School are:

"In nineteen years as Superintendent of Schools in Ypsilanti, Mr. Chapelle has strived to maintain the highest level of an educational program.

Through their association with Mr. Chapelle, the Personnel of the School System have profited by the confidence he expresses, and the principles he represents have served as an ideal for those engaged in Teaching.

He has given freely of his time in all phases of Church Work.

In his association with the youth of our community through his contact with the Boy Scouts, he has inspired other men to assist in that organization.

"Having served in many offices of the Rotary Club in recognition of his ability, he has been elected District Governor of that organization".

Other parts of the Resolution refer to Mr. Chapelle's work as a member of the Board of Directors of the Huron Valley Child Guidance Clinic, work with the Community Fund, The Red Cross and other Service Organizations,, as well as serving as President of the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce".

The dedication Ceremony for the School was held May 10, 1954 with Mr. Clair M. Taylor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, delivering the Address. Mr. Ralph Gerganoff, Architect, Mr. Carl Johnson, President of the Board of Education, and Mrs. Chapelle presented a portrait of Mr. Chapelle to the School.

Chapelle School with its 314 pupils continues to serve its community under the Supervision of the Principal, Mrs. Tulane Smith Sambi.

## Chapelle School Ground Broken



E. H. CHAPELLE SCHOOL construction begins with groundbreaking ceremonies this morning. Ypsilanti city school board President Carl Johnson mans the spade as Mrs. Ernest Chapelle, right watches. Attending, left to right, are, Mrs. H. deB Barss and Dr. Arold Brown,

school board, members: Donald Porter, school business manager; John Roth and H. F. Campbell, of Campbell Construction Co., builders; R. S. Gerganoff, architect; Clyde Budd, Dr. Lawrence Perry, Walter Sturm and Edward Cuthbert, school board members.



As you know expenses keep going up and more and more repairs need to be done so we have come up with an idea that all of you can help us with.

#### How about a Bakeless Bake Sale

Can you believe that it is already March? I can't. I'm still trying to figure out where January and February went. Oh, well we can't do anything about that, so I'll try and let you know what the Administration Committee is doing.

This year the Museum was closed during January so we could do some extra cleaning and get some repairs done. All the cases in the Ypsilanti room have been taken apart and cleaned. No small job- Have you been in the dining room since the first of the year? Bill Zolkosky put new lights in the large case and what a difference it makes-All the silver has been polished and all the dishes washed. The Craft room has been cleaned and rearranged. We are having the candle display redone, and that should make a great difference. Our committee is finding it is an endless job trying to keep up, but we are trying.

Our Gift Shop has taken on a new look-We hope you like it and enjoy the new items we are now handling. We have some nice inexpensive gifts. Stop in and see what we have.

Of course our children's room is complete now and what a great asset that is to our building. You can't imagine how many toys are in there.

Now the Administration Committee needs your help. We are looking for a few good workers. People who can spare a few hours a month to help us keep the Museum in the shape we like to have it. Our Needs:

- Docents (guides) on a regular basis.
- Docents for special events.
- Gift Shop buyer.
- Men who are willing to come and do minor repairs and help the gals move things from time to time.

People to be on the Administration Committee.  
Laundering some children's clothing to be put in the new children's closet.

And many more--

If you can spare a few hours to help us either call Billie at the Museum or me Virginia at 484-0080.  
Plan now to come to our Docent Lunch on June 21-There will be more information . COME.

We want to thank Bill Zolkosky, Bill Ealy and Doris Milliman for all the extra things they do for us and thanks to all of you.

Virginia Davis, Chairman Administration Committee

Dear Members:

A bit of news we have today-----  
A "Bakeless Bake Sale" is on the way,  
On busy days, now who wants to bake.....  
Cookies, pies, or even a cake?  
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost  
of material, heat and the time you've lost,  
Yet nobody really wished to shirk,  
So we've thought of a plan that's really grand.  
And feel quite sure you'll understand.  
In an envelope please put the price  
Of a Pie, or Cake, or Something nice.  
Without fuss or bother, you've done your part,  
we're sure you'll give with willing heart,  
This is the end of our little tale.  
Wishing success for our "Bakeless Bake Sale".

Thank you,

Make check payable Ypsilanti Historical Society and send  
them to: Virginia Davis  
1351 Huron River Drive  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Erastus W. Basom  
1909

This Narrative refers to the early settlers of Ypsilanti and surrounding country in Washtenaw County, Michigan, since the Year, 1823.

The writer of this part of this narrative wishes it distinctly understood that he does not vouch for the correctness of these statements, having obtained them from statistics and other sources as best he could, dating back to the first white settler in Ypsilanti in the year 1823, while Michigan was yet a territory.

As near as the writer has been able to learn, a man by the name of Benjamin Woodruff was the first purchaser of land from the Government in the year 1823, said to be located very near where Mr. Forrester now resides, known in those days as Woodruff's Grove. It is said he built a house there and moved his family into it July 6th, 1823, expecting he had started the village of Ypsilanti there, but he seemed doomed to disappointment. I will tell you later.

The next buyer was Titus Brunson, who bought at or near the grove in 1823, expecting that would be the real Ypsilanti, which soon proved a mistake, for on the first of June, 1825, the road from Detroit to Chicago was surveyed by a United States Commissioner, assisted by Orring Ridson, a surveyor, living at Saline Village and they established the Road where it now is, leaving Woodruff's Grove out in the cold.

The next settler at the Grove was a man by the name of John Bryant. He and his family arrived at the Grove October 23, 1823, and in 1824 purchased land, erected a house and moved into it December 31, of the same year.

I will state here what was said by Mrs. Bryant, one of the settlers at the Grove in 1823. She said it was amusing to hear the corn mills in operation every morning and described thus: A hole was burned in the top of a sound oak stump after scraping this clean from coal, a stick about six feet long and eight inches in diameter was rounded at one end and suspended by a spring pole directly over the stump. A hole was bored through this pestle for handles and the mill was done. A man would pound a pack of corn in half an hour so that half of it would go through a sieve, so we see that "Necessity is the Mother of Invention."

