

# Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



WINTER 2018



In September of this year the American Planning Association officially named East Cross Street one of the five Great Streets in America.

## • DEPOT TOWN • One of the Best Streets in America

BY STEVE GROSS

It took 180 years, but Depot Town's East Cross Street recently received the designation "*One of the Five Great Streets in America*" by The American Planning Association, a professional organization representing the field of urban planning since 1978. The history of Depot Town has been well documented over the years in the *Gleanings* but - for those uninitiated - the Cliff Notes:

The original Ypsilanti train depot opened on River Street north of East Cross in 1838 connecting Ypsilanti to Detroit. The following year, Mark Norris built the Western Hotel close to the Depot and the surrounding Depot Town area quickly grew to include bars, a general store and other retail, a flour mill, and soon enough everything from light manufacturing, Ypsilanti's first fire department, restaurants and more.

With a soon fully occupied business district and

prominent visitors from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show with Annie Oakley to Thomas Edison and others, Depot Town thrived, however in the 1950's - railroad traffic declined and Depot Town fell into disrepair. Many of the storefronts were soon empty, the apartments above were run down and most were vacant.

Through the early 1970's, Eastern Michigan University warned incoming students to not go down to the tracks. Due to equal parts affordable selling prices, wide eyed potential and a degree of naïveté, it was at about this time that Depot Town buildings were sold to a new generation of entrepreneur - many of whom opened fun, creative businesses

while living in the apartments above. These "Boomers" became a tightly knit group who met monthly at the front window table of the Old Town Restaurant (currently Maiz for the newbies)



East Cross street in the 1900's looking west from River Street.

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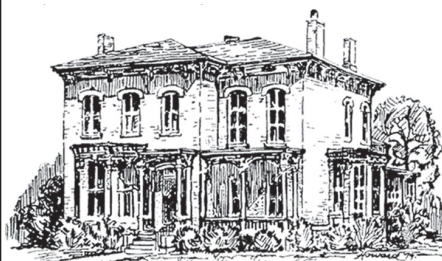
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## Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 North Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Museum: 734.482.4990

Archives: 734.217.8236

[www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org)

## GLEANINGS Staff

Editor ..... Al Rudisill  
Assistant Editors.....Peg Porter  
Fofie Pappas  
Design & Layout.....Pattie Harrington  
Advertising Director .....Sarah Reyes  
Finance Director.....Bette Warren  
Distribution .....Sarah Reyes

If you have suggestions for articles  
or if you have questions, contact  
Al Rudisill at 734.476.6658 or  
[al@rudisill.ws](mailto:al@rudisill.ws).

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY BILL NICKELS

The museum is decorated for the holidays making it a special place to take the family and out-of-town guests. Our twelve foot tree is trimmed in red and white; special displays include ginger bread men and homemade gifts; and the six fireplace mantles are all theme decorated.

During the fall, a post on Facebook featuring a photo of the Thompson Building with the 12th Michigan Infantry taken in 1865 generated so much interest, 96 viewers shared it with their friends resulting in the post reaching 7,696 Facebook accounts. Prior to this, most of our posts only reached hundreds of viewers. New posts show up on the Ypsilanti Historical Society Facebook page every week. The posts inform viewers of museum activities and display Ypsilanti history using old Ypsilanti pictures from the archives. If you use Facebook, search *Ypsilanti Historical Society* and become a Friend.

Several years ago, the museum welcomed a display case containing Ypsilanti native Bob Arvin memorabilia. Bob graduated from Ypsilanti High School and West Point. He was destined for greatness when he was killed in Viet Nam. Brian Kreger thought enough of his story that he produced a documentary film of his life titled *Where The Brave Dare To Tread – The Bob Arvin*

*Story*. The production of the film was not the end of the story. Believing Bob's short life taught a positive lesson; Brian received a grant that allowed him to

make a 40 minute version of the film that could be shown during a high school session. This shorter version was sent to every high school and library in Michigan. He then set up a link making the film available to every high school in the United States. Through Brian's efforts, Bob's life lives on as a positive exam-

ple where heroic lives are in short supply. *Where The Brave Dare To Tread* can be viewed anytime in Bob's museum display case.

Volunteers are so very important for the operation of the museum and archives. This was recently highlighted by Archives Board Chair Kelly Beattie when he tabulated 1,441 hours donated by eleven volunteers in the archives from July of 2017 through June of 2018. I expect a similar number of hours are separately donated annually to the operation of the museum.

During a recent review of the museum's security system, we learned that a board member is called first when our system reports a fire. In order to provide maximum protection in the case of a museum fire, the Ypsilanti Fire Department will be moved to the top of



Volunteers selecting Christmas decorations to use in the museum.

YPSILANTI  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Museum & Archives

220 North Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

MUSEUM  
734 482-4990  
[yhs.museum@gmail.com](mailto:yhs.museum@gmail.com)

ARCHIVES  
734 217-8236  
[yhs.archives@gmail.com](mailto:yhs.archives@gmail.com)





Volunteers decorating the Christmas tree in the front parlor.

the call list. In order to protect our front door from unnecessary damage, a security box containing a museum key will be installed next to the door accessible by the fire department. Such security boxes are very expensive and are special for this use. We were delighted when we learned that an anonymous donor volunteered to pay for the box!

Volunteers contribute so much to our operation. Recognizing the need for a new museum website, a local web developer volunteered to work with us to develop a new website. Look for a new museum website early in 2019.

2019 will bring both excitement and challenges. A local movie producer has inquired about using our museum as a set for a historical comedy. If we can work it out, filming of the movie will occur in January. We also have to think about replacing and paying for the flat roof on the southeast corner of the museum. The use and the support of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum & Archives by the community is something special. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

with the common goal of a revived, successful Depot Town. "Save Depot Town" tee shirts and badges were everywhere..

This group became the forerunner of the Depot Town Association. Street parties, block long parades, sidewalk sales and more became common place. Any reason to share the renewed energy on the block with the public was reason enough for a fun event. Long vacant buildings gradually filled with new merchants as did the apartments above. Depot Town's reputation as shady and sketchy changed to one of quirky, fun and eclectic.

### And *THAT* was the start to *THIS* :

In late September, Depot Town and the City of Ypsilanti received some incredible, unexpected and brag worthy news. Fitting all criteria, the American Planning Association officially named East Cross Street one of the five Great Streets in America. *"Bursting with local flavor through it's locally owned businesses, rich history, community involvement, forward thinking initiatives, festivals and events"*, APA President Cynthia Brown went on to call Depot Town's East Cross Street *"An example of how a community can work together to provide access and opportunity for all"*. The four other Great American Streets sharing in this honor are Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, North Carolina; State Street in Bristol Tennessee; West Magnolia in Fort Worth Texas; and Cushman Street in Fairbanks, Alaska.

So...as we are Depot Town...let's invite everybody, close the street, and throw a celebratory party because that's what we've done since the mid 1970's. Spearheaded by Elize Jakobson of the DDA, Saturday evening, October 20th was the much anticipated date. Five bands on a 40' stage, street performers, sidewalk sales, "Ypsi centric" vendors, the assembly of a time capsule, giant over sized

games for kids, an awards ceremony, and more were planned for long time Depot Towners who worked hard and selflessly over the years to help make this 'Five Streets' designation possible.

Unfortunately, it was on that day that some of the biggest thunderstorms, hail and sideways rain camped over Ypsi, canceling most of the celebration. Though all outside activities were postponed, the Ypsilanti Automotive Museum welcomed all in attendance for socializing and the awards ceremony. First to speak was Ypsilanti Mayor Amanda Edmonds, followed by APA President Cynthia Brown, and then a great friend to Ypsilanti, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.

Receiving the Nathalie Edmunds Pioneer Awards were Linda French, Steve Gross, Rex and Sally Richie, Carolyn and Gary McKeever, Tom and Betty Dodd, Bill and Sandee French, and Bev and Don Shankwiler. The award is appropriately named as it was Nathalie Edmunds who is credited for saving Depot Town (and many other historically significant buildings) from a time when City Council wanted to raze Depot Town and incredulously develop an industrial park in it's place. Nathalie was also one of the architects of the first Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in 1979, Ypsilanti's first female City Council member from 1972 - 1983 and more. About 20 other Depot Town stalwarts also deservedly received awards and recognition.

After the pouring rain, a heavy fog was predicted but it mist us (thank you – we'll be here all week). The Depot Town Best Street Celebration will be re scheduled for a TBD date this spring and as always, everybody's invited!

*(Steve Gross is a local Auctioneer and antiques expert with a long association with Depot Town.)*

# A Real “Ghost Writer” Tells a Story for the River Street Saga

*This is another story in “The River Street Saga” which I have been writing for several years about the people and buildings on my beloved River Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan. We have a guest writer for this episode – Florence Swaine. Florence and I have a great deal in common including our love of history and writing about it. We also share a bed, dresser, dolls, side board, piano, desk, table, dough table, fireplaces and a beautiful home, built by her father Frederick Swaine, where Florence was born in 1875 and where she lived until her death in 1960. We purchased her home, at the northeast corner of River Street and Forest Avenue, along with the furniture that was left in it fifty years ago from the estate of her sister Jessie Cary Swaine who died in the same bed and in the same bedroom she was born in nearly 90 years earlier. A distant relative brought us Jessie and Florence’s childhood dolls several years ago because she wanted them to come back home. As you can see, Florence and I have a lot in common.*

*Florence attended The Normal College and had a successful career as a teacher. She also kept busy researching and writing, as I do. The Ypsilanti Historical Society archives have quite a few of her essays including this one about her neighbors - the Peck family. The Peck family file at the YHS archives contains the following historical account of the pioneer Peck family, who were her lifelong neighbors, three doors to the east of her home. She lived at 101 East Forest and Dwight and Cora Peck lived at 117 East Forest. In this narrative, you will learn about this remarkable family and their role in shaping the history of Ypsilanti. I believe that this was written in 1923 and given to Harvey Colburn to include in his book “The History of Ypsilanti” which was written to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ypsilanti. The material included in his book and the language used seems to come from Florence’s little essay below. There is also a reference to a neighbor who purchased part of the school property around 1922.*

*This little essay takes us back to some memories of Ypsilanti from as early as 1824 and paints a wonderful picture of a family that made the most of their lives in the wilderness that was once Ypsilanti and their lives on River Street. I’ll now let Florence Swaine tell you the story, as written in pencil on several pieces of loose leaf paper.*

## Recollections of the Peck Family as Told to Miss Florence Swaine by Mr. Dwight Peck

**A**mong the earlier settlers of Ypsilanti were Joseph and Sophia Churchill Peck who in 1823, came with their five children, three boys and two girls, and also four cows and one horse, from the state of New York.

The trip from Buffalo was made by boat and took five days longer than the scheduled time. Not having provided fodder for the extra days the cattle grew weaker from lack of sufficient food which necessitated a stay in Detroit until the stock recuperated sufficiently to enable them to be driven through the woods to the new settlement.

Mr. Peck took eighty acres of land from the government, receiving a patent signed by John Quincy Adams and it is still in possession of his descendants. To procure this patent it was necessary to make a journey back to New York. It included land from Prospect Street along Forest Avenue and from Forest Avenue, north to Corporation line. (Holmes Road to Forest, the river to Prospect) Part of this property is still owned by two grandsons and has been continuously used as a homestead.



Sophia Peck, pioneer and wife of Joseph.



Cora LeForge Peck, wife of Dwight, dressed up for the 100th birthday of Ypsilanti in 1923 outside of the Peck barn at 117 East Forest.





Dwight Peck circa 1923 outside of Peck farm house at 117 East Forest.

