

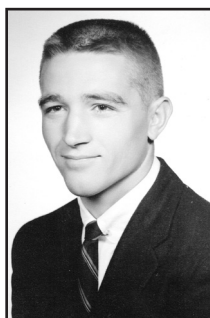
Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



WINTER 2011

Claude Wilbanks: Tennis Coaching Legend *By Phil Barnes*



*Claude Wilbanks
when he started
officiating wrestling
matches at 18*

*Some of the outstanding players who played on Claude's championship teams in the '70s.
Left to Right: Top Row – Assistant Coach Dick Ouellette, Mark McClure, Scott McClure,
John Freatman, Bob Fisher, Anders Heimklo, Head Coach Claude Wilbanks;
Front Row – Steve Carter, George Wallace, Naz Sesi, Jay Carter and Rick Profit*

What is the most satisfying thing a coach can have happen to him? Would it be coaching state championship teams in tennis at Ypsilanti High School, playing tennis at a championship level in the regular season in high school or college, or playing in state level tournaments in Michigan or other states? For Claude Wilbanks, it was coaching his niece and nephews, his brother Ambi's children, Gary and Ambi, and his brother Roy's daughter Lisa.

Who knows? He might have been a wrestling coach...as this was the sport he started out coaching from 1958 to 1961 at Willow Run High School during his first three years of teaching.

Claude's playing background and love for the sport of tennis drew him back into the game as a coach—not that wrestling didn't play a prominent role in Claude's life as he wrestled at Ypsilanti High School and was elected Captain of the team. His brothers were excellent wrestlers as well. Ambi Wilbanks was a State Champion and Big 10 Champion for the University of Michigan, and his brother Roy was also a State Champion. A championship family for sure!

Claude played tennis as a young boy in Ypsilanti on the recreational courts at Ypsilanti High School, and for the Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University). Early tennis legends Ellis Freatman, George Lund, and Dick Roberts were helpful in Claude's climb up the ladder of tennis. Ellis started Claude in tennis as a youth. Ellis, George, and Dick were each college players who went on to very successful careers and played competitive tennis for many years after college. Each of these men had sons (John and Ellis Jr. Freatman, Mike Lund, and Dan and Tim Roberts) who played and lettered in tennis for Claude at Ypsi High School. *[continued on page 3]*

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

From the President's Desk

By Alvin E. Rudisill

This has been a great year for the Ypsilanti Historical Society and I want to thank all of you who have made contributions through our fund raising programs, the volunteer staff program for our Museum and Archives, the various Advisory Boards that provide leadership for our sponsored activities, and our members who provide support and encouragement to all of us.

One of our major activities during the remainder of this year and during 2012 will be to launch a campaign to raise the \$125,000 balance owed the City of Ypsilanti for the purchase of the property at 220 North Huron Street. Now that we have completed the major renovation projects on the Museum and the Carriage House and completed the paving of the parking lot, we can focus our efforts on paying off this balance. Donald Loppnow was recently elected Chair of the Endowment Fund Advisory Board and we look forward to his leadership in guiding this effort.

Our Holiday Open House is scheduled for Sunday, December 4th from 1 to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served and we will be entertained by strolling musicians. James Mann, author of "Wicked Ann Arbor" and Laura Bien, author of "Hidden History

of Ypsilanti" will be in the Archives autographing their new publications. Come and join us for an afternoon of fellowship. The tree will be up and the Museum will be decorated for the Christmas season.

Our thanks to James Mann for hosting the "Education Nights in the Archives" program. We will be featuring films that have significant historical value and James will provide an introduction to each film and lead the discussion after the film has been shown. We are keeping Society members notified of the times and film titles through our new email list-serve. If you have not been receiving our email notices please call Lauren Carpenter at the Museum (734-482-4990) between 2 and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and provide her with your email address.

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 to 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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Welcome!

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

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For information about upcoming Society events, visit us online at:

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Claude Wilbanks: Tennis Coaching Legend

[continued from page one]

At Michigan Normal, Claude was captain of the tennis team in 1956, a year to remember as the team had the best record in school history and advanced to the NCAA tournament as Champions of the IIAC. "Bob Perry was the best player in town and always played doubles with me. We were very successful" said Claude. Perry and Wilbanks had played together since the 4th grade and knew each other's every move.

Easily, Claude's outstanding achievement in coaching was a three-year span from 1974-1976 when his Ypsilanti High School teams went 50 and 1. Claude never coached a losing season. Led by John Freatman and Steve Carter, the Braves dominated tennis in Michigan. Freatman was a state semifinalist in singles and Carter and Freatman were runners-up in doubles two years in a row; George Wallace lost only three matches in a three year span. Other contributors during Claude's long career were singles stars Jay Carter, and Anders Heimklo and doubles stars Bob Fisher and Naz Sesi. Twin brothers Scott and Mark McClure were also outstanding in doubles. Others on the teams were Tim McCarthy, Mark Harmon, Steve Cadwallader, and Tim Roberts. Later on Steve Law, Zack Underwood, Scott Butler, Scott Karoub, John Gessert, Ambi Wilbanks, Robert McClure, Mike Presenski, Dan Roberts, and Dave, Steve and Tim Burandt were solid winners. Pat Buck was an outstanding star. Kim Otis won a Regionals Singles Championship and played collegiately at Michigan State University.

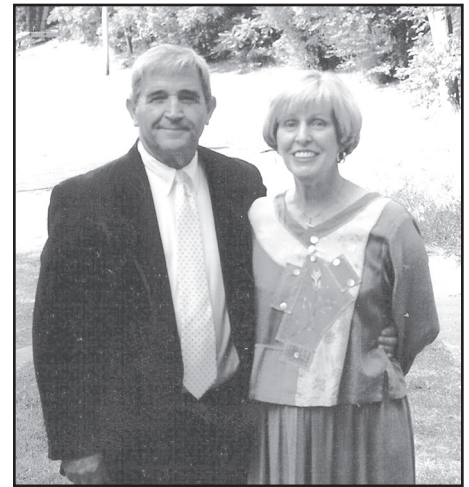
Claude was asked to coach the girl's tennis team soon after girls sports started in high school. For the rest of his career he coached both boys' and girls' teams. Several outstanding players came through the girl's program including Eileen McCarthy, who was "probably the best female tennis player I had," stated Claude. "Also, Kathy Work was terrific and went on to compete at the college level at Hope College. Charlotte Presenski was also a standout player for the lady Braves."

In 2005 Claude was presented with a great honor: he was chosen to be a member of

the Ypsilanti High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Former athletes and coaches such as Mike Bass, Bob Arvin, Ernie Slater, Ed Shadford, and Ron Isbell were among the 16 honorees. Claude was presented with a plaque to honor his induction into the second class of inductees.

Claude's outstanding achievement was 1974-1976 when his YHS teams went 50 and 1

Along the way Claude excelled in officiating of wrestling. At the age of 18, Bert Waterman, Ypsi High's wrestling coach, suggested that Claude start officiating. One of the benefits was free admission to all collegiate matches. The chance to attend these matches without charge did it. Claude signed up and soon after he was drafted out of the stands to work a high school match when the officials didn't show up. He was the only guy there with a license to officiate. So he was hooked! Thirty years later he retired after refereeing High School, Mid America Conference, and Big 10 Collegiate matches. Claude worked over 25 State Tournament matches during his stellar officiating career.



*Claude Wilbanks with his wife Ann Marie
in Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti*

Currently Claude plays competitive tennis in Florida during the winter and returns to Ypsilanti with his wife Ann Marie during the summer to play tennis with friends. His knees are now giving him trouble and he doesn't win every match he plays. "I'm now playing just for the fun of it" Claude said. Sure!

(Phil Barnes spent 30 years in the Milan school system as an administrator, 13 of those years as Athletic Director, and is a regular member of the Ypsilanti Morning Coffee Group.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**2 pm Sunday,
March 11, 2012**

**2 pm Sunday
June 10, 2012**

**2 pm Sunday
September 9, 2012**

**2 pm Sunday,
December 11, 2012**

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



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Museum Advisory Board Report

*By Kathryn Howard,
Chair-Museum Advisory Board*

After a busy fall at the Museum we are now into our winter activities and holidays. Our Quilt Exhibit was a wonderful success with nearly one hundred quilts and other quilted pieces. We had many wall hangings and runners, which added to a wonderful variety. The Quilt Tying Raffle was a great success and the finished quilt was won by Nahid Hemati. We received \$400 in donations. This is for new electric light fixtures for the Heritage Room.

The costumes have been changed to beautiful winter clothing by Fofie Pappas and Nancy Wheeler. The display cases are ready with new exhibits. One case has an interesting exhibit of turkey salt and pepper shakers plus other pieces of turkey-designed items, from the collection of Mary Baker.

The large display case in the Dr. Edmunds Room has new exhibits of items, many manufactured in the Ypsilanti area, as well as items that local merchants had for sale from yesterday.

Our Christmas Open House on December 4th from 1 to 5 p.m. will feature entertainment by a musical group that has previously appeared at the

Museum. The Museum is beautifully decorated for the Holidays. The tree is featured in gold. Very lovely, and the rest of the Museum also is beautifully done. There will be refreshments and fellowship, so please enjoy the afternoon with us.

If you have an exhibit you feel is of interest, we would be glad to display it. We all have interesting collections. The Museum will be open all winter with some very interesting activities, tours and special programs in the Archives. We are planning some day activities during the winter months. Several people have asked for day workshops. Calendars, books and other items are for sale in the Archives.

We've had several groups this past fall. The Underground Railroad Power Point program has been shown to individual groups.

All of the linen has been laundered and carefully stored. Rugs have been cleaned in the halls. We are ready for the Holidays – and we are ready for you!

The Museum will be closed on December 24, 25, 26 and 31, and on January 1. Happy Holidays!

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

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Aftermath: The 1929 Train Wreck in Depot Town

By George Ridenour



A rare photo of the damage to the Cadwell Building (now the Sidetrack Bar and Grill) from the train wreck on January 21, 1929

EDITORS' NOTE:

The first four paragraphs of this article previously appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of *GLEANINGS*. In this follow-up, the author relates what happened following the train wreck.

The original eyewitness account appeared in the *Ypsilanti Press* issues in January 1929.

On Monday, January 21, 1929 a freight train was passing through Depot Town in Ypsilanti. Michigan Central baggage man Fred Beck saw that a wheel truck of a freight car was off the track. It was number 12 of 85 cars. Before the train could be stopped, the car broke loose of its coupling, crossed the street lurching and crashing into the building that was then known as the Cadwell Building. You know it today as the patio right by the tracks at the Sidetrack Bar and Grill. Now you know the reason for the odd right angle that sets it apart from every other building in the Depot Town area.

