

THE YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

*A Publication of the
Ypsilanti Historical Society
April 2002*



*Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives
220 North Huron Street*

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Ypsilanti, Michigan
Permit No. 399

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

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

THURSDAY	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
SATURDAY	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
SUNDAY	2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The Archives, now located behind the Museum building, are open;

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY – FRIDAY

9 a.m. – 12 noon
9 a.m. – 12 noon

TELEPHONE: (734) 482-4990

Group Tours may be arranged by calling – 483-2929 or 971-0536

BEGINNINGS OF THE YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A Narrative History

by William P. Edmunds

Part II

Going back to the original remodeling, we were very fortunate in being able to get in touch with two young men who were just starting out in the contracting business in Ann Arbor, Tom Armstrong and Jack Nuttal. Tom had grown up around this area. I think he may have come from Ypsilanti originally. Jack Nuttal was an English trained carpenter who in this country is the equal of a fine cabinet maker. Tom Armstrong's interest had been in plastering. Both Tom and Jack were able to put the wall back on the north side of the building between what is now used as the dining room and the front salon. If you look up at the top, you can see the place where the stenciling is absent and where it picks up. There was no wall where the stenciling stops. It was possible after some of the dry wall or plaster board had been taken down to determine the width of the doorway and the height of the door. That wall had been messed up because a bathroom and kitchen had been put in. There were kitchen cabinets in that front room which we took out. Behind the cabinets we discovered the original stencil decoration of the room. It is still visible to the right of the fireplace. There was an added window there, too, and if you look at the area from the outside you can see where the wall has been rebricked and the opening removed.

Tom Armstrong was able to cut a pattern to match the molding on the ceiling and to "shoot" a plaster molding in place. Sometime later after we had it done, someone from Greenfield Village came out and was taken through the Museum to see what suggestions we could get about

restoration of some of the stenciling. He looked at it and said it was a shame we didn't have the inserts for that plaster molding and we really ought to see about getting some inserts made. They explained to him what he was looking at was all new plaster matched to the other and he hadn't recognized it. He didn't believe you could find a technician who could do work as fine as that. So we felt very blessed with it. Of course, as everyone knows, there were drop ceilings in all the downstairs rooms and that was what preserved the stenciling along the ceiling as well as the plaster molding and medallions in each of the rooms, which we are extremely fortunate to have.

When Jack Nuttal was done I think he said there were 17 separate pieces of molding on each side of the door from the salon to the dining room. The overall molding was built up from several separate pieces and I thought it was a beautiful job when it was done. Now 30 years later you still can't slip a piece of paper into any of his mitered joints. They have held absolutely perfect all this time. Tom Armstrong and Jack Nuttal did that work for us and were the ones who took down some of the ceilings plus did some touch up plaster work, removed all the bathrooms and kitchens which pretty well took care of the City's first \$28,000.

From time to time as things came up that we had to do, we kept going back to the City and kind of nickel and dimed them to death. Fortunately nobody there kept an accurate account of how much money the Museum did cost the City – we were fortunate for that and we and they will never know the total.

When it came time to do the archives room, I don't remember what it cost but I remember there was \$400 in it for demolition. Laverne Howard and I said "hell, that seemed like an awful lot of money for tearing out

plaster” so we got together, recruited my high school age son Bill and we went down there. We were knocking things out with a hammer and pry-bar. Laverne looked at the plaster wall and said “stand back” and he hauled back his size thirteens and stomped the plaster wall. We found out we could stomp the plaster down about 5 times as fast as we could have taken it down any other way. So we literally kicked the walls apart that divided up that space. And in the present archives space there was a kitchen, a bathroom, a couple of closets and a bedroom which had been framed in. So all that came out leaving it in its present configuration. Then the fun began. The floors had to be refinished and a number of other things done. But at any rate we saved \$400 out of the budget to spend on something else and of course like everything the original estimates were quite optimistic and that \$400 disappeared into some other things that needed to be done for that space.

About the same time, we had the advice of another architect Ward Swartz who had retired back to Ypsilanti. Originally he had been in partnership with Gwen Morehouse. They had been pretty successful architects here in town. Both of them were trained at the University of Michigan and understood the classic elements in architecture and how they should be incorporated. Ward Swartz was recruited to become the head architect for Colonial Williamsburg and the work that was being done in Williamsburg at that time in the 1950's. He and his wife Rhea had great interest in Ypsilanti. And always intended to return to Ypsilanti. Rhea was involved as a docent and I don't know what else at the Williamsburg restoration while Ward was the architect. When they did move back we were looking toward having a Director. Doris Milliman at that time had been Director of the Museum and she felt that being Director of the

Museum was requiring more time than we had a right to expect on a volunteer basis. She wasn't asking for money and wanted to resign. So she suggested we go to Rhea Swartz and offer her some money to take over as a Museum Director. *(Somewhere in this sequence Phoebe Miller was also Museum Director for a while.)* We did go to Rhea and she became the first paid Director of Ypsilanti Historical Museum. I don't recall how many years Rhea served. I would guess 3 to 5 years.

