

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

Official publication of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, featuring historical articles and reminisces of the people and places in the Ypsilanti area.



FALL 2005

Dedication of the Dr. William P. Edmunds Ypsilanti Room

The Ypsilanti Historical Society honored one of it's own during the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival when we dedicated the Ypsilanti Room in the museum in honor of Dr. William P. Edmunds. "Doc," as he was affectionately known, was involved in the creation of the Society and provided leadership over several decades. The dedication program featured comments by Peter Fletcher and a proclamation by Mayor Cheryl Farmer from the City of Ypsilanti. Many of the guests at the dedication made comments related to their associations with Dr. Edmunds.



Dr. William P. Edmunds

City of Ypsilanti PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, William P. Edmunds M.D. was a trusted and revered Ypsilanti family physician for many years. He practiced out of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and out of Beyer Hospital where he also served as Chief of Staff, and

WHEREAS, Bill "Doc" Edmunds was as committed to his community as he was to his patients. He was a pioneer of the historic preservation movement in Ypsilanti, beginning with his tireless work to save the Octagon House in the 1960's. Bill also worked to save many other 19th century buildings in Ypsilanti which were at risk for destruction, and

WHEREAS, Bill Edmunds was one of the original organizers of the Ypsilanti Historical Society Museum, whose first home was the basement of the old Post Office, now the Downtown Branch of the Ypsilanti Library District. He served many terms as President of the Historical Museum Board. Bill was instrumental in securing the financial future of the current Museum building at 220 North Huron Street and in securing the use of the archival space at 222 North Huron Street, and

WHEREAS, Bill Edmunds passed away in 2004, after a valiant fight against a prolonged illness, just shy of his 80th birthday. His enthusiasm and skills are sorely missed by his many friends in the Ypsilanti community, who rightly wish to do something special to commemorate his meritorious life and many contributions. In this spirit a room in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum is being dedicated to our beloved friend at 2:00 PM today.

Now, Therefore, I Cheryl C. Farmer, Mayor of the City of Ypsilanti, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim Sunday August 21, 2005 as "Dr. William P. Edmunds Day" in the City of Ypsilanti, commend the Ypsilanti Historical Museum for honoring his memory with this dedication, and ask everyone who knew him to join me in praise of his accomplishments. Let his life of service be an example and an invitation to the rest of us to do what we can to step in and fill the big leadership gap left by his passing.

*Given under my hand and seal of the City of Ypsilanti, August 21, 2005 -
Cheryl C. Farmer, Mayor. ■*

In This Issue...

Dedication of the Dr. William P. Edmunds Ypsilanti Room _____ 1

Dr. "Bill" Edmunds provided decades of leadership to the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

One Hundred Eighty One Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti _____ 3

Methodism in Ypsilanti dates back to the early 1800s to the ministry of Elias Pattee.

The Willoughby Family _____ 6

Read about the stories of this family who arrived in Ypsilanti shortly after it was settled.

Shorts:

Lost Ypsilanti Speaks _____ 8

The first "Lost Ypsilanti Speaks" exhibit was a huge success. This article is about one location covered in the exhibit.

Mary Ann and John Starkweather _____ 9

The farmhouse and property at 1266 Huron River Drive has been designated as the Starkweather Historic District by the Ypsilanti City Council.

Starkweather Memorial Chapel in Highland Cemetery _____ 10

This historic structure is in need of restoration and efforts are underway to place it on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wander Washtenaw _____ 11

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is back on the Wander Washtenaw Tour scheduled for Saturday, September 24.

Finds – Fletcher White Archives _____ 12

It is surprising what we find in the Fletcher White Archives. This 1815 New York State lottery ticket has been around for 190 years.

Society Briefs:

From the President's Desk _____ 2

Visit Us On-Line _____ 2

Antique Roadshow _____ 10

Quilt Exhibit _____ 11

News from the Fletcher-White Archives _____ 11

Museum Advisory Board Report _____ 13

Museum & Archive Hours _____ 15

Advertising Application _____ 15

Membership Application _____ 16

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Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
Telephone: 734-482-4990
www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

From the President's Desk

By Alvin E. Rudisill

This is the third issue of the Ypsilanti Gleanings in our new format. We hope you will support our advertisers who make this new format possible. Visit the back page of the Gleanings to view a list of advertisers in this issue.

We were very proud and pleased to honor Dr. William P. Edmunds who provided decades of leadership to the Ypsilanti Historical Society and to the City of Ypsilanti. He was a mentor to many of us and his significant contributions to the preservation of Ypsilanti historical artifacts will benefit future generations. We hope everyone will visit the Dr. William P. Edmunds Ypsilanti Room and see the picture and plaque placed there in his honor.

The "Lost Ypsilanti Speaks!" exhibit was a great success. We plan to feature one location that was included in the exhibit in each future issue of the Gleanings. This issue features One South Huron Street where our City Hall is located. It is interesting and enlightening to read about the history of various sites in our city and the original City Hall building was certainly a magnificent structure.