Mr. Bryant was a carpenter by trade and it is said he built the County Court House in Ann Arbor in the year 1834. And it is said that a man by the name of Robert Flemming built in this County, the first saw-mill on Section twenty-five, Ann Arbor Township in the summer of 1824. It was located on a small creek running though the County near Ann Arbor, named Flemming Creek.



Harvey H. Snow as the tenth buyer, and the owner of Snow's Landing now called "Rawsonville". This settler disposed of his interest to Abel Millington in 1825 or 1826 and moved further West.

George W. Noyse was a settler near the Grove in the year 1823, but he moved to Ann Arbor in 1824 and two years later was the principle mover in building the first gristmill in Ann Arbor. But misfortune seemed to overtake him, while he was assisting at the raising of a house owned by Andrew Nowland of Ann Arbor, some of present settlers will remember. This man Noyse got killed by accident.

The first school established in Ypsilanti was organized and taught by Miss Olive Gorton, in a small building which stood where the Occidental Hotel(doubtful) now stands. In the Summer and Fall of 1825 and among her pupils was Lieut. Mortimer Rosencranz whose remains rest in our Highland Cemetery. Miss Gorton after the close of her school that year, married Lyman Graves, and made her home three miles South of Ypsilanti, where she spent her life. They raised quite a family but most of them passed away. There is one son and his family now living in Ypsilanti City, who is a very worthy citizen and has held several very important offices and is considered a good business man. His name is Albert Graves, living on Washington Street, Ypsilanti City.

I will speak of some of the present citizens of Ypsilanti and what they have done for their home town. I will refer first to Mr. Daniel Quirk, Senior, as doing a great thing for the City and the surrounding country when he built that building known as the Vault in Highland Cemetery and donated it to the City, which was certainly a very generous act, and his memory will be cherished by the generation as one of the most respected citizens of Ypsilanti City. He is now in his ninety-second year and President of the First National Bank, which position he has held for several years and his memory is considered very good,

I will speak of one more of Ypsilanti's Business men who has passed away, but he will be remembered by most of the present citizens. He was Doctor Rexford who was business straight through. He has left sons who are very much like him in that respect.

I will now speak of Mrs. John Starkweather and her generous donation to the City; one gift being the Ladies' Library building, another was the Chapel in Highland Cemetery which was built by her and given to the City which is a great thing for the City and the surrounding country. In a great many ways I feel as though the citizens all must feel very grateful and thankful for these donations although she has gone to the vale beyond. There is yet one more to mention. I hear the Water Fountain in front of the Savings Bank was a gift also.

I will speak of another one of the present business men of the city, who is Mr. Robert W. Hemphill, Sr., who is now President of the Savings Bank in Ypsilanti City, which position he has held for sometime. He has been concerned in the Banking Business ever since I knew him which is nearly fifty years and is a straight business man. It is said that in 1825 a man by the name of Rawon operated a sawmill at Snow's Landing, now called Belleville. I learn from statistics that a man by the name of John Stuart, it is said, built the first sawmill in Ypsilanti near where the Woolen Factory now stands in June 1826.

The first Town meeting was held in 1827. Doctor Millington was elected Supervisor, and Benjamin Woodruff, Justice of the Peace. It is to be remembered that Michigan is yet a Territory and was not admitted as a State until 1837.

I learn from statistics also that a man by the name of Godfrey had a Trading Post established with the Indians at or near the Grove as early as the year 1823, carrying on a good trade with the Indians for their furs for it is said they were numerous. I know they were numerous when I first saw Ypsilanti.

In the year 1833 a man by the name of William Harwood who will be remembered by some of the present citizens, owned quite a tract of land on the East side of the river and also a Grist Mill standing near where the present Huron Mill now stands, which it is said was built by Benjamin Woodruff in 1824 and he sold it to Harwood, who was the owner of it in 1833, when I first saw Ypsilanti, and Mr. George McDugal was the Miller who has passed to the other shore. But he left two sons who live near Ypsilanti in the Town of Superior who are known by the present citizens of Ypsilanti. In the year of 1835, Mr. Harwood made a deal with old Mr. John Gilbert disposing of all his interests on the East side of the river, Mill and all. I will tell you more later about this deal and about this Mill property. I will say now that old Mr. John Gilbert built the present Huron Mill on or near the same ground where the old Mill stood, that he bought of Mr. Harwood. This old Mr. Gilbert that I refer to was the father of young John Gilbert, named the same, who died a few years ago and his widow still lives in Ypsilanti City.

I will give a sketch of what I know of Ypsilanti when I first saw it in the year 1833 and who the settlers were at that time, and what condition the Village was in.

I came with my father and his family from the State of New York, Steuben County, arriving at Ypsilanti June 18, 1833. My father brought a pair of horses and a wagon with him and we came from Buffalo to Detroit by boat on Lake Erie and from Detroit we came without the team to Ypsilanti.

We found no bridge across the Huron River at Ypsilanti, but we were ferried over on a flat bottom boat, horses, wagon and all by a man by the name of Stout.

I will name some of the inhabitants of the little Village as I remember them. A man by the name of Charles Stuck who operated an Ashery on the South side of Congress Street where Mr. Demarsh now has a livery barn and he was then the father of Al Stuck who is now a citizen of Ypsilanti, who is well known there by the present citizens. And farther West at the corner of Huron and Congress Streets where the Savings Bank now is, that corner was opened and occupied by the forefathers of the present King family that is there now. It has been handed down so that the King family hold it yet. And farther to the West there was various offices and stores, there were two men by the name of Lane, both Lawyers, and they were brothers and their first names were Marcus and Charles Lane. The had an office on that side of the street. Chancy Joslyn was in their office with them at that time, then a young man reading Law also. And farther West on the South side of Congress Street was two men by the name of Moore and McAllister, keeping a Dry Goods Store and on the corner of that block where the National Bank is now. It was at that time owned and occupied by Elijah Grant who kept a Dry Goods Store also. He was the father of E. Grant, now one of the citizens of Ypsilanti, that block comprised about all on the South side of Congress as for business.

