

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



WINTER 2019

Banking Institutions & Banknotes of Ypsilanti



A \$3 Advertising Note issued by J.H. Sampson, manufacturer of tin and copper ware who had a business on Cross Street.

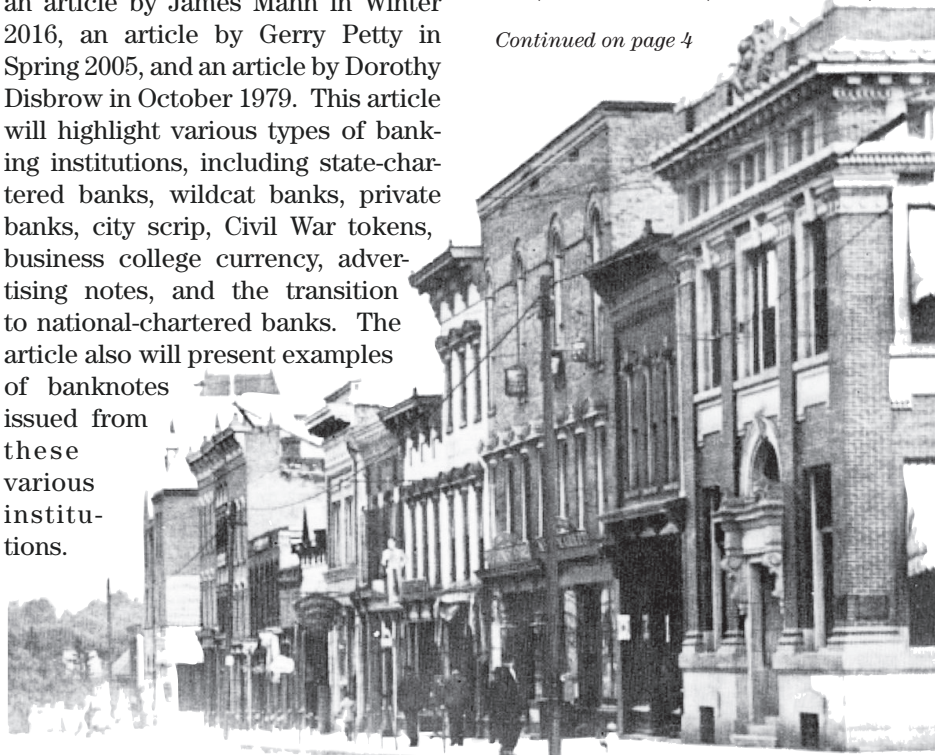
BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

Ypsilanti has an interesting history of banks and the banking industry. Previous articles in the *Gleanings* have covered various topics about these early banks, including an article by James Mann in Winter 2016, an article by Gerry Petty in Spring 2005, and an article by Dorothy Disbrow in October 1979. This article will highlight various types of banking institutions, including state-chartered banks, wildcat banks, private banks, city scrip, Civil War tokens, business college currency, advertising notes, and the transition to national-chartered banks. The article also will present examples of banknotes issued from these various institutions.

State-Chartered Banks: Prior to 1863, community banks and currency were not backed by the “full faith of the United States Government.” Instead, banking institutions were authorized by acts of state legislatures. Eighteen banks in the state of Michigan were chartered by Legislative Council or the State Legislature between 1827 and 1836, including Ypsilanti’s first bank, the Bank of Ypsilanti. Some of these banks proved to be legitimate business enterprises, but the majority lacked capital and experience to stay afloat.

The Bank of Ypsilanti was chartered through a special act of the Michigan State Legislature, approved on March 28, 1836. Timothy Treadwell was the President, and David Ballantine was the Cashier. Other officers of the bank included Henry Compton, Arden Ballard, Marcus Lane, Mark Norris, Silas

Continued on page 4



Ypsilanti Savings building is on the far left and the National Bank of Ypsilanti building is on the far right.

In This Issue...

Banking Institutions and Banknotes of Ypsilanti.....	1
By Robert Anschuetz	
Tucker Family: Automobiles	12
By Lindsay Dascola	
A River Street Home Built by a World-Class Craftsman – 633 River Street	16
By Janice Anschuetz	
St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery	21
By James Mann	
Murder at the Depot.....	23
By James Mann	
A Wild Ride.....	29
By James Mann	
Always the Unexpected that Happens	30
By James Mann	

Society Briefs

From the President’s Desk.....	2
Society Board Members	2
Contact Information	2
Gleanings Staff	2
Acquisitions	9
Museum Board Report.....	9
Gleanings Sponsors	30
Membership Application	31
Advertising Application	31



www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

Ypsilanti HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Trustees:

Jim Curran, Maria Davis,
Pattie Harrington, Rick Katon,
Gerald Jennings, Marcia McCrary,
Bill Nickels, Alvin Rudisill,
Tom Warner, Bette Warren,
Daneen Zureich

Museum Advisory Board:

Kathleen Campbell, Jim Curran,
Virginia Davis-Brown,
David Mongson, Louise Nagle,
Fofie Pappas, John Stewart,
Nancy Taylor, Daneen Zureich

Archives Advisory Board:

Courtney Beattie, Kelly Beattie,
Kim Clarke, Maria Davis, Rick Katon,
Alvin Rudisill, Louise Schmaltz,
Bette Warren

Endowment Fund Advisory Board:

Don Loppnow, Bill Nickels,
Alvin Rudisill, Bette Warren

Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Museum: 734.482.4990

Archives: 734.217.8236

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

GLEANINGS Staff

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

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

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY BILL NICKELS

After an interruption for Halloween Cemetery Tours, James Mann has resumed his 7:00 PM Friday night movies in the Archives at 220 North Huron. They will continue through the winter with a brief interruption for James' December Cemetery Tours. Check the museum Facebook page for details.

With four copies of our award winning *Gleanings* publication received during the year, membership in YHS makes a valued holiday present for present Ypsilantians and those who have moved away. A membership form for new members is included on page 31 in this issue.

The Museum Advisory Board spent several November days decorating the museum for the holidays and YHS's annual "*Holiday Open House*" scheduled this year for Sunday December 8th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. With refreshments and neighbors, this event is a way of experiencing a holiday afternoon in 19th Century Ypsilanti. Bringing visiting friends and family members to see the holiday decorations is also a treat for everybody. The museum will continue to be open 2 to 5 Tuesday through Sunday, closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

Let me make a serious correction from my September President's Report – it was Nancy Wheeler who decided it was time to resign as Chair of the Museum Advisory Board and Board of Trustee membership. It was Nancy Wheeler who trained new do-



Entry to the museum decorated for the holidays. cents, planned new displays, scheduled museum maintenance projects, scheduled and staffed the museum for tour groups, filled in for docents, and assumed a docent shift herself. Now, after a major move in her life, it is good news that Nancy Wheeler is coming back and volunteering in a variety of ad hoc ways.

I incorrectly gave Nancy Taylor credit for all of this. We are pleased that Nancy Taylor is a new member of the Museum Advisory Board.

As many of our members know, Karen Nickels died on September 15. She was both my wife and longtime museum volunteer. She was first elected to YHS's Board of Trustees in 1996,



MUSEUM
734 482-4990
yhs.museum@gmail.com

ARCHIVES
734 217-8236
yhs.archives@gmail.com

220 North Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

election to YHS Treasurer followed in 1998. She served in both capacities until she gave them up in 2016 because of her illness. She took pride in being responsible for furniture placement and flower displays throughout the museum. As a retired elementary school teacher, with Nancy Wheeler, she enjoyed planning and assembling museum displays. Their last display in the Children's Room titled "Two Centuries of Reading" was completed earlier this year and will continue for a short time. While I experience the sorrow from loss of my wife and part-

ner for 56 years, YHS is fortunate that Daneen Zureich and Nancy Taylor will exceptionally fill Karen and Nancy Wheeler's void.

My family and I want to specially THANK the many people who contributed money to YHS in memory of Karen, the over \$3,500 continues to grow. On October 17, the Board of Trustees honored Karen by naming the Formal Parlor the "Karen Nickels Formal Parlor."

I wish everybody a happy and joyous Holiday Season.



Ladies Literary Club

218 N. Washington Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
www.ladiesliteraryclub.org

Rent our historic 1842 Greek Revival Clubhouse for showers, receptions, business meetings, club meetings and family gatherings.

For more information visit our website or call 734-482-7615.



The picture and caption that now hangs in the "Karen Nickels Formal Parlor.



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

ypsireal.com

French, and Grove Spenser. The initial capital stock of the bank was \$100,000 and two months after its incorporation, the bank was open for business. In 1837, Benjamin Follett succeeded David Ballantine as Cashier of the bank. The bank was a valuable asset for Ypsilanti businesses and residences as the city began to grow. The bank was viable for three strong years, and had enough public confidence that the notes issued from the bank circulated as far West as Chicago. Eventually, control of the bank passed into other hands, and after a year of mismanagement, the Attorney General of Michigan placed the Bank of Ypsilanti into bankruptcy.



Civil War tokens were issued between 1861 and 1864.

Banknotes from early community banks were printed by national print shops with similar graphics and vignettes used on currency across the United States. Local banks were able to choose vignettes that reflected the community and would impress and instill confidence in their customers and clients. These early banknotes had no printing on their backs, but were sometimes stamped with an advertisement.

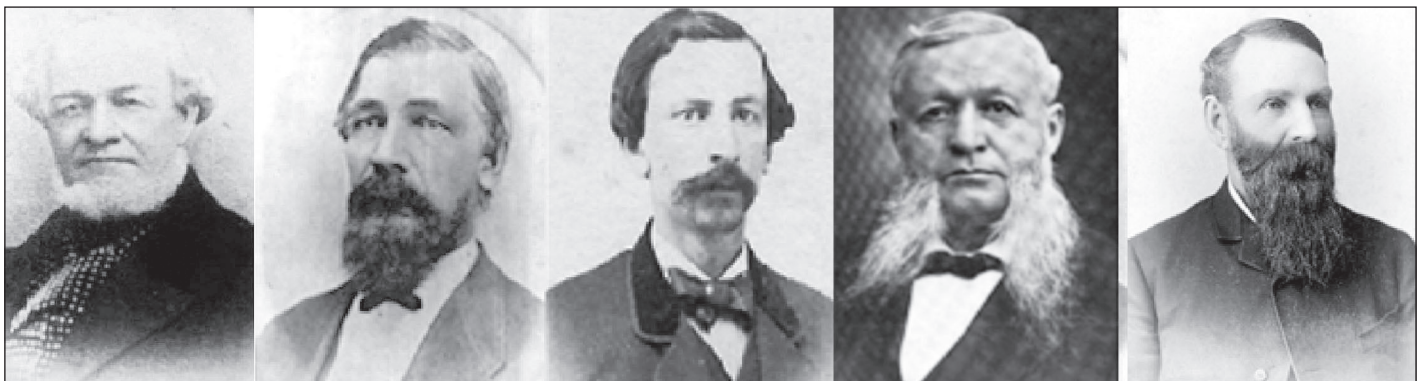
The Bank of Ypsilanti issued \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5, \$10, \$20, and \$50 denominations with three different currency signature combinations of the President and Cashier: D. Ballentine & T. Tredwell, Benj. Follett & T. Tredwell, and B. Follett & T. Tredwell. A total of \$700,000 worth of banknotes were printed, but many of these notes did not get into circulation as evidenced by thousands of uncut sheets discovered by the bank receivers when the bank went out of business. The reported circulation in 1838 was \$108,760. Some notes were known to have been adorned with an advertisement from Crafts J. Wright's Exchange Office, Cincinnati, Ohio. The notes were printed by Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, New York.