This issue also features the first in a series of articles on churches in Ypsilanti. The "One Hundred Eighty One Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti" article was assembled from a series of historical articles from the First United Methodist Church. We hope those of you who are serving as historians for other churches in Ypsilanti will assist us in gathering materials and writing articles.

Please make sure you mark your calendars for the September 18th quarterly member-

ship meeting and program. The antique roadshow and auction should be a lot of fun. Not only will you be able to have your own favorite antique evaluated but you will be able to listen in on the evaluations of antiques brought in by others. Again, mark your calendars now for September 18, 2005 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Also coming up is our third annual "Quilt Show" from September 29 through October 16. Please read the ad for the quilt show and the comments about the quilt show in the Museum Advisory Board Report in this issue of the Gleanings.

I want to again remind all our members that the back page of the Gleanings includes a membership application. We hope each of you will share your issue of the Gleanings with friends and encourage them to join our Society. Most of our operating budget for the year comes from membership income and every dollar collected allows us to provide better service to the greater Ypsilanti area.

We have posted an additional 170 photographs from our photo archives collections on the Internet. You can access the site by going to the YHS site at ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org and then going to the archives section of the site. The site is searchable by keywords.

If you would like to get more involved in Society programs and activities please give me a call at 734-484-3023. We are always looking for volunteers to serve as docents in the Museum or to serve on one of the committees. Activities range from typing in information on a computer to helping with facility maintenance. ■



Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives

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Collections
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220 N. Huron St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-482-4990
alrudisill@aol.com
Ms. Virginia Davis

Welcome!

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

2005 Schedule of Events

Jan 11	Joint Meeting - All Boards
Feb 10	Board of Trustees Meeting
Feb 20	Quarterly Membership Meeting & Valentine Tea
Mar 11	Archives Museum & Endowment Fund

*For Information about upcoming
Society events, visit us on-line at:*

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

One Hundred Eighty One Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti

Condensed from Histories of Methodism in Ypsilanti



1835 – Chapel on River Street.

One hundred and eighty one years of Methodism in Ypsilanti! It is interesting to speculate on what our fair city would be like, if men on horseback had not brought the Gospel of Christian Faith to this place. The early ministers who came here considered it a very wicked community – a veritable Sodom of iniquity and they said so in no uncertain terms; drunkenness and Sabbath desecration prevailed. But wait a few years and the story changes.

The first church service in Ypsilanti, (then Woodruff's Grove), or in Washtenaw County was preached by an itinerant minister, Elias Pattee, who began his Christian ministry in 1807. He brought his young wife from Vermont to Canada on horseback while he walked the entire distance. In 1822 he was sent by the New York Conference to preach in Northwest

Ohio and the "Wilds of Michigan." So it was on a day in May, 1825, with all the wilderness abloom, that he came riding into the newly settled community at Woodruff's Grove. He was about forty years old, over six feet tall, with little academic learning, but with a great heart for service. A Canadian friend described him as "large of stature, commanding in personal appearance, dressing in breeches, stockings and shoe-buckles, and set off by his costume."

A Methodist Society of five people was organized. The services were held in the homes of members, and Isaac Powers, the first Post Master, opened his home to them although he was not a Methodist. The following year came John Baughman, a cultured, educated gentleman with a booming voice that was,
continued on page 4

From the Water Tower to the Bell Tower.

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One Hundred Eighty One Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti - *continued from page 3*

“like a voice crying in the wilderness.”

The next year came John Janes. He married Miss Hannah B. Brown of Ann Arbor who shared the hardships of a Circuit Riders wife. In 1828 came George Walker from Ohio, a native of Maryland. It was said of him, “that no swollen river, no dismal swamp, or dangerous fen could daunt the lion-heart that beat in his bosom.”

The people of that day lived in a little settlement in floorless log cabins, surrounded by dense forests. Church meetings were held in the homes of members of the Methodist Society for several years. The membership of the society grew rapidly during the first decade. In 1829 a brick school house was built in the community and the church meetings were held there. Sometimes when the crowds were too large for the building and the weather was nice, the services were held outside in the beautiful oak grove.

In 1831 the society began to make plans for erecting a Chapel on River Street, then the main street of the town. Finally, after many difficulties, the brick building was finished in 1835. It was a plain building, but in time two 35 pane windows of 8 x 10 glass were added and in 1837 the Chapel was complete. From 1831 to 1837 Ypsilanti was known as the head of a Methodist Circuit. In 1837, the year Michigan became a State, the local Church with a membership of 190 was designated by the Detroit Conference as a Station. By this time Ypsilanti was a village of 120 homes with a population of 1,000.

