

# Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

Official publication of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, featuring historical articles and reminiscences of the people and places in the Ypsilanti area.



SUMMER 2005

## The Glover House

By Steve Pierce & Maggie Brandt

Due to its historical and architectural significance, the Glover House at 118 South Washington Street has been recognized as an important Ypsilanti building. It was listed in the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites in 1979 and is in the Ypsilanti Historic District. In 2002 it was nominated by Michigan State Register of Historic Sites for its unique and well preserved Stained Glass Windows.

This ten room house, including five bedrooms, is about 3,900 sq. ft. and was designed by noted Detroit Architects Malcomson and Higgenbotham. The attention to detail lavished on the house is still obvious today. Architecturally

speaking, the house is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style popular in the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The visual complexities of the exterior massing and detailing produce a picturesque quality much admired in the late Victorian period. This is evidenced in the many projecting features of the exterior such as the porches, dormers, chimneys, bay windows, and turret. Also characteristic of the style is the horizontal layering of the textures and surfaces created by the stone foundation, wood siding, shingles, continuous bands at the window sills and heads, and the slate roofing all stacked one on top of the other.  
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Exterior of house exhibits late Victorian period features.

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# From the President's Desk

By Alvin E. Rudisill

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## Ypsilanti Historical Society

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www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

We hope you enjoy this second issue of the *Ypsilanti Gleanings* in its newly designed format. Our sincere thanks go to Steve Pierce and Erik Pedersen for developing our feature articles. We are always looking for new authors so if you have an interest in publishing in the *Gleanings* please contact me. Also, please note that we have a number of new advertisers due to the efforts of Dan Maloney. We hope you will patronize these sponsors and express thanks to them for their support.

Our thanks to all those who donated items for the YHS Annual Yard Sale and to the many volunteers who assisted in the set-up and during the sale. A special thanks to Bill and Karen Nickels who hosted the event and spent many hours getting ready for the big day. The yard sale brought in just under \$2,200 that will be put to good use in our collection and preservation efforts.

Under the direction and leadership of Martha Spencer we are embarking on a summer membership campaign to attract new members into the Society. We have established a goal of 500 members by the end of 2005 and 1,000 members by the end of 2006. Please note that the back of this issue of the *Gleanings* has a Membership Application and also a sticker with the words "*Get a Friend to join the YHS*". We encourage each member to get at least one friend or neighbor to join our Society.

I am pleased to announce that we have received a grant of \$3,000 from the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries by and through the Michigan Historical Center. The grant requires \$1,500 of matching funds and will focus

on the expansion of the Photo Archive Program in conjunction with the University of Michigan Library System. Marcia Phillips, a member of our Archives Advisory Board and a student in the graduate program in Historical Preservation at EMU, will be working on this program throughout the summer. If anyone is interested in assisting as a volunteer on this program please contact Marcia. Volunteers will be used to research and write descriptions for photos in the archives.

In the past few weeks we have had fifteen groups from Southeast Michigan tour the museum. Our sincere thanks to Joan Carpenter and all the docents who assisted her in providing these groups with information about museum artifacts and the Ypsilanti area. One of the goals of the Society is to "...provide historical information and materials to interested parties" and our tour program is certainly fulfilling this goal.

We are looking forward to the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. The Museum hours during the Festival will be Friday, August 19th, 2:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.; Saturday, August 20th, 11:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.; and Sunday, August 21st, 12noon - 4:00p.m. If the past is any indication we should have more than 400 visitors to the Museum during those three days.

If you would like to get more involved in Society programs and activities please give me a call at 734-484-3023. We are always looking for volunteers to serve as docents in the Museum or to serve on one of the committees. Activities range from typing in information on a computer to helping with facility maintenance.



## Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives

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### Welcome!

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is a museum of local history which is presented as an 1850 home. The Museum and Fletcher-White Archives are organized by the Ypsilanti Historical Society which operates the museum for the city of Ypsilanti. We are all volunteers and our membership is open to everyone, including non-city residents.

### 2005 Schedule of Events

Jan 11	Joint Meeting - All Boards
Feb 10	Board of Trustees Meeting
Feb 20	Quarterly Membership Meeting & Valentine Tea
Mar 11	Archives, Museum & Endowment Fund Advisory Board Meetings
Mar 31-Apr 17	Art Show

For Information about upcoming  
Society events, visit us on-line at:

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

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## The Glover House - *continued from front page*

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On the interior, the late-Victorian predilection of ornament is lavishly fulfilled throughout Glover House. European craftsmen did much of the handwork, including ornamental plaster, frescoing, tile work, and woodwork. Almost every room is trimmed in different wood including: birds eye maple, oak, mahogany, birch, ash, butternut, sycamore, cherry, chestnut, and pine. This use of different wood species to create distinct themes in each room is splendid. The sheer complexity of the minute detail evident in the woodwork throughout the house is exceptional. Swag details are repeated from room to room, and even carried outside along the eaves and rails of the home. Hand carved wood details are throughout the home, some of it so delicate, it had to be attached with needles. The original hand-rubbed piano finish wood most visible in the dining room is over 100-years old and is still in perfect condition.

All of the stained and leaded glass windows are complete and in wonderful condition. There are two ceiling frescoes in the music room and dining room. Gesso plaster can be seen in the entryway and stairs, and the main bathroom on the second floor. Parquet floors were used throughout the first floor with each room having a unique pattern. There are five elaborate fireplaces and three chimneys. Four fireplaces are on the first floor and the Master Bedroom on the second floor has a fireplace.

**History - Part 1:** What many people call the H. P. Glover Mansion may have for years been calling it the wrong name. Though some accounts suggest that H. P. was involved in the day to day details of its construction, more credible history points to H. P.'s son Charles actually taking the lead in the construction of this home. But even this house was not the first house built on this lot.