There were several banks in Michigan that were backed by railroads, since many railroad and insurance companies obtained banking privileges from the state of Michigan. One such bank was the Monroe & Ypsilanti Bank, based out of

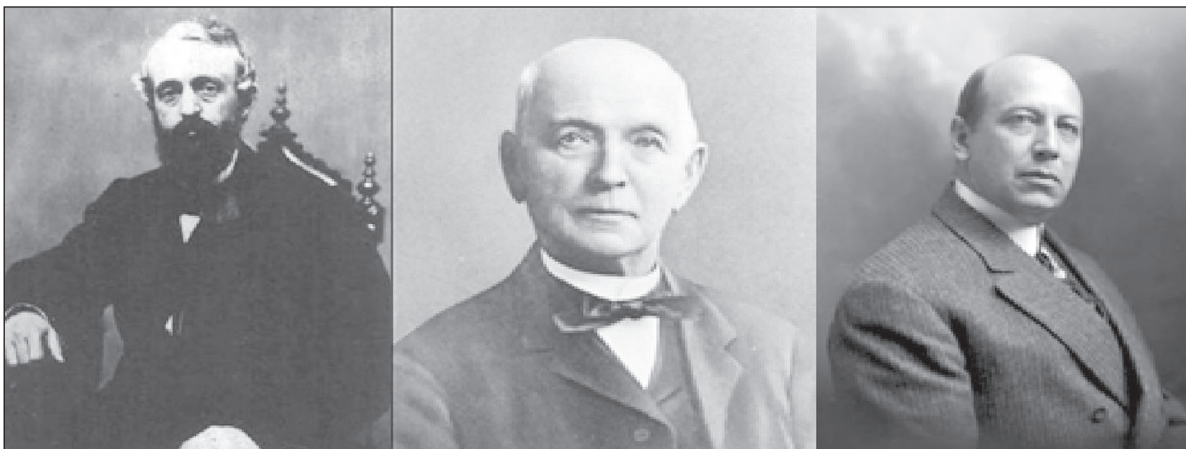
the town of Brest in Monroe County. Although this bank was not based in Ypsilanti, it has Ypsilanti in the name of the bank. This bank was chartered by the State Legislature on March 28, 1836, the same day as the Bank of Ypsilanti. The bank had a capital of \$400,000. The President was Lewis Godard, and the Secretary was Philo Rawson. This bank closed in 1838 and the railroad was never built. Lewis Godard and Philo Rawson bilked so many people out of their money that the following resolution was passed at a citizen's meeting in Ypsilanti in 1839.

"RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this meeting that Lewis Godard MAY JUSTLY BE CONSIDERED THE KING OF SWINDLERS, and that Theodore Romeyn was the tool or agent of Godard for the negotiation and purchase of said stock, and that P.S. Rawson, confidential clerk of Lewis Godard, in absence of honest men, lent himself and was made the prominent agent in conducting the fraudulent transactions of said bank, in connection with John Griswold of Detroit. And the repeated declarations of said Romeyn, Rawson and Griswold that the stock was designed for Eastern Capitalists, were made for the purpose of giving currency to their notes, and deceiving an unsuspecting community, will find an excuse only in the principle that actuates the highway robber, or the midnight thief."

One person who lost a lot of money investing in Lewis Godard's banking interests was Major John Gilbert, Sr. Janice Anschuetz wrote about this in the article *The Gilbert Family – Part I* in the *Gleanings* Spring 2013. Gilbert was the first village president of Ypsilanti, and was one of the wealthiest men in Ypsilanti. Gilbert's daughter, Emily, had been married to Lewis Godard's brother, Abel Godard. John Gilbert and Abel Godard had jointly invested in the Huron Mills flour mill on the Huron River near Water Street and the



Local Ypsilanti individuals involved in the establishment of banks included Arden Ballard, Edgar Bogardus, F.P. Bogardus, Robert Hemphill, and Don Batchelder.



Local Ypsilanti individuals involved in the banking business included Benjamin Follett, Daniel Quirk Sr, and Daniel Quirk Jr.

present-day Michigan Avenue. Through a series of bad business shipping, hotel, and railroad investments, he quickly lost his fortune. A final business investment brought him down from wealthy and powerful, to penniless. In this dealing, Gilbert invested not only all the money he had, but money obtained by mortgaging his extensive property holdings, including the mill. This money was used to purchase shares in the Monroe & Ypsilanti Railroad Co. issued by Abel Godard's brother, Lewis Godard. Gilbert depleted his own wealth in order to pay back shares of worthless banknotes that had been acquired by his fellow citizens in the name of goodwill and to spare the reputation of his family. By 1840 John Gilbert's mortgages were called in and his dreams for wealth and prosperity were shattered. He lost control of the Huron Mills and most of his land holdings.

The Monroe & Ypsilanti Railroad Co. issued \$1, \$2, \$3, and \$5 denominations with currency signatures of P.S. Rawson & L. Godard. The notes were printed by Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, New York.

Wildcat Banks: The state of Michigan's General Banking Law of March 15, 1837 opened the gates to numerous "wildcat" banks within the state. It is speculated that two Washtenaw County citizens, Samuel Foster and John Holden of Scio, may have sparked the establishment of the new banking regulations. Foster and Holden had trouble borrowing money from a Detroit bank, and they petitioned the Michigan state legislature to establish new banking regulations which made it easier for the common citizen to gain access to money. The state legislature addressed the banking issues and attempted to make it easier for banks to open and provide necessary loans and savings to businesses and citi-



E. & F.P. Bogardus established a private bank on Congress Street on May 1, 1860. The bank merged into the First National Bank in February, 1867.



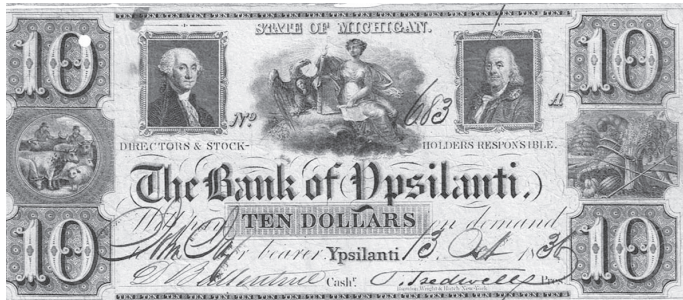
Two wildcat banks in the Ypsilanti area were organized under the General Banking Law of 1837, including The Huron River Bank and the Bank of Superior.

zens alike. Through the General Banking Law, banks could use real estate holdings to supplement cash in order to raise capital. This led to many more banks opening, but it really only led to massive misrepresentation of the solvency of the banks. Real estate became the key to bank ownership, so scrupulous businessmen created fictitious real estate ventures and even entire villages. In Washtenaw County, there were several such villages created on paper but not so much in reality, including Barton, Sharon, Windham, Harford, and the Saratoga of Michigan.

The term "wildcat" was first applied to associations organized under the Michigan general banking law of 1837, and later applied to all state-chartered banks as well. Often times, banks did not possess enough assets to balance their capital claims, which ultimately led to the demise of these types of "wildcat" banks

and the formation of a federally-backed system. Proof of bank capital was often moved in barrels of money from one bank to another, just before auditors would arrive. Oftentimes, the barrels were filled with nails or other worthless metal in the bottom halves of the barrels, so they would seem heavy enough for the auditors to think that they were full of gold and silver coins. The origin of the term "wildcat" is debated. The term may have been created because many of these banks were located in the wilderness, and proved as dangerous as wildcats. Another theory is that some of the banknotes issued by these banks were engraved with lions, tigers, or panthers. Others theorize that bounties for the killing of bobcats, lynx, and panthers were paid with legal tender certificates, which were called "wildcat certificates."

The scrupulous manner in which these "wildcat" banks operated can be summed up in Harold Bowen's *Obsolete Banknotes and Early Scrip of Michigan*.



A banknote from The Bank of Ypsilanti.

Fifty-five banking associations were organized in a little more than a year. Most of them used borrowed cash, specie certificates, or worthless mortgages in place of actual capital. Many associations were in remote and inaccessible localities, in busy cities that existed only on paper. Spies watched the commissioners, and money went by fast team to banks due for examination. Sometimes this "capital" came in the back door as a commissioner entered the front. On April 3, 1838, the General Banking Law was suspended, but the damage had been done. Failure succeeded failure, and chartered banks collapsed with the wild cats. Some died a natural death, while others were deliberately wrecked.

Following the suspension of The General Banking Law in 1838, the law was ultimately declared unconstitutional in 1845. On February 15, 1857, the Michigan State Legislature passed a new and improved banking law, but state-chartered banks would not survive much longer as United States chartered banks were soon to be authorized. Nonetheless, in the middle of the 19th Century, Washtenaw County had the most banking towns of any county in the state of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Manchester, Saline, Sharon, Superior, and Ypsilanti all had at least one bank in town. Two wildcat banks in the Ypsilanti area were organized under the General Banking Law of 1837, including The Huron River Bank and the Bank of Superior.

The Huron River Bank was organized on January 8, 1838 with capital of \$100,000. The stockholders were Arden Ballard, Henry Compton, James Edmunds, Gilbert Shattuck, Richard Morse, and Leonard Osgood. Arden Ballard was the President, and Myron Hall was the Cashier. The bank prospered for about one and a half years until it went into bankruptcy in 1839.

The Huron River Bank issued \$1 and \$2 denominations with currency signatures of M.V. Hall & A.H. Ballard. \$42,000 worth of banknotes were printed. The reported circulation in 1838 was \$3,327. Some notes were known to have been adorned with the advertisement of D.J. Campau's Store, Detroit. The notes were printed by Underwood, Bald, Spencer & Hufty, New York & Philadelphia.



The First National Bank of Ypsilanti - 1863 Series Large Size National Currency.

The next wildcat bank in the vicinity of Ypsilanti was The Bank of Superior which was organized in the village of Lowell in the town of Superior, one mile west of Ypsilanti. The bank was organized on January 8, 1838 with a capital of \$100,000. The Directors of the Bank of Superior were John VanFossen, President, and James Edmunds, Cashier. Arden Ballard and A. Wilbur were other stockholders in the bank. Citizens of Ypsilanti were already suspicious of the banks' real estate capital, and after 300 banknotes were stolen and put into circulation, the bank quickly went out of business.

A letter from Timothy Tredwell, President of the Bank of Ypsilanti, to John Norton, Jr., Cashier of the Michigan State Bank, shows that he had some influence in deciding on the appearance of the banknotes that would be issued by The Bank of Superior.

October 26, 1837

Dear Sir,

Your favor of 23d is on hand. The name fixed upon for the Bank at Lowell is "The Bank of Superior" that being the name of the TOWN. The Bill is to be dated "SUPERIOR". I would advise one plate as you suggest of two 1's & 2 & 3. The Books will be opened 28th next month, the application having been regularly made. Get a real furioso plate – one that will TAKE with all creation – flaming with cupids, Locomotives, rural scenery & Hercules kicking the world over! I shall call on you in a few days on my way to Buffalo, and meantime am in great haste.

*Yours truly,
T. Tredwell*

Let the Bills be of large size.

Tredwell's directions for the banknotes were followed, and the notes were delivered as described. The Bank of Superior issued \$1, \$2, and \$3 denominations with currency signatures of J.M. Edmunds & Jno. Van Fossen. 6,006 sheets of currency were printed, with a value of \$42,042. The reported circulation in 1838 was \$199. The notes were printed by Underwood, Bald, Spencer & Hufty, New York & Philadelphia.

Private Banks: Several other private banking interests were formed in Ypsilanti in the 1850's through the 1870's.

E. & F.P Bogardus was established on Congress Street on May 1, 1860 by Edgar Bogardus and Francis Pembrook Bogardus. The bank merged into the First National Bank in February, 1867.

