

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



Annual Holiday Open House at the Museum

2-5 p.m Sunday, Dec. 14

WINTER 2025

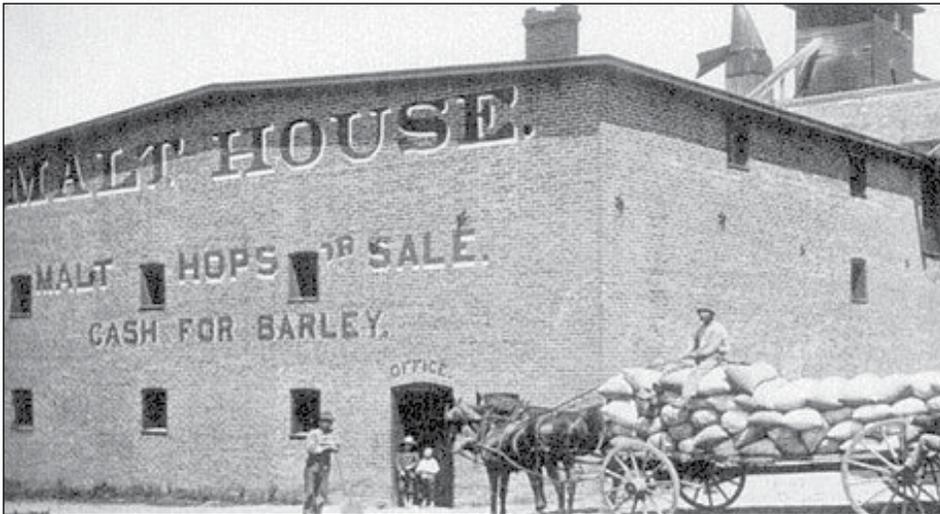
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Worgor George holding a pitchfork in front of the malt house.

The George Family of River Street — *An Immigrant Founding Family*

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ

I want to share with you the story of an immigrant family that added much to our present city of Ypsilanti, including Frog Island and George School on Ecorse Road. Our tale begins in England and is the lifelong love story of a family who crossed the Atlantic with great hope for a better life for themselves and generations to come. I've told part of this history before which was published in the Fall 2015 edition of the *Gleanings* which you can read in the Gleanings repository at Ypsihistory.org under the title "The George Families of River Street".

With the holidays approaching, I hope that the included poems will add to the story of the George families of River Street and will cause us all to pause and think about our own family gatherings and what we can do



Cary Eaton George and George George.

to add more love and appreciation for each other. Now to tell you this story, let us first go to Great Britain. It starts with the birth of Cary Eaton on May 28, 1808 in Godstone, Surrey, England. Like many children of that time, Cary was an orphan by the time that she was only four years old and was raised by her mother's oldest sister. Cary writes about what happened next in one of the many remaining narratives that she jotted down over a span of 70 years. "When I was 15 years old I went to live with a distant relative of my mothers who had not any family and she wanted a companion and someone to write her notes and teach her little nieces; so I went there and had a pony to ride and was quite happy. They had a nephew living with them, George

The George Family of River Street
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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY BILL NICKELS

During our October Annual Business Meeting, Amy Singer and Kirk Profit were announced as our 2025 Gerald Jennings Service Award recipients. Since 2023, Amy has been our Chief Financial Officer responsible for our annual budget, making sure all the bills are paid, monthly reports to the Board of Trustees, and submitting the annual Form 990 to the IRS.

Kirk joined the Board of Trustees after an illustrious career in Michigan politics. With this unique background, he looks at the business of the Ypsilanti Historical Society with fresh ideas and has a wide range of community connections he can directly consult on behalf of YHS. Thank You Amy and Kirk!

Our partnership with Eastern Michigan University's Preservation Studies program continues. This fall semester, a course was offered where the students designed and assembled a display in our museum. The class decided to create a bedroom using 1940 artifacts that would make a museum room become an early 1940s bedroom occupied by a woman employed at Henry Ford's Bomber Plant – a “Rosie the Riveter” bedroom. As part of the course work, they found a granddaughter of a “Rosie” that lived in our museum during the 1940s when our museum was an apartment building. The “Rosie the Riveter Bedroom” will be open on Sunday December 14th as part of our annual Holiday Open

House. Family members of the “Rosie” that lived in our museum will be present to tell about their grandmother.

In the last issue of the Gleanings, I wrote about members who do something extra special for YHS. Cheryl Farmer and Eva McGuire recently did the same. Cheryl was inspired by the Sear's Kit Houses article earlier this year in the Gleanings. She sent an issue of that Gleanings issue to owners of the kit houses in Ypsilanti along with a letter from me inviting them to become a member. Mailed last week, we are waiting for results.

Eva McGuire volunteered to do a program for our October Quarterly Meeting. She is known as the “Corvair Lady” for her enthusiasm and ownership of 13 Chevrolet Corvairs built here in Ypsilanti at the Fisher Body Willow Run plant. When she learned that our Archives did not have Corvair information, she donated a Fisher Body book that tells the Corvair history. She also donated artifacts from Fisher Body employee Cecil Cole. Cecil was chosen by his bosses to “hand assemble” the first Corvair to get it ready for the main assembly line. He was issued a “Pilot Line” name badge on May 20, 1959 (the only one in existence) to work on this first Corvair. He was told to put the first Corvair together by hand without the use of power tools to get it ready for the main assembly line process. He then was also chosen to select and train the men who would work the main assembly line for Corvair.