In 1839, the Ladies Sewing Circle was organized, the object of which was to “clothe the poor children and get them into Sunday School and any other Benevolence that came their way.” This was the beginnings of what would eventually become the United Methodist Women’s organization, a group that continues to impact the church and its mission today.



Above: 1892 – Church Constructed at a Cost of \$32,000.

Bottom Right: 1843 – Meeting House on Present Church Site.

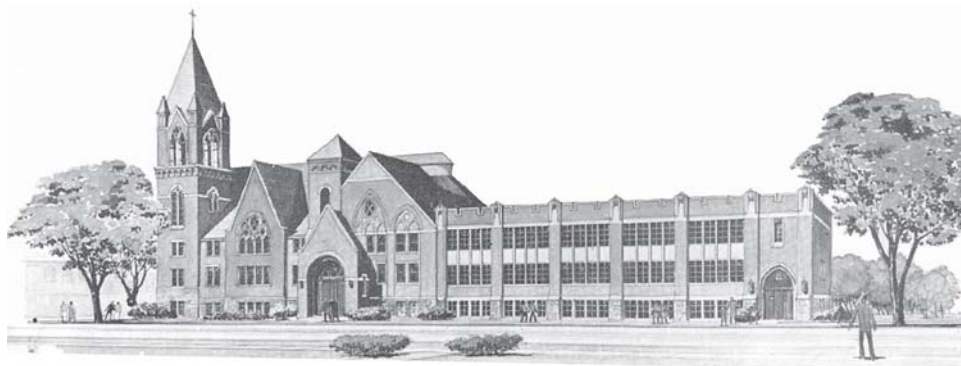
In March of 1843, while revival services were being held in the Chapel, the floor seemed to give way from the weight of the crowd, a panic ensued and a stove was overturned and a woman was seriously injured and died three days later. The Board of Trustees decided to build a new meeting house and Dr. Thomas Towne gave the land where the present



church now stands, and he loaned the \$4,500 necessary to build the new church. In 1843 the new church was dedicated with one hundred pews and room to seat 600 people. In 1852 a lecture room was added to the back of the meeting house and in 1854 the first parsonage, located on Washington Street was purchased.

1892. The Church with its Gothic windows and high tower cost \$32,000 to build - \$20,000 of which had been raised before the dedication and the remainder being pledged on that occasion. The membership at this time was 725.

The Church building is in the style usually named "Victorian Gothic," a Gothic



1958 – Architects Sketch of Church with Education Center Added.

In 1866, during the pastorate of Rev. J. S. Smart, the church was renovated, plastered, painted, frescoed, carpeted and the gallery enclosed, and a new pulpit and chandelier bought. Membership at that time was 425. In 1871 a new parsonage at 212 Ellis (now Washtenaw) was finished.

"The Church building is in the style usually named "Victorian Gothic," a Gothic style with different historical prototypes freely borrowed from the architectural past."

Church membership continued to grow and in 1891 the need for more room was addressed as the congregation decided to build a new church on the same site. The corner stone was laid in September of 1891 with over 1,200 people in attendance. After much effort and some disappointments the new building was ready for dedication in the summer of

style with different historical prototypes freely borrowed from the architectural past. The predominant nave space is an elongated dome affect. The pendentives, the inverted triangles at the corners, are reminiscent of Eastern architecture, of the Orthodox Churches of the Eastern Mediterranean area. The gables over the side balconies with their large Gothic windows are transept-like. The choir loft with the Trinity Window is also Gothic. The space in the rear of the worship area is the second auditorium of the Akron Plan.

Between 1897 and 1910 church membership grew to between 900 and 1,000 people attending on Sunday mornings. By 1921 the church had grown to a membership of 1125 and the Wesley Foundation for College Students was organized. In 1928, the Theodore Schaible family gave the present organ to the Church. The organ cost \$20,000 and is referred to as "The Great Gift."

During World War II, the basement rooms of the church were often used for the Blood Donor Program. A third parsonage was purchased, located just west of the Church and adjoining the church
continued on page 14

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The Willoughby Family

By Dr. Bob Willoughby

Shortly after Ypsilanti was first settled, my great grand parents Alvin and Charlotte Mead, arrived in the Ypsilanti area and farmed at the present site of the Washtenaw Country Club. They had three daughters, Lottie, Francis and Delia. Delia married John Riggs from Belleville. They built a home on College Place in, what was then, an apple orchard. Together they had two daughters, Marian and Margaret. My mother Marian graduated from Ypsilanti High School and Michigan State Normal College. She was part of the first Home Economics class at the Normal. Marian later married Jack Willoughby from Capac, Michigan. Dad had come to Ypsilanti to attend Cleary College and worked part time at a Michigan Avenue shoe store owned by John Cain. He opened the store at 8:00 am, worked for an hour, then came back and worked from 3:30 to 6:00 pm, all for \$4.00 a week. He continued his work on Saturdays from 8:00 am until after midnight. For extra money and meals, he waited tables at the Hawkins House.