The city at that time, through the Historical Commission, did approve her salary and so we were able to continue to function. Ward Swartz became interested in the museum and he looked it over and suggested that we might eventually be able to use the basement for meeting rooms and exhibit space by providing a back entrance to the museum coming in on grade from the rear. Ramp access could be provided since the floor of the basement was something less than five feet below the surface of the ground. No drawings were made of this to my knowledge. Ward felt what we needed most urgently was humidity control and the air conditioning and that the heating system for the whole building needed to be changed from steam heat. The old gravity flow steam, boilers and radiators were barely able to make the grade and were a constant source of headache for maintenance. So he laid out a heating system where we went to forced air heat and the radiators and boiler were taken out.

Foster Fletcher then did his magic and came up with funds to put a cement floor in the basement because the large meeting room down there, plus some other part in the hall, was still just a dirt floor. So an inch or two of concrete was put in to create a dirt and dust free area and the building was air-conditioned along with this change in the heating system. The

great bulk of that was paid by the city. Foster Fletcher did obtain funds from various sources that, as I understand it, paid for the air- conditioning. That was where the building rested for some period of time. There was lighting put down there and it was used for storage and we always looked rather regretfully at it not being able to go on to get decent access to the space and utilization of it for meetings, etc.

Then back around about 1989 or 1990 we talked to Liz Knibbe who had shown great interest in historical buildings. Liz was kind enough to make drawings for us for a entrance on grade from the back with a ramp down to it across the back of the property and an emergency exit on the north side. The exit would be on a well which would involve taking down a window opening to the floor level but the lintel over the window would serve as well for a door and wouldn't weaken the foundation significantly.

This was all worked out on paper but, when we came to that point our finances seemed to pretty much have dried up. Block grant funds were terminated so the city did not have the money available to give us to accomplish this and so the project came to a standstill.

Before Lew White died, there had been many people who had things, which they told Lew they would like to give to a museum, but they were leery of giving them to the city. When the Historical Society came up with its constitution and bylaws, there was a section provided that if we were unable to continue functioning, anything we received would pass to the State Historical Society. We were very reassuring to the community and as a consequence of it when we got the museum, we were able to accept larger artifacts and were the grateful recipients of many items that came to us from local families. People who were unwilling to give to the city gave to the Historical Society. This includes many of the records we

have, not only the artifacts, but albums and records of family businesses and all types of other relevant materials.

In view of this, a long time back, even after the city had committed the present museum building to our use, a number of us were very concerned about the future of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. We had gone into the post office building with good faith and had put a lot of effort into it; only to have the city kick us out and move us to our present location. We were and are equally concerned that the city's development plans might at some point include the museum for city offices, etc. and that we would again have to move elsewhere.

When the Lewis House became available, we took it on viewing it as a possible museum site were we again dispossessed. We received it from Eastern Michigan University and attempted to maintain it. We rented part of it and it was self-sustaining barely, but we weren't able to put much into maintenance. It became evident that if we were to continue to use the building that the building would need significant investment. We lacked the funds and rather than subject the Lewis House to demolition by neglect, we elected to sell it with restrictions for its on the deed. Therefore the Lewis House was sold with the restrictions on the deed that the building could not be changed significantly, internally or externally and certainly the present owner has done a magnificent job.

We were not dispossessed and as time went on it looked less and less likely that we would be. In the vicinity of 1980 (I would guess) we began talking about the fact that we needed to have some kind of long term financial security for the Museum. I wrote the first check to start an Endowment and Development Fund for the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Later on, this was altered slightly and became an Endowment Fund and

was redrawn I think about 1989. In reality the fund has been in existence longer than that. After the Endowment Fund was created, it became the receptacle for money we received from the sale of the Lewis House. We also had some significant bequests that came to the Endowment Fund through Foster Fletcher's efforts especially the Nanry Bequest. There was also Chuck and Kottie Hagler, (great friends of Dr. and Mrs. Harris) who remembered us in their will. Both of the Hagler's had unexpected health problems, died within a few years of each other and each left us a significant bequest. Therefore the Endowment Fund was able to continue to grow and thrive through grace and compound interest.