Rosie Room with clock, heat lamp and meds.

Thank You Cheryl and Eva!

We continue to need docent guides to keep our museum open on Saturdays. You do not need to know Ypsilanti history; you will receive a handbook describing the contents of our museum's rooms and a special training tour. Our docents get to choose when they would like to host visiting guests as a docent. To get started, it just takes a telephone call to 734-482-4990 and leave a message indicating your interest.

In 2023, we were confronted with two major building needs – replacing the roof and doing major exterior maintenance on our museum building. The last exterior painting and roof replacements occurred sometime during the 1990s when our building was owned by the City of Ypsilanti. Figuring we could not expect our end-of-year annual appeal to fund both, we decided to ask Senator Jeff Irwin and Representative Jimmy Wilson for a line item in the 2025 budget to fund a new expensive metal roof that would last for many years. They were not successful for the 2025 budget year, so Senator Irwin and Representative Wilson

tried again for the 2026 budget. They successfully got \$140,000 budgeted for a new long-lasting metal roof for our museum. We should see the money next summer in time for our new long-lasting roof.

During our 2024 annual end-of-year appeal, we received several large donations. That money was separated and saved from our operating checkbook. With money from this year's annual appeal and interest money from an Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Community Fund account, we should be able to pay for the needed exterior maintenance. Now, in 2026, **thanks to Senator Jeff Irwin, Representative Jimmy Wilson and our members;** we will be able to overcome what were two major needs in 2023.

Our museum will be traditionally decorated for the holidays. We will be open Tuesday through Saturday between 2 and 5 until December 20th. A museum visit is a nice way of reminding ourselves of holidays past.

Wishing you peace, joy, and love this holiday season and throughout the New Year.



Eva McGuire, the "Corvaire Lady" with Intern McKinley Striggow showing documentation of the history of the Corvaire at the Willow Run Assembly Plant.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

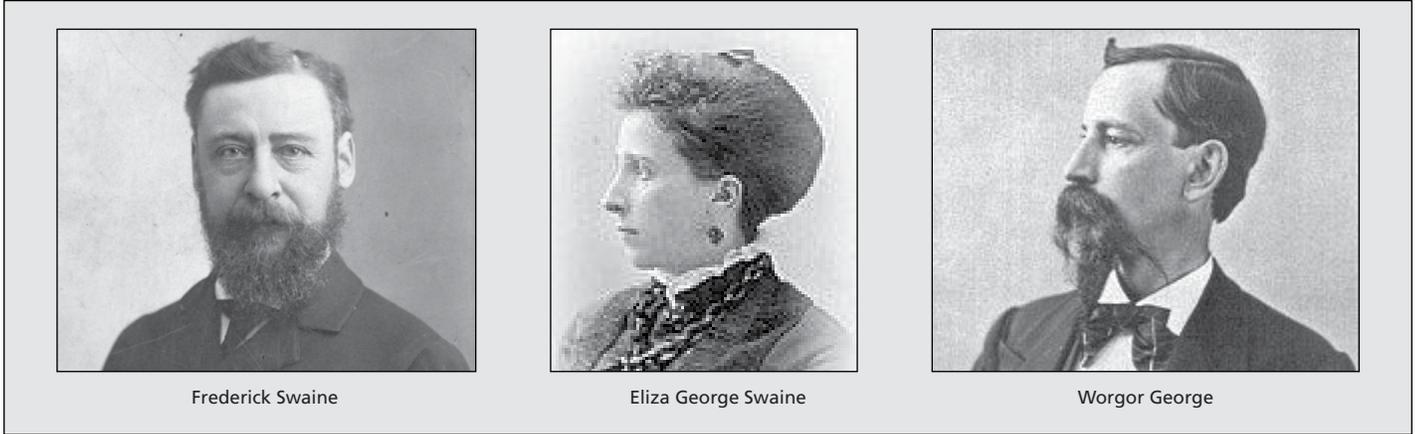
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Frederick Swaine

Eliza George Swaine

Worgor George

George. He fell in love with me. I consented at last and we were married in 1838."

Cary and George's oldest son, Worgor, who was given the unusual first name of the surname of George George's mother, Ann Worgor, was born in 1840. Frederick followed in 1843 and only a year later Cary Elizabeth, followed by George Edward in 1845. Eliza Ann joined the family in 1847. Poor Susanna was born in 1849 and died at the age of two. Lastly Martha Maria was born in 1851.

In an audio-taped interview recorded in 1965, Cary and George's granddaughter, Jessie Swaine, stated that her grandparents decided to come to America because they wanted their children to have a good and free education. In England at that time an education had to be paid for and the George family could not afford that for their many children. The year that George George crossed the ocean is uncertain but it is known that in the 1850s he purchased the Peck Street Primary for \$40, which was at the corner of

River Street and Forest Avenue, along with his son-in-law Leonard Wallington and his son Worgor. When George was able, he sent money for the rest of the family to join him. The George family were skilled brewers of beer in England. George George, Leonard Wallington and Worgor George went to work converting the vacant school into a malt house. Worgor was married in England to Emily Morgan who was seven years older than him and their oldest daughter, Marianne, was born there. Leonard

Wallington was born in Saline on a farm which he inherited and sold in order to purchase his share of the Peck Street Primary. He married George and Cary's beautiful daughter Cary Elizabeth and lived at 627 River Street.