The pioneer house built at 118 S. Washington was built by Dr. Parmenio and Carlisa Showerman Davis on land he bought on April 2, 1850. Dr. Davis also built the home directly north of the



*The stairway area features quarter sawn Tiger Oak, ornate plaster work and the original stained glass windows.*



*Different wood species were used to create distinct themes in each room such as the dining room shown in this picture.*

Glover House at 112 S. Washington in 1845 which remains today as one of the oldest occupied private residences in the city. In 1858, when Ypsilanti became a city, Dr. Davis was alderman of the First Ward, and in 1861, he was elected Mayor, holding the office for two years. He was again elected Mayor in 1868 and for a third term in 1870.

As Dr. Davis was a leading figure in Ypsilanti, there is every indication that this

home had exceptional appointments, especially since the next purchaser, New York banker and investor Simeon T. Keith and his wife Harriet A. Allen, found it to their liking. Though built by Dr. Davis, most historians call this original house the Keith House. The Keith House was a frame structure, possibly of Greek revival architecture. Mr. Keith died April 4, 1875 and left the home to his wife. Mrs. Keith died shortly before  
*continued on page 4*

## The Glover House - *continued from page 3*

February 1892. That is when the Glovers arrive on the scene.

Mr. Henry P. Glover was a successful businessman, banker and was even once mayor of Ypsilanti in the early 1890's. Henry P. and Nancy J. Glover lived one block east of this house on the northwest corner of Huron and Woodward. H. P. Glover owned a dry goods store in the 1870's and made his fortune in the 1880's in partnership with Enoch Bowling who had patented a perspiration proof dress stay in 1885. The Ypsilanti Dress Stay Manufacturing Co. employed 170 girls and in two years, the sales amounted to \$300,000 and an annual payroll of \$30,000. The Ypsilanti Dress Stay Manufacturing Co. was shipping more goods than any other concern in Ypsilanti. Henry P. Glover was also a director in the Ypsilanti Savings Bank, which is today Ypsilanti City Hall.

**History - Part 2:** Charles W. Glover bought Lot 57 and the south half of Lot 58 on February 1, 1892 and on May 11 bought the north half of Lot 58, evidently to provide an adequate site for the new house. Charles apparently began building immediately after purchase of the site and had it well underway when his marriage to Oriska Worden took place on October 20, 1892.

An account of the wedding appears in the October 21, 1892 *Ypsilanti Commercial*. It reads: "*Charles W. Glover of this city and Miss Oriska Worden, a well-known society young lady and graduate of the Normal Conservatory of Music, were quietly married Thursday afternoon, October 20, at a church in Petoskey. They will make their home with Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Glover for a few weeks until the completion of the groom's handsome new residence on Washington Street. A host of Ypsilanti friends wish the newly married pair much happiness.*"

The talents of the bride were quickly appreciated and on October 28, 1892, it was announced that Mrs. Glover would

appear in the leading role of "The Pirates of Penzance" at the local opera house. However, turmoil was brewing.

The home was completed in 1893 but not before the Opera House and Cleary College were destroyed by a tornado, which rolled down Michigan Avenue. Glover House was completed at a cost of over \$32,000. Newspaper reports, at the time, said the cost was the same as the Methodist Church on North Washington completed that same year. Today, it would be well over \$1 million dollars.

Charles ran into financial troubles and by May 4, 1894, he was unable to pay a mortgage on the house. Through a sheriff's deed, title passed to Mary A. Starkweather, long time Ypsilanti patron and philanthropist. A year later on May 7, 1895, Charles' dad, Henry P. and Charles' brother, Hal W., provided a loan, which apparently met a lien, and Mrs. Starkweather provided additional financing through a new mortgage.

In the meantime, Charles' marriage ended in divorce and he married Ida May Foss on March 15, 1895, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The day before Christmas in 1897, Charles and his new wife received title to the home. During this time, Charles was manager of the Michigan Manufacturing Company at the northwest corner of Babbitt and Grove Streets where they did machine work.

We know little of Charles later life and we are unsure who lived in the house at the turn of the century. Local newspaper accounts note that Henry P. Glover died in the house in early 1914. We do know that the house was put up for auction in the summer of 1914. An original Auction poster from 1914 hangs in the dining room today and is a must read for anyone touring the home. It was a gift from the grandchildren of the Dixon's to welcome Maggie and Steve to the community when the grandchildren learned of the purchase of the home in 2000.

The house was sold to Frederick M. and Emily A. Beall on June 26, 1914. Again, some historians have incorrectly reported *continued on page 14*

# From the Water Tower to the Bell Tower.



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# Lloyd Olds - An "Ypsi Legend"

By Dr. Erik Pedersen, Eastern Michigan University

When graduates from Eastern Michigan University gather and reminisce about teachers and coaches who influenced their lives, one of the first names to be mentioned is that of Lloyd Olds. Olds taught at Eastern Michigan University from 1921 to 1963. Recollections and stories of Olds usually revolve around his career as a track coach and director of the intramural program.

Born in Ypsilanti in 1892, Dr. Olds received his bachelor's degree from Eastern when it was known as the Michigan State Normal College. He later earned a Master of Science degree in 1928 and a Doctor of Public Health in 1939 from the University of Michigan. Before returning to the Normal School at Ypsilanti, Olds served as Supervisor of the Grand Rapids physical education program and assumed the same responsibilities in the Ann Arbor Public School System from 1920 - 1921 (*The Alumnus*, p. 4).

**The Track Coach:** With the success Lloyd Olds enjoyed as a track coach, it is only reasonable to expect that track and field is where his legacy began. Olds

worked with the Michigan State Normal College track and cross country teams for 25 years. His reputation as an outstanding coach was known throughout the country. Olds developed the Normal School track and field program into a national power. His track teams won over 85 percent of their dual meets, while his cross country squads attained a .926 winning percentage (*Dedication*, p.5). Olds Track squads experienced this level of success in spite of having to work out during the winter months in Briggs Hall where 26 laps would equal a mile. By the late 1930's, the Michigan State Normal College was known as a track school.

