

YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY ~ PUBLICATION ~



Ypsilanti Historical Museum
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

YPSILANTI - CITY AND TOWNSHIP

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"When Time, who steals away our years,
Shall steal our pleasures too,
The Mem'ry of the past will stay
And half our Joys renew."

Thomas Moore 1780-1852

High School Composition

copied from story written by High School student of Ypsilanti Seminary, February 3rd, 1848.

Places that I would like to visit

There are many places in our own country that I would like to visit among whcih are Niagara Falls, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston.

At New York I would like to visit the city Hall a beautiful building of white marble also the museums where we will see a great many curious things. I would like to see the wire bridge over the Schuykill river at Philadelphia and the Fairmont water works which supply the city with beautiful water. About two or three miles out of town there are several large wheels so constructed as to force the water into large reservoirs on the top of a high hill, and it from thence is easily conducted in pipes. There is also a most interesting museum there, called Peals museum. In the collection we may find hundreds of stuffed animals, such as grizzly bears, deers, elks, serpents, and birds of beautiful feathers, with



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bugs and butterflies and somethings of which we will not know the names.

I would like to get to Europe, and see the great city of London, which contains so many spacious buildings as Westminster Abbey, St. Pauls Cathedral and the Bank of England. There are a number of beautiful bridges in London all of stone except one which is constructed of iron and I believe is a superior bridge. The Tunnel of the Thames must be a wonderful work. Five miles below London is Greenwich, the place from which longitude is reckoned.

I should like to see Jerusalem the once famous capitol of the Jewish nation, which David and Solomon reigned and where Christ and his disciples lived. Bethlehem 6 miles from Jerusalem was the birthplace of our Savior.

Amelia

Our School-room

This is a neat little room on the first floor of the Ypsilanti Seminary. It has a fireplace and a stone and wood work around the fire place is a little burned. The mantle piece is covered with writing books and inkstands for which purpose it is reserved. On the sides of the room are some pieces of wood, into which nails are driven, for us to hang our cloaks and bonnets on.

Around the room are hung a great many maps from which we recite every Saturday. There are four black boards about a foot and a half square on which we do sums. Our room is very light, for it has four large windows with only a part of a paper curtain for the whole. We have nine seats with desks and three without. Our teacher has a table on which are some books and papers, a globe of the heavens and one of the earth. There are folding doors

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leading to another room quite as pleasant as our own. We have 25 scholars and plenty of room and enjoy ourselves very much.

Emeline

HOME

In a beautiful spot, surrounded by trees, stood our old family mansion. Well do I remember the many pretty stories, that I there heard related while seated by the cheerful fireside. And with what eagerness would we wait the approach of old St. Nicholas the eve before Christmas.

And there too was our beautiful garden, with its flowers and luscious fruits and its pleasant little arbor where I was wont to retire from the fatigue of my childish sports to regale myself with weaving garlands for the fair brow of some of my companions.

There stood the village church, where we all assembled to hear the word of God, and be instructed in its precepts from the life of our pious and devoted Pastor. And the village green where we had our holiday sports, and the school house where we all met to commit our daily tasks, and participate in the same amusements.

These indeed were joyous days, but they are past and gone save in my remembrances.

Frances



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The great Meteoric Shower of November 14, 1833

Few comparatively, are now alive who knew much of and far less, who saw that wonderful "Phenomena".

At that time my parents lived or rather stayed in a rude log Shanty in the midst of the then dense Forest, and not far from the Junction of the Lake Shore & Mich Southern and Ann & Toledo Railroads in the Township of Pittsfield, Washtenaw County, Mich.

On the night of Nov. 14, 1833, my mother was awakened and saw through the joints between the logs of the shanty what she thought to be some strange light.

She awakened my father and they going to the door saw that wonderful display of Meteors. They were frightened and so did not call me to see it - which I have always regretted.

Mother described it as like a furious Snow Storm of large lakes - except the flakes were of Fire instead of Snow.

Notwithstanding the fright of every one who saw the penomona, there was a laughable circumstance that happened at Saline. At that early day, the "Old Time Stage" was run along the Chicago Road, which wound around through the woods between Saline, Ypsilanti and Detroit.

The driver was an old Dutchman and going out very early to feed the horses saw the sight, and being terribly frightened, ran back into the Tavern (then kept by Orange Risdon). Said -- Mine Got - mens, the Vorlt comes to end - no use go mit Ypsilanti -- and so they did not until the Show was over.

C.S. Woodard



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200 years ago...it wasn't easy...

- January 1, 1781 Pennsylvania Troops mutinied demanding back pay.
- January 2, 1781 Virginia relinquished claims north of the Ohio River.
- January 3, 1781 Benedict Arnold, the traitor, with British Troops forced American retreat Hood's Point, Virginia.
- January 5, 1781 British under Benedict Arnold burned Richmond.
- January 7, 1781 Mutiny of Troops ended with concessions by state officials.
- January 8, 1781 British raided Charles City Court House.
- January 10, 1781 British attack repelled at Bland's Mill, Virginia.
- January 12, 1781 Indian attack on Freeland's Station, Tennessee repulsed.
- January 13, 1781 Lafayette visited West Point and went to New Windsor, New York.
- January 15, 1781 Congress called on the States for requisitions.
- January 16, 1781 Virginia Commander asked for discharge of old men and boys from Militia.
- January 17, 1781 Victory at Cowpens, South Carolina led by Daniel Morgan.
- January 19, 1781 Americans won skirmish in Georgetown County, South Carolina.
- January 20, 1781 New Jersey Troops mutinied and two mutineers were executed.
- January 26, 1781 Lafayette averted a crisis in New Jersey.
- January 30, 1781 Morgan and Greene joined forces at the Catawba River, North Carolina.

