

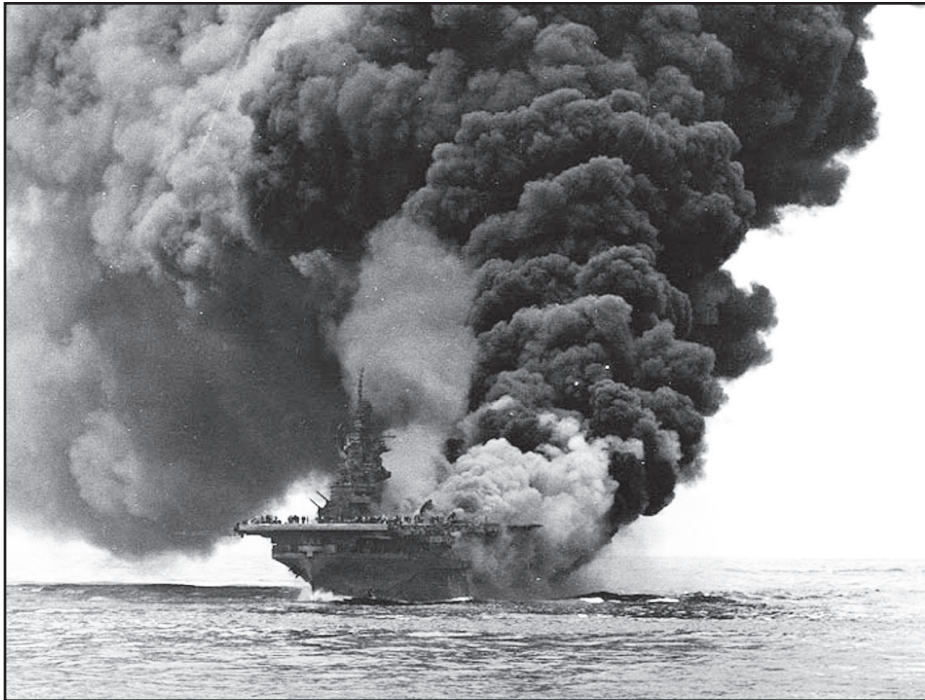
Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



SPRING 2012

World War II, 11 May 1945 Austin Norton Remembers It Well



USS Bunker Hill under Japanese kamikaze attack

No Warning! Explosions and Fires Aboard the USS Bunker Hill at Sea Near Okinawa

By Phil Barnes

It was May 11, 1945, a beautiful day weather-wise, aboard the USS Bunker Hill at sea near Okinawa during the WWII invasion of the island by a large U.S. armada of ships and men. Four aircraft carriers and over 20 other ships participated and the desperate Japanese, sensing the critical moments of WWII, began using their planes for kamikaze attacks on ships. In the late stages of the war the Japanese flew their planes directly into U.S. ships, causing huge explosions and fire from the bombs and fuel supplies aboard the plane. That morning no warning was given. This was something Navy Officer Austin Norton questioned then and for many years

afterward. "Nobody saw them coming and nobody reported it. I always thought somebody goofed and I still do," Norton says.

Suddenly two huge explosions rocked the ship. The first one was a plane that hit the flight deck, with a bomb exploding simultaneously. [See photo above]

Immediately after the first plane hit, a second plane hit the super structure very close to the area where Norton was working as a weather engineer, preparing his daily weather report for the Admiral. Norton was temporarily [continued on page 3]

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From the President's Desk

By Alvin E. Rudisill

We have received many compliments over the past few months regarding our quarterly publication, the GLEANINGS. Much of the credit is due our authors who continue to produce interesting and informative stories of the people, places and things that make up our city's history. Credit is also due to our Assistant Editor Peg Porter and our Design and Layout Specialist Tom Dodd. In this issue there is an invitation for others to submit articles for inclusion in future issues of the GLEANINGS.

We appreciate the financial support we continue to receive from the many members and friends of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Last year we raised over \$16,000 to build and install over 40 storm windows at the Museum resulting in significant savings in heating and cooling bills. Our most recent effort raised over \$20,000 toward the \$125,000 still owed the city of Ypsilanti for the purchase of the property at 220 North Huron Street. The \$125,000 owed the City is due in five years so future fundraising efforts will need to be devoted to this program.

The 2012 Annual Yard Sale hosted by Bill and Karen Nickels will be held on June 2. We will be collecting and storing items for the sale throughout the winter and spring. If you have items to donate please drop them off at the Museum Tuesday through Sunday 1-5 p.m. or call Bill Nickels at 734-474-3259 or Al Rudisill at 734-476-6658 to arrange for the items to be picked up.

Please check out the "Archives Database" that has been posted to the YHS web site. Just click on "Archives Database" on the left column of the home page and it will bring up a set of instructions on how to open and search it. Using "control-F" will bring up a search box on your browser (location on the page depends on the browser being used) where you can type in the names of people, places or things and then search the entire database to see if we have that name in our collections.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, from 2-4 p.m. We will have a brief business meeting followed by a program. Members will be notified of program details by email or postcard. If you are not currently on our email listserv please call the Museum and have your name added. We are using the listserv only for program notifications. Your email address will not be shared with others. Also, please check the Event Schedule on our web site for upcoming special programs and displays.

We are always looking for volunteers as docents for the Museum or research assistants for the Archives. Both the Museum and Archives are open from 2-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. If you are available during that time and are interested in helping us preserve the historical information and artifacts of the area, or in educating the general public about our history, please give me a call at 734-476-6658.

Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 North Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

<http://ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org/>

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Online

Welcome!

The Ypsilanti Historical Society is presented as an 18th-century town and is organized and run by all volunteers and city residents.

A Matter of Trust

On-Line Bookstore: Click your mouse on the book at the right to visit the YHS on-line bookstore that includes more than twenty books on the



For information about upcoming Society events, visit us online at:
www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

Norton on the USS Bunker Hill

[continued from page one]



trapped inside the burning area. The frantic crew scrambled into action attempting to put out the huge fires. Norton freed himself from the wreckage near his office, rushing out on deck to see the blazing fires and wreckage of the many planes burning. He quickly took action, helping his shipmates get water hoses on the fires. The ship burned for 24 hours.

"The fires wouldn't go out no matter how much water we used," said Norton. Miraculously the ship survived, however

many men were lost or injured. Many of the pilots who had just landed perished in the fires and explosions. Three-hundred and ninety-two of the ship's company were killed and 294 were injured.

The Bunker Hill eventually made it back to Hawaii for repairs and, when the war ended three months later, it was used as a transport to bring soldiers back to the U.S. mainland from islands near Japan.

Austin Norton honored on the "New" Bunker Hill

Austin Norton came back from the war and was honorably discharged from the Navy Air Corps in March of 1946. Recently, sixty-seven years after his service, Norton was delighted to be invited to participate in a special recognition of former Bunker Hill crewmates in San Diego, California. Unfortunately, he was the only crewmate able to attend as others were unable to travel.

Norton was able to see the "old" Bunker Hill's bell [right] that had been salvaged from the ship before it was decommissioned. It is proudly displayed in a prominent place aboard the "New" Bunker Hill. Each ship has a brass bell to provide periodic signals to the crew.



Included in Captain Mike Ford's personal invitation were many experiences that Norton and his family enjoyed thoroughly. "It was the experience of a lifetime," said Norton. His invitation was a six-day experience, including tours with VIPs of all aspects of the ship. He enjoyed a banquet where he was introduced and seated next to the Captain. The Captain was highly conversational and accommodating.

Norton's wife Dorothy, son Dennis and his wife Carol, and daughter Cindy were there. They were awed by the hospitality and many events they attended both on shipboard and in the [continued overleaf]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

50 ARTISTS 50

AT THE MUSEUM

220 N. Huron

Friday nights in March
MOVIE NIGHTS
IN THE ARCHIVE
Swashbucklers & Adventure
See page 18 for details

April 1 - October 14
UNDERGROUND
RAILROAD EXHIBIT

June 2 YARD SALE [Save your contributions!]
details will follow

May 6- 2:00 pm
QUARTERLY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
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4-page Special Edition
of GLEANINGS

May 13 - June 14
LOCAL ARTISTS'
EXHIBIT



"Rural" Washtenaw Avenue

Before Washtenaw Avenue got "malled," beginning with Arborland in the late 1950s, there was vacant land as well as a number of places of interest, along this primary link between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. Some of the landmarks on the trip to A2 included beautiful marshland destroyed in the development of Glencoe Hills; the County Farm, now the site of the county recreation center; Warner Dairy store and soda fountain; the brick fenced-in home that featured Santa, his sleigh and reindeer on a fallen tree, after the holidays the seven dwarfs were reinstalled; a Roman Catholic Seminary; and the Ypsi Ann Drive In Theater.

Austin Norton on the USS Bunker Hill

[continued from page three]

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*The flight deck of the
USS Bunker Hill
after the kamikaze
attack*



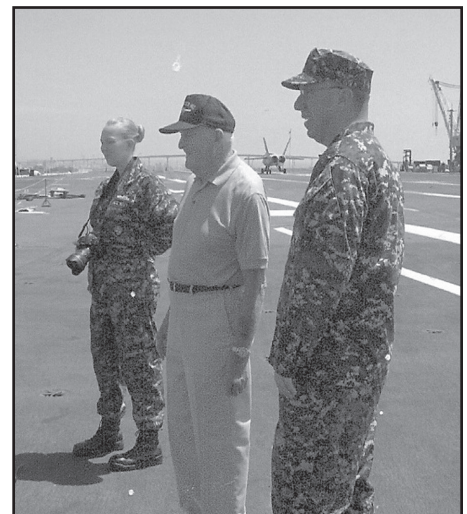
*The "Old" Bunker Hill,
CV-17 is honored with
a plaque hung promi-
nently aboard the "New"
Bunker Hill. The Captain
is showing the plaque to
Norton. Captain Ford
also made sure that Nor-
ton was presented a ship's
patch which represents
the "New" Bunker Hill,
CV-52.*



*Navy pride beamed in Austin Nor-
ton's face as he showed this patch
to his visitors from the GLEAN-
INGS.*



*Norton standing on the flight deck of the
USS Carl Vinson (above) just outside the area
that was hit by a kamikaze on the
"Old" USS Bunker Hill.*



*The enlarged flight deck, hanger deck, are
able to handle the jets and missiles which are
on board. These weapons were not available
during WWII. The "New" Bunker Hill was
also tapped to be the site of the burial at sea
of the notorious terrorist Osama Bin Laden.*

USS Bunker Hill



Left: The
USS Bunker Hill
at commissioning
Top left:
Under way at sea

USS Bunker Hill (CV/CVA/CVS-17, AVT-9)

...was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during World War II for the United States Navy. The ship, the second US Navy ship to bear the name, was named for the Battle of Bunker Hill [fought during the Revolutionary War]. Bunker Hill was commissioned in May 1943, and served in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, earning eleven battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation. She was badly damaged in May 1945, becoming one of the most heavily damaged carriers to survive the war.

After the attack she returned to the U.S. mainland for repairs and was decommissioned in 1947. While in reserve she was reclassified as an attack carrier (CVA), then an antisubmarine carrier (CVS), and finally an Auxiliary Aircraft Landing Training Ship (AVT), but was never modernized and never saw active service again. Bunker Hill and Franklin were the only Essex-class ships never recommissioned after World War II.

Stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in 1966, she served as an electronics test platform for many years in San Diego Bay, and was sold for scrap in 1973. An effort to save her as a museum ship in 1972 was unsuccessful. [Source: Wikipedia]

Post-War

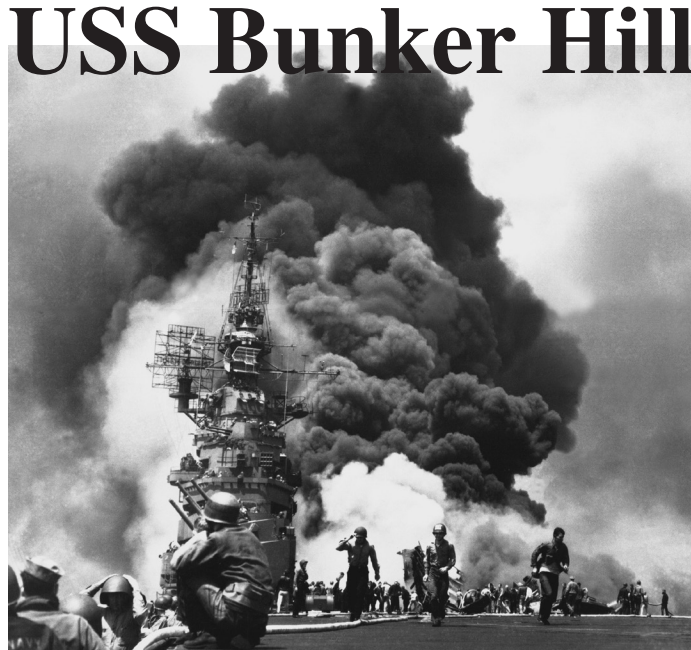
In September, Bunker Hill reported for duty with the Operation Magic Carpet fleet, returning veterans from the Pacific. She remained on this duty as a unit of TG 16.12 until January 1946, when she was ordered to Bremerton for deactivation. She was decommissioned into reserve on 9 January 1947.

A stationary electronics test platform, 1967

While she was laid up in mothballs, she was reclassified three times, becoming the CVA - 17 in October 1951, CVS - 17 in August 1953, and AVT - 9 in May 1959, with the latter designation indicating that any future commissioned operations would be as an "Auxiliary Aircraft Landing Training Ship". As all Essex-class carriers survived the war, the peacetime U.S. Navy had no need for the use of the Bunker Hill. She and the Franklin, which also had sustained severe damage from an aerial attack, were the only aircraft carriers in the Essex-class that did not experience any active duty after the end of World War II, despite their being repaired. Stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in November 1966, the Bunker Hill was used as a stationary electronics test platform at the Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, during the 1960s and early 1970s.