I will go back to the river and tell something about the North Side of Congress Street. The first buildings next to the river was quite a structure and it was there when I came to Ypsilanti, and was said to have been built by Deacon Post, who was Hatter by trade, and he carried on a business there. It was known in those days as the "Nunnery Building".

We will go West to the West Side of Huron Street and there on the corner where now is the Kishler Store, we found Arden H. Ballard and James Edmunds running a General Store; and a little West of them, Julius Movious and a man named Goddard running a Hardware Store. Still farther West we find a Jewelry Store run by Mr. McGrady and Miss Fanny Nichols, a Milliner, and sister of Mr. H. James Nichols, who will be remembered as the father of the Pittsfield farmer who was found in the Detroit River murdered by Edward Asher, who is now serving time in Jackson Prison for the crime.

Mr. Walter B. Hewitt run a large Boot and Shoe Store near the West end of the block right north of the First National Bank. The corner is still owned by the Hewitt Family. In the year 1851 fire took everything clean from the block in the shape of the buildings excepting two stores and one of them that is on the corner of Washington and Pearl Streets.

The old shop where Mr. Minor worked at Blacksmithing for years and the other was a small house near where the present Post office now stands owned by Mr. Sears Loveridge. The fire took everything clear to the river, the old Nunnery Building with the rest. The Law Fraternity consisted of Elias Skinner, Grove Spencer and Marcus and Charles Lane.

The Doctors when I came here were Dr. Millington, Dr. Morse and Dr. Fairchilds; and Richard Martin was the City Baker. Gilman Davis was the Cabinet Maker and later was the Undertaker of the town. He was the father of Mr. Ira Davis, now a citizen of Ypsilanti City. Ira Weed was the Officiating Clergyman of the Presbyterian faith. The first Saddler was Abram Sage and the first gunsmith was Ormsby. Mr. Joseph Stockdale was the first wagon maker of the little village of the North side of Congress Street, but the fire of 1851 burned his shop, which was a big loss to him. He, like the rest of the first settlers, has passed away, leaving two or three sons living in or near Ypsilanti, who are well known in the City and community. there is no doubt but that Mr. Jonathan Norton was the first dry goods merchant in Ypsilanti, while Michigan was a Territory. Mr. Morton and his wife both died on that farm. I lived neighbor to them and was one of the pall bearers at the funeral of both. He told me himself that he got his goods from Detroit on a flat bottom boat on the Huron River and his place of business was on the corner of Washington and Pearl Streets.

One of the Officiating Lawyers, Mr. Grover Spencer, when I first saw the Village of Ypsilanti, was the father of the present citizen, well known in this community by the name of Richard Spencer, the stock buyer. His father's family when I came here lived just East of the little Village on a farm that is still known to many as the Spencer farm. A man by the name of Jack Wheelock kept a livery stable on Huron Street, South of Congress. The first Sheriff of the County, after Michigan became a State was William Anderson, living just South of the Ann Arbor Road. Mr. Mark Norris was Postmaster at Ypsilanti and Hon, Chancey Joslyn was the first Mayor of the City of Ypsilanti, after it was incorporated as a City in 1857, and in 1863 was elected Probate Judge of the District. He has passed away leaving three sons and two daughters. One of the Sons, Mr. Frank Joslyn, is an Attorney, residing in Ypsilanti City, practicing his profession.

A man by the name of Mr. James Turner run a Stage Coach from Detroit to Ypsilanti and Saline, when I first remember, and a man by the name of Anthony Collins was the Village Drayman, he had a two wheeled dray and a big sorrel horse that was inclined to bite people when they came near his head and he was obliged to keep him muzzled so he could not hurt the citizens.

A colored man and his wife, by the name of Wells, carried on a barber shop on the other side of Congress Street. In the basement of the Ballard Edmunds Shop on the corner where Kishlar's Store now is, there were two Tailor Shops. John Hawkins run a shop on the South Side of Congress Street and the other man run a shop on the North Side of Congress and his name was Mr. Wilkerson, and has long since passed to the other shore. He has a daughter now living in Ypsilanti whose name is Mrs. Janet Campbell. I remember the restaurant kept by a Mr. Towner on the West side of Washington Street and on the South side of Congress Street. He also kept some liquors for sale and was grandfather to Tracy Towner who is now an Attorney in Ypsilanti City and well known as a business man and a lawyer. Mr. Abriel Hawkins kept a Tavern on the corner of Washington and Congress Streets where the Union Block now stands who will be remembered by some of the citizens as the father of Walter and Fred Hawkins. The old gentleman kept the Hotel and he furnished his table with plenty of good vitals to eat and less style, which was quite the reverse of most of the Hotels nowadays, they had more style then vitals. The old Mr. Howland run a Tannery near where his son John Howland runs one now, North of the Woolen Mill. A man by the name of Norton run a distillery near the North part of the little Village.

I will now come back to Congress and tell you a man by the name of Griffin kept what was called a Select School in a part of the building known as the Nunnery owned by Deacon Post, who was the father of Hon. Samuel Post of Detroit. On the South side of Congress Street West of Martin Dawsons Feed Store. I think a family lived and owned the premises by the name of McKinstry and I think it yet occupied by some of the family. The house stands back from the street a short distance. Still farther West where Mr. Curtis' building now stands was a building known as the Red Schoolhouse, where Priest Weed often preached to the settlers of the little Village and all who came from the surrounding country with their Ox Teams to hear him and still farther West along Chicago Avenue on the place now owned and occupied by Mr. Oliver Ainsworth, was then owned and occupied by Mr. Benjamin Woodruff, the founder of the Grove, as I told you. He was disappointed there and he moved his family here, and he and his wife both died here and his homestead passed into the hands of a man by the name of Alfred Hunter, who purchased the Huron Mill from Mr. Gilbert. Mr. Hunter, it is said, failed and the Mill passed into the hands of Nathan Follett who will be remembered by some of the citizens of Ypsilanti and from in time, it was purchased by the present owners. I said I would tell more about the Gilbert -Harwood deal later, Mr. Gilbert traded him a tract of land lying West of the Chicago Road towards Saline and Mr, Harwood moved his family on to it and farmed it and there died and some of his descendants still live there on the same land.