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- February 1, 1781 British occupied Wilmington, North Carolina - Lafayette appeals to France for aid.
- February 4, 1781 High waters at the Gadkin River detained Cornwallis.
- February 7, 1781 Militia harassed Cornwallis Army at Shallow Ford, North Carolina.
- February 9, 1781 British occupied Salem,
- February 12, 1781 Birthday of Abraham Lincoln, born 1809. Americans harassed advancing British at Bruce's Cross Roads, North Carolina.
- February 13, 1781 Cornwallis' advance guard ambushed near Dix's Ferry, North Carolina.
- February 15, 1781 Two French aides joined Lafayette
- February 16, 1781 Washington's Birthday
- February 21, 1781 Jefferson Learned Williamsburg troops utterly destitute.
- February 23, 1781 George Taylor, signer of the Declaration of Independence, died.
- February 25, 1781 Americans won battle of Haw River, North Carolina.
- February 27, 1781 Maryland became last colony to ratify the Articles of Confederation
- February 28, 1781 Richard Stockton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, died.
- March 1, 1781 Articles of Confederation ratified.
- March 5, 1781 Eleventh anniversary of the Boston Massacre.

200 years ago...it wasn't easy...

This is a continuation of the MASTER'S THESIS BY
ELIZABETH TEABOLT "NAMING OF THE STREETS OF YPSILANTI"
as begun in the December Gleanings.

Ballantine and Morse Addition

Registered April 20, 1839

This plat lay in a point with a survey line forming the northwestern boundary. Ballard Street the eastern, Ellis Street the southern and Ann Arbor Road the southwestern.

New street names: Emmett, Ballard and Ann Arbor Road.

Emmett Street appeared early, as the plat shows, but the origin of the name has been most difficult to trace. The street at first appeared to end on the east with Hamilton Street, so far as the name was concerned, and from that point continued eastward to Huron as a narrow lane. In the Ypsilanti Commercial, February 1, 1868, a Resolution of Respect by Union Lodge No. 419 I. O. of G. T. (Grand Templars) appeared for a Samuel Emmett, who died the January 1st preceding. It was signed by J. M. Childs, Mrs. H. A. Ballard, Augusta Stillwell and George D. Stevens with L. J. Brown, secretary. This man could have been a young active man as early as the plat was named.

Another suggestion that has been made is that it could have been named for Robert Emmett, famous in Congress in the middle eighteen hundreds, but the date seems rather too late. Still another is that Emmett might have been the middle name of Richard E. Morse one of the platters, but marriage and death statistics fail to give a clue. Some abstracts were reported for property on the street and still no information.

Ballard Street was named for Arden H. Ballard. He is mentioned in Dr. Colburn's "The Story of Ypsilanti" as attending Independence Day celebration in Woodruff's Grove in 1824. He was the last village president previous to the incorporation of the village of Ypsilanti into a city, late in 1858. He was also prominent in business being owner of the Eagle flouring mill in 1839 and 1840. The beautiful old house, at the southwest

corner of North Huron, now owned by Judge Breakey, was the Ballard home. It has been added to somewhat since the time of Mr. Ballard.

Ann Arbor Road was the name given to that part of present Washtenaw Avenue mostly on the street beyond the present water tower, or west of the junction with Cross Street, but the name sometimes appeared as far down as the bend in Ellis Street just west of the intersection of Perrin. Ann Arbor Road was then as now a direct route to Ann Arbor.

Showerman and Compton Addition

Registered December 21, 1839

It was bounded on the north by Cross Street, on the east by River Street, on the south and west by unplatted land.

New street names: An alley.

An alley later to be known as Ninde extended through the plat from north to south, the name being given by the City Council in 1864. It was named for Judge Thomas Ninde who was city attorney when Ypsilanti became incorporated as a city in 1858. He was mayor in 1878. His home adjoined the street.

Hunter's Addition Part I

Registered October 14, 1844

It extended to East Cross Street on the north, beyond Grove Street on the east, south of South Street on the south and to the river on the west, with the exception of the eastern half of the Original Plat, which it adjoined on the north, east and south.

New street names: Water, an alley.

Water Street appears in this plat extending south from Congress Street, following close to the eastern side of the river for a very short distance. The land is low there and the street probably covered frequently with water in time of high water.

An opening south of the railroad tracks running west to River Street and almost in alignment with High Street to the east was later named Ferrier Street in

honor of Philo Ferrier an alderman from the 4th Ward in 1858. He was prominent in business also.

Hunter's Addition Part II

Registered October 14, 1844

It was bounded on the north by Hunter's Addition Part I, on the east by unplatted land, on the south by Kopp's Addition, on the west by unplatted land, and the river.

New street names: Factory.

Factory Street was once known as Hunter Street, after the platter, but was changed to Factory in 1862 by act of the City Council. Factory Street now runs east to Prospect, on the east end and down to the junction of Race and Spring on the west end.