The USS Bunker Hill was sold for scrap-ping in May 1973.

[Source: U.S. Navy records]



Above: USS Bunker Hill Under attack.
[Commissioning and attack photos are from the files and with permission of the U.S. Navy]



Austin and family enjoyed a luncheon with Captain Ford and officers on board the ship



Austin and Dorothy Norton at artist Seward Johnson's "Unconditional Surrender" modeled from the iconic LIFE Magazine cover shot of a kiss between a U.S. sailor and nurse in Times Square at the war's end

[The author, Phil Barnes, is a frequent contributor to GLEANINGS and served on the U.S.S. Philippine Sea (CV47) in the Korean War.]

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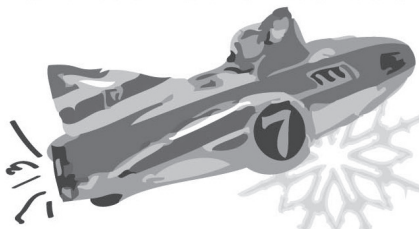
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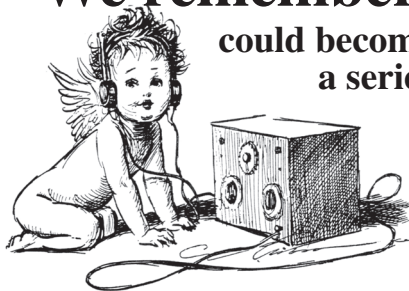
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“We remember” could become a series



“We remember” could be the title for a new series on these pages of GLEANINGS, and Charles Dana Gibson’s drawing [above] of a cherub listening to an old-time radio could be the series’ logo.

This issue of GLEANINGS has several such short memories—not whole stories, but snippets of local history that have come from the musty attics of our brains.

The editors encourage readers to share their memories here. Like the guy said, “I have an excellent memory. It’s a short one, but it’s excellent.”

We don’t always intend to remember something; in fact, we often remember even when we’re not trying to. A smell, a sound, a name out of the cosmos and we are transported to a time in the past that was filed away in our subconscious. That’s the time to make a little notation and vow to fill in the blanks later on.

Buildings, utensils, and empty lots recall events and people with stories to tell. Your favorite climbing tree, the best place to dig, the fort we built. The first time (whatever). Playmates, games, school, dates, vacations—all stored away in our heads.

Start a list of tales to tell and send your memory to GLEANINGS..



It’s a Test! Timeless Apothegms

By Peter Fletcher

Seniors should remember these old fashioned sayings and be able to complete them. Youngsters can gain great wisdom from studying them.

1. You can lead a horse to water...
2. Busier than a lamb’s tail...
3. Colder than a well digger’s lunch...
4. So busy I don’t know if I am...
5. I have had a wonderful evening...
6. There is no inherently criminal class in America...
7. It was a woman who drove me to drink...
8. Politics is...
9. Behind every successful man is...
10. The biggest mouths are invariably attached to...
11. An honest politician is one who...
12. The longer the obituary...
13. Successful office holders support...
14. The sun never sets on the British empire...
15. He looks like the breaking up...
16. Old age is...
17. A woman is only a woman...
18. We are looking for custom-made relationships...
19. To err is human...
20. I have a head cold.

See page 30 for the answers.

(Peter Fletcher is the President of the Credit Bureau of Ypsilanti and is widely known for his inspirational speeches.)

Non-local banks think Pray Harrold is a religious newspaper.

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Happy 5th Anniversary . . . to Us!

by Gerry Pety

Reflections on the old YHS Archives: 2007-2012

As most people in the YHS community know, we have a new Archive which is absolutely first rate and a blend of the old and new that makes it very efficient and yet evokes a positive feeling of Ypsilanti history. What the walls of this 150-year-old house could tell! The best part of moving to this well planned 'Phoenix' of the old YHS Archives is that everything works on a consistent basis which again makes this an ideal place to do research or just converse about the history of the area. Moreover, we are now fully capable of finding anything in the archives pertaining to Ypsilanti—which is something we could not always do at the old place, due to its interior configuration.

It is still hard to believe that it has been five years since we moved the Fletcher-White Archives from the, then city-owned, carriage house to our present facilities in the lower level of the YHS Museum. What a move it was too! Everyone within the YHS family and others, it seemed, came to help us move. It was real job and it involved a great deal of preparation on everyone's part, but my volunteers and I pulled it off. Phew!

People seem to remember different aspects of that place than I do, and although I still remember the good times we had over there, there were many other things which made the place absolutely 'unique'. Many have asked me what I feel about the old Archives and then they would wax nostalgically about how charming the old place was or the great view we had of Riverside Park from our windows. During the summer, there were lots of annual events within our view. All of this free! Also, some of our guests and members remember the coziness of the place which engendered a spirit of camaraderie among the patrons with everyone helping one another; whether it was to do research or just simple explanations of Ypsilanti's fascinating history. Yeah, it was a wonderful experience to be sure, to everyone including myself.

Yep, I really liked the place but there was a side to the old Archives not everyone

knows about. I will spin that story for you now as I remember the old place.

Sometime in 2002 the Archives were in the Ypsilanti Room in the YHS Museum where I was a volunteer and during my first week we moved the Archives over to what was known as the carriage house. Wow, what a move it was! James Mann was the first Archivist at the new digs and I worked for him the first year. In 2003, James left this position and I was finally hired to run the 'exiled' Archives at the carriage house. This was after the short-lived tenure of an archivist who was allergic to dust and mold. Two ambulance rides to the hospital later they hired me to take her place. It seems it was on June 25th, 2003, a date that General Custer made famous some 127 years earlier.

The part of the story most people find hard to believe was the totality of the problems we would encounter there and I do mean WE! Every day we came to the Archives I never knew, until I entered, what would or could possibly go wrong that day or what my guests and helpers would encounter. Many times during the next five years we would welcome patrons and helpers without any heat, light, phones, computer, water, or even with a plugged toilet! This happened all the time! We even had a flood in the bathroom one day and a bathtub that was backed-up with some really, slimy goo---shades of 'slime' in the movie "Ghost Busters"! We somehow always found a way to stay open though. Oh, we might really get cold but we remained open.

Our final August in 2006 at the old Archive, we even had a real fire! The power line leading to the building was literally knocked off by a direct lightning strike; it was just hanging there on the side of the building when DTE arrived to fix it. No air conditioning, lights, or computer that day! Luckily, the actual strike was so short-lived, probably took only a nano second. The electrical lead-in wire was probably due to fail anyway due to its advanced age and lack of maintenance, so it was time to replace it anyway. This place was origi-

nally converted to apartments in 1929 and that was probably the original lead wire from then. The only evidence left was a scorched and melted carpet under the desk in the living room and a completely destroyed surge protector. The good news was that the computer survived and somehow the place didn't burn to the ground like the building almost did in 1968 when there was a boiler fire in the basement!

When we did finally move to the new Archive, renovations started. What was revealed was a very antiquated wiring system and confusing fuse panel, and a plumbing system that even the ancient Romans would regard as sub-standard. (YHS President Al Rudisill and Jerry Jennings would remedy all of this over the course of the next nine months to make this place into a deluxe apartment.)

[continued overleaf]



Happy 5th Anniversary

[continued from p. 7]

Besides the physical problems with old Archives, we had all kinds of visitors- invasions of all kinds of some really ugly creatures that came to visit: a rodent or two, numerous House Centipedes, (I swear one was size of a 75-cent Tootsie Roll) and other 'things' I never knew existed or haven't seen since my student days at Hover Labs at EMU, when we studied bugs. If you believe there is not enough bio-diversity on this planet, it wasn't missing, it was just hiding right here in the Archives!

We also had a squirrel that went absolutely berserk in 2005 and ran 'hill and dale' leaving paw prints on everrrrrry thing! He left paw prints on every vertical

surface too. This little fellow went everywhere and only the ceiling was spared this 'super-tracker'. Seems he came down the chimney and could not get back up so he decided to show his immense displeasure with the whole joint by leaving his 'call-



"How's this new spot workin' out for ya, Gerry?"

ing cards' along with numerous tracks.

But this is not a 'hit piece' about a place that never would have made 'code' if it had been owned by a private landlord, this was a city owned building at the time. Ypsilanti over the years had taken a minimalist approach to repairs and human safety issues-and all of the 'regulars' and visitors who came in knew it instinctively. One of the first items of interest upon entry was to survey where the exits were and how far it was to jump out a window in case of an emergency. The walls were uniformly rough from faulty plastering, the doors stuck, nothing worked properly. I got to know Stan, the leader of the city maintenance crew that came to fix things on an almost weekly schedule. Heck, even when everything appeared to be working well, you knew that this was just a setup or prelude to some new difficulty---lady

luck was nowhere to be found during our tenancy.

When I think back to those days of five years ago, I still remember all the things that went on and wonder if this was not some sort of immense cosmic joke. Maybe, in some perverse way the place was so trouble prone that it challenged the laws of probability and tilted the laws of possibilities. How could so many negative things happen all at once and all of the time! Maybe it was some escaped gremlins from the Ford/Consolidated bomber plant of World War II. Nah!

Then I think of the people who came in and made 'IT' the special place that it was. It was a great place to do research and a lot of fun to boot—the full spectrum of positive human personalities were present there every day we were open. Many of those people that came to the old Archives are now gone but the special memories of these people are accentuated by an equally special place we all shared. I will never forget the old Fletcher-White Archives, it was a special time, in a very special place. There will never be a place like this again.

As to our present Archives, I am sure, that 45 years from now someone will write an equally satisfying account of all of the great happenings and people here now and about our panoply of friendly ghosts who habituate the place. I sure hope so!

So long live the new YHS Archives and Happy 5th Anniversary!

Gerry Pety is Archivist for the Fletcher-White Archivess and a boon to all who seek professional research there.

NOTE: Popular cartoonists Gluyas Williams (previous page) and Art Young (above) seemed to presage our Archives situation way back in the twenties and thirties!

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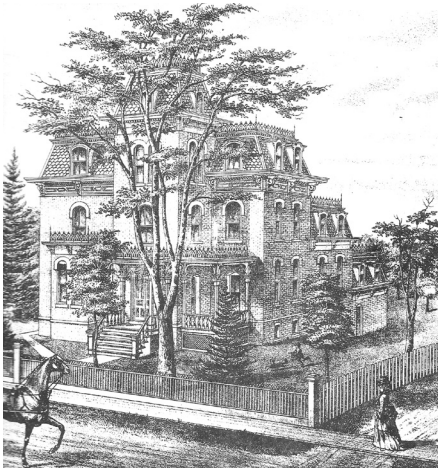
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Water Street Auto Dealer History By Bill Nickels

In 1999, the City of Ypsilanti decided to redevelop thirty-four acres bounded by Michigan Avenue, Park Street, and the Huron River. The redevelopment became known as the Water Street Project. Since the area had a rich automotive history, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) required that the history be recorded. This article tells the history of auto dealerships along the south side of Michigan Avenue between the Huron River Bridge and Park Street, a distance of only a quarter mile.



1874 – Worden residence at 20 E. Michigan

Before The Automobile

The vacant land we now see on Michigan Avenue in downtown Ypsilanti was an avenue for the wealthy during the last half of the Nineteenth Century. Alva Worden invented a new and improved whip socket. As the name implies, a whip socket is a holder on a carriage that secures a whip that is used to encourage horses. With brothers John and Chancey, they manufactured their whip sockets in a building on South River Street in the present day Water Street area. Using their new-found wealth, each of the brothers built their own French Second Empire mansion on Michigan Avenue between the Huron River and River Street. Before being torn down late in the Twentieth Century, the last of the mansions watched the transition of Michigan Avenue from an elegant residential avenue to an avenue for the sale of not-yet-invented automobiles during the Twentieth Century.

6 East Michigan Avenue

Close to the Huron River and on the southeast corner of Water Street and Michigan



1962 – East Michigan Avenue

Avenue, 6 East Michigan Avenue was a car dealership twice. In 1927, Alex Longnecker rented the newly built building at 2 East Michigan (now 6 East Michigan) and opened a Hudson and Essex dealership. Carl Miller bought into the business late in 1932. They stayed until 1933 when the depression encouraged them to move their dealership to the southeast corner of East Cross and North River in Depot Town for cheaper rent. Their Depot Town dealership is now the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum with Carl's son Jack as curator.

Silkworth Oil Company used 6 East Michigan after Longnecker and Miller moved. From about 1948 to the mid 1950s, Schaffer Motor Sales occupied 6 East Michigan selling Chrysler, Plymouth, and GMC trucks. It is unusual that Lawrence Schaffer sold GMC trucks in a Chrysler dealership. It is explained knowing that Joseph Thompson sold Dodge trucks in his Dodge and Plymouth dealership across Michigan Avenue.

In 1957, Ralph Gorlick came to Ypsilanti from a Packard dealership in Wayne to partner with Eric Lidell. They formed Gor-Dell Incorporated, a DeSoto Plymouth franchise at 6 East Michigan.

In 1960, Myron and Ray Serbay bought Gor-Dell Incorporated. When Chrysler Corporation dropped the DeSoto line in 1961, Serbay became an Imperial, Chrysler, Plymouth, and Valiant dealer. When Vincent Chevrolet moved from 34 East Michigan in 1962, the Serbay brothers took the opportunity to move to their modern building. After 1962, 6 East Michigan

was occupied by auto related businesses, but never found use as a new car dealership again.

20 East Michigan



Circa 1927 - Joseph Thompson Inc., 20 East Michigan

Starting in 1828, the Thompson family made significant contributions to the Ypsilanti scene. Benjamin first used his millwright skills to help build the many mills that flourished along the Huron River. He also built and used Depot Town's Thompson Building for manufacturing. His son Oliver was once mayor, his grandson was a member of the school board for three years.