"Mrs. Louis Cadwell, the owner, who lived on the second floor, had left the building only a few minutes before and was going

to her garage in back of the stores when she heard the crash. She rushed to the street to find the entire east wall caved in, her household effects strewn in the street, and the roof of the building sagging precariously. It fell in after the accident, leaving only the Cross Street wall standing and it was torn down soon after." Scott Sturtevant, a local auto dealer, was sitting in his car reading his mail. He was at the gate near River Street. "He saw, coming out of a large cloud of dust, a box car moving in his direction. Sturtevant quickly backed his car out of the way and was not hurt."

"Laura Kelsey, was standing on River Street waiting for the train to pass when the crash occurred. She was apparently hit by the truck after it was torn from the train and knocked unconscious." (*Ypsilanti Press*, January 21, 1929.)

The car crashed into the restaurant that was operated by Bert Ollett and his wife Cestia. Both were alone in the restaurant at the time. They were worried when the crash occurred that their young son might have been inside the building and killed or injured in the wreckage. However, he was later found safe at school.

Alonzo H. Miller, the Ypsilanti Fire Department Chief at the time, was at the scene as it occurred and took charge of the situation. He continued a career with the Ypsilanti Fire Department.

So what happened to Bert Ollett and his wife Cestia who were inside the restaurant? Bert suffered minor bruises from the crash and "nervous shock." He was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge and a deputy sheriff of Washtenaw County for eight years until his health failed. He lived in Ypsilanti for thirty-three years until the age of 67. He died in November of 1946. Cestia suffered serious scalp wounds and "nervous shock" from the crash. Later diagnosis would show she had a fractured skull, broken arm, and her left side was partially paralyzed. She lived to age 80 and passed away on February 7, 1972 at a convalescent home. She was a member of Cross Street Church of Christ, the Washtenaw Rebekah Lodge 270, the Home League of the Salvation Army, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Women's Relief Corps. She was survived by one daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

[continued overleaf]

IT WAS WORLD NEWS!



A highly romanticized drawing of the event was published in Italian newspapers. The artist worked from descriptions found in other news accounts

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Aftermath: 1929 Train Wreck in Depot Town

[continued from page 5]



The Sidetrack Bar and Grill as it appears today with the outside patio in the space where the original building existed before the train wreck

The cash register that was inside the restaurant was found but, when it was opened, there was no money inside. Also, Cestia's purse was never located which contained some checks and money.

What of Laura Kelsey who was hit by the train car? Her diagnosis was a broken right collar bone, lacerated right leg, badly torn muscles and scalp wounds. She and the others were taken to and treated at Beyer Hospital which was near the scene of the accident. Filed in the *Ypsilanti Press* of 1 February 1929, some eight days later, is the following notice in the *Ypsilanti Briefs* section: "Mrs. Laura Kelsey who was injured when a Michigan Central freight train crashed into the Cadwell building is getting along satisfactorily at Beyer Memorial Hospital. Wounds to her scalp and face have healed and a broken collar bone is healing. An injury to one leg is to be closed with stitches next week. She is still suffering from shock." She faded into history and nothing could be found of her past or her life after the trauma.

Another survivor was "Bobby" the canary owned by Mrs. Cadwell. He was

feared dead when his battered cage was found in the wreckage. By the grace of God he was found about seven hours later, bedraggled, and laying in a heap of the rubbish! Funny, he never got his photo taken, told his own story, nor is known by most of you as a "survivor of 29." Maybe someday!

The photo of the damage to the Cadwell building is rare and was never published. I discovered it on Facebook and was able to contact Mr. Richard Colegrove who led me on an adventure through photos and diaries of his grandfather, Charles Ray Utter. Charles was a conductor on the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Interurban Railroad and later worked as a barber in Ypsilanti. I deeply thank Richard and his family for giving me permission to publish in the *GLEANINGS* this rare photo of an event in Ypsilanti history that was not even published in the newspapers at the time of the crash.

(George Ridenour is a member of the YHS Archives Advisory Board, a regular volunteer in the Archives and a regular contributor to the GLEANINGS.)



The Joseph H. Thompson Dodge Brothers Motor Cars dealership was once located on the north end of the building known as the Thompson Block

Joe Thompson's "Memories of Early Depot Town"

Joe Thompson was active in the Michigan Automobile Dealers Association as President and Board Member and owned a Dodge dealership in Ypsilanti for more than 40 years. He was a member of the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Kiwanis Club, Washtenaw Country Club and the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce. After his retirement, he was appointed in 1935 to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission by then governor Frank D. Fitzgerald and held that post intermittently until his death in 1977. The post did not pay a salary and Thompson was quoted in the local newspaper: "Everybody has to make a contribution to something civic and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission has been my contribution."

In 1828 Benjamin Thompson, Joseph's great-grandfather, helped construct many of the mills that flourished along the Huron River. Thompson's grandfather Oliver once served as mayor of Ypsilanti. The family owned the "Thompson Block" in Depot Town for many years. The Thomp-

son Building has been in the news the past few years because of proposed development and arson. -George Ridenour

"Memories of the Early Depot Town"

I have been asked a number of times to give my impression of the Depot section just after 1900.

I was born on Maple Street very close to this area so I think I have a pretty good idea of the business section and some of the merchants and their activities in this part of the city. The east side had many names: The East Side, Depot Town, Cross Street, Down Town as opposed to Up-Town.

I hope you will pardon me if I begin with the business my parents operated on the corner of River and Cross Streets. It was known as the "Thompson Building". My grandfather, O. E. Thompson, my father, Benjamin Thompson, my uncle, Edward

Thompson, and my uncle, John Thompson, were very busy in the manufacturing of agricultural implements: root cutters, grass seeders, kraut and slaw cutters, and later, porch swings. They employed about 40 men. They also ran a retail business selling coal, building supplies, carriages and wagons, paint and wall paper – at one time sold over 200 bicycles in one year. They had the agency for the Nichols & Shepherd threshing engines that were made in Battle Creek. I recall that they had a crew of paper hangers and painters that were busy in the city in that line of work.

In the Thompson Building there was also a tailor by the name of Otto Biske who made hand-made clothes for many of the people who could afford it. Right next to Mr. Biske's tailor shop was the city fire department where they operated one horse, and a couple of firemen who slept up-stairs over the fire equipment. During the off hours Tommy Wilkinson operated this horse in picking up the refuse on the Depot streets. (You know they had horses in those days.) And up on the top of the building was a large bell that would ring and the number of strokes on the bell would tell you what location in town the fire was burning or being extinguished.

Across the street was the Michigan Central Depot with all its busy trains coming and going and baggage wagons and hacks calling out for the Hawkins House and Occidental Hotel, a couple of baggage wagons that were handling the baggage and sample trunks that the salesmen used in selling their wares. The Depot at that time was a two-story building and a fire burned off the top of it and they reduced it to one floor. On that Michigan Central they had one train they called the "paper train" that left Detroit at 2 o'clock at night and took the newspapers all the way up the line from the Detroit publishers. Then they had a train they called "the blind baggage" which had one coach on the rear with holes where the guardians could poke their guns out if it was held up. It carried the money from Detroit to Chicago. Then there was a car on that train they called the "silk car" that carried silk in bales that was all made up in fabric.

The Depot was so busy that it was really a nice exciting place to go as kids. Madison Parsons called out *[continued overleaf]*

Memories of Early Depot Town

[continued from page 7]

the trains – “Train going west, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo” etc. Tommy Thompson in a uniform sold tickets and George Oberst was a baggage man. That was a very big part of the traveling in those days.

Across the tracks was the freight depot where horse-drawn drays hauled all the freight that came in box cars and shipped out all of the manufactured products for Ypsilanti including the Peninsular Paper Company and other factories that were doing pretty well. The train stopped for water there and the gardens next to the depot were something to behold. Mr. John

Laidlaw, a Scotch gardener, was known all up and down the line for his display of flowers and he would build huge arrangements out of flowers and plants like the Niagara Falls and the battleship Maine and the Head boys got on the trains and gave the ladies little bouquets when they stopped in Ypsilanti.

Up the tracks a little farther from the greenhouse were the stock-yards where once a week they shipped livestock in cattle cars. The drovers – well, I remember Mr. Farnsby Horner and Dick Spencer would buy this livestock and then have it brought to the stock yards once a week where they shipped it out.

To come back to East Cross Street – on the corner across the tracks was a hotel called the Neat House, as I remember the first name on it. Then it was changed to the Lewis House. Then a fellow came down from Michigan Center named Dad Yates who opened a tavern and did a thriving business. Oliver Westfall afterwards had the hotel and it had a bar downstairs and sleeping rooms upstairs for maybe 15 or 20 people. Next to this hotel was a drug store that was operated by Robert Kilian and in the drug store was a jewelry repair outfit run by Mr. E. N. Colby, where they cleaned watches and sold small articles of jewelry. Kilian had a wonderful soda fountain and the kids all went in there when they had the money to buy one. Next door was Clark & House’s grocery and later the store was operated by Mr. H. A. Palmer as a hardware store. The next store, going west, was a meat market run by Mr. Charlie Fairchilds and his wife, Lilly, and next to that was the Robert’s House, another bar with rooms upstairs. Just beyond that was the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Company that moved out from Detroit where it

was known as the Phoenix Reed Furniture Company. They employed probably 35 to 40 men making reed furniture which was very popular in those days and they stayed for a number of years and finally moved to Jackson, Michigan, where they got prison labor for 50 cents a day. That was the end of the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture. On the corner west of there was a hardware store operated by Whitford & Simmons, Theodore Whitford and Mr. Cal Simmons. They had a tin shop in the back room and in their spare time they made all sorts of tin utensils and eaves-troughs and downspouts and all that stuff that was made by hand in those days.

That Follett House had quite a history but I never recall when it was a hotel. It was a factory from the time I remember.

Across the street west of the hardware was the Deubel Mill where they ground up wheat and made flour. It was run by water power from the Huron River with a race that ran north to the dam near Forest Avenue. Up the race a little ways was a saw mill that Mr. H. R. Scovill operated with his partner, George Follmor. The farmers brought in their logs and they were dumped into the race and floated down until the mill was ready to saw them up into lumber. Frog Island across from the race was just full of lumber piles of all different kinds and descriptions. Of course, it was all delivered by horses with immense drays. Up the race a little farther was a sash and door mill that was operated by Scovill and across the river was the Hay & Todd Manufacturing Company or the Ypsilanti Underwear Company that was also run by water power. Just think—that dam operated water power for the woolen mill, for the sash and door, for the Scovill log mill, and for the Deubel Flour Mill. Quite a lot of power came from the Huron River.

