

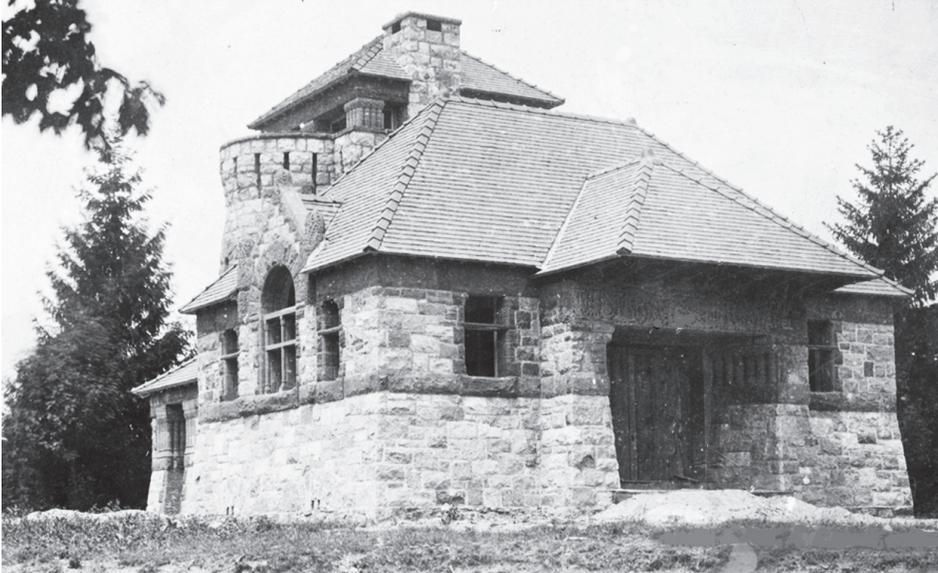
Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

YHS Museum & Archives

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



FALL 2020



In 1889 the architects Mason and Rice of Detroit designed the Chapel in the popular Richardsonian Romanesque style featuring rusticated granite with reddish Lake Superior sandstone for trimming around doors and windows.

Starkweather Chapel

A WORK IN PROGRESS

BY JAMES MANN

When you turn off North River Street into Highland Cemetery just past the gates and directly ahead of you is an impressive sight. This is the Starkweather Memorial Chapel, a building that appears to harken back to the middle ages. Inside the chapel are wide arches and several Tiffany stained glass windows, including two memorial windows featuring cherubs. The chapel, built in 1888, opened for services in 1889. Its primary function was a location for final services for the dead in lieu of services at the graveside.

From the early years of the city, and well into the 20th Century, when a person died the body was laid out in a coffin and set up for display in the formal parlor of the family home. Those who wished to pay their respects to the deceased visited the home and viewed

the remains in the parlor. The funeral service was held at the home followed by the procession to the cemetery. There the final service was held at the graveside, weather permitting.

During the winter months when the frozen ground made digging a grave impossible, the remains would be placed in a receiving vault until spring. There is a doorway in the rear exterior wall of the chapel that opens into a small room which served as the winter receiving vault. Pipe shelves remain that once held the



The Starkweather Chapel was a gift of Mary Ann Starkweather.

Starkweather Chapel continued on page 3

In This Issue...

- Starkweather Chapel —
A Work in Progress..... 1
By James Mann
- The Wonderful Legacy of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad 6
By Janice Anschuetz
- Murder in the Underwear Factory 10
By James Mann
- Hollywood Comes to Ypsilanti
—Our Decade in Films..... 20
By Janice Anschuetz
- Someone Tried to Steal My
Great-Great Grandmother..... 28
By Janet McDougall Buchanan
- Restored Glory at
101 West Michigan..... 30
By James Mann
- Dr. George M. Hull 32
By James Mann
- Body Found on Sullivan Farm..... 33
By James Mann
- I Know Something Good
About You..... 34
By Louis C. Simon (1935)

Society Briefs

- From the President's Desk..... 2
- Society Board Members 2
- Museum Board Report..... 27
- GLEANINGS Sponsors 34
- Membership Application 35
- Advertising Application..... 35

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is a museum of local history which is presented as an 1860 home. The Museum and Fletcher-White & Rudisill 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.ypsihistory.org

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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY BILL NICKELS

As the COVID pandemic continues, the closing of both the museum and the archives continues. That does not mean we are not able to continue our services. Our EMU Graduate Assistant continues to staff our Archives for research requests and can be reached at yhs.archives@gmail.com or 734-217-8236.

We all look forward to when the pandemic is behind us and we can resume our normal hours. Our new website ypsihistory.org will have current information on the home page.

Claire Conzemius, our EMU Graduate Assistant, spent the summer working remotely connected to our computers from her home. She took the opportunity to digitally record the protest marches and signage in the Ypsilanti area that accompanied the summer's racial issues. This effort adds to Kim Clarke's digital record of the visual effect COVID had and is having on our community, we have recorded an historic year.

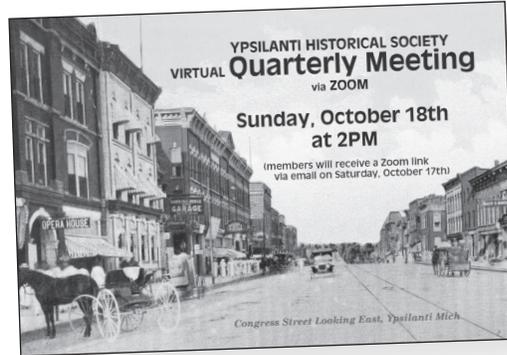
Last March, we cancelled our spring Quarterly Meeting because of COVID hoping that we could have future meetings live. After cancelling the spring Quarterly Meeting, we decided to offer our fall and future Quarterly Meetings remotely using Zoom. Our fall Quarterly Meeting will be on Sunday October 18th at 2 PM. City of Ypsilanti Preservation Planner Scott Slagor will present his "Historic Downtown Ypsilanti" program. Members will receive additional information by USPS mail.

COVID has changed all of our lives. Communicating electronically has become more important for all of us. In this uncertain world, for YHS, two things are certain. We will use

members email addresses for Quarterly Meetings and we will rely on our website, ypsihistory.org, for updated information concerning the museum and archives. If you think we may not have your current email address, you can send it to us at yhs.museum@gmail.com.

We continue to have a need for museum docents and volunteers. It is volunteer docents that enable YHS to have the museum open Tuesday through Sunday. It is volunteers that keep the museum and archives maintained and open to the community. All volunteers are rewarded with the satisfaction of doing something good for our community. If you or somebody you know would like that feeling, let us know at yhs.museum@gmail.com.

Continue to stay safe.



Claire Conzemius, our EMU Graduate Assistant, has digitally recorded the protest marches and signage in the Ypsilanti area that accompanied the summer's racial issues.

coffins of the recently deceased.

The chapel was the gift of Mary Ann Starkweather as a memorial to her late husband John. She had inherited a fortune from her uncle Walter Newberry of Chicago and she gave the city four major gifts, including the Chapel, a public drinking fountain, the Soldiers Monument in Highland Cemetery and her home on North Huron Street as a Ladies Library. She also gave Starkweather Hall to Eastern Michigan University. The cemetery Board of Trustees voted to accept the gift from Mary Ann Starkweather on May 3, 1889. The architects were Mason and Rice of Detroit. They chose the then popular Richardsonian Romanesque style featuring rusticated granite with reddish Lake Superior sandstone for trimming around doors and windows.

The chapel served its purpose well into the 20th Century and was still in use until the middle 1980s. Then the building fell into disuse and you began to see the effects of time. The chapel stood unused for several years and some who passed by assumed it

was a mausoleum. The roof leaked which caused damage to much of the plaster and wainscoting. Groundhogs burrowed under the building and bees nested inside. Plaster fell from the ceiling and the building was in danger of deteriorating beyond repair.

Over the years attempts were made to save the chapel, but these failed to materialize. Several years ago local architect Denis Schmiedeke began an effort to have Highland Cemetery placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This was part of a plan to secure grants for restoration of the chapel. Denis died before the work was completed. After his passing, the work continued through the services of Robert Christenson, retired National Register Coordinator with the State Historic Preservation Office. Highland Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places earlier this year and includes all the original area laid out by Colonel James Glen in 1863.

The renovation of the chapel began



The chapel's doors, hinges and locks were restored through the efforts of Ron Koenig of Building Arts and Conservation of Saline. Ron Koenig and his staff are shown in the picture.

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Barry LaRue was aided in the renovation work by Rex Richie, Vice President of the Highland Board.



View of restored inner wall of the chapel.



The Victorian era pump organ that now resides in the chapel.

about four years ago under the supervision of Barry LaRue, the secretary of the Highland Cemetery Association. The work began with the replacement of the roof and an upgrade to the electric service. A heating and cooling system was added to make the building usable year round and to protect the plaster and wood from excess humidity. Funding was made possible from a variety of sources. DTE Energy, which leases an unused section of the cemetery for a solar array, provided funding for the roof. Many generous



New pew cushions with Persian carpet runner in the background.

donors have come forward to financially assist this complex project.

The chapel's doors, hinges and locks have been restored through the efforts of Ron Koenig of Building Arts & Conservation in Saline. Koenig

also did a chemical analysis of plaster fragments found in the chapel to identify the original ceiling and wall colors.

Barry was aided in the work by Rex Richie, Vice President of the Highland board, and Jeff Fulton, as well as Doug Dil-

lon. As work progressed, Barry received a message from a friend in Ann Arbor, asking if he would be interested in a Victorian era pump organ. The organ had belonged to the mother of the friend and had been in a basement for years. It goes without saying that the organ was gratefully snapped up, cleaned and now resides in the chapel, fitting into the style perfectly!

The floor of the chapel had been covered with carpeting in the 1960s. Once the carpet, grime and adhesive had been removed a surprise was uncovered. The original floor was revealed to be of white oak with a dark walnut perimeter.

There is work that still needs to be done. The Tiffany windows need to be cleaned, and a few of the glass panes have been replaced with inappropriate glass. A conservation firm will be employed to replace and repair all damage and install vented storm windows. The City of Ypsilanti has generously agreed to submit an application to the State Historic Preservation Office for grant funds to conserve the windows. They look forward to being selected for funding in the next few months.



Work on the floor of the chapel.

In addition to the window restoration, the sandstone exterior trim needs conservation and estimates are being sought by experts in both masonry repair and the application of an approved consolidant that can be shaped to match missing details.

Those who wish to make a contribution to support the work can do so through the Starkweather Chapel GoFundMe campaign, or send a gift to the Highland Cemetery office at 943 North River Street, Ypsilanti 48198.

Please write Starkweather Chapel on the memo line of the check.

(James is a local history buff, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



Arch in the process of being plastered by local expert Gerald Milliken.



Individual from a local contracting firm working on the repair of the ceiling.

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The Wonderful Legacy of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ



Lake Shore Depot in Hillsdale, Michigan, on the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana railroad line.

You may have already enjoyed the wonderful legacy of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana (DH & I) Railroad without even knowing it. If you have traveled on the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission Border-to-Border (B2B) trail in Ypsilanti that runs behind Collegewood St. to Hewitt Road, enjoyed a hike at Pittsfield Township's peaceful Lillie Park on Ellsworth Road, walked the Library-Brecon Trail in Saline, visited Watkins Lake, or climbed the high ridge at the back of Lewis Emery Park on State St. in Hillsdale, then you have enjoyed the legacy of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad which has left us with trails, nature preserves, parks and even a depot museum in Saline.

As I stood high above farm and marshland at the newly opened Watkins Lake Michigan State Park and Washtenaw County Preserve near Manchester, on a crisp but sunny February day in 2020, I wondered where the abandoned railway line once went, who built it, and what happened to it. I could only imagine the amount of



The raised berm of the railroad bed which became the Watkins Lake trail.

work that went into digging and building by hand such a high and straight berm for railroad tracks. Even though it was winter, there were bird watchers there with notebooks and binoculars. One told me that in the previous spring he had observed over 50 species of birds in only a few hours.