The Western Addition

Registered November 11, 1844

It was bounded on the north by Ann Arbor Street, now West Forest, on the east by Hamilton, on the south by Ellis, and on the west by Ballard.

New street names: two surveyed but unnamed streets, north of and parallel to Cross Street (Florence and Olive).

The first street north of Cross and parallel to it was named Florence by the City Council March 12, 1866. I do not know why it was so named, but the following facts might be a clue. Mr. J. Williard Babbitt son of Dr. John W. Babbitt was city clerk in 1868 and 1869. Sometime in 1866 he married, his wife's name being Florence. Attorney Babbitt was later a judge. Since his wife's name was Florence, and he was prominent in civic affairs and since the City Council named it, it seems reasonable to suspect it might have been named for Mrs. Babbitt.

Olive was the name given to the next surveyed street to the north of Florence and it was given in the same manner and at the same time by the City Council, March 12, 1866. It do not know for whom it was named. An Olive Gorton was the first teacher to conduct a

school the west side of the river. This school was opened about 1825 or 1826. Olive Gorton became Mrs. Lyman Graves, August 1826 and passed away in 1886.

The surveyed but unnamed street next north of Ellis was already named Emmett by the Ballantine and Forse plat of 1839.

Ann Arbor Street appears on at least two early plats for what is now West Forest. I have been unable to find whether it was official or not. The street which it joined at its western extremity was for long called Ann Arbor Road because it led directly to Ann Arbor, so this street may have been officially called Ann Arbor Street for a time and probably because of the confusion of an Ann Arbor Road and an Ann Arbor Street was changed to Forest Street, and later Forest Avenue - March 26, 1866. Forest Avenue was on the edge of Ypsilanti and like most of the land here was forested.

M. Norris, B. Follett, C. Joslin, and E. M. Skinner
Addition

Registered February 7, 1852

This plat was bounded by a Township Road on the north (now East Forest), by a section line on the east (Cemetery then, Prospect now), by the Mark Norris Addition on the south and River Street on the west.

New Street names: Oak.

Oak Street, as I understand was named because of the large number of Oak trees. It extended from east to west across the plat. This street with a little jog to the south appeared as Short Oak west of North River.

Butcheon's Addition

Registered June 27, 1855

This plat was bounded on the north by a "Publick Road" later a westward extension of Congress, on the east by unplatted land, on the south-east by the Chicago Turnpike and on the west by unplatted land.

New street names: Locust, Chicago Turnpike.

Land on both sides of the surveyed Locust Street

was owned by Jacob Klock. November 28, 1859, an order was given by the City Council to open Locust Street from Congress to Chicago Road. However Locust was not quite in alignment with Normal Street to the north, so an order was given to open Normal Street to Chicago Road and close Locust. The name then disappeared in this area.

Chicago Turnpike, appearing here is just a portion of the early road from Detroit to Chicago, the survey for which passed through Ypsilanti in the summer of 1825. It eventually became a part of Michigan Avenue.

The Cross and Bagley Addition

Registered September 25, 1856

It was bounded by Ellis Street on the north, unplatted land on the east, Congress Street on the south, and extended a short distance beyond Summit on the west.

New street names: Normal, Summit.

Normal Street has been mentioned in the closing of Locust and earlier, since the Normal School was dedicated October 5, 1852 and it has been often shown surveyed but not named, the reason for the name is obvious.

Summit Street runs along the crest of the valley, occupied now by the comparatively small Huron river. The summit of the valley had been reached. The name is obvious, also.

The H. W. Larzelere Addition

Registered January 2, 1857

It was bounded on the north by Woodward Street, on the east by Washington, on the south it extended a distance south of what is now Harriet, on the west it extended a short distance west of Hamilton.

New street names: Catherine.

Catherine Tice Larzelere was the wife of Abraham Larzelere. The street is undoubtedly named for her. Abraham Larzelere was the father-in-law of Harriet Larzelere after whom the plat was named.

Cross and Shutts Addition

Registered June 24, 1857

This plat runs south-east from the cemetery, now Prospect Park. Shutts Street appeared to bound it on the north-west, northeast and southeast, and Males Street, a through street from the cemetery to Chicago Road, lay to the southwest.

New Street names: Shutts, Miles.

Shutts Street is undoubtedly named for Mr. M. L. Shutts one of the proprietors, and grandfather of Dr. E. S. George. The street no longer appears.

Miles Street is named after the Miles family. Lorin C. Miles was a lawyer here in 1845. He is recorded in the Ypsilanti Village in 1843.

Stuck's Addition

Registered June 25, 1857

New street names: Stuck.

This plat was bounded on the north by Ellis street, on the east it extended beyond Ballard, on the south by Pearl, and on the west it extended nearly to Normal Street.

It was named after the platters Charles Stuck and wife Hannah Stuck. Stuck Street is named Perrin today, having been named by the City Council June 1863. The origin of the name is not clear. A Reverend Oliver Perrin came from Manchester, Michigan and lived here many years. In the petition to the City Council, June 1860, to change Mill Road to Forest Avenue east of the river, the name H. M. Perrin appears. The same man is also listed as a partner of a Mr. Blackmore handling general merchandise in 1860.