1938 - Joseph Thompson Inc., 20 East Michigan

It was Benjamin's great grandson Joseph who moved his Dodge dealership in Depot Town's Thompson Building to 20 East Michigan in 1927. Spencer Davis came with him from Depot Town as Vice President. By 1934, the dealership offerings expanded to include Plymouth and Dodge trucks. When Detroit's auto plants switched to the production of military vehicles during

[continued overleaf]

Water Street Auto Dealers

[continued from p. 9]

World War II, Thompson moved his dealership across the street to 21 East Michigan. He resumed the sale of Dodges, Plymouths, and Dodge trucks after the war until 1956. Thompson was a charter member and once president of the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce, Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club member, and Mackinaw Island State Park Commission member.



Joe Sesi, Sr.

Joseph Sesi left his home in Mesopotamia and arrived in America in 1923. He came to Detroit where a handful of fellow countrymen had settled and began working as a grocery store delivery boy. In the early 1930s, he opened a grocery store in Detroit's Boston Edison Neighborhood named "The Olde Shop" which later became "The New Center Market." Featuring one of the nation's first frozen food sections selling Birdseye products, Joe met Henry Ford I, the Fisher Brothers, and other prominent Boston Edison Neighborhood residents.

At the conclusion of World War II, Henry Ford I and Ford family members were so impressed with Sesi's work ethic and dedication that they offered him an opportunity to manufacture auto parts. Alan Chapel, husband of Mrs. Ford's niece, partnered with Joe and founded Ypsilanti Industries in 1946. Alan was president and Joe was vice president. They decided to use the building vacated by Joseph Thompson at 20 East Michigan. He and Alan had a contract from Henry Ford to manufacture 50% of the roller bearings and synchronizer rings for manual transmissions Ford needed to start post war auto manufacturing. Borg Warner had a contract for the other 50% of the roller bearings. When the Borg Warner workers went on strike, Joe and Alan worked twenty-four hours a day to keep production going for Henry Ford.

As the demand for cars increased after the war, Ford Motor Company decided to separate the sale of Lincolns and Mercurys from Ford dealerships. On March

14, 1947, the two entrepreneurs opened one of the original twenty-seven Lincoln-Mercury dealerships in the United States in the front of 20 East Michigan Avenue. In 1948, they also sold Ford tractors and farm implements at 20 East Michigan under the name of Ypsilanti Tractor Sales Inc. By 1957, the Chapel/Sesi partnership was consolidated under Joe, his wife Catherine, and nephew Joe Sesi Junior. In 1965, Sesi Lincoln Mercury moved from 20 East Michigan farther east on Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti Township. The *Ypsilanti Press* newspaper then took over the building ending the sale of new cars at 20 East Michigan.



Ted Schaible

40-42 East Michigan

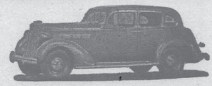
After graduating from Cleary Business College, Theodore Schaible was hired by Ford Motor Company as a Washtenaw County representative. In 1910, Theodore Schaible partnered with E. G. Wiedman and opened the first Ford agency for Washtenaw County. Starting in Saline, they moved to 27 North Washington in Ypsilanti. In the spring of 1912, fire destroyed their building. The partnership dissolved with Wiedman retaining the Ford dealership and moving to 212 Pearl Street. Schaible tore down the wood frame Thorton General Store at the southwest corner of River Street and Michigan Avenue and built a salesroom and garage for the sale of new Buicks. Schaible was active in civic affairs and was Ypsilanti mayor from 1920 to 1922. The Buick dealership continued with a name change to Hall Motor Sales, WJ Pink President, in 1928. Theodore Schaible again became President until 1933 when he last sold Buicks at the corner of River Street and Michigan Avenue. In 1935 he moved his residence to Ann Arbor.

With the Depression still lingering in 1934, 40-42 East Michigan no longer sold new cars and provided automotive service under the name of Dudley Motor Service. In 1937, Harold Dietrich Auto Service serviced cars and occupied the building.

Edwin Doran grew up in Detroit, attended

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Doran Thompson auction poster

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and, in the early 1920s, became personal service representative for William S. Knudsen who was vice president of General Motors and general manager of the Chevrolet Division. In 1938, Schaible's building became Doran Chevrolet Company and Ypsilanti Motor Sales Incorporated, Roy Wise President and Manager. Doran sold Chevrolets and Wise sold Oldsmobiles. The original showroom burned down leading to the construction of a new showroom during World War II. At the conclusion of the war in 1945, the corner was entirely Doran Chevrolet Company and, in addition to Chevrolets, sold Oldsmobiles, Buicks, and Cadillacs. Doran was a member of the Michigan and National Automobile Dealers Associations and director of the National Bank of Ypsilanti. He was a member of the American Legion, Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club, Camp Newton Club, and a charter member of the Automobile Oldtimers. Doran Chevrolet closed in 1951 when George Vincent left Shalla Chevrolet in Detroit and bought the Doran franchise. Vincent Chevrolet continued at 40 East Michigan until 1953 when they moved to the newer more modern building at 34-38 East Michigan.

Owning Airport Cab Company, an ambulance service, and the car wash next to the Masonic Temple; Ray Milligan was an entrepreneur of sorts around Ypsilanti. He briefly opened a DeSoto Plymouth dealership at 40 East Michigan in 1954. The dealership closed in 1956. Ray operated

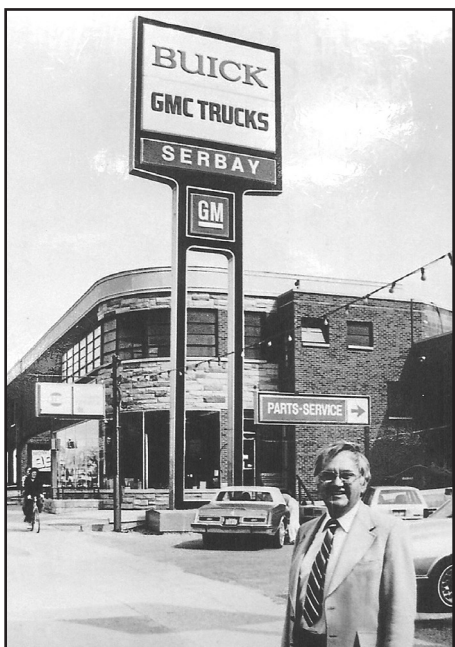
the last new car dealership at this corner. The building was later occupied by a fish market.



1953 - Richards DeSoto Plymouth,
34 East Michigan;
Davis Motor Sales, 38 East Michigan

34-38 East Michigan

With a pent up demand for new cars after World War II, Ralph Gerganoff designed an ultra modern dealership at 34 East Michigan for James Davis, son of Spencer Davis, long time Vice President and salesman for Joseph Thompson Dodge at 20 East Michigan. They first sold for DeSoto and Plymouth. Davis also sold foreign cars in the basement of 34 East Michigan. Next door, at 38 East Michigan, dad Spencer Davis and Herbert Teachout sold for Packard, Crosley, and International Trucks. The DeSoto Plymouth dealership was last known as Richards DeSoto Plymouth and closed in 1953.



1983 - Serbay Motor Sales,
34 East Michigan, Ray Serbay

Leaving the corner of South River and East Michigan, Vincent Chevrolet moved into 34 East Michigan in 1953 and stayed until 1962 when they moved farther east



1950 - Doran Chevrolet, 40 East Michigan (left to right) City Manager N.G. Damoose, Ed Doran, Salesman Harold Beadle, ?, Police Chief Sustrka, & Officer Al Detloff

on Michigan Avenue outside the city limits.

Using the opportunity to move to a newer more modern building, Myron and Ray Serbay moved their Imperial, Chrysler, Plymouth, and Valiant dealership from 6 East Michigan into 34 East Michigan. In 1980, brother Myron got out of the business and Ray dropped the Chrysler franchise and picked up Buick, Datsun (which became Nissan), and GMC trucks. By 1989, the franchise was named Davis Buick, GMC, and Nissan. Not staying the same very long, in 1991 34 East Michigan became Campus Buick, Honda, and GMC trucks with George Davidson as president. With the close of this dealership sometime in the 1990s, the sale of new cars during most of the twentieth Century along this short stretch of the south side of Michigan Avenue ended.

Summary

In all, 31 name plates were sold on the south side of Michigan Avenue during the Twentieth Century. The following list summarizes the dealers:

Buick, Theo Schaible Garage,
40 - 42 E. Michigan

Dodge, Graham Brothers Trucks,
Joseph Thompson Incorporated,
20 E. Michigan

Buick, Hall Motor Sales,
40 - 42 E. Michigan

Hudson, Hudson (& Essex)
Sales and Service, Alex Longnecker,
2 E. Michigan

Dodge, Plymouth, Dodge Trucks,
Joseph Thompson, 20 E. Michigan

Packard Motor Sales & Service,
Spencer Davis, 22 E. Michigan
Doran Chevrolet, Cadillac, Oldsmobile,
Edwin Doran, 40 - 42 E. Michigan
Oldsmobile, Ypsilanti Motor Sales Inc.,
Roy Wise, 40 - 42 E. Michigan
Packard, Crosley, Ypsilanti Body Shop,
Harold Teachout, 38 E. Michigan
Richard's Desoto Plymouth,
34 E. Michigan
Ray Milligan DeSoto Plymouth,
40-42 E. Michigan
Davis Motor Sales,
MG, Jaguar, Moran, Singer,
Volkswagen, Renault, Porsche,
38 E. Michigan Avenue
Teachout & Spencer,
Packard, Crosley, International Truck,
Ypsilanti Body Shop, 38 E. Michigan
Chapel and Sesi,
Ford Tractor, Ypsilanti Tractor Sales, Inc.
20 E. Michigan
Sesi Lincoln Mercury,
20 - 22 E. Michigan
Serbay Motor Sales,
Imperial, Chrysler, Plymouth, Valiant,
2-4 E. Michigan
Buick, GMC, Datsun, Campus,
34 E. Michigan

It is doubtful if any similar quarter mile in any city could match this retail automotive history.

NOTE: Information sources for this report include Ypsilanti Street Directories from the Archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and interviews with Mickey Ichesco, Jack Miller, and Joe Sesi Junior.

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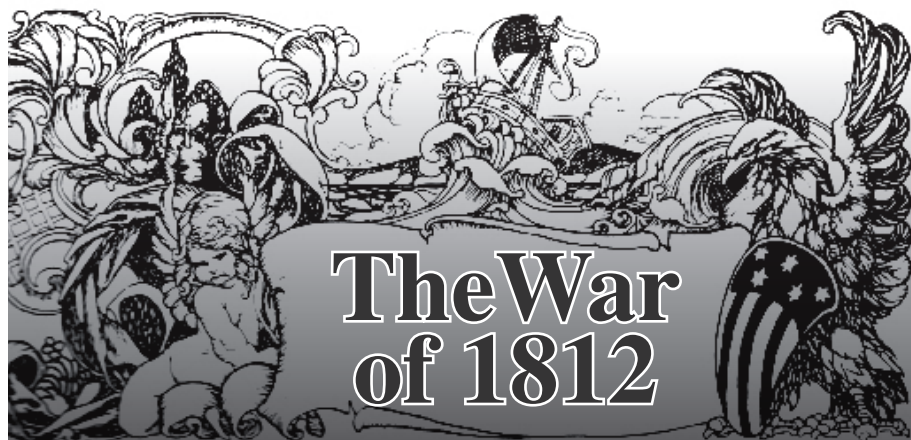
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Commemorating the Bicentennial



Ypsilanti's role in the War of 1812

-By James Mann for the Ypsilanti Historical Society

Cannon balls raining on Detroit. Foreign troops occupying Mackinac Island. Pitched battle on the outskirts of Frenchtown (Monroe). These distressing scenarios were all a part of Michigan's experience during the War of 1812, a conflict between the United States and Great Britain that severely tested both the country and the people of the state.

*-Michigan History magazine,
January/February 2012*

29 Years After Independence

The young nation that was the United States in 1812 had several reasons for declaring war on England that year, one of which was the annexation of what is now Canada to the United States. This, it was thought, could be accomplished simply by hard marching. Canada, they surmised, was ripe for the taking. To achieve this goal, the United States had a plan to launch a three-pronged invasion of Canada, with one prong crossing the river at Detroit. This force was under the command of General William Hull, a hero of the revolution and Governor of the Michigan Territory.

MICHIGAN ON THE CUSP OF WAR

-by Brian Leigh Dunnigan

The War of 1812 is one of the lesser-known conflicts of American history, even in Michigan, where it affected every part of the population. In what came to be characterized—with some justification—as our second war of independence, the 29-year-old United States of America declared war on its former colonial master, asserted its international rights, and proclaimed itself an up-and-coming young power in the world....

War Declared

Hull had been in Washington during the spring of 1812, where, in a state of anxiety, he listened to the debates in Congress on the subject of war with England. In anticipation of war, Governor Meigs of Ohio had gathered a force of 1,200 men. This force was placed under the command of General Hull, and there began the hard move to Detroit. There were no roads, only narrow trails and the supplies were heavy. *The men traveled on what passed for a road along the shore of Lake Erie.* On June 24, Hull received orders to hasten with his men to Detroit and await further orders. The orders arrived six days after war had been declared, but this item of information was not included in the order.

Not until a week later did General Hull receive word that the nation was now in a state of war.

Arrival at Fort Detroit

Once Hull arrived at Detroit he rested his men and awaited further orders. Officers under his command, including Colonel Duncan McArthur and Colonel Lewis Cass, urged him to invade the opposite shore where a gun battery was under construction in full view of Detroit. These were eager, ambitious young men, who sought the glory of war and the political advancement such glory would bring. Hull told them he had no orders to do so. Then, on July 9, Hull received orders giving him full authority to commence offensive operations. The Americans crossed the Detroit River on the evening of July 11 and the British forces turned away. Hull issued a proclamation but took no further action. McArthur and Cass, on their own, led several reconnaissance operations, and found their forces outnumbered the British. A bold move could win the campaign, but bold moves were no longer in the make-up of the man who was William Hull.