I will now go from King's Corners South and mention some more of the settlers as I remember them going South on then Village. Mr. Peter Miller lived and owned the premises on the West side of Huron Street where his son Henry Miller now lives. Mr. Peter Miller worked at the Mason's trade, but he and his wife have passed to the other shore. Still farther South lived Mr. Van Cleaf on the hill known as the West Monroe Road, we find a man living by the name of Joseph Burt on the West side of the road on the farm known as the Hammond farm at the present time. We come next to the brick house farm at the fork of the road now owned and occupied by George Crane, which was owned and occupied by a man by the name of William Rollo, who was considered quite a singer and he taught singing at school in the Winter and he was a good singer. Taking the West road at the fork by the brick house, just South of the creek, on the hill, a man by the name of Churchill who bought his land from the Government, it is the farm where the house burned a year or two ago that was owned at that time by Samuel Rogers. The next farm on Stoney Creek Road was owned by Mr. Glover, father of Henry Glover, who is now a citizen of the City of Ypsilanti. He is one of the men who has helped to make Ypsilanti what it is now with Money and personal council, he being a good business man. The farm is now owned and occupied by Seeley Davis and the farm next South was then owned by Mr. Glover, a brother of Henry Glover's father and it passed into the hands of Mr. Palmer Elliott, who was the grandfather to the present occupant at the present time. The old gentleman and his wife both died on that farm years ago.

The next farm South when I first remember it was owned and occupied by an old gentleman generally called Captain Macy. His family consisted of a wife, and son and one daughter. The present owners purchased it from Mr. Macy some years ago. The Macy family have all passed away at different dates. And the next farm where Mr. Neat lives now, was then owned by a family by the name of Densmore who owned the land where Mr. Frank White lives and John Seaver. The Densmore people owned the three eighty acres but no buildings, except the one where Mr. Neat lives. There is but one relative of the Densmore family in this part of the county that I know of and that is Cord Densmore, a grandson to the old man Densmore, who was called Doctor at the time I first remember him. On the West side of the road where Mr. Rodney Noory now lives. It was owned and occupied by a Mr. John Hammond and where Mr. Howlett now lives that place was occupied by a Mr. White and his family, and the Hammond family, John's relatives, owned all the West side of the road as far South as is now known as the Newton Crittendens Land including the Horace Laflin farm where he now lives. It was all owned by the Hammond family when I first remember it 1833. The farm that Newton Crittendens family now owns and occupies was owned and occupied by a Mr. Marton Doty.

The next farm South was occupied by a man by the name of Seth Strong but it was purchased by Mr., James Lowden, Sr. in the Spring of 1835. It is now owned by the heirs of the son, Hon. James L. Lowden Jr., who has passed to the other shore. And the next settler South on the West side of the road on the farm known as the Andrew Luke farm, there was a man living by the name of Mr. Luke, but he died soon after I came. There was no settlers south then till the farm where Mr. Barr now lives. A man and his wife lived there and they owned the farm and his name was Daniel Bird, the next settler South was Mr. James Miller on the South side of Stoney Creek. It is the farm Levi Rogers left to his widow and she sold it to a man by the name of Wright. Mr. Miller was Andrew Miller's father and he claimed when he first moved there in 1831 that one day he saw a big bear come and take a good sized shoat of his out of the yard and he did not care to hinder him as he had no gun. Mr. Daniel W. Russell and wife was here when I came and they lived on the little place joining Mr. Barr's land on the South, the same ground that is now called the Presbyterian Parsonage. Mrs. Russell was a sister to James Miller and the little place on the rise of ground South of the Rogers farm where Mrs. Albright now lives, it was then owned and occupied by old Mrs. Miller who was the mother of James Miller and Mrs. Russell, another daughter lived with the old lady at the time I remember them but they have all passed over to the other shore.

The next settler was on the first farm South of the School House now, but then there was no School House, that settlers name was Mike Warner, a young married man. He staid a year or two and then sold and moved to Monroe and the next settler was a man by the name of Howard. I think he was a bachelor, but he sold out in a year or two. The buyer will be remembered by the settlers, he was Jacob Dancinburg. He and his wife passed away. There is some of their descendants left, Mrs. Thomas Talliday is a doughier, also Mrs. Henry Stumphenusan of Augusta, and Mrs. Frank Fletcher of Ypsilanti City.

The next settler, at that time was Hiram Thompson, St., on the old farm where his son Hiram lives now. There is also one daughter living in Ypsilanti City who is Mrs. Anson Williams, the old people and one daughter have passed away. The daughter, Mrs. William Martin, whose husband was a son of Byard Martin and a brother of Jacob Martin now living in the City Of Ypsilanti.

More early settlers of Augusta that I first remember was Jr, John Minzey who lived with his family on the farm now owned by Hiram Brown. Mr. Minzey sold it to John B. Stark. Mr. Stark sold it to the present owner, and he and most of the family have passed away. I think there is one son and one daughter still living of the Stark family.

Mr. Minzey then settled on the farm where his two daughters now live, right south of Charles Rogers in Augusta Township, Mr. Minzey was the father of Redner Minzey who was well known by many of the present settlers who with his father and others have passed to the vale beyond. Mr. Robert Reynolds who has long since passed away, was the father of John Reynolds now living in Augusta Township. I mention a man known as Captain Hardy that settled on the Southeast quarter of section 34 and he run a saw mill located at the junction of Paint Creek and Stoney Creek in the year 1831, and he was the father of W.K. Childs of Ann Arbor City at the present time, who is a veteran of the Civil War. The first town meeting was held at the house of Aaron Childs in the year 1836, Steven Mead was elected Supervisor; Aaron Childs, Township Clerk; David Hardy, Justice of the Peace; Hiram H. Warner, Treasurer.

In regard to Section 16 of the Town of Augusta, that in 1840 it was a perfect swamp, but it had the best white wood timber on it of any section of land in the county but it was quite a chore to get it out, it was nothing strange to upset a load from one to three times in getting it to hard land.