Follett, Conklin & Co. was established in the Depot Building in 1852 with a capital of \$600 by Benjamin Follett, Isaac N. Conklin, and Samuel V. Denton. It was succeeded by B. Follett & Co. in 1862.

B. Follett & Co was established on Cross Street in 1862 by Benjamin Follett and Robert W. Hemphill. It was succeeded by Cornwell, Hemphill & Company in 1865.

Cornwell, Hemphill & Co. was established at the corner of Congress & Huron Streets in 1865 by Cornelius Cornwell, Robert W. Hemphill, and Clark Cornwell. It closed in 1877.

Millington & Morton was established in 1852 by C. Millington and Jonathan G. Morton. It became C. Millington in 1856.

C. Millington was established in 1856 by C. Millington. It closed in 1857.

A.H. Smith was established in a grocery store on Cross Street by Alonzo H. Smith. It became Smith & Hutchinson in 1872.

Hemphill, Batchelder & Co. was established in 1879 by Robert Hemphill and Don Batchelder. The Ypsilanti Savings Bank was formed from this company in 1887.

City Scrip: The city of Ypsilanti issued a 10 cent note with a date of October 13, 1865. The note was signed by John McCready.

Civil War Tokens: Civil War tokens were privately minted and issued between 1861-1864, primarily in the Northeast and Midwest. The widespread use of the tokens was a result of the scarcity of government-issued cents during the Civil War. At least two such token varieties were issued in Ypsilanti, with advertising on the back for the E. Hewitt & Bro. Dry Goods and Showerman & Bro. Dry Goods.

Business College Currency: Cleary College issued a \$500 note in 1880.

Advertising Notes: Some local Ypsilanti businesses issued advertisement notes. J.H. Sampson, manufacturer of tin and copper ware had a business on Cross Street. His company issued a \$3 advertising note.

National-Chartered Banks: To correct the problems of the largely unregulated bankers, the United States Congress passed the National Bank Acts of 1863 and 1864, which created the United States National Banking System and provided for a system of banks to be chartered by the federal government. The National Bank Act established the development of a national currency backed by bank holdings of U.S. Treasury securities. For a period of time, both local and national currency were accepted in transactions, but as the public lost faith in local currency, national currency took hold.

The first and only bank in Ypsilanti that was chartered by the National Bank Act was the First National Bank of Ypsilanti. This institution was just the 155th federally-backed bank in the United States. The letter authorizing the bank to commence operation from Hugh McCulloch, United States Comptroller of the Currency, reads as follows:

*Treasury Department
Office of the Currency
Washington, December 14, 1863*

Whereas: By Satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear that "The First National Bank of Ypsilanti" in the county of Washtenaw and State of Michigan has been duly organized under and according to the requirements of the act of Congress entitled, "An Act to Provide a National Currency". Secured by a pledge of the United States Stocks and provide for the Circulation and Redemption thereof approved February 24, 1863 and has complied with all the revisions of said act required to be complied with before commencing the business of banking. Now there, I, Hugh McCulloch, Comptroller of the Currency, do hereby certify, that the said First National Bank of Ypsilanti, County of Washtenaw and State of Michigan is authorized to commence the business of Banking under the act aforesaid. In testimony whereof, witness my hand and seal of



The First National Bank of Ypsilanti - 1875 Series Large Size National Currency.



The First National Bank of Ypsilanti - 1882 Series Large Size National Currency.

M#CH#GAN

LADDER COMPANY

America's Oldest Ladder Manufacturer, Since 1901

A family-owned company and the only ladder manufacturer to make fiberglass, wood, and aluminum ladders in the USA.



www.michiganladder.com



**An Ypsilanti
Favorite
Since 1972**

39 E. Cross Street in Depot Town &
2122 Whittaker Road in Ypsilanti Township

**Hand-Crafted
Pizza**

**Diverse Grill
Menu**

**Party Space &
Catering**

Delivery

aubrees.com

Museum Advisory Board Report

BY JIM CURRAN

The museum is all decorated with loving care with donated and treasured items. Many thanks to the Museum Advisory Board members and their museum friends who did the decorating. The efforts were for the most part organized and directed by our Nancy Wheeler.

We also had “our team” consisting of six members of Eastern Michigan University’s baseball team who carried the many decoration containers from the third to the first floor. Further the team members worked with Professor Gerald Jennings to set up the tree and connect all the many strands

of lights. Thanks Jerry and members of the “Team.” We couldn’t have done it without all of you.

Museum board members are in the process of sorting many items that have been donated and other items that have been offered to be added to our display options. These items are very much appreciated but mainly because of limited space we are being selective. The first consideration is the item’s association to Ypsilanti and our heritage. Thanks to all of the donors for thinking about the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.



Holiday decorations at the museum.

Archive Acquisitions — Fall 2019

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.

Number	Date Received	Name of Donor	Disposition Date and Initials
HSA-2019-29	08/27/19	Russ Kenyon	Webpage Design Book
HSA-2019-30	09/26/19	Tom Warner	1901, 1902 & 1906 Ypsi Dixit, Ypsi Sem and Newspapers
HSA-2019-31	10/19/19	Eve Heidtmann	1800's Textbooks printed in Ypsilanti
HSA-2019-32	10/23/19	Dave Wheeler	Photos and Ypsilanti postcards
HSA-2019-33	09/25/19	Duane Lau	Newspaper articles on Dr. Breakey
HSA-2019-34	08/17/19	Peter Diehr	Emanuel Lutheran Church records, photos, pamphlets and more.



The First National Bank of Ypsilanti - 1902 Series Large Size National Currency.

office this fourteenth day of December, 1863.

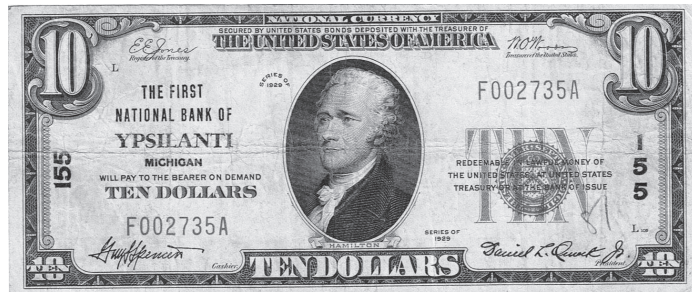
HUGH McCULLOCH

Comptroller of the Currency

The First National Bank of Ypsilanti opened on January 5, 1864 with a capital of \$62,500. The President of the Bank was Asa Dow, the Vice President was Daniel Lace Quirk, and the Cashier was Benjamin Follett. Directors of the bank also included Robert Hemphill, Cornelius Cornwell, and Isaac Conklin. It is interesting to note that many of these gentlemen had been involved with other banking institutions in the city of Ypsilanti. Successive presidents of The First National Bank of Ypsilanti following Asa Dow were Isaac Conklin, Daniel Quirk Sr., and Daniel Quirk Jr.

Banknotes from the early days of the national banking era were issued in several different forms: Gold Certificates, Silver Certificates, Interest Bearing Notes, Compound Interest Treasury Notes, Refunding Certificates, Treasury Notes, Demand Notes, United States Notes, and National Currency. All of these notes are still redeemable to this day, no matter the age. However, old currency notes are worth much more to collectors than their face value so it doesn't make sense to spend or cash them in. The one exception to the notes being still redeemable is with Gold Certificates. When the United States went off the gold standard, Gold Certificates were no longer redeemable and, in fact, illegal to own. However, an exemption was made for collectors so it is now legal to own Gold Certificates, but they are not redeemable as legal tender.

Banks chartered by the National Bank Act were authorized to issue banknotes known as National Currency. In an at-



The First National Bank of Ypsilanti - 1929 Series Small Size National Currency.

tempt to bridge the security provided by the U.S. Treasury with the comfort level of a local bank, National Currency was issued with the name of the chartered bank printed on them. The currency was printed in Washington, D.C., but distributed to the community from the local bank. The general look and vignettes on the front and back of the notes were consistent between banks around the country, but the title of the bank, the font and style of the bank name, and the signatures of the bank President and Cashier were unique to each bank. National Currency has the federal signatures of the U.S. Treasurer and U.S. Register of the Treasury, and also the local signatures of the President of the bank and the Cashier of the bank.

There were several different series of National Currency available in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100. The First National Bank of Ypsilanti only issued \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, and \$20 notes, and did not issue \$50 or \$100 notes. National Currency series were issued in 1863, 1875, 1882, 1902, and 1929. In addition, the 1902 issues had three sub-series, and the 1929 issues had two sub-series. The First National Bank of Ypsilanti issued notes in each of the series. The 1929 series were the same size as banknotes issued to this day, whereas the earlier series were about 25% larger.

Over a 71 year period from 1863 to 1933, the First National Bank of Ypsilanti issued \$2,806,740 dollars' worth of national currency. Currency was printed in sheets of four notes and included the name of the bank and signatures of the Ypsilanti bank officers. The signatures of the Register of the Treasury and the Treasurer of the United States were pre-printed on the banknotes when they arrived from Washington, D.C. The First National Bank of Ypsilanti President



A Huron River Bank Banknote.



A Monroe and Ypsilanti Rail Road Company Banknote.

and Cashier signed their names, or their names were stamped, on the bills when they arrived at the bank. Also, the bills were cut from the sheets of four into individual notes at this time. During its lifespan, The National Bank of Ypsilanti issued 21 different combinations of series and denominations of national currency.

The following large size notes were printed for the National Bank of Ypsilanti: 3,500 sheets of 3x\$1/1x\$21863 original series notes, 6,950 sheets of \$5 1863 original series notes, 4,285 sheets of \$5 series of 1875 series notes, 8,862 sheets of \$5 1882 brown back series notes, 493 sheets of 3x\$10/1x\$20 1882 brown back series notes, 1,300 sheets of \$5 1902 red seal notes, 1,050 sheets of 3x\$10/1x\$20 1902 red seal notes, 5,000 sheets of \$5 1902 blue seal date back notes, 3,900 sheets of 3x\$10/1x\$20 1902 blue seal date back notes, 24,845 sheets of \$5 1902 blue seal plain back notes, 14,260 sheets of 3x\$10/1x\$20 1902 blue seal plain back notes.

The following small size notes were printed for the National Bank of Ypsilanti: 6,028 sheets of Type1 1929 \$5 national bank notes, 3,188 sheets of Type1 1929 \$10 national bank notes, 856 sheets of Type1 1929 \$20 national bank notes, 312 sheets of Type 2 1929 \$5 national bank notes, 225 sheets of Type 2 1929 \$10 national bank notes, and 30 sheets of Type 2 1929 \$20 national bank notes.

When the First National Bank of Ypsilanti went into receivership on Oc-

tober 26, 1933, all but \$150,000 of the \$2,806,740 notes had been redeemed and exchanged for newly issued Federal Reserve Notes. Of this total, \$7,380 large notes were not redeemed. Many of these notes that went unredeemed ended up being redeemed years later as they were found in attics and old pocketbooks, since they remain legal currency to this day. Other notes ended up in the hands of collectors.

National Currency notes are very beautifully decorated on both the front and back, and are truly works of art. Today, examples of National Currency from The First National Bank of Ypsilanti are especially valuable to collectors who try to complete sets of National Currency notes with city names starting with each letter of the alphabet, with "Y" being a rare specimen.

