

# ***THE YPSILANTI GLEANNINGS***

*A Publication of the  
Ypsilanti Historical Society*

**WINTER 2002**



*Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives  
220 North Huron Street*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

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# YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Museum Director	Dr. William Edmunds	482-5218
President	Joan Carpenter	971-0536
Treasurer	Karen Nickels	483-8896
Secretary	Diane Schick	483-2348

## BOARD MEMBERS

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

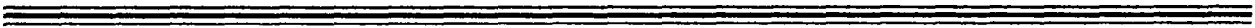
\* \* \* \* \*

<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Gerald Pety	office: 482-4990
		residence: 572-0437



## ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Chairman .....	Virginia Davis Brown
Secretary .....	Kathleen Campbell
Treasurer .....	Grace Cornish
Docents .....	Ann McCarthy
Displays .....	Joan Carpenter
Textiles .....	Grace Cornish and Doreen Binder



## MUSEUM INFORMATION

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

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

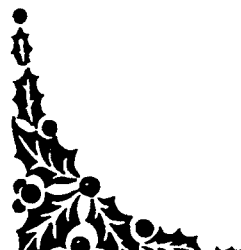
THURSDAY .....	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SATURDAY .....	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY .....	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The **Archives**, now located behind the Museum building, is open:

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Telephone: 734 - 482-4990  
Website: [www.ypsilantihistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.ypsilantihistoricalmuseum.org)

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



## *The Holidays are here,*

and the museum looks as if it's a picture from a magazine from the late 1800's. The staff has been cleaning, polishing and decorating this grand old house for weeks and it's absolutely beautiful!

The tree is in the formal parlor and is decorated with ornaments made by students from the Adams, Ardis and George Schools. What a delightful sight to behold! Throughout the house there seems to be the essence of Christmases past. We urge you all to take an hour or so off from your frenzied holiday preparations and walk back in time with us here at the museum.

Much work has been done inside the Asa Dow House over the last two or three months.

The new kitchen now houses a cook stove, which was once used by the family of Virginia Davis-Brown. It arrived in pieces, rusted, bent and chipped. Gerald Jennings spent hours scraping, painting and searching for missing parts in and around the city. You have to see it to believe it! It really makes the kitchen. Thank you, Jerry, for your time, skill and patience!

Now, no kitchen is complete without an ice box. Yes, we have one! Thanks to William Fennell we now have a box in which to store our freshly churned butter, eggs and left-overs.

One and all will count their blessings each time they do their laundry once they see what great-mother used to keep the family wardrobe clean. Vivian Phillips has donated a wooden washer, complete with hand-wringer, to let us know just how lucky we are!

We welcome Alvin E. Rudisill, (Al), to the Board of Directors. His ideas for improvements, and his participation in the work and activities, in and around this beautiful Museum, will be most appreciated.

Get into the Spirit of the Holiday Season and take a walk back in time. The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is just the place to begin!

Joan Carpenter  
President



## News From the Fletcher/White Archives

Since the end of the 'not to be missed' Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in August, the Archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Society has been bustling with clients doing research on just about every aspect of local history. It is apparent that the Museum's mission of becoming an appreciated community asset has certainly worked wonders particularly for the archives! Gone are my personal ambitions of finding out the history of Ypsilanti—I'm too darned busy most days helping my clients!

Clients like Mr. Kersey, who is a member of a very old Ypsilanti family, is attempting to locate where his great grandfather lived before 1890 and his relocation to the better parts of the city. He was a common laborer seeking a better life for his family in the more hospitable "walk-up" apartment, near where city hall was in 1896. He has also discovered that his great-great grandfather was a local cigar manufacturer who provided to the connoisseurs of Detroit. In the late 1800's he used his thriving business to sneak runaway slaves from Ypsilanti to Wyandotte along the "Underground Railway." His innocent travels to deliver cigars in his creaky old wagon had a false bottom and was in constant demand by those fleeing to Canada and to freedom from the bounty hunters of the South. This was a very dangerous practice because of the federal "Fugitive Slave Law" and the distinct possibility of losing one's own life trying to help another to freedom!