Some of the settlers that came in the Fall of 1833 and settled on the West side of the Township now known as Augusta, but was at that time called Ypsilanti including the Town of York and Pittsfield they were all called Ypsilanti Township. Mr. Andrew Rogers came with his family and settled east of the Redner School House on the farm now owned by the only living son of Andrew Rogers. His family consisted of eight grown children. He died about forty years ago, there were five sons and three daughters, the oldest daughter died in the year 1872, and was the wife of the writer of the narrative. The Mother and the other five children have passed to the other shore, leaving the two youngest children of the family here, who is Charles, on the homestead and the daughter who is Mrs. Josephine Kenyon, a widow. There was other families who came here at the same time that Mr. Rogers did and settled near him. Mr. Peter Dancingburg who was the father of William Dancingburg, who will be remembered by most of the present citizens and his mother who was familiarly known as Aunt Betsy, she was not easily frightened, but one afternoon near night, as she was going home from the West from some neighbors, carrying a piece of fresh meat for her supper, the wolves were quite thick here and some of them were very near Aunt Betsy and on this occasion wanted a taste of the meat and she being a very good woman and tender hearted gave it to them and then skipped for home as fast as she could, but she had to walk on some logs at the time to keep out of the water.



I now mention coming at or about the same Fall was Mr. Aaron Alber, who bought the land from the Government right East of the road where Mr. Freeman owns and lives now. Mr. Alber lived there a number of years, then sold it to Mr. Holland Williams, father of Jerome Williams who is now living just East of the old home, Section 16, in the Township of Augusta. Mr. Alber then bought a short distance West of the City of Ypsilanti, the farm that is now owned and occupied by Mr. Dell Wayne and there Mr. Alber died, nearly forty years ago and his wife died there also a few years later. The family consisted of two sons and one daughter who was the wife of Lawson Rogers, the oldest brother of Charles Rogers, referred to before in this sketch. The two sons are yet living, one at Lansing, Michigan and the other at St. Paul, Minnesota, I think. Mr. Coon Redner coming in the Fall of 1833 purchasing the farm from the Government that Norman Redner had recently sold to Joseph Rockwood, it being the homestead of Redners, located near the Stoney Creek Creamery. Mr. Coon Redner's family consisted of four sons and four daughters, who have all passed to the other shore but the two youngest daughters, and one of them is Mrs. Harriett Platt and the other is Mrs. Matilda Hinkley, wife of Franklin Hinkley, who I will refer to later, I now refer to another family that moved into Augusta Township soon after I came here. Mr. Robert Campbell owns and lives there at the present time. A man by the name of Wiley sold it to Mr. Campbell when the county was nearly a forest. Mr. Campbell's family consisted of two daughters and six sons. The father, mother and two daughters and one son has passed away and the remaining sons are William, Honorable Andrew, Gabriel, Robert and Honorable John K. Campbell, who are all well and favorably known in this County of Washtenaw. All farmers except Gabriel who is a Professor in an Eastern College.

I will now pass back to the little village and on my way back, I will say something in regard to the land I have said was owned by the Hammond Family where Mr. Rodney Moory now lives that was sold to Mr. Henry Redner, who was the oldest son of Coon Redner. Henry Redner sold it to Mr. Benham who was the father of Horatio Benham and Mrs. Rodney Moory, who now owns and lives on the land owned by John Hammond. Mr. Hammond died in Ann Arbor a few years ago, he has one daughter living in Ann Arbor, who is the wife of Mr. Martin, a son of Mr. James Martin that moved in to this county in 1825. More about him later.

Just East of the present bridge across the river on the South side of Congress Street, a Mr. Emerick run a grocery store who was the father of Benjamin Emerick who will be remembered by many of the present citizens who has passed to the vale beyond. Benjamin left two sons, Fred who now owns his father's homestead and Frank, the other son is Circuit Judge, living at Alpena, Michigan. I refer to Erastus Samson, who was then a young lad about twelve years old, who was a clerk in the store on Arden H. Ballard and Edmunds. He will be remembered as one of the most thorough Business men.

The next settler South of the Roberts farm that was here in 1833. It was then owned and occupied by a man by the name of Mr. Snow. It has now a brick house on it, built by Mr. Sherman Hinkley who passed away a few years ago. That farm is now owned by one of his daughters living in California. Mr. Hinkley also owned the next farm, South, known to many as the old homestead of Sherman Hinkley where he settled in 1831. The property is owned now by another daughter now living in Detroit City, who is a widow. The other heirs of the estate was a son, an attorney living in Ypsilanti, Franklin Hinkley, who I have referred to before; and Mrs. Ann Cook, the widow of Hon. Peter Cook, who was a farmer in York Township. The next settler South of the Hinkley homestead was Mr. John Shipman. The farm is now owned and occupied by Mr. Henry Schreen and farther South on the four corners of the West side of the road we find a family by the name of George Collins, a family of nine children and a wife. Two sons and three daughters have passed away, and the rest all living in Washtenaw County. The oldest daughter now living in Mary C. Whiting, widow of Ralph E. Whiting. She is a graduate of the Law Department of the University of Michigan and a member of the Washtenaw County Bar and practicing her profession at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. George Collins died about sixty years ago. A son William Collins, a farmer living a short distant east of Ypsilanti City on the Motor Line towards Detroit. A daughter name Abi, is the mother of Hiram and William Fisk. These two sons are living at Ypsilanti at the present time, a daughter, Mrs. Sophronia Wilbur, wife of a farmer living in the Township of Superior.

The next farm West of the four corners on the town line road and the owner and occupant, was a man by the name of David J. Gilbert and he sold to Porter Hinkley several years later. Mr. Hinkley was not in Michigan for sometime after my father came here. He built the brick house where the oldest son and his mother now live. She is said to be quite smart for a person of ninety-three years of age. Mr. Hinkley bought the Collins farm from the Collins heirs.

