

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



FALL 2016

A Visit to the YPSILANTI HISTORICAL Society

BY DR. TENA IPSILANTIS KATSAOUNIS

On November 5, 2015 I sent an e-mail to the Ypsilanti Historical Society asking for any historical information in its archives regarding Alexandros Ypsilanti and/or other members of the Ypsilanti family. My father, Haralampos (Harry) Ypsilantis had been asking me to visit the city of Ypsilanti in Michigan for years! I have travelled by the Ypsilanti area in the past, and I was intrigued by the name of the city of Ypsilanti myself. After some searching, I told my father that it is just the name of a city given by a man who was a fan of military operations and for some reason admired Demetrios Ypsilantis. Apparently, this was a good enough reason for my father to persist on visiting the city of Ypsilanti.

For the record, there is no city in Greece named after Demetrios Ypsilantis (although there was a municipality of about 3,000 people in the northern part of Greece that was called municipality of Demetrios Ypsilanti from 1999-2010. Two days after I sent that e-mail to the Ypsilanti Historical Society, my father, my mother, my oldest

son and myself were on our way to Ypsilanti, Michigan. We arrived in Ypsilanti too early, and since the museum, a beautiful renovated 1860 house at 220 North Huron Street was not open yet, we visited the nearby statue of Demetrios Ypsilantis. It was an especially quiet moment for my father (like an overdue greeting to Demetrios Ypsilantis). We also paid a visit to the Greek Orthodox church of St. Nicholaos in Ann Arbor. We were welcomed by two wonderful ladies who luckily were working at the church office and let us visit the church and its bookstore.



Haralampos (Harry) Ypsilantis, a descendant of Demetrios Ypsilantis, recently visited Ypsilanti and the YHS Museum and Archives with his daughter.

In This Issue...

- A Visit to the Ypsilanti Historical Society 1
Dr. Tena Ipsilantis Katsaounis
- A Memoir of Robert "Bob" Schrepper and His War Horse 10
By Joan Schrepper Leininger
- The Cornwell House 12
By Jan Anschuetz
- The Minzeys Move to Ypsilanti 16
By Eric Setzer
- Non-Mystery of the Ypsilanti Glider Port 20
By James Mann
- The Ypsi Alehouse Opens in the Historic Centennial Center Building 24
By James Mann
- Debate Over Liquor Licenses 29
By James Mann
- Helen, the Little Polish Wanderer 31
By James Mann

Society Briefs

- From the President's Desk 2
- Society Board Members 2
- Museum Board Report 9
- Membership Application 22
- Advertising Application 28
- GLEANINGS Sponsors 30

Ypsilanti
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is a museum of local history which is presented as an 1860 home. The Museum and Fletcher-White Archives are organized and operated by the Ypsilanti Historical Society. We are all volunteers and our membership is open to everyone, including non-city residents.

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

Ypsilanti HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Trustees:

Maria Davis, Virginia Davis-Brown,
Pattie Harrington, Gerald Jennings,
Val Kabat, Jackson Livisay,
Karen Nickels, John Pappas,
Alvin Rudisill, Robert Southgate,
Nancy Wheeler

Museum Advisory Board:

Virginia Davis-Brown,
Kathleen Campbell, Jackson Livisay,
Louise Nagle, Fofie Pappas,
Robert Southgate, John Stewart
Nancy Wheeler, Daneen Zureich

Archives Advisory Board:

Kelly Beattie, Kim Clarke,
Maria Davis, Val Kabat,
Jerry Pety-ex officio, Hank Prebys,
Louise Schmaltz, Jane Schmiedeke,
Lisa Walters, Bette Warren

Endowment Fund Advisory Board:

Nat Edmunds, Lynda Hummel,
Mike Kabat, Paul Kuwik,
Don Loppnow, Karen Nickels,
Melanie Parker, Steve Pierce,
Alvin Rudisill

Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Museum: 734.482.4990

Archives: 734.217.8236

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

GLEANINGS Staff

Editor Al Rudisill
Assistant Editors.....Peg Porter
Fofie Pappas
Design & Layout.....Pattie Harrington
Advertising DirectorMichael Gute
Finance Director.....Bette Warren
DistributionMichael Gute

If you have suggestions for articles
or if you have questions, contact
Al Rudisill at 734.476.6658 or
al@rudisill.ws.

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS is published 4
times a year by the Ypsilanti Historical
Society, 220 N. Huron Street, Ypsilanti,
MI 48197

From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY ALVIN E. RUDISILL

It was a pleasure and privilege for me, and my wife Jan, to attend the Medal of Honor ceremonies at the White House and Pentagon on July 18 and 19 for Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles. The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded in our country. President Obama, during his presentation, said: *"...and as many know him have said, nobody deserves it more than Charles Kettles of Ypsilanti, Michigan."*

The Ypsilanti Historical Society was a sponsor of the local celebration for Kettles that was held at the Yankee Air Museum on Saturday, August 13. More than 350 people attended the celebration and Kettles was recognized and honored by military veteran groups, service clubs, government and city agencies and Eastern Michigan University.

A Memorial Bench has been placed in the front yard of the Museum at 220 North Huron Street with the following engraving: *"Medal of Honor – Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles – May 15, 1967."* The date on the bench is the date of the heroic military action which resulted in Kettles receiving the Medal of Honor. The images of two Huey helicopters, which was the aircraft piloted by Kettles and the other pilots in the 176th Aviation Company during the military action, have also been engraved into the bench.



President Obama placing the Medal of Honor around Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles neck.

A second Memorial Bench for Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles will be placed at the Vietnam Veterans Post 310 Headquarters on Wagner Road in Ann Arbor near the Huey helicopter that is on display there.



Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles standing behind the Memorial Bench in front of the Museum at 220 North Huron Street.

YPSILANTI
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Museum & Archives

220 North Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

MUSEUM
734 482-4990

yhs.museum@gmail.com

ARCHIVES
734 217-8236

yhs.archives@gmail.com



Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis was the oldest of the Ypsilanti brothers and fought in the Greek liberation movement. This picture hangs in the National Historical Museum of Greece.

The Portrait: As we entered the Ypsilanti Historical Society museum, we immediately noticed the portrait of Demetrios Ypsilantis by the main entrance (and of course, we took a picture in front of it!). As I found out, the portrait of the Greek general was painted by Mr. Edward I. Thompson. Earlier, another portrait of the Greek General Ypsilanti hung in the City Council chambers. Mr. Thompson painted this second portrait after the first portrait got misplaced when the chambers changed locations. In a letter written in 1894 (available in the museum archives), I found that the first portrait of the Greek General Ypsilanti was obtained by Professor Strong "from Mr. E. D. Barff Jr. of London England, whose father, E. D. Barff, was a British consul at Zante, Greece, while Lord Byron, a personal friend, was in the country." Interestingly, Lord Byron was a friend of the Ypsilanti family and supporter of the Greek war of Independence from the Ottomans in the early 1800's.

After spending some time enjoying the museum exhibits on the first floor, (if you have not been to the museum yet, I highly recommend it as it has a lot of interesting exhibits for a relatively small museum building) Mr. Michael Gute brought to us three

folders with several articles, letters, newspaper cutouts and pictures from the museum archives related to the Ypsilanti family. I was overwhelmed by the kind interest of all who throughout the years kept and shared every bit of information about Demetrios Ypsilantis and his family that they came across! It was hard for me to absorb all the information that I was reading at that time, so I asked Michael if it was possible to obtain copies. About a couple of weeks later I received copies in the mail of the archived material that I had selected. I would like to thank the Ypsilanti Historical Society for the opportunity to review their unique archives about Demetrios Ypsilantis and the Ypsilanti family. I promised Kelly Beattie, the intern working in the YHS Archives, that I would submit my findings to be published in the Gleanings. In this article I will share with you some historical information about the Ypsilanti family and the life of Demetrios Ypsilantis. I will also tell you what I have discovered in the archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Society about the Ypsilanti family and, in particular, about Demetrios Ypsilantis.



Prince Nicholas Ypsilantis, the brother of Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis, fought by his side and wrote his memoirs.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

We have been serving and supporting our community for over 20 years. Our office is centrally located at 529 N. Hewitt Road between Packard Road and Washtenaw Avenue.

Stop by and visit. If we haven't met, we welcome new patients. We provide professional family dental care with an emphasis on prevention. If you are new to the area, please check out our website for a map and directions to our office.



**Kimberly
RICE**

DDS, PLC

**FAMILY
DENTISTRY**



529 N. Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-434-3820

www.kimberlyricedds.com
kimberly@kimberlyricedds.com

The City Name: Apparently, in the year 1809 there was a trading post “*some-where along the line of Huron Street, where a Frenchman, Gabriel Godfroy, and two other men met Indians of the Huron, Ottawa, Pottawatomie and Chippewa tribes to exchange wares of civilization for fruits of the hunt.*” In 1823 there was a settlement on the river bank that was called Woodruff’s Grove (after Major Woodruff). The first Independence Day celebration in the new establishment was in 1824. Under the influence of military history fan Judge A. B. Woodward (first Territorial Judge of Michigan, 1774-1827), in 1825 the area got its name Ypsilanti (instead of Waterville) from Demetrios Ypsilantis. Note that the year 1821 is the year that marked the revolution of Greece against the Ottomans, who had occupied that area since the late 1400’s. The Ypsilanti brothers Alexandros, Demetrios, Nicholaos, Gregorios and Georgios, along with other Greek revolutionists, were leading the movement of liberation of Greece.

The people in Europe were following the struggle of Greece for its independence by reading the news about the Greek revolution in newspapers, but so did the people in the United States and in Michigan. The “great powers” of Europe at that time (Great Britain, Kingdom of France and Russian Empire) had their own interests in the outcome of the Greek Revolution. The Americans in the United States sympathized with the struggle of the Greeks for their freedom, perhaps because of their own struggles for freedom at that time. It was moving to read in the “History of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Chas. C. Chapman and Co.”, 1881, pages 1102-1103 that “*The story of the Greek revolution had reached our shores as early as 1823, and the most harrowing accounts of sufferings and destitution of the Greeks reached this country. The inhabitants of the eastern towns and cities were aroused; meetings were called, the women were enlisted in the work, and clothing and much provision gathered. A vessel was chartered, and Dr Howe, of Boston, was sent in charge of the distribution in 1824.*”

Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis was the oldest of the Ypsilanti brothers (sons of Prince Constantinos Ypsilantis) and the heart of the Greek liberation movement. His brother Prince Nicholaos Ypsilantis fought by his side and wrote



The Coat-of-Arms of the Ypsilanti family.

his memoirs. Nevertheless, in 1823 (two years after the Greek revolution started in the Spring of 1821) Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis was imprisoned by the Austrians and spent his later life (1823 to 1827) in Munkatch (room No 4). Prince Alexandros died a few months after he got out of the Austrian prison because of his poor health at that time, and never had the chance to learn about the liberation of Greece in the 1830’s. Meanwhile, his brother Prince Demetrios was leading the liberation movement in the southern part of today’s Greece and his name was getting in the news around the world regarding the Greek Revolution. This

can explain why, in 1825, Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis (and not Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis) captured the interest of Judge Woodward. I was amused by the different “tales” by the locals about how the city got its name. Such tales were made up probably because the Ypsilanti name itself is not meaningful to someone who is not familiar with the Greek language, and for some it might be hard to pronounce. By the way, the Greek word “Ypsilos” (“Ypsila”) means “of great height” but it can also mean “coming from a high location/place.” Various members of the Ypsilanti family were prominent and lived (in the 1400s -1600’s) in an area of the Black Sea with high mountains that were called Trapezounta. A possible explanation is that the Ypsilanti family took its name from a village called “Ypsili” or “Ypsila” in a mountain area, although some references say that the Ypsilantis family name was originated from the village of Ophis in the same area. Regardless, members of the Ypsilanti family lived in various townships in that area (including Ophis area, Platana, Kerasounta, and Trapezounta, the names of such townships have changed since the early 1900’s).