Hesitation

The officers under Hull wanted to march on the British post at Fort Malden, eighteen miles away. Hull gave no such order. At first the officers among themselves accused Hull of imbecility and cowardice. Early in August Hull ordered his men to return to the American side of the Detroit River. He had learned of the British taking the fort at Mackinac, and of the Native People siding with the British in the war. Hull then feared the Native People would go on the warpath and massacre the American settlers in the Territory. With the officers more open in their feelings toward Hull, they began to use the word *treason* when speaking of him. The order to withdraw was obeyed.

The men under Hull were close to mutiny and even spoke of removing Hull from command. They hesitated, as none of them wanted to be the one who carried out the deed.

After the Americans withdrew from their advance into Ontario, the British took up positions along the river.



*Pittsfield, Ypsilanti, York, & Augusta Townships.
Detail from George Wahr's "Map Showing Old Indian Trails..."
Upper right circle: Trails intersect at Godfroy's trading post (Ypsilanti today)
Four diagonal French Claim boundaries of Godfroy & partner's properties shown.
Center circle: Sauk Trail divides to avoid salt marshes (US-12 does the same today)
Lower left circle: Trail from Saline to River Raisin, Toledo, Sandusky Bay*

Reinforcements Imminent

At this time additional men and supplies are approaching Detroit from Ohio on the road by Lake Erie. In command of this force was Captain William Brush with two hundred volunteers, escorting three hundred head of cattle and a quantity of flour on packhorses. These men arrived at the River Raisin on August 9, where Brush ascertained that a British force was posted at Brownstown. Brush saw the British had a superior force and decided to await developments.

Hull sent a Major Van Horne, with 150 riflemen and some militiamen to meet Brush and act as escort and guard on August 4. Major Van Horne was attacked and forced to return to Detroit.

The Battle of Monguagon

On the evening of August 8, Hull sent a Colonel Miller, with a detachment of 600 officers and men, to make an effort to reach Brush who is still at the Raisin. On the afternoon of August 9, at about 4

p.m., the vanguard was fired upon by an extensive line of British soldiers and Native Warriors about fourteen miles south of Detroit.

Justification?

General Hull wrote in a letter to the Secretary of War, August 13, 1812: "At this time the main body was marching in two columns and Captain Snelling maintained his position in a most gallant manner, under a heavy fire, until the line was formed and advanced to the ground he occupied, when the whole, excepting the rear guard, was brought into action. The enemy were formed behind a temporary breast-work of logs with the Indians extending in a thick wood on the left. Lieutenant-colonel Miller ordered his whole line to advance, and when within a small distance of the enemy made a general discharge, and proceeded with charged bayonets, when the whole British line and Indians commenced a retreat. They were pursued in a most vigorous fashion for about two miles, and the pursuit discontinued only on account of

Ypsilanti in the War of 1812 [continued from page 13]

the fatigue of the troops, the approach of evening, and the necessity of returning to the care of the wounded."

No Reinforcements

The next day Miller sent his wounded to Detroit on boats and requested supplies and reinforcements from General Hull. In reply, Hull sent word to Miller that the reinforcements could not be spared, and ordered Miller back to Detroit. Miller arrived at Detroit the next day, August 11, 1812.

Meanwhile, at Godfroy's

On 14 August 1812, General Hull told Colonels McArthur and Cass of his plan to send a detachment by an circuitous inland route to save Detroit from attack via Canada. It is likely the plan called for the detachment to travel from Detroit by the Sauk Trail, now Michigan Avenue, past Godfroy's trading post where the Sauk Trail crossed the Pottawatomie Trail by the Huron River, now the site of Ypsilanti *[see map on previous page]* They would continue on the Sauk Trail to a point near Saline and there turned onto a trail along the Saline River and River Raisin to the present day site of Monroe to reinforce waiting troops. McArthur and Cass volunteered to carry out the plan. They chose three hundred and fifty men from their regiments, and with McArthur in command, left Detroit for Godfroy's that evening. They left in such haste that they failed to take sufficient supplies, including blankets. Hull promised to send supplies on packhorses after them—a promise he failed to keep.

The detachment under McArthur and Cass crossed the River Rouge that evening, and next morning continued on until twenty-five miles from Detroit. There the detachment became entangled in a swamp. McArthur sent scouts ahead to carry out a reconnaissance. As the scouts approached Godfroy's trading post, they saw Native People who disappeared into the woods. Fearing an ambush, the scouts returned to the detachment.

Surrender and capitulation

That evening, as the detachment, tired and hungry, made camp, a messenger arrived from General Hull ordering them to return

to Detroit immediately. The detachment did not move until the next morning. As the detachment came near Detroit, they heard the sound of cannon fire. The British attack had begun. Then there was silence. Soon a courier arrived with the news that Hull had surrendered Detroit, and the detachment was included in the surrender. The detachment was to return to Detroit as prisoners of war. On receiving the news, McArthur thrust his sword into the ground and broke it into pieces. Then he tore his epaulettes from his shoulders. Cass cried, "Treason!" Then Cass broke his sword over his knee. Then the detachment marched into the fort and stacked their arms.

Hull wrote in self-defense:

"I well knew the responsibility of the measure, and take the whole of it on myself. It was dictated by a sense of duty, and a full conviction of its expediency. The bands of savages which had then joined the British forces were numerous beyond example. Their numbers have since increased, and the history of the barbarians of the north of Europe does not furnish examples of more greedy violence than these savages have exhibited. A large portion of the brave and gallant officers and men I command would cheerfully have contested until the last cartridge had been expended and bayonets worn to the sockets. I could not consent to the useless sacrifice of such brave men when I knew it was impossible for me to sustain my situation. It was impossible, in the nature of things, that an army could have been furnished with the necessary supplies of provisions, military stores, clothing, and comforts for the sick, or pack-horses, through a wilderness of two hundred miles, filled with hostile savages. It was impossible, Sir, that this little army, worn down by fatigue, by sickness, by wounds, and death, could have supported itself not only against the collected force of all the northern Indians, but against the united strength of Upper Canada, whose population consists of more than twenty times the number contained in the Territory of Michigan, aided by the principal part of the regular forces of the province, and the wealth and influence of the Northwest and other trading establishments among the Indians, who

have in their employment more than two thousand men."

Trickery

The fact is, Hull was tricked into believing his forces were outnumbered by the British and Native Warriors. His decision to surrender Fort Detroit was made, in part, out of fear that, had battle been engaged, the Native Warriors would have become filled with a lust for blood, and carried out a massacre of the population of Fort Detroit. This population included Hull's daughter and grandchild. Such a massacre had been carried out at Fort Dearborn, at what is now Chicago, in the days preceding the surrender of Detroit. Had Hull engaged the British and Canadian and Native Warriors in the early days of the campaign, he almost certainly would have won.

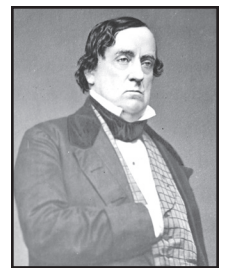
Convicted

Instead, Hull became the villain of the American failure to invade Canada, and was tried by court martial on charges of treason, cowardice, neglect of duty, and unofficer-like conduct. The court convicted Hull of cowardice, neglect of duty, and unofficer-like conduct. On the charge of treason he was acquitted. The court sentenced Hull to death but strongly recommended mercy to President Madison. Hull was pardoned by Madison, in recognition of his honorable service during the Revolution.



Appointed

Lewis Cass was appointed Governor of the Michigan Territory in 1813, a post he would hold for eighteen years. He later served as Secretary of War, U. S. Minister to France, and Secretary of State. He was the Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1848. Cass died at Detroit in 1866, and is buried in Detroit's Elmwood Cemetery.



Information for this story was gleaned, in part, from a primary source: THE HISTORY of THE WAR Between the United States and Great-Britain, Which commenced in June, 1812, and closed in February, 1815 &c...Compiled chiefly from Public Documents Composed by J. Russell, Jr., Second Edition, Hartford, 1815.

Normal College's first black graduate: Archie C. Foster (class of '88)

This story originally appeared in the Ypsilanti Courier.

By Laura Bien

Normal College's (EMU's) class of 1888 had two outstanding features. For one, with 115 members it was the largest graduating class since the school's founding in 1849. But even more significant was that one member was the school's first black graduate.

Archie C. Foster was born around 1854 in Arkansas. That state also had a Normal teacher training school, but one with a poor reputation. When Archie came of age, he made the decision to leave his home and undertake the expense of living and studying in a distant Northern city.

Students at Ypsilanti's Normal in 1888 had a choice of five courses of study that included four-year programs in science, literature, or ancient or modern languages, or a three-year program in English. Students could also arrange for a special custom program or one that included music instruction. Graduates of any of the courses were automatically certified to teach in any Michigan school.

The total cost of study was about \$500 [about \$12,000 in today's dollars]. Expenses included accommodations. Long before dormitories, students had to find their own meal plan and housing, in one of the city boardinghouses approved by the school. Often run by widows as a source of income, boardinghouses varied in offering either housing or food, or both. Houses offering both cost around \$3 to \$4 per week [\$72 to \$96]. Students who provided their own food (some local restaurants offered meal tickets) could reduce their boarding expenses to \$2 to \$2.50 [\$48 to \$60].

Archie came to Michigan, located lodging, and took the entrance examination, which tested subjects in grammar, spelling, arithmetic, and geography. Archie's grade school in his home state was part of a segregated system, with black schools receiving only a fraction of state funding compared to white schools. Despite this disadvantage, Archie passed the entrance exams and in September of 1885 began his chosen course of study, the three-year program in English.

The campus newspaper the *Normal News* printed news items regarding current students. Several news items mentioning Archie appear during his time at the Normal. None make mention of the fact that he was the school's only black student. The November 1886 *Normal News* reported:

"Hugh McDonald has left school and gone home to teach during the winter."

"Spencer L. Houghton is 'pa'."

"Archie Foster lately received intelligence of the death of his father, who lived in Arkansas."

At the start of his last year of study in September of 1887, Archie also left the school for a temporary teaching term. The September 1887 *Normal News* reported,

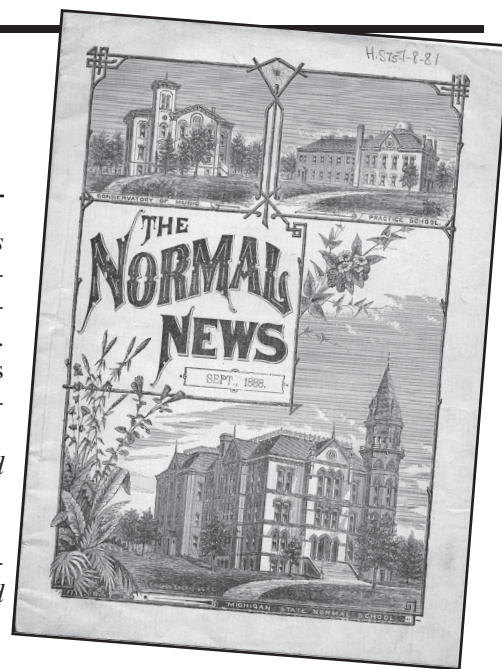
"Archie Foster will teach a term of four months at Brownsville, Cass County, and return in the spring to finish his course at the Normal."

The campus paper's student news tidbits were regularly reprinted in one of the city's newspapers, the *Ypsilanti Commercial*. The May 25, 1888 edition noted, *"A. C. Foster, who has been absent for some time on account of sickness, is again in school."*

Finally Archie's graduation came in June of 1888. The *Ypsilanti Commercial* mentioned him in a lengthy article about the graduating class. *"Among its members is Mr. A. C. Foster, who has the honor of being the first colored graduate of that institution."*

Archie returned to Arkansas and became principal of one of the schools in the black school system in Lafayette County, population 7,700. Five years later he married Lucy Boyd. The couple would have four children: Charley, Clint, Pearl, and Lutie. Archie was successful and by 1900 owned his own home. Teaching talent ran in the family; Lucy's younger sister Julia lived with the Fosters and also taught in a local school.

Lucy added to the Fosters' income by working as a dressmaker. She earned enough to open her own restaurant by 1920, where



The Normal News as it appeared during Archie Foster's term at the Normal School, showing (clockwise), the music conservatory, the Old Main building, and the Old Main with its 1888 additions.

her daughter Lutie also worked. Years later the entire Foster family was honored as pioneers in black entrepreneurship in Lafayette County.

In 1921 Lucy died, and Archie sold the family home and took rooms in a boarding house run by one Addie McClain. In 1930 he was still teaching, drawing upon his decades in the field.

Archie died September 9, 1945 at age 91. After his death, a local black high school was named in his honor, and the black community erected a handsome gravestone for Archie and Lucy. The alumni organization of Foster High School sponsored a memorial stone "honoring our history with appreciation to Professor Foster for 35 years as an educator for children of color in various schools throughout the county."

The gravestone and memorial stone stand today in Old Town Cemetery in Old Lewisville, Arkansas. Ypsilantians can be proud that one determined man rose above the circumstances of his time and place and used his Michigan degree to become a person respected and honored by his community.

[Laura Bien is the author of "Hidden History of Ypsilanti" and "Tales from the Ypsilanti Archives" and is a columnist for the Ypsilanti Courier and the Ann Arbor Chronicle. ypsilantidixit@gmail.com.]

From Chapman's 1881 History of Washtenaw County

"**William Webb Harwood** (deceased) was born in Berkshire Co., Mass., March 20, 1785, and was of Scotch and English descent. When four years old his parents removed to New York where he grew to manhood receiving a common-school education. In 1824 he emigrated to Washtenaw county. Located at Ypsilanti, and in conjunction with Mark Norris, dammed the Huron river and started the first grist-mill in the village. In 1836 he removed to Pittsfield twp., where he resided ever after, engaged in farming and stock-raising. In early life, Mr. Harwood was a distiller, and followed that business for some yrs. In 1814 he married **Sally Aldrich**. Their living children are – Isaiah, Sarah, Mabel and Hannah.