The next settler South of the Collins farm was my father who moved onto the eighty acres that he bought from a man by the name of Willard Hall. At the time we moved on to it near the last of June 1833, there was a log house on the Hall land and three or four acres had been ploughed. My father also bought the eighty acre lots of Mr. John Gilbert of Ypsilanti, the same man that made the deal with Mr. Harwood and got the Huron Mill in Ypsilanti of Mr. Harwood. My father lived and died there in April 1873, and the children of his family were nine, but six passed away, and the other three yet live in Washtenaw County.

Mr. Samuel Begole owned eighty acres of land on Section two, joining my father's. He was here when we came, then a young man but he married and lived on his farm until he retired from labor, moving to Ypsilanti in his old age and there died. He left one son and two daughters still living in the County. The son is Milton Begole, a farmer, living in Pittsfield Township; one of the daughters lives in Ann Arbor City, the widow of Mr. Homer Cady, who has recently passed away; and the other daughter lives in Ypsilanti City, the wife of Chris Enders.

This country was level and sightly for a new country and it was not a strange thing to see the wild deer feeding with the settlers cattle on the prairie and quite often the bear could be seen loping over the plains and plenty of wild turkeys and wolves also, the first two or three years after we came. Some of the settlers who were here at that time were, a family known by the name of Welch living on the farm where William Miller now lives. It consisted of the old people, two sons and three daughters. The sons married and raised families. Some of them are in Chicago and some in Wyandotte, and a son of Horace Welch, Wallace, lives in Ann Arbor city, who is a veteran of the Civil War and a man well thought of by his neighbors. The old gentlemen's other son, Owen, had but one son and he was killed in the Civil War, over forty years ago. Now the old stock has all passed away, the last one departed this life one year ago last winter, she was the youngest daughter.

Some settlers of the Town of York: It was then called Ypsilanti Township for it must be remembered Michigan was yet a Territory. On Section twelve there lived a man by the name of Hiram Fisk who bought his land from the Government. He was not a married man at that time. His sister and her daughter kept house for him. He was quite a hunter and a good marksman, killing all kinds of game which was very plentiful then. He will be remembered by many of the present citizens. I refer to the farm that Mr. Charles Thompson owns and occupies now. Mr. Fisk married after a time a lady by the name of Comstock and raised some children. I remember the oldest, a son, who married a girl I knew from childhood, a daughter of our nearest neighbor. They lived quite a number of years together. They raised two sons that are citizens of Ypsilanti City and their mother lives there also. Her husband Charles Fisk, met his death by falling from a building, the circumstance will be remembered by many of the present citizens. Mr. Hiram Fisk had two daughters, one was married but both passed to the vale beyond, the first of any of the Fisk family. The old people have gone also. Mr. Fisk had the misfortune when trimming a tree in his own dooryard he fell to his death in the summer of 1872, and the old lady passed away since that date.

I will now speak of Mr. Cary Stark who lived and owned the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Avery in York Township. He had a large family of children but most of them, as well as the old people have passed away. I know one daughter who is now living in the Town of York, who is the widow of Henry Coe, who I will speak of later. One of the settlers at that time 1833, on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. William Kelsey, known as the Aaron R. Wheeler farm, it was owned and then occupied by a man and his family by the name of Alanson Snow. Mr. A.R. Wheeler came in the Spring of 1834 and bought out Mr. Snow; and Mr. Wheeler lived and the old people died there. The only son of A.R. Wheeler, Charles, has left a son and daughter, who is the wife of Mr. William Kelsey, who is the present owner of the Snow farm; and his wife's mother, Mrs. Charles Wheeler lives with him. I will now tell you about Mr. Snow, the first settler in the Township of York and known as the Indian hater so called on account of his inveterate hatred of the Indians. When a lad the members of his father's family were massacred in Ohio right before his eyes and from that hour he vowed eternal vengeance of the redskins, a vow that he kept with unrelenting hatred. He roamed the woods from morning until night with his trusty rifle in hand, and as settlers came he moved still farther into the forest, the better to satisfy his love for hunting and his desire to keep that terrible vow he made in childhood.

Mr. Arthur Coe, a brother-in-law of Mr. Coon Redner, who came in the Fall of 1833, did not come until 1835 and he bought land on Section Two., York Township of the two settlers that were here when we came in 1833 and their names were Allbrow, a father and son. After his first purchase, Mr. Coe bought more land, so at the time of his death he owned nearly six hundred acres of good farming land. His family consisted of four sons and four daughters and himself and his wife. The children were all married, two sons and one daughter with their father and mother has passed away at different dates.

The first Township meeting held in the Town of York at the house of Noah Wolcotts at a small place called Mooreville, so named because a number of families of that name had settled there at this Township. Hon. William Moore was elected Supervisor, and Othniel Gooding, Township Clerk; Dr. Bowers was practicing physician, living at Mooreville. He also kept a dry goods store. I will relate a little incident that I heard Mr. Woolcott tell in his Hotel at Mooreville about the year 1839 or 40. There was a certain man in the Township of York about that time who had married a wife living in one of the neighboring towns and he was anxious to bring her home with a good horse team in good style, and in those days such teams were scarce and not easily got, although Mr. Woolcott was fortunate enough to own one and the bridegroom being well acquainted with him ventured to ask him for his team for that occasion. His wife happened to be a good size woman weighing nearly 300 pounds. Mr. Woolcott says "Yes Sir, you can have my team on condition that you do as I tell you. I say you must not bring her all at one load". I was well acquainted with the wedded pair

but decline to mention names but suffice to say the team was not used on that occasion. This Noah Woolcott has some descendants now living in the little Village of Milan, Michigan.