Then along came a talented and confident young man, a graduate of Cambridge, who grew up living in Lyme Castle in Kent and came to American to seek his own fortune. Even though he had just come into what was considered then a great deal of money willed to him by his father, Frederick Swaine was educated in classical music, but his family earned their living as well respected brewers and even Queen Victoria bought their beer. Swaine came to Ypsilanti to visit his George cousins on River Street and to find out more about the malt business that they were starting in the Peck Street Primary building. He liked what he saw and within a few years had married Cary and George's daughter Eliza, who had come to Ypsilanti for educational opportunities and had, indeed, graduated from the Normal College certified as a teacher. During their first year of marriage, Frederick and Eliza Swaine lived with her sister Cary Elizabeth and husband Leonard Wallington at the large home at 627 River Street while their own home at 101 East Forest Avenue was being constructed. The current owner of the house at 627 River Street has done extensive renovations and believes that at one time it was actually two hous-



Emily Morgan George with baby Percival and daughter Marianne.



The Swaine and George children in a donkey cart in front of the malt house.



The Swaine house circa 1883 with Jessie, Florence, their mother Lizzy George Swaine, and the children's nursemaid.

es joined together. Cary and George George occasionally lived there too, according to city directories.

There we have it – the George family of River Street with daughter Eliza married to Frederick Swaine and their children living at the corner of River Street and Forest Avenue at 101 East Forest Avenue, daughter Cary and her husband Leonard Wallington along with her parents Cary and George George across the street at 627 River Street and just a short block away Worgor, his wife Emily and their children at 505 River Street. Frederick Swaine soon bought the George family out of the malt business, although Worgor continued to work for him. The families not only lived close to each other, but shared holidays and family events. Worgor's grandson Edward George, who grew up in the family River Street home, be-



The Wallington girls, May and Maude, with their cousin Jessie Swaine riding bikes on River Street.

came not only a dentist but prominent citizen in Ypsilanti as the president of the school board. He is considered responsible for acquiring Frog Island from Detroit Edison who had previously owned it. He was also paramount in the planning and financing of George School on Ecorse Road and donated the land that it was built on. So, George and Cary George's wish for good free educations for their children and grandchildren came true with their immigration to American.

George George expressed his appreciation for his family in a poem that he wrote about a New Year's celebration with his family in 1879. Now how did

we learn about this poem? Several years ago, a woman appeared on my doorstep with a once-elegant but now faded small Victorian suitcase lined in tattered silk. She was the

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granddaughter of a dear and lifelong friend of the Swaine family and her mother had gathered up some of the items that she had inherited from Jessie Swaine. On her death bed, she requested that instead of being thrown away these items were to come back to their old home – my home. These included a pair of original lace curtains, a lone long Victorian glove, many crocheted items, a desk set, souvenirs from various trips and a file folder containing carefully written bits and pieces from the Swaine/George family histories. On the front of the yellowed folder it stated that these were copies of originals. Indeed, in the careful handwriting that only my third-grade teacher had, in pencil and on brittle paper, I learned more about the George family of River Street.

Among the papers were many poems – both the George and Swaine families often expressed their emotions by writing poetry. The poem that I want to share with you was written by George George after a New Year's Day celebration at his son Worgor's cozy home on River Street with the family gathered. Perhaps it will inspire all of us to ask our holiday company to leave their cell phones at home and come and enjoy life in the present with each other. Here is the poem.

New Year's Day 18 hundred 70 + 9

We all met at Worgor's together to dine
Old grandmamma and grandpapa and all of the rest
Except their son Edward who is far in the west.
First their eldest son Worgor, wife and children three
Next Cary and husband and two daughters that promise to be
The pride of the city so they all say,
At least they behave very nicely today
Then daughter Lizzie and her husband F. Swaine
The last but not least in the family train
With two little daughters both very small
But none of us think that it will be all.
A few friends dropped in to help us out of the hobble
And to see Percy and Freddy the turkey to gobble.
Minnie and her lantern of magical wonder
We gave a jolly hurrah which sounded like thunder.

G. George

What a wonderful and happy gathering of people without any electronic devices. Perhaps if you use your imagination you can smell the turkey which would have been cooked in a wood burning stove. The delicious aroma mixed with the homey smell of wood smoke, with vegetables simmering on the hot cook top. A great deal of work and love went into



The Worgor George house at 505 River Street.

each meal. This was a wonderful beginning to the new year of 1879.

Alas, the glee and excitement of a new year did not last long. Worgor's wife Emily Morgan George passed away six months later of tuberculous on June 3rd, 1879, at only 45 years of age. A month later the grim reaper came back to the George family of River Street. George and Cary George's daughter, Cary E. George Wallington, mother of May and Maud, the little girls in the poem, died seven weeks after childbirth as did her baby boy named George Edward.