"Mrs. H. died in 1824, and a year after Mr. Harwood married **Abigail Albro**, a native of New York. Mr. Harwood was once more afflicted by the death of his noble wife, and she was laid to rest in 1828.

"On Feb. 3, 1831, he married **Alma Coe**, also a native of New York. Of their children 3 are living. God in his all-wise Providence saw fit to deprive Mr. Harwood of his third wife, and she was laid away by a sorrowful husband and mourning children.

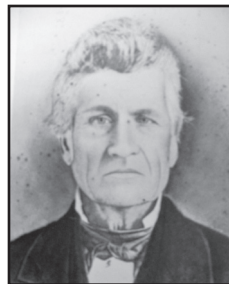
"On March 14, 1839, he married his fourth companion, Mrs. **Polly Holden** [Norris], born in Yates Co., N.Y., Dec. 25, 1808, and relict of Nymphos P. Holden (deceased). Mrs. Harwood had 5 children born to her by her first husband, 2 of whom survive – George, David and Harriet. Six children were born to her by her second marriage, 3 of whom are living – Harrison, Sidney and John.

"On Nov. 8, 1860, Mr. Harwood was called from his earthly home to the reward prepared for those who trod in the straight and narrow path on this earth. Funeral was attended by an immense concourse of friends and relatives, an unmistakable proof of the estimation in which this hardy pioneer was held by the citizens of Washtenaw county."

H A R W O O D

Original settler's family still a presence in Ypsilanti*

*From contributions by Janice O. Harwood,
Virginia Davis-Brown, & Tom Dodd*



William Webb
Harwood



Polly Holden Norris
Harwood

1. William Webb Harwood

b. 20 Mar 1785, Massachusetts
Farmer & businessman d. 8 Nov 1860,
Ypsilanti

- Married, 20 Mar 1814, Sally Aldrich,
- d. 2 Dec 1824, Ypsilanti
- Rosina, b. 7 April 1821
- William, b. 14 May 1824
- Isaiah
- Sarah
- Mable
- Hannah

Came to Michigan in 1824 and brought his family. Went back to New York to get more supplies. When he came back, they told him his wife had died.

Second wife: Abigail Albro, 2 March 1825, NY, d. 1828, Ypsilanti, lived only a few months. No children.

Third wife: Alma Coe, b. 1803, NY m. 3 Feb 1831, NY, d. 25 July 1836, MI

- William Webb, Jr. 1833
- Joel, 1834
- Alma Coe, 1836

Fourth wife: **Polly Holden Norris**, b. 25 December 1808, m. 14 Mar 1839, Yates, NY, d. 17 Sept 1894, Washtenaw County, MI

- Harrison, b. 6 August 1840
- Henry, b. 6 Dec 1841, d. 30 Sept 1843
- Franklin, b. 1 Mar 1844, d. 1 Apr 1872
- Martin Luther, b. 16 Aug 1846, d. 13 Oct 1848
- Sidney, b. 15 May 1848 (*see Janice*)
- **John**, b. 3 October 1853, d. 29 Dec 1928



Above: William Webb Harwood's original log cabin is still part of Janice O. Harwood's historic home at 6356 E. Michigan Avenue, Saline, MI (Great-granddaughter of Sidney Harwood)
Right: The Harwood family on the front porch

2. John Harwood

(son of William Webb & Polly Norris Harwood) b. 2 Oct 1853, Washtenaw County, MI, d. 29 Dec 1929, Washtenaw County, MI. Buried in Harwood Cemetery

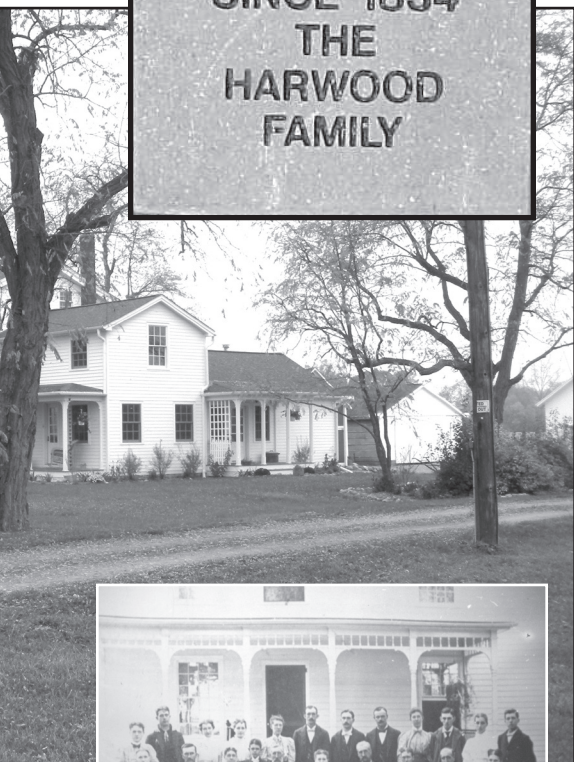
Married: Jane E. Forsythe, 4 Mar 1873, d. 20 July 1892

- Lois Polly, 13 January 1874
- **Frank H.**, 2 October 1876
- John, Jr., 18 June 1879
- Delia, 20 February 1882
- Carlton, 8 January 1887
- George Holden, 8 January 1887

Second wife: Martha Elizabeth Stevens, June 1893/1894, Pittsfield Twp, MI, b. 18 Mar 1859, August Twp, MI, d. 6 Nov. 1919.

** Follow the boldface names through five generations of the Harwood family tree:*

1. William Webb,
2. John,
3. Frank,
4. Frank Jr.,
5. Virginia



3. Frank H. Harwood Sr,

(son of John & Jane) b. 2 October 1876, d. 13 March 1953, buried in Saline Cemetery. Married: 14 October 1897, Windsor, Canada, Ruth Anna Watling, daughter of Fountain & Harriet Thompson Watling, b. 6 December 1879, Ypsilanti; d. 27 February 1956, buried at Highland Cemetery Divorced.

Second wife: Luella Kyte, Daughter of Joseph & Sarah Kyte, b. 1892, d. 19?? Buried at Saline Cemetery

- Dorothy, b. 19 October 1917, died very young, buried at Highland Cemetery
- Carl Eugene, b. 21 February 1919
- **Frank H. Jr.**, b. 29 December 1897; d. 24 October 1963.

Frank H. Harwood was a carpenter most of his life.

4. Frank H. Jr., (son of Frank & Ruth). 29 December 1897; d. 24 October 1963, Ypsilanti; buried at Highland Cemetery

Married: 8 August 1923, Ypsilanti, Helen Alice Collins, b. 28 June 1903, Ypsilanti; d. 6 February 1961, Washtenaw County, MI, buried at Highland Cemetery

- **Virginia**, 13 June 1925
- Harrison b. 15 October 1927; d. 6 October 2000, buried Highland Cemetery
- Earl, b. 9 November 1931, Stoney Creek Road, Ypsilanti
- James, b. 20 December 1933, Willis, MI
- Shirley, b. 24 November 1935, Allen Park, MI

(All Frank Jr's children were born in Ypsilanti)

Frank Harwood, Jr. worked for Henry Ford remodeling his little plants around southern Michigan that made parts for the plant in Dearborn. Then he was in charge of the carpenters at the Ford Farms where soybeans were grown looking for a substitute for rubber. When the farms were removed to create the Willow Run bomber plant he went to work at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, MI.

He worked as a carpenter at Greenfield Village and was head of maintenance. He brought two buildings to Greenfield Village from their original location: The Heinz Plant from Pennsylvania, and Dr. Howard's office from Michigan.



5. Virginia Davis-Brown,

daughter of Frank Jr. & Helen, is a Trustee of the Ypsilanti Historical Society and serves on the Museum Advisory Board



Sutherland, Aray, Geddes and other pioneer grave markers joined the Harwoods at Pittsfield Township's Harwood Cemetery

Washtenaw County Historical Marker @ Harwood Cemetery

[Campbell Road at Textile Road, north of Michigan Avenue]

"This peaceful parcel of land, named for the family who donated it, is the final resting place of a key figure in the founding of Ypsilanti as well as prominent participants in the Underground Railroad.

"William Webb Harwood came to the area from Palmyra, New York with his wife, Sally, and their children in 1824. With Augustus Woodward and John Stewart, Harwood platted the village of Ypsilanti. In 1829, he erected a dam and established a gristmill and, the following year, built Ypsilanti's first schoolhouse. Moving to Pittsfield Township, in the mid-1830s, Harwood became a supporter of the abolitionist movement and offered sanctuary to escaping slaves. In this endeavor, he was joined by Asher Aray, a man of mixed race, whose family farmed east of the Harwoods on the Chicago Road (now US-12). In 1853, Aray sheltered a group of 28 slaves whose flight to freedom was documented nationwide.

"The Arays and their relatives, the Days, are both buried here in an unusual show of tolerance for the time. Harwood Cemetery, once the central burial ground for Pittsfield Township, also contains the remains of Robert and William Geddes, two of the area's original land patentees."

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Match Up The Ypsi Nicknames

It somehow seems appropriate that our city, often referred to by its nickname, has been the residence of many folks with nicknames. Old-timers may be able to match the people below with their other name:

Evart Ardis	Red
Harold Augustus	Buzzy
Clarence Averill	Slim
Bill Bailey	Poochie
Beth Dykman	Sis
Martha McAndrew	Dutch
Julia Quirk	Goose



Answers:

Evart Ardis (Slim): longtime Superintendent of Schools .

Harold Augustus (Dutch): he wasn't the only person with this nickname but probably the most prominent.

Clarence Averill (Red): owned the Bomber Restaurant and several Big Boy franchises.

Bill Bailey (Goose): Roosevelt High School basketball star of the late 1950s. He died tragically in a one car accident not long after graduation.

Beth Dykman (Buzzy): youngest of the Handy Store Dykmans.

Martha McAndrew (Sis): first wife of Atwood "Woodie" McAndrew.

Julia Quirk (Poochie): the Quirks were famous for their nicknames. Many of her peers did not know her given name.

Ypsilanti Historical Society Presents:

MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE ARCHIVES

Swashbucklers, Action and Adventure

Friday, March 2, 2012
THE MARK OF ZORRO
A 1920 silent film starring
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Friday, March 9, 2012
THE BELOVED ROGUE
A 1927 silent film, loosely based on the life
of the 15th century French poet,
François Villon, stars John Barrymore
(also known as "the great profile")

Friday, March 16, 2012
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UNDER THE SEA

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Island", another work by Jules Verne.

Movie Titles for March 23rd and 30th
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By Jan Anschuetz

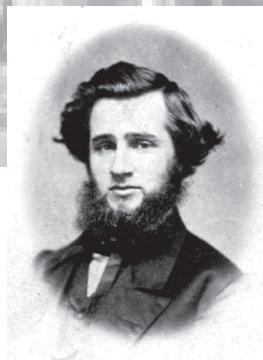


Eastern Michigan University's
Pease Auditorium

Most people in Ypsilanti know about Pease Auditorium, the center of musical performances at Eastern Michigan University. Fewer know the life story of the remarkable citizen this building is named for—Frederic Henry Pease. Pease was born in 1839 in a log cabin in the wilderness of Ohio, but obtained an excellent classical European education. He is known today not only for major contributions as an educator, author, composer, performer and teacher, but as a man who thought beyond the box and helped to further enrich an already vibrant Victorian Ypsilanti community with his gift for music and his imaginative outlook. He also laid the foundation for the teaching of music by publishing textbooks on the subject for college music students.

Pease fathered nine children and, following his death in 1909, was remembered by his friends and students and by ordinary citizens, as a kind man with a good sense of humor. During my research for this article, I discovered a five-page handwritten document in which Pease highlights some of the events of his productive life. It's not often that a "ghost from the past" helps write an article for the GLEANINGS, but that document will serve as the basis for what you are about to read. I have enriched the narrative with materials from various books, publications, and university and family records, and also with the kind assistance of several Pease descendants.

Frederic Pease begins his narrative by tell-



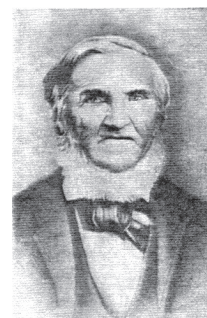
Frederic H. Pease
(1859)

ing us a little about his family. In about 1634, his family emigrated from England to Salem, Massachusetts as part of the Puritan migration. The Pease family was notable for its honesty, integrity and community involvement, virtues which were later reflected in Frederic Pease's own character. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register records an example of the moral character of Frederic's grandfather, Phineas Pease, who was a tanner and shoemaker, and had been a musician in the Revolutionary War. In purchasing land from an Indian, Phineas paid part of the agreed purchase price immediately, but still owed a large remainder. The Indian came to Phineas with the written agreement and asked him to keep it, since he would be gone for a time and wanted the document kept safe. Phineas tried to talk the Indian out of this arrangement, telling him that it was not a good way to do business, since he could easily be cheated out of his due. The Indian, however, insisted that he completely trusted and respected Phineas Pease and that the document would be safest in his possession. That trust was vindicated when the Indian returned. Phineas gave him back the paper and the money owed was eventually paid.