A few words about my father who was Frederick Bason, familiarly called by neighbors and settlers as "Uncle Fred". He came first to Michigan, viewing the year before we moved here and then he bought four eighty acre lots from the Government Land Office then located at Detroit. When he moved his family here the next year, he bought 240 acres more of the parties I have mentioned before, joining some of the land he bought of the Government and in the year 1835 he bought another eighty acres of one of our neighbors by the name of Taylor Stuart. That made him the owner of six hundred and forty acres, all joining, excepting one eighty acres of timber land, lying on what is known as the Ridge Road, and is the land now owned by Mr. Othniel Gooding, southwest of the Stoney Creek Creamery on the Ridge Road towards Mooreville. My father sold that eighty acres of land to Mr. Elnathan Gooding who was the father of the present owner in 1839 or 40, as I remember it now, and my father gave that eighty acres that he bought of Mr. Stuart to my oldest brother Samuel, who has since passed away at about the age of eighty. The farm referred to is now occupied and owned by Mr. Lewis Laflin on Section one in the Township of York, where he and his family now live. My father drew a small pension up to the time of his death, having been a soldier in the War of 1812. I well remember hearing him say with reference to one of the engagements he was in that he thought some of them shot rather carelessly, for one of their bullets slivered his tomahawk handle in his belt by his side. When I first remember him, I was six or seven years old, in the Town of Poultney, Steuben County. Which office he resigned when he moved to Michigan in 1833. I will say here that from the time of my first recollection it was the law that all able bodied male citizens of the United States between the age of eighteen and forty-five were required to do Military duty five days in every year, known as Company training days, which was still the law when I reached my eighteenth year and in the year 1842 I Joined the rifle company of the Township of York, and in the Spring of 1844 I was elected First Lieutenant of the Company and my Commission was sent to me by John S. Barry who was then Governor of the State of Michigan but about or near the year 1848 this law was repealed. I had a brother William who was over two years older than I but we resembled each other so closely that some of the people thought we were twins. We could wear each others clothes and fitted well on the other. At the proper age we both married at different dates and in time his family consisted of four daughters and one boy but when he was ten days old the mother died in the 1859, which was a terrible stroke to my brother. At that time the oldest girl was about twelve years old and the youngest daughter was about eighteen months when their mother passed away.

He kept the children together and lived to see them all settled in life, but he himself became nearly helpless with rheumatism and other ailments before he passed away in the year 1900 at the age of seventy-nine years. He lived around among his children as he wished and died at the home of the second daughter, Mrs. Frank Johnson, and is laid to rest in the Stoney Creek Cemetery by the side of his wife.

Now a few words regarding myself. I was about twenty-two years old, the daughter of Andrew Rogers became my wife and we lived happily together for twenty-five years, then death took her from my embrace which left me alone as we had no children. In time, I married again, a second cousin to my first wife, by the name of Rogers also, and we lived happily together for thirty years, then she too passed away three years ago last May which leaves me alone again. Through the kindness of my niece the youngest daughter of my brother William, I am offered a home at her house, she being the wife of Thomas Rowe, the laundryman, on Detroit Street in the City of Ann Arbor. I try to help some in the laundry what I can but it is not generally expected that a young lad like me (only eighty-five years of age) can do much anyway, yet I have to bear the accusation of being the smartest acting man and a man of the best memory of any one of my age, that is known in this community. I will say that I am usually healthy, and no organic disease of any kind lurking about me that I know of unless it is a streak of laziness and I am willing to take the opinion of those that know me best and call their decision final.

Erastus W. Basom

The Author and writer of this narrative in the year 1909.

## YPSILANTI YESTERYEAR

- JANUARY 1895: High School was built following the fire of May 3, 1894.
- FEBRUARY New High School dedicated, February 5th.  
George Wiard's Cider Mill and Vinegar Factory burned, \$12,000.00 Loss.
- May Soldier's Monument at Highland Cemetery dedicated.
- June Eureka K of P Lodge organized at Light Guard Armory.  
Dr. J. A. Watling and Dr. L.M. James moved into their new building at 119 North Huron.
- July John Laidlaw at Michigan Central Garden has large floral design of Cantilever Bridge at Niagara Falls, It is 40 feet long. there is also an engine and a Tender 4 feet long, 37000 plants were used.  
New city Well sunk near Creamery on Harriet Street,  
found satisfactory, Work begun on another well 100 feet distance, 60 feet with a 25 foot screen at the bottom.
- August Reunion of Fourth Michigan Cavalry held in Ypsilanti.
- October Three slight earthquake shocks felt in City between 5 and 6 o'clock.  
Post Office at Rawsonville discontinued.
- December Frances P. Bogardus succeeded P. W. Carpenter as Postmaster.  
Mayor Pingree of Detroit addressed Annual Commencement Exercises at Cleary College.

# Acquisitions

Omer Robbins	Books: Genealogical Helper 1992-1993
Mrs. Deci Howard	Box of Postcards, Evangeline Lewis Collection
Robert Fink	Old Newspapers, Various Clippings & Pamphlets. Toy Cannon. Books: The Red Cross by Clara Barton. Poetical Works of Oliver Goldsmith 2 Abstracts
Mrs. JHames Cornell	Pictures-Lee & Maude Counsellor. Counsellor Family Reunion John Maulbetch Family
Mrs. Jack Harris	Historical Material of the Stacklewitz House. Material from Ypsilanti Historical Commission.
Mrs. Ada Jessup	Doll that she had on her bed as a child.

Thanks to all for being so generous with your memories  
and we shall treasure them and enjoy showing them in the  
Museum.



Archives Musings:

The Willow Trees are getting their yellow coloring, tulips are up, crocus have peeked their heads out of the cold hard ground and the grass is getting a tinge of green. Sooooooo SPRING IS CLOSE AT HAND.

Folks are beginning to travel so that means business in our offices will pick up. (We never do get caught up).

Remember the Quarterly Meeting, April 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. Mike has a program planned that I am sure you will enjoy.

Our Children's Room is completed and has been getting a lot of excellent reviews, if you haven't seen it do come soon.

Eastern Michigan Preservation Department of Eastern Michigan University has chosen the Museum as a project to assist the Museum with immediate repairs, develop a long term restoration and maintenance program, and a group developing space needs plan to assist the Museum in storage space. That we need very badly. Kevin Walker, Grants Coordinator with the City of Ypsilanti has made the connections for this project and we give him our sincere THANKS.