A log cabin was built, being the third in Ypsilanti. At one end was a large fire-place, big enough for a long log which was pulled in by a horse that was driven in one door and out another door facing it.

Later a beautiful and very commodious farm house was built with large rambling rooms. (*note: still existing on East Forest Avenue*) In the sitting room was a large fire-place similar to the one in the log cabin and the two doors opposite each other through which the horse with the log was driven. Part of this house was moved away and made into another house a few years ago, the old house being found far too large. The old kitchen and dining room were torn down. The part left is now the home of Mr. Charlie Peck. The old homestead sat back from the road and was surrounded by trees with a lawn in front. One of the original elms is still standing. A row of maples was planted by Mr. Joe Peck from Prospect Street to the river, a few of which are still standing.

The Peck home was the center of hospitality and a cordial welcome awaited all new settlers and travelers coming this

way. Mr. Peck carried the mail to and from Detroit. The journey took about a week. He often brought home with him anyone needing a night's rest or who wished to look over this country with the prospect of buying land.

As the country grew it assumed the name of Peckville. A brick schoolhouse was built, the second in Ypsilanti (*note: part of it still remains as the brick building at the back of 101 East Forest. The driveway up to it was once called Peck Street and went through the Peck farm.*) The property was six by seven rods and was deeded by Joe Peck to School District No. 3 in consideration of \$40. Dated October 1843, recorded March 18, 1850, the same to be known as the Fourth Ward Schoolhouse, Geo. Knapp, Simeon Wilson and Wm. Stitt, signers. Later this building was given over to the younger children and in 1858, ninety-nine children were enrolled. It



Peck farm which covered Forest to Holmes, River to Prospect circa 1923 with huge sunflowers.



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Peckville School reward of merit.

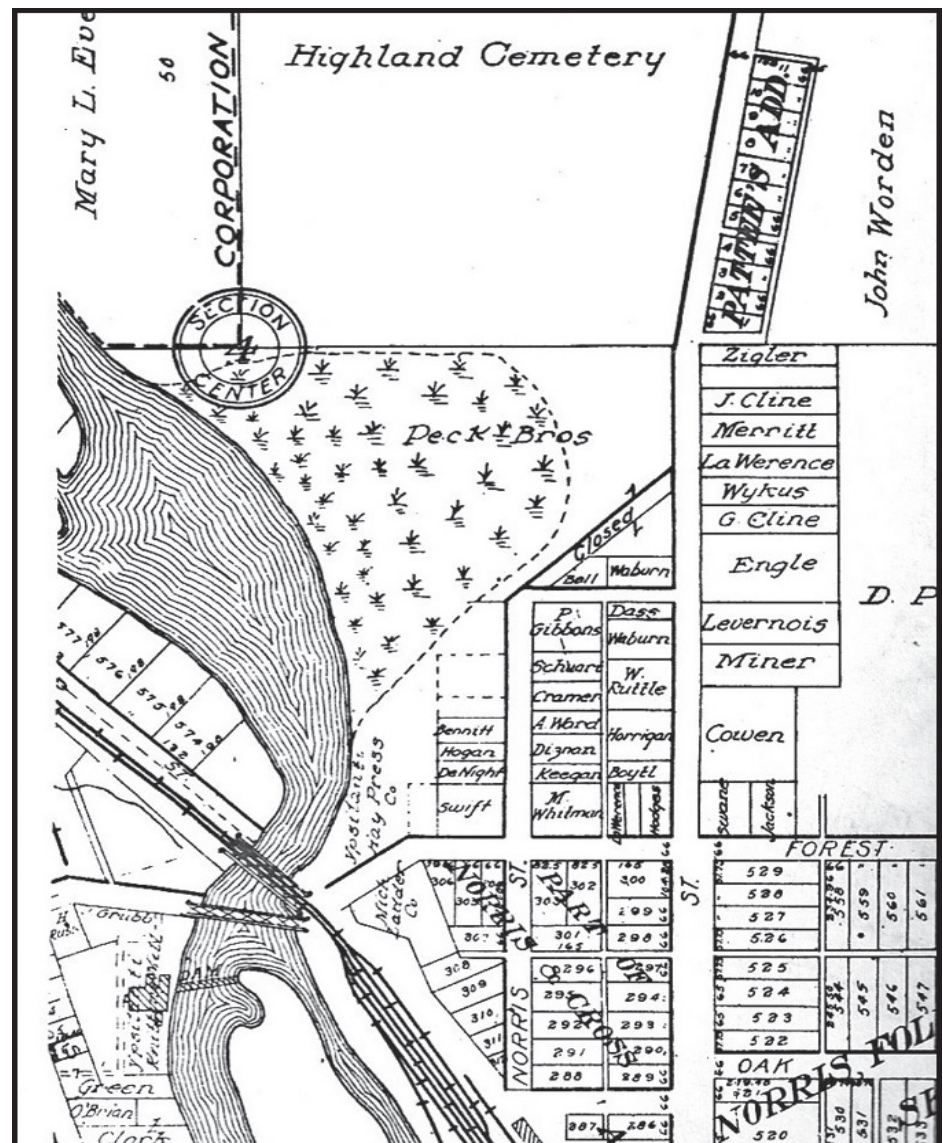
went by the name of Peck Street Primary School. Many are the tales told by the pupils of this school, a few of whom are still living. At one time the children got rather hard to manage. Several teachers failed and, at last a lame man was hired. The boys looked on him as an opportunity for more fun but, to their surprise, he was too manly for them and order was restored. This school property was later deeded to Mr. George George, Nov. 17, 1866, signed by C. Woodruff, D.B. Dodge, C. Joslyn, A. F. Kenney and C. Yost, members of the Board and a new site for a school was chosen. The property was later purchased by Mr. F. J. Swaine and the site of the old schoolhouse is now owned by Mr. Fred Bortz. (note: now owned by Jan and Bob Anschuetz and two neighbors to the east).

The Peck family were fond of telling stories of the old days. Opposite to the gully was an open sandy spot where the Indians buried and stored their corn by burying it. (note: I believe that this is the area north of Forest and below Highland Cemetery on River Street.) It required skillful tact and diplomacy on the part of the settlers to deal with the Indians and keep their good will. The Indians were frequent visitors at the Peck home and the squaws brought berries, etc. in exchange for food. Once Mrs. Peck jokingly said "Why not exchange babies?" To her surprise the squaw took her at her word, picked up little Irwin, laid her papoose down and ran off with the white child. It required

very delicate handling to have the white child returned. Mr. Peck told

them he could not keep the papoose because he yelled all the time.

The squaws always expected food when they came and were never sent away hungry. The floor of the house was made of white wood (note: white pine) which was very plentiful around here in those days, but rare now. It was the pride of the housewife to keep it clean and spotless. Once when baking bread some squaws came in. They were given pieces of hot bread on which a generous chunk of butter was spread. It seems that the Indians did not like butter. With their fingers they



The Peck farm map showing the gully where the Indians buried their corn in the 1820s. The gully is identified on this map from 1915 and is south of and adjacent to the cemetery.





Florence Swaine, author of part of this article.



The Peck farm at 117 Forest Avenue.



Dwight and Cora Peck. Dwight Peck is the individual who told the information in this story to Miss Florence Swaine.

wiped it off and threw it on the beautiful white floor. All of the scrubbing would not take grease and the floor had to be planed.

Joseph and Sophia, along with many of their Peck descendants are still on River Street at Highland Cemetery. Their courage in coming with their children, cows and horses from New York State to the wilderness that was then Ypsilanti, along with hard work in creating a farm that was a viable part of the community, should be admired. The next time that you are out for a stroll look for the Peck family homes which still exist on East Forest.



**Ypsilanti Area  
Community Fund**

## **Tax Savings Strategies are Still in Place!**

- **GIVE APPRECIATED SECURITIES!** Capital gains tax was unchanged by the tax bill, so gifts of stock can be a smart way to give.
- **A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)** from your IRA may be helpful even if you don't itemize, as it can lower your taxable income.
- **A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA)** can provide you an initial tax deduction and guaranteed income for life!

*Supporting the YCS endowment held by YACF can be a win-win!*

Contact Bill Nickels at YHS (734-484-3023)  
or Shelley Strickland at YACF (734-436-7583)

# Recent Museum & Archive Acquisitions

The museum and archives receive donated items on a regular basis to add to our collections. It is through these donations that we have a furnished museum and an archive full of research material. We will be including recent acquisitions in the upcoming editions of the Gleanings. Thank you to all of our generous donors! Here are the new items in our collections.

Number	Donor	Item	Description
HSA-2018-17	Susan Metler	Yearbooks	East Middle & 1972 Ypsi. High School Yearbook
HSA-2018-18	Lynda Hummel	Photo Album	Pictures from 1984 of the Cross Street Bridge in Depot Town
HSA-2018-19	Donna Sienko	Photos & Yearbook	Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation Photos & 1970 East Middle School Yearbook
HSA-2018-20	Brian Krueger	DVD Documentary	Five copies of "Where the Brave Dare to Tread : The Bob Arvin Story" DVD
HSA-2018-21	Kathy Micallef	Family Genealogy	Genealogical research for the Robert Thomas Willoughby family
HSA-2018-23	Thomas O. Haig	Genealogy Book	"Tom: A Memoir" autobiography by Thomas O. Haig
HSA-2018-24	Dave Novak	Michigan Magazines	1976 Winter "Michigan History" & Fall 1992 "The Michigan Historical Review"
HSA-2018-25	Dave Novak	Yearbooks	Ypsi. High School Yearbooks: 1959, 1958, 1957, & 1956
HSA-2018-26	Lynda Hummel	Digital Photos	Ypsilanti Heritage Festival Photo CD
HSA-2018-28	Cheryl Farmer	Photos & Program	1982 & c. 1990 Heritage Festival photos and 2017 EMU Women's & Gender Studies Awards Ceremony Program
HSA-2018-29	Nancy Taylor	Willow Run Documents	"The Excitement is Building" book, "The Story of Willow Run" book, & Willow Run School Directories for '92 & '94
HSA-2018-30	Joan Dawson	Photographs	Photos of Ella, Alice, & Helen Vorce and Fayette Clark
HSA-2018-31	Ted Peters	Tag & Keys	Metal tag from Weidman Ford & keys from the Ypsilanti Locksmith
HSA-2018-37	Mary Streeter	Education Material	Estabrook New Horizon class elements and newspaper article
HSA-2018-38	C. Edward Wall	Book	"Emerging from Wilderness: Formation & First Settlement of Pittsfield Township, Michigan" Book
HSA-2018-39	Jim Curran	Festival Poster	Framed 2004 Heritage Festival Poster
HSA-2018-40	Becky Cress	Playbill	1886 Ypsilanti Opera House Playbill
HSA-2018-41	George Edmunds	Park Drawing	1905 Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. Ypsilanti park rendering & 1910-1915 Quirk Park Plan
HSA-2018-42	Bi Il Durant	Photographs & Newspapers	Newspapers, wedding photos, & historic Eastern Michigan University pictures
HSA-2018-43	John Briggs	Greek Theater Documents	Ypsilanti Greek Theater framed casting list and notepad of stage lighting cues
HSA-2018-46	Satia Orange	Society Meeting Notes	1994 Washtenaw Historical Society Board Meeting Notes
HSA-2018-47	M. Fahndrick	Conference Program	1933 Detroit Annual Conference at the Methodist Episcopal Church program
HSA-2018-48	Ted V. Mull	Park Deeds & Plaque	Prospect Park or "Peckville" abstract with patent deed, warranty deed, and plaque
HSA-2018-49	Courtney Beattie	Staebler Farms Documents	Staebler Farms history and park plan
HSA-2018-50	Brent Jurrjens	Business Flyers	Promotional flyers for Penninsular Paper Co. from 1947
HSA-2018-53	Tom Fahlstrom	Photograph	Portrait of a young woman from the studio of Camp Publishing Co. in Ypsilanti
HSA-2018-54	Nat & Bill Edmunds	Historical Documents	Newspapers, clippings, & maps
HSA-2018-56	Wayne Historical Museum	Beyer Banner Newsletters	Employee newsletters from the Beyer Hospital publication "Beyer Banner" from 1951-1956