Peter Pindar Pease, Frederic's father, was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts in

1795, the eighth of 12 children of Betsey Lawrence and Phineas Pease. As a young man, Peter traveled west from Massachusetts and, on July 12, 1821, married Ruth H. Crocker, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, in the wilderness of Brownhelm, Ohio. Peter tells us in his own words of his early history as a pioneer: *"In the fall of 1816, at the age of 21-and-a-half years, I left Stockbridge, my native place, to seek my fortune in the West and settled in what is now called Brownhelm, then an entire wilderness, and known as Town No. 6 in the nineteenth range of the Connecticut Western Reserve. Three young men of us built the first house in town, and wintered there in the employ of Col. Henry Brown of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. From whence a colony was formed of about twenty families, who settled the town, enjoying the pleasures and suffering the privations of a pioneer life, common to all new settlements. I, with my family of five children, left Brownhelm in April, 1833, for the express purpose of commencing the Oberlin enterprise (in) dense forest, and thus took a second trial of pioneering, which was much shorter than the first, and I have been an eye-witness to what God hath wrought in and for this place, and for this great valley of the Mississippi, and do praise and magnify his name."*

There is an interesting family story, passed down through the generations, regarding the oxen-pulled wagon trip made from Brownhelm by Peter Pease and his family, which led to the founding of Oberlin College, the first co-ed college on the continent. It seems that Peter's wife, Ruth Crocker Pease, had had a dream about founding the college, which she believed to be a message from God. After the wagon carrying the Pease family had traveled many miles through the woods, it came to a place Ruth had seen in her dream. There the wagon stopped, and the pioneers aboard disembarked to begin the project of building a college and a new community. *[continued overleaf]*

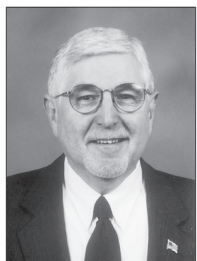


Peter Pindar Pease

Frederic H. Pease

[continued from p. 19]

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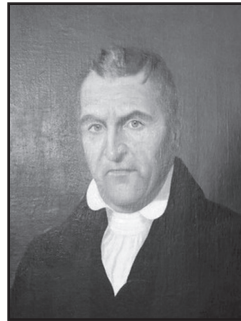


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Painting of Frederic Pease's father Peter Pease, which was painted by his nephew, a well known American artist named Alonzo Pease

Peter's nephew, young Alonzo Pease, had accompanied the Pease family on its trip. He grew up to become a noted American artist, who, among many other works, painted portraits of several Pease family members, including the one shown here of Peter Pindar Pease, now on display at Oberlin College.

Time magazine credits Peter Pindar Pease with being the first settler on 500 acres of land claimed by Jean Frederick Oberlin, who envisioned building on the site an institution designed for "the diffusion of useful science, sound morality, and pure religion."

In an article about the "History of Oberlin College," published November 2, 2007, we read that "In the spring of 1833, the first settler, Peter Pindar Pease, built his log house at the center of Oberlin. That December, 29 men and 15 women students began classes in the Oberlin Collegiate Institute." Two years later circulars describing Oberlin noted that "youths are received as members irrespective of color." As a result, by the turn of the century, one-third of all African-American graduates of predominately white institutions in the United States had graduated from Oberlin. Furthermore, in 1841, four women graduates from Oberlin were the first ever in America to receive AB degrees.

Peter helped to make his wife Ruth's dream a reality by his physical labor. Patricia Murphy of Oberlin College, who is Director of the college's Heritage Center, was interviewed by *The Chronicle Telegram* in 2010. Murphy offers additional details about Peter Pease's role in establishing the college, a distinction later captured in the portrait painted in 1842 by his nephew Alonzo and donated to the college by a family member. Murphy states that during this time Peter was living in a log cabin. He had arrived by ox team with his wife and five children on April 19, 1833,

and immediately started to clear the land, along with others who had joined the Pease family as pioneers of the Oberlin Colony. Pease helped to construct the buildings of the college, the town, and the church. It was during this time Frederic Henry Pease was born, on August 24, 1839. He was the seventh of 12 children of Peter and Ruth. He was five years old when the picture of his father was painted by his cousin, so we can assume that, like Abraham Lincoln, Frederic Henry Pease was born in the humble enclosure of a log cabin.

The Life of Frederic Pease

Frederic Pease gives us an account of his life as a child in the Oberlin wilderness in a narrative penned in his own hand, in the third person, on his own Normal State College stationary. Some of the material in the Pease account is the same as that included in a later article about Pease ascribed to Austin George, which appeared in a 1900 book, compiled by Daniel Putnam, entitled *The History of the Michigan State Normal*. It is my guess that Pease provided George his own account to serve as source material for the later article.

In his own third-person narrative, Pease writes: "*Music has always been a prominent feature in the curriculum of Oberlin and the young Frederic Pease received his education. He sang in the celebrated Oberlin choir before his voice changed and afterward played the violin in the same choir. Later, in his early manhood he studied with B. F. Baker, a well known musician at that time and also with B. J. Lang, both of the leading musicians of Boston. Mr. Pease (meaning himself) tells how, when he was a small boy, a singing school was started at his home and how he finally persuaded his father to give him the money to join. But there was a book to buy and the money for that he had to earn himself. He asked a farmer to let him ride on his horse while he was plowing. It was hard work. The farmer was particular about having the horse go very close to a certain tree standing in the field and every time the tree was passed the boy's legs rubbed against the rough bark. It was painful, but in the end the dollar mastered and Pease took his first singing lessons.*" Although Pease does not mention it in his autobiographical sketch, he also learned as a young man to play the piano forte.

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More is written about Pease's early exposure to music in an article entitled "Dedication of New Normal Auditorium Gives Life to Memory of Eminent Musician and Beloved Citizen," published in the *Ypsilantian* newspaper on June 23, 1915. The reporter tells us: "*The family environment in those early years did not include opportunity for hearing music nor encouragement in its study, but he (meaning Frederic) was even when a child precociously musical, and his brother Walter was called by the Indians the 'wood dove' because of his voice. When a mere lad he attempted the construction of a violin, and he once asserted that the first joy of his life was when permitted to turn the leaves of music for a violin player. Practicing on the organ at Oberlin, though a deeply coveted privilege, was one that did not fall to the aspiring lad. In after years he was greeted in his home town with an enthusiasm which must have been very consoling. Through determined application, availing himself of such opportunities as arose, he had attained some measure of ability when, at the age of eighteen Prof. E. M. Foote, a familiar name to Ypsilanti people, came into his life.*"

In his own third-person account, Frederic writes: "Mr. Pease did his first teaching at Meadville, Pennsylvania at the age of sixteen. Later he taught pupils in music at Oberlin." Additional details on Pease's early life are found in an article in the Michigan Library Bulletin for March/April, 1926. We read that "at the age of eighteen he left Oberlin and traveled with Professor E. M. Foote, holding musical conventions until 1859, when he settled in Ypsilanti as teacher of the piano." The same year he married a beautiful young student at the Normal, Josephine A. Dolson. Josephine's parents were Ann Eliza Stevens and Leviticus Euphrates Dolson. Levi's father was a trader born in Canada. He was a tanner and fur trader and contemporary of Father Gabriel Richard, who was a friend, and very influential in the



Josephine Antoinette Dolson Pease (circa 1859)

founding of Detroit and Michigan. It is said that he looked so much like Father Richard that he posed for a statue of that influential priest."

In his article, Austin George tells us that "In December, 1863, he (Pease) was appointed Professor of Music in the Normal School, which position he has held with marked success, until the present time." ("The present time" is probably 1900, when the George article about Pease appeared in the History of the Michigan State Normal.) "For the purpose of preparing himself more thoroughly for his work," George continues, "he spent the year 1863 in Boston under the instruction of the best teachers that city afforded. When he returned to Ypsilanti in 1864 he was given the position of the chairman of the music department at the Michigan State Normal School. The harmonium (pump organ) was the only instrument in the school. Through the Musical Union, in connection with the Normal choir, a better class of music was presented to the people and musical interest spread throughout the state. Better music was demanded and better teachers ... (were) made part of the regular course in the Normal."

About 1874 Pease purchased a beautiful rosewood square grand piano for the Normal and selected an identical one for his friend, Frederick Swaine, a maltster and a prominent Ypsilanti citizen who had just built a fine home at North River and East Forest in Ypsilanti. Both men were participants in musical performances and conducted vocal music in Ypsilanti; they also later became founders of the Musical Union. Frederic Pease referred to his friend Frederick Swaine as "The Father of Classical Music in Michigan", citing him for his influence in selecting music for performances. The square grand piano at the Normal is long gone and forgotten. However, I am glad to say, as writer of this piece and long-time occupant of the Swaine House, that I was able to purchase with the home itself in 1965 the very piano Frederic Pease selected for Frederick Swaine—which is identical to the one Pease himself purchased for the Normal in 1874. We had the piano restored to its original condition by dint of the love, determination, talent, and prayer of an 88-year-old blind man and his wife. It graces our parlor in the Swaine House to this day,



The 1874 rosewood square grand piano which Frederic Pease selected for his friend Frederick Swaine, which is restored and in its original position in the author's parlor. Note the drawing of Frederic Swaine above that was found under the attic floor boards.


and whenever I pass by it, I'm reminded of both Freds, Pease and Swaine, and their passion for music.

Educating Teachers on How Music Should Be Taught

Frederic Pease was chairman of the music department at the Michigan State Normal College, but he had another great interest. Because music was a required course for graduation, Pease wanted to make sure students were instructed in the art as effectively as possible. At the time no textbooks were available to assist teachers, so Pease took it upon himself to write one, along with several other books on music and his own compositions. Austin George writes this in his article on Pease in The History of the Michigan State Normal: "In the field of authorship, Professor Pease's labors have been voluminous and successful. He is joint author of *The Western Bell* and sole author of *The Musical Lyra*, both published by Ditson & Co., of Boston. He is also author of *The Crystal*, published by S. Brainard of Cleveland, and joint author with Walter Hewitt of a Harmony Manual. His latest book (in about 1900), *Pease's Singing Book*, published by Ginn & Co., Boston, is now the regular text-book in the Michigan Normal. He wrote the cantata, "The Old Clock on the Stairs," published by Whitney of Detroit, which he had the honor of conducting in Italy with the pupils of Madame Filippi, and which the Italian critical musical journal, *Artistico Mondo*, spoke of in terms of high commendation. He has also written an operetta "Enoch Arden," which has been performed several times [continued overleaf]

Frederic H. Pease

[continued from p. 21]



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and received with marked favor, but which has not yet been published."

Other Musical Activities

All of this output, however, failed to exhaust Frederic's creative energies. He performed as an organist for a church in Jackson, Michigan for seven years; for another church in Detroit for 15 years; and for a church in Ypsilanti for five years. In an article entitled "Michigan Musicians," in the Michigan Library Bulletin for March/April, 1926, we learn these additional details about Pease's career: "*He was also president of the Michigan Music Teachers' Association, three times. In addition to his teaching in the Normal and to the establishing of the Conservatory and raising it to a high rank among kindred institutions he taught voice culture and singing nine years in the Detroit Conservatory of Music; had charge of the work at Bay View for three years; and was educator at the National summer School of Chicago. Mr. Pease organized the Ypsilanti Musical Union in 1870 which was long a flourishing society and which was finally absorbed in the Normal choir, whose concerts were the musical event of the college and the town and which still rank very*

high under the direction of his successor, Prof. Frederick Alexander..." We also learn in the "Michigan Musicians" article that, while Pease was recognized as a king among conductors, he was also well known as a composer and a compiler of musical works. Among his compositions are the following: "Charge Them That are Rich," "The Crystal," "He is There," "Life's Story," "The Old Clock on the Stairs," "Pilgrim and Stranger," "Psalm of Life," "Reaper and Flowers," "Remember Thy Creator," "Te Deum Laudamus," and "When the Heart is Young."

The Impact on Ypsilanti

Frederic Pease did much to enrich the community of Ypsilanti. A major contribution was the Ypsilanti Musical Union, which Pease helped organize in 1870 with his friend Frederick Swaine. Austin George offers these details about the Musical Union: "Walter Hewitt was the pianist, and Professor Pease was the first conductor, and so continued during the fifteen years of life of the society. This was one of the finest organizations ever formed in the West, and did wonders for musical culture all over the State. A mere mention of some of the selections rendered will give

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an idea of the character of the work done: there were given the “Messiah”... , “The Creation,” and “Elijah” and “St. Paul”... , the operas “Martha,” “Bohemian Girl,” “Chimes of Normandy” and “Pinafore”; also Mozart’s “Twelfth Mass,” Mercadente’s “Four-Voiced Mass,” Haydn’s “Second,” and Gounod’s “St. Cecilia Mass.”

Professor Pease’s friend and co-founder of the Ypsilanti Musical Union, Frederick Swaine, who had had an excellent musical education in London before he emigrated to Ypsilanti, wrote a review of the opera “Martha,” conducted by Pease and performed the evenings of December 9 and 10, 1875. Swaine wrote: “It was a great undertaking being the first time that an opera on the same scale has been given by amateurs in this state. The performance from beginning to end ran smoothly and without a flaw reflecting credit on Professor Pease and others connected with the training. The chorus was exceptionally good and has been highly praised by visitors from other cities both for the singing and acting.”

The Ypsilanti Musical Union was so successful that by 1880 the Ypsilanti Opera House was built as a venue for its performances. In *The Story of Ypsilanti*, written in 1923 by Harvey C. Colburn, we read about the Opera House: “The building was of exceptional tastefulness and beauty for the period. The material was red brick with black brick facings, the structure being surmounted by a dome, and this by ornamental iron work. The interior was of considerable beauty. The ceiling decorations included the medallion portraits of Longfellow, Shakespeare, Tennyson, Byron, Scott, and very properly, in the company of these notables, Ypsilanti’s own Professor Frederic H. Pease.”

The photograph of the Ypsilanti Musical Union performing H.M.S. Pinafore at the Ypsilanti Opera House, while Pease was studying music in Europe in 1882, shows an honorary picture of the conductor placed on the podium in front. You will also see his friend, Frederick Swaine, who played the role of Sir Joseph Porter, at the far upper left.

Education in Europe

Professor Pease had never graduated from college and believed that he needed to

further his education in Europe under the finest musicians of the time. In 1881 he was granted leave from his position at the



In 1882 when Frederic Pease was in Europe, H.M.S. Pinafore was performed by the Ypsilanti Musical Union at the Opera House. A tribute portrait of him is on the podium. His friend Frederick Swaine is in the upper left.