Gerry Pety



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure you mark the following dates on your calendar:

#### 2002

Sunday, December 8, 1:00-5:00 p.m. - Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 31, 6:00-10:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve Jubilee

#### 2003

Sunday, February 16, 2:00-4:00 p.m. - Quarterly Meeting  
(program and refreshments to follow meeting)

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum will be closed during the month of January, 2003.

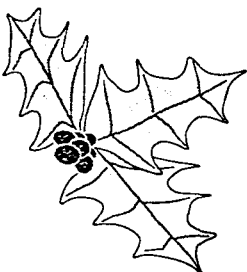
The Archive Office will remain open Mon-Wed-Fri  
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

## NEW VIDEO SYSTEM

The museum has acquired a new 19" combination TV/VCR which is presently located in the Ypsilanti room. A 40" tall stand was custom made so that the TV can be easily viewed by museum visitors. The unit can also be rolled into any other room of the museum for special showings during YHS meetings or educational programs.

The Historical Society was also recently presented with an excellent twelve minute video tape titled *Ypsilanti: A Celebration of Heritage*, which is the main item for viewing on the TV/VCR at this time. The YHS is very thankful for the support of Janowiak Funeral Home, Inc., which made the tape preparation possible. The excellent text of the tape was prepared by former Ypsilanti Museum Historian James Mann. Every visitor to the museum should take the time to view and listen to the brief but very interesting story of Ypsilanti on that tape.

It is hoped that other video tapes with historical content related to the Ypsilanti region can be developed or acquired for use at the museum. School groups, as well as adults, would benefit from viewing such locally focused materials. If any members of the YHS is aware that such items currently exist, a call to one of the Board members would be appreciated. In the meantime, stop in to view *Ypsilanti: A Celebration of Heritage*.



Jerry Jennings

**RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

**Virginia Harwood-Davis-Brown  
and her brother Earl Harwood**

**Emperor Wood Burning Stove**

**Vivian & Jack Phillips**

**Wooden Washing Machine**

**Bill Fennel**

**Ice Box & Accessories  
Baldwin Refrigerator Co.  
Burlington, VT**

**Herb & Grace Cornish**

**Grandfather's Clock 8ft. 1860-1880's**

**Ann Cleary Kettles**

**Doll and Cradle**

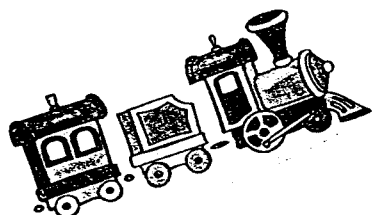
**Denis Schmiedeke**

**Plans for the Ypsilanti  
Post Office 1915-1920**

**Unknown Donor**

**Personal Papers of Martin Cremer  
Ypsilanti Postmaster 1888-1892 &  
Ypsilanti Sentinel Newspaper 1847**

**Grace Cornish**



**MUSEUM GIFT SHOP**

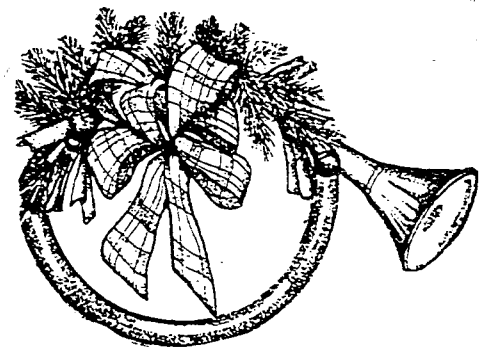
**The Museum Gift Shop, which is conveniently located at the far end of the driveway, is now beautifully stocked with items for the Holiday Season.**

**The Shop features ornaments for the trees and mantles, books for the young and old, Ypsilanti pottery, collectibles for all ages, and gifts for the hard to please.**

**Stop in during the regular Museum hours, 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Thursdays, Saturday and Sundays and solve your gift problems.**







## ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Have you noticed a chill in the air? We did, and realized that it was time to start decorating the Museum for the holidays. We went to work and it is now completed.