Number	Donor	Item	Description
HSA-2018-58	Donna Sienko	Scrapbooks & Postcard	Ypsilanti High School class of 1950 scrapbooks & Ypsilanti High School postcard
HSA-2018-59	Jennette Laban	Postcards	Ypsilanti postcards of the Huron Hotel, EMU Buildings, Beyer Hospital, State Hospital & Post Office
HSA-2018-60	Kathy Micallef	Photographs	Willoughby family photos & plaque for Thomas Willoughby from the Chamber of Commerce
HSA-2018-61	Thomas Durant	Electronic Photographs	DVD of Ladies Library 1981 restoration with photo of Thomas Durant
HSA-2018-62	David Doss	Photographs	Various Ypsilanti photographed portraits
HSA-2018-63	Penny Yohn	Yearbook & Photographs	Ypsilanti High School Class of 1951 pictures and yearbook
HSA-2018-64	Suzanne Benton	Funeral Book	Elvira Norris Follett Memorial Book (Nov. 9th 1884)
HSA-2018-66	Marilyn Joslyn-Sheets	Yearbooks	1936 & 1937 EMU Aurora Yearbooks with photos and news articles of Al Joslyn
HSA-2018-67	Derwood Hagen	Book	"1003 Household Hints & Work Savers" 1960 book from the Ypsilanti Savings Bank
HSA-2018-68	Joan Weber	Photographs	2 Ypsilanti High School class photos for the class of 1948
HSA-2018-69	Carole Clare	Historical Documents	Depot Town Association historical information
HSA-2018-70	Karen Walker	Cemetery Inscription Lists	Inscriptions for the Free Church, Salem-Walker, North Sharon, Porters (Jerusalem), & Bethel Church Cemeteries
HS-2018-655-1	Harry & Marjorie Shaefer	Afghan	Blue & green knit afghan knitted by Dorthea (Dottie) Shaefer
HS-2018-656		Dresses	Collection of Civil War era reproductions dresses
HS-2018-657-1	Marc Morhous	Sewing Chest	Wooden sewing chest belonging to Emma Killian Deist
HS-2018-658-1-3	Marjorie Krakker	Uniform, U.S. Navy	U.S. Navy jacket, pants and overcoat
HS-2018-659-1-2	Joe & Marla Queen	Coaster	Commemorative ceramic coaster, The Queens Residence
HS-2018-659-3	Joe & Marla Queen	Toiletry set	Commemorative toiletries, The Queens Residence
HS-2018-659-4	Joe & Marla Queen	Business Card	The Queens Residence, 220 S. Huron St.
HS-2018-659-5	Joe & Marla Queen	Dressform	Dressform
HS-2018-659-6	Joe & Marla Queen	Skirt & Blouse Set	Black blouse with black skirt
HS-2018-659-7	Joe & Marla Queen	Hat	Black hat
HS-2018-660-1	Laurence Thomas	Painting, Framed	Portrait of Carlita Davis. Oil on Canvas. 1879
HS-2018-661-1	Nancy Taylor	Cloth Doll	African American cloth doll owned by Mrs. Clothier of Almont
HS-2018-661-2	Nancy Taylor	Fractional Currency	World War II fractional currency: 10 cent bill



636 S. Mansfield Ave.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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

# Baby on the Doorstep

BY JAMES MANN

A good deal of surprise must have been expressed in the home of Ike Fisher, at 207 West Arbor Street in Ann Arbor, on the evening of Thursday, January 22, 1914. That evening Harold Zultz, a brother of Mrs. Fisher, found a 14 day old infant on the doorstep of the house. *"The child was wrapped in a thin blanket and beside it was a milk bottle the contents of which were frozen. The child had on a sheer 'nightie' and could not have been exposed to the frigid temperature long...else it would have perished in the cold,"* reported *The Ann Arbor Daily Times News* of Friday, January 23, 1914.

*"Mrs. Fisher took care of the child over night,"* noted the account. *"The little one is in perfect health and a chubby youngster."* Deputy Sheriff Matthew Max carried out the investigation to find the mother of the child. He contacted the nurses of the maternity wards of the University Hospital and the Homeopathic Hospital to see if they could identify the child. The head nurse of the maternity ward of the Homeopathic Hospital did so. The mother had arrived at the hospital on December 31, and the child was born on January 6, 1914. The woman had given the fictitious name of Eva Lyons, and said her home was in Ypsilanti. An attendant at the hospital told Deputy Sheriff Max that he had seen the woman in Ypsilanti. This was the starting point for his investigation, and Deputy Sheriff Max was able to trace the woman to her home in Ypsilanti.

*"The young woman was placed under arrest by Deputy Sheriff Matthew Max on Friday night at Ypsilanti and permitted to remain there under proper custody until today, when later in the afternoon she will be brought to Ann Arbor. She made a clean breast of the affair to Mr. Max and he has since verified her story, corroborating the same by a mass of circumstantial evidence bearing out her statements,"* reported *The Ann Arbor Daily Times News* of Saturday, January 24, 1914.

The account further noted that she had named the man whom she said was the father of the child. *"The man, who is a prominent Ypsilanti merchant, is not merely accused by the young woman of being the father of the child, but of a statutory felony, conviction on which carries with it a long term in the state's prison."* The young woman was 16 year old Celistia Huntley, who lived with her family at 611 West Forest Ave in Ypsilanti. She had lived with her family on a farm in South Dakota until about 1910, when she moved to Ann Arbor. There she stayed with a relative, the man whom she named as the father of the child. He was a storekeeper and she helped in the store. After a year, her family moved to Ypsilanti, and she moved in with them.

*"I'm not a bad girl,"* she said, with tears streaming down her cheeks. *"I worry most for fear father will find out about*

*this. Father is stern and I cannot have him know. I had to tell mother and when I came here to the hospital she told father I was going away on a visit. I was only 15 years old then,"* she continued, *"and I came here to study music. I entered the university school of music and stayed there a year. After that I lived at home and took work in the Ypsilanti conservatory of music. I didn't go back this fall, but I hope to later on when I get out of this and am stronger."*

*"After my family moved to Ypsilanti I used to sometimes go into this man's store to help in the busy season. When I found I was to become a mother I went to him and he said would do nothing because it was not his child. Thursday I left the hospital with my baby. My sister came over for me and I did not know what I was going to do. I sent my sister's home, telling her after I found a home for the baby I would follow her. I walked up and down the streets and several times I started to leave it on a doorstep and then someone would come out or pass me and I'd hug the little thing closer and run away. Then I found the Fisher home. I did not know who lived there, but something within me seemed to say the baby would be well taken care of there. He was so sweet and so dear. I left him and then I ran and ran through alleys and dark streets and finally out of the city limits. I waited for a car. I was weak and cold and faint. All night I worried for fear the baby might not be found and would freeze to death. I don't want to keep my baby with me. I love it and would like to care for it, but I would not like to have it with me. If it were a child of love it would be different."* This, according to *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Monday, January 26, 1914, was her statement.

A tall, well dressed and rather good looking man arrived at the jail in Ann Arbor, and asked a number of questions about Calesta Huntley, and finally asked if he could see the girl. *"Are you a relative,"* asked the officer. *"Not now, but I am willing to be,"* replied the man. *"Though I never saw the girl in my life, or heard of her till tonight."*

*"My name is Ketchum,"* explained the man. *"Harry Ketchum and I'm 30 years; I have no home, and I'd like one and I'd like a wife who would appreciate a good home, and a kind husband. I'd give her a good home, and I'd be kind to her. I believe she has gone through so much suffering and humiliation, and she'd appreciate a home and kind attention. I'd make a good home for her baby too. I suppose this does look like a leap in the dark, but I've been rather observant in my life, and I have noticed that the couples who have known each other for years and courted in the approved manner, have not always been the happiest couples after marriage. I have noticed that as many of these marriages end in the divorce courts, as the other kind—the impetuous ones, where the wooing and the*



wedding is all done up on the spur of the moment. She had had a lot of suffering and sorrow crowded into her short 18 years, enough so that she would appreciate a good home, and careful attention from a husband. I want to marry Miss Huntley, and the sooner she has a protector, the better." The officers told Ketchum to return on Sunday, and they would ask Miss Huntley if she wished to see him.

"When Miss Huntley was told, she shrugged her girlish shoulders, and took it as a huge joke the officers were trying to play on her. Later, when she found they were in earnest, she said, "Mr. Ketchum does not want me, no one wants a girl who has had the notoriety attached to her that I have had, and whose youth and spirits have been crushed out as have mine. Tell him that, and let that end it all," reported *The Ann Arbor Daily Times News* of Tuesday, January 27, 1914.

The officers told Ketchum what she had said when he returned. "Maybe I know what I want better than she," he answered. "Possibly it would be better if I waited till she was released, when I could see her in her own home."

Early on the morning of Sunday, January 25, 1914, a legal representative arrived at the jail, and made it clear great effort would be made to stop any attempt to prosecute the man. That same afternoon, she was visited by her father and sister.

"Not long afterward a statement was secured from her that her father had threatened to leave the house where he is living with another daughter, should Calista come back, after having implicated the man in the case. She stated that the only way he would consent to continue to live at the same house with her, would be for her to refuse to make any complaint against the man who, she has said time and again, is the father of her child," reported *The Daily Times News* of Monday, January 26, 1914.

She had told Washtenaw County Pros-

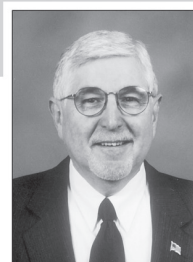
ecuting Attorney George Burk, that she would have made a complaint against the man, but did not do so because she feared her father. Calista Huntley was arraigned on the charge of abandoning her baby on Monday, January 26, 1914, before Justice W. G. Doty. As she waited for her case to be called, she sat huddled in a corner of the courtroom, as a number of charity workers tried to comfort her. Martin Huntley, her father, entered the room and chose a seat on the other side of the room. He never tried to approach his daughter. The court decided that she should be held for action by the circuit court. She was released on bail of \$500, which was paid by a Charles Gallup, and her father.

A decision on whether or not to proceed against the man she had named as the father of the child had not been made at this time. Once she had returned home, Calista considered the matter and consulted with her sisters. Then, if they decided it was advisable to commence court proceedings, they would do so. "Mr. Huntley, they state, yet desires that no action should be taken, yet will not interfere if they choose to prosecute," noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Tuesday, January 27, 1914.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, February 10, 1914, Calista Huntley charged Harold Hutchins, a cousin of the Huntley girl. In her complaint Huntley charged that on April 24, 1913, she went to his Five and Ten Cent Store at 9 Huron Street in Ypsilanti, to wait for her sister. Hutchins, she said, invited her to the back of the store, where he turned down the lights. There, as explained by *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Wednesday, February 11, 1914, "she was powerless in his arms."

The charge Huntley made against Hutchins was not criminal, but a civil charge. Should the court find he was the father of the child, Hutchins would have to pay hospital fees, and other expenses incurred by the birth of the child. He would not have to pay for the

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support of the child, as it had been taken to the home in Coldwater. Hutchins denied he was the father of the child, and promised to fight the charge. He arrived at the court on the morning of Tuesday, February 11, 1914, waived examination and gave bail of \$500 for his appearance at the March term of the court.