Olds success with the Normal College Track program led to many honors. In 1932 and 1936 he was named as assistant track coach to the U. S. Olympic Track and Field Squads. Olds served as chairman of the A.A. U. Track and Field Sections from 1940 to 1943. He was also chairman of the National Track and Field Association from 1946 to 1950. In 1937 he was appointed chairman of the Pan American Athletic Association and later served as manager of the U. S. Pan

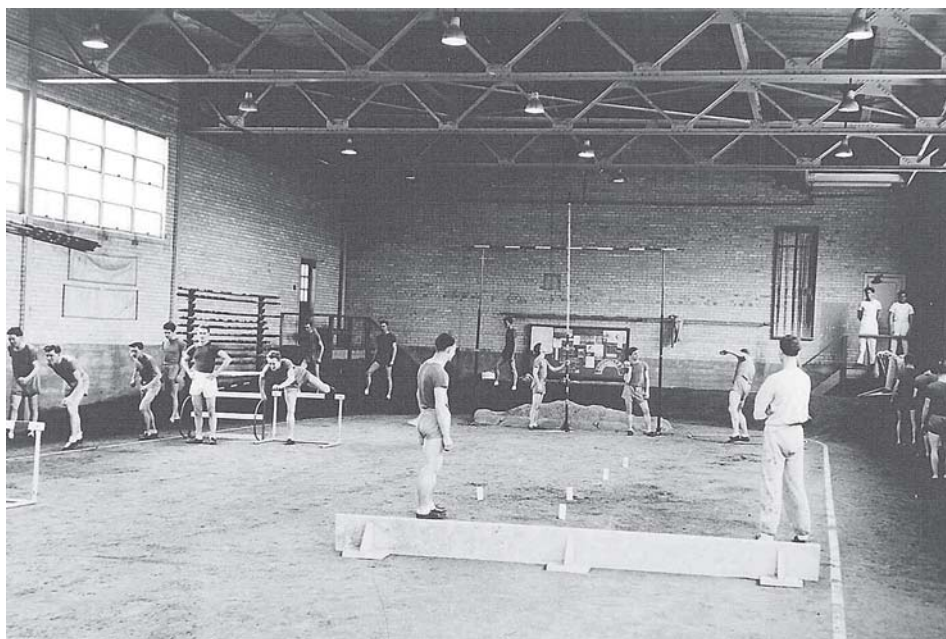


*Lloyd Olds.*

American Track Squad that competed in Mexico City in 1957 (*Dedication*, p.5).

**Intramurals:** Olds influence extended far beyond the track and field arena. Just as impressive as his accomplishments in track were the unique and innovative ideas he developed for intramural sports. Olds was a disciple of Wilber Bowen. Both shared the philosophy of "Athletics for Everyone" (*Pedersen*, p.33). Olds believed that intramurals provided the opportunity for everyone to enjoy the benefits of sport. In a 1971 interview, Olds pointed out that "all kinds of learning are facilitated by maintaining a healthy body. And, for that reason physical education and intramural programs are an important part of any school curriculum" (*The Alumnus*, p.4). The intramural program at the Michigan State Normal College was under the direction of Lloyd Olds for 39 years. When he arrived at the Normal School in 1921 he immediately established campus wide competitions between dormitories, fraternities and school organizations. His rules and guidelines for competition, eligibility, awards, officiating and record keeping evolved into one of the countries first intramural handbooks. When arriving on campus in the fall, every student involved with intramural competition would receive their own handbook. The handbook served not only as a source of

*continued on page 6*



*Briggs Hall indoor track facility.*

## Lloyd Olds - An "Ypsi Legend" - *continued from page 5*

information, but provided a place for students to record the details of their intramural involvement.

Jack Lowe, a student who worked in the Normal School intramural office in the 1950's, recalled that Olds was extremely well organized (Lowe). Every detail was accounted for and nothing escaped his notice. In addition to the development of an intramural handbook, Olds originated the idea of a striped shirt for intramural officials. He felt there needed to be a clearer distinction between officials and players. The black and white zebra striped shirt eventually became the standard uniform worn by officials in several sports.

The intramural program established by Olds at the Michigan State Normal College was used as a model by many colleges, universities and school systems throughout the county. People would frequently come to Ypsilanti to observe first hand the daily operation of the schools intramural program. In 1982, the new student intramural building on the Eastern Michigan University campus was named the Lloyd Olds Student Recreation Center in his honor.

**The Navy and Fitness Testing:** Lloyd Olds had the distinction of serving the country in both W.W.I and W.W.II. He left the Normal School campus during the spring of 1943 for San Diego, California where he was stationed for three years. Olds worked with Gene Tunney, a former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, establishing the physical fitness program for which all Navy recruits were required to complete before being commissioned (Rynearson). Olds also developed the vigorous training program for underwater demolition frogmen and the Navy Beachmaster Specialists. He eventually attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander and received the Navy Citation of Meritorious Service.

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*Above: Olds with one of his cross country track squads.*



*Left: Olds/Robb intramural building.*

*Below: Bowen Field House and Warner Gymnasium complex.*



# Interurban Days

*The following article appeared long ago in an Ypsilanti newspaper call "The Press." It was written, according to the credits, by Milton Barnes, a blind linotype operator.*

ELECTRIC INTERURBAN CARS whizzed through Ypsilanti's main streets from 1898 to about the middle of 1929.

The man at the front, the motorman, was the idol of every subteen boy. You'd wonder why he'd ever, ever, want to change jobs with the man at the back end, the conductor.

But, take it from Alfred Augustus who worked both ends back then, there are reasons.

In the early morning one of these giant orange-yellow cars would set sail from Jackson, first trip out for the day, after the boys at the powerhouse had tunked all the wheels with sledge hammers to make sure they weren't cracked, then tested the compressed air tanks underneath for leaks, then filled them to about 250 pounds of air pressure, for the brakes.