I was not so surprised when I found a 1983 copy of a Greek Pontian newspaper called “Trapezus” (another name for Trapezounta) in the archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. It was published in Boston by Constantine Hionides, M. D. and included an article about Demetrios Ypsilantis. Many Greeks who lived in Asia Minor, including the Greeks from around the Black Sea (called Pontians-from “pontos” a Greek word for “sea”) were forced to leave from the land of their fathers in the early 1900’s. The unfortunate events of that era have been captured in various articles in U.S. newspapers. At that time, many Pontians, including mem-

bers of the Ypsilanti family, ended up in the United States. There are still many descendants of those families who live in the United States. In the Ypsilanti Family Historical Society archives I found two notes, one about the family of a Vasilios Ypsilanti who lived in the New York area and one about Homer Nicholas Ypsilanti who lived in Arlington, Mass.

Ypsilanti Family: The area of Trapezounta was in a great turmoil, especially after the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453, when the descendants of the Byzantine Emperor Andronikos I Komnenos established the Empire of Trapezounta (Empire of Trebizond) which managed to survive until 1461. In the 1600's several members of the Ypsilanti family, including Prince Constantinos Ypsilantis were forced to leave the area of Trapezounta and moved to Constantinople (today Istanbul). In the 1700's and 1800's members of the Ypsilanti family became rulers of Moldavia and Wallachia (today Romania) and played an important

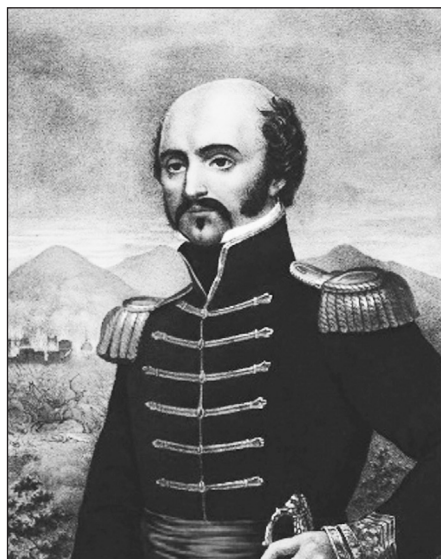
The Ypsilantis brothers Alexandros, Demetrios, Nicholaos, Gregorios and Georgios, along with other Greek revolutionists, were leading the movement of liberation of Greece.

role in the European politics of that era. In one of William A. McAndrew's articles in the newspaper Ypsilantian (dated December 28th, 1941-available at the museum's archives), I read that the "*first Ypsilanti of importance was named Athanasius.*" I would like to offer

a correction, because there were several other important members of the Ypsilanti family at earlier times. It would be impossible for me to write in an article the history of the Ypsilanti family (whose written historical records that I personally came across are dated back to the 10th century family of Xyphilinus-Ypsilantis. Also in the Ypsilantian (Dec. 28th 1941), McAndrew states that Athanasius Ypsilantis (1720's era) was the father of Alexandros Ypsilantis (grandfather of Demetrios Ypsilantis), but in historical resources in the 1800's the name of Alexandros's father is recorded as Ioannis. In another copy of the same article the same name is written as "Alhanaaive", which seems like a mistyping/misreading (possibly from "Agaloannis" or Aga Ioannis;



A portrait of Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis by Spyridon Prosalentis.



A portrait of Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis from 1819.

Manchester & Associates

--- Attorneys at Law ---

206 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Concentrating in

Real Estate, Business, Probate,
Wills & Trusts, Domestic Relations,
Immigration and related Litigation



**Thomas C. Manchester
Michael T. Manchester
Nicole E. Mackmiller**

Phone: 734-482-7012 - Fax: 734-485-4468

tmanchester@manchester-associates.com
mmanchester@manchester-associates.com
nmackmiller@manchester-associates.com

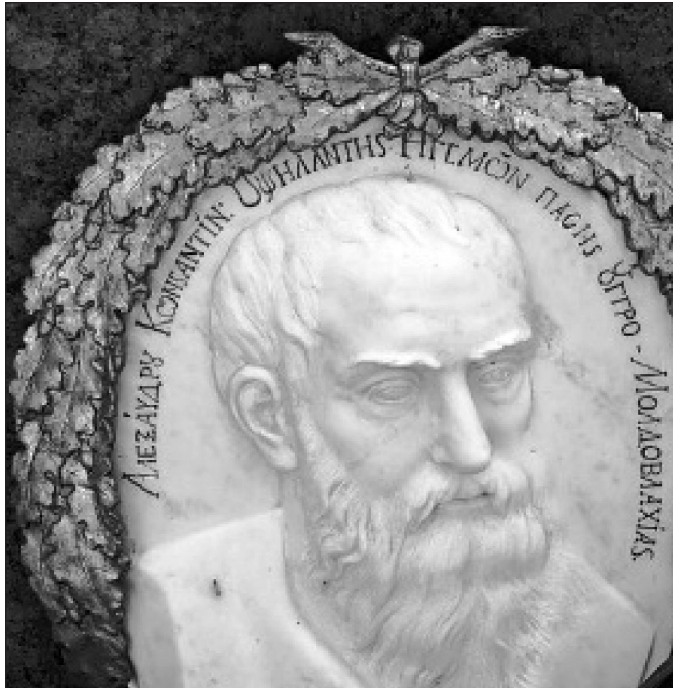
HAAB'S RESTAURANT

**Supporting the
Community for
More Than 80 Years**



18 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, Michigan
734-483-8200

Haabs@provide.net
www.HaabsRestaurant.com



Prince Constantinos Ypsilantis of Moldavia was the father of Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis.

“Aga” was a title for Ioannis Ypsilantis (great grandfather of Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis). There are many such inaccuracies, especially with the names and the birth/death records of the Ypsilanti family members and their names in literature. Older history books, written between the 11th century and the 18th century, are more “reliable.” I have read several false representations of facts in history books written or translated at a later time in the 1900’s to present time. Regardless, I found the article written by William McAndrew captivating, and I recommend reading it if you have the chance to visit the Ypsilanti Historical Society archives. William Mc Andrew was born and died in Ypsilanti (1863-1937). He wrote a series of short articles about the name of the city of Ypsilanti for the young readers of the local publication called “Ypsilantian” (according to his notes the primary sources of the information in his articles were “Samuel G. Howe, New York, 1828; Gordon’s two volume account of the revolution, and Encyclopedia Britannica).

Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis: Although pieces of information exist about the life of Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis in different sources, I have not found yet a book devoted solely to Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis, but if I have to suggest one as a start it would be: *Dokimion historikon peritēs Philikēs Hetairias*, 1834 by Iōannou Philēmōno (see <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008887571>). Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis was born in Constantinople in 1793 and died in Nafplio in 1832. Nafplio was the first capital of Greece after its liberation from the Ottomans (until 1834), located in the southern part of today’s Greece.

Prince Demetrios was the second son of Prince Constantinos Ypsilantis of Moldavia (today in Romania), a member of the Phanariotes Ypsilantis family, who originated from the area of Trapezounta near the Black Sea, and Elizabeth Vacarescu. Prince Constantinos Ypsilantis and his family lived in various places in Eastern Europe (in Asia Minor (including Constantinople), in Moldavia (and other parts of today’s Romania), in Russia Empire (Kiev, Moscow); members of his family also lived in western Europe (in Austria, in France and elsewhere). Prince Demetrios studied at military academies in France and served in the Russian Empire Tsar’s Royal Guard in Petroupolis (Petersburg). Many prominent wealthy Greeks that were living outside of today’s geographical borders of Greece sacrificed their fortune to the Greek war for independence, the same way the Ypsilanti family did. Following a decision by the Philiki Eteria Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis went to Peloponnese (southern part of today’s Greece) in order to lead there the military operations for the liberation of Greece from the Ottomans. Philiki Etaireia was a group of Greek patriots who were leading the liberation movement, under the leadership of Prince Alexandros Ypsilantis. As a leader of the liberation movement, Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis took part in Tripolis’ siege, and in military operations in Naf-



Elizabeth Vacarescu was the mother of Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis.



The stone near Nafplion that says "From this place, Demetrios Ypsilantis spoke to the fighters who gathered here in June 1821."

plion, Argos, Korinthos, Dervenakia (all these cities exist under the same name today in Peloponnese). His military successes and popularity threatened the ambitions of other Greek upcoming politicians, so although on 15 January 1822 he was elected president of the Greek Legislative Assembly, he failed to obtain a commanding position in a national convention. In 1828 the first Governor of the liberated part of today's Greece Ioannis Kapodistrias assigned Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis the position of Field Marshall (the first in modern Greece) and he was put in charge of organizing the regular national army. On 25 September 1829, he successfully won a battle at the Pass of Petra, ending the active operations of the Greek War for Independence (see The Treaty between Great Britain, France and Russia for the Pacification of Greece, London, July 6th, 1827).

In the archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Society I found an article titled "Prince Demetrios Ypsilanti" (with a handwritten note "Paul E. Hubbell", which unfortunately I cannot attach here but highly recommend to those who like reading details about the history of the Greek War of Independence). In that article I read that "among the Philhellenes (meaning "friends of Greeks") who fought for Greece was the historian George Finlay (whose books are still a popular reference), a Scotchman, who took up his (Demetrios) residence in Athens. He (G. Finlay) says of Demetrios Ypsilanti that he possessed "personal courage and private virtues which command(er?..) respect... A fellow veteran of Ypsilantis, General Gordon, while admitting his vanity,

declared he was inspired with "ardent patriotism, with courage, integrity and humanity". I also found a letter addressed to Professor Paul E. Hubbell in Ypsilanti Michigan (dated August 11, 1967) from John A. Nicolopoulos, Acting Director of the office of Royal Greek Embassy in Washington DC, concerning Demetrios Ypsilanti. In that letter the following memo caught my attention: "(1823) Memo. Da. Jourdain, "Prince Demetrius Ypsilanti is truly weak and feeble in constitution, he has little political and military ability (and he is also near-sighted) , but he is very brave (gallant) and possesses affirm will to deliver his native land (,) he is in command of nine to ten thousand man". French Foreign Ministry archives, series "Correspondence politique", Greece, vol. 2, f. 10."

Prince Demetrios died in Nafplion in August of 1832. Today there is an engraving on a stone near Nafplion that says "From this place, Demetrios Ypsilantis spoke to the fighters who gathered here in June 1821."

His house in Nafplion operates as a hotel called "Dias" (Zeus). I hope that one day it will become a history museum (I would name it "Ypsilanti Historical Society in Nafplio"!). I have been debating whether or not I should mention any information here about the Greek heroine Manto Mavrogenous, with whom, as it had been rumored, Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis had a personal relationship.



The Demetrios Ypsilantis house in Nafplion today operates as a hotel called "Dias" meaning Zeus.



The Greek Heroine Manto Mavrogenous, with whom, it had been rumored, Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis had a personal relationship.

I am obligated to at least say that Manto Mavrogenous was from a Greek noble family, and a patriot who also sacrificed her fortune to the Greek war for independence. It is also worth mentioning the important role of other women in the Greek war for independence, including the financial and moral support of Elizabeth Vararescu, and of Demetrios's two sisters Maria and Aikaterini, which seldomly is mentioned in older history books and has been ignored by the majority of modern historians. Interestingly, a sentence in the "History of Washtenaw County-Charles C. Chapman and Co., 1881"-page 1103 (available at the archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Society) says "His (Demetrios's) sister, Maria Ypsilanti, with patriotism equal to his own, gave her dowry, worth \$150,000, to aid her suffering county".