No one would have envisioned this wonderful legacy of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad Company when it was formed in 1869 with a board of directors and quickly sold \$80,000 of stock subscriptions. Credit for the founding is given to James Joy, who was born in New Hampshire and was a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Harvard Law School. He came to Michigan in 1846, and by 1869 he was president of the Michigan Central Railroad (MCR). He was something of a transportation genius of the 19th century who envisioned a railroad system that would rival the established steamships on the Great Lakes for transporting



View from the trail high above farm and marshland at the newly opened Watkins Lake Michigan State Park and Washtenaw County Preserve near Manchester.

ing people and goods, and later was instrumental in the building of the Soo Locks. He was said to have been a friend of Abraham Lincoln and knew a number of

people in high places.

The Michigan Central, at that time, advertised the company's success with the beautiful three-story brick building, complete with greenhouse and gardens, on River Street, in Ypsilanti. Joy sweetened the deal of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad by promising that if DH & I would pay for and provide the level and prepared grade required for tracks, then the MCR would lay track from Ypsilanti to Bankers Station, which was in Hillsdale County. He thought that the Michigan Central would benefit by being able to use these tracks for their trains which would then shorten the journey to both Detroit and Indiana. Promoters for the proposed DH & I Railroad line were able to "bring onboard" civic leaders, citizens, farmers, manufacturers and others.

It should be remembered that at this time, it was difficult to not only



One of the work crews involved in the construction of the Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad.

travel over dusty or muddy and rutted roads, but nearly impossible for farmers to bring produce or animals to larger markets such as Ypsilanti and Detroit. This new rail line would

open up the world of travel for people living in rural communities such as Saline, Manchester and Hillsdale, and make day trips to larger cities possible. People living in these rural areas could



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take in a performance at one of the several opera houses in Ypsilanti or stroll the bustling streets, visit with friends and relatives, or even work or go to school in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor or Detroit and return home in one day since the DH & I Railroad was planned with several round trips each day.

By November, 1869, with money from stocks as well as bond proposals which were voted on in communities such as Saline, and right of ways granted, surveyors and engineers soon created great excitement in establishing the route that the railroad would take. Some say that over 4,000 men, mainly Irish and German immigrants, with pick and shovel in hand, were hired to provide a smooth rail bed and lay the tracks. The nickname for the DH & I Railroad quickly became the "Dutch and Irish" in honor of these hard-working men. Once built and operating, it was known as the Huckleberry Line because it was so slow that the able bodied could jump off the cars, pick huckleberries which grew along the tracks, and then jump back on. Another nickname for the DH & I Railroad was the "Tri-weekly," since it went "down the tracks, then tried weakly to get back up."

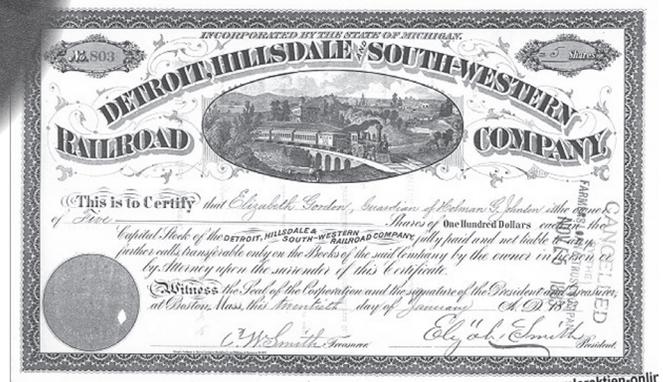


Credit for the founding of the DH & I is given to James Joy, who was born in New Hampshire and was a graduate of Dartmouth College and the Harvard Law School.

Amazingly, the first train to cover the 65 miles of new track from Ypsilanti to a town called Bankers, near Hillsdale, arrived on December 11, 1871. A telegraph wire was also strung along the tracks so that the progress of trains on this single track could be communicated to the engineers and conductors in order to avoid head on collisions. It was said that riding the DH & I line took a certain amount of courage because a head on collision with a train going in the opposite direction was always a possibility. Once the train reached Bankers station it would have to back up and turn around on a special track so that it could go headfirst back to Ypsilanti instead of going backwards all of the way. Soon the terminus of its route had a new train station, a freight house, a turntable, and even a resort hotel for tourists who wanted to enjoy the fresh air of the country.

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(Chicago time.)									
P. M. A. M.			lve. Detroit	30		A. M. P. M.		1 With railroads diverging from that point.	
5 40 7 00	0		(Mich. Cent. R.R.)			11 20 6 30		2 With Michigan Central Railroad.	
P. M. A. M.			arr. Ypsilanti	0		A. M. P. M.		3 With Jackson Division of Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway.	
7 10 8 25	30		(Det. Hills. & I. R.)			10 10 5 27		4 With Main Line of Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway.	
P. M. A. M.			lve. Ypsilanti	65		A. M. P. M.		5 With Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw Railway.	
7 15 10 15	0		Saline	54		9 45 5 20			
7 43 10 45	11		Bridgewater	48		0 15 4 50			
8 00 11 03	17		Manchester	40		8 58 4 35			
8 18 11 23	25		Brooklyn	29		8 40 4 15			
8 37 11 55	30		Woodstock	24		8 00 3 33			
9 00 12 08	41		Somerset	21		7 53 3 20			
9 17 12 16	44		Jerome	16		7 40 3 12			
9 30 12 32	49		North Adams	12		7 27 2 58			
9 45 12 45	53		Hillsdale	4		7 09 2 40			
10 05 1 01	61		Banker's	0		7 00 2 30			
10 15 1 15	65		ARRIVE			A. M. P. M.			

DH & I schedule showing connection times.



Stock Certificate for the Detroit, Hillsdale & Southwestern Railroad Company issued in 1883.

The Michigan Central Railroad not only paid for the construction of the train rails from Ypsilanti to Bankers, but built a train depot in Saline which made the small village something of a boomtown. A small station also existed in Pittsfield Township. By 1876, farmers in the Saline area were able to ship 500 carloads of wheat and over 5,000 barrels of apples by rail to larger markets. Money was made not only by the railroad in providing cars for shipping produce, but local farmers prospered. The village of Saline had invested over \$18,000, which would be around \$300,000 in today's dollars, in the DH & I Railroad. The line, which began in Ypsilanti at the beautiful three-story depot and could connect with other Michigan Central destinations such as Detroit, Ann Arbor, and even Chi-



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Pittsfield junction on the DH & I Railroad line.

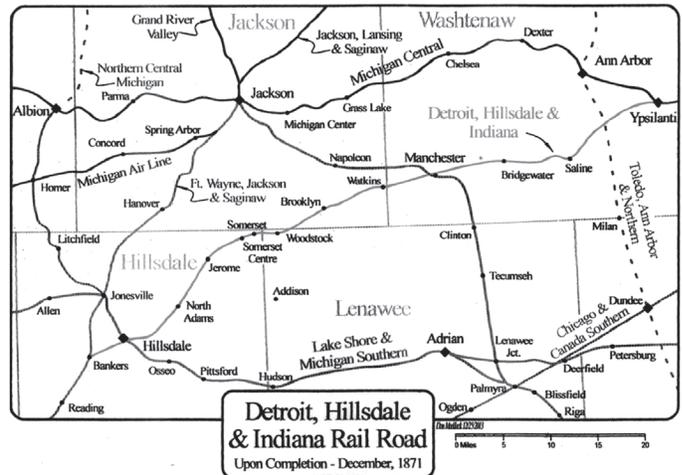
cago, ended just a few miles southwest of Hillsdale in Bankers. It passed through Pittsfield Junction, Saline, Bridgewater, Manchester, Brooklyn, Hillsdale and other smaller villages.

DEPOT TRAIL

With great celebration on July 4, 1870, the first train of The Detroit Hillsdale & Indiana RR arrived in Saline from Ypsilanti. This allowed shipping of heavy products like windmills, wagons and farm products all over the nation. Saline now had passenger service with up to six trains a day. In 1881, the Railroad became part of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern RR. During the 20th century, service gradually declined because of trucks and cars. Passenger service ended in 1931 and in 1961, the Depot closed. With another celebration on July 4, 1995, the Depot reopened as a museum. This Trail segment opened to the public by July 4, 2006. Funding was provided by Saline CARES millage and a grant from Washtenaw Steps Up.

SALINE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historic plaque on the Saline Depot, which is now a museum.



1871 map of the DH & I Railroad.

Sadly, the dream of passenger service going on to Indiana was never fulfilled and due to competition, a financial depression, and political issues, the DH & I went into bankruptcy in only five years and from there went into foreclosure. The single bidder paid less for the entire rail line than Saline's original contribution, and it then became the Detroit, Hillsdale, and Southwestern Railroad Company. By 1881, the line was leased to the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad. This logo can be seen on the caboose parked outside of the Saline station, which is now a museum and is on the National Directory of Historic Places.

Changes continued to be in store for this historic rail line, and in 1914 it became part of the New York Central Railroad. The last passenger service was in 1931, and by the 1960s the train tracks were dismantled. I actually enjoyed a glass of wine or two in the early 1970s while sitting on a patio made up of some of the railroad ties in Ypsilanti at a friend's house adjacent to the old rail line and now part of the B2B trail.

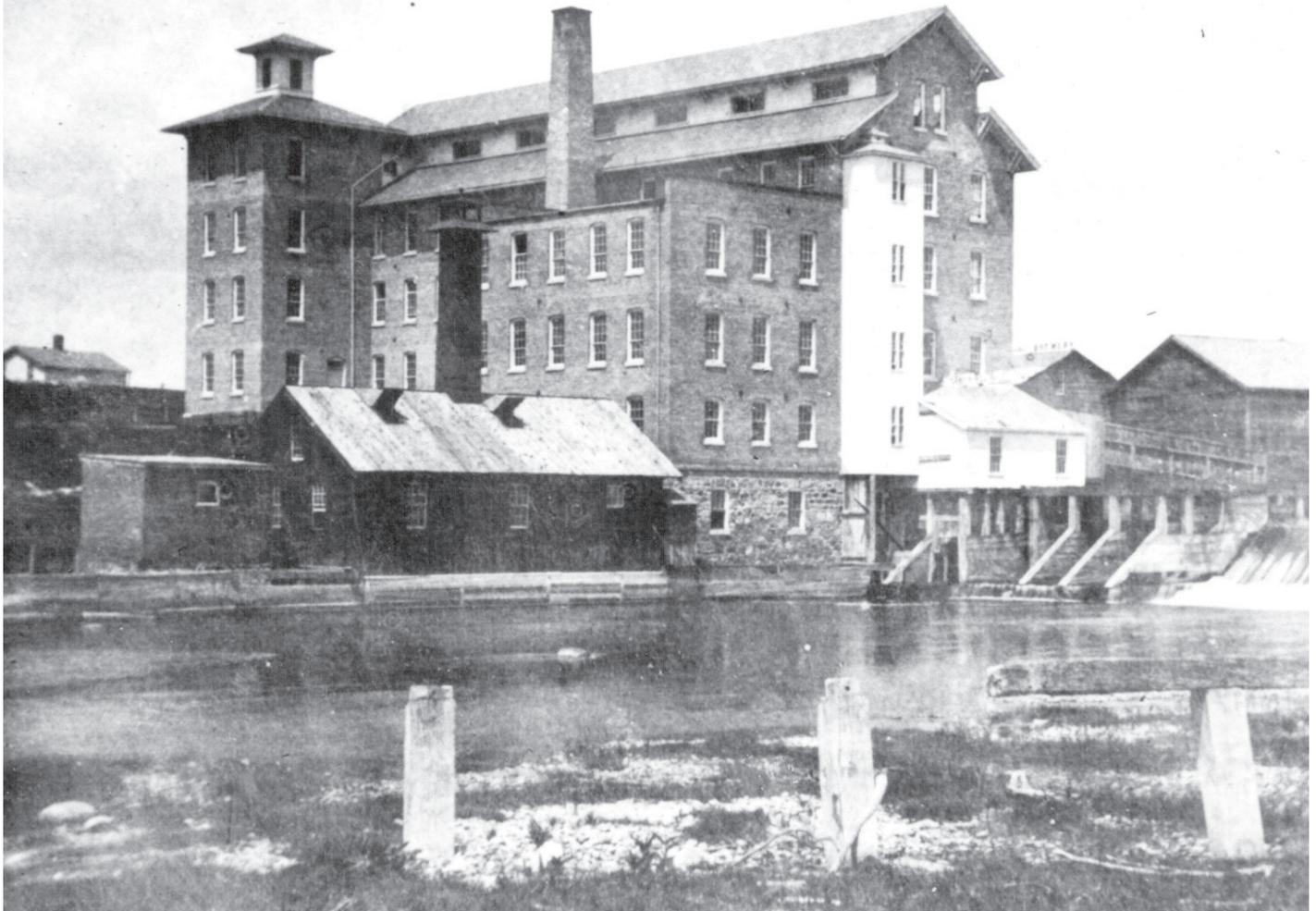
The questions I asked myself about the old rail line, which