References:

Anschuetz, Janice, *The Gilbert Family – Part I, Ypsilanti Gleanings*, Spring 2013

Bowen, Harold L., *Obsolete Banknotes and Early Scrip of Michigan*, 1985

Colburn, Harvey C., *The Story of Ypsilanti*, 1923

Disbrow, Dorothy: *Early History of the Banks of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Gleanings*, October 1979

Kelly, Don C., *National Bank Notes*, 1997

Mann, James: *Broken, The First National Bank Building, Ypsilanti Gleanings*, Winter 2016

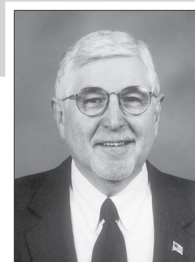
Petty, Gerry: *Broken, Obsolete and Wildcat Banknotes, Ypsilanti Gleanings*, Spring 2005

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti and is a regular contributor to the *Gleanings*.)



Ypsilanti Savings Bank and The First National Bank of Ypsilanti.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Les Heddle, AAMS
Financial Advisor

2058 Washtenaw Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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

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

HAAB'S RESTAURANT

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



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

Haabs@provide.net
www.HaabsRestaurant.com



Tucker referred to his car as the "Torpedo on Wheels."

Tucker Family: Automobiles

BY LINDSAY DASCOLA

Preston Tucker was a very innovative person for his time. The inventor of the "Tucker Torpedo," he created and introduced many new and important features into cars, that are still used today.



Preston Tucker was the inventor of the "Tucker Torpedo."

Tucker was born on a peppermint farm in Capac, Michigan on September 21, 1903. He was raised by his mother in Lincoln Park, Michigan, after his father died when he was two. Even growing up, Tucker was obsessed with cars. He learned to drive at the age of eleven, and began buying and repairing late models of cars. He even dropped out of Cass Technical High School to become the office boy at the Cadillac Motor Company. Being the innovator that he was, as office boy he rode around on roller skates to get around the building quicker. Still with his love of cars and driving, Tucker joined the Lincoln Park police department at the age of nineteen in order to ride in and drive the fast police vehicles. It was his mother who reported that he was below the age requirement, and the Lincoln Park police removed him from the force.

Tucker married Vera Fuqua in 1923 at the age of twenty. He and Vera leased a gas station for six months together. During these six months, Tucker worked on the assembly line at the Ford Motor Company while Vera worked the gas station. It was also during this time Tucker also became a cars salesman. He met Michael Dulian who hired him as a car salesman at his Detroit dealership. After Tucker and Vera's first

six months together, their lease on the gas station ran out and Tucker was tired of the long commutes to the dealership, so he left the assembly line and dealership jobs and re-joined the police force where he was quickly banned from operating police vehicles. Shortly after, Tucker moved to Memphis, Tennessee with his old friend Delian to work as a sales manager. After a few years, Tucker became the general sales manager for the John T. Fisher Motor Company, today known as Chrysler. This is where Tucker was connected with the Pierce-Arrow Motor Car Company. It was in 1933 that Tucker moved to Buffalo, New York where he became the regional sales manager for the Pierce-Arrow Motor Car Company. Tucker and Vera only stayed in New York for two years. They shortly moved back to Detroit, where Preston became a salesman for Dodge.

In 1935, Preston and a friend, Henry Miller, created a race car company, Miller and Tucker, in Indianapolis. Tucker and Vera had moved to Indianapolis earlier to be closer to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Henry Ford commissioned their new company to fix up ten Ford V-8 racers. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to test their inventions, and the racers dropped out of the race. Tucker and Miller continued their company until Miller's death in 1943.

When World War II ended in 1945, Tucker saw an opportunity to develop his car design, the Car of Tomorrow. American markets at this point were craving new car designs. He was set on designing his new car with safety features, but still having innovative features and style as well. The first design was published in 1946 by Science Illustrated, and showed his car with a hydraulic drive system and futuristic features. Tucker called this car the "Torpedo on Wheels."

Tucker's prototype was finished by Alex Tremulis, who Tucker hired on December 24, 1946. He gave Tremulis only six days to finish the designs of the car. Tremulis' designs were approved by Tucker on December 31, 1946. He decided to call the car the Tucker '48. In 1947, full page advertisements were running in national newspapers for the Tucker '48 outlining the futuristic features, and the public was excited.

Tucker Export Corporation was formed, based in New York, to handle all worldwide sales. This Corporation was led by a well-rounded group of car enthusiasts with excellent industry background, and selected by himself. In July of 1946, Tucker with his Corporation were able to acquire the Dodge Chicago Aircraft Engine Plant located in Chicago, which was well known for being the largest factory building in the world. With a year delay in moving into the factory, Tucker kept the development of the car going in Michigan. He hoped to produce 60,000 cars in a year at 140 each day in the first four months, and continuing with 300 cars produced each day thereafter.

Unfortunately, Tucker faced another

setback. His bids to obtain steel mills, in order to produce raw materials, were rejected. He had many big ideas for the Tucker '48, but due to costs, many of these ideas did not make it into the prototypes that were produced. In order to secure supply engines to the cars, Tucker bought Aircooled Motors, which produced the aircraft engines he wanted for his cars.

Tucker took no federal money to start his corporation and produce his cars. Unfortunately, the Securities and Exchange commission was very hard on small upstarting automakers like Tucker. Tucker had the idea to sell accessories for the Tucker '48 before the cars were put into production. This led to a formal investigation by the SEC. How this worked was that people could buy Tucker accessories for the Tucker '48, and would receive a guaranteed spot on a dealership's waiting list for the car. Preston also sold dealerships for an asking price of between \$7,500 to \$30,000 each prior to production. By the time of the trial, there were over 2,000 dealerships sold.



The "Tucker Family Display" currently set up in the YHS Museum.

Accepting New Patients!

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

Stop by and visit. We provide professional family dental care with an emphasis on prevention. If you are new to the area, please check out our website for a map and directions to our office.



**Kimberly
RICE**
DDS, PLC
FAMILY
DENTISTRY



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

www.kimberlyricedds.com
kimberly@kimberlyricedds.com

The chairman of the Tucker Corporation board of directors, Harry Aubrey Toulmin, Jr., resigned. Toulmin wrote a letter to the SEC in an attempt to distance himself from Tucker. Within this letter, Toulmin suggested that he quit because of the way Tucker utilized the funds produced from sale of stock, as well as suggested that the Tucker '48 did not run. Tucker replaced Toulmin as the chairman himself.

Tucker handed his Corporation over to the SEC in 1949, and in February the grand jury investigation began. On June 10, 1949, six Corporation executives and Tucker were charged with 1 count of conspiracy to defraud, 5 counts of violations of the SEC regulations and 25 counts of mail fraud. Tucker viewed these charges as ridiculous, and he wanted the opportunity to tell their side of the story. The factory was closed on October 4th, 1949, the same day the trial began. By then,

only 37 cars had been built, but a few employees returned to finish producing another 13 cars, bring the total up to 50 cars produced total.

Throughout the trial, the government asserted that Tucker never had plans to build any cars. Former employees were brought in as witnesses to outline the methods Tucker used to develop the car. There was back and forth between the defense and prosecution until November of that year. The trial continued after Christmas that year, into January of 1950. Upon concluding the SEC's witnesses, Tucker's defense attorneys refused to call any witness to the stand. His defense attorney stated, "It is impossible to present a defense when there has been no offense." It was on January 22, 1950 with 28 hours of deliberation that the jury found Tucker not guilty on any counts accused. Unfortunately, the Corporation now faced incredible debt, no

factory, and lawsuits from dealers regarding delays in production.

Preston was still very optimistic after the trial. The Tucker Corporation assets were auctioned off, but two remaining Tucker '48 cars were given to Tucker himself and his mother. Tucker continued to work with cars. He worked with Alexis de Sakhnoffsky to build a sport car called Carioca, but it was never developed. Tucker was diagnosed with lung cancer and died of pneumonia on December 26, 1956 at age 53. He is buried in Flat Rock, Michigan at Michigan Memorial Park.

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum has a display on the Tucker family in the Ypsilanti Room. Be sure to stop by and take a look!

(Lindsay Dascola is a student in the graduate program in Historical Preservation at EMU and is serving as an Intern at the YHS Museum.)

Thomas C. Manchester

—Attorney at Law—

218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



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

Concentrating in

**Real Estate, Business,
Probate and Wills and Trusts.**

tom@mackmanlaw.com

Antiques & Architectural Elements since 1974

**Materials
Unlimited.com**

RE use
design
store
cycle
purpose



Present this ad for
20% off*
your purchase

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

*Discount applied to regular priced items Check us out on



Ypsilanti Digitizing Services

Digitizing of VHS, VHS-S, VHS-C
and Mini DV Cassettes

Cassettes degrade over time.
Don't lose precious memories
on old analogue media!

For further information, email
ypsilantidigiservices@outlook.com



Ypsilanti Special

\$99

Radon Testing
(reg. \$150)

Safe at home.

Should radon be on your radar?

Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless radioactive gas that seeps into homes from underground, becoming trapped inside. Any home may have a radon problem – new or old, drafty or tight, with or without a basement.

Why test for radon?

- **In Michigan, one in four homes is expected to have a radon problem, and in some counties as many as 40-50% of the homes could have problems.**
- **Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, causing about 21,000 deaths per year.**
- **Radon can accumulate to dangerously high levels inside the home, putting your family's health at risk.**

Radon testing is the only way to know if your home is affected. Your professional Pillar To Post Home Inspector will test for unsafe levels of radon inside your home and recommend steps to reduce radon levels if necessary.

Contact us today to have your home tested for radon.



Andy Blum
Certified Home Inspector

734-707-6693
andy.blum@pillartopost.com



pillartopost.com/andyblum

Each office is independently owned and operated.

A River Street Home Built by a World-Class Craftsman

633 North River Street

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ

This is another story in the River Street Saga series that I am writing about people and places in the few short blocks that make up amazing River Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan

When a house is happy you can tell. It radiates its energy and reflects the love that is within it. This was not always the case for the house at 633 North River Street. When we moved into our home across the street from it fifty years ago, it was a sad and neglected house with peeling paint, missing roof shingles, and overgrown hedges. Only 20 years ago, I could see 7 empty or deteriorating homes on River Street from my front porch - this is no longer the case. There are no empty homes and I rejoice for the ones that have been brought back to life. The house at 58 East Forest or 633 North River Street (this is a home with two addresses) is now a source of beauty, and the gifted craftsmanship of the original builder shines through. You might find the history of this home and its rise and fall to glory again interesting. I will tell you the story as I have been able to research it.

The information about the early sale of the property demonstrates the greed of investors who snatched up land that had once been Indian territory when it became available for sale at a very cheap price from the federal government in 1823. At that time, Ojibwa and Potawatomi tribes used River Street in their yearly migrations to north-



Lucy Leighton, who died in 1910, was the second wife of Michael H. J. Leighton.

ern Michigan in the summer and on their return south in the Fall because what is now River Street was then one of several branches of the Potawatomi Trail. They sometimes camped on the northeast corner of River Street and Forest Avenue and buried crops of corn around River and Norris Streets. An interesting story of Joseph and Sophia Peck, who owned the land from the River to Prospect and Forest to Holmes is cited in the Gleaning article I wrote about these early pioneers (*Ypsilanti Gleanings* – Summer 2010 “Peckville” <https://aadl.org/ypsigleanings/36313>). This story demonstrates the early pioneers’ friendly relationship with the Native Americans. Indeed, small bands continued this yearly migration until at least 1910 when they used the southeast corner of River Street and Clark Road as their campground. My elderly neighbors, Frank Lidke and Bill Helzerman, now deceased, told me stories of playing baseball with the Indian children when they came through Ypsilanti and remembered that Native American women would trade hand woven baskets for food items including eggs.



If you peek through the high hedges on Forest Avenue at the Leighton house you can see the detail and workmanship in the two identical large windows framing the door with their tasteful but elegant trim.