On Forest Avenue across from the woolen mill was a tannery that Mr. Holland ran. He would buy hides from the farmers and tan them into leather. This was quite an operation. He also bought junk. Us kids used to sell him all the metal we could find around and he was a very nice old man as I can remember.

On Forest Avenue, up a little farther on River Street was a malt house run by Mr. Fred Swain. They converted barley into

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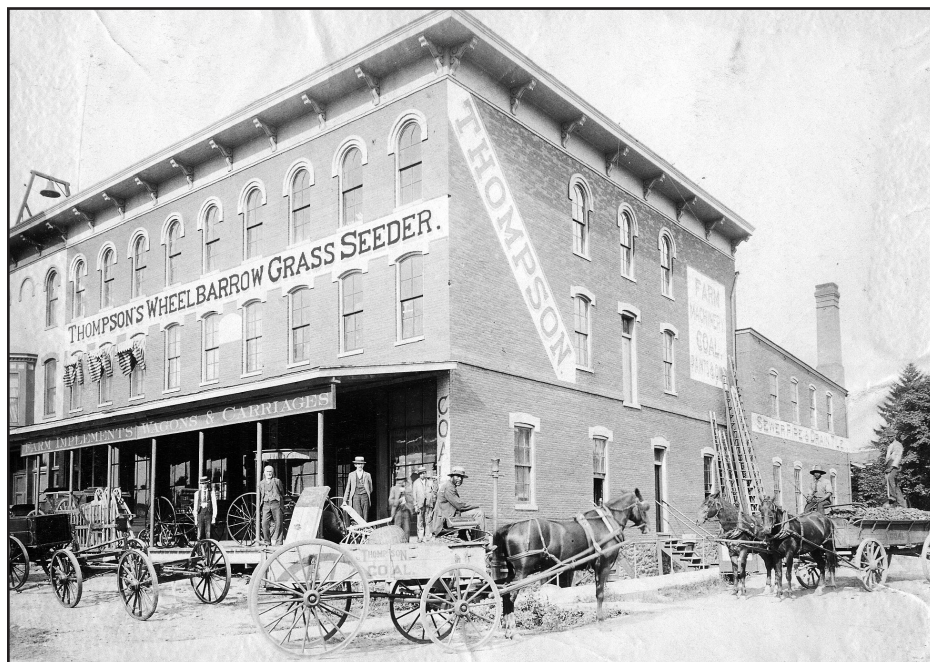
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malt that was sold to extensive brewery operations like Forrester's and like the ones in Ann Arbor and Manchester. That seemed to be a part of the brewing that was very essential in making beer.

Let's go back across the river now on the south side of Cross Street. The first building that I remember there was a law office where lawyer Lee M. Brown held forth. He was the attorney for all the Depot people that needed to go to law. Next to that law office, George W. Hayes had a grocery. And east of that grocery was John Engal Cartage and Coal office behind which he had an extensive barn and owned a number of teams of horse and drays that did the hauling around the Depot section. A junk dealer, Mr. Louis Cramer, was quite an operator. He had a little store and bought all the junk that was available at that time.

Next to Mr. Cramer's place of business was a cigar store that was operated by Mr. Chris Duress. They called him "doc," for he concocted a remedy that he claimed would restore lost manhood. He filled his window one day with his remedy and the sun came through the window pretty bright and the bottles exploded and blew out the front windows so I guess he did away with his remedy after that experience. Tommy Duffy had a shoe repair shop right next door and took care of all the people's wants repairing shoes.

Now we'll go up Cross Street a little bit farther east. A man by the name of Fremont Paterson had a store which was a bakery and candy store. He was also an inventor. He invented what they called a unicycle. It was a big, tall wheel and he was suspended in the center of it. I saw him come down Cross Street hill and wreck it one day and that was the last we ever heard of the unicycle. Charley Smith had a meat market next door. I guess in those days they called it a butcher shop, and outside of the city they had a slaughter house where the cattle were killed and then brought in and sold at retail. Joel Grieve had a bakery next door and I used to deliver for him on Saturdays. When we came back at night what bread we had left we fed the horse. Davis & Company had a grocery and dry goods store which did an extensive business. Across the alley A. A. Bedell had a shoe store and next was the Justice of the Peace office where they



Members of the Thompson family manufactured agricultural implements; root cutters, grass seeders, kraut and slaw cutters, and later, porch swings at the corner of River and Cross Streets in what was once known as the Thompson Building

held trials and Squire Beach was, as I remember, the judge and following him was Frank Joslin.

“I hope I haven’t made too many mistakes in this little discourse and I hope you find it interesting about the early days” -Joe Thompson

Upstairs over these two stores was the Maccabee Hall and it used to be called the Masonic Hall but they moved up town and the Macabees took it over. Peter Cranson had a barber shop next door and Clyde Roe a restaurant next to him. There was next door what the people called a “horse exchange.” It was where a bunch of gamblers came out from Detroit every day on the Michigan Central and it was what they called “off-track-betting.” Large blackboards lined the halls and the race results came in from around the country by wire and these men would bet the same as they do today at the horse races only there weren’t any horses in sight. That place was run by Warren Lewis and it was thriving for a number of years until George Burke was elected prosecutor and he closed it up. Upstairs over the horse exchange was a house of ill-repute. “Ma” Bush was the landlady and of course that completed the business section in that neighborhood.

Nick Max had a saloon adjacent and Dick Wilbur operated a cigar store on the corner which is now removed. It was hit by a train and it still shows the scars of where the train struck the building. Later, on that corner, there was a food counter and I remember Mr. Bicraft, where you could go to get a sandwich and a cup of coffee. Down River Street, a ways south, was a foundry and machine shop where they made flour mill machinery. Mr. Charles Ferrier and Mr. George Walterhouse operated this. Next to them was a blacksmith shop run by Otto Rohn. Of course, all the horses had to be shod in those days and this was one place they could take them. On the southeast corner of River and Cross was the Ypsilanti Electric Company that furnished electric lights for the city in their homes and business, only there was no power generated at that time. It only ran at night because there wasn’t any use of electricity in the day time. There were two plants in Ypsilanti – one that furnished the city lights and the water works and the other building furnished the lights for the homes. I remember our home at 108 Maple Street was the first one that was wired in Ypsilanti because it was the closest one to the plant. George Essinger came in with his wire. None of the wires were concealed. They just ran up the walls and across the ceilings except that they took the gas fixtures and rewired them for electric which were [continued overleaf]

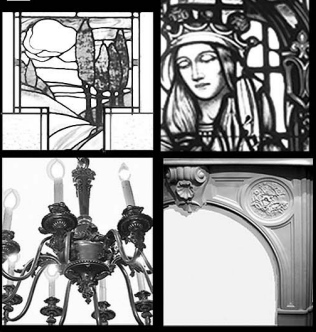
Memories of Early Depot Town

[continued from page 9]

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quite ornamental. Later this electric plant was sold to Edison Company.

I've been told by two interesting people of those days about a couple of sales that were made at the Depot. One was when Denny Doyle sold the Follett House. It seems that business had fallen off quite a bit. Denny wanted to sell the place so he heard about a fellow by the name of Mathias who was looking for a tavern so he invited him to Ypsilanti to take a look at the Follett House. Denny was a little bit unscrupulous in his business actions but he got a group of fellows to go to Ann Arbor with suit cases and another group to go down to Wayne and when the Michigan Central train came in these fellows flocked into the Follett House to register and stay over night. Mathias was sitting in the lobby and he looked over the crowd and just then the train came in from the other way and these fellows he had sent to Wayne came in. Well, the bar was doing business and the barber shop was doing business and Mathias was mesmerized by the amount of business he anticipated so he bought the place; and didn't they sell him another place up in the Thompson Building for an overflow of his patrons. Well, he paid his money and he owned the hotel and Doyle was gone.

Another incident that happened that had a little humor to it was when they had the fiftieth anniversary and the celebration was held at the Depot. They had an arch over the road that was made of lattice and up on the top of the arch they had a figure of the Goddess of Liberty, which was a manikin bust that they borrowed from some milliner. Well, they had a speaker—I don't know, a congressman or some-

body—come here to make the speech for the fiftieth anniversary. They had this bust up on top of the arch with a shroud over it and at a critical time in his speech they were to pull the rope and that would take the shroud off the bust. But, in the night some wag crawled up on there and with his jackknife cut a hole in the mouth of the Goddess of Liberty and inserted about a 7-inch cigar so at the critical moment they pulled off the shroud and there was the Goddess of Liberty, instead of looking fresh and sweet as she should, she had this great big cigar in her mouth and it brought down the house. Well, so much for that.

There was quite an interesting thing that happened at the Depot. Mr. Shelly B. Hutchinson had a shoe store there at one time and in visiting a friend of his over in Jackson he noticed that he had a sales gimmick where he gave each customer a coupon and on Saturday night they would have a drawing and somebody would get a nice piece of jewelry. Well, that started Mr. Hutchinson thinking about trading stamps and he developed the whole thing in the Depot section of Ypsilanti. And that is the Hutchinson of the S & H Trading Stamps. He built a beautiful home on River Street that still stands, which is kind of a monument of his great success in the trading stamp business. Other things that Mr. Hutchinson got into didn't pan out so well. He started a newspaper in Detroit called the *United States Daily* that failed and he started a cereal factory something like the Battle Creek cereal over at the Depot and that didn't do too well.

[Thompson's memoir was first published in *The Depot Town Rag*, July 1974]



The Thompson Block as it appears today after a fire gutted the facility

Houston “Leroy” Harrington – Ypsilanti’s WWI Hero

By George Ridenour

A short notice appeared in the June 1, 1921 edition of the *Daily Ypsilantian Press*: “...41 bodies of World War 1 veterans who died in Europe were being brought home.” The article indicated one of the bodies was that of a man from Ypsilanti. Then, on June 3, 1921 a 650 lb. hermetically sealed lead coffin containing the body of young Houston “Leroy” Harrington found its way to his former home at 741 Lowell Street. Houston was wounded on September 22, 1918, and then died on September 24. He was first buried with comrades at a local cemetery in Toul, France.