is now the nature trail along the preserve at Watkins Lake Park have been answered as I learned about the first DH & I train leaving the elegant three-story station in Ypsilanti in 1871, and the last one returning to the modest one-story Ypsilanti train station, remains of the original elegant building, on River Street less than 60 years later. The Detroit, Hillsdale & Indiana Railroad line has left us with a history of dreams come true and dreams shattered, one gained and money lost, and now a legacy of trails and parks for our contemporary citizens to enjoy.

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

MURDER

in the Underwear Factory



The Hay and Todd woolen mill on the Huron River where the murder was committed.

The Hay and Todd woolen mill, a five story brick building standing by the Huron River across from what is now Frog Island near North Huron Street and Forest Avenue, was long a local landmark. It is best remembered for the manufacture of underwear, the full body union suit. It was also the site of a murder.

Patrick Rigney arrived at the mill at about 20 minutes to 7:00 am on the morning of Sunday, March 12, 1893, expecting to find Jay Pulver, who was employed as night watchman and cus-

tomian, waiting for him. Rigney, employed as the day watchman, was to relieve Pulver and let him out of the building. He knocked on the front door, but received no answer. Then he went around to the boiler room and knocked on the window, but received no answer. Next he went around to the west window of the knitting room and knocked on the window, and again received no answer.

Rigney had been the night watchman until replaced by Pulver. He had pointed out to Pulver a window in

the northwest corner of the building, where the fastenings do not hold. Through this window, Rigney entered the building. Then he began a search of the building to find Pulver, which had him go through nearly all parts of the plant. Finally Rigney went into the carpenter shop on the basement level of the building. There he found Pulver on the floor, with his crushed head in a pool of blood, a pair of pipe tongs set in his head. Immediately, Rigney went to find Mr. Soper, the manager of the mill.

James O'Connor arrived at the mill at about 7:45 am, and tried to enter the building through the front door. He was a painter who had been working at the mill the day before, and returned Sunday morning to finish the work from the day before. Unable to enter through the front door, he went around the building to find the door to the wheel house partially open. He went to where he had been working the day before, to see if the paint was dry. Then he went to the carpenter shop to get his overalls. There he found Pulver's body.

Now O'Connor went to the nearby saloon of Jake Grob, where he found Grob, his wife and son-in-law at breakfast. Also there was Clifford Hand, but O'Connor did not notice him then. O'Connor told them the watchman at the mill had been killed, and asked them to return with him. Grob and Clifford Hand went back with O'Connor, and entered the mill through the wheel house door. They had been there only a few minutes when Soper arrived with Dr. Owen.

Rigney found Joseph Soper at his home and told him Pulver had been killed during the night. Soper dressed and called Dr. Owen. Soper told Rigney to return to the mill. At the mill Rigney went to the basement, where he heard the voices of men. Rigney watched as O'Connor, Grob, his son-in-law and Hand entered the mill through the wheel house door. There was only one door that opened out from the wheel house, and this was usually locked by a staple or wooden bolt from the inside.

Soper and Dr. Owen arrived at the mill and Rigney let them in through the front door. Soper saw Hand leaning against the wall of the room near the door of the carpenter shop. Hand, Soper noticed, looked pale. Soper cleared the room of O'Connor, Grob, and Hand. Then Soper, with Rigney and Dr. Owen waited for the marshal to arrive and take charge of the body. O'Connor heard Hand say, "Jesus,

they are an awful thing to kill a man with, they must weigh about 10 or 12 pounds."

"The carpenter shop," reported The Washtenaw Evening Times of Monday, March 13, 1893, "is situated on a floor, which in the front is a basement but, as the ground on which the mill is built slopes from the front towards the river in the rear, the rooms in the back are above ground. The room in question is on the south side of the building and nearly on a level with the ground. The murdered man was found lying near the window with his head towards the east, his legs stretched out nearly straight out toward the south and left hand under the middle of his body. His right hand was within two feet of his lantern, which was tipped over and extinguished, but not broken. His head was crushed in and the instrument which had done the terrible work, a heavy pair of pipe tongs, lay in the wound. The man lay nearly face downward, but looking a little to the south."

Jay Pulver was last seen alive the evening before, at 6:30 pm by H. B. Adams, the secretary of the company, when Pulver let him out of the building. Before setting out, Mr. Adams had gone over the building to find everything as it should be. He left the building, and Pulver could start his work.

"Beside his duties as watchman, Mr. Pulver was required to sweep the building. He usually finished the basement floor between 11 o'clock and 12 o'clock, after which he would eat his lunch before proceeding to work on the floor above. On Saturday night, however, as the help was dismissed an hour earlier than other evenings, he could finish earlier, and he told his wife, when leaving home, that he intended to finish all his work by midnight, it is possible that he might have finished the basement floor as early as 10 o'clock, and perhaps even earlier. As his work



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was found completed Sunday morning, but nothing had been done on the floor above, it is probable that the murder was committed between 10 and 11 o'clock or thereabouts," noted the account.

Pulver had placed his tools at the foot of the stairs and had taken his coffee from his lunch pail and placed the coffee on a steam heater. His lunch was left untouched. It was thought that Pulver heard the sound of an intruder and left to investigate. As he entered the carpenter shop with lantern in hand, he most likely was struck from behind.

"The temporal bone on the right side of the head was found crushed in," continued the account. *"There was a bad cut on the top of the head and in fact there was hardly a square inch of bone in the head which was not crushed or broken. From this and the position of the body, when found, it would appear that a blow had been struck from behind on the top of the head with the pipe tongs, which were large and heavy enough to fell an ox. Then with the same instrument, the fallen man had been struck on the right side of the head one or more blows and the tongs left as they fell in the last wound."*

Pulver had apparently been taken by surprise, as there was nothing about the room to indicate a struggle. Another observation was the murder was most likely committed by someone familiar with the mill. There was no trace of how entrance to the mill had been gained, but the means of exit was found. The murderer had made his escape through an obscure door at the northeast corner of the basement giving access to the water wheel and the river. This door was locked by a bar on the inside, but was found that morning to have been opened.

The sheriff and deputy sheriff arrived and the body was removed. Justice Bogardus impaneled a jury for the inquest which viewed the remains and visited the scene of the crime. The inquest was then adjourned until Monday morning.

Jay E. Pulver, who was 48 years of age, lived with his family on Ballard Street near Olive Street. He had been employed by Hay and Todd for about a month. Before then he had been a section boss for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad and had held a similar position with the motor line and Stone & Co., grocers. He was said to have been a man of excellent and amiable character, and did not have an enemy in the world. Pulver was the father of four children, Bessie, Lulu, Ben and Albert, the two daughters were teachers, one son was employed at the Davis' drug store and the other was still in school. The funeral was held at the First Baptist church, and burial was at Napoleon in Jackson County.

The inquest was held Monday morning as scheduled. The witnesses called were Patrick Rigney, James O'Connor and Joseph Soper, Adams was the secretary for Hay and

Todd. The verdict of the jury was Jay Pulver had come to his death by being struck on the head with pipe tongs held by a person unknown to the jury.

Suspicion had fallen on Clifford Hand, one of the men who had been at Grob saloon Sunday morning. Hand, who was 34 years of age, had been employed at the mill for some years as a carpenter, until about a month before the murder. He had been discharged for intoxication and a contumacious attitude toward the management. Hand had been heard to make threats of revenge against the mill and the management. Clearly, he knew his way about the mill, and could have known how to enter the building without trace.

Hand was arrested at about noon of Sunday, the same day the body was found, at the saloon of Nick Max, now the east end of the Sidetrack. When arrested it was noted that there were spots on his pants, that looked as if it might be blood. Hand said he did not know what had made the spots, might be paint. Later, he said he had helped a butcher a few days before. Hand said he had been at the Nick Max saloon the night before, and had left there and was home at about 9:00 pm. His wife, at first said he was home at 9:30, then later admitted he came home at 10:30 pm.

The examination of Clifford Hand, charged with the murder of Jay Pulver, was held at the office of Justice Bogardus on Thursday, March 23, 1893. Witnesses included Patrick Rigney, Mr. Soper, Mr. Adams and Dr. Owen, whose testimony was much as it was at the inquest. Other witnesses called told of Hand making threats against the mill and his former employers.

Samuel L. Champion said he had heard Hand make threats against Mr. Colvan, who had discharged Hand, but said Champion, Hand was under the influence of liquor when he spoke.

Samuel Russel said Hand had shown him some keys and told Russel he could use them to unlock any door in the mill. Russel said he told Hand to throw the keys into the river. Hand answered that they were worth too much.

John O'Connor said he and Hand were in Nick Max's saloon Saturday night, and left at 10:05 pm, then together went up River Street to Oak Street. There Russel turned east and Hand turned west. Hand lived at the corner of Forest and Norris streets.

Hand was bound over for trial at the Circuit Court. *"From 2 to 4 o'clock yesterday day afternoon,"* reported *The Washtenaw Evening Times* of Tuesday, October 10, 1893, *"the circuit court was engaged in getting a jury in the case of People vs. Clifford Hand. To the ordinary layman it must have been quite interesting to watch the process of getting a jury who had not formed an opinion about the case. Every man was asked if he read the papers in reference to this case. From the replies evidently the Argus was the*

favorite county weekly. One worthy gentleman was not sufficiently conversant with the English language to know the difference between the word "talk" and "converse." He was excused."

"Judge Kinne informed them," the account noted, "that from then on until the case was decided they would be kept together. They would not be permitted to read any letters or newspapers which had not been inspected by the judge. Prosecuting Attorney Kearney opened the case for the People with a long exhaustive review of what the People would prove."

After Kearney had finished his review of the case, court was adjourned until 9:00 am, Tuesday morning. "The jurors," reported the account, "were marched off to comfortable quarters at the Cook house, where they occupy large double parlors and live off the fat of the land. They are in the charge of Deputy Sheriff Peterson."

"The sympathies of the jury will be worked on to a considerable extent," reported *The Ypsilantian* of Thursday, October 12, 1893, "as Attorney Whitman has a very pathetic picture continually before them. Next to the prisoner is his careworn wife and their two little children, a boy and girl, who all unmindful of their father's peril, strive to call his attention to them and occasionally the

little boy will look wistfully into his mother's face and burst into tears because she will not play with him. The wife of the murdered man is attended by her son and daughter."

Promptly at 9:00 am. Tuesday morning the trial convened. The first witness called was Patrick Rigney. The account described him, "as an intelligent looking Irishman, who had his wits about him." Under questioning of Kearney, he recounted the events of finding the body of Pulver, and what happened after. "Attorney Knowlton objected to some of the questions as being very tedious to them. The prosecuting attorney rejoined that many things would be tedious to the lawyers for the defense before the case would be over."