Washtenaw County records tell us that the land at the southwest corner of River Street and Forest Avenue had many owners before a home was ever built. The first owner was Henry Burlingham who purchased the corner lot from the US government on February 1, 1826 along with Joseph Moss, who was an assign-

ee to Burlingham. Joseph Moss and Rhonda, his wife, sold it to Mark Norris on May 21, 1834. This is an important transaction because when it was sold to Norris, he added this property to the small village of Ypsilanti on November 27, 1834 as part of the Mark Norris addition. Prior to this addition the village was much smaller. On July 24, 1834, Mark and his wife Roccena Norris sold it to Vincen (sic) Beeman.



The house was sold to Pamela Herzog in 2015 when this little gem of a house came alive with a new historic paint job, beautiful gardens, and an artistic rendering of the inside.

On June 5, 1841, Beeman and his wife Phoebe conveyed the deed to Sherman Jacobs. The property again changed hands on February 22, 1845 when a warranty deed was given from Benjamin F. Jacobs and Mary Ann Jacobs, his wife, to Landon D. Camp on February 22, 1845. On July 11, 1845 Landon D. Camp conveyed the deed to Samuel J. Barber. (The original deed on this transaction is in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum archives.) Then, on January 27, 1846 Samuel J. Barber and his wife Nancy convey the deed to Wilkinson Dean and Leander Lake. Leander Lake then conveys the deed to the co-owner Wilkinson Dean on December 10, 1851 and finally Wilkinson Dean and his wife Deborah convey the deed to Michael H. J. Leighton for \$430 on April 13, 1857. Now comes a more interesting part of this tale.

Census and civil war registration records tell us that Michael H. J. Leighton was born in New York in 1825. His wife Lucy was ten years younger than him and was born in New Jersey about 1835. There is a tombstone in Ypsilanti's Union- Udell Cemetery for a Barbury E. Laughton who died on November 9, 1855 stating that she is "the wife

of Michael H. J. Leighton" so we can assume that Lucy is his second wife. Leighton's occupation is listed as a carpenter in census records. We read in his obituary in the Washtenaw Evening Times of Saturday, June 22, 1895 that he lived in Ypsilanti for 40 years, so he would have purchased the vacant lot at approximately the same time that he settled here. His talents, skills and art as a carpenter

shine through in this beautifully proportioned home. If you peek through the high hedges on Forest Avenue, you can see the detail and workmanship in the two identical large windows framing the door with their tasteful but elegant trim. Most likely he used the front part of his house as a showroom for his furniture creations. He also built a workshop on this property. The interior of this home still demonstrates his art and skill in the detailed plaster molding and built-in cupboards. It is now a warm and welcoming home as it must have been when first built.

Close your eyes and imagine that you are either Michael or Lucy Leighton and you are looking out one of the large front windows of your home in 1857. What would you see? This modest home was across River Street from the pillared mansion of Lyman D. Norris, son of Mark and Roccena Norris. The house was also across the street and a block down from the home of the Norris's only daughter, Elviria, and her husband Benjamin Follett, along with their many children and pets. The Follett mansion and grounds, complete with gardens and a fountain driven by a wind mill high on the hill, covered the entire

Historic Depot Town



Linda French
Owner

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

Phone: (734) 483-1035

Fax: (734) 483-1490

ladyfrench@aol.com

www.sidetrackbarandgrill.com

the GILBERT RESIDENCE

Assisted Living/Memory Care/Nursing

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

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

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



southeast block of River Street, from Oak to Maple, and was so spectacular that it was said that people would ride the train from Jackson or Detroit just to view its barn. Directly across Forest Avenue, four Peck family homes were built around 1857 and were occupied by the children of Sophia and Joseph Peck. The Peck sons tended large numbers of sheep, cows, horses, chickens, an orchard, and raised various crops. The family farmland, barns and fields could be seen by Michael and Lucy at the northeast side of Forest Avenue and River Street, as well as the Peck Street Primary which at one time had 99 pupils.

And what type of house did Michael build? I asked advice from historic home experts to identify the style of this house and all agree that it looks like a late Federal/Neoclassical house because of the center entrance and portico. There is a door in the gable end which was common with Greek Revival houses, and from that angle it could be a simple Greek Revival house. The fenestration on the gable end is also unbalanced which seems to indicate that the chimney with inside fireplace was a later addition. The projecting windows on the first-floor look like commercial show windows, so it is likely that Leighton had a showroom for his beautiful furniture at the front of the house.

Leighton's furniture was so finely crafted that one of the inlaid tables he made, containing innumerable pieces, was featured at the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia. This ornate table designed and built by Leighton shared the spotlight with exhibits and inventions such as the right arm of the Statue of Liberty, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, Remington's Typographic Machine (typewriter), Heinz's Ketchup, the precursor to the electric light called Wallace-Farmer Electric Dynamo, and even Charles Hires' Root Beer.

We learn more about Leighton and his courage and consideration to his wife in his obituary and newspaper articles written about his death. June 21, 1895 started out as an ordinary day as Lucy stated to a newspaper reporter. Michael did not seem sad, but the

day ended anything but ordinary. "He left his home at the corner of River and Forest Avenue shortly after dinner and walked over to the business portion of the city. The neighbors saw him return home a little before 4 o'clock. In the meantime Mrs. Leighton had gone away and not returned. He went into the house and wrote a short note bidding his wife goodbye (sic). It was a private note, but its purpose showed that he was despondent and discouraged. The circumstances then showed that he went into the basement of his cabinet shop which is in close proximity to the house and fixed a sort of platform upon which he was afterwards found dead. Then going out, he placed his hat on the fence to (gain) attention as soon as he was missed. From the situation in which he was found, he must have stretched himself out on the platform or bench and placing the gun to the right side of his head he caused the cartridge to explode and the ball passed directly through and came out on the opposite side."

Neighbors were interviewed and "Persons who heard the report state it was about half past 4 o'clock, but nobody suspected that such an awful deed had been committed until Mrs. Leighton had returned an hour and a half later and discovered her dead husband." The article continues to explain that "The deceased had been out of health for the past four or five years and although 69 years of age did not wait for nature to call him to the other world, but hastened the time by his own act."

"Mrs. Leighton was shocked at the deed and stated that by his past actions he could have given no reason to think that he would take his own life. Even yesterday (the day he killed himself) morning he did not appear over despondent and the act was probably not in contemplation long."



The fenestration on the end of the house is unbalanced which seems to indicate that the chimney with inside fireplace was a later addition.

The article describes him as "an expert mechanic and had lived in this community for 40 years. His specialty was cabinet making and his skill was shown in the manufacture of an inlaid table which contained innumerable pieces and which was taken

to the Centennial Exposition of 1876, where it was admired by thousands of people. He was once an alderman from his ward. No children were ever born to him and the only blood relative he leaves is a sister, Mrs. Brown of Hyde, Indiana." I believe that this statement is wrong because I found other people with the surname Leighton, who died after he did, buried in the Union- Udell Cemetery where Michael and Lucy rest in peace.



In 1989 James Leslie, a widower, came back to Ypsilanti to live in his boyhood home.

In the Washtenaw Evening Times of June 24, 1895, we learn that Coroner Barton had summoned a jury to hold an inquest after he had viewed the body. The inquest gave us further information about his death "that Michael Leighton contemplated suicide 24 hours before the deed was committed. On Thursday afternoon the day before he shot himself he stepped into D. C. Griffin's office and had his will drawn up, which rather tends to make one think he had an idea at that time of doing away with himself."

In still another Washtenaw Evening Times article from June 26, 1895 we read that "the jury returned a verdict of suicide. The note which the deceased left for his wife was shown to the jury. In it he stated that he had left a sum of money (which he named) 'up there' and that was all that he could do. He then bid her goodbye and signed his name."

His wife Lucy inherited the house and according to city directories lived there until she sold it for only \$200 on November 7, 1900 to George and Helen Anderson. The price of the land alone without house and workshop was originally purchased by Leighton for \$430 in 1857. George Anderson died on August 21, 1919, and after his widow's death, their son Frank E. Anderson inherited the pretty house. Both George and his son Frank, who lived nearby at 326 Maple Street, were painters. This home remained in the Anderson family for 29 years until Frank Anderson and

his wife Josephine sold the house on October 25, 1929, during the week of the stock market crash, to Paul H. Feldkamp and his wife Gertrude. On September 12, 1942 they sold the house to Maude Leslie, who was born in 1897 and died in 1989. In 1989 her son James Leslie, a widower, came back to Ypsilanti to live in his boyhood home. Af-

ter his death in 2013, his own son and his family moved there to live for a year before it was again sold to Pamela Herzog, a very artistic, creative and skilled woman who brought the neglected little house back to life and happiness.

Fortunately for us, Emma Jackson, a staff reporter for the Ypsilanti Press interviewed Jim Leslie after he returned to his boyhood home to live out the rest of his life. The article dated November 5, 2002, when Jim was 79 gives us a glimpse of his life on River Street as a young man. When Maude Leslie purchased the home during World War II in 1942, her husband Walter had recently died suddenly, leaving her to find a way to support herself and two children, Jim and Dorothy. They moved from Detroit to Ypsilanti and Maude converted the upstairs on the house to living quarters for the small family and started a store in the part facing Forest Avenue.

At that time, there were many stores of all kinds in Depot Town and the downtown area of Ypsilanti and Jim states "We didn't exactly compete with the markets in Depot Town; we had our own clientele. We kept horrendous hours, opening at 7 a.m. and closing at 11 p.m., sometimes seven days a week...Sometimes we would even have people knocking on our door at 2 a.m. wanting beer."

Jim talks frankly about his mother having a tough veneer but he knew another side of her. "She was soft-hearted. A lot of people who came to our store wouldn't have anything to eat at home



Store Hours:

Wed - Fri. 12:30 - 5:30 pm

Sat. 11:30 - 5:30 pm

Sun. 12:30 - 4:00 pm

Mon. (by appointment only)

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

25 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Two Convenient Locations To Serve Your Needs



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



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



The Michael Leighton tombstone in the Union- Udell Cemetery.

and even though they might owe \$25 on their account, she'd still give it to them... She often loaned out small amounts of money." Describing his childhood on River Street, "he still remembers hunting pheasant only a few blocks from his home... trapping muskrats in the Huron River, the smell of wood from the Michigan Ladder Co., soot on the window sills and front porch from the nearby foundry and his long-time ties to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church." His

work in the small store taught him many life lessons and he "learned to do everything in the grocery business. He knew how to cut meat and collect on delinquent accounts."

Jim went on to earn an engineering degree at the University of Michigan and then serve in WWII in the Navy. After the war, he married Kay Joyce, also from Ypsilanti. He founded the J.D. Leslie Co., which sold chemical equipment to industries and was located in Detroit. They raised their four children in Livonia but Jim never lost touch with his Ypsilanti boyhood friends and connections. His mother closed the business in the early 1950's and it again became a home which she shared with her sister living in the River Street side while Maude converted the store part into her home.

When Jim inherited the home, Michael Leighton's workshop (where he shot himself) was still part of the property and had been used by previous owners of the land, including Maude, as a very small rental home which had badly deteriorated over time. I remember the tenants being evicted when the home was condemned with their belongings moved to the curb, and my impression was that their snake aquarium seemed to be bigger than the tiny house. Jim had this structure torn down rather than repair it. He also

had a new roof put on his home and it was painted! Maude refused to paint the house while she lived there as a protest to the chemicals and soot spewing from the smoke stack at nearby Motor Wheel. Jim made many friends while living on River Street and loved to watch the University of Michigan football games with them. He also maintained contact with boyhood friends and was active in his church. He died in 2013 at the age of 91. His son, also named Jim, and family lived into the home for a year and then it was sold to Pamela Herzog in 2015.