REMEMBER THE YARD SALE, JUNE 3RD FROM 8 TO 12:00 NOON. YOU MAY BRING YOUR TREASURES TO THE ARCHIVES ANY MORNING AND WE WILL STORE THEM AND HAVE THEM READY FOR THE SALE. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO BRING THEM PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GIVE US A CALL AND WE WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE THEM PICKED UP.

I HOPE YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE GLEANINGS HAVE BEEN DONE ON THE COMPUTER. I AM SURE THEY WILL BE EASIER TO READ. I want to tell you it has not been easy as the monster does what it wants when it wants and asks the darndest questions. I feel I have accomplished a lot and I am proud of it. I know children use computers with no problems however, my mind has been set in a different pattern for years and it has been hard to change, but I learn something new everyday. Special THANKS to the patient folks at City Hall, Shannon, Nan, Alice and Bob for their patience in trying to teach me to SAVE and they have almost succeeded.

Come see us soon.

Billie

# Treasure Sale

JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup>

8 A.M.-12 NOON

Odds  
+  
Ends

TREASURES  
+  
MISCELLANEOUS

BAR GAINS

Come early. For The  
Pick of The  
CROP

RENEWAL  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single \$ 5.00  
Family \$ 10.00  
Contributing \$25.00

Business \$75.00  
Life Member \$1000.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to Ypsilanti Historical Society  
220 North Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Would you enjoy working at the Museum?  Yes

Society is a non-profit organization.

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ARCHIVES

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SECRETARY	BILLIE ZOLKOSKY
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KATHRYN HOWARD AND MARY KERR

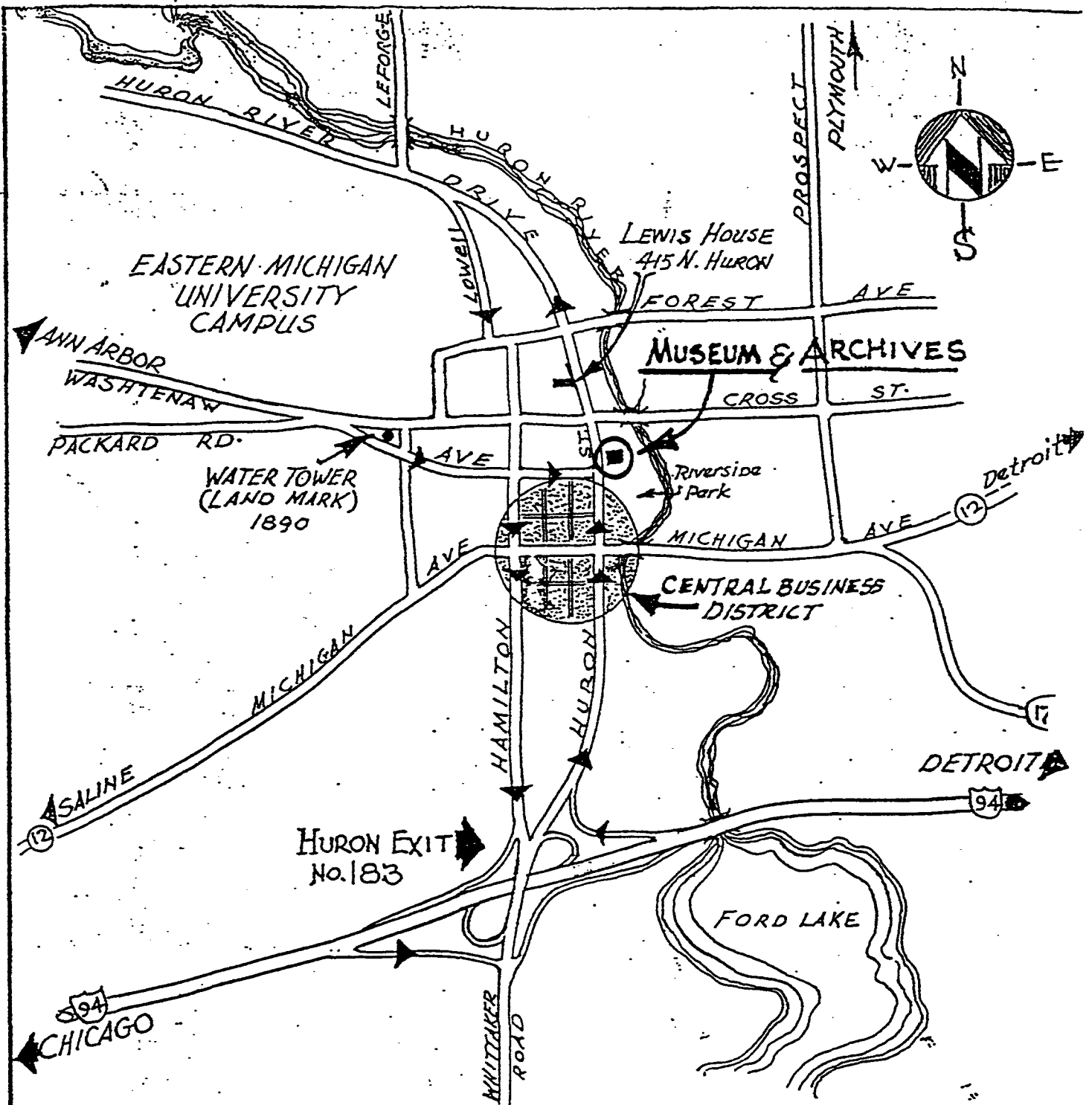
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THE MUSEUM AT 220 NORTH HURON STREET IS OWNED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN AND OPERATED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST OF THE YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY, A NON-PROFIT GROUP OF PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS. MUSEUM IS OPEN THURSDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 2:00 P.M.- 4:00 P.M. ARCHIVES OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 12:00 NOON-TELEPHONE-313/482-4990.



# Upsilanti Historical Museum

220 N. Huron St.

Upsilanti Michigan 48197 Phone 313-482-4990

Doris Milliman-City Historian  
Billie Zolkosky-Archivist

Museum Hours: Thur-Sat & Sun 2-4 P.M.  
Archives: Mon-Fri 9-12 Noon