Under cross examination Rigney was asked how many paces the distance was between himself, Rigney, and where the defense attorney, Mr. Knowlton was standing. Rigney said it depended on the size of the man, and suggested Mr. Knowlton, who was about the same size as Rigney, pace it off himself. Once Rigney was finished James O'Connor was called to the stand, and he recounted his version of finding the body.

That afternoon, Joseph Sober was called to the stand. He told the court about being informed of the death of Pulver, and of going to the mill and what he found there. After this he

told the court he had known Hand for ten years and thought he was familiar with every part of the mill. Hand, he explained, was employed to take care of the fire suppression system.

"The Grennell automatic system of fire protection was used in the mill," *The Washtenaw Evening Times* of Wednesday, October 11, 1893 reported. "It is a system of water pipes with sprinklers 10 feet apart soldered on with soft solder which is easily melted off by heat when water would be turned on." The valve to connect the system to the city water works was in the carpenter shop. Hand was the only one who understood the system.

Under cross examination it was pointed out that Hand had been replaced by a man named Harrison, who had been discharged and had been in jail for stealing a hammer handle. For this reason, it was suggested, this Harrison had as much reason to damage the mill as Hand. Sober said he had never

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heard of Harrison stealing a hammer handle. He added, that Harrison had not been discharged, but was on a trial bases for two weeks and was told he did not suit the position.

“On re-direct examination the witness was shown a piece of yarn. The defendant’s counsel strenuously objected to its being examined by the witness. Attorney Kearney suggested that Mr. Knowlton did not know much about yarns. Mr. Whitman thought the prosecuting attorney should know more about yarns, to which Mr. Kearney replied that he had received good instruction in his early days. (He had been in Whitman’s office.)” Sober said the piece of yarn was the kind used at the Hay and Todd mill, and was not used anywhere else in Ypsilanti. This piece of yarn had been removed from Hand’s coat, and Sober had seen the sheriff remove it.

“Mr. Whitman presented a piece of yarn which he had secured at the store and the witness claimed that this was two or three ply while the yarn of the Hay and Todd Co., is but one ply. The company buys yarn in Philadelphia but could not swear that other firms did not buy at the same place.”

Dr. Owen told the court of seeing the body of Pulver at the mill. He said it looked as if Pulver had been struck from behind. He had turned over Hand’s trousers to a Dr. Gibbs for microscopic examination. Dr. Owen had also turned over to Dr. Gibbs a substance from the tongs. *“Dr. Owen said Hand looked as though he had been drunk all night. He was pale and haggard. All the others looked shocked and excited.”*

Mr. Adams, the secretary of the company, told the court Hand had been discharged the previous February because he was under the influence of liquor. He added that Hand had been discharged two years before then, but was reinstated. Adams said Hand had asked him several times to try and have him reinstated. The last time Hand asked to be reinstated, Adams said he did not think Hand had a chance, unless some machinery broke down that only Hand could fix. He said he had never heard anything about Hand, except he was an honest man. Adams said he was not aware of any ill feeling between Hand and Pulver.

J. B. Colvin, who was the vice president of Hay and Todd, said he discharged Hand on February 14, and Hand was intoxicated at the time. *“Whitman tried to show on cross examination that Colvin was intoxicated when he discharged Hand, but failed, Colvin showing that he had not been at the mill from 1:00 o’clock to 6:30 and hadn’t even had a drink of water,”* reported *The Washtenaw Evening Times* of Thursday, October 12, 1893.

The first witness called to the stand on Thursday, October 12, was Anna Keegan, who recounted some remarks Hand had made to her the Friday before the murder. She told the court, Hand had said if he went back to the mill, they would

have to pay better wages. He said, wait until those fire extinguishers went out of order. Then, he said, he would make them pay well.

On the morning of the murder, Keegan told of how she had seen Hand, and he told her Rigney had found the Pulver’s body and of O’Connor coming to Grob’s saloon. Hand said O’Connor was so frightened when he told them at Grob’s saloon, O’Connor was pale. He did not want to go to see the body, but went along with the others. Grob and his son-in-law, Hand said, had thrown up their breakfast, and he had nearly done so as well, adding, he wished he had never seen the body.

Keegan said Pulver must have had an enemy. *“No,”* replied Hand, *“Pulver was too good a man, he had no enemies.”* Hand told Keegan, he thought the murderer had entered the rear of the building, intending to blow up the safe.

William Hanninger, a bartender at the Nick Max saloon, said Hand had seven or eight glasses of beer the night of the murder. Hanninger said he saw Hand leave the saloon twice that evening. Hand, he said, went home at about 10:15 pm. A man a named Smith, said he saw Hand going toward the river at about 9:00 pm that night. Another man, named Hayton, told the court he heard the dogs at the mill barking at about 10:30 pm.



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Deputy Sheriff M. C. Peterson told the court he questioned Mrs. Hand as to what time her husband arrived home on the night of the murder. Mrs. Hand at first said he arrived home at about 9:30 pm., or about 20 minutes to 10:00 pm.. She told Peterson her husband arrived home, filled his pipe and read a newspaper. Peterson said he told Mrs. Hand she did not have to answer his questions if she did not want to. He asked about the spots on Hand's clothing when arrested. She suggested it might be from paint, as he had been painting.

Dr. Henege Gibbs was called to the stand as an expert witness, as he had examined the blood and brain matter found on the pipe tongs used to murder Pulver and compared these with samples taken from the clothing of Hand. *"He had made microscopical examinations and swore that Hand's pants were saturated with blood, he being able to observe it on the wrong side of the cloth as well as on the right. He could not swear that this was human blood. He found brain matter on the pants. Was positive that it was brains and after a careful comparison with brain matter taken by him from the body of a man, he was of the opinion that the matter found on Hand's pants and on the tongs was human brain as it was identical with that taken from the man's body and no difference could be seen. He said that by cutting off the head of a calf or other animal the brain matter would not be scattered on the man doing the work. The witness said that he had all the specimens mounted on slides and would produce them for microscopical examination by the jury if the court desired."*

Dr. Gibbs returned to court the next morning, Friday, October 13, 1893, holding a grip which contained his slides and a microscope for the use of the jury. *"A small sized whirlwind was raised when Mr. Knowlton made some remark that the prosecuting attorney considered insulting to Dr. Gibbs and the prosecutor objected to 'the little professor from the law department' insulting a man of Dr. Gibbs standing. Mr. Knowlton was warm, and jumping quickly to his feet contended that he had a right to insult a witness but the prosecutor had no right to insult him and he wouldn't stand it any longer. The prosecutor sat perfectly cool, the professor scorched him by look and voice for a minute and the storm rolled by."*

The People rested their case, and now the turn of the defense came. *"Mr. Whitman outlined the case for the defense. He said a brutal murder had been committed and Pulver killed, a man whom the defendant said was too good a man to have an enemy. It is not for the defendant to prove who was guilty of this great crime, but the prosecutors should do this. No evidence has been put in to show Hand guilty. One matter which the prosecution has brought needs explanation and that is the presence of blood on his clothes. He told the officers and they found it*

to be true that he went out in the country where some man was butchering. He helped while they killed two steers and split open the heads of the animals and fed the brains to the hogs. He afterwards, on the day before the murder went to Grob's where they were butchering. The testimony of the prosecution will largely remain uncontradicted as it does not connect Hand with the murder. On the day of the murder Hand went around getting his tools ready to go to work. He went to Mack's saloon about six o'clock and stayed until about ten o'clock, starting to go home with O'Connor about ten o'clock. He got supper and was asleep when the clock struck eleven."

The first witness for the defense was Dr. G. C. Huber, assistant professor of histology at the University of Michigan, as an expert to offset the testimony of Dr. Gibbs. He said he had examined the slides of Dr. Gibbs of the matter taken from the pants, and found no evidence that it was from a human brain and not an animal brain. Dr. William J. Herdman was placed on the stand, and said he had examined the specimen of Hand's pants and said he saw nothing to show it came from a human being. He said the central nervous structures are alike. *"The surface layer of the gray matter of the brain is composed largely of cells. Thought all the specimens shown were brain matter, and there was no special difference in appearance between them, but couldn't say they were human brains."*

The next witness was James Cannon, a farmer and butcher from Superior Township who was perfectly deaf. The attorneys had to write out their questions, and he answered in a loud voice. He said Hand came out to his place the week before the murder and helped butcher two beefs. Hand, he said, held the beef, while he chopped it down. He could not say who opened the heads of the beefs, but someone did.

John Hickman confirmed Hand being present at the Cannon farm and helping in the butchering. He further stated he and Hand were at Grob's the day before the murder butchering. He said he handed Hand an ax which he used to split open the heads of the cattle. Hickman said the brains might spatter while doing this.

"Prosecuting Attorney Kearney had a surprise for the defense, but some way or other it missed the mark. The defense has intimated in bringing out testimony that it is likely that a certain Lee Harrison knows something about the murder. Neither side had called him as a witness. Just before court closed last night the prosecutor arose and said Harrison was present, and asked to have his name endorsed on the information. There was no objection from the defense, and Harrison's name was called as a witness. He didn't appear and the defense demanded that he be placed on the stand, but as he couldn't be found, this was waived."

At this, testimony ended, and now was the time to turn it

over to the jury. On the morning of Saturday, October 14, 1893, Prosecuting Attorney Kearney spoke for two hours, giving the summation of the case against Hand. This was followed by a two hour address to the jury by defense attorney Knowlton, who reminded the jury, the case against Hand was entirely circumstantial. He was followed by defense attorney Whitman, who also spoke at some length. The concluding address was furnished by Mr. Bogle.

“Judge Kinne,” reported *The Ypsilanti Commercial* of Friday, October 20, 1893, *“delivered his charge to the jury in the evening, and they retired to consider their verdict at 20 minutes before 10 o'clock Saturday night.”*

“At 11 o'clock Monday forenoon” continued the account, *“the jury was brought into court and the foreman F. A. Wilson, informed Judge Kinne that they were unable to agree. Judge Kenne said he regretted that there was so serious a difference of opinion among them. He believed it was the wish of both the prosecution and the defense that they should reach a verdict. A new trial would involve a large outlay and would be a matter of serious moment to the defendant in his financial condition. He trusted that they had held their judgment in abeyance until they entered the jury room, there to consider and debate. They were not to abandon their best judgment but to deliberate and harmonize their views. If they were satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt they should convict him, if not, acquit him.”*

The jury then returned to the jury room. At 8:55 of the evening of Monday, October 16, 1893, after 47 hours of deliberation, the jury returned to the court room, and the foreman informed Judge Kinne, they were still unable to agree on a verdict. *“As nearly as can be ascertained,”* reported *The Washtenaw Evening Times* of Tuesday, October 17, 1893,

“the jury stood on the first ballot Saturday evening 7 to 5 for conviction. On the second ballot it was 9 to 3 and so continued on every subsequent ballot. The three jurors for ‘not guilty’ were Messrs. Cole, Kalmbach and Burch. It is said that Burch believed Hand was guilty, but thought the evidence was not strong enough to convict him and it was on the evidence alone that the jury was to decide.”

Hand was returned to the jail, where he was to await a second trial. The second trial began Tuesday, January 2, 1894, with the selection of the jury, and opening statement of the prosecution. This was followed by the calling of witnesses. Patrick Rigney again told of finding the body of Pulver, and Soper was questioned as well.

“The progress of the trial has been enlivened by some sharp tilting by counsel,” noted *The Washtenaw Evening Times* of Wednesday, January 3, 1894. *“Mr. Knowlton asked for the protection of the court this morning after a sharp thrust from the prosecuting attorney, but the judge suggested that the attorneys were getting unusually sensitive. Mr. Sawyer became dramatic this afternoon, asking the witness whether a man could handle the pipe tongs with which the crime was committed easily with one hand, at the same time swinging them gracefully over his head, striking at an imaginary adversary.”* *“How long have you practiced that?”* asked Mr. Whitman.”