I would like to finish this part of the article, by William

McAndrews' statement (from his article in the Ypsilantian in November, 1896 that was also mentioned above): "If I were rich, I would have his statue set in a public place in the town that was named for him and on the pedestal I would print:

Demetrius Ypsilanti: "Born in Constantinople in 1793, died in Greece, 1832. He was small of stature, plain of feature, and harsh of voice. Nature lavished not upon him graces of body, or of mind. But he was of an honest heart, a strong will and an ardent patriotism; who commanded the Greeks in the Morea; who brought about their declaration of independence; who smote the Tyrant Turk at Argo; who served his country in peace and war; who died while one of her supreme council. You who look upon him, be mindful of your duty to your country."

An Invitation: Among the archives in the Ypsilanti Historical Society I found a letter (dated May 24, 1905, Bohemia Austria) signed by Immanuel Prince Ypsilanti (Great Uncle of Demetrius Ypsilantis), Theodore Prince Ypsilantis (brother of Yphigenia Ypsilanti Countiss Pappenherius), Yphigenia Ypsilanti Countiss Pappenherius, Chanilei (Charikleia?) Ypsilanti Princess (sister of Yphigenia Ypsilanti Countiss Pappenherius), and Philepp Ernst Furstgn Tlohinlokr Thillingspurst (husband of Chanilei (Charikleia?) Ypsilanti Princess) -all members of Prince Gregory Ypsilanti (another son Prince Konstantinos Ypsilanti). That letter was addressed to the Mayor of the City of Ypsilanti Geo. M. Gaudy Esqre and it was a reply to an invitation by the city of Ypsilanti to the above members of the Ypsilanti family in order to celebrate the homecoming of the first residents on the 21st of June 1905. The family was traveling at a time eastward on the Michigan Central and got attracted by the name of the city of Ypsilanti.

Editor's Note: A copy of this article complete with "Reference Notes" has been placed in the Ypsilanti Historical Society Archives in the Demetrius Family File.

(The author, Dr. Tena Ipsilantis Katsaounis, is a descendent of Demetrius Ypsilanti and recently visited Ypsilanti with members of her family.)



636 S. Mansfield Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Tel: (734) 483-5811
Fax: (734) 483-9701

Museum Board Report

BY NANCY WHEELER, BOARD CHAIR



(left) The 1880s settee, lady's chair and gentleman's chair are located in the Milliman Parlor. (right) The 1880's marble topped credenza with a gilded mirror that has been placed in the front hallway.

We received furniture that belonged to Wilfred and Doras Parker that was donated by their daughter, Susannah Sinard. (Wilfred and Doras had lived in Dixboro before moving to Ohio.) An 1880s settee, lady's chair, gentleman's chair and a picture of a lady in a large hat are located in the Milliman Parlor. An 1880's marble topped credenza with a gilded mirror is in the front hall.



The marble topped table and ice cream accessories from the John Goodsman Candyland Confectionery.

A red velvet side chair is in the bedroom. The furniture is beautiful and fits the age and style of our Victorian House Museum.

A marble topped table and ice cream accessories from the John Goodsman's Candyland Confectionery are displayed in the kitchen. These came from grandson James Goodsman. The shop was located at 106 W. Michigan, now the Visitors and Convention Bureau office. We also have photographs of the 1920s shop on display.

A display of Presidential campaign buttons is featured in the Library. We are missing buttons from 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2016. If you have campaign buttons from those years we would appreciate very much if you would donate so we can complete our collection.

Welcome to new docents Alexandra Boughton and Nancy Balogh! You can also join this "3-hour a month" group by calling 734-482-4990. Training is provided.

A huge thank you to all of those who helped with our preparation for the 2016 Ypsilanti Heritage Festival.

A Memoir of *Robert "Bob" Schrepper* and His War Horse

BY JOAN SCHREPPER LEININGER

1st Lieutenant Robert Schrepper on his "war horse" that served with him in the Mexican Expedition and in World War I in France. Robert is buried in St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Ypsilanti and the "war horse" probably rests somewhere in France.



I am 92 years old and the daughter of Bob and Irene Schrepper who lived for sixty-five years in the home they built at 929 Pearl Street, a historic home which has been on the Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour. I would like to share their story, especially about Bob and his "war horse."

Bob and Irene, both born at the end of the nineteenth century, grew up in Ypsilanti. They met at her mother, Anna Stuart's, boarding house after he returned from World War I. Several years later they married and were friends of the Quirks, "Bing" Browns, Lloyd Olds, and the Silkworths and the Clearys. They were also charter members of the Washtenaw Country Club and St. John's Catholic Church.

However, before they met when Bob was only nineteen, Bob rode a horse in the National Guard Cavalry when it was called up to Calumet Michigan because of the miners' strikes. On Christmas Eve of 1913 at a childrens' party upstairs at the Italian Hall, someone yelled "**FIRE,**" and people were killed by trampling, rushing to escape. Bob

witnessed the horror which he never forgot.

Following the Calumet tragedy, Bob and his horse went with General Pershing's forces "chasing Pancho Villa" in the Mexican Border Expedition. After Mexico, Bob and his mare were sent to France with the 42nd Division Signal Corps in World War I. He was a 1st Lieutenant in charge of a company, and his Mess Sergeant was his father, Charles Schrepper, who had been a cook in Ypsilanti. "Best mess in the Army," Bob would say.

In France, laying wires in the front line trenches, Bob had no need for a horse, so his mare was taken away. One day at a railroad crossing, a train with box-cars full of horses went by, and Bob let out a special whistle which his horse knew. At that sound, one horse reared up as the train roared by.... That was the last Bob saw of his "war horse" who had traveled so far from Michigan with him.

When the war was over and Bob came home, he had a complete nervous breakdown from the horrors he had seen. He was still a young man, in his twenties, but had claustrophobia for the rest of his life. He came home to Ypsilanti, became an electrician, then an electrical contractor. That is when he met Irene Stuart at her mother Anna's boarding house. They were married and built their home on Pearl Street in 1924.



Bob and Irene Schrepper lived for sixty-five years in the home they built at 929 Pearl Street in 1924.



Bob and Irene Schrepper at St. John's Catholic Church in Ypsilanti on their wedding day in 1922.



Joan Schrepper was born in 1924 at her parent's home at 929 Pearl Street.



Bob and Irene Schrepper in the 1950's at their home on Pearl Street in Ypsilanti.

That is the year I was born, and my sister Janet was born four years later. Bob passed away peacefully in his sleep at 929 Pearl Street at the age of 81. Janet died at age thirteen, and Irene lived to be two months short of 90. She died at the Gilbert Residence in Ypsilanti in 1989. They, with my sister Janet and Grandmother Anna Stuart are all buried in Ypsilanti. Grandpa Charlie Schrepper is buried in Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D. C.

I thought that Bob and Irene's story was too interesting not to be told. Frankly, I think it is much more dramatic than the one told in the stage play "The War Horse!" In 2014 my family donated the following to the Ypsilanti Historical Society Museum; Bob Schrepper's complete World War I uniform; his officer's coat; officer's trunk; a wide-angle photograph of the Ypsilanti Company of the 42nd Division Signal Corps containing photos of both Robert and Charles Schrepper and signatures of all the soldiers in the photograph. In addition, I donated an exquisite chiffon "flapper" dress from the twenties that had belonged to Irene Stuart Schrepper. Their home at 929 Pearl Street is still beautiful, with just two owners in nearly a century.



Joan Schrepper graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1937 and from Michigan State Normal College in 1945.



Joan Schrepper Leininger with John Dawson at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum in 2012.

(Joan Schrepper Leininger is now 92 years old and resides in West Bloomfield, Michigan. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1937 and from Michigan State Normal College in 1945. She taught for two years and then married Edward Leininger of Ypsilanti. They had three children, Julie, Bob and Gayle and then Joan returned to teaching in 1962 and earned an MA from Wayne State University in 1966. In 1966 she became a professor at the newly opened Oakland Community College. In 1967 when Orchard Ridge Campus opened in Farmington Hills, she started the Speech Communication Department there and coached Forensics. She retired from Oakland Community College in 1990.)



Joan Schrepper Leininger still going strong at 92.



BOMBER RESTAURANT
Serving the Best Home Cooked Meals since 1936

featured on the
Food Network
"Top Five Over Indulgences"
for having the biggest breakfast at the best price (Bomber Breakfast)

serving the famous
BOMBER BREAKFAST

- 4 eggs
- 1½ pounds hash browns
- 1 pound breakfast meat
- Toast

2006
Small Business of the Year
Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce

Open daily 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
306 East Michigan Ave. - Ypsilanti, MI
(734) 482-0550

Johanna McCoy, Proprietor



ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Thursday, December 8, 7:30 pm

Towsley Auditorium, WCC

free



P.O. Box 980524 • Ypsilanti 48198

734-481-9285

www.YpsiCommChoir.org

ypsiCommchoir@gmail.com

The Cornwell House

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ

This is another installment in the series that I have been writing for several years about the amazing people and homes of River Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan, which I call "The River Street Saga."

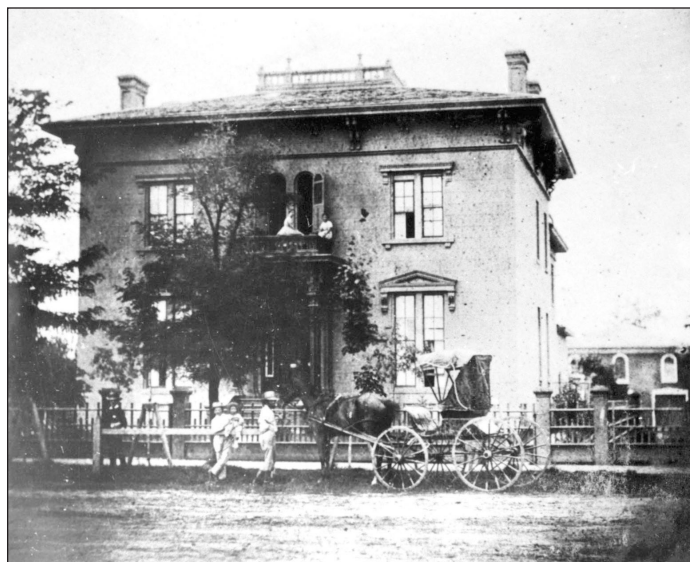
Can homes have souls, near death experiences and then be reborn? If the brick mansion at 223 North River Street in Ypsilanti could talk, the answer it would give would be a resounding "yes!" This mansion



Harriet Nichols Cornwell was 23 years old when her oldest son, Clark Cornwell, was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan on October 6, 1843.

was built by a wealthy, ambitious, and successful man, Bernard C. Whittemore. He made his mark in history as the Treasurer of the state of Michigan from 1850-1854. Shortly after his term expired in 1856, Whittemore purchased land on River Street on a bluff high above the Huron River from pioneer land developer Mark Norris, along with additional land from William Allen. Unfortunately, Whittemore did not live long enough to really enjoy his dream home, as he died on January 19, 1857. The house and land became part of his estate, and must have been completed by the time of his death. He mentions them in his will as *"the land bought of Mark Norris situated on the west side of River Street together with the brick dwelling house lately erected by me thereon."* His widow Caroline inherited the beautiful home and an estate worth about \$30,000 – a fortune in those days.