One point that needs to be recognized is, that by and large, the Historical Society's funds have been expended primarily on decoration, operation and presentation of the collection to the public. The city's funds have been for the maintenance of the building externally and internally.

What I started to say was that after we first acquired this building for a museum, there were a number of us concerned about the fact that we had gone into the library with good faith and had put a lot of effort into it only to have the city kick us out and move us to our present location. We were equally concerned that the city's development plans might at some point include the museum for city offices, etc. and that we would again have to move elsewhere.

I haven't been terribly specific about all the things I recall about the beginnings of the museum, but this is a general outline of how it grew.

When Rhea Swartz left, Sharon Patterson came in and did a very good job as Director of the Museum. I can't say exactly how long that was. During this time, Foster Fletcher was the City Historian and was given a modest stipend from the city. Foster hired Dottie Disbrow to be his

secretary and she did a lot of the typing for the City Historian. After a year or so, Foster went to the city and said he didn't like to take money he had to pay income tax on and turn around and pay Dottie when he couldn't deduct it. He suggested the city put Dottie on the city payroll directly which they did. And it was the outgrowth of that that the archivist became a paid position within the museum.

Again it was a time when monies were getting tighter and our Museum Director Sharon Patterson left. The city felt it could no longer carry her salary and we weren't able to, so the position of Museum Director was left vacant.

Continuing this dictation at a later date, I would like to go back to the things I omitted earlier particularly about Dick Frank's analysis of the building itself.

One of the features that Dick pointed out is one in the basement in which there is evidence of what would be called sleepers attached to the floor joists, the front rooms and hallway. The sleepers hold short cross boards laid upon them and then cement was poured in between these floor joists. What it amounted to was a stiffening for the floor joists which would give the floors a sense of solidity which would otherwise be lacking. Dick Frank's comment was that he had seen this done in commercial buildings of the period, but he had never seen it done in a private residence. That was one of the unusual features of the building.

Others I alluded to earlier being the front windows that slide up to get access to the front porch and to the method of controlling ventilation and air circulation through the solarium on the south side.

One other thing that was of minor interest -- in the basement between two rooms, we also found a vertically mounted window, both the

upper and lower sash, the immediate trim around it, and I believe, a prime coat on it, but it had never really been painted.

On the outside of the building it was evident on the second floor that they had ordered a window for that place and then found in construction that they had allowed insufficient room for the window on the southeast corner of the second floor and that the window would have to be a foot or more narrower than the rest of the windows on the second floor. Proof of this is the fact that there is a stone sill that extends beyond the window to the north. Apparently they had to special order a window. Since they had already paid for the other and couldn't return it, they kept it on hand in case it was needed some time in the future.

The possibility of using one or more of those sashes to replace ones which have seen better days is a definite possibility. The other thing that Dick Frank noticed at the time of our evaluation of the building was the brick on the outside had all been painted red to protect the soft fired bricks. They then ruled on white lines over the mortar joints and most of these have long since faded and disappeared. However under the protection of the roof of the porch and under the eaves on the back porch, they can still be seen. There are white vertical lines which do not follow the exact pattern of the exact brick laying, but were ruled on to produce a nice neat appearance. A somewhat similar technique was on the foundation. There is evidence the original limestone which is cut to fit but somewhat irregular was covered with mortar and grooved to suggest a more formal ashlar laid stone foundation to contribute to the general grandeur of the building.

Although Mr. Quirk and Mr. Dow were partners, the birds eye of 1860 reveals the presence of our current museum building, Mr. Dow's

house, but has no evidence of the old city hall which was built by Daniel Lace Quirk. One of the newspapers commented on the single joint driveway shared by Mr. Dow and Mr. Quirk. This apparently was put in after the Quirk Building was erected.

When we first obtained the museum, the Carriage House apartments were also put under our control. The city received the rents for it, however we had the problems with the maintenance. All the water, gas and utilities seemed to come to our building first, then go to the Carriage House. Because of the inconvenience of it and the difficulties we had with it, we eventually prevailed upon the city to separate the two buildings completely as far as utilities were concerned and to relieve us from any responsibilities for the building.

Hopefully this information will be of some use. The exact dates I am a bit uncertain about. However, the general chronology I believe to be reasonably accurate. I hope you find this worthy of your reading efforts.

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CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION PASSED AT QUARTERLY MEETING

At the Quarterly Meeting, held at the Museum on Sunday, February 17th, 2002, a change in Article V, Section 3 (a) was voted upon and passed with only one dissenting vote.