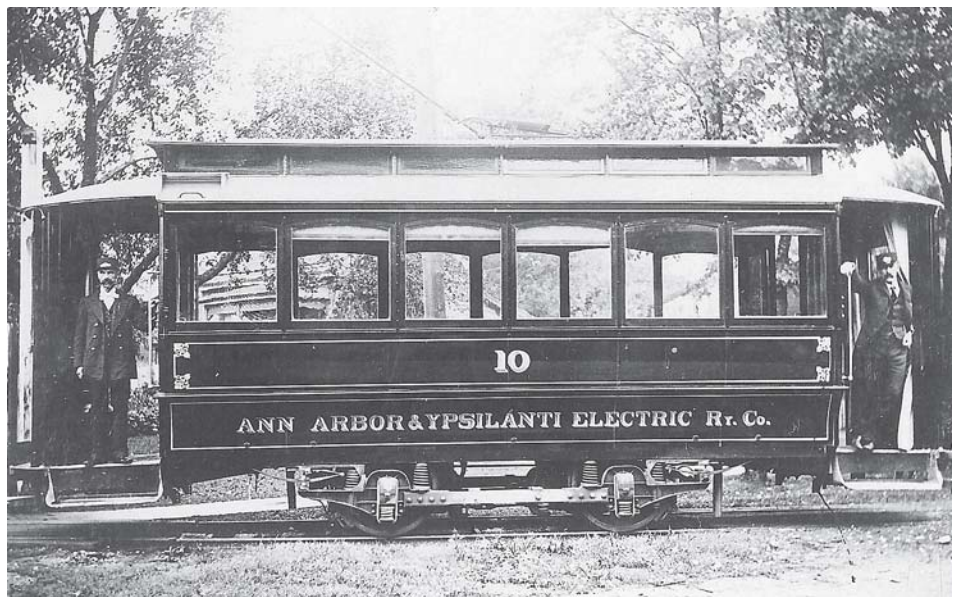
One bell to stop, two to go ahead, three to reverse.

DING! DING! We're on our way, Alfred Augustus at the helm. The car's about half full, the Ohmer Fare Register registering 10 full fares all the way to Detroit, and 20 for stops here and there between.

But it's happened again; someone's auto wheels are stuck in the car tracks ahead.

Maybe a minute, maybe four or five and the auto is extricated. A boy on his bike abruptly crosses the tracks and the motorman taps his foot to sound the large brass gong under the dash.

The railroad crossing; the law calls for a



*Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti electric railroad car.*

full stop, the conductor climbing out with a little red flag, running ahead to signal the crossing is clear (if some switch engine doesn't pull 60 cars slowly by).

All's well 'til the E. Ganson corners, letting off a passenger. Then over the M.C. tracks at Michigan Center. Two passengers leave; three climb aboard. Then on to Grass Lake village, where the conductor signs with the local agent a bill of lading for a package to be delivered in Detroit.

Next into Chelsea village, a loop into the town and out, a wasted four miles.

There's the odd little brick waiting room at Lima Center where one of the passengers insists on climbing out to buy her son Willie a package of Cracker Jacks for the tedious hours ahead.

The proud motorman, like a Roman Charioteer, sounds his air horn for cross roads at Dexter and Delhi. There are the Jackson Avenue fairgrounds, and after a dip under the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks we've come to the interurban station at Ann Arbor where, at the lunch counter, some of our potential passengers are chewing away at pumpkin pies.

Into the station door the conductor calls, "All Aboard for Ypsilanti, Denton, Sheldon, Wayne, Eliose, Dearborn,

Springwells - and Deetroit."

First half of the 3-hour trek has gone well. At Ypsilanti there were some students with heavy luggage, waiting on Zwergel's steps. Two toots of the air horn  
*continued on page 8*

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## Interurban Days - *continued from page 7*

and they rush to get aboard.

Down Cross St. hill and we turn into Washington Street, passing the fire house. It's a chilly morning and the passenger agent in the Ypsi depot is stoking the big jumbo stove with floor sweepings, candy wrappers and box wood.

Around the corner, onto Michigan Avenue down the hill to the bridge and the powerhouse on the east side where we take on more air for our brakes. The next 30 miles are rough, though the first half of the ride into Detroit isn't bad, past Denton, Sheldon, Wayne, Eliose and Dearborn, where we meet double tracks.

The rest of the way in, there's our headache.

The foot gong clanging; autos that prefer car tracks, wagons ahead, stalled car, a hay wagon at Western Market; stop-go lights at every corner.

No longer is the motorman King of the Highways.

From the Boulevard, the last three miles, you fight your way in, clanging that big brass gong, sounding the air horn.

By now the conductor is up front, too, for he has to climb down to the street to turn onto Shelby Street. Then down toward the docks and along Woodbridge, the street that parallels the river, past several trucks pulled by horses.

A momentary respite. You sound the horn, three smart toots, and the girl from

Vernor's Ginger Ale party store runs out with a tray on which are two cream-soda ginger ales with straws.

We inch along Woodbridge to Bates Street hill to Jefferson, where upon the conductor calls "Deetroit! Deetroit waiting room." All the passengers with their packages and umbrellas leave, and a host of new ones climb aboard.

We cross Jefferson Avenue, make a left turn at Larned, cross Woodward and again are on Michigan Avenue, fighting our way past the ball park, Western Market, the Boulevard, to Schaefer's Switch.

At our private phone booth we get orders and now can sigh with relief because we are on private right-of-way, clear sailing past Dearborn, Eliose, Wayne, and over the MC bridge and down the hill and the conductor yells "Ypsilanti! All aboard for Ann Arbor, Delhi, Dexter, Chelsea, Grass Lake, Michigan Center; making connection at Jackson to Parma, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo!"

Seems there ought to be some easier way to earn a living. All the man at the other end has to do is take tickets, stoke the little hard coal furnace, pull the bell cord when someone wants to get off, count the day's receipts, find lost umbrellas, open and close windows for neurotic passengers, break up a fight, eat candy bars, call stations so folks won't go past their stops, fill the ice water tap rack with more drinking cups, turn the ceiling lights off and on and console a confused farmer late for getting home at milking time.

Three years up front, 1,100 long days, and you've had enough. Al Augustus told me. Then, be content to ride the back end clear 'til pension time.

## Michigan Firehouse Museum Upcoming Events



### July 30

Participating in the GLIAFAA Muster at Frankenmuth, MI.