"Downtown Ypsilanti was a busy thriving business district and every store front was filled."

Dad's father opened a general store outside of Capac. From this store, he and his brothers were very familiar with operating a business. Dad's brother moved to Plymouth and opened a retail store. Dad served in the Navy during World War I. After returning from overseas, he received fi-



Above: Display windows in the Willoughby shoe store.

Right: Jack Willoughby selling shoes in the 1920s.

nancial help from John Riggs, his father-in-law to be. Dad and brother Earl bought John Cain's shoe store at 121 West Michigan Avenue in 1919 and opened Willoughby's Shoes on July 1, 1919. The marriage of Jack to Marion occurred on August 25, 1919. My birth followed in 1920. My brother Tom was born ten years later. Dad's brother Earl moved to Fort Wayne in 1939 and dad became full owner of the shoe store. When World War II broke out, Tom was recruited to work the sales floor at the young age of twelve. After graduating from Western Michigan University and serving in the Navy, Tom acquired part interest in Willoughby's Shoes in 1959. By 1968, Tom was full owner of the business with dad as his employee. Willoughby's Shoes had outlets in Pittsfield Shopping Center, Willoughby's Little Boot Shops in Ann Arbor, and Willoughby-Wanty Shoe Store in Ann Arbor. Tom ran Willoughby's Shoes until 1985.



"We were one of the largest per capita shoe dealers in the country. We sold more Stride- Rite shoes than anyone per capita. But when Briarwood mall came in the 70s, it was a major hit to both downtown Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti businesses," said Tom in a newspaper article. After watching an outside agency help him close his store, Tom did consulting work on shop closings. He helped more than forty businesses bid farewell to retail operations.

I also worked in the shoe store while in high school. I became interested in podiatry and enrolled at Eastern Michigan

University in a pre-med program. I attended and graduated from Temple University as a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine. I opened an office at Ferris and South Adams in Ypsilanti. Later, I opened a second office in Ann Arbor when Dr. Lawrence Tyner joined the practice. Dr. Tyner currently practices at the Ferris and South Adams office.

Jack Willoughby, co-founder of Willoughby's Shoes and father of Tom and I, died at the age of eighty-five in December of 1979. In addition to professionally influencing his two sons, dad had a profound influence on our personal lives. Like dad, we both served in the US armed services. Also, like dad, we were both members of the Ypsilanti Rotary Club. Our mother, Marion Willoughby, died in 1987 at the age of eighty-nine. Burial in Highland Cemetery completed their Ypsilanti stories.

I remember Grandpa John Riggs friendship with Henry Ford. Grandpa Riggs owned a farm east of Belleville and often talked to Mr. Ford about farming and old cars. Through him, I also met Mr. Ford's friend Thomas Edison. For several years, I owned a 1929 Model A which I recently donated to the Ypsilanti Auto Heritage Museum.

Downtown Ypsilanti was a busy thriving business district and every store front was filled. While in high school, I constructed a model replica of the 100 block of Michigan Avenue that included Willoughby's Shoes. The model is now continually on display at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

A silver plated water service was given to my great-grand parents Alvin and Charlotte Mead as a wedding gift. The water service was passed on to my



The Brothers – Tom and Bob Willoughby.

grandparents and then to my mother. I eventually inherited the water service after my mother had it re-plated by Reed and Barton. We, in turn, gave this as a gift for our granddaughter, Janet Willoughby. According to my grandmother, she had the responsibility of keeping the water service filled with ice during the summers. The ice came from an ice house kept under sawdust on the farm. The ice was cut in the winter and stored in the ice house. The pond was also used for ice skating during the winter and as a private swimming hole in the summer months. Since the Ypsi to Ann Arbor Interurban stopped in front of the pond, it was an attraction for students from both towns.

The Mead/Riggs/Willoughby families have been part of the Ypsilanti community for many years. Although I am retired, I still take an active role as a trustee of the Gilbert Residence, Highland Cemetery, and other community groups. ■



Bob Willoughby with his 1929 Model A.

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Lost Ypsilanti Speaks!

The first "Lost Ypsilanti Speaks!" exhibit was displayed in the YHS Museum from July 17 to September 5, 2005. The current Ypsilanti City Hall was one of the buildings featured in this exhibit.

The building at 1 South Huron Street that currently serves as the Ypsilanti City Hall was built in 1877 at a cost of \$20,000. Originally, the building possessed a steeply pitched roof of slate and four dormer windows with small turrets. There were standing columns, Romanesque arches and cut stone at the street level. The brass corner sign on the original building was given to the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and is on display in the Dr. William P. Edmunds Ypsilanti Room.

"The brass corner sign on the original building was given to the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and is on display in the Dr. William P. Edmunds Ypsilanti Room."