At the March term of the court, the case against Calista came up first. On the recommendation of Prosecuting Attorney George Burk, she was permitted to go free on a suspended sentence. "It is understood," noted *The Ann Arbor Daily Times News* of Wednesday, March 4, 1914, "that the case against Harold W. Hutchins, charged with the paternity of the child, will be threshed out in court, overtures for a settlement out of court having been turned down by Hutchins."

Before the end of March, the public learned that Calista Huntley was to marry a young man named Bert Thomas of Ann Arbor. Thomas, who was employed as a clerk in a Main Street drug store, said he had known Huntley for four years. When asked if Hutchins would provide the dowry for his wife, Thomas said Hutchins was the last person on earth he wanted any dealings with. Thomas said he could care for his wife himself. They planned to marry on May 1, 1914. This would be the second marriage for Thomas, as he and his first wife, Annie Miller, had divorced the previous Decem-

ber. The two had been married just under two years, and had a son. The wife was given custody of the son.

"Judge E. D. Kinne severely condemned Mrs. Thomas, when she sought her divorce, for being like dozens of other girls who get married today and want a divorce tomorrow, not knowing their own mind," noted *The Ann Arbor Daily Times News* of Monday, March 30, 1914. Mrs. Thomas had sought to introduce testimony in regard to her husband's infidelity, but this was ruled out by the court.

Not long after the two were married, the case against Hutchins came before the court for disposition in the circuit court. Calista was in the court with her husband, and the two informed attorneys they were about to make a trip south and did not know when they would return. For this reason the case against Hutchins was never prosecuted.

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



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# Museum Advisory Board Report

BY NANCY WHEELER, CHAIR



Christmas is on display in the museum kitchen.

The Art Exhibit was a great success thanks to Louise Nagle and her committee! The exhibit was on display September 7 thru 30. There were ten artists and thirty-five pieces in various mediums including fabric, colored pencil, found object, photography, stoneware, watercolor, acrylic and oil paint. Next fall, we will feature a Quilt Exhibit in this time slot.

The museum is bursting with new exhibits and holiday cheer! The large tree in the formal parlor has a new look, decked in red and white. Diane Schick and Cathy Kemling recently donated a collection of Hummel figurines. Portions of the Museum's silver collection are on display including a punch bowl set with 22 cups donated last month by Norman and Karen McFall. Fofie Pappas and her committee have dressed the mannequins and dress forms for the winter season. Be sure to visit while the museum is all



The flowers on the fireplace mantel.



The Christmas tree in the front parlor.

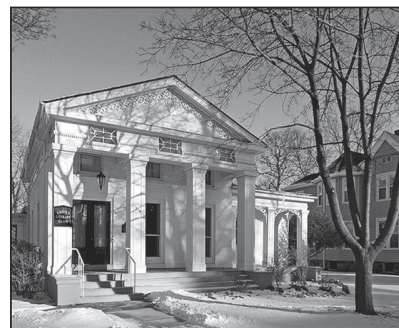
dressed up - holiday decorations will be on display until January 2. New exhibits are being planned and will make their debuts in 2019. *(The photo in the last Gleanings labeled 1932 wedding dress was really a dress and hat from the Queens Residence Bed and Breakfast.)*

Welcome to new Docents April Davis, Tim Sabo, and Rachael Schnurr.

There are still openings on the weekends. Call 734-482-4990 and arrange a training time. Shifts are once a month for three hours.

Tours are available for both small and large groups and can be scheduled outside of regular museum hours. We are looking forward to two tours already scheduled to view our holiday finery. The Holiday Open House is scheduled for Sunday, December 9, 2:00 to 5:00pm.

The Museum Advisory Board wishes you a Merry Holiday Season and a Happy and Peaceful 2019!



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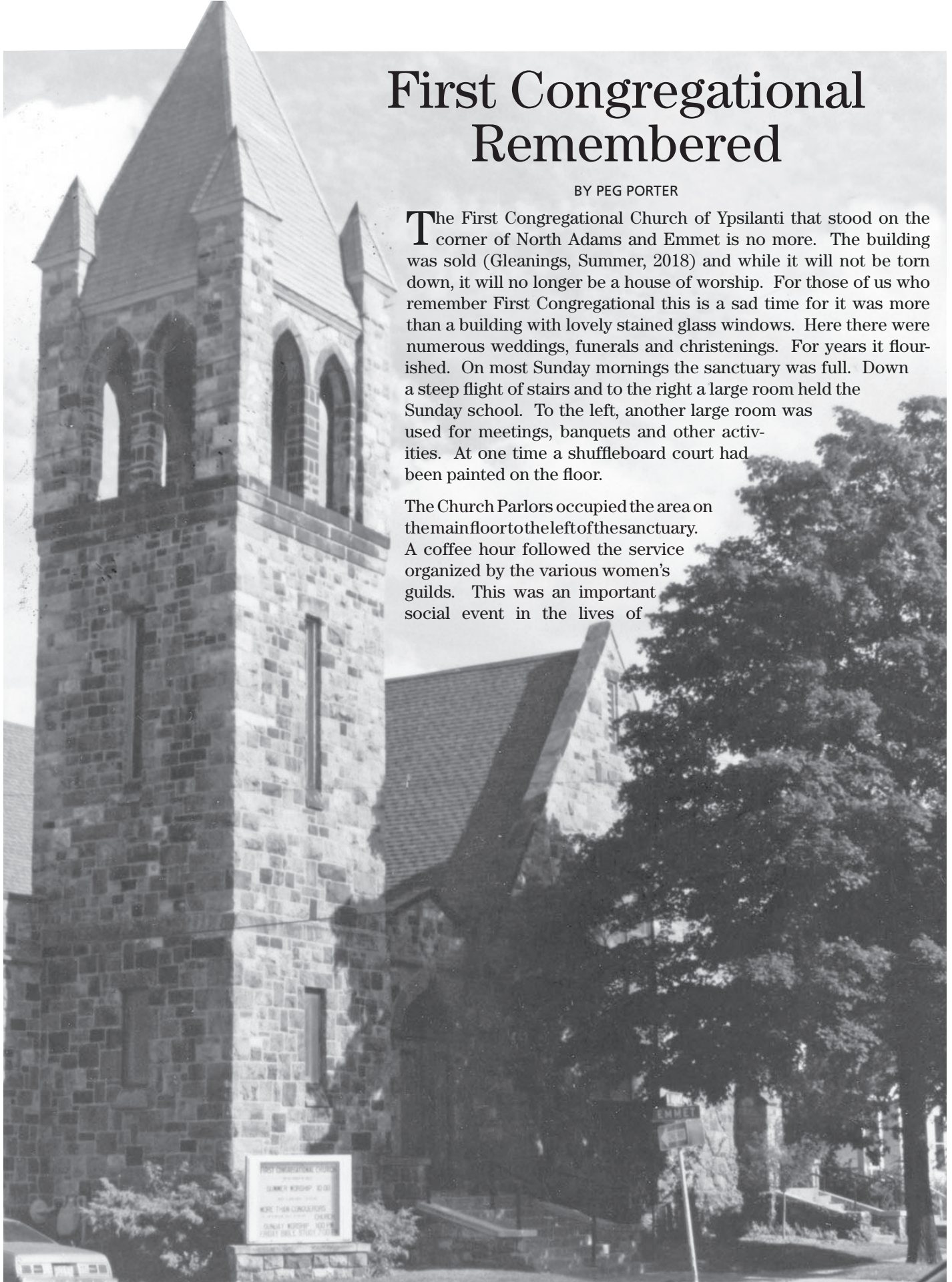


# First Congregational Remembered

BY PEG PORTER

The First Congregational Church of Ypsilanti that stood on the corner of North Adams and Emmet is no more. The building was sold (Gleanings, Summer, 2018) and while it will not be torn down, it will no longer be a house of worship. For those of us who remember First Congregational this is a sad time for it was more than a building with lovely stained glass windows. Here there were numerous weddings, funerals and christenings. For years it flourished. On most Sunday mornings the sanctuary was full. Down a steep flight of stairs and to the right a large room held the Sunday school. To the left, another large room was used for meetings, banquets and other activities. At one time a shuffleboard court had been painted on the floor.

The Church Parlors occupied the area on the main floor to the left of the sanctuary. A coffee hour followed the service organized by the various women's guilds. This was an important social event in the lives of



The First Congregational Church of Ypsilanti on the corner of North Adams and Emmet.



much of the congregation.

My father joined the Congregational Church as a teenager. His good friend Fred Shaefer brought him to the youth group led by Carl Pray the popular history professor at the Normal. Dr. Pray was something of a "youth magnet" as well as a father; his son Joe was also in the group with Fred and my dad. Carl and the minister, Harvey Colburn, were both colleagues and close friends. Dr. Pray collaborated with Dr. Colburn on *The Story of Ypsilanti*. During the first half of the 20th century the Congregational Church flourished in large part due to these two men.

I remember attending Sunday school. In particular I remember the murals depicting the Beatitudes. I was impressed by the picture depicting "*Blessed are the Peacemakers.*" Two boys with fists raised were separated by a girl with her arms outstretched. What a brave little girl I thought. Many years later I became a mediator and worked with parties to resolve disputes. While I never had to physically separate two adversaries, there were times I wondered if I might.

As I grew older I began attending church service with my father. My mother was busy in the Sunday school with the toddlers while Mary Warner had the school-age children. Several times during the year these older children were invited upstairs to the sanctuary for a children's lesson. They marched down the center aisle to a pew directly beneath the minister's pulpit. I remember the kindly Reverend Gordon Speer speaking to them and asking an occasional question. The responses often drew a chuckle from the congregation.

The walls of the sanctuary were painted a cream color; the woodwork was dark brown as were the pews. The cushions were deep red as was the carpet in the aisles. One Christmas members constructed large *della robbia* wreaths that hung along the far wall. The contrast between the deep red, gold and green of the wreaths and the walls was beautiful. When masses of poinsettia and a Christmas tree were added it was both festive and lovely.

In October of 1956, the Church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary.



Family and friends gather on the front steps following Jane Porter's christening in June, 1955. Reverend Speer is in the upper right hand corner. Godmother, the former Helen Davis, is holding Jane. Mother Ruth Porter, center, with big sister, the author, and brother Don Jr.

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Image courtesy of the Yankee Air Museum

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There was a special worship service, a tea and a banquet. Reverend Colburn delivered the Anniversary Sermon. Former members returned for the celebration and those who could not be present sent greetings. Reverend Shaw of the First Baptist Church attended the banquet while members of the Women's Union, First Baptist Church, served.

Many churches have a member who is in charge of the kitchen, whether officially or by default. For First Congregational, Vera Borgerson held this role. A large, strong woman she handled roasting pans and platters with apparent ease. She also adopted the characteristics of a drill sergeant when running a large event such as the Anniversary Banquet. The banquet menu included a fruit juice cocktail, ham and scalloped potatoes, molded salad, green beans, with cake and ice cream for dessert. Vera also ran a small catering business and was much in demand. Husband Norvald did the fetching and carrying without complaint. They were a good team.

The membership of First Congregational included a large number of faculty from what was then referred to as "*The College*." There were also merchants, notably the Shaeffers (hardware), McAndrews (furniture), and the Moffetts (shoes). Also among the congregation were the Marsh family (Marsh Plating), the Southgates (photographer), several attorneys and at least one physician. Collectively it was an active and energetic membership with several women's guilds and a youth group, the Pilgrim Fellowship.