Leroy, as he was known to friends, was born on May 6, 1894 in Ridgeway, Michigan, and came to Ypsilanti to live in 1906. He lived with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. William Harrington, two sisters, Cecil and Fern, and younger brother Herman.

When Houston was 18 he joined Signal Corps, Company A and was on active duty for 9 months in Calumet, Michigan. He then served at the Mexican border in 1916 and left with the 107th Field Signal Battalion for service in Waco, Texas. When they were called overseas, he went with them on January 27, 1918. On September 22, 1918 he was wounded and died two days later. He had fought in the bloody battles at Chateau Thierry, Solsson, and St. Mikiel.

Monday, June 6, 1921 dawned with a threat of showers and unsettled weather. The body of Private First Class Harrington was taken from the family home and moved to the Masonic Temple on Huron Street. There the public, family and friends could view his casket as he lay in state.

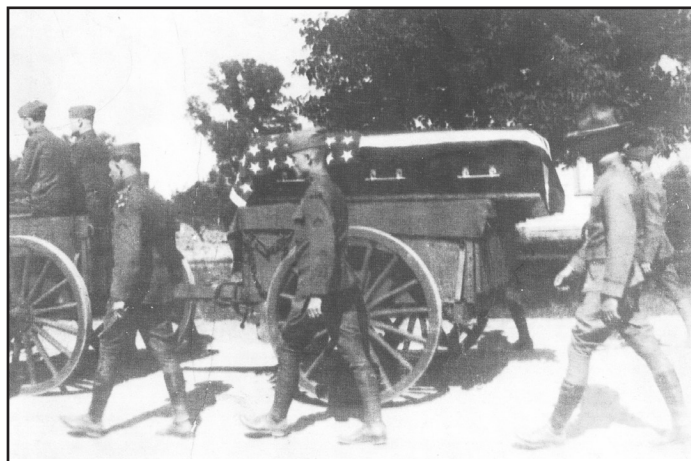
At 2 p.m. a funeral for Harrington was held, officiated by Chaplains C. H. Elliott and B. S. Levering of the American Legion. The funeral program was simple and direct. At 3 p.m. the formation began for the parade. It included a military band, Company A–107th Signal Battalion (120 members), the American Legion, four white horses and the caisson bearing the body of PFC Harrington surrounded by an honor guard of escorts. Following were cars provided for the Auxiliary of the Signal Corps and the American Legion, family, friends, and other civilians.

The parade proceeded from North Huron down Cross to River and from River to Highland Cemetery. In photos people can be seen following on the sidewalks, a caisson with four white horses clomping on the unpaved road, a procession described as a mile long threaded its way to the final resting place at Highland Cemetery.

The service at Highland was short. Remarks, brief prayers, three volleys of shots over the grave, and finally the haunting sound of taps echoing through the cemetery. Then it was over.

Right:
Houston
“Leroy” Harrington,
Ypsilanti’s
World War I hero

Below:
The caisson
bearing the body of
PFC Harrington
surrounded by an
honor guard
of escorts



The service at Highland was short. Remarks, brief prayers, three volleys of shots over the grave, and finally the haunting sound of taps echoing through the cemetery. Then it was over.

that little was said about him.

His brother Harold lived to be 104, died in January, 2011. He was interviewed in November, 2010 for *Lifestyles Magazine* and a recap of the interview was inserted into papers published by the Pioneer Group of Barryton, Michigan. “Harrington’s brother, Houston Leroy was a member of a cavalry unit from Michigan that traveled to the bloody battlefields of WWI. Houston never made it home from Europe, a death Harrington struggled to understand at just 12 years old. “I remember he used to bring his horse home,” Harrington said. “I used to wash his horse while he ate dinner.”

[continued overleaf]

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Houston "Leroy" Harrington

[Continued from page 11]

A large bronze star awarded on September 24, 1918 states: "In honor of Private First Class Houston Leroy Harrington, Company A, 2d Division, 1st Field Signal Battalion, died of wounds in Toul, France, May 6, 1894." An award signed by President Woodrow Wilson reads:

"Columbia gives to her son the accolade of the new chivalry of humanity. Leroy Harrington served with one in the World War and died in the service of his country."

Finally, this remembrance to the family by Commander-in Chief, John J. Pershing:

"In Memory of Private 1st Class Leroy H. Harrington, Company A, 1st Field Signal Battalion, who died September 24, 1918. He bravely laid down his life for the cause of his country. His name will ever remain fresh in the hearts of his friends and comrades. The record of his honorable service will be preserved in the archives of the American Expeditionary Forces."



The Bronze Star medal

Ypsilanti's war hero. Memories may dim, photos may turn yellow and tear with age, graves long standing may gather weeds, but you, Private First Class Houston "Leroy" Harrington, will be remembered through these words long after we are gone. God bless your soul and those who remember you.

(George Ridenour is a member of the YHS Archives Advisory Board, a regular volunteer in the Archives and a regular contributor to the GLEANINGS.)

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Ypsilanti History – It's a Test!

By Peter Fletcher

1. What Medal of Honor awardee is buried in Highland Cemetery?
2. What Ypsilanti couple raised national prize winning dogs? Hint: The breed is considered quite unfriendly.
3. Name the Ypsilanti native who became well acquainted with Bob Hope of movie fame through a mutual interest in golf.
4. Identify the four Ypsilanti brothers who were each Presidents of their respective senior classes at Ypsilanti High School.
5. Why do loyal Ypsilantians refer to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital as St. Elsewhere?
6. Many will recall the visit of Mohammed Ali AKA Cassius Clay to the Credit Bureau of Ypsilanti long ago. What is the updated Clay connection now with the Credit Bureau?
7. Tell about the murder in 1951 committed by a grandson of a long time Sergeant in the Ypsilanti Police Department.
8. Former Michigan Governor William G. Milliken is considered the epitome of a perfect gentleman, yet he recently phoned an Ypsilantian he appointed to two different state offices and urged him to keep on "raising hell and stirring up trouble." Who received the call?
9. A Michigan Governor with an Ypsilanti connection was nicknamed Soapy Williams. What was his real first name?
10. Three generations of the Fink family of Ypsilanti have occupied public office. Name them and their respective offices.
11. "Festival of Lights" was the name of what seasonal event held a number of years ago?
12. Our local teacher training college operated two lab schools with what famous names?
13. The federal draft law had to be revised to accommodate what problem created by February 29th?
14. Give an example of a "New" car concept that is really a recycling of an old idea.
15. How many local streets are named after U.S. Presidents and how many can you name?
16. Have you encountered anyone in the last year for the first time who knew the correct origin of the name Ypsilanti?
17. Recite the saga surrounding a change in the method of picking up trash each week.
18. When did Ypsilanti change to a City Manager form of government and who was the first City Manager?
19. What nearby stretch of Interstate Highway was designed to encourage use of bike paths along the Freeway?
20. Here is the answer: "Disappointed." What is the question?

Turn to page 24 of this issue to check your answers.

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

Clark's Lake - How it Sank

The following was published in the Ypsilanti Commercial of April 22, 1871



"In the town of Superior, which is eight miles north of this city, was a pond of water known as Clark's Lake. Mr. Edmond Day, the contractor under the County Drain Commissioner, dug a ditch to drain the road nearby so as to make it passable without so much corduroy material. The job had already broken three different contractors who failed in the attempt. Mr. D. took hold with a will bound to accomplish it. He dug his ditch fifteen feet wide and three fourths of a mile in length. About a month after he opened his ditch the water began flowing from the Lake. It ran two days, ploughing deeper and deeper, until the lake was nearly dry, leaving a cauldron embracing something over an acre about 100 feet deep.

Mr. D was standing close to the edge of what was once the lake when all at once he felt a movement, the earth sliding out from under him. He fled on the double quick with the ground heaving, sinking and waving beneath his feet. Unlike Lot's wife, he dared not look behind him until he reached a place of safety. Then, looking behind, he saw the ground all around what was once a lake, twenty acres more or less, sunk from five to six feet, broken off from the main land and separated by fissures from 18 inches to 10 feet wide and over 20 feet deep. It seems the water held this land in place.

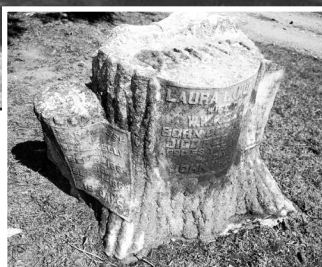
It is a sight worth going to see. Mr. Clark has lost 20 acres of land more or less. If he could only board it in and charge a reasonable compensation he would make a fortune. Superior has no railroad but she is made. She has a natural curiosity equal to one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Shut in from the outside world she is booked to become the centre of a grand attraction. That Air Line has got to come now to furnish accommodations to the wondering, gaping crowds that will visit this inland town, destined to be the Highway of Empire."

It must have been quite a sight.

– Submitted by George Ridenour



...another installment of continuing features on our landmark cemetery



The unique Laura Kelly and infant children "tree stump" tombstone with cut off branches signifying the children died before their time



The Ettie G. Reed "tree stump" tombstone with a scroll hung over a cut-off branch

Highland Cemetery has a large number of unique grave markers including animals, trees, flowers, and items related to the lives of the people buried there. This article will focus on a number of these unique markers.

There are several "tree stump" tombstones carved out of limestone or marble. These tombstones first appeared in cemeteries in the late 1800s and continued to be popular through the 1920s. This design sometimes symbolizes that the individual was cut down in the prime of life. Other sources indicated that, if there are branches cut off close to the stump, it means that other members of the family also died before their time. Sometimes the initials of the family members are carved into the cut-off branches. Inscriptions on the stumps are often cut into the wood of the tree where the bark has been cut away or a scroll is nailed to the stump or hung from a rope hanger. Items such as a cross, bible, anchor, or flowers are often seen carved on the top of the stump or arranged around the base.

One example of this type of "tree stump" tombstone in Highland Cemetery is that of Ettie G. Reed, born in 1910 and died in 1917. The tombstone includes a scroll with information on it that is attached to a rope hung over a cut off branch. Other items carved into the stump include flowers and vines.