The building was built by the Ypsilanti Savings Bank which occupied the first floor. The second level was originally occupied by the W. S. Putnam Real Estate and Insurance Agency and the basement level was occupied by the Ypsilantian, the local newspaper. The third floor contained meeting rooms that could be rented by local organizations such as the Knights of Pythias.

In the 1940s the top floor and steep roof were removed and in 1966-67 aluminum paneling was installed on the two street sides of the building. The paneling gave the building a modern look but the style *continued on page 13*



Structure built in 1877 at a cost of \$20,000.



Aluminum paneling installed on street sides of building in 1966-67.



Building as it exists in 2005.

Mary Ann and John Starkweather

By Bill Nickels

Mary Ann and John Starkweather were prominent Ypsilanti citizens in the Nineteenth Century. Their legacy now carries over into the beginning of the Twenty First Century.

1266 Huron River Drive: On June 5, 1839, John Starkweather was united in marriage to Mary Ann Newberry in Detroit. Two years later, in 1841, John was appointed by Governor Mason as Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction

ing of extensive orchards. In 1868, he was recognized by the State Agricultural Society for having the best orchard in the state." John wrote in *The Ypsilanti Commercial* on February 22, 1868, "My apple orchard, containing about three acres of land, is situated on the south bank of the Huron River, at an elevation of 75 to 80 feet above its surface, on fractional section five in the township of Ypsilanti."

John and Mary Ann lived in the house on the farm for 34 years. In 1875, they retired from farming and moved to the city at 130 North Huron. John died in the house on Huron Street in 1883.

The possibility that the Starkweather House at 1266 Huron River Drive might be demolished became evident during the summer of 2003. The Ypsilanti City Council appointed a Historic District



Starkweather farmhouse at 1266 Huron River Drive

under Superintendent of Public Instruction John Pierce. During the same year of 1841, he bought 160 acres of land south of the Huron River and 11/2 miles west of Ypsilanti. John and Mary Ann moved into the c.1840 Greek Revival farmhouse on the property. By 1874, his property holdings grew to 400 acres. The Greek Revival farm house now has 1266 Huron River Drive as an address.

A handwritten, unsigned and undated note found in our Archives states that "By 1846, John Starkweather had cleared the land and made it ready for the plant-

Study Committee on August 2, 2004. The committee was charged with the responsibility to study and report on the feasibility of providing legal protection for the Starkweather Farmhouse at 1266 Huron River Drive. On May 3, 2005, with the passage of Resolution 2005-16, the Ypsilanti City Council created the Starkweather Historic District. One hundred and sixty-five years after the construction of the house at 1266 Huron River Drive, the building and property are now a historic district. The next step is to find a party interested in the restoration of the structure. ■

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Starkweather Memorial Chapel in Highland Cemetery

By Bill Nickels

In 1886, widow Mary Ann Starkweather inherited a considerable fortune from the family estate of her uncle, Walter Loomis Newberry. During the same year, she had her will drafted to provide funds to construct a memorial chapel for her husband

with as Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction. These windows have not fared well over the years and are in need of restoration.

During Victorian Times, when the chapel was built, the deceased were often presented in their homes for visitors to pay their respects, then they were moved to small chapels for commemorative services before burial. All of this changed during the late 1920s. Starkweather Memorial Chapel fell into disuse and the chapel had problems with its complicated roof planes meeting irregular walls, deep window sills, and soft sandstone trim. The little chapel suffered from wind erosion, water erosion, and wild life creatures seeking shelter from the elements.

The historic preservation movement and interest in genealogy have brought fre-



Starkweather Chapel in Highland Cemetery.

quent visitors to the cemetery. Mary Ann's attorney selected Mason & Rice to design the memorial chapel. Mason & Rice were also designing the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. The Richardsonian Romanesque chapel was dedicated in 1889 and included 12 art glass windows from the Tiffany Glass Company of New York City. Four of the windows have memorial inscriptions to Mrs. Starkweather's family and friends. One window is dedicated to John Pierce, the man her husband worked

with as Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction. These windows have not fared well over the years and are in need of restoration. During Victorian Times, when the chapel was built, the deceased were often presented in their homes for visitors to pay their respects, then they were moved to small chapels for commemorative services before burial. All of this changed during the late 1920s. Starkweather Memorial Chapel fell into disuse and the chapel had problems with its complicated roof planes meeting irregular walls, deep window sills, and soft sandstone trim. The little chapel suffered from wind erosion, water erosion, and wild life creatures seeking shelter from the elements. The historic preservation movement and interest in genealogy have brought fre-

Antique Roadshow Visits Our Historical Museum

By John Pappas

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum will hold its own Antique Road Show and Auction on Sunday, September 18, 2005, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Local auctioneer Steve Gross will provide our featured program for the opening Fall quarterly meeting.