This year we went to the Ypsilanti Public Elementary Schools asking the art departments if they would like to help us. Three of the schools, Adams, Ardis and George made 386 ornaments for our Christmas tree. It is one of the nicest trees we have ever had. We invited the children, who participated in the project, to an open house and although the attendance was not large the children, parents and teachers enjoyed our museum and said they would come back and bring friends. We thank them for their help.

We are still excited about the new kitchen, as we are nearing completion, there are still a few things we need and you will be hearing more about that later. The stove is completed and it is wonderful. Hours and hours of work by Jerry Jennings has put it back into beautiful condition. We appreciate all the things he does around the museum.

If you have been thinking about Holiday Shopping why not stop by the Gift Shop and look at the new items we have this year. There are stocking stuffers for the children and a lot of things for that special person on your list.

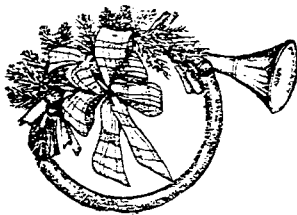
Our Open House is planned for December 8. I always feel the open house is the beginning of the Holiday Season. Why not come and join us?

As long as we are talking about the Holidays, why not plan on getting together with friends and join in the Jubilee this year. We are fortunate to have Joseph Pratt, who is a jazz guaristist, back with us again this year. There is more room for chairs for you to enjoy the music, warm up and have refreshments. Let's participate in the Jubilee and let Ypsilanti know that we appreciate an evening of wholesome fun that the whole family can enjoy together.

Remember we will be closed the month of January, but if you have out of town guests or would like to set up a special tour for your group please call 483-2929 to make arrangements.

From all of us at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum we wish you the MOST WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Virginia Davis-Brown





## MEMORIES OF THE KITCHEN STOVE

As a little girl one of the great things was going to Grandma. As I walked into the warm kitchen the first thing I saw was that big blue and white stove.

The coffee pot , that is now sitting on the back of the stove, was always there. Grandma started it in the morning by putting freshly ground coffee into a salt bag, adding a dash of salt and an egg, tied the top and dropped it into the water where it simmered all day. From time to time she would add a little water to tame it down a little.

Of course, the big dented kettle was full of chicken. From time to time a few drops would boil over and it would go dancing across the hot top.

Fresh bread or rolls were raising in the warming oven, which was the upper part of the stove. Remember the smell of yeast as the bread raised? I can almost smell it now.

It was our job, my three brothers, my sister and I, to bring in the wood from the woodshed which was attached to the back of the house.

Usually in the spring there would be a box behind the stove containing a baby piglet, puppies or baby chicks. An old sow might not be able to take care of one, so it would be brought into the house to be kept warm and to be raised on a bottle. As you walk through our kitchen be sure to look behind the stove.

There was always a teakettle full of hot water and more water in the reservoir ready to use as there was no hot water heater as we know today.

In 1941 Grandma sold the farm and built a small house on two acres of the original farm , which was taken up from the government by a land grant signed by Pres. Andrew Jackson, and of course the old stove had to go, too. It had to go over in pieces as it was much to big to take it down the steps to the basement. She cooked on it every Thanksgiving and Christmas until the middle 50's when her health started to fail.

My brother, Earl Harwood, bought the house when she died and along with the house came the beloved old blue stove.

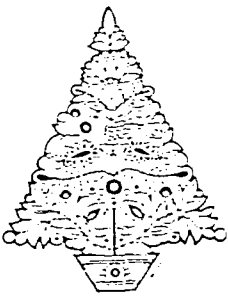
One night when I was visiting in the basement Earl asked me if I would like the stove and I said "Sure but what would I do with it?" After thinking about it all night, I called him and asked if he meant it as we could use it in the Museum and it would be taken care of. It was rusty and dirty, but Jerry Jennings said it could be saved and he took over with tender loving care and many many hours later he has restored it. Thank you so much, Jerry, for all your work.