Jarvis Addition

Registered July 27, 1857

The land extended north and north-east to the extension of Huron Street northward, east nearly to Adams, south to French Claim 691 (Forest) and west to the present city limits, with the exception of the southwest corner.

New street names: Lowell, Ann.

Lowell Street was undoubtedly named for the settlement called Lowell which was located a few miles up the river. It had a paper mill "the most recent and greatest ever established in the county. As late as 1834, there were two stores owned by Clements and Shaw" (page 1073 "History of Washtenaw County, 1881"). Miss Woodard says this was the street usually taken by men going up to work in the mills at Lowell. Mr. L. S. White tells of accompanying Mrs. Kitty Knapp Augustus to the spot where she showed him the remains of the walls of an old tavern or hotel where she was born. It was run by her father.

Ann Street was probably named for Mrs. William Jarvis, Sr., maiden name Ann Watson. Her husband's business ventures date back as far as 1826.

The Davis Addition

Registered May 26, 1858

It was bounded on the north by Chicago Road, on the east by unplatted land, on the south by present Towner Street and on the west by Prospect Street.

New street names: Center, a surveyed but unnamed street (Towner).

The addition was named after Dr. Farmemo Davis who was an alderman from the fifth ward in 1858 and was a competent physician, and interested citizen. The last home that he built was on the site of the present hospital (old Beyer).

Towner Street was after Mr. Norman Kellogg Towner, father of the Misses Towner and the late Tracy Towner. Mr. Towner did not live in this area, but was a friend of Dr. Davis. Towner Street is the surveyed but unnamed street on the south.

Center Street was so named because it extended from north to south across the center of the plat.

The Follett Addition

Registered June 2, 1858

It lay south of Chicago Road, west of North Street - not the North Street in the Original Plat. The curve of the river forms the southern and western boundary.

New Street names: Follett, North.

Follett Street extended east from Water Street was named for Nathan Follett one of the platters, father of Benjamin Follett, banker and business man.

North Street extended north from the river. This fact probably accounted for its name. It is now closed. Water Street, appearing in another plat indistinctly is plainly marked here, running from Chicago Road to Follett Street.

Gilbert's Addition

Registered May 13, 1859

It was bounded on the north by East Cross Street, on the east by a section line or Prospect Street, on the south by the Michigan Central Railroad tracks, on the west by what was then Mill Street, later Park

New street names: High, the alley next south.

This street went from east to west on the north line of the J. Gilbert property on which the "Gilbert House" stands today. The street makes an ascent from the railroad tracks eastward, hence the name.

The alley next south was named Locust Street by the City Council December 17, 1866. I do not know the reason.

The Follett, Vought and Holmes Addition

Registered August 29, 1859

It was bounded by Mill Road on the north, the Corporation line on the east, East Cross Street on the south, and Cemetery Street on the west.

New street names: Charles, Helen, Cemetery, Mill road Vought, an unnamed but surveyed street (Holmes).

Charles Street was probably named for one of the platters, Charles Holmes. He bought a large tract of land about 1857 or 1858. In his will, he named his son Theodore as executor and heir. The son is remembered by a few of the older inhabitants. I speak of him because of Holmes Street. Holmes Street was of course named for the Holmes family who bought the property, but probably more particularly for Theodore Holmes.

I have been unable to get any trace of Helen Street.

Cemetery Street was the name that present Prospect was called northward from the Michigan Central Railroad bridge. The City Council changed the name from Cemetery to Prospect December 25, 1874. The new Highland Cemetery was dedicated July 14, 1864, and the removal of the bodies from Prospect Park cemetery was begun.

Mill Road was the name of present East Forest. A mill was built at the western end at the river. The name was changed by the City Council June 30, 1860.

Vought Street was named after Samuel Fanning Vought, one of the proprietors.

Norris Eastern Addition

Registered March 22, 1860

It was bounded on the north by the Michigan Central Railroad tracks on the east of Prospect, on the south by Congress and on the west by Grove Street.

New street names: Prospect Court.

This court opens to all of the streets on the east, south and west, and is named because of the one on the east.

Norris Western Addition

Registered March 22, 1860

It lay between the Huron River and the Michigan Railroad tracks, southward from what is now Leforge Road to the spot where the railroad spans the river to the south.

New street names: a surveyed, unnamed street (Railroad Street).

A roadway was opened up just east of the tracks. I do not know the date of naming but that is its present name.

Gilbert's Eastern Addition

Registered August 3, 1867

This plat changed the Cross Shutt addition previously mentioned. Shutt Street being taken out and more lots being surveyed.

Jarvis Re-survey

Registered December 18, 1867

It was bounded on the north-east by the Michigan Central Railroad tracks, on the east by Lowell Street, on the south by St. John Street and on the west by a wide alley or road.

New street names: St. John, the ally mentioned.

St. John was so named because it led westward to a Catholic cemetery named St. John which was also the name of the Catholic church here.

By this resurvey, the first Ann Street disappeared. The alley mentioned along the western side eventually became Ann, as it is today, a much longer street than the one previously named for Mrs. Jarvis.

Howard's Addition (this was the Public square)

Registered March 11, 1868

It was bounded on the north by a wide alley, on the east by Adams, on the south it extended just south of a narrow alley, and on the west it extended to Hamilton Street. Congress extended through the center from west to east.