Bring your favorite antique and get an appraisal and information about your valued treasure. Also, see and learn what other interesting pieces are brought to the show by other members and guests. There is no charge, but donations will be appreciated. Please do not bring artwork, currency or jewelry.

Also there will be a brief live auction to set the stage for this fun-filled event. Auctioneer Steve will entertain us with some old fashioned bidding of a few select items. Included are a ride on the famous B-17 Bomber at the Yankee Air Museum; a historic map of Ypsilanti, circa 1890; four VIP tickets for lunch and a guided tour of the Camille Claudel and Rodin, "Faithful Encounter" exhibit at the DIA; and a framed watercolor print by American artist, Emil Weddige.

A short meeting will precede the program to update everyone on upcoming activities and events of the museum. Refreshments will be served. *Mark this date on your calendar, September 18, 2005, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.* See you there!

Ypsilanti Historical Museum

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and Sunday. Call 734-484-0080 for
more information.



Wander Washtenaw

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is back on the Wander Washtenaw Tour
scheduled for Saturday, September 24.

The Washtenaw County Museum Consortium invites those interested in history
to Wander Washtenaw. Most of the sites will be open from 10:00 am to 4:00
pm that day. Look for maps and address lists at your favorite local museum.
This event is free with donations encouraged at sites to recover expenses.
Historical Museums on the tour include:

Ann Arbor:

- Kempf House
- Cobblestone Farm
- Detroit Observatory
- Museum on Main Street
- Parker Mill

Dexter:

- Dexter Area Museum
- Webster Church Fall Festival

Manchester:

- Schneider Blacksmith Shop

Milan:

- Hack House

Saline:

- Rentschler Farm
- Railroad Depot

Ypsilanti:

- Michigan Fire Museum
- Ypsilanti Historical Museum

News from the Fletcher-White Archives

By Gerry Pety

What a wonderful summer here in Ypsilanti and in the archives as well! The weather has been great even if it has been humid. The archives, as you may know, are air conditioned and heated for your comfort. Sometimes even during the appropriate times of the year! Ha Ha!

We have received from Mr. Atwood (Woody) McAndrew a tremendous amount of items from his family, a rather distinguished Ypsilanti name-sake. In addition to hundreds of old news items, books and photos, there were items from Mack and Mack, a well-known local furniture purveyor. Furniture stores in the latter part of the 1800's were an outgrowth from local cabinet making operations. They in turn they would evolve into casket makers and then finally turn into funeral directors in some instances. Mack and Mack followed this tradition during its history in Ypsilanti. In a sense, they served the public from cradle to casket! Many thanks for all the wonderful items Mr. McAndrew, they will enhance our understanding of local business in Ypsilanti!

All of my volunteers have gone for the spring and summer. If you like history come on over and volunteer for a couple of hours each month. We really need people to help keep us organized. If you are interested in spending some volunteer time in the archives call me at home at 572-0437 or at the archives at 482-4990.

That pretty much wraps it up, we lack only your company to make this place complete. ■

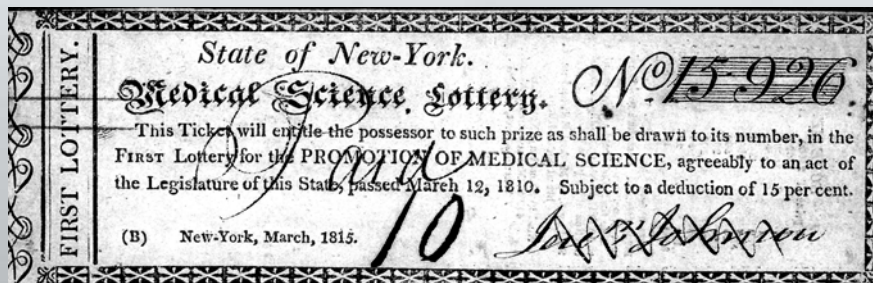
Finds

Fletcher White Archives

By Gerry Pety

One of the fascinating aspects of my position with the Ypsilanti Historical Society as archivist is the finding of overlooked and unusual artifacts donated to the Society over the years. Much of the time these artifacts have nothing to do directly with Ypsilanti history, but they are still very interesting! While doing research for my *Gleanings* article on The Bank of Ypsilanti, I discovered something which can only be described as very unusual to find anywhere, let alone our archive that is dedicated to the people and places of the Ypsilanti area. This artifact comes from the state of New York and is a lottery ticket! But what makes this ticket so special is that it was issued long ago in 1815, but one year after winning our independence in the "Second American Revolution." You probably vaguely remember this from your high school history class as the "War of 1812". Quite a rare find when you think about all of the lottery tickets you may have purchased and disposed of - and this one is over 190 years old!