The family was in mourning again a little over a year later. Worgor's and Emily's 17-year-old daughter, who he called precious Minnie, died of tuberculosis on December 8th, 1880. Her obituary reads: Minnie, beloved and only daughter of Worgor and Emily George, age 17. Minnie was left motherless a few months since. The eldest child, she was her fond father's dependence. She was 'Glad to go and meet her mam'. Shortly before her death she said to her aunt, Mrs. Swaine, 'Pa cries and you cry, but I don't.' Her pastor Rev. Dr. Wilson made some affecting remarks at the funeral. 'Thy Father called thee, loved ones, while yet in early bloom but fond, and hearts of earth will cry, too soon, too soon.'

Minnie's grandmother, Cary Eaton George wrote a few lines of poetry on her own as tribute:



The Wallington/George house at 627 River Street.

Some Additional Poems from the GEORGE FAMILY of River Street

Farewell dear youth released from mortal pains
To us this self-consoling trust is given
Not whilst we sorrow oer thy loved remains
The happy soul hath winged its flight to Heaven.

C. Eaton George

So much sorrow on River Street after a joyful family gathering in 1879 as the new year began. The lesson for us all is to put down the cell phone, turn off the television and just plain enjoy the company of your loved ones with hope in your heart that the year to come will be a blessed one. It seems that holidays were a time to write poetry in the George Family. Here are a few additional poems that I found. The first is a Valentine poem that grandpapa George wrote to his granddaughter Jessie Swaine.

I have searched and searched
the place around
Searched nearly every house
around
To see if I could possibly find
A nice little girl for a Valentine
All at once I thought of you
I want no other she will do
That's the girl for me, say I
The one that suits my eye
You are one dearest Jess
I choose you from all the rest.

Grandpa, 1883

And the George and Swaine families continued writing poems. There are many in that yellowed file folder delivered to my door written by George and Cary Eaton as well as Lizzie and Fred Swaine. They were often written on holidays or special occasions to celebrate love and sometimes to ease sorrow. An example is a poem written by Lizzie George Swaine on Christmas 1891 "*in loving memory of my little son Frederick John Swaine, died August 17th, 1883, aged 2 years and 11 months.*"



Florence and Jessie Swaine with Frederick John, the "Little Boy that Died."

The Little Boy that Died

I am all alone in my chamber now
And the midnight hour is near,
And the fagots crack and the clocks dull tick
Are the only sounds I hear,
And over my soul in its solitude
Sweet feelings of sadness glide
For my heart and my eyes are full when I think
Of the little boy that died.

I shall miss him when the flowers come

In the garden where we played;
I shall miss him more by the fireside
When the flowers have all decayed
I shall see the toys and his empty chair
And many a thing beside
And they will speak with a silent
speech
Of the little boy that died.
We shall all go home to our Father's
house –
To our Father's home in the skies
Where the hope of our souls shall have
no flight
Our love now broken ties.
We shall roam on the banks of the rim
of peace
And bathe in its blissful tide,
And one of the joys in our Heaven
shall be
The little boy that died.

L. Swaine Xmas 1891

I hope that you enjoyed this glimpse into an immigrant family that lived and died on River Street about 150 years ago. I wrote this article with a lump in my throat because their love shines through in their words.

(Janice Anschuetz has researched and written over 60 articles for the Gleanings. She has lived in the Swaine house for nearly 60 years having bought it from the estate of Jessie Swaine whose parents built it in 1875.)

Alice Warner Woods 1896 - 1990

The oldest daughter of Joseph E. and Lottie Warner, Alice was born January 21, 1896. Reared on the family farm out West Michigan Avenue, she attended the Ypsilanti Schools. Her college education was at Michigan State Normal College (now E.M.U.) where she obtained a Teaching Certificate in 1916. She taught school in both Detroit and Saline while working toward getting her Bachelor's Degree in Education. This she achieved in 1923.

Her family members were devout Methodists and at the age of 13 she became a member of the church. At the time of her death, she was the church's oldest member.

In August of 1924 she and Dr. James J. Woods were married. Dr. Woods practiced medicine in Ypsilanti and they began housekeeping in a house on West Cross St; the first house West of the point where Washtenaw and Cross St. divide. In the mid thirties they built their lovely home in the country on Washtenaw Avenue just East of Hewitt Road. Alice was an ideal doctor's wife, being patient herself, and always being interested in the ever growing families of her husband's patients.

Her interest in Beyer Hospital was demonstrated by her active work in the hospital's auxiliary, which she helped to organize in 1947, and of which she was a life member. She also was a life member of the Ladies' Literary Club and the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop. Her membership in the Gilbert Residence Auxiliary preceded by many years her becoming a resident there. She was a member of the Ann Arbor Women's City Club for many years, especially enjoying their Wednesday Musicales; and she was an active, dedicated member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

As wife, mother and grandmother she was devoted to her family. She was greatly admired by her friends and relatives when, for five years, she was a substitute mother for her four grandchildren, the youngest being six months old at the time she took over the task.

Her hobbies of sewing, knitting, collecting cranberry glass, entertaining her friends and gardening kept her life very active and involved. She knew that weeds were for pulling, and when she first moved to Gilbert Residence she expressed disappointment when her health prevented her from stooping over to pull the odd weed.

Until she was 90 she had an infallible memory for the names and faces of her host of lifetime friends. The receptionist at Gilbert Residence remarked that Alice Woods never complained about her circumstances or said an unkind word about anyone. Many of her friends were surprised and pleased to see her at their door with a small gift of homemade jam or a package of her delicious fudge.