This is when this little gem of a house came alive with a new historic paint job, beautiful gardens, and an artistic rendering of the inside which changed the character of the home forever. Even the "added on" fireplace was given a facelift with a historic mantel salvaged from Detroit surrounded by beautiful tiles. The kitchen, which was probably built when Maude Leslie converted the store into a living area, was restored and updated into a cozy space with cabinets and breakfast nook. Herzog and her son worked tirelessly to fix the home. Floors were refinished or replaced, the electrical system was updated, and structural repairs were completed to allow the home to last at least another 100 years. Herzog's artistic flair for color and design, hard work, investment of money, and skilled craftsmanship is evident in its renewal. The house has recently sold again – on the first day it was on the market – and it is ready to welcome a new family who appreciates the workmanship of a master carpenter – Michael H. J. Leighton. His inlaid table was viewed and admired by hundreds of thousands of people at the Centennial Exposition of 1876, and the beautiful home he constructed is now seen and appreciated by the hundreds of people who pass by it each year at the southwest corner of River Street and Forest Avenue. I especially love the large windows on

either side of the front door which remind me of an English village store. The shuttered windows are now radiating the love that has been put into this special home. I can now look at it and instead of an old and tired home that has lost its dignity, I see it sparkling its happiness back at me and the rest of the River Street community.



The house at 213 N. River Street was sold to Mark Norris in 1834 and this property was added to the small village of Ypsilanti in 1834 as part of the Mark Norris addition.



The Blessed Heart of Jesus memorial at the entrance to the cemetery was placed there in memory of Father Frank Kennedy, a pastor of St. John for thirty years.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery

BY JAMES MANN

The Catholic community in Ypsilanti had its beginning in the 1830's, when the first Catholic families settled in the area. This community was small with fifty Catholics out of a population of about one thousand in 1836. Mass was occasionally said by a visiting priest in the home of a member. Over time the community grew, and with the growth in numbers came the problem of what to do with the remains of those who had died. The dead of the community were at first sent to Northville for burial.

Then in 1865 the men of the 14th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment donated \$500 to the Parish, in appreciation for the many acts of kindness they had received from the members of the parish. This money was used to purchase land for use as a cemetery. The site purchased was at the foot of St. John Street and north of West Forest. This is now the site of the Phelps-Sellers Residence Halls, the Dining Commons

and part of Wise and of Buell Resident Halls on the Eastern Michigan University campus. When the cemetery opened, the site included a small building, eight feet square, for use by family members as they stood watch over fresh graves. This was to prevent body snatching, which was then an active trade.

In time the site proved to be too small and a new site was needed. On April 14, 1888, The Ypsilanti Commercial reported: "Owing to the present condition of the St. John's cemetery, the Rev. Father DeBever has purchased for the sum of \$1,400, 14 acres on the corner of River St., and the north line of the township, for a new cemetery. The ground, which is hilly and well suited for the purpose, is directly opposite Highland cemetery. The old ground will bring enough to meet all expenses incurred in buying and improving the new burial place. Father DeBever is to be congratulated in his choice."



This shrine is a gift of the Robert Gillman family, as a memorial to their son and daughter, Fred and Kim, who died in an automobile accident in 1974. The memorial was dedicated in 1975.

The remains were removed from the old cemetery and moved to the new location. The site of the old cemetery was sold by the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, of which Ypsilanti was then a part, to the Michigan State Normal College, now Eastern Michigan University, in 1923.

At the entrance to the cemetery stands the Blessed Heart of Jesus, a memorial

to the memory of Father Frank Kennedy, who had been pastor of St. John for thirty years. This was dedicated in 1923, the year after his death. The memorial stands over the grave of Fr. Kennedy. The graves of other pastors of the parish are in the same lot.

An additional 14 acres for the cemetery was purchased in 1957. On the grounds of the cemetery stands

a shrine with the life size statues of Mary and the Disciple John, standing at the foot of the cross with the figure of the crucified Christ on the cross. The shrine is the gift of the Robert Gillman family, as a memorial to their son and daughter, Fred and Kim, who died in an automobile accident in 1974. The memorial was dedicated in 1975.

In August of 1961, a bulldozer clearing a site on the campus of Eastern Michigan University, about 200 yards north of the Buell-Downing Residence Hall, uncovered a human skull and a large human bone. *"Large pieces of metal and wood, suggested a casket, were found near the bones,"* reported The Detroit News of August 30, 1961. The skull and bones were most likely from a grave that was unmarked at the time when the others were moved from the old cemetery to the new. The report fails to explain what became of the skull and bones.

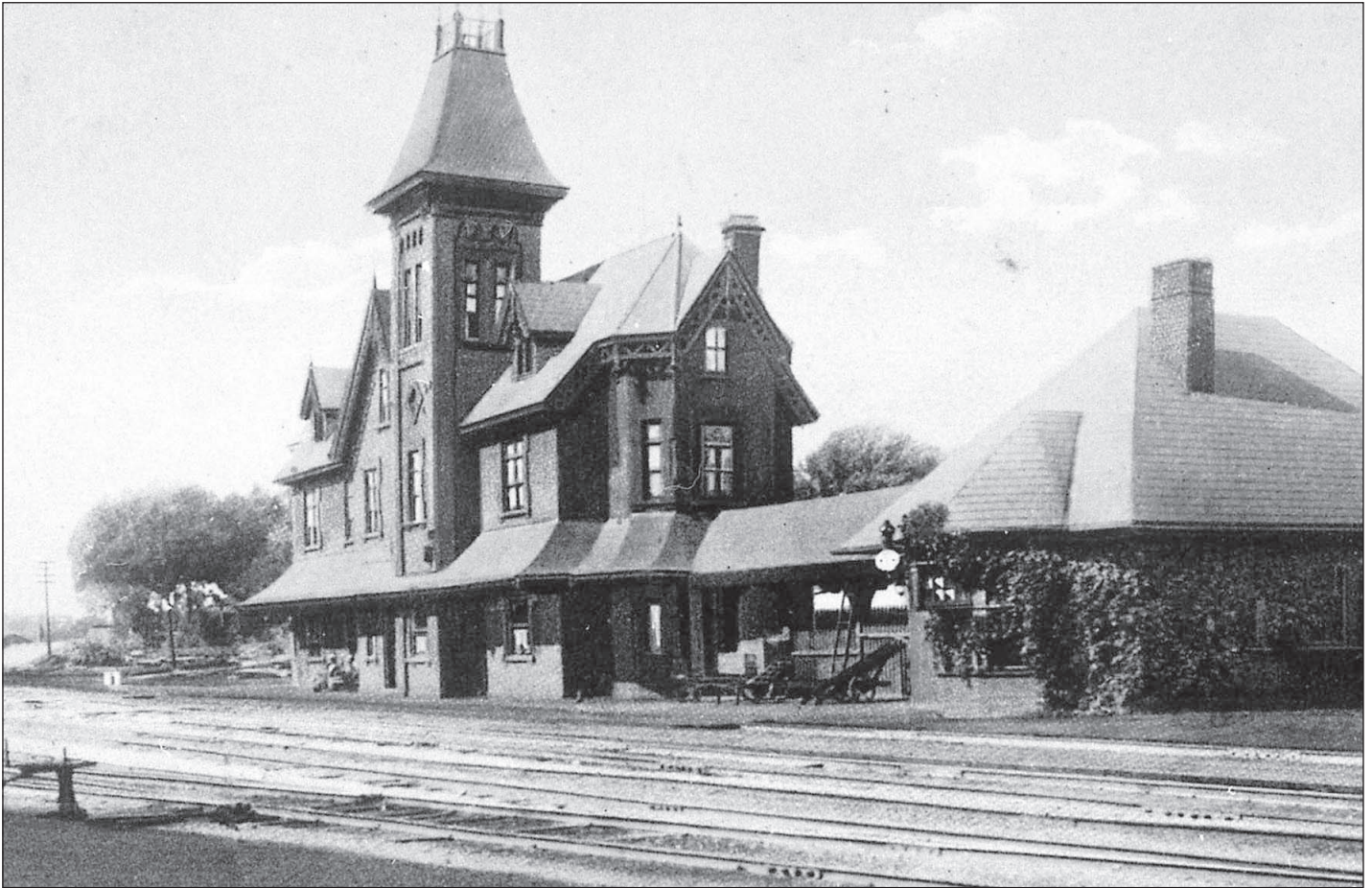
A maintenance crew uncovered a second set of human remains on June 28, 2012. At first, the remains were assumed to be animal remains. Then the members of the crew looked into the side of the trench, and saw the rib cage in the dirt. At this point, the members of the crew decided they needed someone to take a look at this. Anthropologists reported the remains were those of a woman of European descent, and she was between 40 and 60 years of age when she died. *"Along with the bones,"* reported Ann Arbor.com, *"Decaying coffin wood and other burial artifacts, such as copper crosses, were unearthed. Coffin screws indicate that the woman was buried around 1882, according to the anthropologists' November 30 report."* Attempts to identify the remains were unsuccessful. The remains were turned over to the parish. A member of the parish made a box for the remains, which were skeletal, and these were buried in the new cemetery with proper rites. The headstone on the grave notes this is the grave of *"A MOTHER'S DAUGHTER KNOWN ONLY TO GOD."*

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

Like the Ypsilanti Historical Society loves preserving the past.

We love to help.
How can we help you?
boaa.com





The Michigan Center Depot in Depot Town in 1910.

Murder at the Depot

BY JAMES MANN

Robert McCormick was at the Michigan Center Depot in downtown Detroit on the evening of Thursday, January 7, 1910, where he ran into Charles Harrington and Charles Billings, friends he had made in reform school. McCormick had been born in Ypsilanti, but now lived in Detroit with his family. He described his father as kind of lame. At the age of 14 McCormick had been sent to the reform school at Lansing. Now 17 years of age, he had just been released from the school.

McCormick, Harrington and Billings rode the 9:25 pm train from Detroit and arrived at Ypsilanti at 10:15 pm. The three went to the downtown section of the city and stopped in at the waiting room of the Ypsi-Ann, the interurban or street railroad. There they asked the man what time the next car left for Detroit. The man told the three that the next car would leave at 11:15 pm, and that it would be about 15 minutes before it came.

The three left the waiting room and made their way down Congress Street, now Michigan Avenue, and passed the Switzer Brothers Jewelry store. The decision was made by the three to rob the store. The reason for the trip to Ypsilan-

ti from Detroit was to find a place to rob. They had come to Ypsilanti to steal from places before. McCormick, Harrington and Billings went around to the back of the store, and pried open a window by taking out two panes of glass. McCormick and Harrington entered the store, leaving Billings outside to act as watchman.

At about 11:15 pm, William H. Morey, the night watchman was on patrol and entered the alley behind the Switzer Brothers Jewelry store. Morey became suspicious that something was going on when he saw Billings run away down the alley. His suspicions were further confirmed when he found the window to the back of the store broken. Morey entered the store flashing his bulls eye lantern before him. He saw McCormick and Harrington crouching in the rear of the store and shouted, "Hands up."

McCormick and Harrington fired their guns at Morey. The bullet whizzed past Morey's head. Morey now drew his gun and returned fire. One of the young men screamed in pain as he was hit. Harrington had been hit in the wrist. The three exchanged shots until Morey's gun was empty. Now McCormick decided this was no place for him, and he made

The Vincent Law Firm, PC



*Experienced and Aggressive
Trial Attorneys*

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

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

info@VincentLegalServices.com



The Ann Arbor – Ypsilanti Interurban was in operation in 1910.

a break for the door. Harrington must have had the same idea as he made a run for it as well. The two rushed past Morey and escaped through the open door.