Henry and Harriet Collins, who lived on Stony Creek Road near Bemis, bought the stove around the turn of the century.

We thank Earl Harwood for the wonderful gift.

Our family hopes you will enjoy it and it will bring back a lot of memories for you.

Virginia Harwood Davis-Brown



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert & Jill Arcure .....	Ypsilanti
Harold & Marlene Britton .....	Ypsilanti
David & Jean Clayton .....	Ypsilanti
George & Patti Eaton .....	Ypsilanti
Robert Peper Family .....	Ypsilanti
Bruce & Vera Proper .....	Ypsilanti
Dale & Stacia Suckstorff .....	Ypsilanti
Helen Wilkinson .....	Ypsilanti

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## Dorothy Kellas Leaves Us

**On Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, Dorothy R. Kellas passed away at age 94. Her four children, eight grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren and many friends and acquaintances will miss her greatly.**

**Following her retirement from the Ford Motor Company in 1973, Dorothy spent much of her Time and energy working at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop, the Ypsilanti Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and many other organizations.**

**Those who knew her will always remember her for her wit, kindness, and joy of life.**



## **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.

## RECIPES of OLDE



The following recipes were taken word for word from: *The Home Guide or A Book by 500 Ladies*, presented by C. R. Patterson to all subscribers of *The Ypsilanti Commercial* Paid up to March 1, 1879. Published in 1877.

### Cookery—Poultry

#### Boned Turkey Mrs. M., Chicago.

First, make the stuffing to suit the family taste. I took tenderloin—not too lean—chopped it fine; a teacup of cracker crumbs; 2 eggs; a pint of oysters; some summer savory; pepper and salt; mix all well; had my large needle and stout thread handy, with some two-inch-wide soft bleached old cotton cloth. Now for your turkey. It being well cleaned and singed, be careful not to break the outside skin. Cut off the legs so as to cut all the tendons where they join the drumstick. Cut the first joint from the wing; leave a good length of skin for the neck. Every bone must be taken out from the inside. Beginning with the legs, cut each ligament at the side bone joint, strip the knife close along the bone, so as to cut the flesh clean off, and draw the bone out; when both legs are boneless, follow along the back, breast and wings. The neck is more difficult, but get it out nicely as you can. Now your turkey is one shapeless *slump*; but begin stuffing at the neck, from the inside; having tied securely the skin to prevent escape, fill out the wings, breast, body and legs. Now sew up the skin; bandages it in a shapely manner with your strips, not *too tight*, for fear of the stuffing swelling so as to burst the skin; salt and pepper the outside and steam until perfectly tender. If it's an old chap steam 4 or 5 hours. When done, put a tin plate and a couple of flat-irons on top of it to press until cold. Then cut in nice thin slices.      page 19

### Cookery—Bread

#### Baking-Powder Biscuit. Mrs. O. H. H., Chicago.

One important point is in having a hot oven; another is, have flour sifted, and roll dough as soft as you can handle; then more baking-powder is needed. For each teacup of flour take a teaspoon of powder; butter, the size of a small hen's egg, is sufficient for a quart of flour. After rubbing butter and powder into the amount of flour needed. I turn in cold water (milk will do), stirring all of the time, till the right consistency is reached; salt; then roll lightly, and bake at once. I warrant these will prove flaky, feathery, delicious, and more nutritious than biscuit raised with yeast.      page 55

## Cookery—Vegetables



### Boiled-Baked Sweet Potatoes. Nannie C., Lake View.

Boil your potatoes until tender; then slice several times the long way of the potato; place a layer of the slices on the bottom of an earthen dish; sprinkle lightly with white sugar, and heavily with lumps of butter (it is the butter that makes it nice); then another layer of potatoes, and so on, until you have the sugar and butter for a top layer; then bake 30-40 minutes. page 40