The past Article read as follows:

Article V Board of Directors and Officers

Section 3 The Officers serving the Society shall be as follows:

- (a) A President who shall be elected for a term of one year by The Board of Directors from its membership at the first Board meeting following the Annual meeting.....**

The change in the above Article reads as follows:

Article V Board of Directors and Officers

Section 3

- (a) A President, who is a sitting member of the Board, shall be elected by the Board for an indefinite term of office, serving at the pleasure of the Board and subject to annual ratification at the second monthly meeting of the Board following the annual meeting of the Society and elections of new Board members.....**

The members present also adopted the following addition to the Constitution to be inserted in the appropriate section.

No volunteer or employee of the Society who has not yet attained the age of eighteen (18) shall be permitted to serve alcoholic beverages at any function hosted or sponsored by the society.

The above propositions were presented at the February 17, 2002 Membership Meeting.

YPSILANTI THRIFT SHOP CELEBRATES ITS 60TH YEAR

The Thrift Shop Association of Ypsilanti began its year-long celebration of 60 years of dedicated service to the city with a special luncheon in April at the Ladies' Literary Club House, announced President Marlene Barr.

The Association was founded in 1942 by a group of women from the Ypsilanti Community Fund. Mrs. Alton Cassady, Mrs. Robert Dailey, Mrs. Flossie Feiner, Mrs. W.W. Snyder, Mrs. Laurence Thomas and Mrs. Daniel Quirk met at the Huron Hotel (now the Centennial Center) to make plans for establishing a Thrift Shop in the city.

A building, that had been a Tin Shop owned and operated by Donald E. Wilson and located at 35 East Cross Street, became the site of the first Thrift Shop. All went well until the ladies noticed that Mr. Wilson and his friends were spending too much time watching the ladies as they went about their work. The ladies, feeling a bit uncomfortable with this undesirable attention, decided to move the Shop to a different location as soon as possible.

The move took them to 510 West Cross Street. However, this building was too far from the business district to attract customers and so the Shop moved again!

The third Shop opened at 2 South Adams Street. Here the Shop was in an area where shoppers could easily find it. It looked as though the Shop was finally in a permanent home. The Association elected Mrs. Quirk to serve as the first president and a constitution was written which stated the purpose of the organization as, "...an independent organization for the purpose of conducting a permanent rummage sale, the proceeds from which, over and above operating expenses, shall be used for charity."

In 1944 the membership established a fund for children at Beyer Hospital. It was the first of many community commitments the Association would make to the city of Ypsilanti.

The lack of operating funds was a constant worry. Each new location of the Shop required cleaning, painting and repairing which often was quite expensive. Money needed to be raised in ways other than the sale of merchandise.

The ladies set about raising the needed funds with such activities as fashion shows, which featured new and old styles of clothing from the Shop, bake sales, "Bundle Teas" and auctions. At one auction a hat, once worn by Hedda Hopper, brought quite a large sum to the Associations budget.

In 1960 the shop moved to 9 South Washington. It was during the occupation of this site that the Association completed 25 years of community service. An anniversary luncheon was held at the Huron Motor Inn on April 7, 1967. Eighty-three founders were honored at this event.

40 North Huron Street became yet another location of the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop in 1973. After extensive and expensive remodeling had been completed, the landlord informed the group that he had rented the building to someone who was willing to pay more rent than the Association could pay and the Shop would have to leave the premises.

A former warehouse, at 14 South Washington Street, became available for sale, and this time the Association decided to buy its own building. It became the last site of the Thrift Shop for the sum of \$16,000.0

Many volunteers rolled up their sleeves and went to work to make the building useable. Roman Parks supervised the tasks that needed to be done and encouraged local businesses, and citizens, to donate the needed material.

Husbands were coaxed into volunteering their spare time to create a Shop to be proud of and were rewarded by becoming members of, HATS, (Honorary Auxiliary to the Thrift Shop), because of the work and time they had so willingly? donated.

Opening-Day took place on April 2, 1947. Mrs. William Miliken, wife of the then governor of Michigan, cut the ceremonial ribbon while the Ypsilanti High School Band played, and members and citizens of the city cheered.

Money for a new roof, racks to hang clothing on and shelves was still needed. Mrs. Worden (JoAnn) Geer and Mrs. Scott (Bette) Woods organized a flea market and raised \$4,500.00 to help provide the needed funds. The Shop opened for business and continues to serve the needs of the people of Ypsilanti.

On this, the eve of the 60th anniversary of the THRIFT SHOP OF YPSILANTI, the friends and citizens of this city join in wishing the members and leaders of the organization a hearty, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, and may you continue your wonderful service to the people of this community.