Morey now informed Ypsilanti Chief of Police Milo E. Gage of what had happened, as well as Officer Walter H. Pierce and Thomas Ryan. Word of the event was sent throughout the city, and everyone informed was told to be on the lookout for the three. After that, Morey went in search of the three, and three hours later he found Billings at the Michigan Central depot. Billings claimed no knowledge of the attempted robbery. Morey arrested him as a suspect and locked him up in the jail.

After escaping from the jewelry store McCormick and Harrington made their way to a house on Miles Street, where they built a fire to keep warm and hid there until about 5:00 am. The two left the house and made their way to the Michigan Central depot. At the depot the two made their way to the waiting room. They were seen by Henry C. Minor, the night baggage man and Morgan J. Emmett, the night ticket agent. Minor and Emmett had been told to be on the lookout for the two.

At the depot was seven year old Tom O'Brien, a newspaper delivery boy. He was waiting for the arrival of the

morning train and the newspapers from Detroit. Minor asked O'Brien to go into the waiting room and look the two over. O'Brien did as asked and told Minor he had never seen the two before. Minor turned to Emmett and said, "There are our men, let's get them." Minor and Emmett secured revolvers and entered the waiting room. Pointing the revolvers at McCormick and Harrington, they told the two to come with them. Minor took hold of McCormick and Emmett held onto to Harrington, and led them to the doorway of the baggage room. As they entered the doorway McCormick broke away from Minor and ran off. Minor went in pursuit of McCormick, firing his gun as he ran after him. Emmett pushed Harrington into the baggage room.

When Minor returned to the baggage room alone, Emmett asked, "Did you get him?" Minor did not reply but went to the phone and asked the operator to connect him to "Mr. Gage." This was Milo Gage, the Ypsilanti Chief of Police. At his home Chief Gage answered the phone. The operator told him that the party at the depot had left the receiver down and had left the line.

Harrington seated in a chair rose a few inches and pointed his gun upward and shot Emmett. As Harrington started to run, Emmett held onto to him and Minor joined the struggle as well.



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

serving the famous

BOMBER BREAKFAST

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

**2006
Small Business of the Year**
Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce

Open Daily 6 am - 3 pm
306 East Michigan Ave. - Ypsilanti, MI
(734) 482-0550

Open daily 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The three stumbled onto the platform and Harrington cried out, "Help, help Bob. Help me." At this point a shot must have been fired, hitting Minor, as he broke away from the struggle and staggered across the tracks, grasped an iron railing and sank to the ground. Now Harrington broke away from Emmett and ran toward the east. Emmett stumbled into the ticket office.

Tom O'Brien had followed the men to the baggage room, and as the fight had begun, had crouched in a corner of the room. William Morey, the night watch man, was walking down Cross Street when he heard the sounds of the fight. Running toward the depot, Morey turned a corner and stumbled over the body of Minor in a pool of blood. Morey dragged the body of Minor to one side and then rushed into the depot. There he found Emmett crumpled on a bench, but still alive.

Austine Crane and Charles Caine, an ex-policeman, went off in search of the men. Night watchman Morey continued his hunt for the two as well. Officer Walter Pierce went to Cook's livery and secured a rig, and then started east on Michigan Avenue. Several farmers told Pierce they had seen a man making his way down the road. A small boy told Pierce a man had tried

to sell him a revolver for fifty cents. Pierce went as far as Denton and began to make his way back.

Seeing an interurban car approach, he signaled for the motorman to stop. On the car was Harrington, who was nursing his shattered wrist. Harrington was removed from the car and taken back to Ypsilanti. There his wrist was treated by Doctors Britton and Hull.

After the gun battle at the depot, Harrington had stopped at the house of L. H. Pattee, near the depot and claimed he had fallen off a train. Pattee helped Harrington dress his wrist.

Austin Crane and Charles Caine followed the trail of Robert McCormick and found him riding on an interurban car between Willard's Crossing and Denton. Because of his wounds, McCormick was taken to the homeopathic hospital in Ann Arbor. The three had stolen about \$80 worth of fountain pens and inexpensive jewelry from the Switzer Brothers jewelry store, all of which was recovered when Harrington and McCormick were arrested.

McCormick confessed to the murder of Minor, and at first, the authorities believed it was McCormick who had fired the fatal shot into Minor. Mc-



Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti as it looked in 1910.



*Your Local Community
Grocery Store*

*Everyone is welcome at the Co-op!
Come check out what you may be missing right in your own back yard!*

We carry a full line of groceries, ready made deli and bakery items, frozen goods, locally-grown produce, Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate, Michigan beer & wine and so much more!

Looking for something special? Use our Special Order Program to request items we do not carry as well as items in bulk for 20-30% off regular prices.

Open Daily 9 to 9



**312 N River St, Ypsilanti
734-483-1520**

in charming Depot Town

**ALL SHOPPERS WELCOME!!
www.ypsifoodcoop.org**

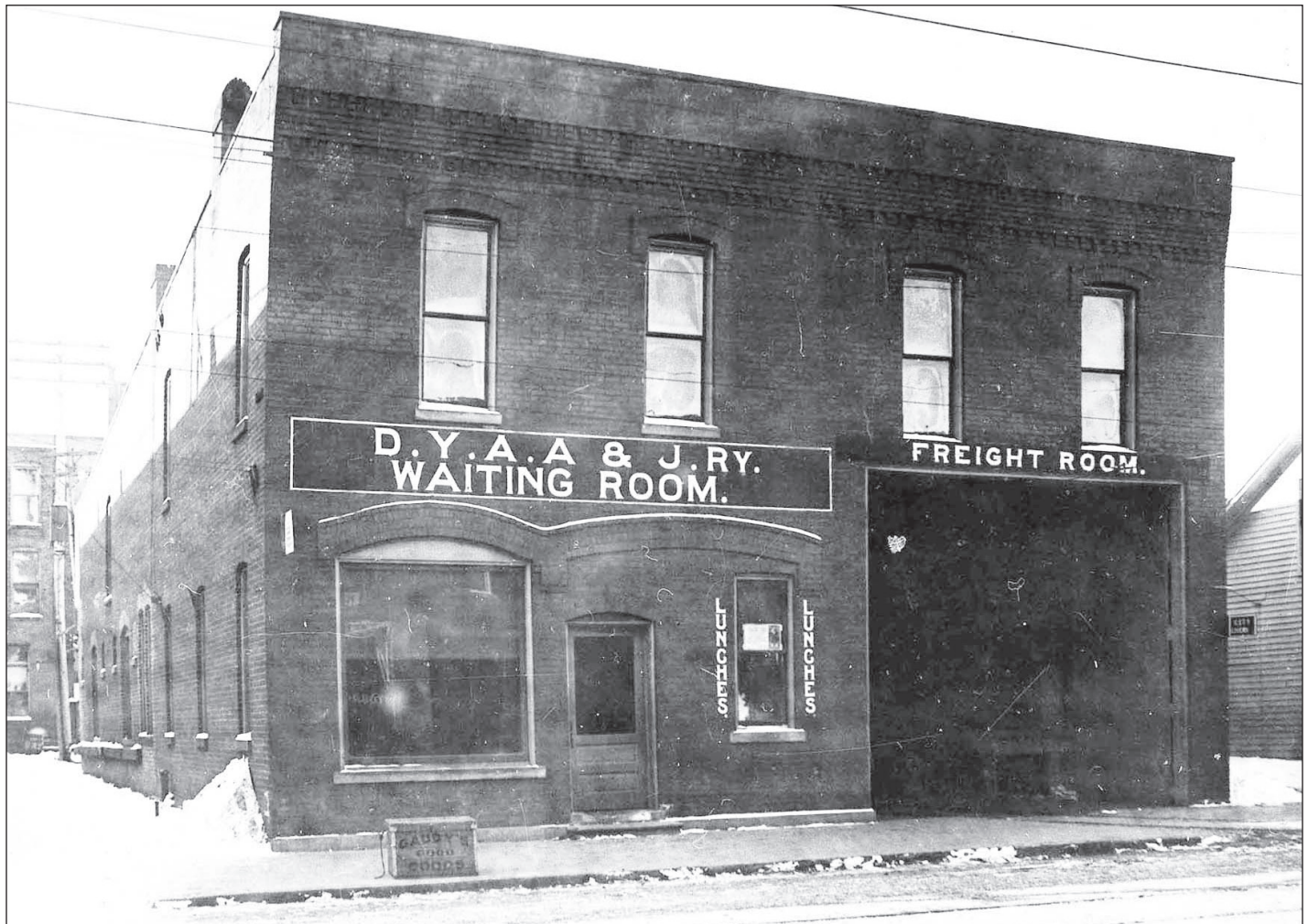
Cormick most likely believed he had killed Minor. It was not until the bullet was removed from the body of Minor that it was discovered that Harrington had killed him. Even then, the belief would persist that it was McCormick that murdered Minor.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, January 11, 1910, McCormick and Billings went before Judge George Kenny of the Washtenaw County Circuit Court. McCormick and Billings waived their right to a trial. Judge Kenny held a meeting with the two before appearing in court. Billings was charged with burglary. Billings explained to Judge Kenny that he got into trouble, because he was trying to get away from his wife. "My father told me Thursday," said Billings, "that Judge Durflee was going to give me five

years, because I did not support my wife and he told me I had better skip for the west. So I started and when I got to the depot I met McCormick and Harrington and went with them. That's how I got mixed up with it."

McCormick was charged with the murder of Henry Minor. "I suppose there is no escape for me," said McCormick to Judge Kenny. "There is nothing for me to do but to plead guilty." Judge Kenny told McCormick not to plead guilty, unless he was guilty. He should, Judge Kenny said, only plead guilty if he was guilty. McCormick replied, "I'm guilty all right." Then McCormick asked, "Now, how will it be about parole?" A murderer, Judge Kenny explained, was not allowed parole. "Well," said McCormick, "let us have it over with."

When the two appeared in court, Billings was sentenced to 5 to 10 years in prison. Billings responded with only a quick shift of his quid of tobacco from one cheek to the other. Later said Billings, "Well, I get out in five years, that will be no worse than if I had that time for non support." When McCormick heard his sentence to life imprisonment, there was no change in his expression. Harrington had planned to plead guilty to the charge of assault with intent to commit murder, but changed his mind after a visit by his sister. She had spent some time with him, and urged him to stand trial. "I didn't know he was drifting," she explained to the police. "His father and mother are dead and I was looking after him, but I must have failed somehow." The arrangement of Harrington



The waiting room of the Ypsi-Ann, the interurban or street railroad.

was set for a later date.

Emmett was expected to die from his wounds, and was sent to a hospital in Detroit for treatment. There Emmett began to recover, and was able to make a statement. In his statement, Emmett placed the blame for the murder of Minor on Harrington. He told of how McCormick slipped from Minor at the door to the baggage room; how McCormick ran off with Minor in pursuit. Emmett said he pushed Harrington into the baggage room where Harrington sat in a chair. "And in a minute," said Emmett, "Minor came in from the outside and this fellow (Harrington) was sitting down on a chair still. I think Minor's gun was empty. I couldn't see what he was doing, but I think he was reloading his gun. He turned around and he says to this fellow. 'Get up and let us see what you got on you,' and the fellow got up out of the chair and pulled his gun and fired on Harry and Harry went down. Just as he fired I jumped on to this fellow's back as well as I could."

"I reached for the poor devil's throat and I was going to choke him, Harry, as he fell down, pulled his gun and fired and I think that the ball hit the robber. Minor jumped up, but in the meantime, this fellow was shooting at Harry all the time. He shot two or three times at Harry.