Alice Woods was a living example of the expression: "To know her is to love her." She was a true legend of Ypsilanti.

Mrs. Lena Knapp Mellencamp.

Mrs. Lena Knapp Mellencamp, a life member of the Ladies Literary Club joined the organization fifty-four years ago in June 1903. Through the years she maintained an interest in its varied activities.

Mrs. Mellencamp came to Ypsilanti in 1899, attended Eastern Michigan College graduating in 1901, after which she taught school in Tadington, Michigan. Her interest in education continued by her association with college students who worked for her in the home and who considered her a second mother. Through her sister, the wife of Professor Wilbur Bowen, she had close associations with the college which continued when Mrs. Bowen was Professor Bowen's death and Mrs. Bowen was Director of Charles Mc Kenney Hall in its early years. She was Vice-President of the Embroid Club at one time.

In 1904 she married Edward A. Mellencamp who preceded her in passing on June 11, 1948. She was a devoted

Example of a Memorial commemorating Mrs. Lena Knapp Mellencamp.

Memorial for Alice Warner Woods written by Susan Sayre who was Ypsilanti's first female mayor.

Remembering the Ladies of the Club:

The Ladies' Literary Club Memorial Collection

BY PEG PORTER

Five years ago when I became the Historian of the Ladies' Literary Club, I was given a beat up accordion file with "Memorials" scrawled in ballpoint on the flap. Inside were over a hundred documents, many handwritten and some in fragile condition. The earliest were written in the 1920s, memorials of women born in the 1860s and 1870s. Some were members of area pioneer families while others had come to Ypsilanti to go to the Michigan State Normal College. As time went by, their daughters became Club members.

The Club has a tradition of paying a tribute to members who have passed away with a written memorial, delivered at a Club meeting with family invited. Members volunteer to write and deliver these tributes. Not every member is memorialized for a variety of reasons. For example, my godmother, Hazel (Mrs. Spen) Davis was an active, long-time member, who outlived most of her contemporaries, and as a result no one wrote a memorial, although her daughter,

Helen, and daughter-in-law, Mary Ellen were so recognized.

As I began to read this collection, it quickly became clear that it was a potentially significant contribution to not only local and family history but also to women's history for the documents provide numerous examples of women's lives over the years. The challenge was then how to share the collection with the interested public. About the same time I was interviewed for an oral history project under the direction of Matt Jones, Eastern Michigan University. I shared my interest in finding a way to provide access to the Memorials. He arranged for a meeting with Alexis Braun Marks, EMU Archivist who recognized the significance of the collection and its relevance to the University and its history as a number of women had been faculty or staff while others were wives of faculty and administrators.

As a result of this significant collaboration, the collection has been scanned and is now available in EMU Digital

Archives. The link is provided here and has also been provided to the YHS Archives.

<https://www.jstor.org/site/eastern-michigan-university/ladies-literary-club>

Gleanings readers may find family members in the collection, others who know Ypsilanti history will recognize familiar names. These are stories about women told by women.

Going forward, the Ladies of the Literary Club is in the process of transcribing the documents written in cursive and will continue the Memorial tradition, as the Club observes the 150th anniversary of its founding in 2028.

(Peg Porter is a resident of Ypsilanti and also the Historian for the Ladies' Literary Club.)



Ladies' Literary Club located at 218 N. Washington Street.

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Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients with Ties to Ypsilanti

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

Ypsilanti is extremely proud of our famous Congressional Medal of Honor recipients – Charles S. Kettles and Byron M. Cutcheon. These two brave soldiers are buried at Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, where we can pay our respects to their service, bravery, and honor at their final resting places. Few are aware, however, that there were six additional Medal of Honor recipients who have connections to Ypsilanti. If you aren't familiar with the names Henry H. Bickford, William Leonard, Andrew J. Kelley, Daniel R. McFall, William H. Thomas, and Robert J. Gardner, you soon will be after you finish this article.

When recipients are presented a Medal of Honor, Congress recognizes the city where the awardee was born and also accredits the city where the awardee enlisted into the military. In total, three Medal of Honor awardees were born in Ypsilanti (Charles S. Kettles, Henry H. Bickford, and William Leonard), four Medal of Honor awardees enlisted in Ypsilanti (Byron M. Cutcheon, Andrew J. Kelley, Daniel R. McFall, and William H. Thomas), and one Medal of Honor awardee's medal resides at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum (Robert J. Gardner).

The purpose of this article is to raise awareness of all eight Congressional Medal of Honor recipients with ties to Ypsilanti. Many readers of this article surely already recognize a few of their names, but the stories of each of them deserve to be shared with the citizens of Ypsilanti who share a common bond with them. The Medal of Honor awardees with ties to Ypsilanti are presented here in chronological order of the conflict date for which the honor was bestowed.



Byron M. Cutcheon enlisted in Ypsilanti and is shown here in his Civil War Uniform.