New street names: Alley on the north (Pearson Street)

Pearson Street was the name bestowed upon this alley, March 17, 1873, by the City Council, in honor of Albert H. Pearson who had a residence at number 8 on this street.

Hawkin's Addition

Registered August 1, 1868

This property was bounded on the northwest and northeast by unplatted acreage, on the south-east by Harriet Street and on the west by First Avenue.

New street names: Frederick, Harriet, First Avenue.

Frederick Street is probably after Frederick Hawkins. Abiel Hawkins, the father, had a number of children but at the time of the writing of the 1881 edition of the "History of Washtenaw County" only

two were living, Frederick and Walter. F. T. Hawkins, probably Frederick, is listed as having other property on the plat, besides that made into streets and lots.

The name Harriet was given to the eastward extension of that street. As recently as 1894 the Harriet Street bridge was the name of the bridge at the intersection of Harriet Street, Race Street and Factory Street. Today this street below and eastward is called Spring Street. Springs are said to have been common along the bank.

Harriet Street is for Harriet W. Larzelere, widow of John Y. Larzelere. No children are mentioned in the will of Mr. Larzelere and Harriet inherited the property. The street has appeared before as having been surveyed, but no name has appeared. Frederick Hawkins lost a daughter Harriet at about twelve years of age, but I believe the date rather too recent for Harriet Street.

First Avenue was so named because it was the first long street, the one reached in going up the Harriet Street hill.

Gilbert Park A ition

Registered December 13, 1868

It was bounded on the north by an alley, on the east by Park Street, on the south by an alley, on the west by an alley part of the way and River Street the remainder of the distance.

New street names: Park, a wide alley on the north, an alley running north from Congress, midway between east and west on the plat.

Park Street was formerly called Mill Street.. It was named Park by the City Council December 3, 1864, but this plat is first to show the name. It passed just east of the city park known as Gilbert Park.

The wide alley mentioned on the northern boundary, was named Babbitt Street by the Council June 1, 1866 in honor of Dr. Babbitt, father of Judge Babbitt, previously mentioned in connection with Florence Street.

The alley running from north to south through the northern half of the plat was named Lincoln Street by the Council, December 17, 1866, for the late president.

Kopp's Addition

Registered March 26, 1869

This plat is bounded by Steward Street on the northwest, Grove Street on the north east, unplatted land on the south, and Clark Street on the southwest.

New Street names: Clark, Stewart.

Clark Street, I believe, was named after Benjamin Clark, Village Treasurer in 1858 from the 5th ward, where this addition lay.

Stewart Street, perhaps is named for the old Stewart family of early pioneer days, to replace the name Stewart or Steward which appeared on the Original Plat and then was discontinued. This is only a guess however.

Morse Addition Part I

Registered October 23, 1869

This lay west of and parallel to the Bartholomew Addition.

New street names: Morse.

This street appeared where Second Avenue now is. The name Morse was for the platter Stephen B. Morse. It was changed to Second Avenue to conform to First Avenue, lying to the east.

Morse's Addition Part II

Registered October 23, 1869

This plat is in the southern end of the Morse Addition Part I.

New street names: Division.

This street is not in this plat but in the Bartholomew plat which adjoined it. The surveyed opening across the plat appeared in the Bartholomew plat but was unnamed. Here it appears as Division Street. It divided the plat into two nearly equal parts.

To be continued in future issue of Gleanings.

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CALENDAR

March 15th
3 - 5 P.M. Dr. John C. Heriman, Director of
Programming at the Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Historical Museum

Topic: Historic Ft. Wayne

April 12th
2 - 4 P.M. Peter Fletcher, Member of the Board
of Regents, Michigan State University,
Local business man and member of our
Society

Topic: "An Assortment of Ancestors"

May 17th
at Ladies Literary Natalie Edmunds, City Councilwoman
3 - 5 P.M. Topic: 1980 Hesitage Festival

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Worth notin: The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation will
present a Program on Exterior Colors for
Victorian Houses. Date is March 24th.
There will be a film and discussion led
by Joh Van Bolt, who recently attended a
workshop on the subject.

News from the Archives and the Museum

It seems appropriate to begin mentioning Judy
Litschel. Judy is the research assistant to Jerry Fouchey
who is facilitating the Ypsilanti Schools History Project
funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the
Humanities. The focus is local history and Judy's focus
has been the archives and the Museum. She first came on
the morning of the 24th of November. Since that day she
has spent several hours with us each day. She came as a
systematic researcher and as such has delved into our
files, our diaries, our tapes, our nooks and our crannies.

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Her excitement has been a delight to watch and to share. We are used to her squeals of discovery and to her questions, her endless questions. If you have a chance to meet Judy, we're convinced you'll like her. If you talk to her about Ypsilanti's illustrious history, be prepared....for questions.

The D.A.R. hosted a public demonstration of rug-hooking at the Museum on November 23rd. Arlene Post and Lee Palmiere of Ypsilanti along with Jennifer Rettke and Hele Beal of Clonton gave the presentation from 2 to 4 P.M. The ladies fine craftsmanship results in intricate, beautifully colored works. They are artists of high quality and the audience was appreciative of the display.

On December 9th, Dottie Disbrow gave a special tour of the Museum for Cob Scout Den #282 from Erickson School. Diana McKenzie and Sue Weber, co-leaders, accompanied the boys who are all fourth graders. Marc McKenzie, Mark and Steve Weber, Shawn Cole, Derek Hewitt, Brad Grab, and Terry Kruger had an opportunity to visit with our City Historian Foster Fletcher and came away with a new appreciation of their city.