The lottery ticket is titled: State of New York, Medical Science Lottery. Accordingly the ticket was used as a means to support the "Promotion of Medical Science" which according to Gerald Willman of Stanford University was the promotion of medical colleges for the training of physicians. But medical lotteries of the era were used for other reasons more sordid. Sometimes the money was used to purchase freshly buried bodies snatched after funerals for dissection at the medical schools, when dead vagrants and the bodies of the poor were in short supply. This is absolutely factual and may have even occurred here, due to our proximity to a local medical college of some repute. Shockingly, this was not legal but there was such a vital need of corpses at the medical schools that a lot more of this went on than we would like to admit. All of the state of New York lotteries, whether government or private, became so rife with scandal, side betting, and theft, that the state of New York outlawed all lotteries as of December 31, 1833. This ban lasted more than a century.



1815 State of New York Medical Science lottery ticket.

SCHEME.		
1 prize of	25000	is 25000
1	15000	15000
1	10000	10000
1	5000	5000
2	2000	4000
5	1000	5000
20	500	10000
20	200	4000
40	100	4000
80	50	4000
100	20	2000
8000	10	80000
8271 Prizes		168000
15729 Blanks. Less than two Blanks to a prize.		
The first 4000 blanks be entitled to 10 dollars each Subject to a deduction of 15 per cent.		
Sold by S. & M. ALLEN, and payable at their Offices		
No. 136 Broadway, New-York, 449 S. Market-street, Albany, 7 Warren-street, Hudson.		

Back of 1815 lottery ticket showing prize levels.

This specific ticket was number 15,926 and was assigned to an Esquire Sheldon according to S&M Allen, the NY State lottery agent. Please note the prizes on the back, with \$25,000 as the first prize, a very substantial amount in those days (Approximately \$575,000 in 2005 dollars). All together there were to be 8,271 prizes with \$168,000 payout. But alas, the Ypsilanti Historical Society does not hold a winning ticket! ■



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Report from the Museum Advisory Board

By Virginia Davis-Brown



Now that the leaves are starting to change and even a few are falling, we at the museum are looking forward to the next few months and planning for an exciting fall and winter season.

We hope that you have enjoyed the “*Lost Ypsilanti Speaks!*” exhibit. Many have told us how much they enjoyed the exhibit as it brings back many memories of the past or they speak of what is there now and really didn’t have any idea of the previous business.

September 29 thru October 16 will be our third annual “*Quilt Exhibit.*” During the last two years we have exhibited over 100 quilts. Some were made in the 1800’s and some are the work of people today. If you thought only women made quilts you would be wrong. Last year we had several that were made by a man and they were very unique. If you missed the previous ones why not start thinking about getting together with a friend or two, have lunch somewhere downtown, then come in and see that quilts are works of art and are not just for keeping someone warm. Make an afternoon of it. You are entitled to a day out once in a while.

The “*Underground Railroad Exhibit*” is still up and will remain for awhile. We also still have the quilt that the children, from the Ann Arbor Child Development Center, made as a class project telling of the flight from slavery.

August 21, 2005, was an exciting day as we gathered to pay homage to a wonderful man who made significant contributions to the YHS Museum and to efforts to keep the history of Ypsilanti alive. One room that Dr. William P. Edmunds was especially fond of was dedicated to his memory. Our Ypsilanti Room will be known as the “*Dr. William P. Edmunds Ypsilanti Room.*”

We are always in need of volunteers, docents and people who would like to help us keep the museum maintained the way it has been. It takes a lot of tender loving care to see that things are done. If you think you might like to help please give me a call at 484-0080 and we can talk. Remember that, with the holidays coming up, we still have our GIFT SHOP, and we have several interesting books about the city.

Our regular hours are Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Most of our special exhibits also include Fridays. If you need more information please call 482-4990. Why not plan on coming in to see us and say Hi. ■

Lost Ypsilanti Speaks! *continued from front page 8*

was popular for only a short time and many local residents missed the historic features of the original building.

In 1976 the Ypsilanti Savings Bank moved into a new four million dollar building just two blocks away at 301 West Michigan Avenue. In 1977 the City of Ypsilanti bought the building at 1 South Huron Street for a city hall at a cost of \$400,000.

In 1991 the City of Ypsilanti and the Downtown Development Authority started a series of projects supported by grants and appropriations to renovate the building. The aluminum paneling, commonly referred to as “cheese grating” by Ypsilanti residents, was removed and major renovation was done to both the interior and exterior of the building. Although the building has not been fully restored to its original grandeur it is certainly an improvement over the “cheese grating” look of the 1960s. ■

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One Hundred Eighty One Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti - *continued from page 5*

property. The former parsonage at 212 Washtenaw became the church house and was used extensively by student and other church groups.