The examination of witnesses continued on Thursday, January 4, 1894, and included James O'Connor, who recounted his finding of the body. Mr. Adams, secretary of Hay and Todd was questioned as well. *“Proceedings became very sensational for a few moments this morning,”* noted *The Washtenaw Evening Times* of Thursday, January 4, 1894. *“This witness doesn't know all about who committed this murder, your honor,”* protested Kearney, to some question of



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the defense. "He knows probably as much as the prosecution," retorted Mr. Whitman. "Well, he doesn't know nearly as much about it as the attorneys for the defense," said Mr. Kearney. "I denounce that statement as most damnable and false," said Mr. Whitman, hotly. "Which is it, damnable or false?" interjected Mr. Sawyer mildly.

"Gentlemen," said the court, "it is obvious to me that some of you are preparing to be sent to jail, where you will certainly belong if such conduct does not cease. No fine would be adequate." Whereupon the offending gentlemen made the amend honorable in a most graceful way."

Sophia Grob, a new witness, was called to the stand. Her husband Jack was to have been called before her, but he had left the court during a recess and slipped away for some refreshments across the street. "She had a way of saying 'Oo-ohoo' with her mouth shut when she meant yes that must have been exasperating to the stenographer," noted The Washtenaw Evening Times of Friday, January 5, 1894. She told the court she and husband did not run a saloon. "Just a public place where people can get beer nights." Then she told about Hand being at their place Sunday morning when the body of Pulver was found.

"Mr. Grob," reported the account, "proved to be a hilarious witness and laughed heartily at his own supposed witticisms, his cachinations being echoed from outside the rail. He testified that the sinking spectacle did not make him throw up his breakfast because he had not swallowed it yet. He talked with Hand after they returned from the mill Sunday morning, but saw nothing remarkable about him."

On the morning of January 8, 1893, prosecutors called Dr. Gibb to the stand and asked about his inspection of the matter taken from Hand's pants and the pipe tongs. At this time it was not possible to tell the difference between human blood and animal blood, or tell if brain matter was human or animal. Dr. Gibb was the last witness called by the prosecution. At this, the People rested the case against Hand, and the defense began its presentation by calling the first witness, Clifford Hand.

"The defendant," reported *The Washtenaw Evenings Times* of Monday, January 8, 1894, "walked up to the witness stand briskly and took the oath without any signs of trepidation to tell the whole truth in the case of the people against himself. His nine months imprisonment seems not to have wrought any special ravages upon him physically; he looks healthy and vigorous."

"I am 35 years of age," said Hand, "and was born and educated in Ypsilanti." "I had known Pulver for several years and never had any difficulty with him whatever."

"Did you," asked Knowlton, "have anything to do with the killing of this man Pulver?" "No, sir," was Hand's emphat-

ic reply.

Hand said he had been employed at the mill for over ten years. He was a carpenter and millwright by trade. He was to go to Detroit the previous February to install some machinery for the company. The evening before he was to go, he stopped by the office to receive money to cover his fare and other expenses. Hand admitted he had been drinking, but said he was not drunk. In the office Mr. Colvin said something about him being drunk and wanting the money to go to Detroit to get drunk. "I can get drunk in Ypsilanti," said Hand, "I don't have to go off to Detroit or Chicago to drink the way you do." Colvin told Hand to get his pay and leave. The next day, Hand returned the money that had been forwarded to cover expenses. After this, Hand admitted, he had made threats against Mr. Colvin and the company.

In the days before the murder, Hand said he had helped to butcher steers at Cannon and had split the head open of one. On the Friday before the murder, Hand said, he had helped Grob butcher a heifer. "He spent Saturday evening at Max's saloon. He told of some of the incidents there. He got home a little after 10, had a lunch and went to bed with his pipe and a newspaper." Sunday morning he stopped in at Grob's, where he learned of the murder. He stayed there until the body was taken away. He got a newspaper and went to Max's saloon and was there until placed under arrest. "If you had been so unfortunate as to have killed this man Pulver would you have admitted it here and sent yourself to jail for life?" was the first question asked under cross examination. Hand responded, "Yes, sir." "Do you know who killed Pulver?" "No, sir." The response to this was, "You do."

After the cross examination of Hand was completed, defense called witnesses to confirm Hand had helped with the butchering. One witness who was not called, was Mrs. Hand, as she had fallen ill. Her testimony from the first trial was read into the record. The defense rested its case.

Closing arguments were started on the morning of Wednesday, January 10, 1894, and were concluded on the afternoon of Thursday, January 11, 1894. At about 4:00 pm that afternoon, Judge Kinne charged the jury and the jury retired. To the surprise of everyone, the jury informed Judge Kinne they had reached a verdict at 9:30 pm. At 9:45 pm., the Foreman announced their verdict of Guilty. "The spectators present were as quiet as at a funeral, while the verdict was announced. Hand himself showing little interest except a very slight, hardly detectable nervousness."

Judge Kinne asked Hand if there was any reason why sentence should not be passed upon him. Hand rose and said he was an innocent man. "He asked God to take care of his family and aged parents. There was none of Pulver's blood on his head. He believed the Governor would pardon

him.” Then he sat down.

Judge Kinne then passed sentence of life imprisonment at hard labor at the prison at Jackson. The next morning he was taken to the prison. Hand did not appeal his conviction, as his family lacked the funds to do so. The record of the case was large, and would have cost several hundred dollars to have it printed. There were those who felt a miscarriage of justice had occurred, and by October of 1900 an effort was under way to secure Hand a pardon from the governor.

“It is said,” reported *The Washtenaw Times* of Friday, October 19, 1900, “at last a woman in Ypsilanti has consented to make a statement that it was her husband who killed Pulver. It is further said that this man wanted to make a dying confession but he delayed until he was too weak to talk. It is even asserted that he told the attending physician at one time that he wanted to make a statement but that he would not do so until he

was sure he was going to die.”

An effort is said to have been made to have the widow make an affidavit, but there is no further report on the subject. Still, a petition with 300 signatures, was presented to the governor. On December 26, 1900 Michigan Governor Hazen S. Pingree, known as “the Pardoning Governor,” granted a pardon to Hand. In his statement, Governor Pingree noted there was no motive shown for the murder, stating, “The motive for this crime is the greatest mystery connected with it.”

“I am so strongly inclined,” wrote Pingree, “to believe that this is another one of those cases where an innocent man is either hung or sent to state prison for life, by reason of the frenzied demand of a justly outraged public over a great crime committed in their community. The record in this case shows clearly that Hand was convicted on very slight circumstantial evidence. He was placed in

a position where it was demanded of him that he should be punished or if he did not commit the crime he ought to prove who did it. This is a social outrage.”

By order of the governor, Hand was released from prison. After his release Hand moved to Chicago, to resume his life.

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

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Many Hollywood films have been shot in and around Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Ypsilanti has a pretty significant connection to the Hollywood film industry. Several movies, short films, TV shows, and documentaries were filmed in Ypsilanti, specifically in the period between 2008-2015. These film shootings truly brought Hollywood to the streets of Ypsilanti, especially in the areas around Depot Town and Downtown. It was an exciting time to be living in Ypsilanti. Many Ypsilantians witnessed movie scenes being filmed in our streets, and some residents were actually chosen to be extras in the movies. Those that saw the movies being filmed wondered how the scenes would fit in with the final cut of the movie, hoping that the scenes wouldn't end up on the cutting room floor. After a year waiting for the films to be produced, many people from Ypsilanti flocked to the movie theaters to see if they could catch a glimpse of their hometown, and even some Ypsilanti residents, on the big screen.

In 2008, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm signed a law that allowed film production companies to earn refundable tax credits of up to 42 percent of the companies' spending on films shot in Michigan. This tax credit had an immediate impact on the film industry in Michigan, with millions of dollars in tax credits paid out to movie companies each year. While the tax credits provided Michigan with the desired results of increased film production within the state, the program paid

out far more money in business tax credits than it brought in from income. The film incentives peaked in 2010, the last year that Governor Granholm was in office. In 2012, Governor Rick Snyder changed the program from providing refundable tax credits to paying out cash incentives, with the goal of placing a cap on the payouts to the film companies so the state wouldn't lose more money. This saved Michigan millions of dollars in payouts per year, but it also led to a dwindling film industry in Michigan. In 2015, Governor Snyder signed legislation that ended Michigan's film incentive program.

Because of Ypsilanti's proximity to Detroit, its Victorian-era houses, its charming business districts, and a film-friendly local Government, Ypsilanti was chosen as the filming location for several movies during this time of film industry incentives. Most films' exterior shots are not shot in one single location, but are actually filmed in several different localities. Many of them wrap up filming of interior shots and final production in California. Through Hollywood magic, the various scenes are stitched together to provide seamless continuity and fool the audience into believing that all of the scenes were filmed sequentially at the same location. It so happens, therefore, that most of the movies that were filmed in Ypsilanti were only partially filmed here. Nonetheless, the movies that were filmed in Ypsilanti during Michigan's tax incentive heydays of 2008-2015 brought many Hollywood films to the doorsteps of



Hilary Swank in a scene from "Conviction" filmed at the Sidetrack in Depot Town.



"Whip It" indoor scene shot in Ypsilanti.
Ypsilanti.

During the period of Michigan incentives, the film industry had an overall positive impact on the economy of Ypsilanti. Sure, the street closings were felt by locals and led to impacts trying to navigate around the filming locations. The inconvenience, however, was offset by the buzz of excitement generated while residents watched as scenes were filmed around town and there was a chance of bumping into a celebrity or two during the filming. Local hotels and restaurants benefited from the support of out-of-town guests. Several Ypsilanti residents lined up for open calls to participate as movie extras and have a chance to be immortalized on film. Some businesses and residences that were prominently featured in the filming were given stipends to offset the inconveniences of revamping the exteriors of their buildings to represent

a location, season, or even another decade necessary for a short scene in the film. Often a week was needed to fully capture a scene that might be presented on screen for less than a minute.

Before we get to the movies that were filmed in Ypsilanti, let's discuss the way that movies are actually brought to Ypsilanti – through the local movie theaters. There have been at least five movie theaters in Ypsilanti through the past century. The Martha Washington Theater was located on Washington St., the Wurth Theater was on Michigan Ave., the Center Theater was in Willow Run Village, the Wayside Theater was on Washtenaw Ave., and the Ann Arbor 20 on Carpenter Rd., which is the latest movie theater with an Ypsilanti address. There were also two local Drive-In movie theaters frequented by Ypsilanti families from the 1950s-1980s. The Yp-

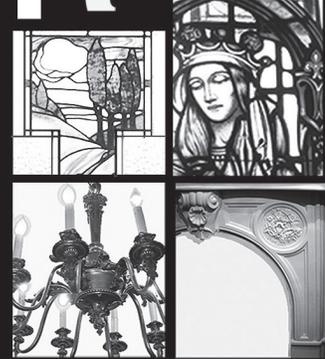


Robert DeNiro in a scene from "Stone" filmed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on River Street.

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si-Ann Drive-In on Washtenaw Avenue was located just west of town. The Willow Drive-In was located on Michigan Ave. just east of town.

The Internet Movie Database (IMDB) (<https://www.imdb.com/>) is the internet's definitive source for movie information. A simple search of IMDB allows you to search for all movies and TV shows that were filmed in Ypsilanti. Similarly, a researcher can search for plots of movies that include Ypsilanti, actors and actresses born in Ypsilanti, and even actors and actresses named Ypsilanti. An IMDB search shows that there are dozens of movies, TV shows, and documentaries that were filmed at least partially in Ypsilanti. Several films used Ypsilanti to represent a typical Northeastern or Midwestern town in exterior shots. As discussed previously, most of the movies were filmed during the era of Michigan film industry tax credits and cash incentives.