The Ypsilanti Historical Society



WELCOME, BEV CASHEN

Beverly Lewis Cashen is ready, willing and able to give you the help you seek in the Museum Archives every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bev joined our staff in February and quickly began organizing files, answering questions looking up the information needed and brightening the rooms with her warm and friendly smile.

Before moving to Ypsilanti just two years ago, Bev lived and worked in Dearborn, Michigan. She retired from the position of Executive Secretary for, "Quality Control, Engine Division" of the Ford Motor Company in 1990. She then occupied her time working for a private manufacturing firm in Dearborn.

Bev immediately became involved with the Heritage Festival following her move to Ypsilanti. She willingly took over the job of chairman of, "The Clubs, Civic Organizations and Churches" of the Festival.

We are very pleased that Bev has chosen to be a part of our community in so many ways...WELCOME, BEV, to your new hometown!

MUSEUM CHANGES

Another move at the Museum will soon take place. The Museum Gift Shop will be moved to the room which once housed the Museum Archives.

Actually, the two rooms and the small office at the back of the building have been cleaned up, sanded down and painted. They will be used as additional display areas, the Gift Shop and the staff office.

Jerry Jennings, John Pappas and Bill and Karen Nickels deserve a loud round of applause and a big "THANK YOU" for the time and work they so generously donated!

BOOK BARGAINS

IN THE GIFT SHOP

In its new location the Gift Shop will be more accessible to the public.

The Shop carries a variety of items that can be used as gifts and/or souvenirs. Pots, mugs, cookie jars and vases from The Westerwald Company come in a variety of styles and sizes. They are decorated with floral leaves, the Ypsilanti Water Tower and the Museum House. Prices begin around \$8.00.

Baldwin Brass candlesticks, miniature clocks, paperweights and trinkets are also available and make memorable reminders of your visit to the Museum.

Many of the books about the early days of Ypsilanti and the people who lived in and around the area have been reduced in price. Among these books are:

**HELEN WALKER McANDREWS-Ypsilanti's
Lady Frontier Doctor
BY William McAndrew, Jr.
\$5.00**

**THE REAL McCOY
BY A.P. Marshall
\$5.00**

**DOWN THE MYRTLE PATH – Stories of the
Early schools in and around
Washtenaw County
BY Hannah Geddes Wright
\$8.50**

**LEGEND OF THE WATER TOWER
MOUSE
BY Sandie Jones
\$2.50**

**POST CARD COLLECTOR'S BOOK – 1982
Volumn VII
\$1.00**

**POST CARD COLLECTING – A FUN
INVESTMENT
BY Bernard Stadtmiller
\$3.00**

Drop in and browse around in the Gift Shop.
Thursday, Saturday or Sunday – 2 to 4 p.m.

BRISE FANS



Brise Fans were popular in Europe since 1680 but became the rage in the eighteenth century when Madame de Pompadour became fascinated by the small ivory types. The largest Brise Fans of the mid twentieth century were over 30 inches long made of ostrich feathers for dancing. The smallest were one inch long made of celluloid or paper for dolls since the late nineteenth century.

Brise Fans consist of blades made from any firm material held together by a rivet at the head and either a string or ribbon attached to each blade at the tip or towards the top of the fan blades. Most are less than 12 inches long. The glass top display table in the Ypsilanti room in the museum contains excellent examples.

The celluloid fan with the bracelet was made for a child in the early 1900's and the 1 1/2 inch fan for a doll. The celluloid dance program fan with the pencil on the tassel dates about 1890. The tiny note pad with the tiny pencil in the holder on the side in ivory dates about 1880. Pencil marks can easily be rubbed off ivory, bone and celluloid. The paintings on Brise Fans are all hand painted.

The Chinese lacquered fan was popular from early 1800. Note the tiny figures in the pattern. The reverse is almost identical. Chinese fans of all types have patterns on both sides. They believed the user as well as the audience should see the fan's beauty. Several layers of lacquer were applied before the gilt patterns were painted.

Pierced patterns were made by stamping wood, horn, tortoise shell, celluloid, even heavy papers. Ivory, bone, and amber blades were hand carved. The oriental undercut carving of the ivory fan in the case is typical of those made since early 1600. European carving was done with jeweler's drills and tools.

The fan with the "feather shaped" fabric blade tops were the favorite of the Swedish singer Jenny Lynn in the mid 1800's. The fabric matched the clothing worn and the fan style still carries her name. Sequins were sewn on the fabric and bits of marabou feathers fastened to the tips.

Feather fans are usually Brise. The horn fan in the case has two types of feathers. During the Victorian era feathers of all types were used on fans and were popular until the mid 1920's. They do not hold up well but can be dyed (especially ostrich feathers) any color desired. In the 1930's Sally Rand's famous fans had six full ostrich feathers fastened to each blade in pairs making them about 36 inches long. By the end of one evening of dancing they began to break.