## Cookery—Pies

### Mince Pie. Lena Gray, Chicago.

Seven pounds beef, after it is boiled and chopped; 7 pounds apples; 6 pounds raisins; 4 pounds currants; 6 1/2 pounds sugar; 1 pine molasses; 1 pound suet; a little salt; four large oranges; cinnamon, cloves, mace, allspice and nutmeg to your taste; 2 pounds citron; 3 gallons cider. Boil the orange-peel in some of the cider to make it soft; use the cider the peel was boiled in also. If I dared, I'd say put in a teacup of brandy when you are ready to bake. page 98

### Cocoanut Pie. Winnifred, Warsaw, ILL.

Open the eyes of a cocoanut with a pointed knife or a gimlet, and pour out the milk into a cup; then break the shell and take out the meat and grate it fine. Take the same weight of sugar and the grated nut and stir together; beat 4 eggs, the whites and yolks separately to a stiff foam; mix 1 cup of cream, and the milk of the cocoanut with the sugar and nut, then add the eggs and a few drops or orange or lemon extract. Line deep pie-tins with a nice crust, fill them with the custard, and bake carefully 1/2 an hour. page 101

## Cookery—Confectionery

### Vinegar Candy Mrs. N. W. H., Chicago.

Three cups sugar; 1 cup vinegar, a piece of butter the size of an egg. Boil 20 minutes; pour over plates to cool. Flavor, but do not stir. page 185

CARRIE A. HARDY DIARY 1919  
DECEMBER



- Dec. 1, Gave test in Geometry. Burr Crippen starred. After supper helped Van with Trig.
- Dec. 2, Miss Hoffman entertained the teachers. Fraser lectured at Normal in evening. J. Laird, S. Lewis, C. Leur and I went.
- Dec. 3, Kept those students after school who failed in class. Five stayed. in evening finished making my cap.
- Dec. 4, Mr. Erickson called the first teachers' meeting and read an address. First Athletic Council meeting to approve Y's and R's. Saw Players.
- Dec. 5, Miss. Laird came in after school and we went downtown. Lillian brought us home. Worked during 3rd and 4th hours on towel rack.
- Dec. 6, Knitted nearly all day. Lillian came over in the afternoon - had pancakes for supper - then went to the movies.
- Dec. 7, Made graham gems for breakfast. Gave Van 5. Did not go to church. Knit. Lillian over during p.m.
- Dec. 8, Am knitting a pair of mittens for Rob and Crocheting a cap for Robert. Came home for dinner.
- Dec. 9, Pretty cold, but I am comfortable. School is going fairly well. Mr. P. asked me to average the Ind., B. G., and estimate medians.
- Dec. 10, Worked on averages and knit some. Went to bed. Cold last night, hence not very comfortable.
- Dec. 11, Worked in office both the 3rd and 4th hours. Mr. Piper left during the early part of the sixth hour. Teachers' players trouble for Gene.
- Dec. 12, Mr. Piper gone all day to pricipal's convention. Attended J. L. Hudson's concert this evening at Pease auditorium.



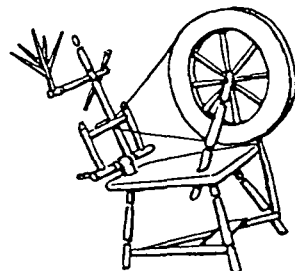
- Dec. 13, Worked in morning. Knit and finished Rob's mittens. Went downtown with Lillian. Called on Miss Van Drezer and May Webb.
- Dec. 14, At 9 O'clock Lillian and I went down to Rob's in Lillian's new car. We were back at 1:10. Knit and tatted during P. M. and treated L's cold.
- Dec. 15, The last week of the month. Reports received most of my spare time. Am making a sweater for Catherine. Pat Morton's night.
- Dec. 16, School fair. More report work. Faculty play being rehearsed. Sold 18 tickets. School board gives bonus of \$1.00.
- Dec. 17, Today there were two performances in P. M. and one in eve of faculty play. No school this P.M. but I worked there all day.
- Dec. 18, Draft from Central Business Men's Asso'n for \$99.43 for last summer's illness. Rec'd \$155.00 (\$25 bonus) for school Mo.
- Dec. 19, Handed in my report for the month before leaving the building. Knitting hard on Catherine's sweater. Bath.
- Dec. 20, Van cleaned for me \$1.20. Did a little Christmas shopping. Went over to Mrs. Hutching's for loaf of home made bread. \$.20. Knit.
- Dec. 21, Knit nearly all day. No church. Van went into Detroit. Mr. Ross caring for furnace. Shall rest some this vacation. H's check \$40.
- Dec. 22, More Christmas plans. Went downtown 3 times. Knit. Lillian over in evening. Mr. Ross came in also.
- Dec. 23, Letter from Freida. Dentist this morning. Filled a tooth \$1.00. Delivered the Webb presents. Called on the Hayes's and on Edna Simpson. Knit.
- Dec. 24, Went downtown. Christmas shopping done. Knit to finish Catherine's sweater. Not finished.
- Dec. 25, Catherine's sweater done. Lillian and I were at Rob's for dinner So were Mr. & Mrs. Reed, Paul, wife & son.