In the picture of the home in this article, taken about 1859, it is said that his family can be seen on the balcony above the entrance. It looks like a pleasant place to live or visit and truly a home where good memories are made. An ornate barn can be seen at the rear of the home. A lovely wooden



The mansion at 223 North River Street in Ypsilanti built by Bernard C. Whittemore.

fence served to define the property and protect the yard from wandering pigs and dogs in the pioneer settlement of Ypsilanti. Although the house looks square in structure, its beauty is enhanced by a bold frieze at the roof line supported by heavy carved brackets. An ornamental fence crowned the top of the structure with another in the middle of the roof. The door is graced by side lights and large windows which are the same size as the central door and add to the pleasant appearance. Directly above these windows and the door are two other windows. All of the windows have decorative stone trim that make the home look very inviting. When the house was built, a little balcony above the door provided a viewing-spot for residents and guests to watch the carriages pass by on River Street. Four brick chimneys added to the symmetry of the house.

The interior of this opulent home was also symmetrical with fireplaces in the large corner rooms, which were accessed by a central hall accented by a black walnut banister and stair case. Walls of the home were built 18 inches thick, and along with the high ceilings worked together to keep the home cool in the summer and toasty in the winter. This tru-



Clark Cornwell served as the Mayor of Ypsilanti, as a school commissioner and as a member of the Ypsilanti City Council. In addition he served as vice president of the Harris Paper Company in Detroit, president of the Cornwell Manufacturing Company, president of the Jackson Pulp Company, president of the Ypsilanti Paper Company, and treasurer of the Birkett Manufacturing Company.

ly was a home built for comfort and privilege.

The home remained in the Whittemore family until 1866 when it was purchased by a wealthy industrialist named Wells Burt. Burt made his fortune by investing in iron mines. His brother Austin Burt is credited with discovering iron ore in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. When Wells Burt moved to Detroit in 1881, the mansion was sold to Clara Cornwell, wife of Clark Cornwell.

Clark Cornwell was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan on October 6, 1843, the oldest son of Cornelius and Harriet Nichols Cornwell who were both 23 years old when Clark was born. Cornelius was born in Connecticut and like many others from the eastern United

States, came west with his parents to seek his fortune in the new territory of Michigan. He was one of the few who not only "seeked" but "found" wealth in this wilderness. Some of the many business ventures he participated in are described by Daniel J. Quirk in an article he wrote "The History of Paper Making in Washtenaw County" pub-

lished in the August 1973 issue of The Gleanings, "The first mill in Ypsilanti was the Cornwell & Company's Paper Company, which was organized in 1855 or 1856...In 1874 Cornelius Cornwell, his son Clark, and brothers erected a paper mill one and a half miles above the Peninsular Mills, and in that day it was acclaimed the most extensive paper mill in the state." The article goes on to list six other paper mills built and operated by the family and it is interesting to note that five of them were destroyed by fires. It is not surprising then to learn that the Cornwell family donated \$1,000 to the town of Ypsilanti which was used to purchase the first fire engine in 1873 and organize the first volunteer fire department, known as the "Cornwell Company." This was after



In 1874 Cornelius Cornwell, his son Clark, and brothers erected a paper mill one and a half miles above the Peninsular Mills, and in that day it was acclaimed the most extensive paper mill in the state.

Cueter Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram Proudly Supports Ypsilanti Historical Society

CUETER



Jeep

DODGE



1-800-NEW-CARS • cueter.com

FREE VIP PACKAGE

- *Employee Purchase Pricing
- *Preferred Pricing on All Pre-Owned
- *Up to 12 lube, oil and filter changes
- *Rental Car Coverage of \$35 per day

- *Free Car Wash With Every Service Visit
- *Free Drop Off & Pick Up Shuttle Service
- *10% Of Any Parts or Service Work not covered by warranty.

when you mention this ad. Call for complete details

1-800-639-2277 * 2448 Washtenaw Ave Ypsilanti 48197



Cornelius Cornwell died in his mansion on December 13, 1894.

experiencing two fires in one of their mills in two years.

Clark and Clara Elizabeth Taylor Cornwell, new owners of the mansion at 223 River Street, had been married in Ypsilanti in

the year 1864. He was 23 and she was 21. Between 1867 and 1878 they had four children. Prior to their move to the mansion on River Street, they had lived at the northwest corner of North Huron Street and Washtenaw Avenue. Clark worked with his father and brothers running the paper and pulp mills. He is also credited with bringing the telephone to Ypsilanti. The young man had one installed in his home in the year 1878 and marveled that from his house he could communicate with two of the family mills – the one on Geddes and another at Lowell, to the northwest of Ypsilanti.

In an article published in the Ypsilanti Commercial newspaper on March 2, 1878, we read *"The other day we were in Cornwell & Co.'s paper office, in this city and witnessed the wondrous power of the telephone. Mr. Cornwell held a conversation with the mill at Lowell, giving his orders verbally and receiving immediate audible replies. Great is the telephone."*

Clark was instrumental in pushing for Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor to have their own exchange and this was completed by 1881, the year that the family moved to River Street. In order to help citizens who had never used a telephone, the Ypsilanti Commercial provided instructions in the July 30, 1881 edition. Telephones in those days were hand cranked and wooden with an ear piece, mouth piece and two bells mounted to the wooden box.

To call the Central Office, ring the Bell twice, then take down the Hand

Telephone and press it firmly against the ear, and wait at least one minute before repeating the signal: when answered, tell the Central Office what is wanted, and hold the Hand Telephone to the ear until answered by the party asked for." This wonder soon caught on and by 1911 over 1000 residents of Ypsilanti subscribed to this service!

While Clark and Clara Cornwell and their children enjoyed living in the beautiful mansion on the river, Clark's father and his second wife Eliza Dean Meade Cornwell built an even grander dwelling across the river at 201 North Huron Street. Cornelius and his first wife Harriet were divorced in about 1872 after over 30 years of marriage. In 1875 he married again and in 1877 they welcomed a daughter Cora into their family. Their new home was said to be the largest brick home built between Detroit and Chicago.

Cornelius died in his mansion on December 13, 1894. His sons continued running the paper companies.

Clark died less than 10 years later on May 28, 1903. We learn a lot about his life in his obituary published in the local paper. His death was attributed to "paralysis", which probably referred to a stroke, and he had been unable to

work for the prior two years. Among his accomplishments were being the Mayor of Ypsilanti, and nearly being elected to the state senate. Clark had been a school commissioner and a city council member as well. He served as vice president of the Harris Paper Company in Detroit and president of the Cornwell Manufacturing Company, president of the Jackson Pulp Company, president of the Ypsilanti Paper Company, and treasurer of the Birkett Manufacturing Company. In addition, he held interest in the Elliott Paper Company of Chicago, prior to his two-year illness and death.

He was credited with having "rugged honesty" and being "a strong business man" with "good character." His widow Clara and three sons, two of them involved in the Cornwell paper business, survived him. Clara continued to live in the house until her death in 1908 when the family home was inherited by their son William.

After William sold it, the once stately home went through several owners and the dream house of a man who was once state treasurer eventually became a money making machine, having been divided into eleven cramped apartments and "near death"



Clark Cornwell is credited with bringing the telephone to Ypsilanti. The young man had one installed in his home in the year 1878 and marveled that from his house he could communicate with two of the family mills – the one on Geddes and another at Lowell.



The Cornwell mansion at 201 North Huron Street survived two fires.

by neglect. River Street was no longer the boulevard of the wealthy and influential citizens of Ypsilanti such as the Cornwell and Norris families, but instead the street of downtrodden masses living in cramped apartments. Once elegant homes and large rooms were divided again and again to fit the most tenants into the smallest spaces. By the time this home was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. William Edmunds and Kenneth Leighton in 1967, it had been divided into 11 apartments and 22 rooms.

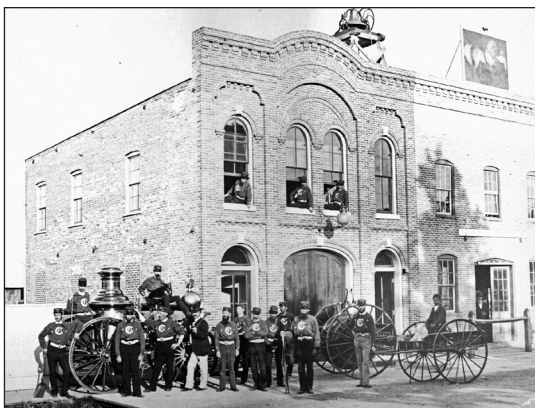
From this near death experience, 223 River Street was re-born! Through hard work, determination, imagination, good craftsmanship, and financial investment, the house was restored to excellent condition. It still provides rental housing for a few families in an elegant and tasteful setting, with a backyard facing the meandering Huron River. Unfortunately, the curse of the Cornwell family – FIRE – later dam-

aged this beautiful home, but by December, 2002 the Edmunds Family invited a grateful community to an open house to again enjoy and celebrate the rebirth of this elegant and charming structure which provided another jewel on the crown of River Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan. If you walk or drive down River Street, you can still see the carriage step proclaiming the

name "Cornwell" in front of this beautiful mansion, and if you use your imagination you may experience the positive energy emitting from the soul of the house, and if you continue down River Street to Highland

Cemetery you can pay homage to Cornwell family members resting in peace there, forever, on River Street.

(Jan Anschuetz is a local history buff and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



The Cornwell family donated \$1,000 to the town of Ypsilanti in 1873 to purchase the first fire engine and organize the first volunteer fire department known as the "Cornwell Company."

Historic Depot Town



Linda French
Owner

**56 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**

Phone: (734) 483-1035
Fax: (734) 483-1490
ladyfrench@aol.com
www.sidetrackbarandgrill.com

GENE BUTMAN FORD SALES



Ken Butman, Owner

**2105 Washtenaw Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Tel: 734-482-8581
Fax: 734-482-0653

The Minzeys Move to Ypsilanti

BY JACK D. MINZEY

I was born and raised in Flint, Michigan. My dad worked for General Motors as did all of my uncles. All of them worked on the assembly line. The really tough times for them were in the 1930's during the Great Depression. In those years, General Motors produced cars for six months and had enough to stock pile so that they could close their plants for six months. There was no unemployment insurance or worker's compensation so all the workers had to find other jobs. Many of these jobs were mundane, and it often meant that people like my mother had to work as char women, cleaning houses and doing other peoples laundry, or work in restaurants or other menial tasks. During those years, my family, along with many other General Motors families, would travel to Traverse City to pick cherries as a way of earning a living. There was welfare, but at that time, no self respecting man would submit his family to the shame that accompanied such assistance. Factory work was neither glamorous nor fulfilling, and times were very difficult.

In the late 1930s, the workers attempted to unionize. The first battle was with the company, and it was quite violent. General Motors brought in goons from Chicago to beat up the workers and break the strike. I remember my father being beaten several times. The ultimate was the sit down strike in which the workers occupied the factories and refused to leave. Eventually, the governor brought in the National Guard to restore order. I remember that my public school building was used to quarter the soldiers. Eventually, the strikers won, but that was not the end of the struggle. There then began a fight between the AFL (American Federation of Labor) and the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) to see which union would be the auto workers labor union. That was also violence, but the situation was finally settled by uniting the two into the UAW (United Auto Workers).

For our family, life was fairly stable, if not enriching, from that point on. My dad worked at Fisher Body, and we lived the life of a typical factory worker. We never had enough money to own a home or buy a new car, but since everyone else was in the same boat, we thought things were fine. I am sure that much of our life would look like poverty to-



Jack J. Minzey came to Ypsilanti to work in the bomber plant in 1942.



Floy Minzey moved to Ypsilanti in 1943 and worked on the assembly line in the bomber plant.

day, but we always considered ourselves lucky and thought of ourselves as middle class.

Everything went well until December 7, 1941. On that day, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and the lives of the factory workers in Flint were turned upside down. General Motors stopped production of cars in order to respond to the government's request to produce war goods. In Flint, that was

to be a tank. Plans were made to build a new plant in Grand Blanc. The problem was that it was estimated to be about six months before the workers would be back to work.