### August 16 and 17

Junior Fire Marshal Camp for 4-6 year olds, one session at Perry School, next day split between the Ypsilanti Fire Department and the Museum, covering Fire Safety and Fun with fire trucks.

### August 20

Ice Cream Social at Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.

### August 27

Muster in Riverside Park- see fire trucks at work, learn about fire fighting, and visit Dexter's Smoke House to learn about fire safety.

#### *Contact Information:*

Michigan Firehouse Museum  
110 W. Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Phone: 734-547-0663  
Email: firemuseum2@msn.com

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# Really...Again!

By Gerry Pety

Just when you thought that it was “safe” to walk around Ypsilanti and avoid those areas that were once graveyards and old burying grounds, be advised that there are still a few more eerie tales I have yet to spin about our unseen cemeteries. If you suffer from the “willies” or are faint of heart—**read no further!** But if you like a good story, let us continue to talk about the places that are hidden from us by the curtain of time. Or is it really that we do not wish to think about such eventualities that makes them vanish from our limited view?

I have a question for you. What part of Ypsilanti would you least expect to find the final resting place of Ypsilanti’s dearly departed. Certainly not where there is youthful vitality, high spirits, and an almost universal belief in one’s own invincibility! No. No one would ever expect such a thought among the young in attendance at school. But at one time, there was actually a cemetery right on the campus of Michigan State Normal College. You know that school, filled now with more than 22,000 fun loving and vital souls of its students. Oh yes, the lower campus of our own Eastern Michigan University (MSNC) had a cemetery. About 120 years ago right where Phelps-Sellers, Walton-Putnam Residence Halls and the Wise-Buell Dining Commons are now located.

As a student you may have even lived on campus there or taken your meals right over this deserted cemetery. Maybe you had odd or unexplainable experiences living and studying there on campus. Now you know why! Pretty spooky, huh! It would seem that sometime during the years of 1888 and 1889 the cemetery of St. John’s Catholic Church was moved from there to its present location on North River Street near Highland Cemetery. The exact reason for the cemetery move was due to poor drainage of the soil. Water logged cemeteries have the nasty tendency to allow wooden coffins

to sometimes “float” to the surface during the spring rainy season. This is something that the living find quite disagreeable, and is definitely not allowed by the Catholic Church until Resurrection Day! But it must have happened enough that it was decided to relocate the entire cemetery - a rather difficult and disagreeable venture for “everybody” concerned.

I am sure that The Ypsilanti Commercial made the boastful claim at the time, that all the residents had been escorted to their new “final” resting place! They were certain to make the same claim later when the city fathers moved Prospect Cemetery. But maybe, just maybe, not everyone really made the change to their new home like so many other past delinquents in Ypsilanti. So the next time you drive or leisurely walk past the campus down near Ann and St. Johns Streets - look around. Do you see those light-colored yellow and red brick dormitories? Yes, it was many years ago that this was once St. John’s own water-logged church cemetery. Reeeaaaaally!

One of the truly wonderful features of Ypsilanti is a walk through some of our inviting parks down by the Huron River, which flows through the heart of our fair city. We just love this area for its restive atmosphere. It is almost an inducement to deep contemplation about the here and now and what may lie ahead in our uncertain lives. But over two hundred years ago Riverside and Waters Edge Parks were a very inviting place to another peoples too, the Huron Indians. But Ypsilanti’s first citizens had other uses for this beautiful shoreline. In such a restful and peaceful place they left their deceased relatives to the care of the Great Spirit sometimes referred to as the Great Manitou. But unlike their Ypsilanti’s more mobile cemetery populations of later centuries, they left their relatives for all eternity. So next time you stroll the peaceful shores along the Huron River between what is now Pearl and Catherine Streets, think about those who came and stayed right where they intended to be all along. For them, moving to another place was something they would just never do.....really!

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# Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County

By Marcia McCrary, President GSWC

Have you ever wondered where your great grandparents lived and what they did? Genealogists seek to answer those questions and many more. One of the fun parts of this hobby is discovering ten more questions when you find the answer to one. The members of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County range from brand new searchers to those who have been working at it for 10, 20 or 30 years or more. The Society holds meetings throughout the school year to help with this process. Usually a meeting consists of a speech, followed by an "After Class" which is often a little more informal and covering a smaller scope than the main speech.

The group meets generally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month, September thru May, at the Education Center Auditorium, St. Joseph Hospital, starting at 1:30. Some of the upcoming meetings will cover: September 25, 2005 - Dr. James Freed will speak on the use of DNA in genealogy; October 23, 2005 - Amy Crow Johnson will discuss "Between the County and Federal Levels: Using State Government Records" and "Butcher, Baker...Using Occupational Records"; on December 4, 2005 Karen Krugman will talk about "Dying to Get in There - Cemetery Records and Why You Need Them." Additional topics to be covered in 2006: Jan. 22 - "Introduction to Scottish Genealogy" with Bob Ferrett; Feb. 26 - Black History

in Essex County, Ontario (and ties to Ypsilanti) by Bryan and Shannon Prince, March 26 - "Internet Strategies" with Sharon Brevoort, and April 23 - a joint meeting with the Washtenaw County Historical Society on the history of the two groups. The May 21 program is yet to be determined.

The Society also maintains a joint library with the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (LDS). This research spot used to be in Ann Arbor, and is still called the "Ann Arbor Stake," but it is now located at 525 Woodland Drive, in Saline (between Maple and Ann Arbor-Saline Road). It is open Monday, Thursday, Saturday 10-2, Tuesday and Wednesday 6-9. The phone number is 734-944-4789. In the library are found old Washtenaw County vital records such as birth, marriage and death, plus cemetery readings and reference books. Other areas covered include other counties in Michigan, Michigan's surrounding states plus New England, as well as much more. Some records are available on CD-ROMs, and internet access is also provided. A microfilm-lending program allows the library to order microfilms for you for a modest fee from Salt Lake City which must be used in the library (actually ALL the materials must be used in-house, it is not a lending library). Some of the Canadian films and others which are frequently consulted have been placed on indefinite loan. Volunteers are ready to get you started and answer questions.