- Dec. 26, L. & I went to the Martha Washington in the afternoon. Not feeling very brisk this day after Christmas. My insurance company had dropped me.
- Dec. 27, Worked nearly all day. Went over home. Rob gave me a silver pencil for Christmas and Lillian the tatted lunch cloth.
- Dec. 28, Mrs. Breakey does not like the insurance Co's action. I don't care. At 10:30 left for Detroit with 2 little suits for Robert. Too small.
- Dec. 29, Washed and ironed. Cleaned the two front rooms. Exchanged Robert's suits and sent them parcel post. Citizens vote tonight about building Prospect school.
- Dec. 30, Decided to wait for bids rather than adopt the "cost plus" plan. Went over to Ann Arbor and bo't waist. Carrie, Sara, Lewis and L. were here this eve.
- Dec. 31, Worked all A M. In P.M. went downtown with Mrs. Fletcher. Went driving with Lillian. Had Misses Laird and Cogswell and Mrs. Fl. in eve.

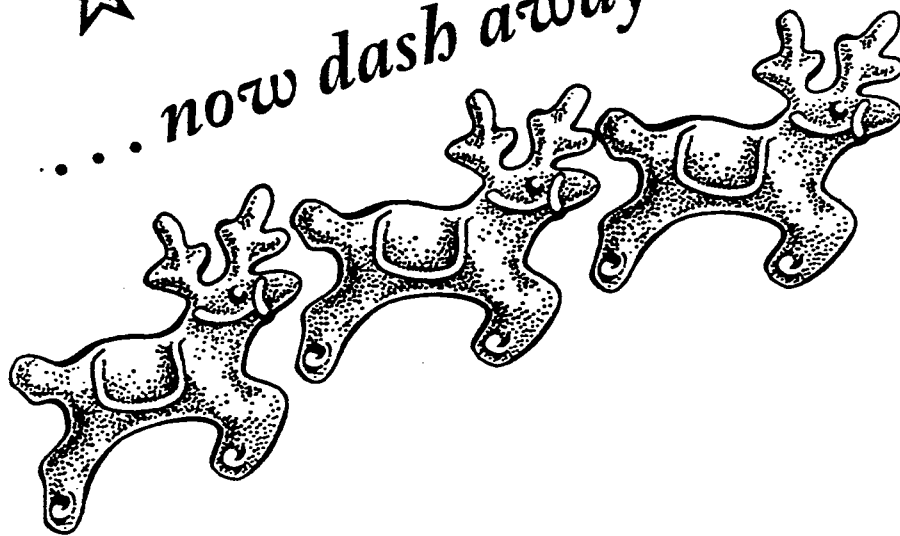
#### Memorandum

Mr. Hutchins has paid all rents on 223 River St. to the month of Dec. 19.