Paper Brise Fans are still used for cards and advertising. Hallmark and other card companies still make Brise Fan valentine and Christmas cards.

Fans from Grace Cornish's collection.



“HERITAGE FESTIVAL, 2002” PLANS ARE UNDERWAY

Plans for “The Heritage Festival, 2002” are well underway with Betty Jones at the helm.

Betty, this year’s Festival Chairwoman, has been meeting with the committee chairmen since early in January and is really doing a great job in this capacity.

Nathalie Edmunds, Festival Chairwoman for many years, is serving as the co-ordinator of the Huron Street activities and our Museum is high on her list of prominent sites.

The historical old house will be open to the public, free of charge, on all three days of the Festival, August 16, 17 and 18. Visitors will get a tour of the rooms and see the furnishings, utensils and personal items used by the residents of Ypsilanti in the 1800s.

Many docents, male and female, are needed to guide our visitors through the Museum during the Festival. This is an opportunity to get better acquainted with the history of Ypsilanti, be of significant help to visitors during a two hour shift, and work in air-conditioned comfort. Very little training is needed. Each docent is provided with a “guide card” bearing the information about the area to which they’ve been assigned.

If you think you’d like to be a volunteer (and have a nice break from the August heat), please call Joan Carpenter...971-0536. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



PREDICTING WEATHER BY SPECIAL DAYS

Rain on Monday means several rainy days that week.

If the sun sets clear on Tuesday, expect rain before Friday.

If it rains on the “first of the month,” most of the month will be wet.

Rain on the first Sunday of the month means rain on the three following Sundays

If dandelions bloom in April, expect a hot, wet July.

If the sun sets behind the clouds on Thursday, expect rain before Saturday.

A windstorm on New Year’s Day means floods later in the year.



HAVE A COLLECTION ?????

The room in the Museum referred to as, "THE YPSILANTI ROOM", was so named because the displays exhibited in the room focused on Ypsilanti events, people, businesses, places and items made and/or collected by people of the city. Some of the exhibits are permanent ones while others are collections owned by residents in the area.

Equipment used by the first frontier woman doctor, Helen Walker McAndrew is in one of the permanent cases.

Elija McCoy's famous "oil cup", which was used to lubricate the gears of the trains of that era, is also displayed.

A suit of long underwear, made at the Ypsilanti Underwear Company, is also exhibited. The suit was sought after from as far away as France because of its fine quality. There were many funny little rhymes that advertised this underwear such as: "Never rip, Never tear, Wear Ypsilanti Underwear!", and, "When love grows cold do not despair, Wear Ypsilanti Underwear!".

There is also a great show case that features memorabilia from the Civil War. It includes guns, pictures and even a diary kept by a young soldier from Ypsilanti.

Other permanent cases include items from the early Ypsilanti Fire Department, the Spanish-American War, The Ypsilanti Schools and Indian Relics from long, long ago!

Displays that are not permanent are often from the collections of Ypsilanti citizens.

Currently there is a display of leather post cards, very, very old and interesting books dating from the late 1830s, reproductions of antique samplers, beautiful fans from all over the country and a collection of pictures of outstanding Black citizens of Ypsilanti.

If you have a collection that you think might be of interest to the visitors to the Museum, please don't hesitate to call the number that follows. We look forward to the participation of the people of Ypsilanti, in maintaining and contributing to this lovely Museum that is about, and for us all!

Joan Carpenter 971-0536

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIETY

Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible.

Capital Fund for Development

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

Endowment Fund

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

Dues & Unspecified Donations

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

Specified Donations

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

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

Archives

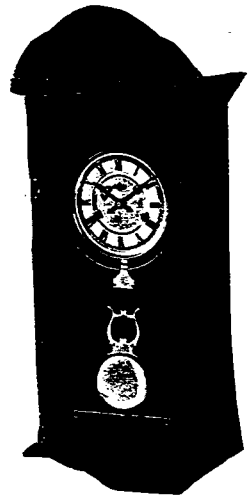
Local family histories are eagerly accepted.