The Congregational Church is the "descendant" of the Pilgrims who settled in what became Massachusetts. This group broke away from the established church in England because of the strict hierarchy, an overemphasis on ritual and control from the leadership. The Pilgrims were self-governing with each church functioning independently. The Congregationalists placed a strong emphasis on education. Many colleges and universities in the United States have Congregational "roots." All of this has implications for what happened to First Congregational.

After many years with just two men, Harvey Colburn succeeded by Gordon Speer, serving as ministers, there were a series of changes in the ministry. This, in turn, led to a lack of stability. At the same time, church attendance was dropping nationally. The impact on First Congregational was significant. Since the Church was independent there was no bishop or governing body to provide needed help and guidance. Eventually what was once a robust congregation declined to levels that could not support the church building. Sadly, that was the end of First Congregational as many of us knew it.

*Note: For a related article about Harvey Colburn by the author, see the Spring 2010 issue of Gleanings.*

*(Peg Porter is the Assistant Editor of the Gleanings and a regular contributor of articles.)*

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# First Congregational Church 75th Anniversary MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial Gifts have been given, and much work has been done in preparation for our Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, including:

- The new carpeting, given anonymously
- The Mayflower Guild Memorial Chimes, in memory of their members who have passed on, given by the families and friends and the Mayflower Guild
- The new Pilgrim Hymnals, given by Mrs. Harry Shaefer, a memorial to her father, Dr. L.H. Jones
- The front doors, given by Mr. C.C. Westcott in memory of Emma Hanson Westcott
- The entrance lantern at the front doors, given by Mrs. Louise George Humphrey and Miss Grace George
- A new American flag, given by the Mayflower Guild
- The Pilgrim Fellowship cleaned and polished the pews and cleaned the cushions
- The Mary-Martha Guild cleaned the kitchen cupboards and the men cut and installed linoleum on the shelves
- The Board of Trustees has undertaken many renovating projects, including fluorescent lighting in the kitchen and dining rooms, a new ceiling in the west section of the parlors, refinishing the woodwork in the entrance and the cloak room and other important works
- Mr. Owen and Miss Ruth Cleary sent a check to be applied to some church memorial

The memorial gifts that were donated on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church in 1956.

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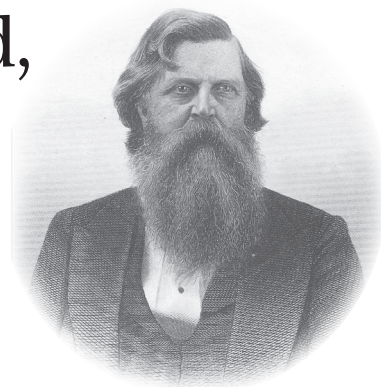
The Hutchinson House mansion sits high on the hill at the southeast corner of East Forest Avenue and North River Street.

# A Valuable and Historic Gourd, The Mysterious Death of a Victorian Lady Detective, An 1861 Gold Dollar and a Surprise Ending

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ

*Now that I have your attention, I would like to tell you a story about these items and more, as part of the River Street Saga series I have been writing for the Gleanings about the people and places of my beloved River Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan.*

Who doesn't enjoy passing the beautiful Hutchinson House mansion sitting high on the hill at the southeast corner of East Forest Avenue and North River Street? The house is a crown jewel in a city of beautiful historic homes. The surrounding lawns and landscaping seem to frame this 1904 architectural marvel. Yet, when Shelly Hutchinson built his dream home there were three other homes on the property. He liked Ypsilanti and the neighborhood and the friends he had grown up with and so, with his family's help and advice, he decided to build a splendid, showy home of over 30 rooms close to all of them. He wanted a home that people would look up to and there was no better spot than



Lyman Decatur Norris was the only son of Mark and Roccena Norris, the pioneer founders of Ypsilanti.

the highest point of Ypsilanti – the hill at the corner of East Forest Avenue and North River Street. It is said that this was once an Indian campground where smoke signals could communicate with other Indians and an enemy could be seen coming. I would like to tell you a little about each of the three homes and the people that lived in them. In doing so you will learn more about the gourd, lady detective, the 1861 gold dollar and there will be a surprise for you at the end of this article.



John Newton Howland

This block, on the east side of River Street between Forest and Oak is in the Norris, Follett, Joslin and Skinner's Addition to the City of Ypsilanti platted in 1850 and contains lots 529 to 522. At the southeast corner, lot # 529 was first



sold to Thomas H. Rogers in September of 1852 by Mark and Roccena Norris for \$95. That same month Thomas and his wife Sarah Jane sold the property for \$125 to Juliet Steward, who built a frame home in



1890 map showing three houses on the block of Forest Avenue and River Street.

1852, which was then sold to Egbert Peck for \$700. Egbert was the son of Ypsilanti pioneers Joseph and Sophia Peck who purchased all of the land between Forest and Holmes, from the river to Prospect, in 1824. In August, 1854 Peck purchased the two adjoining lots - #528 and #529 to the south of his home from Mark and Roccena Norris, now owning one fourth of that block. Egbert married Juliet Thayer on March 19, 1856 and a year later the couple sold their property to Mortimer Smalley for \$1,000 and moved to a home across the street at the northwest corner of River and Forest, which still stands beautifully restored. A month after he purchased the home and land, Mortimer sold a strip at the back of the property to Lyman Decatur Norris. The modest frame house was sold within a year to D.T. Farr

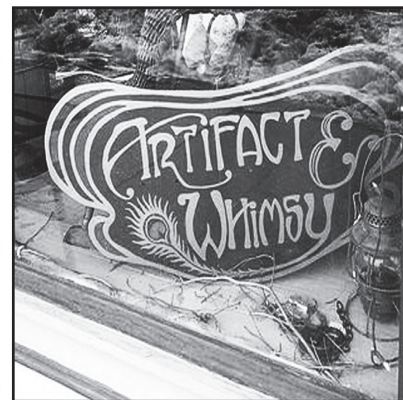
and then again within the same year - 1857 - to James and Emma Lind Cook, husband and wife. James was an attorney who opened a law office in Ypsilanti that same year with his brother-in-

law John Lind. He is listed in the city directory for 1860 as "Cook, James R., Atty at-law, Notary Public, insurance agent and justice of the peace (East Cross St. Residence - River Street)." John Lind is listed as an "atty-at-law, E. Cross St., boarding on River." At the time that the 1859 map was created, James and Emma Cook were living in the home. They were members of the Episcopal Church which contains records about the family. A son, Lind Robison, was born April 13, 1858 and died a year later. In August 1860 Nona Alice was born and an interesting article was written about her in the town newspaper, *The Ypsilanti Commercial*, on May 2, 1885.

*"What the interest of a gold dollar amounts to in 23 years, is seen by the following incident: In 1862, Judge Thomas Ninde gave as a birthday present to Nona Cook, daughter of a former citizen James R. Cook, a gold dollar. This dollar was deposited in the bank of E. and F.P. Bogardus. Mr. Cook had moved to Washington D. C., the firm had dissolved and the fact of deposit forgotten. Wednesday, the Cashier of the First National Bank, Mr. Pack, received the certificate of deposit. It was turned over to Mr. F.P. Bogardus and he immediately forwarded to Miss Nona \$3.00, a trifle over legal interest. It was not compound interest, of course."*



The Howland house circa 1923 which was once on the Hutchinson House property and is the Peck farm house located across the street at 117 East Forest.



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A little more about the Cook family is found in the archives. In 1861 the law firm of Cook and Lind was closed when John Lind enlisted in the Civil War and James moved his small family to Washington D.C. Civil War records show that he served in the 14th Infantry, Michigan Volunteers and fought in campaigns far from Ypsilanti in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. He was critically wounded and a patient in the army hospital in Nashville, Tennessee when one of his sisters came to get him and took him back with her to Saginaw, Michigan, where he died.

Lyman Norris already had purchased the back strip of land from the property and in April 13, 1861 also purchased the rest of the land and the Cook home. He owned it for 5 years before selling the home, lot and the adjacent lot #528 but continued to own the "south fifty one feet front by the whole depth", according to the deed, to Elvira Barlow. Elvira Barlow was an interesting woman in life and in death. When she purchased the home, she was the widow of Joel P. Barlow who had died ten years previously. They had two daughters, Frances, married to Robert Stevens, and Alice married to Theodore Whitford. The Whitfords moved into the small house with her and when her daughter Frances and her husband Robert Stevens died, their two sons Fred and Robert Stevens also joined the household.

Son-in-law Theodore is listed in the 1860 city directory as a tinner, and in a 1894 directory he owns a hardware store on East Cross Street. The house changed hands again under unusual circumstances. First Elvira Barlow disappeared one summer day in 1891. No one could find her. She listed her occupation as a "lady detective" and where she could be was quite a mystery solved when a few days later her body was found drowned in the cistern in the basement of the home! How she got there and if she was murdered or if her death was accidental is still not known and this mystery will never be solved.



In the 1850s Mrs. Egbert Peck and her husband lived on the Northwest corner of River Street and Forest Avenue.



Florence Champlain, who once lived on River Street was killed from the accidental discharge of a gun by her husband.

After her death on August 7, 1891 records show that Elvira's grandsons gave a quit claim deed to their aunt, Mrs. Whitford. The niece continued to own and live in the house until it was sold to William W. Johnson, who by then, 1930, also owned the Hutchinson House. However, he did not make the payments on the land contract and the home went back to the Whitford family who sold it to Maude Leslie. Mrs. Leslie lived across the street at the southwest corner of River and Forest and made her living with rent-

al property and a small store she ran from her home. Because the Whitford family had owned this modest house for over 80 years it was known as The Whitford Home. Mrs. Leslie owned the home from 1950 to 1962 when she sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kuhl who by then owned the Hutchinson mansion.

Sadly, despite protests from the Ypsilanti Historical Society and the community, the old house was torn down in May, 1974. Living across the street from it I had been in it many times and it was not only very original but very cozy. The kitchen even had a wonderful wood burning stove. However, when the Whitford Home was demolished The Historic East Side Association and attempts at creating a historic district on the east side were born! I joined with several others who were upset about the destruction of historic properties in our neighborhood and we decided to do what we could to prevent this from happening again in our community. We formed the Historic East Side Neighborhood Association and quickly started to fill out the paperwork and requirements to have our area protected by becoming an historic district. So, out of the death of



Sometime between 1896 and 1901 the Howland House was moved from the Hutchinson House property to 117 East Forest where it is located today.



the Whitford home came the life of those grouped together to save our beautiful community and help make the historic east side what it is today.



S&H Green Stamps were popular in the United States from the 1930s until the late 1980s. They were distributed as part of a rewards program by the Sperry & Hutchinson Company founded in 1896 by Thomas Sperry and Shelley Hutchinson.

Sadly I couldn't locate any pictures of the second house on the property other than the drawings of it in several Ypsilanti maps. Compared to its neighbors, it seems to be a large home with pillars and several outbuildings. This would be in keeping with the wealth of the Norris family. Land records indicate that it was either bought or most likely built by Lyman Decatur Norris in 1854. He was the only son of Mark and Roccena Norris, pioneer founders of Ypsilanti. As a practicing attorney in Kansas his claim to fame was winning the Dread Scott case for the slave owner. Some say that this was the spark that started the Civil War. When his father became ill he came back to Ypsilanti to support his mother and handle the business affairs of his father, who was a banker, land developer and one of the founders of Depot Town. Land records show that Norris owned the home, the back 50 feet of the Whitford property and also two lots to the south of his home and an additional two north of it. Lyman and his wife Lucy and two children stayed in Ypsilanti long enough to establish himself with a law office and become elected to the Michigan legislature. He then sold his properties on River Street in 1865 and moved to Grand Rapids where he opened a successful law firm.