The Laura L. (Murray) Kelly and children tombstone is another example of the "tree stump" tombstone. This is unique in that it lists the information for the mother and her two children who died shortly after birth. In the center of the "tree" is the information about the mother:

*Laura L. (Murray)
Wife of W. W. Kelly
Born October 16, 1832
Died February 17, 1886
Aged 53 years 4 ms and 1 day
John 11 25th (Bible Verse)*

On the cut-off branches on each side of the main stump are inscriptions for each of the babies:

*Herbert Murray
Son of W. W. & L. Kelly
Born March 13, 1866
Died March 18, 1867
Aged 1 year and 5 days*

*Sara Abby
Daughter of W. W. & L. Kelly
Born September 3, 1864
Died September 21, 1864
Aged 18 days*

On the top of the Laura Kelly tombstone is the word "LAURA" and a sheaf of wheat. Wheat often is used to denote immortality and resurrection. Next to the Laura Kelly tombstone is the tombstone of her husband which is also a "tree stump" but of much simpler design.

Another source for the "tree stump" tombstones was a fraternal organization called "Woodmen of the World." The organization was founded in 1890 and was based in Omaha, Nebraska. This large privately-held insurance company was



The Starkweather monument a statue of m

ive Markers d Cemetery

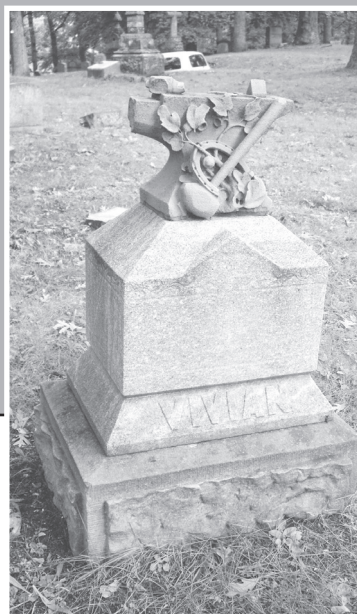
Highland Cemetery was designed by Col. James Lewis Glenn in 1863 and is located on the sandy bluffs of one of Michigan's pre-historic lakes. It is considered to be a masterpiece of 19th century landscape architecture and a place of great natural beauty.



er plot guarded by
an's best friend



The Michael J. Ellinger tombstone with the words "Dog is my Co-Pilot" and the statue of a dog



The Thomas Vivian tombstone with anvil and other symbols representing his occupation of "blacksmithing, horse shoeing and repairing of all kinds"



The John Elmer Johnson, Jr. marker with a lamb that is often used on the graves of children, particularly infants, to symbolize innocence

established for members who were provided with a death and monument benefit. Early in the program gravestones were furnished to members free of charge. Some of the gravestones resembled a stack of cut wood while others resembled a tree trunk. A tree trunk was part of the organization's logo.

Throughout history symbols and figures have been used on tombstones to represent trades and professions. One of the unique tombstones

in Highland Cemetery that reflects the trade of the individual is that of Thomas Vivian. On the top of the tombstone is an anvil, hammer, horseshoe, vines and other items. According to cemetery records, Thomas Vivian was born in 1828 and died in 1898. The 1860 Ypsilanti Street Directory indicates the Vivian's business was "...blacksmithing, horse shoeing and repairing of all kinds." His shop was on the river near the Follett House.

Statues of animals have also been used as grave markers to represent pets or the interests of the interred. One recent addition to Highland Cemetery in 2002 was the tombstone of Michael J. Ellinger. The tombstone includes a statue of a dog and the inscription on the stone includes the words "Dog is my Co-Pilot." Ellinger's obituary begins as follows, "Beloved husband, brother, son and renowned lover of dogs." In addition, the obituary indicates that in addition to his wife and family members, that Ellinger "...is survived by two of his best canine friends, Jack and Chelsea."

Another marker in Highland Cemetery that includes the statue of a dog is in the Starkweather plot. The dog statue is located a few feet from the large marker that includes the names of several family members. The dog statue is that of "Watch," John Starkweather's favorite dog, however, Watch is not buried in the cemetery. The virtues of fidelity, loyalty, vigilance, and watchfulness have long been symbolized in cemeteries by statues of man's best friend.

A statue of a lamb often marks the graves of children, particularly infants, symbolizing innocence. Christian markers in particular use lamb statues as Christ is often referred to as the Lamb of God or as a shepherd. One of many lamb statues in Highland Cemetery using the statue of a lamb is that of "John Elmer Johnson, Jr. - July 25, 1941."

Corn has often been used as a symbol on grave markers and represents fertility and rebirth. In American Indian culture the seeds of an ear of corn represented all the people as well as all the things in the universe. There are many markers in Highland Cemetery with an ear of corn as part of the grave marker. The one illustrated in this article is part of a "tree stump" marker.

This article is part of a series on historic Highland Cemetery. The series is being researched and written by James Mann, George Ridenour and Al Rudisill

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From Artifact-to-Archives: Searching for Ypsilanti Gunsmith William Horace Worden

From Carolyn Lucado Griffin's September presentation to the Society

How might an aficionado of local history find out about our progenitors with little more than a single clue to start their search? September's Ypsilanti Historical Society membership meeting showed the way.

When Carolyn Lucado Griffin's husband Earnie discovered and purchased a 1860s rifle with William Horace Worden's name, date, and "Ypsilanti" inscribed on the barrel, the Griffins began tracing its origin. Who was Worden and what can we find out about the maker of this ancient gun the Griffin's wondered. All they had was a name, date, and city of manufacture. The Griffins wanted to know more about W.H. Worden.

Their search began and that search became the focus of her presentation to the Historical Society. Earnest showed off his ancient rifle and Carolyn told of the check-points along their journey of discovery. She projected copies from those sources onto the screen so the audience could see what such information revealed about Worden.

Griffin's sources for information included:

- Atlas (a combination of maps from Washtenaw County)
- Census records
- City directories
- City or town histories (Harvey C. Colburn's *The Story of Ypsilanti*)
- Civil War histories (Worden enlisted more than once and was a prisoner of war)
- County histories (Chapman's *History of Washtenaw County*)
- Family histories (Waite Worden's book, *'Worden, a Weir in the Valley'*)
- Gazeteers and Business directors
- Local genealogical society (Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County)
- Libraries (local, county, historical, state, or university)
- Michigan soldiers and sailors
- Michigan volunteers in the Civil War, 1861-1865
- Newspapers, (local, county, state)

Other sources Griffin found useful:

- www.Ancestry.com
- www.Familysearch.com
- www.Findagrave.com

The search seemed almost at a dead end at one time, when Waite Worden revealed that he had never known his uncle, but came alive again when he revealed one tiny scrap of information that "might be useful."

After digging through all these repositories of information, Griffin presented what became the final and most satisfying evidence of all: a portrait photograph of William Horace Worden.



*Earnest and Carolyn
with the rifle
at the entrance to
the Fletcher-White
Archives*

*William Horace
Worden*

The Second Wife

By Janet Buchanan

After only eight years of marriage to Kate, his young second wife, Brooks Bowman Hazelton died on December 10, 1899, at their home at 424 Cross Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Brooks also left two daughters, nine and seven years older than Kate, who apparently had a questionable relationship with the stepmother as events will show. He was 70 years of age. The cause on his death certificate was noted as “uremia” and “enlargement of prostate.” Brooks was a prominent business man, having been in the lumber business most of his adult life and, at the time of his death, was one of the owners of the Ypsilanti Lumber Company.

Less than two years after the death of his first wife, Brooks met and married a very young, Katherine ‘Kate’ J. Schaff, who was born in 1866. Kate was 25 and Brooks was 62! The couple married in Saginaw, Michigan, on November 18, 1891. It may have been a clerk’s error or otherwise, but Brooks’ age is written as 52 on the marriage record. Before her marriage, Kate lived with her parents. There is no record of how or where Brooks and Kate met.

Sarah Ann Lane Hazelton, Brooks’ first wife of over 40 years, had died on January 29, 1890. Two daughters, Mary ‘Ella’ Childs (1857-1941) and Frances ‘Frankie’ Ann Burke (1859-1952), survived her.

The Will:

Brooks’ handwritten Last Will and Testament was dated December 6, 1899. He died four days later. His signature at the bottom of the will is very feeble-looking, making it obvious that he could not have written the will. Who might have, or certainly, who helped to write this obviously legal document, is open to speculation. If a previous will existed, it was never brought forth.

Brooks bequeaths to his wife, Kate, the following:

- an amount of my stock in the Ypsilanti Lumber Company as shall equal the value of the two dwelling houses and lots owned by said company and situated on Cross and Ballard Streets, in the City of Ypsilanti.
- all of my household goods and furniture and ornaments and my horse and buggy and its equipment.
- one third of all the rest, and residue of the estate, real, personal, and mixed, of which I shall die seized and possessed, or to which I shall be entitled at my decease.

His two daughters receive:

- the remaining two thirds of my said estate, I give, devise, and bequeath to my daughters, Ella Childs and Frankie Burke, share and share alike, subject however, to the payment of all my debts and funeral expenses including a debt of five hundred dollars which I owe my said wife, Kate J. Hazelton.

Lastly the will states:

- I nominate and appoint my said wife, Kate J. Hazelton, to be the executrix of this my last will and testament.

Kate’s Petition for the Probate of a Will:

The will was “deposited and filed in said Court” before Judge H. Wirt Newkirk, Judge of Probate for Washtenaw County, on December 16, 1899, six days after Brooks died. It was “attested and subscribed” by Charles C. Carr and David R. Morford, witnesses. Charles was a nurse, and one assumes he was employed as Brooks’ nurse at the time. David was part-owner of a nearby drug store and was also in the Michigan National Guard with Kate’s brother-in-law, who is mentioned later in this article.

Brooks’ estate was estimated to be worth \$25,000 (\$600,000 in today’s dollars). In this document, Kate is asking the Court to “appoint a time and place for proving said will, and that due notice thereof be given to all persons interested as the Court shall direct, and that said will may be allowed and admitted to probate, and that administration of said estate may be granted to Kate J. Hazelton the executrix named in said will.” It indicated that along with Kate J. Hazelton (33), Mary Ella Childs



Brooks Bowman Hazelton was 62 years old when he married his young second wife, Katherine J. Schaff who was 25

(42) and Frankie Burke (40) were possible “persons interested in said estate.” It is signed by Kate J. Hazelton and notarized by Fred W. Green, who was an Assistant Editor to the local newspaper, The Ypsilantian. He was also associated with Mr. Morford and Kate’s brother-in-law in the National Guard.