There are, of course, other places to go for genealogical answers: the Ypsilanti Historical Society Archives is an excellent source for local information; the Bentley Library on the University of Michigan Campus; the State Library of Michigan in Lansing and the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library, to mention only a few.

## Visit the Automotive Museum

Ypsilanti's Automotive Heritage Museum and Miller Motors Hudson is open seven day a week. Museum hours are as follows:

**Monday - Friday:**  
1:30-5:30 pm

**Saturday:**  
9:30 am to 5:00 pm

**Sunday:**  
noon to 5:00 pm

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- Study first hand the signs and records of early area auto dealers.
- Solve the mystery of the world's most notorious highway map.
- Gain a new perspective on the matchless significance the evolution and development of the automobile has had on our society in the past 100 years.

*The museum is located in historic Depot Town at 100 East Cross Street.*



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# Report from the Museum Advisory Board



*By Virginia Davis-Brown*

Have you been to the museum lately? If you haven't you are missing a wonderful exhibit. The Underground Railroad exhibit will be up until after the Heritage Festival. We are privileged to have, this year, a remarkable quilt made by the first and second grade students from The Ann Arbor Child Development Center in Ann Arbor. It shows the trials and problems that the slaves encountered on their trip to freedom. It is an amazing piece of art.

Our Annual Docent Luncheon will be June 15 at 12:30 P.M. This is our way of thanking the Docents and Volunteers for all the hours that they donate to guide the visitors and to keep the museum in the condition that you are accustomed to seeing it.

I can't believe that The Heritage Festival will be here so soon on August 19, 20 and 21. Every year we enjoy having visitors from all parts of the country visit us. We will need extra docents at that time. If you could volunteer a couple hours during this time it would be greatly appreciated. It is not hard as we have information in each room for you to refer to. Our hours during the Heritage Festival will be Friday - 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Saturday - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday - 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. Please call Joan Carpenter at 971-0536 if you are able to help.

A new exhibit, "The Lost Ypsilanti" will start on July 21 and run through Labor Day. The Lost Ypsilanti is an exhibit that will show the history of many businesses and buildings in the City of Ypsilanti, that are no longer there, and what has happened to them. This will bring back a lot of memories of what Ypsilanti used to be. There will also be some products that were made in the earlier days of the city. We also have a display of souvenir Ypsilanti spoons that Ernie Griffin has loaned us.

Plans are under way for our annual Quilt Show. We are in need of quilts to make it a success. Would you be willing to lend one or two of your contemporary or new quilts to be shown from September 29 to October 16th? If you like would to show your quilt please call me at 484-0080 and I will send you the information.

Thank you again for all your support.

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# News from the Fletcher-White Archives

By Gerry Pety

Well, after a false start for spring weather and periods of snow and ice that even Siberia rarely sees, it is my pleasure to announce that Summer 2005 is finally on its way! Yes, I have shoveled the snow from my sidewalk for the last time this spring in breathless anticipation of your arrival - you now have no 'official' reason for not coming!

It has been a very busy time with all the dusting, cleaning and even some organization of the articles here. My one lonely volunteer, Marcia Phillips, has been busy dealing with a part-time job, being a pastor's wife, a mom with 3 children and finishing up another degree in Historic Preservation. (As you may or may not know, Marcia is trying to collect all of the knowledge in this sector of the Milky Way galaxy-hey, save a little knowledge for the rest of us!) Our regulars here at the archives also have been helping to fill in when needed with their knowledge and efforts - thanks!

Mrs. Irene Johnson, a YHS member, has contributed a great many pictures, postcards and some original 1913 and 1945 telephone books. The 1913 phone book really adds to our knowledge of the people and businesses in Ypsilanti and filled a need for this time period when city directories are not available. Thank you Irene for thinking of the YHS archives and contributing all of these wonderful resources!

Again, genealogy research is the most often stated reason for coming to the archives followed closely by historical research for news publications and other endeavors. I am sure that now that summer 2005 has been officially proclaimed that we will see a rush of people wanting to find out about the history of their recently acquired homes and/or businesses here in Ypsilanti. We are ready!

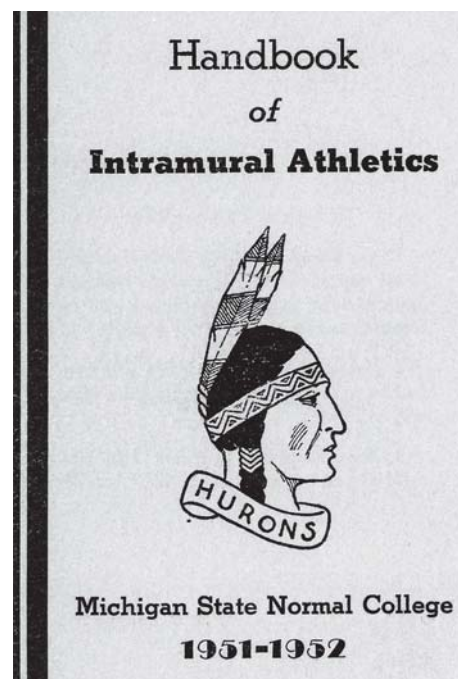
## Lloyd Olds - An "Ypsi Legend" - *continued from page 6*

His work with the Navy provided the basis from which his publication, The National A.A.U. Physical Fitness Handbook evolved. This handbook was used for testing the fitness levels of millions of children in high schools and colleges throughout the country (The Alumnus, p.4). When appointed chairman of the Physical Education Department in 1956, Olds immediately required all male physical education majors to pass his fitness test. The 1957-58 college catalogue also stated that the same test was to be required in all gymnasium classes (1957-58 college catalogue, p. 160). However, according to faculty from that time period, this requirement was not enforced.