The home was purchased by John B. Sutherland and no information could

be found on him. He sold it in 1879 to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Champlain and it later went to their only married son Lafayette Eugene Champlain and it was sold to Shelly Hutchinson in 1899. Some rather

sad information could be found about Eugene and his wife. After the sale of their home, the Champlains moved to Shoshone, Idaho to be close to family living there. In the *Ypsilanti Evening News* of April 22, 1904 we read of Eugene's death and about that of his wife. *"About one year ago the remains of Mrs. Champlain were brought here for burial, death having occurred from the accidental discharge of a gun which Mr. Champlain was handling preparatory to a hunting expedition and the husband has never recovered from the shock of the accident and his remorse at this unfortunate and entirely blameless part in the*

*affair and his death is the result of his depression."* Yes, both Mr. and Mrs. Champlain have returned to River Street and are at peace now in Highland Cemetery. By searching Ypsilanti city directories in the archives it seems that Shelly's parents lived in this home, down the hill from the mansion of their son until at least 1914, and it was eventually torn down.



Egbert C. Peck.

I have a little surprise for you at the end of this article about the third house, which once stood at the northeast corner of River and Oak Street and was known as the Howland House. John Howland was born Sept. 13, 1836 in Cannonsville, New York. His father George was descended from John Howland who came to this county on the Mayflower, worked at a tannery and lived in various places in Massachusetts. George and his wife Isabella had seven children and moved to Ypsilanti in 1843 where he built a tannery called "J. Howland and Company", which was located at 4 East Forest. The "and Company" referred to in



Mr. and Mrs. Egbert Peck lived at 634 North River Street as newlyweds.

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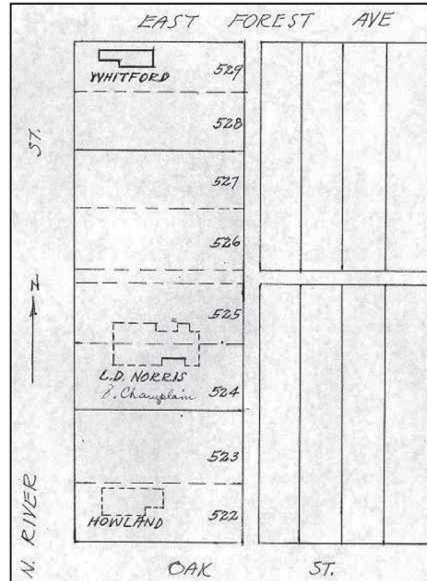
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the name were his sons. He was an ambitious man and once walked to Chicago from Massachusetts on business. His son John married Sarah Stebbins of Delaware County in New York on May 13, 1856. They were said to be the residents of the River Street home. In his possession was an English gourd. There was a silver plate attached to the gourd inscribed with its history

stating that the gourd was used as a powder horn and carried on the voyage to America in 1620! Although the couple had five children only two survived childhood. They were members of the Presbyterian Church and John was an active mason, a Republican, a member of the Knights of Honor and Order of United Workmen and a volunteer fire fighter. He died in 1916 and is buried with his wife and other family members on River Street in Highland Cemetery.

The surprise that I promised you is that you can view the Howland House today. Instead of looking for it on the Hutchinson House property, look across the street to 117 East Forest. According to the city directories, sometime between 1896 and 1901 the house was purchased



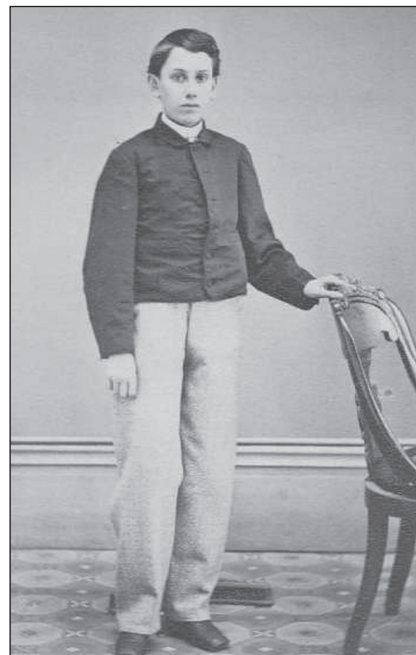
This block on the east side of River Street between Forest and Oak is in the Norris, Follett, Joslin and Skinner's Addition to the City of Ypsilanti platted in 1850.

The original Peck land grant consisted of all of the property between the river and Prospect (then called Cemetery Street) from Homes to Forest. At the time that the house was moved there were several Peck family homes on Forest. Four were located between Norris Street and River Street and the main, large home still exists at the NE corner of Forest and Stanley.

The majority of the Peck farm was sold and houses built on Dwight, Hemphill and Stanley shortly after World War II.

I've kept my promise and hope that you have enjoyed learning a little more about the history of the now spacious lawns of Hutchinson House, the lady detective, the special gourd and the value of an 1861 gold coin.

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



Lafayette Eugene Champlain sold the home on River Street to Shelly Hutchinson in 1899.



# It Happened Over Thirty Years Ago

*(On Monday, before EMU's 1987 Spring Graduation, YHS's Al Rudisill received a call from EMU President John Porter. He was informed that he was the back-up speaker for the graduation ceremony to be held the following Saturday. Al informed President Porter that he was flying to Texas for a conference and would not return until Friday. President Porter said "...that's OK because graduation is not until the following day." On Tuesday, Al called the President's secretary and told her he received a call the day before about being a back-up speaker for graduation. She informed Al that the Governor would not be available and that "...you are the speaker." Al spent the rest of the week writing the speech between conference sessions. It was delivered to approximately 8,000 people the following Saturday. Now, thirty-one years later, we get to evaluate Al's futuristic predictions to the 1987 graduates. Bill Nickels.)*

## EMU's 'Salute to Tech' graduation fouled by crossed signal with gov

By Press Staff

It seems ironic that at a commencement ceremony highlighting a "Salute to Technology" could be victimized by something as simple as a garbled telephone call.

But then, if all communications between Eastern Michigan University and the governor's office were done by computers — which operate on hard-to-confuse binary commands — a somewhat embarrassing snafu might never have occurred.

EMU officials announced this week that Gov. James Blanchard won't be the speaker at the spring graduation program scheduled for Saturday in Bowen Fieldhouse.

Not that Blanchard ever accepted an invitation to be



RUDISILL BLANCHARD

a back-up speaker from the beginning, school officials said.

"He's right at the heart of technology. He's an ideal speaker," said Susan Bairley, associate director of public information.

Blanchard was sent a written invitation in February to deliver the address, but the difficulty with predicting

The Ypsilanti Press ran a story on Thursday before graduation explaining the confusion about Governor Blanchard being scheduled to speak.

## "TECHNOLOGY & CHANGE"

BY ALVIN RUDISILL

Thank you President Porter and good morning trustees, officers, faculty, honored guests, friends and graduating students of Eastern Michigan University. It is a significant honor and privilege for me to have the opportunity to speak to you today.

I feel a special kinship to this institution because I have worked with many of you here today and thousands of other outstanding people over the past seven years since our College of Technology was established. It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone here that my topic today deals with technology.

The topic "Technology and Change" is important because I believe these two factors will impact each of you and society in general more than any other major forces. Also, these forces will impact your generation more than any previous generation because of what John Naisbitt calls the "megashift" from an industrial to an information

society and what Alvin Toffler refers to as the third wave — the actual restructuring of our entire civilization. Many of us may not agree with the writings of social forecasters like Naisbitt and Toffler but most scholars agree that we are in the middle of a major transformation in our society that we do not fully control or comprehend.

Let me start by telling you about some of my own personal experiences with technology and change. I was born in 1933 and for the first nine years of my life lived in a new house in a rural area of the United States. The most advanced technology in that house was a battery operated vacuum tube radio. The indoor plumbing consisted of a hand pump for drawing water from a well and kerosene lamps were used for lighting because commercial electricity was not yet available in that rural community. Heating was accomplished with a coal fired stove that left

something to be desired on cold winter mornings. I might also add that for the first three years of my schooling in that rural community I attended a one-room school which was also without indoor plumbing and electricity.

Contrast that rather bleak picture of technology in my early home with that of my current home here in Ypsilanti. Central heating and cooling are controlled throughout the day and night at pre-set temperatures by an automatic thermostat. Outdoor lighting is automatically turned on at night and shut off in the morning by photocell controlled switches. An unwelcome intruder needs to work fast because police arrive within two or three minutes after motion sensors activate a central burglar alarm system which automatically dials the police station. If a fire breaks out the fire department is called by the automatic dialer on the central alarm system. We have our

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choice of watching movies originating from a video cassette recorder or from a cable station that receives the signal from an orbiting satellite. We listen to music originating from a compact disc which is "tracked" by a laser beam only one millionth of a meter wide.

The telephone is answered automatically and callers can leave messages that can be retrieved from the telephone in my office here at EMU, or at any other remote telephone station anywhere in the country. Our home computer can be used to make airline reservations, purchase computer equipment, or access data bases in my office here at Eastern or from a wide variety of data bases throughout the country which are affiliated with our network information subscription service. A computer treadmill and rower helps keep me in shape by computing pulse rate, distance traveled, speed, and number of calories burned while exercising. That is quite a contrast to that rural house that I moved out of just 44 years ago.

Now let's look at the future. In approximately eleven years I expect to retire and build a retirement home somewhere in Michigan. In these next eleven years there will be more advances in technology and more changes taking place in our society than in the 44 years since I moved out of that rural home. In eleven years the fourth generation of computers will have arrived, which will probably be thousands of times more powerful than the third generation computers being released this year. In our retirement home a single central computer will undoubtedly control all of the technological systems in the home. The computer will talk to us and respond to our voice commands, it will print out the latest news direct from the wire services or will provide a verbal capsule of the news while you are getting dressed or eating. We will probably be able to dictate entire letters into the computer and have them electronically mailed to their destination. Banking, shopping and travel accommodations

will all be accomplished on the home computer system. Although I expect to be retired it is predicted that a significant part of our population at that time will work at home and have total access to the data bases at their local company offices and at other company locations throughout the world. Consider the potential changes in the home when it becomes a combination living and work environment for large segments of our population.

I'm certain that everyone will agree that our generation has been unbelievably successful at developing and implementing technological innovations. This is true not just in the home but in all the major activities which form the techno-economic base of our society. Technological advances in communications and transportation already developed and implemented have reduced the entire world into a single global community. However, our generation has not been nearly as successful at dealing with the complex interrelationships and impacts of advanced technological systems with each other and with social, political, economic and behavioral systems and in dealing with our rapidly accelerating rate of change. Let me give you some examples:

1. The leadership of the United States was instrumental in rebuilding the entire economic and technological base of the western world after World War II – but just recently technology and the acceleration of change shifted the United States position within three years from the world's largest creditor nation to the largest debtor nation. In 1986 our balance of payments deficit in the United States reached over 170 billion dollars.
2. Technological advances in communications, manufacturing and transportation enable us to buy automobiles from the dealer next door that were manufactured halfway around the world – but major disruptions in our work force resulting from this international trade are



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continuing and we have not seen the last of plant closings and unemployment in our own automobile industries here in Michigan.

3. Advances in agricultural technology have given us the ability to produce enough food to easily feed all the people on earth - but we pay farmers not to grow food when we have starving people in many places throughout the world.

4. Technological advances have enabled us to build space ships that take us to the moon in protective environmental suits and capsules - but we haven't solved the problems related to pollution of the atmosphere, the land or the sea here on earth.

5. We have developed the technological capability for people to travel around the world in hours - but we can't stop a handful of terrorists from making that travel undesirable for the citizens of many countries.