We did not have the means to sustain ourselves for that long. My father started looking for other employment and learned that they were hiring at a new bomber plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan. We had never heard of that city before, and of course, Michigan State Normal College was unknown to us. My dad applied and was hired and began work at the plant in 1942. That year, I came to visit my dad in Ypsi. I took the bus which ran from Flint to Detroit but went through Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. My instructions were to get off the bus at the water tower. My dad had a room on Summit Street which was just two doors from the water tower.

On my first visit to Ypsi, I was very impressed. When you entered the city on Washtenaw Avenue, you experienced a two lane road, lined by mammoth trees which arched over the road. It was almost like entering a tunnel. On both sides of the road were beautiful houses with long front lawns, and all the yards were well manicured. The next sight was the campus of the college. It was impressive. On my first night in Ypsi, I experienced the city's first air raid drill. Everyone was to make certain that their window shades were drawn, and no light escaped. Evidently some light was coming from my window because an air raid warden, with his very special helmet, knocked on our door and reminded me to adjust the shade.

The following summer, we moved to Ypsilanti (1943). It was a difficult adjustment. I believe I can sympathize with the inhabitants in Ypsilanti who saw their quaint little community being invaded by thousands of outsiders from all over the country and challenging the peace and tranquility

that they had enjoyed. However, for the outsiders, it was a difficult alteration. For me personally, I was a high school sophomore and that was not an ideal time to transfer to another high school. In addition, the people in Ypsilanti were less than hospitable, and on almost every occasion, they made you feel unwelcome. One example was

membership in the American Legion. My Father had fought in WWI and had served in France. He had been a member of the American Legion in Flint for 23 years. When he applied for membership in the American Legion in Ypsilanti, he was told that they had a full compliment and could not take any new members. In fairness, I need to



Jack J. Minzey with his wife Floy cleaning the sidewalk outside the Lorenz Kisor home on Huron Street.

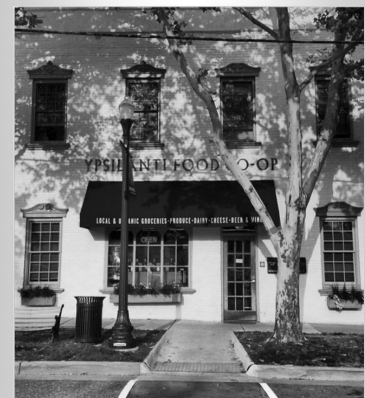


Neighborhood Grocery Store

Offering:

Locally-made bread,
fresh produce,
whole organic foods,
Deli-made organic
sandwiches & soups,
local beer & wine,
dairy and meat,
and hundreds of
bulk herbs, spices, &
other foods!

Open 9 to 9 Daily



312 N River St, Ypsilanti
734-483-1520

in charming Depot Town

☎ Open to the Public ☎
www.ypsifoodcoop.org



Jack Minzey with his mother Floy outside the Lorenz Kisor home on Huron Street across from the American Legion.

say that I was sponsored by that same Legion Post for Boy's State when I was a junior in high school, and the Legion was very helpful to my mother when my father passed away.

It was rumored that the city council had put a freeze on new housing. Whether that was true or not, most of the newcomers had to find residence in Ypsilanti Township. At Willow Run, they built a gigantic dormitory which also provided food service. Also, they created Willow Village which consisted of hundreds of pre-fab trailers set on concrete slabs. For whatever reason, my dad decided to remain in the city. The problem was that there were not any houses available, only rooms. My dad and I lived in a room at the home of Miss Hazel Davis who was a fourth grade teacher at the Roosevelt Laboratory School. Her house was on Sheridan Street. We shared our room with another man. The room had two beds, and my dad and I shared one bed. This worked out because he worked nights. My mother was in a room over on Wallace Blvd. The other

member of our family, my sister, had a room on Grant Street. All three of them worked nights at the Bomber Plant. My dad was a rigger and steam fitter. My mother worked on the assembly line, and my sister was a crane operator. I believe she might have been the only female crane operator at the plant.

Obviously, we had no family life. I was left unsupervised every evening and night, and most of the time, because of motor pool sharing, I had a car to drive. The only time that we actually could get together was for certain meals. On those occasions, we ate our meals at McKenny Union. Also, since my family was working seven days a week, we did not get to do anything together on weekends.

In 1944, a company called Resume and Silloway built housing at Pittsfield Village. This was across the road from the current Arbor Land. However, at that time there was nothing in the way of businesses between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. There were a couple of houses along the road, but for the most part, the area was vacant. Thus, Pittsfield Village was pretty much in the country. We were the third family to rent one of the units. The units were built in two, four and six apartment configurations. We were in a four apartment unit. Our apart-

ment had about 1,000 feet of living space. It had a kitchen, dining nook, front room and steps up to the bedrooms and bath. Our unit had three bedrooms. There was also a full basement.

All of the maintenance was handled by the company. They employed me for one summer. I did a little of everything. I mowed lawns, cleaned septic tanks, hauled junk, and did some minor repair. One of my main duties was to water the new trees. A professional nursery company had planted hundreds of trees throughout the project. One of my jobs was to make certain that the trees received water regularly. I had a dozen hoses, and I would



Jack Minzey with his sister Maxine on Huron Street after they had moved back into Ypsilanti.

spend several days moving the hoses from one tree to another. If you travel through that village today, you can still see some of the trees that were under my care.

One experience I had surprised me then and still does today. One day, the manager asked me to go to the police station and get a chauffeur's license. I was only 16 at the time. He then gave me bus money and directions to a dealership in Detroit which was holding a three ton truck which they had purchased. I took the Greyhound Bus to Detroit, found the right street car and ended up at the dealership. I had never driven a truck that large, but I had heard about "double clutching." There were not very many freeways at that time so I had to travel on a lot of surface streets. In any event, I got the truck back safely to Pittsfield Village, and the manager seemed to act as though it was no big deal.

In 1945, we moved back into Ypsi. We had learned of an apartment in the Lorenz Kisor home on Huron Street across from the American Legion. I lived there for the following five years while I finished high school and college at Michigan State Normal College. After the Bomber Plant closed, my father had the job of taking all of the machines out of the plant, packing them in cosmolene and sending them to Tennessee to be stored in caves. My parents continued to live there until my father's passing in 1955.

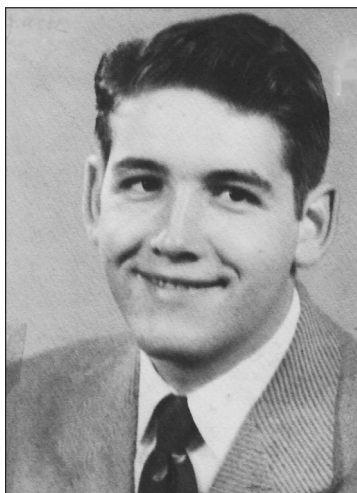
The amazing part of this story is that

the Minzey family, which had never been to Ann Arbor nor heard of Ypsilanti, lived here for thirteen years believing that they were immigrants to the community. In 1967, I returned to Ypsilanti as a Professor at Eastern Michigan University. At that time, I

was made aware that there were about twenty people buried at the cemetery on Stony Creek Road who had a name with the same spelling as mine. It took a few years of genealogical research to discover that they were not only related to me but that my great-great grandfather was the fifth person to settle in Augusta Township in 1837. And my grandfather, who had raised his family in Mesick, Michigan, actually lived six miles from where we lived on Huron Street in Ypsilanti until he was 21 years of age. Thus, the Minzey family, who were perceived as Ypsilanti outsiders for many years, was actually a pioneer family of Washtenaw County. Sometimes truth is

stranger than fiction.

(Dr. Jack Minzey received the Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State Normal College, the Master's Degree from the University of Michigan and the Doctor's Degree from Michigan State University. He worked for Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Education and finally Eastern Michigan University where he retired in 1992.)



Jack Minzey when he was a student at Michigan State Normal College.



Maxine Minzey in the mid 40s when she lived with her parents on Huron Street.

Antiques & Architectural Elements since 1974

Materials
Unlimited.com

RE use
design
store
cycle
purpose



present this ad for
20% off*
your purchase

2 W Michigan Ave Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734)483-6980 Tue-Sat 10-5 Sun 12-5

*Discount applied to regular priced items Check us out on f p

the
GILBERT
RESIDENCE

Assisted Living/Memory Care/Nursing

*"Our mission is
to continue a tradition of
excellence by
providing compassionate
and dignified care
for seniors
in our community."*

Please contact:
(734)482-9498 ext. 121
to schedule a tour.

203 S.Huron Street • Ypsilanti, MI
gilbertresidence.com



Non-Mystery of the Ypsilanti Glider Port

BY JAMES MANN

The Archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum has no acquisition budget, almost everything in the collection has been donated. Often the gift is from another historical society because the item(s) in their collection really belongs in the Ypsilanti archive. For this reason, Gary Packard of the Plymouth Historical Society, in 2009 mailed a file to the Archives containing information on the Ypsilanti Glider Port. "It is truly fascinating," wrote YHS Archivist Gerry Pety in the winter 2009 issue of the *Gleanings*, "and part of the hidden history of the area." The Ypsilanti Glider Port is truly part of the hidden history, because it never came into being.

The story of the Ypsilanti Glider Port begins in the 1920's, with Henry Ford and his village industry program. The idea of the village industry was based on traditional values, as Ford believed new communities "lacked the soul, commitment to place, and sense of tradition that would be found in existing villages." As part of this program, Ford planned to open a flax operation in Ypsilanti in the mid-1920's. The operation was projected to employ some 4,500 workers. Ford purchased land, dammed the Huron River, so the water formed what is now Ford Lake.

"The announcement of the new Ford textile industry stimulated a real estate boom because, as one real estate advertisement confidently predicted, 4,500 new jobs *"alone would require a city of 20,000 persons."* Speculators planted housing subdivisions covering much of eastern Ypsilanti Township, but then the Ford factory proposal fell through. Fifteen years later, *"...the subdivisions remained sparsely built and substandard, to plague officials planning for the bomber plant,"* wrote Sarah Jo Peterson in her book *Planning the Home Front: Building Bombers and Communities at Willow Run*.

By the end of the 1930's most of the land had fallen under the control of the Michigan State Land Board because of delinquent taxes. Because of the Great Depression, and the hard economic times that were the 1930's, the state of Michigan had no use for the land and no one interested in purchasing the property. At a state land auction held in February of 1940, some of the lots were sold at \$2.50 each. For this reason, in the spring of 1940, the State Land Board offered the land to the Township of Ypsilanti.

Township Treasurer Nelson Boutell sent a letter, dated September 16, 1940, to those who still owned land in the subdivision to explain what the township intended to do. The first paragraph reminded the property owner that the value of the property was the result of an unsound real estate pro-

The official tax records show that you have lots numbered 299-300-301 in Watsonia Park subdivision just east of Ypsilanti. Unfortunately this subdivision was part of an unsound real estate promotion back in the twenties. As you know, the land values in that vicinity have so severely declined that the State Land Board is now in possession of most of the property. At the State's Auction last spring some of the lots were sold off for as low as \$2.50 each.

Recently arrangements were completed for the turning over of almost the entire subdivision to the Township of Ypsilanti for airport purposes. This involves hundreds of lots and many acres of ground. Scattered here and there are still a few privately owned lots. Your's is one of them.

In order to have the property which the Township is taking over for airport purposes all in one solid area, we are asking you to trade your property for a parcel of land of similar size but better located than yours is. The mutual benefit to be derived from such a deal is apparent. You would be better off to be out of the airport and the Township would be better off to have your lots available as a part of the airport.