Then he turned his attention to me. He threw his arm up over his left shoulder and the gun came right in my face and I ducked. But he fired just the same and that ball went into my shoulder. Then he threw the gun over his right shoulder and gave me one in the breast, but I hung onto him. Of course, when I got the ball in the shoulder that put my left arm out of business and I couldn't hang on any longer."

"In the struggle with the one I had at the door there, I found out that the one called his partner that got away called him Bob, and that is as much as I know about it."

Harrington, who was being held in the county jail at Ann Arbor, now admit-

ted to the murder of Henry Minor. "I am guilty of the murder of Henry Minor," said Harrington. "Let me plead guilty and get away from here." This led to the question asked by officials at the jail, "How can you and McCormick both be guilty of the murder of Minor?" To this, Harrington replied, "My God, men, I am ready to plead guilty. Let me get out of here. I'll be a man in another week."

Harrington, it was said, was tormented by the thought his friend McCormick was in prison for the crime Harrington had committed. Washtenaw County Prosecutor Carl Storm issued a statement concerning the case on Saturday, January 22, 1910. He stated that a charge of murder would be lodged against Harrington at once. It was clear from the statement of Emmett and the evidence that it was Harrington who had fired the fatal shot that had killed Minor.

"This however does not effect McCormick's case, as he also is undoubtedly guilty of the same offense, having been in a concerted scheme with Harrington to escape, and kill if necessary to do so. Evidently these boys gave each other the sign, since they both attempted to escape and fired shots in order to get away. Killing by one of two persons or more, when the result of common plot, would in law, be murder. Therefore McCormick's case was properly disposed of. Moreover McCormick admitted the offense and pleaded guilty to it," wrote Storm.

After McCormick and Harrington had been arrested, each had made statements in which they had confessed to the robbery of the jewelry store and the shooting at the depot. "At that time," wrote Storm, "because of the conflicts in the statements of the two it appeared that McCormick had shot Minor and Harrington had shot Emmett. Harrington brazenly claimed this in the presence of McCormick and McCormick did not deny it. As it now appears, the latter seemed inclined to take his share, if not more, of the



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

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

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST

Karl A. Barr, J.D.

kbarr@barrlawfirm.com

John M. Barr, J.D.

jbarr@barrlawfirm.com

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

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

• Since 1959.

LET ME PAINT YOUR HOUSE!



**CUSTOM PAINTINGS OF
HISTORIC HOMES BY A LOCAL
ARTIST.**

CONTACT ANDREW AT:

MAX_KOLBE@HOTMAIL.COM

OR

(734) 330-4222

AND CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK @

**[https://www.facebook.com/
andrewwaltersart/](https://www.facebook.com/andrewwaltersart/)**

blame, and to protect Harrington, while Harrington on the other hand, tried to shield himself and in order to do so, tried to make everyone believe McCormick had shot Minor in the baggage room after Minor had made his escape."

"Before we saw Emmett yesterday," noted Storm, "Harrington seems to have proven himself most untruthful and unreliable. He not only did not try to shield his 'pal' but tried to make him appear much worse than he was."

"He need not howl so about being in jail a few days or weeks. He probably will spend much of his future time in prison somewhere, so it is immaterial where he is. We could not think of disposing of his case hurriedly unless the most serious charge, murder, was made against him and he pleaded to it, for the public welfare is deeply interested in having these men punished as severely as the law will allow. Desperados must not be dealt with lightly, so as to encourage others, with similar tendencies."

Storm stated that Harrington had been willing to plead guilty to the charge of assault with intent to commit murder, until his sister spoke with him. She, noted Storm, felt sorry for her brother and was deeply interested in his case. Storm, as well as other officials, desired to show her every courtesy. "To have overridden her wishes would have seemed to 'railroad' the man. There has never been a time I know of when he and his council and sister all agreed and consented that he should be guilty to any charge, and I could not well act on his request alone at this time."

The preliminary hearing for Charles Harrington was held at Ypsilanti on February 7, 1910, at the municipal court, Justice Gunn presiding. He arrived on the 1:45 pm. eastbound interurban car. He was accompanied by his attorney A. J. Sawyer Jr. and was handcuffed to a deputy sheriff. "The lad shows the effect of confinement in the county bastile," noted The Ypsilanti Daily Press of that date. "His cheeks are sunken and an unnatural light is seen in his large brown eyes. His shattered wrist that has been causing him considerable trouble is healing and it is supposed that the pain has had its effect on him physically."

At the hearing Morgan J. Emmett, who had almost completely recovered from his wound said: "Charles Harrington is the murderer of Henry Minor." Harrington was remanded to the county jail without bail to await trial before the Circuit Court. As Harrington stepped onto the interurban car for the return trip to Ann Arbor, he turned and waived his hand at those standing on the walk.

Robert McCormick had been in the hospital at Jackson Prison since his arrival there. At two in the morning of March 7, 1910, the day before the trial of Harrington was to begin, he made his escape. The guard said he heard McCormick breathing, as if asleep. Then the guard was away, but a few moments, but when he returned, he found that McCormick, with a second prisoner, had sawed out a bar in a window, made a rope from bedding and went down the wall from

the fourth floor window. The two were seen walking east along the railroad tracks. The two were found the next day huddling in a boxcar, eight miles from Jackson and returned the same day.

The trial of Harrington was quickly over, as his attorney made a motion to change his plea from "Not Guilty" to "Guilty." He was then sentenced to life imprisonment at Jackson. Harrington did not spend the rest of his life in prison. In 1920 Michigan Governor Albert E. Sleeper pardoned him. Harrington was released from prison and disappears from the record.

Robert McCormick did spend the rest of his life in prison, as he died of tuberculosis on September 5, 1912. His mother was still living in Detroit, and as soon as she received word of his death, set out for the prison at Jackson. Inmates of the prison asked permission to contribute \$100 to his mother, so McCormick might receive a Christian burial. Permission was granted, and the money turned over to his mother. The funeral service was held in the Starkweather Chapel at Highland Cemetery on the afternoon of Saturday, September 7, 1912. His grave is at the north end of the cemetery. Buried nearby is Henry Minor, the man he was convicted of killing.

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



Tradition.

Gene Butman Ford is a company that believes in tradition. For the past 60 years we have sold and serviced some of the best vehicles on the road, Ford Motor Company vehicles. We are proud to represent a company that has a rich tradition in our community. Our Ypsilanti community is what sustains our family owned and operated business. The Butmans would like to thank our customers and our community for keeping our traditions alive. Customer service, loyalty, honesty and empathy are values our team hold close to their hearts and give each day to our customer.



www.butmanford.com

734.482.8581

A Wild Ride

BY JAMES MANN

On Tuesday, July 24, 1916, Lizzie Rowe was charged with keeping a house of questionable name, a polite term for a house of prostitution, and was bound over to the circuit court in Ann Arbor. Unable to provide the \$5,000 bail, she was sent to the county jail. *"She was escorted to the place of safe keeping by Deputy Sheriff John Connors, and the journey was a spectacular one made in the deputy's automobile. Mr. Connors states that she yelled the entire distance and paid no attention to his demands to 'keep quiet.' Even in Ann Arbor she made herself and Mr. Connors most conspicuous. When she was at last landed behind the jail doors she made an attempt to faint, but did not succeed,"* reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Tuesday, July 25, 1916.

"After her arrival," the account continued, *"Circuit Court Commissioner Cole reduced her bail to \$2,000 and James Kelso of this city furnished the necessary security for her release. Kelso is said to have been in the limelight before in Lizzie's section and stories afloat regarding his relations there have aroused considerable indignation."*

Mrs. Kelso did not appreciate this act of generosity on the part of her husband. She learned of his act by way of an anonymous letter she received Saturday, August 12, 1916.

Somehow she confirmed the truth of the information in the letter, and then, as *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Wednesday, August 16, 1916 noted, *"things began to happen."* She went to Attorney Daggett and told him, *"I never dreamed my husband would do anything like that. To think that I have worked and slaved all my life for him and then to have him do such a thing. Oh, I cannot stand it."* Her aged form, it was reported, shook with emotion.

Mr. Kelso talked with Attorney Daggett and promised he would withdraw from the bond. Then Mr. Kelso asked a friend, Charles Snyder, to help him restore good relations with Mrs. Kelso.

"Kelso told Snyder to go to his house and tell Mrs. Kelso that he was hurt," reported the account, *"This Snyder did. Mrs. Kelso said, 'Bring him home. He might as well die here as elsewhere.' Kelso was taken home in a taxi and his wife suggested a doctor be summoned. Kelso thought liniment would cure him and had his wife rub him well with it. This plan,"* noted the account, *"worked, apparently."*

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



**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)



The gravestone for Edgar Leroy Helzerman in Highland Cemetery.

Always the Unexpected Happens

BY JAMES MANN

John M. Bissell was a member of the Ypsilanti Police Department, when, on Monday, December 29, 1919, he returned home after he had finished his work for the day. At home he removed his gun, a .38 Colt revolver from his pocket and placed it on the buffet, as he had done many times before. This was in the dining room of the house, where his three-year-old grandson, Edgar Leroy Helzerman, was playing. All was quiet and peaceful.

"After supper Mr. Bissell went into the front room and laid down on the lounge, and Mrs. Bissell was in the kitchen, busy with supper work. The mother of the child, Mrs. Edna Bissell Helzerman, who was in another room, came into the dining room, where the baby was playing, several times to see that he was all right," reported *The Ypsilanti Record* of Thursday, January 1, 1920. Suddenly, the peace and quiet of the house was shattered by the sound of a pistol shot. Everyone in the house rushed into the dining room to find the child sprawled on the floor, having fallen from a chair. He had a bullet wound in the chest, and the bullet had passed out his back.

"The little boy had dragged a chair to the buffet, climbed up, taken hold of the gun, and notwithstanding the strength of the trigger spring, had managed to pull the hammer back sufficiently far to explode the charge," noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Tuesday, December 30, 1919. Immediately, a doctor was summoned but the child died without uttering a sound or regaining consciousness. He died while held in the arms of his grandmother.

"The grandfather," continued *The Daily Ypsilanti Press*, *"is almost crazy with regret that he should have left his revolver within reach of his grandson. But he had remarked that the boy couldn't discharge it, even if he tried. It is always the unexpected that happens"* In fact, a three-year-old child is strong enough to pull the trigger on a handgun.

A private funeral service was held in the Bissell home on the morning of Thursday, January 1, 1920, followed by burial in Highland Cemetery.

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

GLEANINGS SPONSORS

Anschuetz Family

Jim Curran

Fred & Maria Davis

Virginia Davis-Brown

Laura Gellott

Earnest & Carolyn Griffin

John & Pattie Harrington

Lynda Hummel

Bob & Marcia McCrary

Bill & Karen Nickels

John & Fofie Pappas

Joe Mattimoe & Hank Prebys

Al & Jan Rudisill

Diane Schick

Tad & Louise Schmaltz

Bob & Shirley Southgate

Rita Sprague

Nancy Wheeler

Daneen Zureich



636 S. Mansfield Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Ypsilanti Historical Society, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____



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

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Museum & Archives

220 North Huron Street | Ypsilanti, MI 48197

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

		New	Renewal
Single	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Gleanings Advertising Application

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

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

Company _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES

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

Send this form, ad copy & payment to:

Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 N. Huron Street • Ypsilanti, MI 48197

If you have questions call Al Rudisill 734 484-3023

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

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

WE HAVE HISTORY BETWEEN US, SINCE 1946



L I N C O L N



SESI LINCOLN VOLVO MAZDA

3990 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

(734) **668-6100**