Major Byron Mac Cutcheon
May 10, 1863,
Horseshoe Bend, Kentucky –
U.S. Civil War

Byron M. Cutcheon has an impressive resume which spans academia, military, law, and politics. Cutcheon was born in Pembroke, New Hampshire on May 11, 1836 and became an orphan at a very young age. In 1855, he moved to Ypsilanti to study and teach. He enrolled at the University of Michigan in 1858 and was the principal of the Oak Grove Academy in Lenawee Coun-

ty. He graduated in 1861, and from 1861 to 1862 was the principal of Ypsilanti High School where he taught ancient languages, mathematics, and philosophy. Cutcheon resigned from Ypsilanti High School to enlist in the Civil War, where he was mustered into service as a Second Lieutenant for the Twentieth Regiment of the Michigan Infantry. Throughout the Civil War, he rose through the ranks from Captain, to Major, to Lieutenant Colonel, and to Colonel. At the end of his military career, he was brevetted Brigadier General of U.S. Volunteers on March 13, 1865.

During the Civil War, he fought in many battles, including Fredericksburg, Horseshoe Bend, Vicksburg, Jackson, Blue Springs, London, Campbell's Station, Knoxville, Fort Sanders, Thurley's Ford, Strawberry Plains, Chuckey Bend, Wilderness, Ny River, Spotsylvania Court House, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Reams Station, Poplar Spring Church, Boydton Plank Road, and Hatcher's Run. He was wounded at the battle for the Spotsylvania Court House and remained in the hospital for two months.

It was for his gallantry in leading his regiment in a charge at a house occupied by the enemy at Horseshoe Bend, Kentucky, that Cutcheon was awarded the Medal of Honor. In



Byron M. Cutcheon's grave at Ypsilanti's Highland Cemetery.

that battle, about 400 Union troops under the command of Colonel Richard T. Jacob were attacked by 4,000 Confederate troops under the command of General John Hunt Morgan. Hunt called upon Jacob to surrender, and Jacob replied for Hunt to “come and take him.” The fighting continued until the Union troops made a withdrawal across the Cumberland River.

After the war, Cutcheon returned to Ypsilanti and worked at the law office of his brother, Sullivan M. Cutcheon, who was the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives. Byron Cutcheon entered the University of Michigan School of Law in 1865 and graduated a year later. He moved to Manistee in 1867. Cutcheon served on the Board of Regents at the University of Michigan from 1875-1883. In 1882, he was elected to the United States Congress, serving four terms representing Michigan’s 9th Congressional District from 1883 to 1891.

Rank: Major
(Highest Rank: Brevet Brigadier General)

Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War

Unit/Command: 20th Michigan Infantry

Military Service Branch: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: May 10, 1863

Medal of Honor Action Place:
Horseshoe Bend, Kentucky

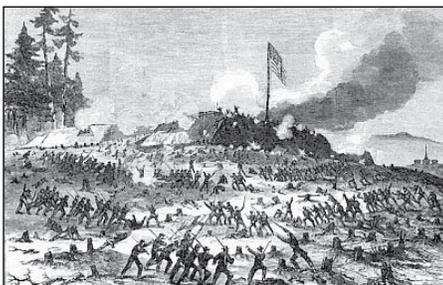
Accredited to: Ypsilanti, Michigan

Awarded Posthumously: No

Presentation Date & Details: June 29, 1891

Born: May 11, 1836,
Pembroke, Suncook County, New Hampshire

Died: April 12, 1908, Ypsilanti, Michigan



Andrew J. Kelly bravely fought in the Siege of Ft. Sanders in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Buried: Highland Cemetery (MH) (100-42-3),
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Location of Medal: National Archives & Records
Administration, Washington, DC

Citation: Distinguished gallantry in leading his
regiment in a charge on a house occupied by the
enemy.

**Private Andrew
John Kelley**

November 20, 1863,
Knoxville, Tennessee –
U.S. Civil War



Andrew J. Kelley enlisted in Ypsilanti with Company E, 17th Michigan Infantry, which was also known as the Normal Company.

Andrew J. Kelley enlisted as a Private in the Civil War in Company E, Seventeenth Michigan Infantry. This Company was known as the Normal Company because it was composed primarily of students and faculty from the Michigan State Normal School. Kelley fought at the Siege of Fort Sanders as part of the Siege of Knoxville, which was a Confederate attempt in November and December 1863 to prevent Union forces commanded by Major General Ambrose Burnside from relieving other Federal troops who were also under siege at Chattanooga. Kelley led a small group who fired upon buildings within Confederate lines. Under great danger, he ignored orders to retreat and continued firing until the buildings were destroyed.

Rank: Private (Highest Rank: Sergeant)

Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War

Unit/Command: Company E, 17th Michigan Infantry

Military Service Branch: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: November 20, 1863

Medal of Honor Action Place: Knoxville, Tennessee

Accredited to: Ypsilanti, Michigan

Awarded Posthumously: No

Presentation Date & Details: April 17, 1900

Born: September 2, 1845, La Grange County, Indiana

Died: June 4, 1918, Crookston, Minnesota

Buried: Oakdale Cemetery, Crookston, Minnesota

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Citation: Having voluntarily accompanied a small party to destroy buildings within the enemy's lines whence sharpshooters had been firing, Kelley disregarded an order to retire, remained, and completed the firing of the buildings, thus insuring their total destruction; this at the imminent risk of his life from the fire of the advancing enemy.