The State Land Board has given the Township the authority to make these trades for a limited time only. Therefore we urge your prompt consideration. The inclosed picture will give you an idea of the condition of your property better than words can describe it.

Please sign the inclosed form and return at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

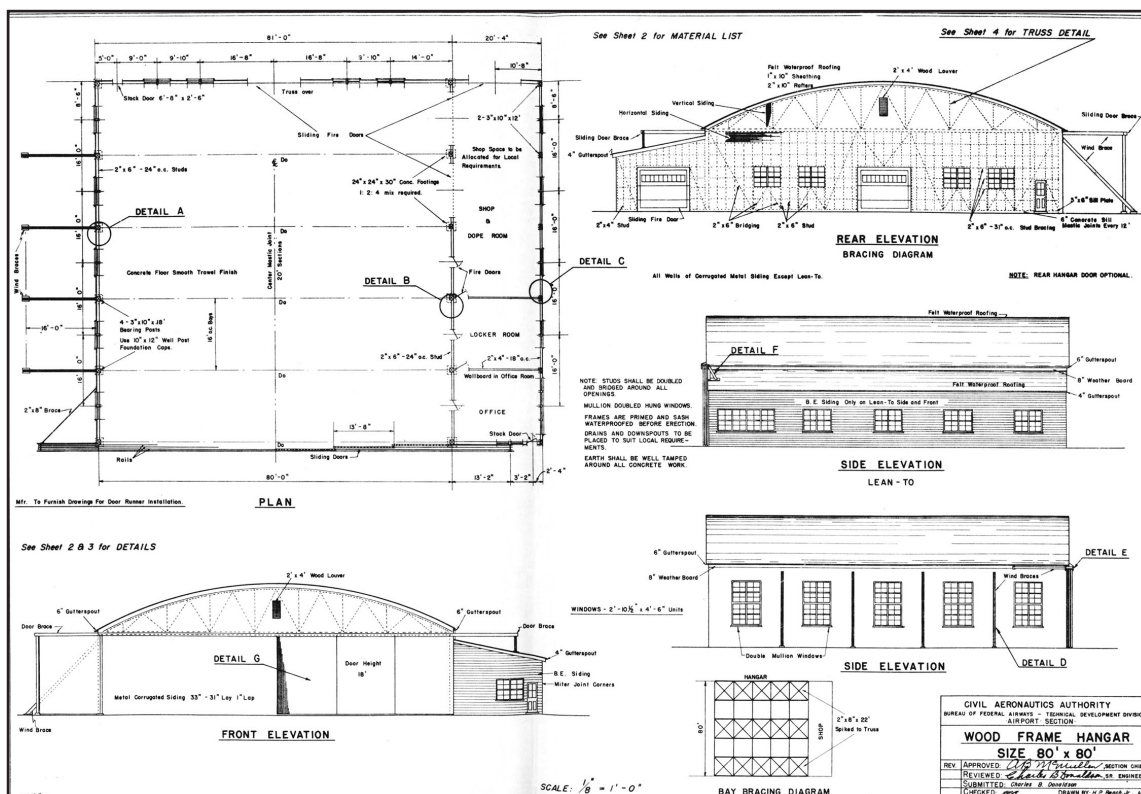
Nelson D. Boutell

Township Treasurer

The letter sent out by Township Treasurer Nelson Boutell requesting that property owners trade their lots for other lots in better locations.

motion in the twenties. The letter noted that property values had dropped severely to where lots had sold for as little as \$2.50. "Recently arrangements were completed for the turning over of almost the entire subdivision of the Township of Ypsilanti for airport purposes. This involves hundreds of lots and many acres of ground. Scattered here and there are still a few privately owned lots. Your's is one of them," the letter noted. "In order to have the property which the Township is taking over for airport purposes all in one solid area," the letter continued, "we are asking you to trade your property for a parcel of land of similar size but better located than yours is. The mutual benefit to be derived from such a deal is apparent. You would be better off to be out of the airport and the Township would be better off to have your lots available as a part of the airport."

The letter concluded with the information that the State Land Board had given the Township the authority to offer these trades for a limited time only. A photograph of the site was included with each letter. This was to show the then current condition of the site. The same photograph was enclosed with each letter. A form was enclosed with each letter, and the property owner was asked to sign and return the form at their earliest convenience. The proper-



The Civil Aeronautics Authority plans for an 80' by 80' Wood Frame Hangar which was to be built at the Glider Port.

ty owners for the most part complied, and the trades were made.

Ypsilanti Township received the deed to 1,000 lots of tax delinquent land from the State Land Board on Wednesday, December 4, 1940. Plans were in process for the use of the land as a glider field, at the corner of Wiard and Tyler Roads. This would provide enough space for a glider field of some 3,500 square feet. Still, some of the land remand in private hands.

"Private land owners held 175 lots in the glider field territory. The majority of these have been secured by the township. The State Land Board reserved 750 parcels of land in a subdivision adjacent to the glider port which they are selling to the township. These are to be used in trades with private individuals who own or did own the 175 lots. One of the largest trades negotiated was for 77 lots owned by (Ypsilanti) Mayor Ross K. Bower," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* Wednesday, December 4, 1940. "Negotiations," continued the

account, "are to be started to secure 37 owned by 10 persons. Henry Ford is the owner of one of these strips of land. The acquired land allows 3,500 foot runways and in some places nearly 4,000 foot. Tentative plans are to construct a hanger for 20 ships and to have the field graded and seeded."

Members of the Detroit Glider Council had informed the Township that they would abandon the Triangle Glider Port at Plymouth, which they operated, as soon as the one at Ypsilanti Township was completed. "The field has advantageous approaches in that ships have a mile entry line from the west and one-half mile from the north and east, according to Lyman Wiard, local glider enthusiast, who has been active in obtaining land for the post. Recent surveys indicated that the site is a good one for flying gliders due to the consistency of rising air currents called thermals, said Mr. Wiard. It is also ideal in case of emergency landings"

Ypsilanti Township Treasurer Nelson

Boutell informed the township board on the status of the glider port, at the annual meeting of the board on Monday, April 7, 1941. "He said that all but a few lots are now in possession of the township, mostly by contribution from the state, some by trading other state given lots and a few by purchase. Only a few lots have not yet been deeded and it may be necessary to use a condemnation proceeding for these, Mr. Boutell stated. Such proceedings will probably be begun in about ten days. There will be 340 acres in the tract," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press*, of Tuesday, April 18, 1941.

"At the end of ten years," the account continued, "by state law, the land may be sold. It's use as a glider port may bring a sum into the township treasury as an offer of \$1,200 yearly has already been made, Mr. Boutell pointed out. The township would control the tract, and could fit a part of it for public recreation, such as tennis and baseball." Mr. Boutell in-

formed the board that the University of Michigan had offered to clear and survey the land as a project for its engineering students. The Ford Motor Company, he told the board, had offered tractors for use in plowing and leveling the site. Further, he added, fireproof hangers for the gliders could be built with WPA labor.

The work of clearing the field was in process on the weekend of May 3rd and 4th, 1941, when the Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored a clean-up bee at the glider port. *"Store clerks and other 'white collar' workers became woodsmen and concrete breaking crews for the two days as they cut down trees, sawed up the wood and broke up sidewalks in the glider port at Wiard and Tyler Rds."* reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Monday, May 5, 1941.

A crew hauled the concrete off to one side, which was then removed by truck. Stumps were removed by a dynamite crew, and others oversaw the burning of the grass. The 75 men and 12 women were served refreshments of sandwiches and soft drinks.

"An unexpected thrill was provided when Theodore Bellak of Chelsea made the first landing to be completed on the new field Sunday. Mr. Bellak, holder of the world's record for over-water gliding over Lake Michigan last summer, was flying a light plane, and spectators held their breaths as he cleared by only ten feet dynamite charges which



The picture sent out with the Township Treasurer Nelson Boutell with the letter in which he stated: "The enclosed picture will give you an idea of the condition of your property better than words can describe it."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Ypsilanti Historical Society, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Type of Membership:

		New	Renewal
Single	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please make check payable
to the **Ypsilanti Historical Society**
and mail to:

Ypsilanti Historical Society
220 North Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

were planted as part of stump removal work." it noted.

The first to land a glider at the glider port was Elmer Meeker, of Detroit, who landed his Franklin glider on Monday, May 12, 1941. He said conditions over the port were very good.

"Work at the glider port is progressing nicely," reported The Ypsilanti Daily News of Monday, May 12, 1941, "and plowing is expected to be started within the week. There are still several trees to be dragged out and many of the sidewalks remain to be removed. Local residents may have the stone for rock gardens and flag stones, Mr. Wiard says."

Work on the field continued into August when the site was to be plowed, further stumps were to be removed and four houses were to be razed. *"Plowed surfaces will be smoothed and reseeded. Grass and branches are being burned and superfluous trees cut. Ten acres of woods on the southwest end of the glider port will be left intact for development as a picnic ground," noted The Ypsilanti Daily Press of Thursday, August 14, 1941.*

There the story ends as there are no further newspaper reports of the glider port. Work on the glider port most likely continued, at least into December of 1941, when the United States entered the Second World War. The declaration of war was followed by the rationing of gas, rubber, wood and other vital materials. Another factor was the building of the Willow Run Bomber Plant to the north of the glider port. Construction on the plant had started in early 1941, and was progressing

The first to land a glider at the glider port was Elmer Meeker, of Detroit, who landed his Franklin glider on Monday, May 12, 1941.

while the glider port was being prepared. The opening of the plant at Willow Run brought with it, the housing crisis and the need for places where the workers could live. An expressway was built just north of the glider port site, so workers could drive from Detroit to the Bomber plant and back each day. The need for housing near the plant, such as where the glider port was, was also a problem.

The glider port was a casualty of the war.

(James Mann is a local historian and author, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



**Barr,
Anhut &
Associates,
P.C.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
105 Pearl Street
Ypsilanti MI 48197
734-481-1234

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST

Karl A. Barr, J.D.

kbarr@barrlawfirm.com

John M. Barr, J.D.

jbarr@barrlawfirm.com

Wills, Estate Planning, Probate
Real Estate, Business, Family Law
Contracts, Municipal Law
Litigation in all courts

**Highest "AV" Peer Rating
Named "Super Lawyer"**

• Since 1959.

Two Convenient Locations To Serve Your Needs



STARK FUNERAL SERVICE
MOORE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Stark Funeral Service
Moore Memorial Chapel
101 South Washington St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 482-4900



Ochalek-Stark Funeral Service
218 East Main Street
Milan, MI 48160
(734) 439-1100



Ypsilanti Animal Clinic. P.C.

37 Ecorse Road at Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48198

Telephone: (734) 485-1622

Website: www.ypsivet.com



Clinic Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Doctor's Hours: By Appointment

Gerald Glencer, D.V.M.

Peter Kunoff, D.V.M.

The Ypsi Alehouse Opens in the Historic Centennial Center Building

BY JAMES MANN

The Ypsi Alehouse: David Roberts, after working for General Motors for more than two decades, was looking for a new challenge. His daughter's father in law, Ted Badgerow - a long time craft beer brewer, just happened to be looking for the same thing at the same time. What resulted was the opening of the Ypsi Alehouse on December 29, 2015. The Alehouse is one of more than 200 breweries in the State of Michigan and brews under the name of Mishigama Craft Brewing. Shortly after opening the Ypsi Alehouse was voted "Best New Bar" by the Metro Times of Detroit.

The Ypsi Alehouse opened in the historic Centennial Center Building located at 124 Pearl Street. The Alehouse features English gastropub and Italian Osteria food with an emphasis on fresh and local ingredients and small-batch beers. The Alehouse brewer, Ted Badgerow, was the first small-batch brewer in Michigan when he owned the Real Ale Company in Chelsea. The Real Ale Company was written up in the July 25, 1983 issue of Time Magazine. The emphasis in the article was on the expansion of microbreweries and questions were raised in the article on whether they would survive.