... now dash away all!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

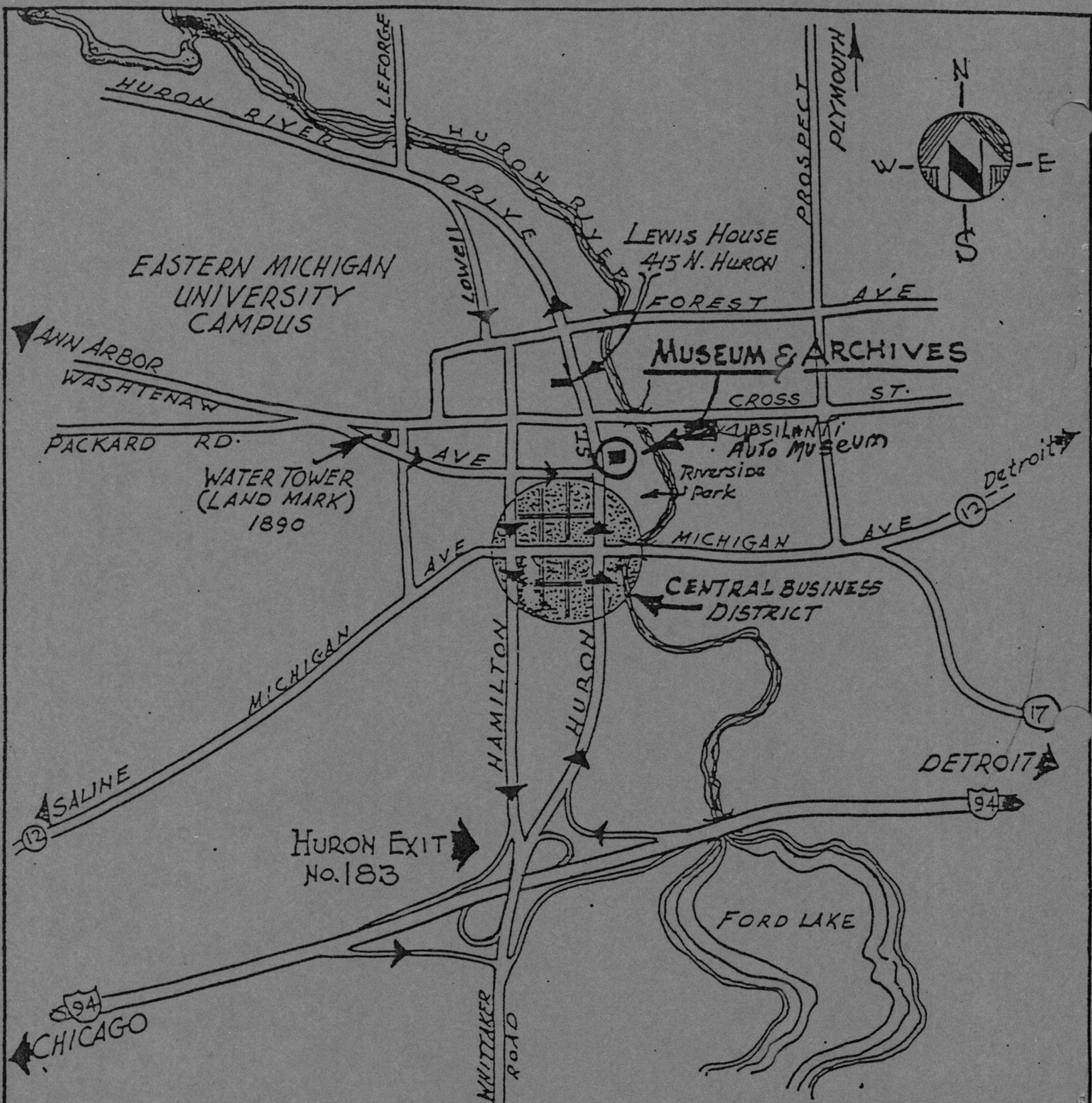
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Would you like to become a docent? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to assist in the Archives? \_\_\_\_\_

The Ypsilanti Historical Society is a non-profit organization



# Upsilanti Historical Museum

220 N. Huron St.

Upsilanti Michigan - 48197 - Phone 734-482-4990