The December 8th evening hours saw the beginning of the Christmas transformation that takes place each year at 220 North Huron. Kathryn and Laverne Howard, Doris Milliman, Frank and Elnora Miller decked the mantels, the staircase, the lamp-posts, the entry, the hearths. They hung wreaths, strung garlands, placed candles and arranged greenery. It was long hours of work but the spirit of Christmas had come. On December 10th, Marge Gauntlett detailed a Child's Christmas in the Children's Room complete with the tree (a donation from Marge and David), books of anticipation, Bisque and china dolls and strings of popcorn. On December 11th the members

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of the Ypsilanti Garden Club joined to decorate the tree in the parlor. Ann McCarthy and Don and Dottie Disbrow assisted members Mrs. Charles Durret, Mrs. Ron Urbanek, Doris Milliman and Mrs. Don Wardell. Ann had already arranged a display of early toys from the Museum collection. On the morning of the 12th of December, Deci Howard used greens and ribbons at every window and door, twisting and turning them into a welcome. Art Howard hung the ball of greenery on the side porch and the house was at last ready for the December 14th Open House. The entire City was invited to join in the fun of coraling by the Children's Chior of the First Congregational Church of Ypsilanti with Marilyn McCallum as director and many of the children presented solos. The homemade cookies and cakes and candies (Ruth Reynolds specialty) and punch were delightful fare for the many, many who gathered together to remember past Christmas and share a special "modern" version, December 14, 1980.

On January 18th the Annual Meeting of the Ypsilanti Historical Society was held at the Museum with Dr. A.F. Marshall as guest speaker. His topic was "Afro-American Entrepreneurs in Early Ypsilanti". The early business of the Society was presented and Laverne Howard and Linda Halbrook were elected to serve a two year term on the Board of Directors. A short business meeting followed and the Board selected Ann McCarthy (Mrs. Bill) to serve as President and LaVerne Howard as Vice-President. Renee Burgess, who prepared such a pleasant afternoon, was assisted by Renee Moran at the delicious refreshment table.

Some of the nice thigs the Museum boasts recently are a new and sturdy handrail at the front steps and lovely new lace curtains in the Louis S. White Room.

* * * * *

Jay Seaver - our oldest member -

That remarkable man had his 96th birthday, yes, his 96th birthday in Arizona.

Jay was born at home on the family farm south of Ypsilanti on January 6th, 1885. He has had a very successful career as an engineer and even though retired, he has a keen interest in following the affairs of state as an ardent Republican.

Jay is an admirer of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and very generous supporter of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. He and his wife Virginia would welcome a word from Ypsilanti --

Their address is: Mr & Mrs J.J. Seaver
Apt. 102A Pasco Quinta
Green Valley, Arizona 85614

Happy Birthday, Jay...

* * * * *

A special note of thanks from the Museum to the Ypsilanti City Library and most special appreciation to Shirley for her generous spirit.

And for those of you who have found our mailings reaching you belatedly (or not at all) we appreciate your letting us know. We are conversing with the Post Office on how to improve what we do in the office.

The Board of Directors has accepted with regret the resignation of Frank Burgess. Our thanks to Frank for his dedication and service!

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The Archives is still the best source of local history and we see many citizens researching local homes and businesses, others delving into the geneo-logical material, and still other doing the extensive, in-depth research required by Dr. A.P. Marshall's history project. It is often a student and sometimes a teacher preparing material.

Our ever-gracious guides have had visitors from Birmingham, Willis, Clonton, Belleville, Allen Park, Michigan and Pontiac and Peoria, Illinois and as far south as Greenville, North Carolina.

January 23 the Museum was the site of a District Meeting of the P.E.O. Reciprocity Bureau and over forty members enjoyed the surroundings and many were pleasantly surprised having never known of Ypsilanti's committment to their heritage. It is always fun to have visitors for the first time and we hope they'll come again.

We wish to give special thanks to Peter Fletcher for allowing us to display his Inaugural Invitations at the Museum.

And to Gary Owens, our State Representative, for presenting to the Ypsilanti Historical Society a beautifully framed copy of the State Seal of Michigan, now on display in the Louis S. White Room.

And to Carol Ristau for her wonderful shoe and slipper collection on display until February 6th. It will be followed by a special D.A.R. Exhibit. You will remember fondly Eileen Harrison's Bicenten-nial Historic Panoramas featuring her unique clothespin dolls. To give special flavor to this February, come and delight again in Eileen's eye for detail and knowlege of her subject.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Margaret Boss Ehman
Ann Arbor, MI



Marquette County Historical
Society, Inc., J.M. Long-
year Research Library

George P. Bent 2nd
Greenwich, Conn

Mrs. Lamar Gress



Lois Waterman

Eastern Star Pin

Arbeiter Verein Badge belonged to
George Ehman, a postman, father
of Milo and grandfather of Paul

A Family Affair by Margaret Boss
Ehman dated Christmas, 1971.

Photograph of Michigan Centennial
Dinner, McKenny Hall, Ypsilanti,
MI. January 30, 1937

The Normal, September, 1895.

An album containing business trade
cards and scraps principally from
Ypsilanti firms dating around 1880.