The Alehouse Chef, Mary Potts, previously served as the youngest firefighter in the country and took second in the world in her judo weight class. She spent several months in Europe and perfected what is described on the Alehouse menu as "English gastropub with an Italian Osteria." Louis Meldman, writing in the June 2016 issue of "Current Magazine - Best of Washtenaw" stated: "I had the best chili that I have ever tasted. My wife and son were blown away by the Duke Burgers on fresh brioche buns with zip sauce, marrow butter and Gorgonzola."

There is a busy schedule at the Alehouse with a wide variety of entertainment and events. There is live acoustic music on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons with an "Open Mike Night" scheduled for Thursday nights. The Alehouse hosts all kinds of events from wedding rehearsal dinners, travel conventions and Books Over Beer to trivia sessions.

History of the Centennial Center Building: Ypsilanti was once known for the quality of its hotels and taverns, but by 1920 only the Hawkins House remained, and its glory days were long past. That same year the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce, later the Chamber of Commerce, was founded,



The Ypsi Alehouse opened in Ypsilanti on December 29, 2015. Shortly after opening the Ypsi Alehouse was voted "Best New Bar" by the Metro Times of Detroit.

and asked its members what the board should do for the city as a whole. The most popular project brought up was the erection of a new hotel.

"An option was secured on the property at the corner of Washington and Pearl Street," wrote Harvey Colburn in The Story of Ypsilanti, "...a part of the old Lambie property, and an agreement entered into for the erection of the building. In February of 1922, a campaign was begun for the sale of the stock among the citizens of Ypsilanti, by which over \$200,000 of the capital was secured." The significant feature of this sale was the emphasis not upon anticipated dividends but upon unselfish devotion to the interests of the city. "It was carried out to success by the untiring service of one hundred and forty volunteer workers who secured six hundred and fifty separate subscriptions. The response of the citizens was enthusiastic, as indicated by the large number of subscriptions and the fact that many blocks of

two shares of one hundred dollars each were sold to people of moderate means."

Construction at 124 Pearl Street began in April of 1922, and was completed in December of the same year. The architects were H. L. Stevens & Co., who were familiar with hotel construction. The total cost of construction was \$207,500, with a total capital stock of \$250,000. The grand opening of the hotel was celebrated on New Years Eve, with a party at which three hundred guests were invited. The doors were opened for public inspection the next day.

"It is doubtful if any enterprise has even been undertaken in Ypsilanti which has concerned so any people and awakened such general pride, as the new Huron Hotel," noted The Daily Ypsilanti Press of Monday, January 1, 1923. "It is so home-like, so intimately comfortable that it seems to extend to visitors the hospitality of a genuine

Ypsilanti home. One is conscious of this immediately upon entering the Gothic doorway that admits into the corridor leading to the lobby. Upon entering, one faces the desk where every modern appliance promotes the easy dispatch of one's business. There is a chart giving a detailed description of the resources of every room, at a glance it is apparent how many rooms are as yet unoccupied. There are racks for keys; a switchboard and two telephones booths."

"The glimpse afforded from the lobby of the coffee shop," reported The Daily Ypsilanti Press, "...which also may be approached from Washington Street, is so inviting that this feature of the hotel is certain to receive an early inspection. One comes back to it later as to the gem of the whole building. It is so frankly charming, so captivating in its rather daring color arrangement that one returns to be again exhilarated by its charm. Black and orange and gold are the prevailing colors. The ta-



Ted Badgerow was the first small-batch brewer in Michigan when he owned the Real Ale Company in Chelsea.

Delux Rental

Your Hometown Rental
Since 1966

Call Delux Rental for your equipment needs and we will give you \$5.00 off your first rental over \$50.00.

(Must present this ad)



Equipment Rental

- * Bobcats/Front Loaders
- * Compact Loaders
- * Landscape Equipment
- * Pressure Washers
- * Generators
- * Water Restoration
- * Plumbing Snakes
- * Air Compressors
- * Trenchers

DeluxRentalonline.com

**Delux Rental
2090 S. Congress
Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

734-483-2312

deluxrental@gmail.com



The original Huron Hotel under construction in 1922.

bles are shining black as well as the chairs and are picked out with a bit of orange. The walls are black about a third of the way up, then golden, then are decorated with a frieze in black."

"The kitchen was east of the coffee shop, and had every modern convenience of the day. From the kitchen a corridor leads to the two dining rooms. In one 54 persons could be seated and in the other 150 could be accommodated. The bedroom furniture is walnut, as in the rest of the hotel, and shows the simple, strong designs which are deservedly popular at this time," noted the account, "All the pieces are interchangeable. A room may be arranged with a single bed; with twin beds, with a double bed; it may at will be converted into a sitting room; its proportions and its relationship to bathrooms permits this easy exchange of characters."

The first paying guest registered on January 1, 1923. He was Mr. H. J. Monroe, a salesman for a casket company. Over the years a number of famous persons stayed at the Huron Hotel, including Paavo Nurmi, opera singer Marian Anderson, Alvin Barkley, vice-president of the United States

under President Truman and Byron Nelson. The hotel accommodated the Navy and Marine bands as well as Big 10 football teams. Others who stayed at the hotel were in town to visit family, to deal with business matters or were just stopping here as they were on the way to some where else.

Additional stock was issued in November of 1925, to finance a two-story addition to the building. This was completed in 1926. The Huron Hotel was one of the few hotels in Michigan that did not declare bankruptcy during the Great Depression of the 1930's. A few made the hotel their home, as did Gertrude and her sister Ada Woodard, who moved into the hotel in 1933. The two had lived their lives up to that time in the home they had been born in. They would live the rest of their lives in the Huron. Ada died in 1955, at the age of 95. Her younger sister Gertrude died at the age of 96 in 1966. She had been a Librarian at the University of Michigan Law School. Over the years she had collected newspapers and left the papers in tall stacks in her room. She had collected and saved so many papers there was only a narrow pathway to walk from one spot to another.



The Huron Hotel with the two additional floors that were added in 1926.

Another who lived in the hotel for the rest of his life, was John Munson, President of the Michigan State Normal College, now Eastern Michigan University. He moved into the hotel when he was appointed president of the college in 1933, and stayed, living in his room, until his death in 1950. President Munson did not drive, so every morning during the school year he would walk up the hill to the campus. Another long time resident of the hotel was the Ypsilanti Men's Coffee Club, which began meeting in the coffee shop in the 1930's. The men would gather there every weekday morning at 8:00 a.m. and stay until 9:00 a.m.. The club continued to meet there into the 1960's, and then found another place to meet. The club continues to meet every weekday morning, but now the meetings are held at Biggby Coffee at 1510 Washtenaw Avenue in Ypsilanti.

The Huron Hotel enjoyed years of success after the Second World War, as Willow Run Airport was the major air terminal for Detroit and Southeast Michigan. Travelers and air crews, including pilots and stewardesses would spend the night here while waiting for their next flight. One day a man who was driving on Pearl Street in front of the hotel saw some of the stewardesses walk out the door of the building. The man was a little distracted and rear ended the car in front of him. The man in the car in front of him, an on-duty police officer in full uniform, got out of the police car and walked

over to speak to him. The man told the officer he was watching the stewardesses and not his driving. The officer said he understood, as he had been watching them too.

By 1960 the Huron Hotel was feeling the effect of competition from motels, which provided private baths, air conditioning, swimming pools, shops and modern decor. That year the Huron Hotel had a loss of \$34,701. Still, the hotel had a lot going for it. "The building is substantial and in excellent condition," reported The Ypsilanti Daily Press of Monday, January 30, 1961. "A decorator has been employed almost steadily keeping the walls freshly painted. New carpeting has been laid as needed. Furnishings have been kept up to date. The Huron actually is modern and attractive. It is well located. Of the 84 guest rooms 64 have private baths and air conditioning. Twenty three rooms have television. Four rooms on each floor do not have private baths, due to inability to provide economic water connections."

The hotel had just installed an automatic elevator, as guests only carried an overnight bag to their room. "Thus the guest will not feel constrained to tip for unnecessary service." The Huron Hotel was purchased by William Anhut on Friday the 13th of February, 1963. That year, the hotel had a loss of \$10,000. The year before, the hotel had a loss of \$42,000. Then in 1964 the hotel had a net profit of \$17,900, and in 1965 the hotel had a profit of \$23,098.

"William Anhut said 1965 was highlighted by the acquisition of a liquor license for the hotel, construction of a cocktail lounge, acquisition of property surrounding the Motor Inn, redecorating of a majority of the guest rooms, redecorating of the first floor and other improvements," reported The Ypsilanti Press of January 25, 1966. Anhut painted the walls and greeted guests at the dining room door. On one occasion, paying guests asked Anhut what there was to do in Ypsilanti on a Friday night. Anhut told them, they

could help paint the hotel. That night, the guests helped paint the dining room. Anhut later sold his interest in the Huron Hotel and others sought to restore the past glory. Gerard F. Elmer acquired the building in December of 1978, and originally intended to restore it for use as a hotel. That proved impractical, and the building, now renamed Centennial Center, was converted into office space instead. As the building was no longer a hotel, a new use had to be found for the ground floor space. This space became a new restaurant named Woodruffs Grove, and opened in May of 1980.

"The interior of the hotel's old dining room and bar area were completely gutted and rebuilt along a 1920's and 30's theme," reported The Ypsilanti Press of Sunday, May 4, 1980. The restaurant, which had seating for 125 persons, featured hamburgers, gourmet sandwiches, as well as chicken, ribs, steak and seafood. A fire that caused more than \$50,000 in damages broke out in the back office of the restaurant at about 5:00 a. m. on the morning of December 30, 1980, just months after it had opened. The back office where the fire started was apparently not connected to the sprinkler system. Heat from the fire caused water pipes to burst, which flooded a conference room and helped put out the blaze. The fire had apparently been set to cover a break-in at the restaurant. Still, it was clear that someone had broken into a cigarette machine and a cash register had been pried open. Woodruffs Grove soon reopened.

Elmer sold Woodruffs Grove to Roland and Patricia Cary in 1985. Cary acquired a liquor license for the restaurant in 1987. Because of health and other issues, Cary could not continue as owner of the restaurant, and Elmer resumed ownership in 1988. He intended for the restaurant to remain open, but liens on the liquor license made this difficult. He closed Woodruffs Grove six weeks later. Elmer died of cancer soon after.




Photo Courtesy of the Yankee Air Museum

Sharing the area's unique history with visitors from around the world.

ANN ARBOR
Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

Ypsi
REAL

VISITANNARBOR.ORG | YPSIREAL.COM



Store Hours:
Wed - Fri. 12:30 - 5:30 pm
Sat. 11:30 - 5:30 pm
Sun. 12:30 - 4:00 pm
Mon. (by appointment only)

In Depot Town, Artifact & Whimsy specializes in antique furniture, handmade crafts, vintage decor, antique purses and vintage accessories and clothing.

**25 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198**



Many activities are held at the Ypsi Alehouse including live acoustic music on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

After Woodruffs Grove the space on the ground floor was occupied by Buffalo Wild Wings and Korey's Krispy Krunchy Chicken. Then in 2015 David Roberts and Ted Badgerow signed a 42-month letter of intent to the lease the space and opened the Ypsi Alehouse on December 29, 2015. The Ypsi Alehouse has a warm friendly air about it, the kind of place where friends can sit together, while each has a beer and talk. This fits in with the historic setting of the Huron Hotel. After all, this is what the community wanted when the place opened in 1923.