Normal to pursue that education. Austin George writes the following about this episode of Pease’s life: “*Entering upon his work at the Normal in 1864, the duties, responsibilities, and possibilities of the position soon convinced him that he needed a culture and training not to be found in this country; and so under ‘leave of absence’ he went abroad to study with the masters of Germany and Italy, and to make inspection of European schools and methods of teaching. In Germany he entered the Kings Conservatory, Dresden, and was a pupil of Herr Professor Gustav Scharfe, and of Herr Jannssen, on the piano and organ, and also of Herr Pohl in composition and counterpoint. In Italy, he studied at Milan, as a pupil of the celebrated San Giovanni and of Madame Fillippi. He visited the schools of Switzerland and of England, especially London, inspecting the methods of teaching, and he visited the principal cities of Italy, such as Naples, Rome, Florence and Venice, to hear operas and concerts.*”

A Warm and Humorous Man

Despite all of his culture and education, Professor Pease was recognized by all who knew him as a warm and humorous man. Nora B. Harsh was one of his students and a graduate of the Normal in 1892. She remembered this about Pease when she was in her mid-80s: “*Frederic H. Pease was a teacher’s teacher. He studied in Europe with every great voice.... He knew every method in the world, and brought these ideas to his pupils. He taught sing-*

ing as a science before he did as an art, thus the voice lasted. Due to his teaching, two voice teachers with studios in the Fine Arts Building (both had studied in Europe) came to me for lessons. One said, ‘You have a gorgeous voice. I want to learn how it is done.’ (I was 83.)

“*I started piano with Mr. Pease (he didn’t want to be called professor) when I was eleven and was in his care until I graduated at both the conservatory and Normal in 1892, twelve years. Such a handsome man, and sarcastic. He would assemble pupils who were to give a recital and admonish them, ‘Look at the audience. Don’t watch me. I can play the accompaniments without your help. And you needn’t carry a handkerchief – it won’t hold you up, but if you have a pretty fan, I suppose you will carry it. Don’t pay any attention how you sing your song, except the first note, because all will be matching, and the last note, so to get applause.’ I could write a book about Frederic H. Pease, but all of the above, because I hope it will never be forgotten that he was great!*”

I have a recording made by Frederick Swaine’s daughter, Jesse Swaine, when she was over 80 years old. In it, she reads a letter that Professor Pease had written to her father from Germany in 1881, telling him of his travels and study. The letter is filled with humor and warmth, and much teasing. Pease seems to be enjoying the atmosphere of the German beer houses as much as any high culture—perhaps partly in jest with Fred Swaine, who was a maltster by trade in Ypsilanti. In any case, Pease looked forward to returning to Ypsilanti, and it is apparent that he is very enthusiastic about his various projects there, including the choir and Musical Union.

Two Happy Marriages

Frederic Pease seemed to be blessed with much harmony in his personal, as well as his professional, life. On November 7, 1859, the year that he settled in Ypsilanti, he married Josephine Antoinette Dolsen, who died on November 19, 1877, after giving birth to the couple’s eighth child. Upon her death, the newspaper *The Ypsilantian* commented that Josephine’s “loveliness of face and character” had become Ypsilanti “traditions.” An obituary in *The Ypsilantian* of November 24, 1877 states simply: “Died, [continued overleaf]

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Frederic H. Pease

[continued from p. 23]



*Frederic Pease was a widower at this point.
Ruth is on Fred's lap (clockwise)
Fred, Marshall, Jessie and Max.*

Josephine A. Pease, daughter of Levi E. Dolson of Detroit and beloved wife of Professor Frederick H. Pease, November 19, 1877, age 37 years. Mrs. Pease was married in 1859, having been a student at the Michigan State Normal School. She and her husband united with the Episcopal Church. She leaves five children, the oldest a daughter of 15." The eldest daughter referenced in the obituary later became a noted musician in her own right. The Episcopal Church is St. Luke's Episcopal Church on North Huron Street. When his wife died, Pease had a stained glass window – now (2012) in storage -- made for the church in her honor.

One of Frederic and Josephine's sons, Marshall, remembered several incidents from his childhood, which were recorded in an undated Detroit newspaper story. He tells the reporter that as a child he often took the train into Detroit with his father, where Frederic went weekly in order to play the organ for the Unitarian Church. "Sometimes there would be a sumptuous dinner at the Antisdel House or the Michigan Exchange. An indulgent grandfather (Levi Dolsen, who was on the Detroit Public Schools school board and lived in the city) would generally endow him with a dollar on these expeditions. This money

would be lavishly expended in excursions on the street cars and an occasional foray to the tower of the city hall."

Marshall tells of a funny incident that happened, when he was a young lad, in Ypsilanti. He was required to pump the organ at St. Luke's Church while his father was giving an organ lesson to a woman student. It was a hot day for October and Marshall was wearing his red flannel, one-piece winter underwear. As he pumped the bellows full of air he became hotter and hotter and started to remove the layers of clothing he was wearing. He thought it would be a good idea to rid himself of the itchy and warm, long underwear and as he was removing them, his head somehow got stuck in the clothing. He couldn't help a muffled scream. The Victorian lady pupil came running to his aid and pulled the stuck garment off of him and fled the church.

The writer of this article, George W. Stark, goes on to tell us that, as an adult, Marshall Pease was "made a life honorary member of the Guild of Former Pipe Organ Pumpers" and his written citation proclaimed that he was the "only nude organ-pumper in the entire organization."

Frederic Pease married a second time ten years later in 1887, to an Abbie Hunter from Kalamazoo. As reported again in *The Ypsilantian*: "At Kalamazoo," the notice reads, "occurred the marriage of Miss Abbie J. Hunter, a former Normal Conservatory student to Prof. F. H. Pease. After a trip to Detroit, they will take up residence in the Professor's home on Congress Street (in Ypsilanti). A magnificent floral design consisting of a wish-bone and standard (the latest conceits for wedding offerings), has been received here from Detroit by the Normal choir. It will be forwarded to Kalamazoo to be presented with compliments and congratulations of the choir to Prof. Pease and his bride."

The End of a Creative Life

In 1901, Frederic and Abbie, with their daughter Helen, who had been born in Ypsilanti in 1889, moved into a 5000-square-foot residence at 35 South Summit Street. It was in this home that Fred Pease died, on March 22, 1909. The newspaper headline was stark: "*PROF. F. H. PEASE IS*

DEAD – WELL LOVED HEAD OF THE NORMAL CONSERVATORY PASSED AWAY MONDAY NIGHT – Had Been Ill Five Weeks – Heart Failure was Immediate Cause of Death”

The story under the headline offers details on Pease’s demise: “Prof. Pease was taken ill about five weeks ago with jaundice. It was supposed that he was recovering but Saturday night his heart gave out. A consultation of doctors including Dr. Britton, his family physician, Dr. Vaughan, and Dr. Flinterman of Detroit, was held and it was decided to operate Tuesday but his condition changed suddenly and the end came unexpectedly Monday night.” The article also notes that Frederic, at the time of his death, was worried about his wife Abbie’s health and that she was in a sanitarium. His youngest daughter Helen was in school in New York.

The obituary offers information about Pease’s long career and accomplishments, and includes a statement from a colleague at the Normal College, a Professor Strong, which expresses the highest praise: *“The sudden death of Professor Pease this morning will be received everywhere with the greatest surprise and grief. Few men in the state - almost none in his profession - were more widely known or more highly esteemed. During the forty-six years since he came to Ypsilanti as a young man to take charge of the music department of the Normal school he has sent out from this institution a host of young people full of enthusiasm for good music and grateful to him for the help and inspiration which he had given them. What mourning there will be today throughout the State, and far beyond its borders over the loss of the beloved teacher, and friend; and how many voices will be heard humming again the music that he taught them years ago and which they will never forget. In the college itself Professor Pease will be most deeply mourned. He was the senior member of the faculty and as greatly beloved for his personal qualities as he was honored for his devotion to his noble art.”*

One of Pease’s students, Grace Madison, learned of Frederic’s death and the next day took his chipped and well-worn conductor’s baton from a music stand as a memento of her beloved teacher. She kept and “cherished” the baton as a keepsake,

but her conscience ultimately got the better of her. In September, 1948, college authorities received the baton as a gift from the former student.

In a 1949 Ypsilanti newspaper article, headlined “Baton of Frederic H. Pease among Centennial Keepsakes,” Madison is quoted as saying, “I knew eventually, that [the baton] should be returned to the college.” The thrust of the article, however, was to promote a centennial pageant to be staged by the Normal College in commemoration of Professor Pease. We read that a Professor Haydn Morgan, then the conservatory director, “has the baton now and will use it (on May 19, 1949) to conduct a rendition of Prof. Pease’s arrangement of ‘The Lord’s Prayer,’ as part of a historical pageant presentation. Prof. Morgan describes the instrument as short and heavy and chipped slightly on one end. Though noticeably aged, it is not too far fetched to conjecture that it might be the same baton that conducted renditions of ‘The Creation,’ an oratorio by Haydn, which Prof. Pease instituted as an annual campus tradition during his lifetime, and which will be especially presented in memoriam during the centennial under the baton of Prof. Morgan.”

Thirty-six years earlier, on June 22, 1909, at Normal Hall, three months after Pease’s death, the Normal College had honored his life with a presentation of music and tributes entitled “Exercises in Memory of the Late Professor Frederic H. Pease.” We read in the program for the event that *“The selections composing the...program were taken from Professor Pease’s own compositions. They are the ones in which he was especially interested. The program is as follows: 1. ‘A Psalm of Life,’ then a prayer; 2. ‘Remember Now Thy Creator,’ followed by a Memorial Address by Rev. Reed Stuart of Detroit, a Pastor’s Tribute by Rev. Wm. Gardam, and a Faculty Tribute*



Frederic Pease’s home at 35 S. Summit Street in Ypsilanti where he died

by Prof. E. A. Strong. 3. Performances of “Ships That Pass in the Night” and “Life’s Story,” finished by 4. “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Frederic was survived by his wife Abbie, who moved to Kalamazoo, worked as a librarian and died in 1953 at the age of 88; their daughter Helen [continued overleaf]



*Above: A concert at Pease Auditorium
Center: A Normal College post card
Below: Commencement at Pease Auditorium*

Frederic H. Pease

[continued from p. 25]



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Helen Pease Crisp; and five of the eight children born to his first wife Josephine. The children included Jessie Pease, who became a noted musician and world traveler; Ruth Pease Johnson of Toronto; Max L. Pease, then living in Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Marshall J. Pease of Detroit, who was a music teacher in the Detroit Public Schools; and Frederick I. Pease of Chicago.

On June 22, 1915, the newly built Pease Auditorium was dedicated and named for this beloved member of the Normal College faculty who was so instrumental in forming the basis of a musical education for all. Among the many testimonials to Frederic Pease's extraordinary qualities and accomplishments, one stands out that is perhaps the most germane of all. It is this moving tribute to his teaching abilities and warmth: "As a teacher he invest-

ed every subject with charm. So inspiring were his classes dealing with public school methods that a great impetus was given that teaching throughout the state. Seating himself at the piano he would illustrate and illuminate a point in his theory classes with clever improvisations."

Pease Auditorium too was one of Frederic's dreams. It was made a reality in 1915, and has been the showplace ever since for local and international talent that continues to make fine music available to the citizens of Ypsilanti. In providing that service, Pease Auditorium is a fitting testament to Frederic H. Pease, whose lifelong mission was to introduce the common people to good music that would enrich and inspire their lives.

(Jan Anscheutz is a regular contributor to the GLEANINGS.)

Let us help you get your story published... GLEANINGS basics



- All submissions must be original; we rarely publish reprints.

- Most articles are about 1,000 to 1,500 words. Some are shorter. A lengthy submission may be returned to the author for editing. In some cases, an article will be done in two parts and published separately in different editions.

- We prefer submissions be in Microsoft Word or a compatible software program.

- Pictures and other illustrations may be submitted in hard copy or electronically. Originals are best for publication.

- There are four issues each year. The deadlines are March 1, June 1, August 1 and November 1.

- Articles are submitted in digital format to the Editor. Hard copies may be addressed to the Editor, YHS, 220 North Huron St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

- Upon acceptance, your article will be

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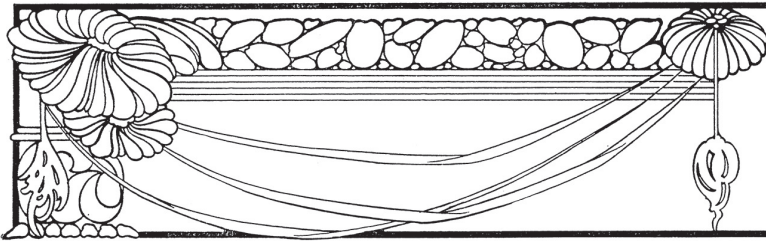
SPJ Code of Ethics is available on the Society of Professional Journalists website.
(Peg Porter is Assistant Editor of GLEANINGS and a regular contributor of articles published in the newsletter.)

reviewed by the editors who will correct minor errors if needed. Articles with more significant errors or needing revision will be returned to the author. Editors will also do fact-checking where necessary to ensure that sources are correctly identified.

- GLEANINGS does not require footnotes. Direct quotes will be in quotation marks with the speaker or writer identified. Sources should be listed at the end of the article. The typical format for written source material is author (last name, first name) name of publication where originally published, and date of publication. Material gathered from interviews should list the name of the person interviewed, their title or job if relevant, and date of the interview.

- Our intent is to streamline the sourcing process while still giving the original author credit.

Contributors are encouraged to contact the editorial staff (Rudisill, Porter and Dodd) if they have questions or concerns.



An Invitation to Contribute to GLEANINGS

By Peg Porter

Our Historical Society's quarterly publication, GLEANINGS, is old enough to have its own history. Back in the 1970s when the Society was organizing, the founders saw a need to have an ongoing mechanism to capture our community's history and make it widely available. In the past there were several people who functioned as a "City Historian." These people, such as Harvey Colburn, Foster Fletcher and Doris Milliman, spent hours writing both from personal experience and research. Because of their dedication we have much to draw upon.