**Department Chairman:** Lloyd Olds became Chairman of the Eastern Michigan College Physical Education Department in 1956. He took over a program which received very little support from the school administration. Facilities were very poor and the gymnasium had been

*"Lloyd Olds was one of the most interesting, accomplished, and diverse persons ever to serve Eastern Michigan University...He taught over thirty different courses in the professional preparation program during his thirty nine years at Eastern."*

condemned several times during the 1950's. For safety reasons, varsity basketball games had to be played at the local high school. For several years much concern was expressed by faculty over the deteriorating status of the men's general activity program. Policy changes enabled a large percentage of men attending the college to avoid the general activity re-



*1951-1952 Intramural Handbook.*

quirement. Credit for varsity sports, marching band, military science and cheerleading resulted in large numbers of men not taking physical education.

At the same time the health status of young men in the United States was not good. Thirty-five percent of the men eligible for service were rejected because of poor health. At Eastern, 25 percent of the male freshman class was rejected by the R. O. T. C. because of poor fitness levels (Olds, p.3). Olds presented to the faculty council six recommendations for reinstating required physical education for all male students. Within two years, most of his recommendations were implemented.

During his tenure as Department Chairman, Olds also helped plan and supervise the development of a new field house, gymnasium and athletic fields. In 1958 Bowen Fieldhouse was completed. After many years varsity basketball games were once again played on the university campus. Indoor track could now compete on an eighth of a mile track instead of running in Briggs Hall which required 26 laps to run a mile. Warner gymnasium was finished in 1964, two years after Olds retired. However, Olds received much satisfaction in knowing he played a

big part in realizing its completion.

Although he served as department chairman for only six years, Olds reorganized the department administrative structure, reinstated the men's general physical education requirement and supervised the development of new athletic and physical education facilities.

**A More Personal Perspective:** Those who knew Lloyd Olds said he abounded in energy. Eugene Beatty, a member of Olds' track team from 1931-1933, described him as the "personification of dynamic energy" (A.A. News, p.1). He was also described as aggressive, full of drive, and "bombastic - in a positive way". He was always totally involved in whatever he was working on whether it was coaching, teaching, administration, or professional involvement (Rynearson).

Olds also knew how to avoid conflict when necessary. Jack Lowe recalled several humorous incidents while he was working in Olds' office. Gussie Harris, head of the women's major program, would frequently visit Olds' office. He could tell by the slow or quick clicking of her heels on the stairs whether she was in a good mood or bad mood. Whenever he noted a quick rhythmical sound coming up the stairs, Olds would quietly sneak out the back door of his office to avoid Gussie's wrath. Lowe noted that Olds was amazingly accurate in being able to predict Gussie's mood (Lowe).

Lloyd Olds was one of the most interesting, accomplished, and diverse persons ever to serve Eastern Michigan University. Lloyd Olds was a professional leader, director of intramurals, department head, and a track and cross country coach. He taught over thirty different courses in the professional preparation program during his thirty nine years at Eastern. When he retired in 1963 he was still an active member of nineteen professional committees. In addition to the honors already mentioned, Olds received the Eastern Michigan University Distinguished Alumni Award, and was elected to both the N.C.A.A. Track and Field Hall of Fame and the Eastern Michigan University Sports Hall of

Fame. In 2004, he was admitted into the Eastern Michigan University College of Education Hall of Fame.

Lloyd Olds passed away on December 2, 1982 at the age of 90. Many mourned his passing. Two of his former students reflected the feelings of many with the following tributes. After learning of Olds' death Eugene Beatty said, "When you live to be 90 years old and do as many things as Lloyd Olds did, well, you just thank God for L.W." (A.A. News, p. 1 ). Dean Rockwell, a former Michigan Normal College athlete and 1964 U. S. Olympic wrestling coach called Olds a big man. "I mourn his loss," Rockwell said, "but the world is a lot better place that someone like him went through it. He was a big man" (A.A. News, p. 1 ).

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## The Glover House - *continued from page 4*

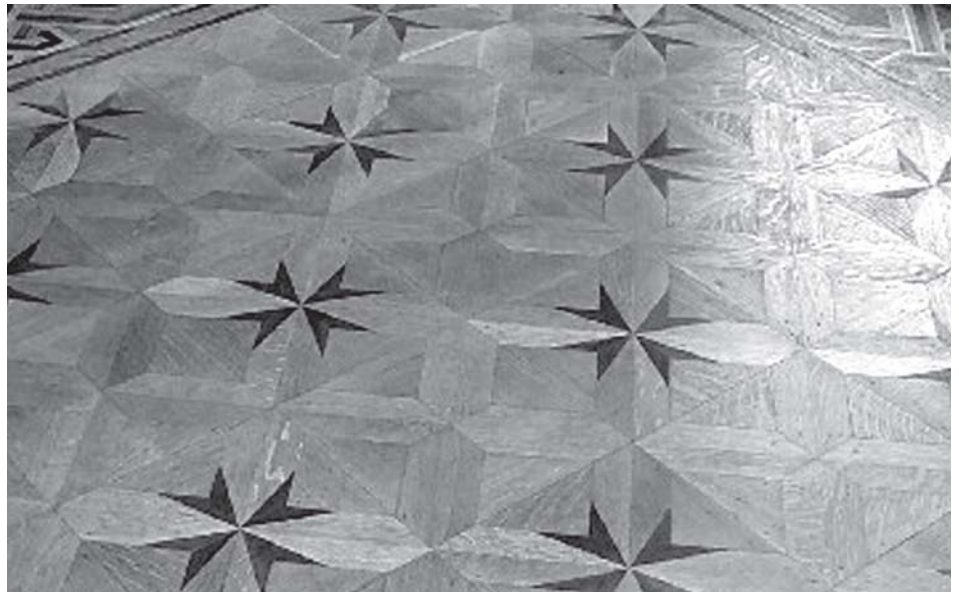
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this date as 1941 but we believe they incorrectly inverted the dates. Mr. Beall was, like Charles' dad, a dry goods merchant and he died on January 24, 1928. The will of his widow was entered in probate on January 9, 1945, and the administrator sold the house to Genevieve M. Lewright for \$11,500.