Collections

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

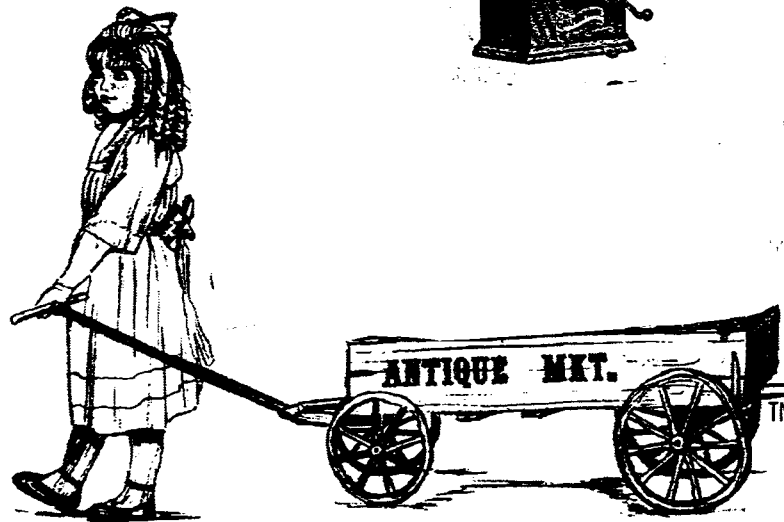
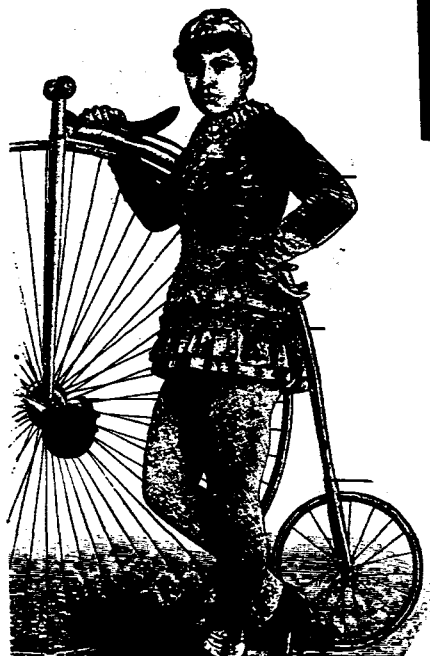
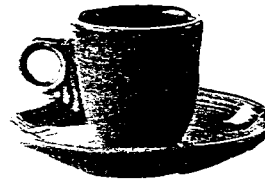


**ANNUAL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY GARAGE SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2002
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**



Due to the huge success of our sale last year, we will again join the Normal Park Neighborhood sale. It will be at Karen & Bill Nickels home 311 N. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti.

We need members to donate items for the sale. Items can be brought to the museum Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays 2:00 - 4:00, Tuesdays 9:00 - 12:00 noon. After May 15th, items can be brought to Karen and Bill's home. If you need your donations to be picked up call the Nickels at 483-8896.



YPSILANTI SPELLS TROUBLE IN MANY WAYS

Ypsilanti, Mich., Sept. 15, ?

More than most states, the State of Michigan has some strange sounding places.

They range from the Village of Aloha, in the un-Hawaiian setting of Cheboygan County, to Zilwaukee, no relation to Milwaukee, Saginaw County.

But of all of the Michigan's towns there isn't one that has a more abused name than the thriving city of Ypsilanti. Most persons can't pronounce it, let alone spell it.

To make it easier to follow this story it's ip-si-lanti, not yip-si-lanta!

Employees of the local post-office once kept track of the free-wheeling spellings of Ypsilanti on letters. During a six-month check they found 65 variations!

There was the phonetic speller who wrote it "Ipsalantie." And the traditionalist who preferred it, "Ippes Landing."

One spelled it "Sypsssil-lianty," and another, "Wypsorlanter." A most amazing effort was "Iep Lantice.

Others wrote:

Epsolynny, Epcilantia, Eplonsay, Epolante, E. Ypcaluntia, Eyspiallanti, Ebsalanda and Eybaylandy.

Still others stuck with "Y", thus

Yulomtice, Ypseylantia, Ypsi-I-Landdtine, Yeplanpha, Ypt-zy-lantia, Ypslanty, Tpssyllanti and Ypisylvania.

A THIRD school preferred the "I" introduction:

Ipsileindi, Ipsloty, Ipsilanta, Ibcelandie, Ippslanty, Ippsylanta, Iipslinta, Ipsolanty, Ipbseliny, Ipcliontia, Ibselandie, Iepcilunta, Isscpylanti and Ippssalantia.

A few favored "L" as in - Lpseland, Lipslantic and Lpsylanta.

One correspondent chose Whipcalentia, Several kindred came up with other "W" variations such as Wipsilanti and Wippislandus.

There are times when postal employees wish the town had been named Woodruff's Grove, Waterville or Palmyra. Those were names suggested at the time the community was founded.

But the town was named, not for an Indian chief, as many think, but for the Greek general named Demetrius Ypsilanti.