6. Our nuclear power plants and our space vehicles are outstanding examples of how complex multiple technological systems can be integrated into super systems to achieve here-to-for unattainable goals - but the Chernobyl and Challenger disasters give mute testimony to the fact that we must make sure in the future that we fully understand how these complex systems interact and impact each other.

7. Advances in communications technology have made instant millionaires out of boxers, baseball players, musicians, and actors - but we still pay beginning teachers of our children wages just above the poverty level.

8. We have extended the life of the elderly - but over 75 percent of hospital costs in this country are spent on the last 90 days of the life of elderly people while millions of young people do not have adequate doctor and hospital care.

9. We have developed the medical

technology which allows for surrogate motherhood - but we haven't begun to solve the social and behavioral issues which result from these advances nor have we even begun to discuss predicted future advances in medical technology that are certain to involve far greater moral and ethical issues.

10. We have developed sophisticated educational technology that provides 360 degree "artificial reality" that is so realistic that simulated flight training makes even veteran fliers airsick - but in major cities like Detroit we still have close to 80 percent drop out rates for ninth grade males prior to graduation.

11. Advances in medical technology have enabled us to conduct research which has proven that smoking one pack of cigarettes a day will shorten your life by eight years - but we still spend significant amounts of public money to support the tobacco industry.

12. We've developed military weapons that have the potential for destroying the human race many times over - but we haven't done very well in resolving the major differences between political systems that will be essential to any kind of global disarmament program.

13. I believe that everyone would agree that our times demand a more concerned and involved citizenry than ever before - but instant communications has allowed the outcome of elections to be predicted before major sections of the country even vote and the 1986 congressional elections brought out the lowest voter turn-out in more than 40 years.

The list of unresolved problems related to technological advances and the accelerating rate of change goes on and on. Many social forecasters believe we are currently caught between two major eras, the industrial era of the past and the information era of the future, but that we are neither here nor there. We have not quite left be-

hind the self-contained, self sufficient, industrialized America of the past nor have we quite reached the global information age of the future.

If the social forecasters are correct the goal of your generation must be to redirect and reconstruct our political, social and economic systems so they can effectively control and direct technology in the information age. To achieve this goal your generation must not only become and remain literate about the major issues related to technology and change but must be willing to participate in our political and social processes.

There will be no easy or permanent solutions because the accelerating rate of change in the information age will require a continuing reassessment of public policies and social perspectives. Two things are certain: 1) technological innovation will continue to occur; and 2) the rate of change will continue to accelerate. Our only solution as a society is to plan ahead for new developments in technology rather than to react to technological innovations after they have been implemented.

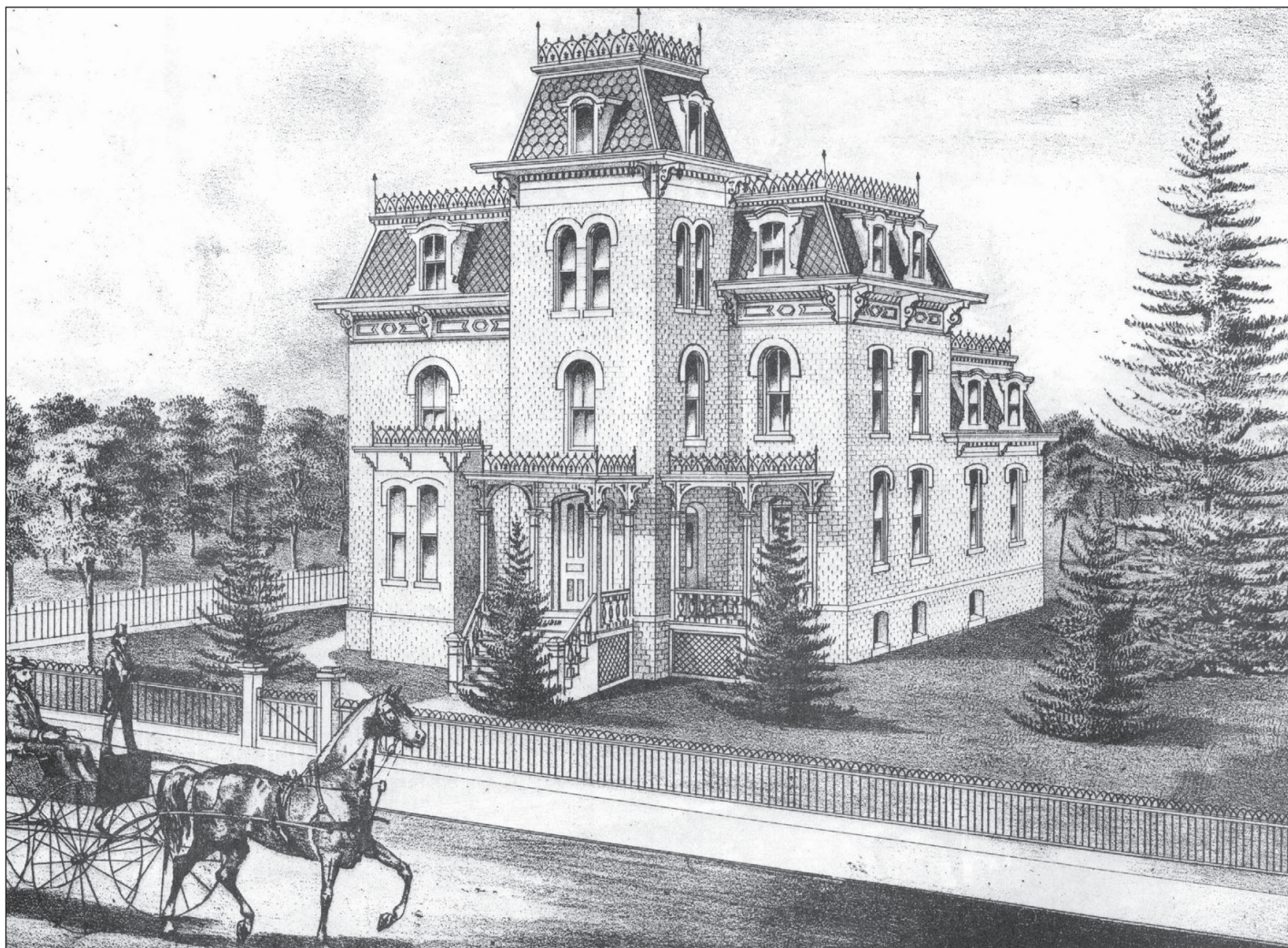
Technological innovation now and in the future has tremendous potential for improving the quality of our life here on earth. However, your generation must do a far better job than we have done in planning ahead for that future. I know I can speak for all of us here today as I extend our best wishes to each of you as individuals and to your entire generation as we move into the global information era.

As a final note I might add that advances in medical technology will enable us old timers to be around quite a bit longer than past generations. We'll be looking over your shoulders to see how you are doing.

On behalf of all of us here today I extend to you, our graduates, our sincere congratulations and our very best wishes.

Thank You.





One of the two Second Empire style homes built by the Worden brothers on the south side of East Michigan Avenue, between Water and River Streets.

# Worden Brothers, Whip Sockets and Homes

BY JAMES MANN

Once there were three brothers named Worden with first names Alva, John and Chauncey, and each owned a beautiful Second Empire style house on Congress Street, now East Michigan Avenue. The brothers could afford these homes because of the self-adjusting whip holder. Now, there is no trace of them or their homes.

The Worden brothers were born in Batavia, New York and with the family moved to a farm in Superior Township in 1827. At the age of 20, Alva, the oldest of the brothers, moved to Ypsilanti, where he learned the tinner's trade. *"He began business in a tin shop which finally expanded into a general hardware store, which he finally sold, and after two years respite, became interested in the shoe business,"* noted *The Ypsilantian* of Thursday, January 23, 1902. *"Alva Worden,"* the account continued, *"was distinguished for his inventive genius, having received some 30 patents from the government. He invented a method for joining sections of stovepipe, from which he made his first money. A machine for making fly nets for horses from leather was*

*another valuable patent."*

Then on October 22, 1867, patent No. 70,075 was granted to Alva Worden and Henry M. Curbs for an *"improvement in self-adjusting whip holder."* He continued in the shoe business until the manufacture of whip sockets expanded as an enterprise. Then in 1868, Alva, with his brothers John and Chauncey opened a factory at 110 North River Street in a building previously used as the Methodist church.

*"The iron whip socket,"* noted the *Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Friday, March 26, 1926, *"which was fastened at the center and loose at both the top and bottom so that when the whip was put in, it was shut in tightly and yet when pulled slightly by the hand the socket would open at the top and make removal of the whip easy, had a tremendous vogue—in one year over \$40,000 worth were shipped from here."*

By 1873 Alva and his brother John built Second Empire-styled homes with mansard roofs and tall towers next door to each other on the south side of East Michigan Avenue, between



Water and River Streets. Chauncey had his Second Empire styled house, minus the tall tower, across the street on the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and River Street, where the KFC stands today. Then in July of 1880 a man named Anson Searles sued the Worden family for patent infringement.

*"Mr. Worden lost his case in the state court," reported The Ypsilantian, "and an attempt was made by Searles to strip him of everything he possessed, even levying upon his horses and household furniture, but Mr. Worden knew he was right and appealed to the supreme court and won. Searles had no property upon which Mr. Worden could recover and so the matter was dropped after the suit had cost him \$60,000."*

The case was argued before the United States Supreme Court on March 17, 1887, and decided on March 18, 1887. By now cheaper whip sockets were on the market. His brother Chauncey had died on April 12, 1876, of typhoid pneumonia at the age of 49. Chauncey's widow Elvira continued to live in their home until her passing in the early 1900's. The house was demolished long ago. John Worden died on December 12, 1899, at the age of 69. His wife Mary Ann died April 7, 1917. Alva Worden had married Della Haven in 1868, and they had a son named John. The couple adopted a son named Frank.

*"Alva Worden," noted The Daily Ypsilanti Press, "was a striking figure, tall, slender, erect, with a flowing mustache and abundant iron grey hair."*

*"Mr. Worden was an active man," noted The Washtenaw Times, of January 19, 1902, "Even in his later years and every summer accompanied his son Frank to the north woods to look up Birdseye maple. Last summer, over 80 years old as he was, he walked 8 or 12 miles a day."*

*"He was about town as usual Fri-*



Chauncey Worden built this Second Empire styled house on the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and River Street, where the KFC stands today.

*day," reported the Ypsilanti Sentinel-Commercial of Thursday, January 23, 1902, "and when called next morning at 7:35 he responded: 'Yes, I'm coming.' In a few moments his son heard a noise and went into his room and found him dying in his chair. He was all dressed but his shoes. His death was immediate and was occasioned by paralysis."*

All of the members of the families are interned at Highland Cemetery.

The house of Alva Worden was later

turned into a boarding house. It was demolished in 1926 to make room for the Dodge Dealership of Joseph H. Thompson. Later this became the Ypsilanti Press building. This has since been demolished.

The house of John Worden stood until 1974, when it was demolished. Today, nothing remains to show the Worden family was ever here.

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






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# A Charge of Slander

BY JAMES MANN

At about 6:00 p.m. of Wednesday, April 30, 1913, Mary Perkins was called to the telephone and informed that a warrant for her arrest had been issued on the charge of slander. The complaint was made by Mildred Everest, formerly a student at the Michigan State Normal College, now Eastern Michigan University. Mildred Everest claimed Perkins had cast aspersions on her character, and had said she *"runs an undesirable house at Ann Arbor; that her house was taken off the rooming list on account of it being undesirable, and that boys and girls behaved awfully in her house."* She further claimed that Everest *"swore and used profane language."*

Perkins went to the office of Justice of the Peace Marvin Stadtmiller at once, accompanied by Grace Fuller, the Dean of Women at the Normal College. The next afternoon Normal College President Charles McKenny issued a statement: *"This is the outcome of an unfortunate condition which existed in one of the boarding houses during the fall term. Miss Everest, who brings suit, was a student in the Normal during the fall term, but was not admitted in the winter term. Miss Perkins is a student in good standing in the college, is a teacher of eight years experience and has the respect of the college faculty. Her friends in the college will see that she has all needed assistance in this matter."* The house in question was a boarding house in Ann Arbor run by Everest and another woman on the corner of East University and College Street.