Things not going smoothly:

About a month later, on January 12, 1900, Ella Childs and Frankie Burke, answered the petition by Kate Hazelton. This document starts out with wording indicating that the daughters agree with when he died, where he died and the value of the estate. They further agree that Kate is the widow and that they are the daughters of Brooks. BUT, they deny that the deceased left ANY last will and testament, and they DENY that the instrument now on file in the court, the last will and testament IS the last will and testament. They deny that their father executed the will “in his lifetime in the manner the same purports to have been executed, and they deny that it was ever executed by the said deceased

[continued overleaf]

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The Second Wife

[Continued from page 17]

either under the forms and ceremonies provided by the statute, or otherwise."

At the time the will is dated, it continues, "or purports to have been executed, the said Brooks B. Hazelton, was of unsound mind and incapable, by reason of mental weakness, imbecility and disease, of executing any last will and testament whatever." In other words, he was "insane and incompetent to execute the same" and that he was under "undue influence of said petitioner Kate J. Hazelton, and others to these respondents unknown, but whose names when discovered, these respondents beg leave to have inserted in this provision of this answer." It continues stating that the will "does not in any wise express the true will and desire of the said Brooks B. Hazelton, in respect to his property and the disposition to be made thereof" It requests that the petition be dismissed. It is notarized by Philip Blum, Jr, Deputy County Clerk for Washtenaw County.

Additional Documents are submitted:
Two "Proof of Probate of Will" forms

were submitted on Wednesday, January 17, 1900, five days after the daughters responded to the petitions already submitted. These verified the two witnesses of the will, Charles C. Carr and David R. Morfort, are who they say they are, that they had known Brooks for many years, and that they saw him sign and seal his last will and testament on December 6, 1899. They further state that Mr. Hazelton knew they were signing as witnesses and wanted them to do so. They state that he was over the age of 21 and was of sound mind and under no restraint whatsoever. These are signed by the witnesses mentioned above and "sworn, taken and subscribed before me" by Judge Newkirk.

Certificate of Probate of Will:

This form is dated two months later on March 26, 1900, also signed and witnessed by Judge Newkirk, and accepts Kate's appeal that the Last Will and Testament "approved, allowed, established and have full force and effect as the last Will and Testament of said deceased." And that "the administration of the estate of said deceased be granted to Kate J. Hazelton, the Executrix in said Will named, who is



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Sarah Ann Hazelton was Brooks' first wife of over 40 years. She died on January 29, 1890

ordered to give bond in the penal sum of Two Thousand Dollars, with sufficient sureties, as required by the statute in such case made and provided."

The Final Agreement:

No other documents connected with the will were located. The final agreement is dated one year to the day after Brooks died, on December 10, 1900, and is between Kate and the daughters, Ella and Frankie, and signed by all, including witnesses John P. Kirk, Atty., and George R. Gunn. John Kirk is Kate's brother-in-law mentioned earlier. He is married to her sister, Mary. Mr. Gunn is a law student. Could he have been an intern at the City Attorney's office?

One assumes that the daughters wanted to make sure that things were divided fairly and probably didn't want Kate as the executrix and therefore in control of the estate. In particular, they may have been concerned about the personal property. Things were divided differently after the agreement. The will was accepted by all parties. The changes made by the final agreement are summarized here:

- the appeal by the sisters will be dismissed and the will probated.
- Kate will NOT be the executrix.
- all of Brooks' debts will be paid by the estate, including \$100 for the funeral, Kate will pay any balance. [In 1899, an average funeral cost \$80.]
- widow's allowance will stop on January 1, 1901.

- the rest of the estate will be divided: 1/2 to Kate and 1/4 to each of the daughters, additionally each side will receive 1/2 of the "good" securities and 1/2 of the "bad" securities.

- household goods and furniture will be appraised and turned over to Kate at the appraised value. The daughters will get a few things, divisions to be made by John P. Kirk and Oliver Ainsworth.

Here again, John Kirk's name appears. Mr. Ainsworth was a local prominent businessman and veteran of the Civil War.

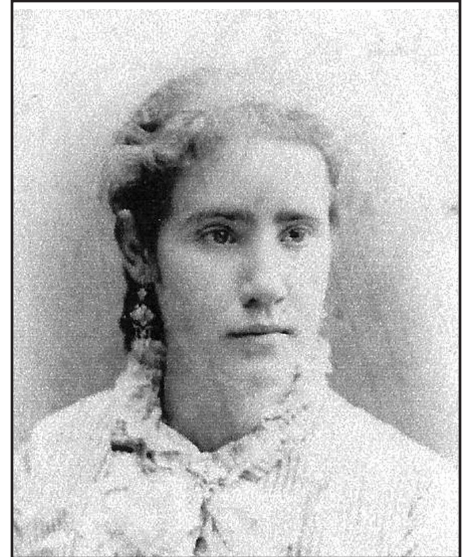
Brooks and Kate:

After their marriage, Brooks lived at various addresses in Ypsilanti, according to the city directories available. Kate is not listed with him or elsewhere, until the 1899 city directory when they are both residing at 424 W. Cross Street. Were these omissions by the editors of the directories or is she living elsewhere but not recorded? Even though they married in late 1891, Brooks resides at a rooming house at 114 E. Congress in the 1892 directory. In the 1895 directory, his residence is 208 Parsons Street. His lumber company owned the house at 424 W. Cross Street, where he and Kate finally settled. Kate continued to live in this house until her death on November 21, 1950. The land is now part of the campus of St. John's Catholic Church. A copy of a will for Kate was not found, so how the Church came to own the property is unclear.

One assumes that the daughters wanted to make sure that things were divided fairly and probably didn't want Kate as the executrix and therefore in control of the estate

Although Brooks was not Catholic, he is buried with Kate's family in St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Ypsilanti. Did this burial site for their father also cause additional friction between the daughters and Kate? Were the daughters consulted? Ella and Frankie are buried in Highland Cemetery. There appears to be room in that plot for their father.

Alvah and Kate: Kate, at 38, remarried



Frances Ann Hazelton, daughter of Brooks and Sarah Ann Hazelton, was born in 1859 and died in 1952

in July, 1904, to Alvah P. Ferguson. Alvah (45) was born in August, 1859, and probably died between the 1920 census, and 1922, when he is no longer listed with her in the city directory. No record can be found of Alvah's death or burial. Kate never had children.

On the 1900 census for Ann Arbor, Alvah is listed with his first wife, Nellie and children, Ray and Marjorie. Alvah, over the years, is listed as a blacksmith, traveling salesman, or a manufacturer of carriages, on the censuses. Eventually, he held several patents on carriages and equipment and owned a carriage factory in Ann Arbor. Alvah was a prosperous businessman, held various county offices during his lifetime, and is listed in the "Portrait and Biographical Album of Washtenaw County, Michigan." He and Nellie divorced sometime between 1900 and when he married Kate in 1904. Did Alvah and Nellie divorce before or after he met Kate? Nellie appears to have had rough times after the divorce. She and the children eventually moved to Los Angeles.


Conclusions:

Was Brooks of sound mind when he wrote his will four days before his death? Was there undue influence by the young wife and her family? What were the daughters given from their mother's estate after her death and before their father's remarriage? What did the daughters gain by challenging the will?

[continued overleaf]

The Second Wife

[Continued from page 19]



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Mary Ella Hazelton, daughter of Brooks and Sarah Ann Hazelton, was born in 1857 and died in 1941

Most of these questions do not have an answer. Kate was married to Brooks for eight years.

It would appear, with the final agreement, that the daughters really wanted more control over how the assets were divided and most likely did not want Kate to be in charge. In fact, it appears they relinquished some inheritance to keep Kate from being named executrix.

The agreement states in a paragraph:

It is hereby agreed that the appeal of said second parties from the decision of the Probate Court of Washtenaw County submitting to probate the last will and testament of said Brooks B. Hazelton, shall be dismissed without costs, and that said last will be probated; that the said Kate J. Hazelton shall refuse in writing to accept the position as executor of said last will and testament, and that Robert W. Hemphill, shall be appointed administrator with the will annexed, and that for his service he shall be paid by said estate.

This paragraph is rich with emotion. It shows the daughters initiated the "appeal of said second parties," because the trial court ruled in favor of Kate. We do not

know if the trial court ruled to validate the will or to find that Kate's actions as a fiduciary were appropriate. The agreement immediately removes Kate from controlling personal property and prevents her from distributing the stock in the lumber company.

We also have to consider whether the daughters brought the litigation out of necessity or greed. The daughters appear to be comfortable both financially and socially. The most effective way to change a will is to bring a lawsuit that moves the parties to settle. It does not necessarily mean a hostile situation, but may just be distrust. We will also never know if Kate was greedy or just didn't have a good relationship with her stepdaughters. The fact that two people are appointed to handle the personal property, might in itself show the importance of the personal property to the daughters, albeit, Kate's brother-in-law being one of the individuals.

Additional Information:

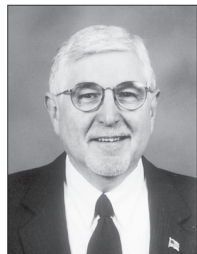
Attorney John P. Kirk was the City Attorney and a Prosecuting Attorney for Ypsilanti. He served in the State of Michigan House of Representatives from 1903-04 and was elected mayor of Ypsilanti from 1908-1910. He was a Captain with Co. G, 1st Infantry, Michigan National Guard of the Ypsilanti Light Guard. He was a major during the Spanish-American War, and later, a general. He died in 1952.

Robert William Hemphill, (1839-1922) was a prominent banker of Ypsilanti, as well as Brooks' partner in the lumber business.

I wish to say thank you to my fellow writers in the Western Women Writers Group in Phoenix, Arizona, for their support and many contributions. Thank you also to Lynn Keeling, friend, neighbor and lawyer, for her insightful comments about some of the legal aspects of the documents involved. -J. M. B.

Janet (McDougall) Buchanan does obituary searches for heir research and law firms and has done a great deal of research on the McDougall and Beckington families.

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Skating

By Peg Porter

My Diary:

January 1, 1951- I went skating today. We had a good New Years dinner.

Michigan won in the Rose Bole. (Sic).



It all started with Sonja Henie, the very blonde Norwegian Olympic champion in figure skating. Sonja went on to appear in movies in the late 1930s and 1940s. She also had her own ice show that traveled the country. I do not remember when I first became aware of Sonja. I do remember, however, that I wanted to become like Sonja, dancing on ice.

My first skates were double runners, baby skates that strapped onto your shoe or boot. Gliding across the ice was impossible. I could stand upright and do a sort of walking motion and once I gained enough forward momentum could put my feet together and actually move a few inches. Ice dancing it was not.