(James Mann is a local historian, a regular volunteer in the YHS Archives, and the author of many books related Ypsilanti area history.)

Gleanings Advertising Application

	Sponsor	1/6 page (2.375"x4.625")	1/3 page (2.375"x9.5")	1/2 page (7.5"x4.625")	Full page? (7.5"x9.5")
Spring Issue (Ads Due March 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Summer Issue (Ads Due June 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Fall Issue (Ads Due August 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Winter Issue (Ads Due November 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200

Sponsorship: A list of "Sponsors" is included in each issue. Sponsorship is available at a cost of \$20 per issue.

Company _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES

Issue	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Spring	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____
Summer	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____
Fall	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____
Winter	_____ Sponsor _____	_____ 1/6pg _____	_____ 1/3pg _____	_____ 1/2pg _____	_____ Full _____

Send this form, ad copy & payment to:
Ypsilanti Historical Society
220 N. Huron Street • Ypsilanti, MI 48197
If you have questions call Al Rudisill 734 484-3023

Debate over Liquor Licenses

BY JAMES MANN

The meeting of the Ypsilanti City Council of Monday, April 17, 1916, seemed no different from any other meeting of the council. Members of the council concerned themselves with the business of the city, as was usual at council meetings. Nothing worthy of note, at least for most of the meeting, was on the agenda. Things got heated, however, after the business of liquor affidavits, applications and bonds was presented to the council.

The minutes of the meeting noted that: *"The following liquor affidavits and applications and liquor bonds were presented: Moses K. Phillips; Mat Max and Fred Max; Fred E. Staib; George Witmire; Charles A. Smith and Ralph Smith; Oliver H. Westfall and Clarence Westfall; Lewis B. Moore; James Dignan and Lewis Caldwell; and Horch Brewing Company. Each bond is in the sum of \$3,000 to the Michigan Bonding and Surety as surety."*

The Committee on Licenses and the City Attorney reported that all of the applications and accompanying bonds had been examined and found correct in form. The committee and the City Attorney recommended that the bonds be approved and the licenses be issued to each.

Council member Wesley Dawson moved: *"That the applications affidavit and bonds be acted on separately."* The motion carried, and the council acted on each in turn. The first to be considered was that of Moses K. Phillips, receiving four votes in favor and four votes opposed. In which case, the license was not granted. The next one was that of Mat Max and Fred Max, who received eight votes in favor and none opposed. In turn, the saloons of Fred Staib, George Witmire, Charles A. Smith and Ralph Smith, and Joseph A. Hack and Charles E. Bell were approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

Now the council considered the license of Oliver H. Westfall and Clar-

ence Westfall, owners of the Oliver House at 39-41 East Cross Street. Council member Dawson now told the council that facts had come to his attention, and he could not support the renewal of a license for the Oliver House. *"He declared that the Westfall saloon not only made trouble for men and their families by selling them liquor on Sunday but that Westfall was violating the law every day by permitting a minor to tend his bar,"* reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Tuesday, April 18, 1916.

Dawson added he had no hard feelings toward Oliver Westfall, who was also a member of the city council, but these facts had come to his attention, and for that reason he could not conscientiously vote to renew the license where such violations of the law were permitted. *"Westfall,"* the account reported, *"answered that he would like to stay in business at least one more year and if he might have just this one license he would dismiss the boy from his place immediately. He added that he had been no worse than other saloonkeepers in the town."*

"That may be so," responded Dawson, *"if I had the same proof of law violations against other saloon men of the city, I would take the same stand as regards their licenses that I am taking against you."* Dawson now turned to the other members of the council and declared that conditions at the Oliver House were so bad the license had to be denied. He urged the council members to consider the facts, and join with him in denying such a place the privilege of continuing in business.

"It seemed to be a bad place for Mayor Brown," observed the account. *"Despite the fact that a motion by Ald. Dawson had been made earlier at the meeting for a separate vote on each license and that six licenses had already been voted on under that motion the Mayor announced when Ald. Dawson had finished speaking that he knew of no motion before the coun-*

cil and so neglected to call a vote as he had done when the other licenses had been read."

Council member Lathers now made a motion that when the council adjourned, that it be adjourned to April 28. Mayor Brown declared the motion out of order. Brown reconsidered and decided the motion was in order, and the next meeting of the council was set for April 28. The council then in turn voted on the remaining licenses, and approved each by a vote of 8 to 0.

There had been no discussion concerning the saloon operated by Moses K. Phillips, located in the Hawkins House Hotel on Michigan Avenue. *"It is understood,"* noted the account, *"that data is in the hands of the council regarding the management of that bar similar to the Sunday charges against Westfall."*

The Vincent Law Firm, PC



Experienced and Aggressive Trial Attorneys

Michael J. Vincent, P.C.
302 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Phone: 734-487-4970
Fax: 734-487-0836

info@VincentLegalServices.com

The action of the council caused a good deal of discussion in the days that followed. The actions of Wesley Dawson were commended by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Federation of Women's Club and local church leaders. This was the time of the Temperance Movement, calling for the prohibition of the sale of liquor and the closing of saloons. Such places as saloons were seen by many as dens of vice and dangerous to the well being of families. By the end of the year, 21 states had banned saloons. The state of Michigan would adopt a law *banning "manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors"* on May 1, 1918. The nation would follow with the 18th amendment to the Constitution in 1919.

The next meeting of the council was held on April 28, 1916, to take up the matter of the license of the Westfall Saloon. The hall was filled for the meeting, including twenty-five members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, as well as a number of men interested in the proceedings. The first order of business was the license of the saloon in the Hawkins house Hotel, which had been refused at the previous meeting. The request was made of the council, that a license be granted to John G. Boyd, the owner of the Hawkins House. This in place of Phillips, whose license had been refused. The attorney for Boyd, told the council the license to Phillips would be withdrawn if one were granted to Boyd. There was a suspicion among the members of the Council, that a license to Boyd would mean a saloon run by Phillips. The request for a license was turned down by the council.

The council then voted on a license for the Westfall saloon on Cross Street. Once again the majority of the council voted to refuse a license to him. After the meeting had ended, Westfall said his saloon would not be open on May 1, 1916, as the license he had been operating under expired on

April 30th. A day or two of rest would do him no harm, he said. Westfall added, he did not know if his saloon would be open on Tuesday. The question of the license of the saloon was now going to court.

On Tuesday, May 2, 1916, John P. Kirk appeared before Judge Kinne of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court, on behalf of saloon keepers Phillips and Westfall. Because the city of Ypsilanti did not have an ordinance regulating the sale of liquor in the city, the council had acted in accordance with state law. This law was found under Public Acts of Michigan, 1909, No. 291. The official title of the law was: "*An act to provide for the taxation, licensing and regulation of the business of manufacturing, selling, keeping for sale, furnishing, giving or delivering spirituous and intoxicating liquors and malt, brewed or fermented liquors and vinous liquors in this State.*" This was also known as the Warner-Crampton law.

Under the Warner-Crampton law, a saloon could be denied a license if the proprietor of the saloon had been twice convicted of violations of the law. Under the law, a proprietor could be convicted for selling liquor on Sunday. Neither Phillips or Westfall had ever been convicted of violating the Warner-Crampton law. It seems there was a widespread belief, and with good reason, that both had sold liquor on Sunday, but had never been convicted. John Kirk pointed out to the court that, under the law, the council must grant a license to Phillips and Westfall.

Judge Kinne asked: "*Why weren't convictions secured?*" The most likely answer to that question is, the cost of employing an undercover officer to gather evidence. "*In his ruling on the mandamus,*" reported *The Ypsilanti Record* of Thursday, May 4, 1916, "*Judge Kinne stated that the law is very plain and that he could not do otherwise than to issue a mandamus requiring the council to grant the li-*

censes in question."

The city council, in accordance with the order of the court, granted the licenses at a special session of the council that evening.

(James Mann is a local author and historian, volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

GLEANINGS SPONSORS

The Anschuetz Family

Jim Curran

Fred & Maria Davis

Virginia Davis-Brown

Earnest & Carolyn Griffin

John & Pattie Harrington

Joe Mattimoe & Hank Prebys

Bob & Marcia McCrary

Bill & Karen Nickels

Maxe & Terry Obermeyer

John & Fofie Pappas

Al & Jan Rudisill

Diane Schick

Bob & Shirley Southgate

Rita Sprague

Nancy Wheeler

Daneen Zureich

Ypsilanti Animal Clinic

Helen, The Little Polish Wanderer

BY JAMES MANN

A young woman was removed from the Michigan Central train at Ypsilanti at about 2:00 am in the morning of Friday, January 22, 1926. She had boarded the train in Detroit, but without a ticket or money. When questioned by officers at Ypsilanti, she was unable to give her name, and mentioned several addresses in Detroit as possible places where she lived. To the officers, she appeared to be mentally unbalanced.

Taken to the detention room, she sat chewing the gum she had when removed from the train and picking at her fingers. Detroit Police had no record of a missing girl, and no one could be found who knew her at the addresses she gave.

"Helen, as she says her name is, is old enough to be released and ordered out of the city, but Chief of Police John Connors has not the heart to take such action. Dressed scantily, in ragged, dirty clothing, she could scarcely survive present rigorous weather conditions if she remained long out of doors," reported The Daily Ypsilanti Press of Saturday, January 23, 1926.

"Helen," the account noted, *"says 'yes' to every question that requires an answer, if either positive or negative, and when some information is asked she mumbles incoherently in half English, half Polish, if she answers at*

all. Part of the time she merely sits and stares blankly into space or takes from her mouth the gum, looks at it meditatively and returns it for additional service."

"Efforts," the account continued, *"will be made again today to question Helen and see if some additional information can be obtained as to where she came from. In the meantime this bit of human wreckage is warm and well fed, and apparently contented to remain in the city detention room quite indefinitely."*

Inez Graves, a social service worker, gave Helen a bath on Saturday afternoon and provided Helen with clean warm clothing from her supply. Once Helen was dressed in clean warm clothing, and well fed she became friendly, but was still unable to provide any information as to her home. Helen was questioned by two interpreters, who could converse in her own language, but they failed to learn anything new.

Justice D. Z. Curtiss ordered Helen taken to the psychopathic hospital in Ann Arbor, on Monday, January 25, 1926. *"There was considerable discussion as to who should be responsible for her, as she was not a resident of this county, but she was finally admitted as an emergency case,"* reported The Daily Ypsilanti Press of

Saturday, February 13, 1926.

"A check up of all institutions in Wayne and Washtenaw County was finally ordered and today Dr. Garrett of the psychopathic department received word Eloise had a missing patient on their lists. They claim to have notified police when Helen disappeared, but Ypsilanti officers received no such notice, according to Chief of Police John Connors."

An attendant from Eloise was to arrive at Ann Arbor to return Helen to Wayne County. An effort was to be made, to hold Wayne County responsible for her hospital charges which came to \$64.00.

(James Mann is a local author and historian, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

Non-local bankers think The Grinnell Brothers are at The Ark next week.

At Bank of Ann Arbor we know Ypsilanti inside and out. We use that knowledge to provide the products and services the people of Ypsilanti need. 734-485-9400 or boaa.com.
How can we help you?



Member FDIC

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Les Heddle, AAMS
Financial Advisor

2058 Washtenaw Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Bus: 734-480-8980
Fax: 888-817-0043
TF: 800-440-0657
Cell: 734-223-0433

les.heddle@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

MUSEUM ARCHIVES
734 482-4990 734 217-8236
yhs.museum@gmail.com yhs.archives@gmail.com

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

WE HAVE HISTORY BETWEEN US, SINCE 1946



L I N C O L N



SESI LINCOLN VOLVO MAZDA

3990 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

(734) 668-6100