The interesting thing about history is that it never ends. With the evolution of GLEANINGS the work of these earlier historians has been expanded. All of the current and former residents of Ypsilanti are potential contributors to the GLEANINGS. The more voices we have telling our stories the richer our publication will be.

There are some key concepts to keep in mind when writing local history. As a writer, you are either writing a first-hand account or you are using sources. If you are writing a first-hand account, you have been a witness to the main events in your story. If not, you may use interviews and/or research documents from the relevant period. When you use sources it is important that you acknowledge them by name. You want to give credit where credit is due. In addition you are providing the reader with information should they want to further pursue the topic being covered.

A second concept is that as historians we are writing the truth. That is the truth as we have been able to document or in the case of a first-person account, the truth as we perceived it. We are not writing fiction nor are we writing fictionalized history. We may want to illustrate with hypothetical examples such as, "in the 1930s the typical housewife spent x percent of her time on laundry..." We also want to

keep fact separate from opinion. Writers sometimes use terminology such as "some people believe..." to delineate between the two.

Most historians will say that the purposes of a written history are to inform and enlighten. Not everything that has happened in the past merits a written record. However, history is not restricted to "significant" events. Sometimes seemingly minor happenings can inform and enlighten the reader. It is the story that determines its place in an historical journal; the author's insight and understanding interprets the story in a way that makes it meaningful.

GLEANINGS articles focus on local history, what is now Ypsilanti and the surrounding area. In some stories the area may be expanded to include all of Washtenaw County. While there certainly may be links to other cities and even other countries, the event, person, etc. has a significant local connection or meaning and that is central to the story.

Because we are a local publication, we have a responsibility to our fellow citizens, either living or deceased. They deserve respect. Two items in the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics speak clearly to this: "Only an overriding public need can justify intrusion into anyone's privacy;" and "Show good taste. Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity."

In 2010 the GLEANINGS received an award from the Michigan Historical Society for being the best local history newsletter. In addition to direct mail distribution to our members, past issues are available on the Ann Arbor District Library's website and on the Ypsilanti Historical Society website. Articles from our journal have been posted on the State of Michigan website. Al Rudisill, our GLEANINGS Editor and Society President, estimates a readership of over 1,000 for each issue.

We have come a long way since the early days of the mimeograph.

With all of this in mind, we have an obligation to our readers and our members to produce a quality publication. You don't need to be an accomplished writer to contribute to GLEANINGS. First, you must have a story to tell that is original and is based on your best recollections and/or research. Next, you identify photographs or illustrations to supplement your story. You must be careful to identify and recognize the work of others in your article. Finally, you submit the article and photographs and/or illustrations via email to the GLEANINGS Editor at al@rudisill.ws for consideration.

We hope some of you will respond to our invitation and become a GLEANINGS contributor.

First-Person Stories:

Did you participate in any of following or know any of the people listed? If so, you could write an article for GLEANINGS. Share as many memories as you can.

- Ypsi Press Burns
- Ypsilanti Greek Theater Brings Stars to Town
- Playing football at Frog Island
- Who played football at Briggs Field?
- Washtenaw Country Club Clubhouse Burns
- Bill Clinton has lunch in Ypsi
- Roosevelt High School Closes
- EMU Olympians in Track and Field
- Vanzetti Hamilton
- Eileen Harrison
- Joe McIntyre
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Museum Advisory Board Report

By Kathryn Howard, Chair

Winter is over and we turn our attention to the coming of Spring. It sounds so good to say "Spring" and "Warm Weather!"

We had a successful winter with many visitors, some from as far away as California. The mild winter brought in a number of visitors and tours from outside the city. Our Spring is filled with school and organization tours. New exhibits are being shown and costumes on the mannequins have been changed. The Museum has been cleaned and inventory is being taken. Our upcoming Art Exhibit begins May 13 and we are extending our shows to three weeks. Several artists have requested this – and we feel this is needed. If you are a painter of watercolor, oil, pastels, etchings, etc. we welcome all of you. We hope to have many new artists. Paintings are for sale after the Art Exhibit.

"Lost Ypsilanti" starts in July and will be displayed through the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in August. The theme this year is "Lost and Almost-Lost Villages." The show will feature villages that were active during the settling of our surrounding territory, such as Dixboro, Stony Creek, Snow, Oceania, Urania, Willis, East Ypsilanti, Lowell, Rawsonville and many others you never knew.

We do not know the plans for the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival although its theme will be "War of 1812 – Bicentennial" and it runs August 17, 18, 19. There will be interesting exhibits. Volunteers are so welcome. We have new docents who have volunteered in the past months and we welcome all of you.

We will be helping with the Garage Sale on June 2nd so save and bring in your contributions that you found during Spring cleaning. You may also call the Museum and arrange to have your contributions picked up.



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Ypsilanti's Historic Twin Towers House

-By James Mann

he house that once stood at 725 East Forest Avenue was a local landmark. Today, the lot at 725 East Forest is an empty space between two houses on the north side of the street. A hint of what the house looked like can be gleamed from the name of the street connecting East Forest to Holmes Road. The street is named Twin Towers.

The house that stood here was built by Frederick Fisher in the early 1890s. Fisher is listed in the 1892 city directory as rooming at 314 Congress. The next available directory, 1894, has him living at 725 East Forest. His occupation is listed as farmer, and there is no name for a wife.

The 1897 directory noted Fisher had moved to Detroit, and Allen Nowlin, who had something to do with lumber, resided in the house.

The 1899 directory has a Phillip Barringer residing at the house with his wife Katherine. No occupation is listed by the directory for Phillip. Listed as rooming at the house are Edward and John Barringer, and each are listed as basket makers. The relationship of Edward and John to Phillip is not explained.

By 1901 the house was the residence of John Platten, who is listed as a farmer, his wife Eva. John DeMosh is also listed as residing at the house. John was in a livery and hack business with his father Joseph on Michigan Avenue. The listing for the 1903 directory is the same.

Albert Bond, a real estate agent, and his wife Angie are listed in the 1907 directory at this address. Lettie Bond, a student, is listed as residing at the house. She is presumably a daughter of Albert and Angie.

John Harper, a fruit grower, and his wife Melivina are listed in the 1912 directory. Then, in the 1914 directory, Arthur Garity,



"Residence of Mr. T. E. Fishers, Ypsilanti, Twin Towers, 1893"

[From the Fletcher-White Archives]



also a fruit grower, is listed as living alone at the house.

Frederick Zeigen and his wife Myrtle had moved into the house by 1914. He is sometimes listed in the directories as a real estate agent. The couple appears to have lived there with a family as an Eola Zeigen is listed as rooming at the house in the directories for 1922 and 1924. Eola is never listed after 1924, but a Phyllis Zeigen is listed as rooming at the house in the directory for 1926. These were most likely children of Frederick and Myrtle who had come of age.

Frederick and his wife Myrtle continued to live in the house until 1930. The house was sold to a Charles Jordan of Detroit in 1930, but he never lived there. The house stood empty through the winter of 1930.

Flames were seen shooting out of a room of the house just after 4 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 1931, and the Fire Department was called. The flames were brought under control by that evening.

The upper part of the rear of the house was a charred mass, as was the entire second story. "Except for fire in the back stairway, flames did not reach the first floor. However, much of the antique interior work on this floor was thoroughly water soaked. The rear section of the building did not crumble, although most of the

roof on the north and west sides burned away," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* on Tuesday, June 2, 1931.


"The top part of the tower on the west side," continued the account, "was burned while no damage resulted to its mate on the east side. There were no furnishings in the house."

Approximately \$10,000 in damage was done to the house. The house, the account noted, was insured. The blaze was believed to have started in a small closet near the kitchen. There was suspicion the cause of the fire was arson.

"Residents of the district reported that less than one hour before the fire a large sedan was seen in the yard, and it had also been reported that children frequently played in the house," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Wednesday, June 3, 1931.

The house was knocked down and the rubble pushed into the basement. Now there is only an empty space where the house once stood.

[James Mann is a regular contributor to the *GLEANINGS* and the author of many books and columns on local history. His most recent book, *Wicked Ann Arbor*, is a publication of *The History Press* and is enjoying great success in that city.]



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Dorothy Wiard, of orchard family fame, was in most respects a typical housewife and mother. She had abilities that not everyone knew about. She was a dowser, that is she could find water with a green forked twig. One day when my mother and I were visiting the Patts (Dorothy married Harold Patt) farm on Crane Road, Dorothy discovered that I shared her talent for dowsing. Sure enough, when I held the forked twig in my two hands and walked around the yard the twig pointed down when I was in the vicinity of the well or water pipes.

Dorothy could also conduct a séance. One summer we sat at a card table, our hands resting on the top, and the table would respond to questions involving numbers by "counting" with one of the table legs. Did we move the table? I did not. And if Dorothy did, I do not know how.



-Peg Porter

Answers to the Test Questions on page 6

1. ...but he would rather have a drink.
2. ...in fly time.
3. ...on the north side of a Montana mountain in the winter of an odd year.
4. ...on foot or horseback.
5. ...but this was not it.
6. ...except Congress.
7. ...and I never thanked her.
8. ...the art of trading favors.
9. ...an ambitious wife and a surprised mother-in-law.
10. ...the smallest brains.
11. ...when he is bought he stays bought.
12. ...the greater the guilt of the survivors.
13. ...every appropriation and oppose every tax.
14. ...because not even God can trust an Englishman after dark.
15. ...of a hard winter.
16. ...a woman's Hell.
17. ...but a good cigar is a smoke.
18. ...in an off-the-rack world.
19. ...to forgive is divine.
20. ...Impossible. Disease cannot exist in a vacuum.

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Fletcher-White Archives – Spring 2012

By Gerry Pety

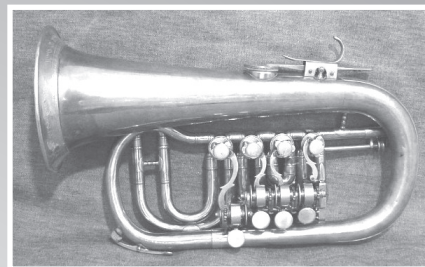
A lot of people believe an archive is some dark, damp collection of old, moldy papers thrown into some non-descript closet—a closet made popular by a radio personality named Fibber McGee who had his own ‘archive’ in a hall closet of his home. It was a popular gag line during his 25 years on radio with his wife, Molly, regularly nagging him to clean and organize that closet. He never quite got around to cleaning the darn thing out and every week we would hear a cacophony of sounds as his ‘personal archive’ came tumbling out of the closet. And what a sound it was, too! All winter we have been cleaning out our own closet to make it as accurate and accessible to you as in humanly possible.

To access our ‘new closet’, we have a way for you to search out what we have by way of your computer. Just go to the YHS website www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org and look for the Archive Database. Just enter the database. This will give you a linear look into what we have here by just scrolling

down the menu. To do a specific search, do a ‘control f’ and a search bar will appear either to the upper right or lower left of your browser. Type into the search bar as short a term as possible of what you are looking for. It will take you right to what you are searching for.

Have any problems? Just call the museum and speak with Dee or Lauren and they will help you. Once you find that we do have your old uncle Ozzie’s picture playing his Flugelhorn or his left-handed Sewer Flute, I know you will be down here lickety-split!

If you are into a little of this type of nostalgia, I have written a small article in this issue of the GLEANINGS about the old YHS Archive that we habituated for five years while we were in physical ‘exile’ from the YHS Museum. This July 26th we have been in our new—and much improved—digs for five years. Where has the time gone? Many people still speak about the old archive when it was in the carriage house out back. This look back to the behind-the-scenes recollection will be



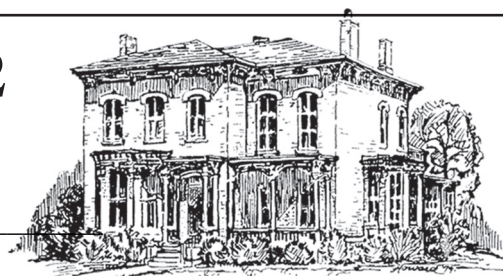
Uncle Ozzie’s Flugelhorn

a real eye-opener. We are luckier than you think that we still have your uncle’s picture.

Lastly, please, if you have any pictures or histories regarding the ‘lost settlements’ that were everywhere not that long ago around Ypsilanti, the proverbial ‘ends in the road’, little economic units such as Cherry Hill, Oceania, Urania, Geddesburg, etc. we would love to make copies of what you have for the Archives. These tidbits of history seem to be evaporating as very little of the essences of these small settlements are still left. In fact, with the advent of modern GPS units and modern maps that don’t even mention them, they are truly the ‘ghost towns’ of this area.

Membership Application - 2012

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Business	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Before The Grove

This issue of GLEANINGS highlights Ypsilantians' roles in two wars: one in 1945 and another in 1812. We still have members of "The Greatest Generation" among us who remember, first hand, their experience in World War II, but there are no living primary sources for stories of Ypsilanti's role in the War of 1812. Godfroy's trading post was in place at the crux of two Indian trails that eventually became the downtown district of the City of Ypsilanti, and that location is referenced in histories of what is often referred to as "America's Second War for Independence."

Upcoming issues of GLEANINGS will highlight what we now know about Godfroy, his family, his far-flung fur-trading enterprise, and other Europeans in this locale even before his arrival.

The editors encourage readers and contributors to search their files and their brains for historical data in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812—and before....

A site-specific time-line to get us started:

1680

French Explorer Robert Cavalier de la Salle begins trek across Michigan's lower peninsula to the Huron River at Dexter, canoes via Riverside Park, hikes overland from Belleville to Lake Erie.

1787

The Wyandot people are struck by smallpox

1790

Jean Baptiste Sanscrainte establishes a fur trading post here

1805

Michigan Territory established with Detroit as capitol. Augustus B. Woodward appointed Chief Justice for the Territory.

1809

Gabriel Godfroy extends his fur-trading posts

1811

French claims established

1812

U.S. General Hull surrenders Detroit to the British army

1823

Woodruff's Grove established