My dad took me to an ice rink on Frog Island. I was bundled up against the cold, layers under my snowsuit with a scarf wrapped around my neck. Once my skates were strapped on I stepped onto the ice and began my walking motion. There were other skaters gliding by. That is what I wanted to do but could not. Still it was exciting to be on a real rink. After about 30 minutes of waddling around the ice I got cold and was ready to go home. The Sonja dream was fading fast.

But then there was a minor miracle. Sonja Henie came to Detroit, Dad got tickets and off we went to the Olympia to see Sonja in person. She did not disappoint, she glittered and sparkled while she danced across the ice. I, along with hundreds of other little girls, was captivated. We did not notice that she was no longer as young as she was when she won her gold medals. She was our beautiful ice dancer.

My next skates were real figure skates. They had belonged to one of the older girls in the neighborhood, most likely Susie or Barbie Brien. Their father, Bancroft Brien, had a shoe store downtown. The



Sonja Henie, Norwegian Olympic figure skating champion, appeared in movies in the late 1930s and 1940s

skates were too big, of course, but I wore several pairs of thick socks and stuffed the toes with cotton. When I laced them up tight they almost felt as if they fit.

In the winter, there was a large rink in Recreation Park. One of my friends and I would walk the five blocks from our house on Owendale to the Park. If we left right after school, we could get almost two hours of skating in before it began to get dark. We changed into our skates in a shed at the edge of the rink, took a few steps to the ice and then joined the other skaters traveling counter clockwise around the rink. Since I'd been roller skating for a few years, the skating motion came easily. We went around and around until the sky started to darken and the streetlights



Barbara Ann Scott, a Canadian Olympic figure skating medalist, was a very athletic skater

came on. By then we were cold and ready to leave. Our feet felt frozen on the walk home. They did not begin to warm up until we were eating our evening meal. Then began the exquisite agony of the circulation returning to our extremities that hurt, stung and felt good all at the same time.

The following Christmas I got my own skates, brilliant white with sharp, shiny blades. By now I had learned how to skate backwards and to rotate on the ice. I probably tried to do an arabesque with a minimum of wobbling. Still most of the time was spend circling the rink. On one outing I felt a sharp stinging pain in my right foot. I'd been hit by a hockey puck. The hockey players were confined to one end of the rink but pucks did not recognize boundaries. Hockey skate boots have a lot of padding, figure skating boots don't. Getting hit by a puck hurt!

There was another trip to Olympia to see an ice show. This one featured Barbara Ann Scott, a Canadian Olympic medalist. Unlike Sonja, she was not an "ice princess," she was a more athletic skater. I half convinced myself that Barbara and I were distant cousins. My grandparents were born in Canada and my great-grandmother from Scotland was named Ellen Scott. So it seemed possible. Actually my Canadian cousins were hockey players.

About the time I left Estabrook to begin junior high at Roosevelt, my skating days came to a quiet close. I had a chance to try out for the Ann Arbor Skating Club that I turned down. Our parents always emphasized choices. You could not do everything so starting a new activity meant ending another one. There was another reason though: fear. At some point I knew I would have to do jumps. Leaping and jumping were no problem in Grace Begoles's ballet studio. The surface there, however, was wood. The thought of both feet leaving the ice and then landing on the hard, slippery surface was more than I could deal with.

Growing up involves gaining realistic expectations. As painful as it sometimes was, I let go of some of my dreams. The skates went to the back of the closet.

(Peg Porter grew up in Ypsilanti and is the GLEANINGS Assistant Editor and a regular contributor of articles for our publication.)



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News from the Fletcher-White Archives

By Gerry Pety

What a year we have had down in the Archives! Christmas came early this year with the purchase of a much needed microfilm reader with donated funds. But blessings are not just about material things you get in this life, but the people you associate with on a daily basis. Our staff of dedicated volunteers has made this place a blessing to the entire community of Ypsilanti year-round! Whether it is James, George, Marcia, Laura, Dee, Debbie, Lyle, Liz, Sally or Karl, all of them do a great job in assisting visitors conducting research on the history of the people, places and things in Ypsilanti. Thanks to each of you for being here!

December 4th is our Holiday Open House and quarterly meeting this year. While we will not have a guest speaker, we will be hosting a book signing by James Mann, author of "Wicked Ann Arbor," and Laura Bien, authoress of "Hidden History of Ypsilanti." James' book is about what we have known for

a long time—that Ann Arbor has some wicked elements relating to its people and history. He documents that theme throughout his new book along with some fascinating and true stories that you never knew about our neighbors in "tree town." Oh yes, it's the crimes and disorder that he writes so interestingly about. Laura's book is about what Laura does best, finding the story behind the story. It is always amazing to readers (and the Archives bunch) where she finds this stuff! We, at times, believe she is making all of these stories up, but one thing about Laura is that she documents everything she writes about. So, if you like what Laura writes in the local newspaper, you will love this book. That you can take to the bank! These great books are now available in the Archives for \$20 and you can have them signed by the authors at our open house.

From all of us here in the Archives, may you have a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2012!



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YHS Archives Site of Film Production

By James Mann

The City of Ypsilanti has been the site of several motion picture productions filming scenes of movies here. Each has been the subject of publicity and great interest. What is not so well known is the Ypsilanti Historical Society Archives has also been the site of a motion picture production. This production was not the work of a Hollywood film company, but the crew of a documentary production company. The company, Signature Communications of Huntington, Maryland, was commissioned by the National Parks Service to produce a film for the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in California.

The purpose of the film was to present a big-picture view of the American home front during the World War II. The time of the war was a period of major and irrevocable social change that was affected and shaped by everyday people. For this reason the production company wanted to interview people who could provide insight into how the Bomber Plant at Willow Run changed Ypsilanti. The company is creating mini-documentaries on a number of themes, including: migration, support of the war effort, and the experience of women workers in the plant.

The company arrived at the Archives early on the morning of Friday, July 1, 2011, to set up their equipment. Tables and chairs were moved from the room, and a backdrop put in place for filming. Lights were set up and the camera made ready. All they needed now was someone to interview. The first person to be interviewed was Peter Fletcher (son of a previous City archivist and member of the Endowment Fund Advisory Board), who proved to be the ideal subject. When asked a question, he answered at length and in detail. Peter told his stories, with facts that clearly reflected what life was like in Ypsilanti during the war.

The next two people to be interviewed were women who had worked at the Bomber Plant during the war. Each was eighty-nine or ninety years of age. The two



The control room



The set



The talent: Peter B. Fletcher

were not as talkative as Peter had been. The interviewer asked one of the women, "I understand you got married on a weekend, and nine months later had a baby?" The woman answered, "Yes." Then the interviewer asked further questions, to elicit more details.

The filming was finished by the end of the day, and the crew moved on to the next site. When finished, a copy of the film will be sent to everyone who took part. The archives will have a copy as well.

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

"We're ready for our close-up, Mr. DeMille"

Movie history still being made in Ypsilanti

By Tom Dodd

One year after filming *Anatomy of a Murder* in Michigan's upper peninsula in 1959, Hollywood came back here for more. They followed with *Where the Boys Are* in 1960, *The Betsy* in 1978, and Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour's romantic *Somewhere in Time* at the Serpentine Pool in front of Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel in 1980.

There's a lot more movie action here today and, with recent offers of tax credits, there's a renewal of interest in shooting films in Michigan. In 2010, Michelle Begnoche, of the Michigan Film Office, said, "*Conviction*, *Stone*, *Trust*, *Vanishing on 7th Street*, and *What's Wrong With Virginia* represent 1,005 jobs and \$39.8 million in investment in Michigan."

Some of that largess has come to Ypsilanti in recent filming. Evil Genius Entertainment discovered our camera-ready profiles for their low-budget flicks as early as 1997 with *Deadeye*. In 2002 EGE featured *Witchhunter* with downtown developer Eric Maurer in a starring role. In 2004, EGE brought out *Living Dead World*, "a drunken redneck zombie" type of flick, said Christine Laughren in the *Ypsilanti Citizen*. In 2009, EGE featured shots made in Park Street and, in some scenes, Depot Town's clock can be seen in their production of *The 6th Extinction*.

Following these early efforts, more film companies began to take over Ypsilanti's streets. 2008 saw Drew Barrymore and her Texas roller derby buds bellying up to the bar at the Elbow Room as they filmed *Whip It*, pretending to be indie-rock-loving misfits in Bodeen, Texas.

Movie-goers love to watch location shots at the Sidetrack, Freeman & Bunting, and Roy's Drive-In in the 2009 Hillary Swank/Sam Rockwell/Minnie Driver production of *Conviction*. The working title of Betty Ann Waters was [continued overleaf]

Ypsi flics

[continued from page 23]

dropped after work was completed here. Thomas Basinger's old green pick-up truck, usually seen parked in front of his home on River Street, got almost as much camera-time as Swank and Driver.

Filming of *Stone* was interrupted in 2010 when an intoxicated woman accosted Robert DeNiro saying she was a fan of his. Who would have thought they would see DeNiro coming down the steps from his office above Congdon's ACE Hardware?

Parallel Media knocked out *High School* in 2010, where Adrien Brody, Michael Chiklis, and Colin Hanks tell of a valedictorian who gets baked with the local stoner and finds himself the subject of a drug test. How did they ever come up with a far-fetched plot like that?

Locals marveled at Emily Blunt jumping over snow banks on Washington Street in June of 2011 for the filming of *Five-Year Engagement* that follows the tribulations of a couple's long engagement.

Also in 2011, we saw Teresa Palmer and Liam Hemsworth enjoying the great food tradition of the Wolverine Restaurant in the 1970s-themed film *AWOL*. Ypsilanti's City Hall was a stand-in for the Ann Arbor Police Department in this story of the U-M campus during the anti-Vietnam War movement.

Local movie-goers agree that it is difficult to follow the plot while keeping an eye out for well-known local attractions. "Oh, look! There's the lamp in Auntie Jane's window. Now she's a movie star!"