Many of the Ypsilanti films cataloged in IMDB were "straight to video" or "streaming only", meaning that they were usually B-list movies that weren't shown in movie theaters. Some of these movies had interesting titles such as *Biker Zombies from Detroit* (2001), *Jingles the Clown* (2009), and *Old Denton Road* (2014). One of the movies that stands out is *Star Wars: The World Invasion* (2019). The plot summary states that "Darth Vader's secret apprentice, Darth Thunder, starts the greatest invasion known to the galaxy...". No, this wasn't one of the nine original *Star Wars* films, but Ypsilanti can claim this film as our very own!

The link to the IMDB search for movies filmed in Ypsilanti is:

<https://www.imdb.com/search/title/?locations=Ypsilanti,Michigan&sort=alpha>

There were several movies filmed in Michigan that had fairly significant box office draws. Among the highest grossing movies that were filmed in Ypsilanti during Michigan's peak film industry are: *Whip It* (2009), *Conviction* (2010), *Stone* (2010), *The Five-Year Engagement* (2012), and *Love and Honor* (2013).

Whip It, starring Drew Barry-



"Love and Honor" Vietnam protest scene shot on Michigan Avenue.

more and Ellen Page, was the first big-budget movie to be filmed in Ypsilanti, with shooting beginning in the summer of 2008. *Whip It* is about a girl who discovers the sport of roller derby in her small Texas community. Several scenes were filmed in Ypsilanti, including outdoor scenes and indoor scenes in-and-around Michigan Avenue.

Conviction, starring Hilary Swank, Minnie Driver, and Sam Rockwell, was the next large movie to be filmed in Ypsilanti. The movie, which was filmed using the pre-release title *Betty Anne Waters*, is the true story of a working mother in Massachusetts, who puts herself through law school to represent her brother in court after his murder conviction. Filming began in Ann Arbor and Chelsea, then moved to Ypsilanti in March of 2009. Much of the filming took place on Michigan Ave. with additional filming done at the Sidetrack and Depot Town.

Another prominent movie filmed in Ypsilanti was *Stone*, starring Robert DeNiro, Edward Norton, and Milla Jovovich. The movie is about a parole officer who takes on the case of a convicted arsonist as his last case. The arsonist convinces his wife to seduce the parole officer to help him get out of jail. *Stone* was filmed all over Southeastern Michigan, including Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Dexter, Jackson, and Detroit. The Emmanuel Lutheran Church on River Street hosted filming for two days. The funeral service and a few other scenes were filmed at the church, with several local Ypsilanti residents used as extras.

Love and Honor, starring Liam Hemsworth, Austin Stowell, Teresa Palmer, and Aimee Teegarden is based on a true story of a Michigan soldier that takes place during the Vietnam War and is set in Ann Arbor and surrounding areas. Originally titled *AWOL*, the story follows a soldier who, after being dumped by his girlfriend, decides to return home

secretly from war with his best friend to win her back. The film was shot mostly in-and-around Ann Arbor, Michigan in July and August of 2011. Scenes were also filmed in Ypsilanti during the week of July 21-26, with the Ypsilanti City Hall playing the role of the Ann Arbor Police Department. Because the decals reading "Ypsilanti City Hall" were temporarily replaced with "Ann Arbor Police Department", the Ypsi-



Snow on Washington Street in Ypsilanti for the movie "The Five-Year Engagement" filmed in June, 2011.



"Tucker: The Man and His Dream" – Opening scene showing the Tucker home set in the countryside.

lanti City Council had to approve the idea. In addition to our city hall being used in the film, a protest and riot scene was also filmed on Michigan Ave. Security was extra tight around the filming areas because of the presence of star Liam Helmsworth's girlfriend at the time, Miley Cyrus.

The 2012 movie *The Five-Year Engagement*, starring Jason Segel, Emily Blunt, and Chris Pratt was both set and filmed primarily in Ann Arbor. A scene was also filmed in Ypsilanti, although this film is not listed in the IMDB database of Ypsilanti filming locations. The plot involves a man proposing to his girlfriend one year after they met, but unexpected events kept tripping them up as the wedding gets delayed for five years. Residents of Ypsilanti will recall the summer snowstorm on Washington St. created by Hollywood special effects. Snow banks were made of chicken wire and wood covered with a snow blanket that lined the edges of the street. Snowflakes were made out of ground-up paper that was sprayed on the street to give a convincing snow effect.

So far, we have covered movies that were filmed in Ypsilanti. The next topic that we will cover are movies that actually featured the city of Ypsilanti in their plots. The total number of movies, TV shows, and documentaries featuring the city of Ypsilanti are far less numerous than those that

have been filmed in Ypsilanti. One of the interesting movies featuring Ypsilanti is about our city's namesake, Demetris Ypsilanti, whose story is part of the plot in the 1971 Greek movie titled *MantoMavrogenous*. The plot summary of the movie states: "As the war for the independence of Greece in the early-1820s rages on, the fervent patriot and fearless commander, MantoMavrogenous, engages herself in an intense relationship with Prince Demetrios Ypsilantis."

The Internet link to the IMDB search for films featuring Ypsilanti is:

<https://www.imdb.com/search/title-text/?plot=ypsilanti>

From the IMDB database, there were only a few prominent full-length Hollywood movies set in in the locality of Ypsilanti including *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* (1988), *Three Christs* (2017), and *The Woodland Haunting 2* (2006). Ironically, none of these movies had more than a passing scene actually filmed in Ypsilanti. It should also be noted that none of these films were shot during the era of Michigan tax incentives for the film industry.

Tucker: The Man and His Dream was released to theaters in 1988. The movie starred Jeff Bridges and was very successful at the box office and also well-received by movie critics. The movie tells the story of Ypsilanti's own Preston Tucker, who



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was successful in building turrets for WWII bombers and later endeavored to start an automobile business that featured futuristic safety features such as a center headlight, a pop-out windshield, and a crash-resistant driver's compartment. The Tucker Torpedo, also known as the Tucker 48, had a limited run of only 51 cars before the production was shut down. The movie was not filmed in Ypsilanti, and scenes showing his house at 110 Park Street were depicted in the movie as being way out in the countryside. Replica Tucker cars were reproduced for the movie and made out of fiberglass, and one of these wound up on display at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum.

Three Christs, a movie completed in 2017 with a delayed limited theater run in 2020, is now available on Blu-Ray video and through streaming on Amazon Prime. The movie is based on the 1964 Milton Rokeach novel titled *The Three Christs of Ypsi-*

lanti. For those not familiar with the book, it is about a psychiatric case-study concerning the author's experiment on a group of three paranoid schizophrenics at the Ypsilanti State Hospital mental institution. The three patients all claimed to be Jesus Christ. The movie stars Richard Gere and Peter Dinklage (from *Game of Thrones*), so it has some star power. The movie features a few short snippets of the Water Tower and Michigan Ave., but wasn't filmed in this area. In the movie, Richard Gere tries his best to pronounce "Ypsilanti" but never quite gets it right. The movie varies somewhat from the book, and the exterior scenes from the Ypsilanti State Hospital were filmed in New York State in a building that is much more ornate than the real hospital ever was.

The *Woodland Haunting 2* was another movie set in Ypsilanti that was released in 2006. Writer and director Dennis Baker grew up in an alleged haunted house on Woodland Court in Ypsilanti. The supernatural events that he and his family encountered while living at the house inspired him to produce two horror films, *Woodland Haunting: A True Ghost Story*, and *The Woodland Haunting 2*. These cult



"Three Christs" Movie Depiction of Ypsilanti State Hospital filmed in New York State.



"Three Christs" The actual State Hospital in Ypsilanti.

classics were half horror, half twisted comedy. *Woodland Haunting: A True Ghost Story* is a documentary, whereas *The Woodland Haunting 2* is a full-length movie released straight to video as part of a six-movie DVD set called *Hostile Hauntings*, and later released as one of the 50 horror movies in the *Tomb of Terrors* DVD set. The plot summary for *The Woodland Haunting 2* is as follows: "Denton Rose, a snarky Elvis impersonator reporting from a mental institution, tells the confusing story of the Woodland Haunting of Ypsilanti, Michigan." The movie was filmed in several locations, including Ann Arbor, but apparently wasn't actually filmed in Ypsilanti.

In addition to full-length movies and short films which typically used Ypsilanti as a stand-in location, Ypsilanti was also used as a filming location for documentaries and TV shows. Documentaries and TV shows were filmed in Ypsilanti because of inter-

esting people, businesses, or events that took place here. For example, there have been documentaries made about Willow Run's Bomber Plant, the Michigan Murders, and upcoming Ypsilanti basketball star Emoni Bates. An episode of PBS' *Antiques Roadshow* was filmed in Ypsilanti and featured the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum. The Food Network filmed a *Top Five Over Indulgences* at the Bomber Restaurant which featured their huge breakfast offering. QVC's *In the Kitchen with David* filmed a whole day in Riverside Park, combining cooking demonstrations for the purpose of selling various cooking gadgets. The long-running Detroit PBS show *Under the Radar* highlights interesting areas around the state of Michigan, and the show has come to Ypsilanti to film our local businesses on more than one occasion.

The decade that the Hollywood film industry came to Michigan certainly touched Ypsilanti in a big way. Ypsilanti has been forever etched in motion pictures, TV shows, and documentaries. Some movies were good, some not so good, but they all have a little bit of our city etched between the opening and closing credits. If you didn't have

the ability to watch these movies when they were released, most are available to watch on Netflix or Amazon Prime, or you can watch the movie promotional trailers using a quick YouTube search. Many of the movie trailers will show some scenes that were filmed in Ypsilanti. One day, hopefully soon, the

movie nights held monthly in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum basement can resume. When the movie nights resume, there is now a widened catalog of movies that can be shown to the audience that have a direct connection with Ypsilanti.



Tom Daldin, host of "Under the Radar", took a picture with Janice and Bob Anschuetz after filming an episode at Go! Ice Cream in Depot Town.

IMDB Films Relating to Ypsilanti Broken down by category

A list of full-length movies filmed in Ypsilanti include:

- Five Must Die* (2017 Video) - 78 min | Horror
- Biker Zombies from Detroit* (2001 Video) - R | 80 min | Horror, Comedy, Fantasy
- Conviction* (2010) - R | 107 min | Biography, Crime, Drama
- Footlights* (2015) - 80 min | Comedy, Musical
- Jingles the Clown* (2009) - Not Rated | 83 min | Horror
- Liberty's Secret* (2016) - 95 min | Comedy, Musical, Romance
- Love and Honor* (2013) - PG-13 | 100 min | Drama, Romance, War
- Old Denton Road* (2014) - 80 min | Horror, Thriller
- Seth and Tia* (2020) - 90 min | Action, Comedy, Crime
- Star Wars: The World Invasion* (2019) - 80 min | Sci-Fi
- Stone* (2010) - R | 105 min | Drama, Thriller
- The 6th Extinction* (2012) - TV-MA | 90 min | Horror
- The Ark of the Witch* (2014) - 84 min | Fantasy, Horror, Mystery
- The House That Jack Broke* (2013) - Drama
- The Life Peddler* (2020) - Drama, Thriller
- The Mongol King* (2005 Video) - PG-13 | 84 min | Drama, Crime



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Whip It (2009) - PG-13 | 111 min | Drama, Sport
Witchhunter(2002 Video) - Not Rated | 82 min | Horror
Wolf Hound (2020) - Action, Adventure, War | Post-production
Xenomorph - Sci-Fi | Announced

A list of short films filmed in Ypsilanti include:

Awesome Sound (2016) - 19 min | Short, Comedy
Disorder(2009) - 10 min | Short, Drama
Elysium(2008) - 25 min | Short, Drama
Everyone's a V.I.P. To Someone (2009) - 24 min | Short, Drama
Extra Crispy (2017) - Not Rated | 7 min | Short, Comedy, Thriller
Famous Last Words (2007) - 5 min | Short, Comedy
Flip (2008) - 10 min | Short, Drama
Geese (2017) - 20 min | Short, Comedy
Hot Property (2010) - Not Rated | 7 min | Short, Comedy
Lee Martin's The Midnight Hour (2008–) - Episode: *The One That Got Away* (2015) - 30 min | Crime, Mystery, Thriller
Milkboy(2013) - 4 min | Short, Comedy
Out and Back (2019) - 9 min | Short, Drama
P.A.A. (2012) - 6 min | Short, Comedy
Pandora's Wish (2019) - 5 min | Short, Fantasy
Second Heart (2014) - 12 min | Short, Drama
Snuff (2016) - 45 min | Comedy, Horror
Son-of-a-Guns (2011) - 22 min | Short, Comedy
The Boy Who Broke the Internet (2019) - Short, Comedy
The Ol' Dress Up Like A Baby Trick (2017) - 5 min | Short, Comedy
The Sonnet Project (2013–) - Episode: *Sonnet #35* (Sonnet Project US) (2018) - Comedy, Drama, History
The Untimely Demise of the Tambourine Strings (2014) - Short, Comedy, Music
To Love Someone (2018) - 10 min | Short, Drama
Valhalla (2012) - 8 min | Short, Comedy
Zombie Apocalypse: Chronicles - Raider Recon (2011) - 14 min | Short, Action

A list of documentaries filmed in Ypsilanti include:

A Year in Transition (2018) - 70 min | Documentary
After Stonewall (1999) - Not Rated | 88 min | Documentary, Biography, History

Anthology of Terror: Prelude (2010 Video) - Not Rated | 43 min | Short, Horror, Sci-Fi
Women on the Warpath (1943) - 11 min | Documentary, Short
Ypsi's Emoni (2020) - 20 min | Short, Documentary

A list of TV shows filmed in Ypsilanti include:

Under the Radar - PBS
Antiques Roadshow- PBS
In the Kitchen with David - QVC
Top Five Over Indulgences – Food Network

A list of movies, short films, TV shows, documentaries featuring Ypsilanti in the plot include:

A Crime to Remember (2013–) - Episode: *A New Kind of Monster* (2013) - TV-14 | 44 min | Documentary, Crime
A Year in Transition (2018) - 70 min | Documentary
MantoMavrogenous (1971) - 95 min | Biography, Drama, History
Supernatural (2005–2020) - Episode: *A Very Supernatural Christmas* (2007) - TV-14 | 42 min | Drama, Fantasy, Horror
The Ragamuffins of Love (2017 TV Short) - 15 min | Short, Comedy, Music | Completed
The Story of Willow Run (1945) - 33 min | Documentary, Short, History
The Woodland Haunting 2 (2006 Video) - 73 min | Comedy, Horror
Three Christs (2017) - R | 109 min | Drama
Tucker: The Man and His Dream (1988) – PG | Biography, Drama
Where Heroes Have Flown (2013) - 2 min | Documentary, Short
Women on the Warpath (1943) - 11 min | Documentary, Short

A list of TV shows with the name Ypsilanti are provided at this link:

<https://www.imdb.com/find?q=ypsilanti&s=tt>

A list of people associated with the film industry from Ypsilanti are provided at this link:

<https://www.imdb.com/search/name-text/?bio=ypsilanti>

A list of various film industry members with the last name Ypsilanti are provided at this link:

<https://www.imdb.com/find?q=ypsilanti&s=nm>

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

Museum Board Report

BY JAMES CURRAN

The museum continues to be closed until it is safe for visitors and volunteers. The new website and Facebook page are being updated regularly. Please check these sources for information.

New YHS web site:
ypsihistory.org

Facebook:
Ypsilanti Historical Society

If you have questions or concerns please leave a phone message. The phone is monitored two days a week: 734 217-8236.

Be safe and keep well.



Many of the mannequins in the Museum have new clothing, they are unmasked and continue to socially distance themselves.

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Someone Tried to Steal My Great-Great Grandmother

BY JANET MCDUGALL BUCHANAN

My great-great-grandmother, Hester Halsted/Halstead, was born in Olcott Beach, Niagara County, New York, on February 4, 1824. She was the daughter of Benjamin Halstead and Anna Wisner and the last of 11 children, two of whom are unidentified and probably died near birth. I use the Halstead spelling.



Hester Halsted/Halstead.

Both her paternal and maternal grandfathers (Benjamin Halstead and David Wisner) served in the Revolutionary War, and it appears her maternal great-grandfather (Thomas Wisner) may have as well. I researched this family several years ago, but when DNA began to give me more family members the Revolutionary War connections appeared and so more exploring was necessary and opportune. These would add three supplements to my NS DAR membership for a total of 10.

There is a book available online, *One Halstead Family: A Root of Our Family Tree*, by John W. Harrold (1975). It does an excellent job with at least the familiar part of the family. Also, it gives a comprehensive history of the areas of New York where the Halstead family lived during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. There is a timeline on the movements of Benjamin and Anna including their life before and after marriage in Romulus Township, in an area which eventually became Cayuga County. They married there in 1802. The county boundaries changed again, and by 1810 Romulus was in Seneca County where Benjamin and Anna completed a transaction for selling land. Eventually, life found them in Olcott (that area having gone through several name changes also), Niagara County, New York. During that time, Benjamin served in the War of 1812 on two separate occasions.

Not one to stay long in any one place, in 1830 Benjamin moved his family to Michigan and eventually settled in Superior Township, Washtenaw County. He died in Michigan on March 11, 1834. His widow, Anna, returned to the Niagara County area with several of her unmarried children, having family that remained in the area. She died there in 1876, at the age of 91 and was survived by five children, including my great-great-grandmother, Hester.

Doing further research on this family, I began running into numerous Ancestry trees with a Hester Halstead, born in New York about the same time as MY Hester, but eventually settling in Hillsdale County, Michigan, with a husband and children. Hillsdale is about 60 miles from Superior Township, in Washtenaw County. They had the same parents,

Benjamin and Anna Wisner Halstead, listed for this Hester as mine. In the past, I had done enough research and found records to make me confident I had the correct information on MY Hester. Contacting people online responsible for those trees proved mostly fruitless. But one man in Indiana did answer. He said he had a box of papers and pictures from a grandmother and he would go through it to see what he could find to help clear up this confusion. Most of the other people contacted either did not have any answers or did not answer.

In the meantime, I continued digging for additional information, and the Halstead book was found. FAN (Family/Associates/Neighbors) work, in particular for all Hester's brothers and sisters was accomplished. One of the problems was that on Hester's death certificate, which was issued in Washtenaw County (a clue that she is MINE) lists her father's name as "Bailey" and the mother's name as unknown. But, a further clue was that the informant was a George. H. McDougall. This is Hester's daughter Delphine's husband's brother(!) Unfortunately, the family sent as informant a man(!), one who was related by marriage only (!), and one who obviously didn't know the answers to the questions!! Most of the family still lived in that area and George Hester had three daughters who most likely would have known that information. Bailey is the married name of one of Hester's sisters though. Another clue – that she is MINE!!

There had to be a second Hester and many less than thorough researchers had mixed them up. And it really wasn't that difficult to figure out! The man in Indiana eventually sent a picture of some family members,

STATE OF MICHIGAN
Department of State—Division of Vital Statistics
COUNTY Washtenaw
TOWNSHIP Ypsilanti
CITY Ypsilanti
REGISTERED No. 10
No. 219 of Cal (See 4 Ward)
FULL NAME Hester Fowler
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
SEX Female COLOR OR RACE White HAIR Medium
EYES Blue BUILD Medium
DATE OF BIRTH Feb 4 1824 I USE THE
AGE 89 yrs 11 mo 24 da
OCCUPATION None
EDUCATION None
MARRIAGE None
BIRTHPLACE New York
NAME OF FATHER Bailey
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Unknown
MOTHER'S NAME Unknown
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Unknown
THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
Informant George H. McDougall
Address Ypsilanti, R. D. 2
Date Feb 2 1914
Signature G. H. McDougall
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
DATE OF DEATH Jan 20 1914
RESIDENCY Ypsilanti
I last saw her live on Jan 28 1914
and that death occurred on the date stated above.
THE CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Influenza
Contributory None
Date Jan 29 1914
PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Ypsilanti
DATE OF BURIAL Jan 30 1914
Address Ypsilanti

Death certificate for Hester Halsted Fowler who died in 1914.

labeled by his grandmother. The picture had a man, listed on the back, as "my great-uncle Smith Halstead." That made him a brother to this man's grandmother's grandmother, Hester Halstead. This is the family in Hillsdale County, MI. So, back to Ancestry to research a Smith Halstead. Even though there was more than one, there weren't many. It turned out that he was part of a Halstead

family from Yates County, New York. They MAY be related to the Halsteads in Niagara County, but there is no evidence of that at this point. Anyway, Smith Halstead had been married three times. His third marriage record on Ancestry had his parents' names, Jacob Halstead and Betsy Reynolds. A couple of trees had Hester born in Yates County, so one of the searches done previously was to find out if there were any Halstead families in Yates County about the time of MY Hester's birth in 1830. There were two: Qaieb and John Halstead. If you view the image, it clearly says Jacob not Qaieb. Jacob had two daughters under the age of 10, in 1830 – one could easily be the second Hester. I gave my fellow researcher this information. He agrees there were two Hesters – and MINE was the daughter of Benjamin and Anna Wisner Halstead. He has since found the correct family for HIS Hester.

MY Hester (married to George W. Fowler in 1839) was named after her father's sister, and Hester's sister, Mary A. Halstead Bailey, named a daughter, Hester. MY Hester had twins: Sarah Ann and Mary Ann (born 12 August 1842), before my great-grandmother, Delphine (born 4 May 1851), all born in Washtenaw County. The names of the twins certainly fit. There are no Jacobs or Johns in MY Halstead family, at least in the generations I have followed.

One would have thought that was enough excitement on ancestors for one week – but, in adding current details uncovered in my search for other family members, another relative, a McDougall, was found linked to the wrong family – same first name for wife, but different places, ages and children. I have notified this person that their tree might be wrong (no comment).

And, then!! - It turns out that Mary Ann Fowler (Hester's daughter) married to Albert Herrick, was also hijacked and married to a different man in a different area of Michigan (although close)

with (obviously) different children. But they did have the courtesy to have her death certificate (which I already had) with her correct married name of Herrick on it.

PLEASE!! Watch those trees.