"We believe the album belonged to
Mrs. Bent's mother, Mrs. Earl D.
Babst (Alice Edwina Uhl), who
was born in Grand Rapids in 1879,
and that its contents were period-
ically sent to her as a child from
her grandmother, Mrs. Edwin F. Uhl
(Alice Follett), who was born in
Ypsilanti, MI in 1844. Mrs. Uhl's
mother was Elvira Norris Follett.

Wedding dress of Mabel Mann Mills,
born 1870, married October 11, 1893,
in Pinkney, MI. Dress is heavy
satin in pale gold with trim and
attached ruffled under-slip.
Husband was Myron Mills, President
of the Michigan Urban Railroad.
The wedding took place at the
Mann Home in Pinkney. Mabel Mann
Mills died in Marysville in 1951.
Mrs. Gress was Mrs. Mills niece.

Marriage certificate of Mahala
Prentiss and William Blain, dated
March 6, 1850. Bradford, Steuben
Co., N.Y.

Two autograph albums of Mahala
Prentiss Blain, dedication dated

Acquisitions con't

Ada Holmes



July 27, 1849. Leather with engravings in excellent condition.

Discharge of Private William Holmes from General Hospital U.S.A., Philadelphia dated December 26th, 1862.

Discharge of Private William Holmes from the First Regiment of the Michigan Volunteers dated January 29, 1863.

Private Holmes was the grandfather of Ada and Rote Holmes

Foster Fletcher

a fine lawn Sunday apron, dress length. Belonged to Marie Bacon Schneider, mother of Mary Fletcher

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. John M. Barr
1200 Whittier
Ypsilanti, MI

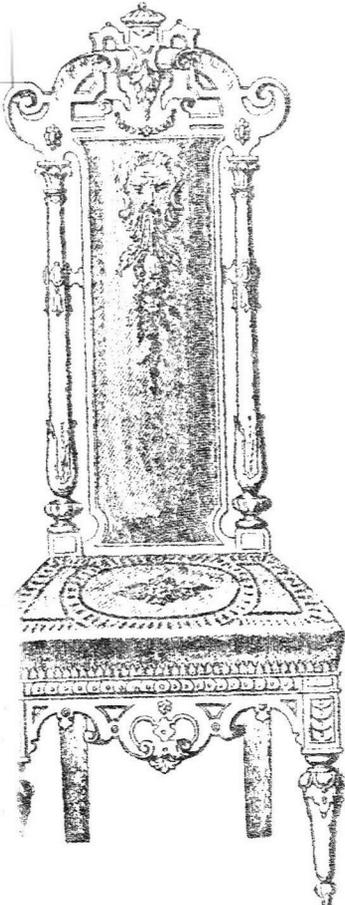
Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Coleman
206 South Washington St.
Ypsilanti, MI

Margaret B. Ehman
1050 Wall Street
Ann Arbor, MI

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kettles
1310 West Cross St.
Ypsilanti, MI

Mrs. Lawrence H. Krohn
905 Robin Road.
Ann Arbor, MI

Mr. & Mrs. Atwood McAndrew, Jr.
164 Greenside
Ypsilanti, MI



NEW MEMBERS con't

Mr. & Mrs. William Stevens
893 Cliffs
Ypsilanti, MI

Arthur S. Truesdell
3045 Exmoor Road
Ann Arbor, MI

Mr. & Mrs. Ruth Whitaker, Jr.
2360 Londonderry
Ann Arbor, MI

John Wooden
1918 Roosevelt
Ypsilanti, MI



from YPSILANTI SENTINEL COMMERCIAL January 30, 1902

THEY BOARD AT \$1 A WEEK

Many Normal Co-Eds Subsist On This Amount

ARE THEIR OWN COOKS

While Board in Clubs Varies From \$1.60 to \$1.80 per Week

"Fully one-third of the 700 or 800 co-eds at the Normal board themselves," said the keeper of a Normal college boarding house, "and their expenses are about \$1 a week. Board at the Clubs is \$1.75 or \$1.80 a week and at some places this rate is cut to \$1.60, but even this is not economical enough for a large number of the girls, who prefer to buy their own provisions and cook their meals on an oil stove.

"It isn't always a case of necessity, either for one of the prominent society girls of the college lived on practically one meal a day last year in order to have money enough to keep in the social swim. This girl took her dinners at my club, and one Sunday just before dinner she asked one of the waiters to hurry up with the preparations for the meal, as she hadn't had a thing to eat since Saturday noon.

"By no means all of the students scrimp on eating, and some would be willing to pay more than the club rates, but outsiders would be amazed to know how man look on the

"They board \$1 a week" con't.

matter of board as an opportunity for curtailing expenses, and attempt to carry heavy school work with no better backing than just enough food to keep the body and soul together.

The Ypsilanti boarding house keepers are naturally not able to attain sudden riches by attempting to give three "squares" for \$1.80 per week, and every year an effort is made to organize a modest "trust" to boost prices, but the enterprise invariably falls through by the discovery on the part of half of the trust that the other portion is secretly cutting prices to the old level.