Last year a language-teaching outfit came up with a survey that grouped Ypsilanti with four other cities as the "worst-speaking" cities in the nation.

To which this cities Mayor, Dan T. Quirk, Jr. responded:

"At least we can pronounce Ypsilanti!"

DUES RENEWAL AND APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Telephone_____

Single \$ 10.00 _____

Family \$ 15.00 _____

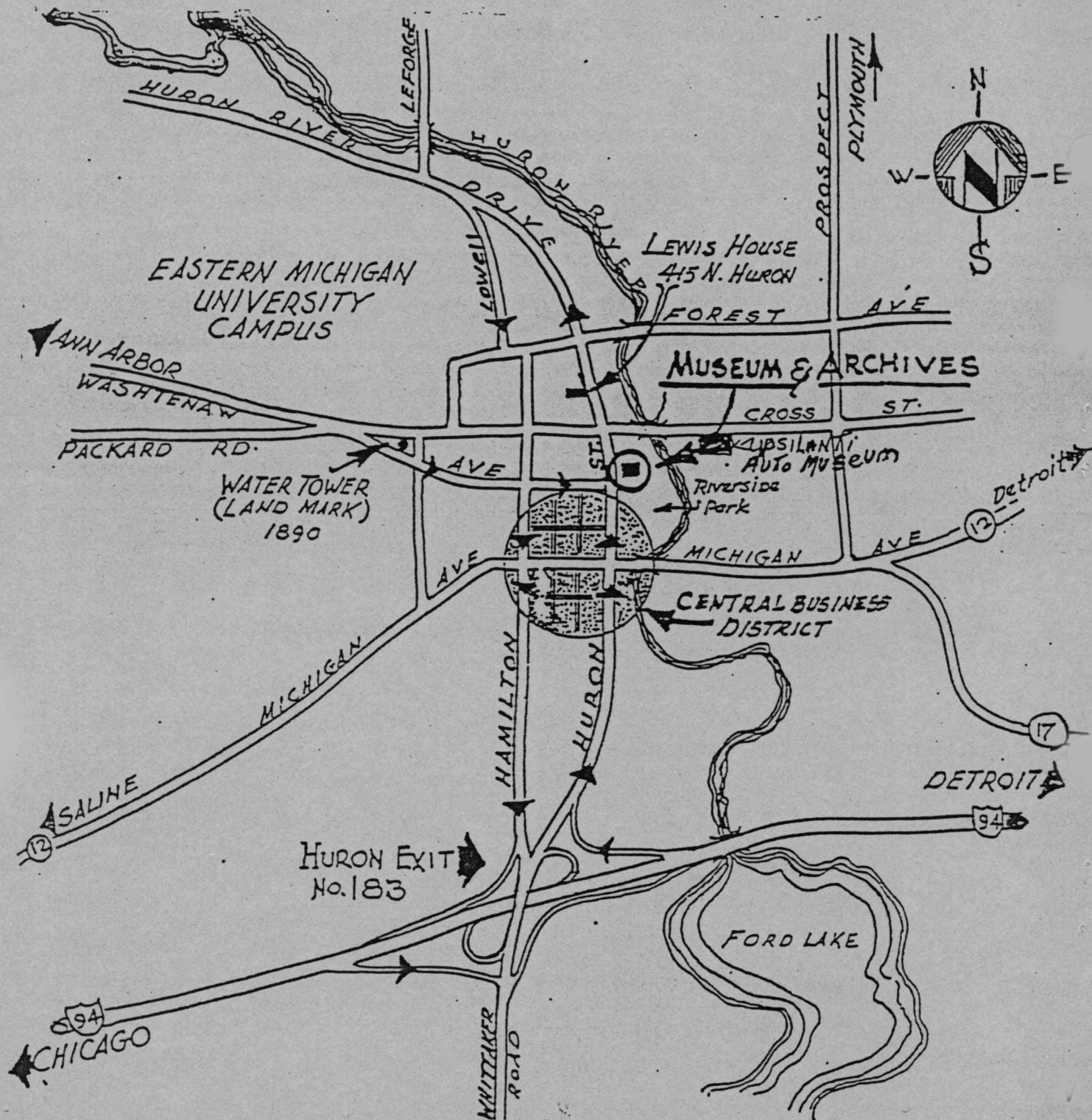
Sustaining \$ 25.00 _____

Business \$ 75.00 _____

Life \$ 200.00 _____

Please make checks payable to:

**YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
220 N. HURON STREET
YPSILANTI, MI 48197**



Ypsilanti Historical Museum

220 North Huron Street

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Phone: (734) 482-4990