The case came to trial before Justice Stadtmiller on the morning of Saturday, May 17, 1913. The first order of business was to choose the jury. This was a long process that took up the morning hours and continued into the afternoon. The attorney for Miss Everest fought over every point in the selection of the jury. He objected to placing W. S. Putman on the jury, claiming he had relatives who had been teachers at the Normal. This, said Brown, would prejudice the case. The court disagreed and Putman was placed in the jury pool, but was dropped when the panel was reduced from eighteen to six.

*"The little courtroom in the Savings Bank Building was overflowing with witnesses, interested parties and hangers on long before the time set for the trial. President McKenny of the Normal and Dean Fuller were both in attendance, while the spectators were principally giggling students. Finally the jam in the court became so great that the justice announced the trial would be moved to the council chambers and the cavalcade moved over there,"* reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Saturday, May 17, 1913.

*"The task of rounding up the jury after it had been selected was even a bigger task,"* noted the account. *"The officer could not locate the men and he spent most of the morning trying to reach them. Meanwhile the spectators and others*

*gathered in little knots and talked the thing over. As usual, there were factions and although they did not clash the discussion among themselves was most heated."* As they waited for the members of the jury to be found Miss Everest sat in a chair next to her attorney. Miss Perkins spent the time mingling with her many friends in the room.

President McKenny said he felt the case was rather trivial and it would be better for all concerned if it were dropped. He asked the brother of Miss Everest if it could be settled out of court. The brother told President McKenny he thought it would have to go on, regardless of what occurred.

When the jury was finally assembled the trial began. *"Miss Everest's complaint was based mainly on evidence obtained by Miss Corrine Childs, a detective of the Dyer Detective agency, in Detroit, who came down to Ypsilanti and interviewed Miss Perkins. Miss Childs pretended that she was a teacher from Birmingham, who had to leave and was looking for a substitute. She represented that she had been directed to Miss Everest, and asked what Miss Perkins thought of her as a teacher. Miss Perkins said she had heard Miss Everest swear, and that Miss Everest had run a house in Ann Arbor where she rented rooms to students, who behaved in a most disorderly fashion,"* reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Monday, May 19, 1913.

Witnesses who testified on behalf of Miss Everest said they had never heard her use profane language. Then witnesses who testified on behalf of Miss Perkins said they had heard Miss Everest curse, and gave the words they said they had heard her use. Miss Perkins testified that what she had said about the boarding house in Ann Arbor run by Miss Everest was what Miss Everest had told her. *"President McKenny and Dean Grace Fuller both testified to the good character of the defendant. President McKenny said that Miss Everest had been expelled from school because of the unsatisfactory character of her work,"* noted the account.

The case went to the jury at eight that night, with no recess for supper. The jury returned after five minutes with a verdict of not guilty on the charge of slander. Miss Everest had to pay court costs, which were a total of \$39.07. This was not the end of the matter.

Miss Everest, having lost the slander suit against Mary Perkins, went on to institute a law suit against Edwin R. Chapman, who had been a witness in the trial for Miss Perkins. In her suit, Miss Everest claimed Chapman had spread slander which was seriously injurious to her reputation, good name, social standing, future and her ability to earn money. She further claimed it was partly through the efforts of Mr. Chapman that she was dismissed from the Normal College. Chapman, alleged Miss Everest, had referred to her as an animal, a crazy person and as one no one would want to asso-



ciate. *"One of the charges she prefers is that he has made use of an hypnotic power he is reputed to possess, to gain influence over President McKenny and Dean Grace Fuller, of the Normal, among other officials, and to have exerted that influence for the purpose of having her dismissed from the college,"* reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Wednesday, June 18, 1913.

The second trial was held before the Washtenaw County Circuit Court at Ann Arbor, in October of 1913. This trial was primarily concerned with her time as a student at the Normal College, and her stay at a house in Ypsilanti. During her time at the Normal College, Miss Everest had stayed at the boarding house of Elizabeth West at 914 West Congress Street. Her room was across the hall from Mr. Edwin Chapman, the superintendent of schools in Pinconning, and his wife. Miss Everest testified on the afternoon of Thursday, October 16, 1913. She said with some hesitancy that she was thirty years of age, and a prominent member of the Y. W. C. A. in Ypsilanti. Miss Everest said she had been deprived of an education with which she could have earned at least \$800 a year.

Miss Everest said Mr. Chapman had circulated stories about her concerning her character, sanity and language. Because of this, she said, the other girls in the house had formed cliques against her, and would not associate with her. This to the extent that people on the street would point at her and say, *"That's her, she ought not to be allowed to stay in college."* *"She said that the girls would stand apart from her in the hall and whisper, that they shunned her and then refused to associate with her at any time. She said she heard students on the street say, 'Is that girl here yet, I should think they would run her in,' and 'That's her, she crazy,' all of which was caused by the stories that had been circulated about her,"* reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Friday,

October 17, 1913.

Miss Everest further said that Mrs. Chapman would play rag time music on the piano to annoy her. She said she knew Mrs. Chapman was a conservatory student and was only annoyed by her playing on the piano late at night.

On Friday, October 17 a Henry Lichtig, who had been a senior literary student at the University of Michigan, but had taken up the study of medicine, told of living at the Everest house in Ann Arbor. Lichtig said he had known Miss Everest while staying at the house of her parents. He said he had heard her use vile and profane language. When asked to repeat some of the words Miss Everest had used, he turned to the judge and asked that the women in the court room be given time to leave the room before he did so. After this was done he repeated a series of unprintable terms he had said she had used. Lichtig told the court, *"She said she would shoot us all as soon as the weather turned warm."*

On one occasion, Lichtig said, Miss Everest had come into his room and without warning had thrown a wastebasket at his roommate, hitting the roommate on the head. One morning, continued Lichtig, he had met Miss Everest in the hall, and she accused him of discussing her affairs, and then hit him over the head with a club she had hidden behind her. Miss Everest, according to Lichtig, had called men at the university a *"low lot"* who mistreated girls and left the girls without protection. They were not fit to live, and she would like to shoot them all.

Lichtig and his roommate left the Everest house quietly. When others decided to leave, and Miss Everest heard of it, she would try to make them stay. Once, when a student tried to leave, Miss Everest sat on a trunk until one in the morning, to prevent it from being moved. Grace Fuller, the Dean of Women at the Normal College told of her experience with Miss Everest. She first turned her attention seriously to Miss Everest when her name, with



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some forty other students, had been brought before the faculty because of poor work. The decision was made to suggest to Miss Everest that she drop one subject. Then, Miss Everest could successfully complete her course. *"She said Miss Everest became greatly excited when she was advised of the decision of the faculty and declared that she was being 'picked on' and that she was receiving the same kind of unfair treatment in Ypsilanti that she had received at the University,"* noted the account. *"Dean Fuller,"* the account continued, *"decided then to investigate the record of Miss Everest and wrote to her brothers, one a lawyer in Grand Rapids and the other a professor in Frankfort, asking them why her work was poor and if they considered her mentally fitted to teach a school. They replied that they did not believe she was mentally fitted to teach and care for children."*

Dean Fuller said she heard of the profane habits of Miss Everest after she had received the letters from her brothers. She discussed the matter over with President McKenny, and it was decided that Miss Everest should withdraw from the Normal at once. Mrs. Chapman said that on one occasion Miss Everest had said, *"You will have to stop that playing, you make me so nervous that my arms pain me."* After this Mrs. Chapman said she never played anything she thought Miss Everest might find objectionable.

Edwin Chapman said he had heard Miss Everest swear and threaten to use poison on someone. Chapman said he was concerned as to the effect such threats would have on his wife, who was then in a *"delicate condition"*. He insisted he never had called her immoral or unchaste. *"He could not leave the West house, without giving his reasons for so doing to the faculty of the Normal, and that when he had been sent for, he did go and tell his story to President McKenny,"* reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Saturday, October 18, 1913.

President McKenny testified that after

*Dean Fuller said she heard of the profane habits of Miss Everest after she had received the letters from her brothers. She discussed the matter over with President McKenny, and it was decided that Miss Everest should withdraw from the Normal at once.*

his conversation with Mr. Chapman he had an investigation started not only at the Normal but elsewhere. Miss Everest was not dismissed from the Normal because of the stories told by Mr. Chapman, said President McKenny. He asked the court for permission to make a statement to make clear that Miss Everest was dismissed after the faculty at the Normal had completed a full inquiry. Permission was granted, but Brown, the attorney for Miss Everest, protested so excitedly the judge turned down the request.

*"Miss Elizabeth West, of Ypsilanti, in whose house these concerned in the suit roomed last year, swore that because of the stories circulated by Mr. Chapman her girl roomers became so afraid of Miss Everest that they locked their doors and kept revolvers loaded. Miss West testified glowingly of Miss Everest's character,"* noted the account. *"A number of character witnesses were introduced for the defense today but it developed in every case that none of the witnesses who had a good word for Miss Everest's character and habits, were intimately acquainted with her,"* the account noted. The testimony was completed on the afternoon of Friday, October 17, 1913. This was followed by the closing arguments of the attorneys.

*"Attorney Lee Brown opened the argument to the jury, by intimating that in as much as Edwin Chapman,*

*defendant, had acknowledged on the stand that he had cretin hypnotic powers, that it was very possible he had exercised these powers over girls rooming in the West house, causing them to believe they had heard Miss Everest swear, and use vile language, when she had not been guilty of so doing. He discredited the student witnesses from the university who had testified that they had heard vile and profane remarks made by Miss Everest and said their testimony was given for spit, because Miss Everest had complained to the university faculty of their action while roomers in her mother's home. He asked that his client be given a verdict with money attending as well as a vindication of character,"* reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Saturday, October 18, 1913. Brown called on the jury to award Miss Everest every cent of the \$10,000 she asked for.

Mr. Roach, attorney for Chapman, pointed out the disadvantage of a slander case when a man was pitted against a woman. He revived the history of the case and made clear points of the testimony the members of the jury might have missed.

The final argument was made by Attorney A. J. Sawyer, who compared the life of Miss Everest to a broken shaft in a cemetery. This, he said was symbolic of a life cut in half. A part of her life had died, and that part was her reputation. He called Chapman the murderer of Miss Everest's good name. *"We may ruin our own good name,"* said Sawyer, *"and have but ourselves to blame, but the man is damnable who determinedly ruins a girl's reputation, who compels her to become a subject for remarks in the street or in cars, to be shunned wherever she may happen to mingle with her follows,--because of stories he has circulated as to her sanity and her morals."* When the arguments were done, the judge admonished the jury not to talk of the case, or allow anyone to talk of it in their presence. He then dismissed the jury until nine in the



morning of the following Monday.

All through the arguments the cause of Mrs. Chapman's delicate condition, three month old Victoria Elaine Chapman, lay in her cab and smiled on all who passed by. On Monday, October 20, 1913, the jury reconvened and after seven hours and fifteen minutes of deliberations reached a verdict in favor of Miss Everest. The jury awarded her \$400, of this \$150 for her hurt feelings and \$250 which the jury determined she might have earned after a lifetime of teaching.

Miss Everest and her friends celebrated her victory.

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

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