A new hard bound reproduction of the 100 year old Wash-
tenaw County illustrated Atlas by Everts & Stewart plus
the 1915 Atlas and the 1895 Atlas, is a project of the
Ypsilanti Historical Society. It is a project of interest
to the entire Washtenaw County with the idea of preserving
these fast disappearing books rather than any great profit.
Now and then a person will say: "I have the 1874 Atlas
but some of the pages are missing and several pictures
have been cut out". The yellowed pages of the old exist-
ing books are fragile and most bindings broken.

The new book includes every page from the old printings;
the engravings of the handsome farms, business places,
pictures of the early settlers as well as those who came
later. An interesting book to own or as a gift to rela-
tives or friends.

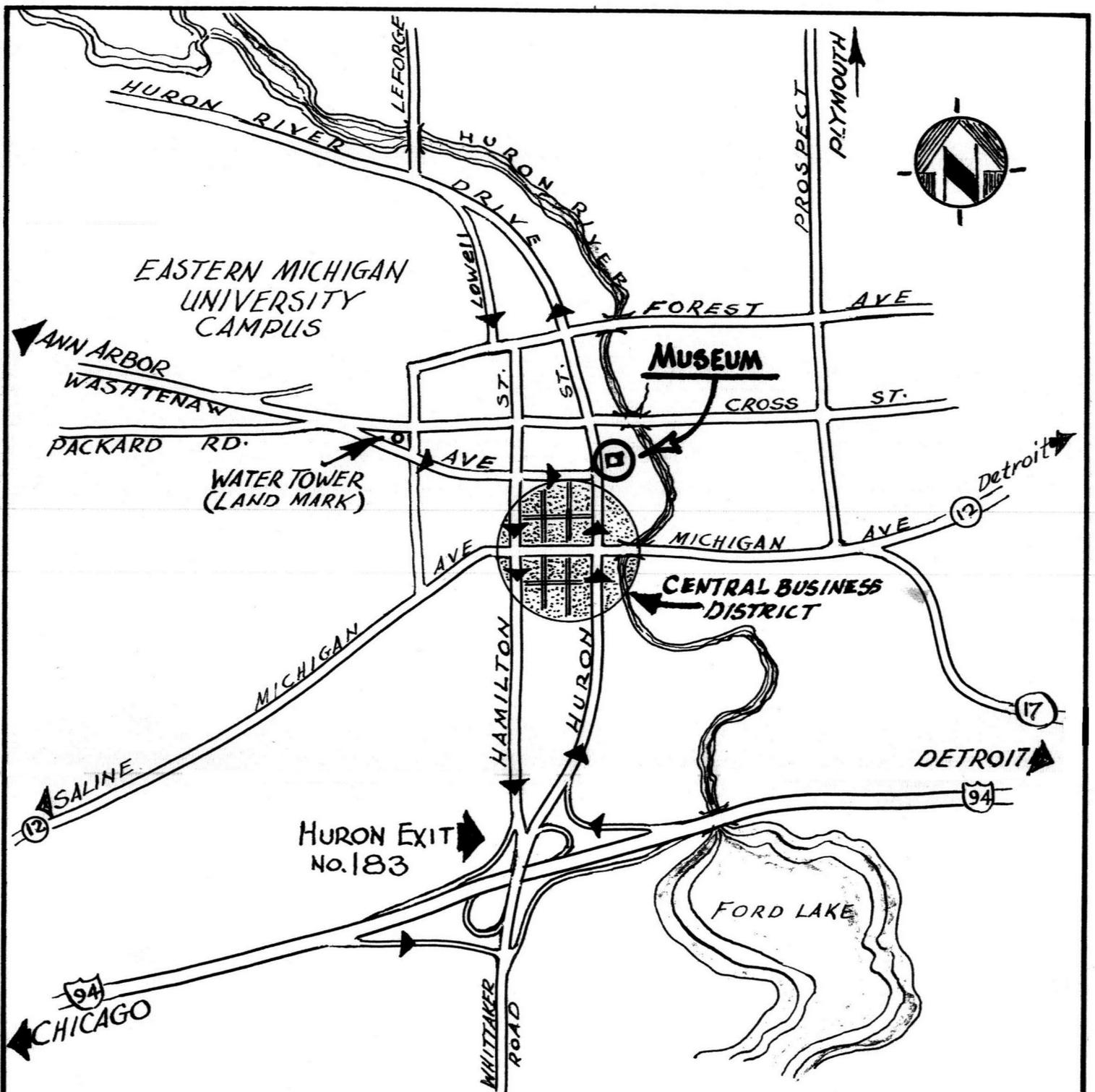
Added to this handsome 11" X 14" volume are the fascin-
ating Birdseye Views of Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Manchester,
Saline and Ypsilanti.

The books sell for the prepuplication price of \$3⁵.00,
\$1.20 sales tax and \$2.00 shipping charge. After March
20th, the price advances to \$4⁰.00, plus tax \$1.40 and
\$2.00 shipping charge.

Ypsilanti Historical Society
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ship to: _____

PHONE 482-4990



YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM
 220 NORTH HURON STREET
 YPSILANTI - MICHIGAN
 ZIP CODE 48197
 PHONE 313-482-4990

MUSEUM HOURS
 FRI - SAT & SUN - 2-4 PM.
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 ESTABLISHED 1960

FOSTER FLETCHER ~ CITY HISTORIAN.
 LAREA SWARTS ~ MUSEUM DIRECTOR.
 DOROTHY DISBROW ~ ARCHIVIST.