HALSTEAD/FOWLER Family (from New York to Michigan):

Richard Halstead (1701-1785) and Hester Oldfield (1707-1784)

Benjamin Halstead (1740-1801) and Ruth Howell (prob) (1748-1800)

Benjamin Halstead (1775-1834) and Anna Wisner (1784-1876)

George W. Fowler (1817-1893) and Hester J. Halstead (1824-1914)

Children of George and Hester:

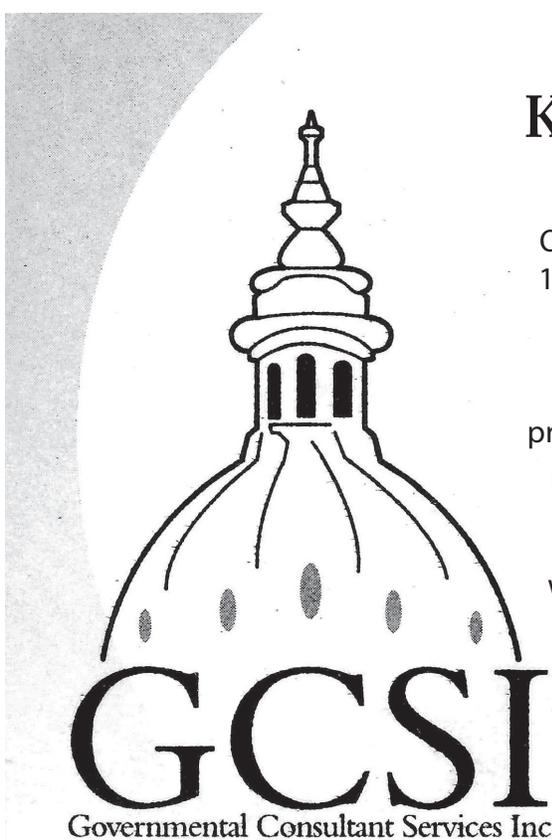
Albert D. Herrick (1834-1925) and Mary Ann Fowler (1842-1920)

Andrew John Huston (1835-1902) and Sarah Ann Fowler (1842-1926)

John A. McDougall (1843-1920)

and Delphine E. Fowler (1851-1941)

(Janet McDougall Buchanan Janet Beckington McDougall Buchanan, was born in Saline and graduated from Roosevelt High School (Ypsilanti) in 1963. Her family has been in the Ypsilanti area for generations, with many still in the area. The McDougalls and Muirs settled in Augusta Township, having arrived from Scotland in 1828. Janet has previously written articles that appeared in the Gleanings in 2010 and 2011 on those families, and a later article on the Hazelton family. Other family names in the area are Halstead/Court/Beckington/Campbell/Gardner/Childs. She is a member of many Lineage Societies, following in her great grandmother, Mary Ella Hazelton Childs', footsteps. She resides with her husband, Bruce, in Phoenix, Arizona and Truckee, California, they have two adult children.)



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Front of the King & Co. Store in 1903. From left to right: Unknown, C. E. Bringing, J. G. Lamb, Charles King, William Thorne, and E. B. Gooding.

RESTORED GLORY at 101 West Michigan

BY JAMES MANN

The building on the southwest corner of West Michigan and South Huron has undergone a major overhaul. The second and third floors of the three story building have been converted into office space. The first floor is ready for use as a business, and the story going around is that it will be a pizza shop. Not one where everyone sits at a table to enjoy their order, but where orders are received and the pizza is delivered to the destination. This, in a way, might seem appropriate, as this was the site of a grocery store for many years.

George King opened his grocery store on New Year's Day, 1838, on what is now East Michigan Avenue. The business, the King Store, was moved to a frame building at what is now 101 West Michigan Avenue in 1840. George King turned the store over to his sons, Charles and Edward King, and the business was renamed C. & E. King. The original frame building was replaced with the present brick building in 1858. Edward withdrew from the business, and Charles continued the business in partnership with his son, Charles E. King. The business was continued under the name of King & Son. The father died in 1883, and the name of the business was then changed to Charles King & Co.

John G. Lamb began working in the store at the age of 14 in 1887, and later became a partner in the business. They continued the partnership until 1913, when Charles E. King died. That same year Charles King Lamb, the son of John G. Lamb, entered the firm, and the name was changed to John G. Lamb & Son.

John G. Lamb continued working in the store for a total of fifty-three years, until his death in 1926, which, in spite of his years, came as a shock to the community. *"In view of the unusual activity of Mr. Lamb,"* noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Saturday, July 3, 1926, *"the news of his sudden death was particularly startling. Seldom missing a day in his store, he seemed to find enjoyment in leadership, one of his proudest remarks being that he could set a pace for any grocer despite his years in preparing parcels or in serving customers."*

When the store opened, and over the following years, the stock was in barrels kept open for display. The windows were used for holding bulk containers so there would be more open space in the store. Items for sale were on shelves that stood from floor to ceiling, with ladders used



Much of the Stock in the store was kept in barrels on the floor.

the services of a clerk to find his merchandise for him," reported The Ypsilanti Daily Press of Wednesday, July 24, 1929.

"Vegetable racks are constructed so that air may circulate through them readily, aiding in the preservation of the food, and each compartment may be viewed easily by the prospective purchaser. Bulk goods are also placed to enable the customer to see what he is buying but is so arranged as to be perfectly sanitary, a rack with glass cases being used," noted the account. "A new steel ceiling was installed and the walls redecorated in ivory. The



Some of the bulk goods in the store were placed in glass cases to enable the customer to see what he was buying.

floor is now covered with inlaid linoleum in a tiled effect with green and black squares of an imitation marble. The office which was at the back of the first floor has been raised, enlarging the store proper by about 15 per cent. In the office, arrangements have been made for a telephone booth where two girls may take orders at the same time."

The John G. Lamb & Son Grocery Store closed its doors for the last time in July of 1942, completing one hundred and four years of service to the community, with eighty-four of those years at 101 West Michigan Avenue. The building continued to stand, and new businesses moved into the location. In time each moved on, to be replaced with another business. Soon, the building will begin a new phase in its history.

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

to reach items on the upper shelves. The coming of the chain stores in the 1920's brought a new awareness of display. This meant the store had to be remodeled.

The front of the store was replaced in 1925, and changes to the interior were made in 1929. *"The old fashioned shelving reaching to the ceiling with ladders on tracks which the clerks mounted to reach merchandise on the top shelf, has been torn out and replaced by steel cabinets, not over six feet high. Everything can be reached readily and with the minimum of time. Counters which originally encircled the store have been taken out and equipment which matches the cases installed in the center of the floor. Thus a customer may pick out his own order if he so desires and bring it to the counter for wrapping or may engage*



A current view of the restored building at 101 West Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti.



Dr. George M. Hull

BY JAMES MANN

Dr. George Hull was one of the great men of Ypsilanti in the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

Dr. George M. Hull M. D. was one of the great men of Ypsilanti. He was the living image of the family doctor who would set out in the middle of the night, no matter how severe the weather, to care for the sick or deliver a baby. When there was a family in need he would often seek no compensation, and perhaps, follow up the visit by sending them a personal check. His, it was said, was a life of quiet service.

George Hull was born in Salem Township on July 31, 1865. He graduated from Ann Arbor High School and entered the medical department at the University of Michigan. During his time at the University, George Hull was a noted athlete, who played guard on the football team. His interest in sports remained with him for the rest of his life. Sometimes he played in local baseball games and he often attended the Newton Club hunting club camp at Seney in the Upper Peninsula.

Hull graduated from the University of Michigan in 1890 and soon after settled in Ypsilanti, where he began as a protégé of Dr. F. K. Owen, but was never in partnership with him. Then he set out on his own, and soon enjoyed a large practice. Dr. George Hull married Anna Judd, on May 4, 1893.

“Dr. Hull,” noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Monday, December 31, 1923, *“besides his busy professional life, was interested in many of the city’s social and business activities. He was a member of the Masonic order, Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Maccabees, Washtenaw Country Club, Beefsteak Club, Rotary Club, Twenty Club, Chamber of Commerce, Washtenaw County, Michigan and American Medical Associations and the Newton Hunting Club. He was also an attendant of the Congregational church. He was a director of the First National Bank, the Elkskin Moccasin Co. and the U. S. Pressed Steel Co.”*

“To Dr. Hull,” continued the account, *“Ypsilanti owes, too, the Beyer hospital, for it was through his efforts that Mr. Beyer made his bequest to the city, and Dr. Hull was named in the Beyer will as one of the executive board of*

the hospital.” Beyer Memorial Hospital opened on June 15, 1918, and two days later, Dr. Hull admitted the first patient to the 28 bed hospital. He would deliver the first baby born at the hospital on June 20. The Hull Contagious Hospital, which was located behind the main building, was opened during the 1918-1919 Influenza epidemic. In later years, the Contagious Hospital was filled to capacity with those suffering from diphtheria, typhoid, scarlet fever and pneumonia.

Dr. George Hull died at 10:30 on the morning of Sunday, December 30, 1923, at his home after an illness of only four days of complications resulting from an attack of apoplexy. Funeral services were held from the residence on the afternoon of the following Wednesday, beginning at 2:00 in the afternoon.

“Mute testimony of the love and esteem in which he was held in the community was impressively conveyed by great banks of flowers reaching to the ceiling of the room in which the body rested during the funeral service.” The business section of the city was closed during the hours of the service. There were more people present at the service than could be accommodated in the residence.

“Knights Templar gathered at the Masonic Temple and marched in a body. City Physicians, druggists, the Camp Newton Club and the Michigan Florida Club attended in a body and a large number of Rotarians as well as members of other organizations of which he was a member were present.”

“Rev. Harvey Colburn gave the brief funeral service at the house and again officiated at the Knight Templar service in the cemetery as he is chaplain of that organization. Knights Templar rode together in the long funeral cortege, and again formed in dignified procession at the cemetery gates, conducting last rites at the grave.” Burial was in Highland Cemetery.

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

Body Found on Sullivan Farm

BY JAMES MANN

On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 1, 1930, a farmer named John Nowak went in pursuit of his horse near the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Holmes Road, about three miles east of Ypsilanti. The horse had been pasturing during the day in a woodlot, and when Nowak went to place a rope around its neck, the horse ran across the woods and headed toward a small creek filled with water. Nowak went after the horse, and as the horse was drinking, his attention was attracted to a huddled figure seated under a tree. The figure was that of a man, who was quite clearly dead. Nowak called police at about 5:00 pm. Deputy Sheriff Lynn Squires and Washtenaw County Coroner Ganzhorn soon arrived on the scene.

“The body was laying between two tree limbs about six inches in diameter which had fallen almost parallel about five feet apart,” reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Wednesday, July 2, 1930. *“The man was fully dressed with a heavy faded blue overcoat, a cap of the same color with ear tabs, trousers with a faded striped design, canvas gloves, and black shoes, which were unusually large, approximately number tens. The clothing indicated winter time and the legs had been drawn up under the overcoat, with the head resting on the log. Apparently the head had slipped from the log during sleep or death and the cap had become dislodged.”*

“The gray hair,” continued the account, *“with a lasting vintage of black was short. The lower teeth in the skull were also well preserved but the upper teeth were almost entirely gone. One hand was entirely missing, apparently having been chewed off by some wild animal. A hole had also been burrowed under the body by a rodent. A search of the clothing on the body revealed no clues. The*

trademark in the cap had been blurred and almost entirely obliterated by the action of time, and no other personal effects whatsoever, which could be used for identification could be found.”

The body, practically a skeleton, had clearly been there for some time, but authorities were unsure how long. William Schnepf and his son Hubert informed authorities they had hunted for squirrels in the woodlot in the fall, and for skunks and woodchucks during the early part of winter. *“The woodlot is small, containing seven acres in all. Most of this has been cut over leaving not more than an acre or two of actual timber standing. The place where the man died was rather prominent and it is probable that the men would have found the body had it been there during the fall,”* noted the account.

The woodlot where the body was found was near Michigan Avenue and not far from the tracks of the Michigan Central Railroad. For this reason, it is possible the man was a tramp who followed the road or railroad. The man may have sought shelter under the trees during the winter and froze to death. There appears to have been no evidence of foul play. Another possibility was that it was the body of James ‘Paddy’ McMahon, a man of 60 years of age, who lived on the old Reed farm about a mile away. Then again, the account noted, he was said to be living in Ann Arbor.

There was no follow up report on the body, so most likely it remained unidentified. The body was removed to Ypsilanti and may have been buried in the potters field at Highland Cemetery.

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

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I Know Something Good About You

BY LOUIS C. SIMON (1935)

Wouldn't this old world be better
If the folks we meet would say –
"I know something good about you!"
And treat us just that way?

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy
If each handclasp, fond and true,
Carried with it this assurance –
"I know something good about you!"

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If the good that's in us all
Were the only thing about us
That folks bothered to recall?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If we praised the good we see?
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worst of you and me!

Wouldn't it be nice to practice
That fine way of thinking, too?
You know something good about me,
I know something good about you?

(Louis C. Shimon was born in Russia in 1901 and in 1903 moved with his family to Watertown, Wisconsin. He was a humorist whose column appeared in many publications. His poem "I Know Something Good About You" was published in Hazel Felleman's book "The Best Loved Poems of the American People" in 1936.)

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