In 1957, ground was broken for an Educational Unit and the consecration service was held in November of 1958. In 1959 a home for the Wesley Foundation, at the corner of West Forest and North Hamilton was purchased. In 1960 the membership stood at 1,375. In 1969, the sanctuary was renovated and Carroll Osborn, an EMU Professor, used a computer layout to reset the pews to form a new center aisle. In 1970, another parsonage was purchased and a chair lift was installed in the Washington Street entrance. In 1977 the old plaster in the Sanctuary was completely removed and replaced and the leaded glass windows were covered with Plexiglas to afford outside protection. In 1978 the former church parlor on the west wall of the rotunda area was extensively remodeled into a beautiful chapel complete with furnishings.

The eighties saw more renovations including the church library, the foyer and basement steps and the creation of a new parlor on the main level of the Education Unit in 1984. In 1986 the church office area was renovated and in 1988 the Paulsen Dining Room was completed. The same year marked the beginning of a Christmas tradition of "adopting families" from the community and providing

"The first church service in Ypsilanti, (then Woodruff's Grove), or in Washtenaw County was preached by an itinerant minister, Elias Pattee, who began his Christian ministry in 1807. "



2005 - First United Methodist Church.

them with gifts and food baskets. This tradition continues to this day.

In 1991, new carpeting was installed in the sanctuary and the church became accessible to all, as an elevator was installed in the Education Unit. "Love Gives a Lift" was the theme for the elevator and these projects were made possible by pledges to a Capital Stewardship Campaign in the amount of \$400,000.

In 1992 the church celebrated the centennial anniversary of the sanctuary and with this celebration welcomed a new Weber Concert Grand Piano given by several members and friends. Special worship services were observed, a new memorial garden was dedicated as well as

the establishment of an endowment fund in memory of the pioneer Ypsilanti Family of George Ross to assure maintenance and repair of the church building through future generations.

In 1992 the church began housing homeless guests through the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) and has continued to house for a week at a time, four times a year to the present time. In 1994 church members Betty Johnson, Melinda Waltz and Molly Elliott started a Small World Shop in the back of the rotunda. The shop was designed to offer gifts from across the world for purchase. The income from the shop provides income, dignity and hope to people in more than 40 de-

continued on page 15

Ypsilanti Gleanings Advertising Application

Issue	<u>1/6 Page</u> (2 3/8" x 4 5/8")	<u>1/3 Page</u> (2 3/8" x 9 1/2")	<u>1/2 Page</u> (7 1/2" x 4 5/8")	<u>Full Page</u> (7 1/2" x 9 1/2")
Spring Issue (Ads Due March 15)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
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Please check your selected advertisement size and issue and send this form and payment to: **Ypsilanti Historical Society 220 North Huron Street Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Ypsilanti Historical Society Museum & Archive Hours

The Museum, located at 220 North Huron Street, is owned by the City of Ypsilanti and is operated and maintained by volunteer workers in the public interest of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. The Museum and Archives are open to the public at no charge.

Museum Hours:

Thursday ____ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Saturday ____ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Sunday ____ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Archives Hours:

Monday ____ 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Wednesday ____ 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Sunday ____ 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm

One Hundred Eighty One Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti - *continued from page 14*

veloping regions around the world. The shop continues to the present time and has inspired several other local churches to duplicate this mission outreach.

In March of 1996 the Michigan Historical Commission notified the Ypsilanti Historical Society that the First Methodist Episcopal Church at 209 Washtenaw Avenue was listed in the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites.

In the fall of 1997, church members Morris and Ann Tabor visited Africa University and Hartzell Primary School in Zimbabwe, Africa. They discovered that the primary school did not have a library and church members began collecting books for the Hartzell Primary School. By late in 1998, nearly 1500 books were sent to Zimbabwe. Later, other churches and interested persons began sending books and 2500 were catalogued and put in a room in the school. The local PTA in Africa worked to raise money and in early 2000 a building was erected. In November of 2000 the building was dedicated as the Taber Library.

Also in 1997, the church began plans for an Ypsilanti CROP Walk under the coordination of church member Mike Needham. The Walk continues today and more than 20 local organizations participate and focus the public's attention on world wide hunger issues. ■

Bibliography:

- *One Hundred and Fifty Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti, Michigan*, 1975, Mrs. Ben VandenBelt.
- *One Hundred and Thirty-Five Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti, Michigan*, 1960. Mrs. Ben VandenBelt.
- *One Hundred and Twenty Five Years of Methodism in Ypsilanti, Michigan*, 1950, Condensed from the History Written 1936 by (Mrs. Pliny E.) Lulu Carpenter Skinner
- *175th Anniversary of Ypsilanti Methodism - 1825-2000*, 2000, First United Methodist Church.

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Ypsilanti Historical Society, Inc.



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Life	\$200.00	[]	[]

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220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The purposes of the Ypsilanti Historical Society are to:

1. Bring together people interested in the history of Ypsilanti; 2. To discover, preserve and collect materials related to events in the area; 3. To provide for the public display of collected information and materials; 4. To disseminate historical information and materials to interested parties. 5. To hold title to personal and real property; and 6. To encourage bequests and contributions to endow the work of the Society.

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