Daniel R. McFall enlisted in Ypsilanti with the Normal Company. His grave is at Rice Cemetery, Milan, Michigan.

Sergeant Daniel Robert McFall
 May 12, 1864,
 Spotsylvania, Virginia –
 U.S. Civil War

Daniel R. McFall was another member of the Normal Company. McFall fought in one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War – The Bloody Angle at the Spotsylvania Court House. Union troops, led by Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, launched an assault on a Confederate line of earthworks. The Confederates fought back,

leading to a hand-to-hand fight that lasted nearly 20 hours. The battle resulted in 17,000 casualties, making it one of the most intense single-day battles in American military history. McFall was credited with not only rescuing a captured Union Soldier, but also capturing a Confederate commander.

Rank: Sergeant

Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War

Unit/Command: Company E, 17th Michigan Infantry

Military Service Branch: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: May 12, 1864

Medal of Honor Action Place: Spotsylvania, Virginia

Accredited to: Ypsilanti, Michigan

Awarded Posthumously: No

Presentation Date & Details: July 27, 1896

Born: 1836, Niagara County, New York



Daniel R. McFall fought in The Bloody Angle in Spotsylvania, Virginia.

Died: November 5, 1919, Milan, Michigan

Buried: Rice Cemetery, Milan, Michigan

Citation: Captured Col. Barker, commanding the Confederate brigade that charged the Union batteries; on the same day rescued Lt. George W. Harmon of his regiment from the enemy.

Corporal Henry H. Bickford
 March 2, 1865,
 Waynesboro, Virginia –
 U.S. Civil War



Medal of Honor awardee Henry H. Bickford was born in Ypsilanti.

Henry H. Bickford was born in Ypsilanti on March 13, 1838, the son of Phineas and Sarah Bickford. Bickford enlisted in the Army from Hartland, New York, in October 1861. Bickford rose to the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant in the 8th New York Cavalry. He received his Medal of Honor on March 26, 1865, for his actions at the Battle of Waynesboro, Virginia, which took place on March 2, 1865, near the end of the Civil War.

The Battle of Waynesboro was the last significant military action of the Shenandoah Valley campaigns. An historical marker near Waynesboro describes the importance of the conflict. “On the ridge west of Waynesboro occurred the last engagement of Confederate forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early. Portions of Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan’s army, including cavalry led by Maj. Gen. George A. Custer, attacked and routed Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. Gabriel C. Wharton. Early and the remnants of his army retreated, leaving Sheridan in control and ending the Shenandoah Valley campaigns.”

During the Battle of Waynesboro, more than 1,200 Confederates were captured, along with 11 artillery pieces, 17 battle flags, and 150 wagons. Union losses were only nine men killed or wounded. Bickford’s medal citation was for “Recapture of Flag” for his action in recovering a union flag during the battle that had been held by the rebels from an earlier battle. Each man who captured or recaptured a flag was awarded a Medal of Honor. On March 27, 1865, the captured flags were turned over to the War Department by the men who captured them. Corporal Bickford told Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, as well as New York Senator Ira Harris that his home was at Johnson’s Creek, Niagara County, New York, that he had been in service nearly four years, and thought he would “see the war out.” The flag Bickford turned in was one of General George Crook’s headquarters flags, captured by Confederates in February of 1865 at Cumberland, Maryland. Bickford mustered out with his regiment in June 1865.

Bickford was married to Rosaline Stewart Bickford on October 5, 1870, in Pontiac, Michigan. Rosaline was from John-

son Creek, New York. The Bickfords moved to Hartland, New York, and had a daughter named Izora Whitmore, who was born in August 1894. Bickford died on May 20, 1917 and is buried at Hartland, New York. Rosaland died on August 3, 1920 and is buried with her husband.

Rank: Corporal (Highest Rank: Quartermaster Sergeant)

Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War

Unit/Command: Company E, 8th New York Cavalry

Military Service Branch: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: March 2, 1865

Medal of Honor Action Place: Waynesboro, Virginia

Accredited to: Middleport, New York

Awarded Posthumously: No

Presentation Date & Details: March 26, 1865

Born: March 13, 1838, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Died: May 20, 1917, Middleport, New York

Buried: Hartland Central Cemetery, Hartland, New York

Citation: Recapture of flag.



Henry H. Bickford fought at the Battle of Waynesboro in the Civil War.

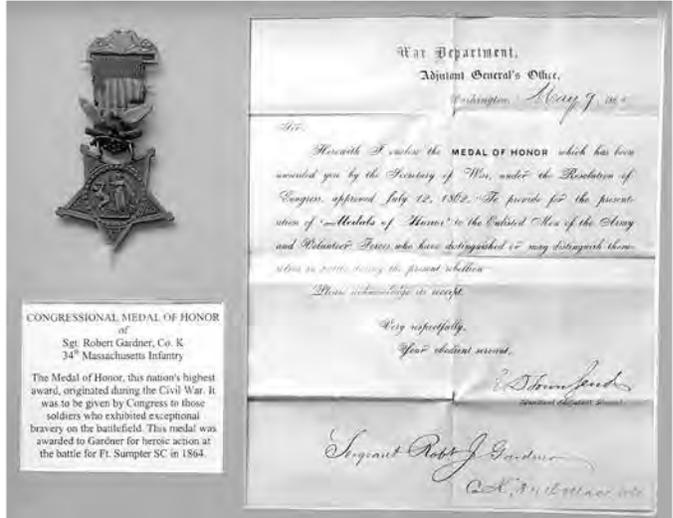
Sergeant Robert J. Gardner

April 2, 1865,
Petersburg, Virginia -
U.S. Civil War

Congressional Medal of Honor award-
Cee Robert J. Gardner was not from Ypsilanti, but his medal is now in the possession of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Gardner was born in Livingston, New York. He enlisted in Company K of the 34th Massachusetts Infantry. After the war he lived in Ann Arbor and Iosco, and is buried in Iosco.