[Tom Dodd does design and layouts for GLEANINGS where his job is to make all the stories come down to the bottom of the page]



Ypsilanti History Test Answers

(for the test on page 13)

1. Byron M. Cutcheon awarded on 6/29/91 for "distinguished gallantry at the Battle of the Wilderness, VA, on 5/7/1864.
2. Anne and Dolph Thorne won top honors at the Westminster show for their Doberman.
3. Tom Matevia, at an upscale golf complex he developed in Florida.
4. William, Harris, Robert and Foster Fletcher.
5. The present hospital petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to change the designation of the area from Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor for mail delivery purposes.
6. A distant cousin of his, Yinka Masha Clay is a current Credit Union employee.
7. William R. Morey III killed a nurse late one September night in Ann Arbor.
8. Peter B. Fletcher.
9. Gerhardt.
10. Robert and Karl Fink were Judges. James Fink is an Ypsilanti City Charter Commissioner.
11. At Christmas time the trees in Riverside Park were bedecked with countless white lights.
12. Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.
13. The law mandated all young men had to register for the draft during the ten days prior to or following their 18th birthday. It had to be changed to say when they attained their 18th year since birth.
14. The electric car.
15. All early Presidents plus FDR.
16. Your author has encountered no such person.
17. A huge dispute arose when trash collection was changed to curbside instead of back yards.
18. 1947. Naseeb Gareeb Damoose. "What Democracy Means to Me" was a paper he wrote in 1939 that became widely read and very popular.
19. I-275 west of Metro Airport and it was an expensive flop.
20. Your author's response to his request for a successor to take over the "Ypsilanti Test Questions" project.



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Historic Preservation Tax Credits for Your Old Car?

Ypsilanti is crawling with history, but it's rolling with it too. Vintage auto exhibitions in Riverside Park and the every-Thursday summer Cruise Nights give ample evidence that all our ancient history is not just old buildings; it's old cars too. Carmel Robert's story (below) from the Historic Vehicle Association brings collectors of authentic vintage vehicles up to date on efforts to preserve and protect their prized possessions.

From "Making Your Collector Car a Historic Treasure" HVA group seeks to extend National Historic Preservation Act to cover vintage automobiles



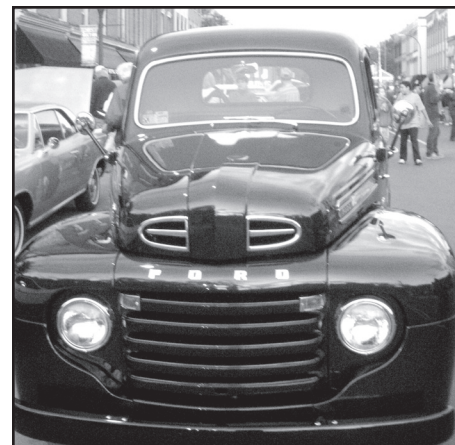
Should your historic vehicle have the same cultural status and favorable regulatory treatment as historic buildings? That was an intriguing question for the HVA. After taking the idea out for a test drive, it appears that the answer may hold the key to long-term, significant benefits for collector cars.

Historic buildings, airplanes, canoes, gas stations and strips of highway have all found official recognition, status and protection under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It's an odd quirk that the most significant invention of the 20th century has yet to take its formal place alongside buildings and other transportation-related sites and historic objects.

While there are many possible reasons for the omission of collector cars in the existing framework, there is one reason that quickly comes to mind—thinking of our “iron” as historic or culturally significant is counterintuitive to most collectors. The typical collector is more motivated by nostalgia than the thought of preserving a vehicle or being a steward of a piece of history.

We are in our early stages of exploration on this idea, but we have had encouraging dialogue and feedback from a number of prominent collectors and historians inside and outside the collector car world about the benefits of including collector cars in the National Historic Preservation Act. In our initial research we found that inclusion under the Act is always voluntary, and the rights of the property owner remain intact. We aren't interested in pursuing any initiative that would create more red tape or allow the government to tell us how to use our cars.

The HVA's mission is to keep “Yesterday's Vehicles on Tomorrow's Roads” by establishing a collaborative platform among historic vehicle enthusiasts.



The question arose at the final Cruise Night of the summer in Depot Town: We've got old buildings, garages, barns, and even a caboose in our famed Historic District; why not include old cars as well?

Ypsilanti has hot rods and fire trucks, “orphans” and semis, vintage vehicles and classic cars. Our streets, parking lots, diveways, and garages are burgeoning with history on wheels. And it's no wonder: many of them were conceived and born right here. They are as much a part of our heritage as are our buildings, parks, monuments, and cemeteries.

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Spring Issue (Ads due March 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Summer Issue (Ads due June 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
Fall Issue (Ads due August 15)	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
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* Sponsorship: A list of "Sponsors" is included in each issue. Sponsorship is available at \$20 per issue.

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ISSUE	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$125	\$200
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Send this form, ad copy, and payment to:

Ypsilanti Historical Society
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

If you have questions,
call Al Rudisill - 734.484.3023

Training for Museum docents?
Call 734.482.4900

GENE BUTMAN
FORD SALES



Ken Butman, Owner

2105 Washtenaw Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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



Probably none of the above

Early Ypsilanti street cars recalled

Did you know a horse-drawn street car operated between Depot Town and Up Town? It was driven by Ruben Cole and went west on Cross Street to Washington and then south to Harriett Street. I recall my mother placing me on a seat with a quantity of sewing material and patterns, and Mrs. Frank Showerman removing me at her home on South Washington Street. They never turned the car around, simply changed the horse at the other end.

-Excerpted from Joseph Thompson's
"Early Days" report [pp 7-10]

Thanks to our GLEANINGS sponsors:

The Anschuetz Family
John & Marlene Barr
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Friday Night Movies at the Fletcher-White Archives

James Mann will be hosting Education Nights in the YHS Archives.
Movies will be followed by a discussion of the historical significance of the topic.
The programs are free to YHS members and begin at 7 p.m.
Popcorn will be served.

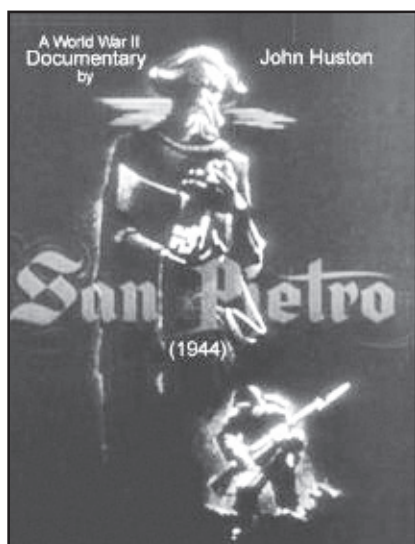
7 p.m. Friday, 18 November DOUBLE FEATURE *They Raid By Night*

A propaganda film depicting a daring rescue from Norway by British commandos.
Includes footage shot during an actual commando raid. Made in 1942 to raise the morale of the public during the war.
Fun to watch.

& *British Intelligence*

Starring Boris Karloff,
a 1940 war-time propaganda film set during the First World War with spies spying on spies with everyone searching for the German master spy, "The Strangler", whose identity is a closely guarded secret. Action scenes include a German Zeppelin raid on London.

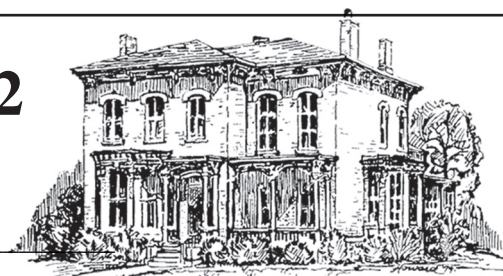
Friday, 25 November
Thanksgiving weekend;
no movie will be shown.



7 p.m. Friday, 2 December *The Battle of San Pietro*

1945 documentary about the Battle of San Pietro Infine during the Second World War, directed by John Huston. Unflinching in its realism. Bodies of dead GIs are shown being loaded into mattress covers before burial, a level of realism never seen before in films or newsreel footage. For this reason Huston was accused of making an anti-war film. Huston responded by saying, if he ever made a pro-war film, he should be shot. *The Battle of San Pietro* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

Membership Application - 2012 *Ypsilanti Historical Society, Inc.*



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

Ypsilanti Historical Society
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

Ypsilanti Historical Society, Inc.
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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Panorama (bird's eye) views of Ypsilanti show forgotten details

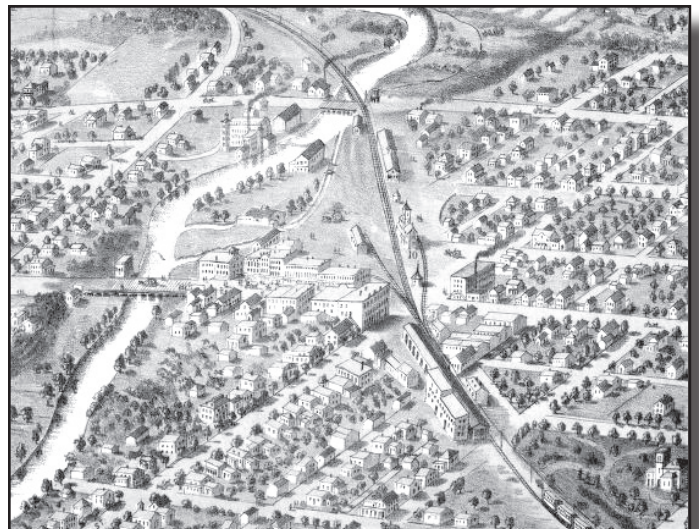
He painted our town

Albert Ruger (1829-1899) was the first to achieve success as a panoramic artist. Two hundred and thirteen maps drawn or published by Ruger or Ruger & Stoner are on exhibit in the Library of Congress. Most came from Ruger's personal collection. Born in Prussia, Ruger came to the U.S. and started work as a mason. While with the Ohio Volunteers during the Civil War, he drew views of Union campsites. Perhaps his best known print is a lithograph of Lincoln's funeral car passing the statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

By 1866, Ruger had settled in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he began his prolific panoramic mapping career by sketching Michigan cities. In 1868 he added Ypsilanti to his list of municipal exploits. His perspective map of Ypsilanti was one of forty he completed in 1868, and one of thirty-three in Michigan during his career. He did a view of Ann Arbor in 1880. He went on to sketch towns in twenty-two states from New Hampshire to Minnesota and as far south as Georgia and Alabama. After moving to Chicago, Madison, and St. Louis, he partnered with J.J. Stoner of Wisconsin.

Twenty-two years later, we had it done again

C. J. Pauli, of Milwaukee, Wisc., sketched Ypsilanti in 1890 featuring in-sets for Tubal Owen's Atlantic Wells, Dr. Pratt's Forest Avenue Sanitarium, The Cleary Business College, and 56 individual listings represented by tiny numbers placed around the drawing.



A detail from Albert Ruger's 1860 panorama of Ypsilanti shows River Street, the depot, mills, freight yards, and the sluices that eventually helped to create Frog Island

Reprints of Ypsilanti panoramas are on sale at the Fletcher-White Archives.