Irving E. and Theone S. Dixon purchased the house on January 23, 1946 and lived in the home raising two children until 1966. At that time, the house was transferred to Child and Family Services and Mr. and Mrs. Dixon lived in a room in the basement until 1969 when the house was eventually sold to Child and Family Services (CFS).

**History - Part 3:** The house survived intact for almost 90 years and had just three owners. But its most difficult times were ahead. Child and Family Services, now the fourth owner, did their best to care for this grand old home. But operating as a non-profit, it proved to be difficult to maintain a 90 year old Victorian home. Because of poor maintenance since 1966, a major restoration was undertaken in 1981 to save the home. Money came from a variety of sources, including a grant of \$1,500 from the City of Ypsilanti, while most of the labor was donated by local residents. Work was completed in 1982 and while the exterior restoration was quite good, a somewhat muddled renovation was undertaken to reconfigure the interior for office space.

Ignoring much of the suggestions and plans from their architect, CFS instead converted the unused basement and attic into office space. In the guest bedroom on the second floor, a circular staircase was installed to the third floor wiping out two closets and chopping up the south guest bedroom. Several original doors were relocated; new doorways were cut on the first and second floor; a new bathroom was installed on the first floor by converting the dining room pantry while the original first floor bathroom was abandoned, and one of the massive



*Parquet floors were used throughout the first floor with each room having a unique pattern.*

original first floor doors was ultimately ruined when it was cut down to size to enclose the hallway on the second floor to meet building codes at the time. Yet, almost immediately after the renovation, the home began to again fall into disrepair from poor maintenance over the next 15 years. Child and Family Services eventually merged into what is today called HelpSource in 1996.

Sadly, in 1997, never truly understanding the significance of Glover House, HelpSource sold the original cast iron bathtub with cherry surround from the second floor, a spectacular sterling silver chandelier in the entryway along with eight other original chandeliers were also sold to buy indoor-outdoor carpet and repair some windows. Several of the fireplace mantels were dislodged at the same time, most likely with the intent of selling them too. Thankfully, due to an outcry from neighbors and city officials, disassembly of the interior was halted. Five smaller chandeliers that were removed and placed in storage were recovered when the house was sold in 2000. Maggie Brandt and Steve Pierce purchased Glover House in February 2000 and an extensive restoration was begun in November 2001 with the plan to convert the home back to a private residence. Most of the changes done by CFS were undone. A new kitchen was installed and permission was granted by

the Historic District to add an attached mudroom and garage. One year later on Thanksgiving Day 2002, Maggie and Steve moved into their new home.

The following summer Maggie was called to active duty and spent three months serving in the Army in Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan, Steve undertook the entire repainting of the outside of the house. The community was sworn to secrecy and no one was allowed to tell Maggie. Even local newspapers were asked to not report on the progress for fear that someone would have mentioned to Maggie that they saw the house in the newspaper. Maggie never knew what was happening and was told that a new lawn and sprinkler system had been installed. Of course, she was stunned when she saw the newly painted house upon her return in September and she said the colors were perfect.

Today work continues on the Glover House. The restoration of the guest bathroom on the second floor was completed in September 2004 and plans are already in the works to renovate more rooms in the home to include a gym, a reading room, a small office, a sewing room, storage areas, and an irrigation well is to be dug as work begins on the gardens and landscaping.

*To learn more about the Glover house and to see the on-going restoration, visit the house on the Web at [www.GloverHouse.org](http://www.GloverHouse.org).*

# *Ypsilanti Gleanings* Advertising Application

<u>Issue</u>	<u>1/6 Page</u> (2 3/8" x 4 5/8")	<u>1/3 Page</u> (2 3/8" x 9 1/2")	<u>1/2 Page</u> (7 1/2" x 4 5/8")	<u>Full Page</u> (7 1/2" x 9 1/2")
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\*Note: The back of the Gleanings is also available for ads. The size of the space available on the back is 7 1/2" wide and 6 1/2" high. The cost is \$175 per issue and the space will be assigned on a "first received" basis.

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## *Ypsilanti Historical Society Museum & Archive Hours*

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 and Archives are open to the public at no charge.

### *Museum Hours:*

Thursday \_\_\_ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Saturday \_\_\_ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Sunday \_\_\_ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### *Archives Hours:*

Monday \_\_\_ 9:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Wednesday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Sunday \_\_\_ 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm

During the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival the Museum will be open during the following hours: Friday, August 19th, 2:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.; Saturday, August 20th, 11:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.; and Sunday, August 21st, 12noon - 4:00p.m.

## Acquisitions

By Grace Cornish, Chair –  
Acquisitions Committee

All items in the Ypsilanti Museum and Archives were donated by people living in the area or purchased (such as newer items like rugs) with funds donated for use in the museum. Donations are always appreciated as they increase the value of the museum to the community. Regulations regarding donations are carefully spelled out. Contact the chair of the acquisition committee (Grace Cornish – 734-482-2108), or call the Museum or Archives (734-482-4990) for help if you wish to donate. Our storage space is very limited and the committee cannot accept items which do not fit the purpose of our "house" Museum or are duplicates of what is already there.

Some of the donations during the past year are listed below. Note the great variety of artifacts the Museum and Archives have received:

- *RCA Radio (upright walnut)*
- *Quilt (red penny square)*
- *Woven Coverlet (1858)*
- *Settee and Chair (18th century)*
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- *Eastern Star Cook Book (1923)*
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- *Beer Bottle (1 quart LZ Foerster 1886)*
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- *Wedding Dress (1997)*
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- *Willow Run Family Life (19 pictures)*
- *1940 Letters (about above pictures)*
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***The purposes of the Ypsilanti Historical Society are to:***

- 1. Bring together people interested in the history of Ypsilanti;*
- 2. To discover, preserve and collect materials related to events in the area;*
- 3. To provide for the public display of collected information and materials;*
- 4. To disseminate historical information and materials to interested parties.*
- 5. To hold title to personal and real property; and*
- 6. To encourage bequests and contributions to endow the work of the Society.*

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