Robert J. Gardner lived near Ypsilanti after the Civil War.



Robert J. Gardner's Medal of Honor and accompanying letter at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

The battle for Fort Gregg on April 2, 1865, in Petersburg, Virginia, was a significant event during the end days of the Civil War. The Union forces, led by General Ulysses S. Grant, launched an assault on Robert E. Lee's defenses. The Union had considerably more soldiers than the Confederates at the battle, but the Confederate defenders put up an intense fight. The battle is remembered for its intense and bloody nature, with many soldiers receiving the Medal of Honor for their bravery. The Union's victory at Fort Gregg was a crucial step in the Union's capturing of Petersburg, which in turn led to the fall of Richmond, the Confederate capital.

Robert J. Gardner was recognized as one of the first Union soldiers to enter Fort Gregg.

Rank: Sergeant (Highest Rank: First Sergeant)

Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War

Unit/Command: Company K, 34th Massachusetts Infantry

Military Service Branch: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: April 2, 1865

Medal of Honor Action Place: Petersburg, Virginia

Accredited to: Egremont, Massachusetts

Awarded Posthumously: No

Presentation Date & Details: May 12, 1865

Born: September 28, 1837, Livingston, New York

Died: September 23, 1902, Iosco, Michigan

Buried: Wright Cemetery, Iosco, Michigan

Location of Medal: Ypsilanti Historical Society, Ypsilanti, MI

Citation: Was among the first to enter Fort Gregg, clearing his way by using his musket on the heads of the enemy.

Private William Leonard
 May 7, 1877,
 Muddy Creek, Montana –
 Indian Campaigns



William Leonard's was born in Ypsilanti. His grave is at Mayn Cemetery, White Sulphur Springs, Montana, near the site of the battle for which he was awarded his Medal of Honor.

William Leonard was born on July 14, 1855 in Ypsilanti. He was a Medal of Honor recipient for his service to the country during the Plains Indian Wars. Leonard was a private in Company L, 2nd U.S. Cavalry. Leonard was awarded his Medal of Honor for actions taken at the Battle of Little Muddy Creek, also known as the Lame Deer Fight, which took place in Montana Territory on May 7-8, 1877. The battle was led by Colonel Nelson A. Miles against a tribe of Miniconjou Lakota Indians, led by Lame Deer. After an initial skirmish, Lame Deer and three others approached Colonel Miles to discuss a negotiation. Miles told Lame Deer to lay down his rifle, which he did, but it was cocked and facing forward. One of Miles' scouts, White Bull, then tried to take Lame Deer's nephew Iron Star's rifle, which caused Iron Star to shoot at White Bull. The bullet missed White Bull but hit and killed Private Charles Shrenger and chaos ensued. Bullets were flying everywhere and several soldiers and Lakota were hit.

Lame Deer was killed, and the U.S. troops rushed in and attacked the small and defenseless Indian village, destroying it and capturing about 450 horses. The U.S. suffered 4 killed in action and 10 wounded. The Lakota suffered 15 killed, 20 wounded, and 40 captured. Five Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded for their actions, including 1st Sgt Henry Wilkens, Sgt William H. Jones, Corp. Harry Garland, Pvt Samuel D. Phillips, and Pvt. William Leonard.

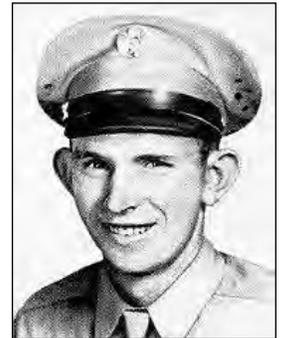
Private Leonard was awarded his Medal of Honor on August 8, 1877 and was cited for his "Bravery in Action." Leonard later married Nettie Marie Eaton Leonard of Anoka, Minnesota. Leonard died on September 15, 1923 in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, where the battle had ensued. He is buried at the Mayn Cemetery in White Sulphur Springs.



William Leonard was awarded his Medal of Honor for his bravery at the Lame Deer Fight at the Battle of Little Muddy Creek, depicted in a painting by Frederic Remington.

Rank: Private
 Conflict/Era: Indian Campaigns
 Unit/Command: Company L, 2d U.S. Cavalry
 Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
 Medal of Honor Action Date: May 7, 1877
 Medal of Honor Action Place: Muddy Creek, Montana
 Accredited to: Detroit, Michigan
 Awarded Posthumously: No
 Presentation Date & Details: August 8, 1877
 Born: July 14, 1855, Ypsilanti, Michigan
 Died: September 15, 1923, White Sulphur Springs, Montana
 Buried: Mayn Cemetery, White Sulphur Springs, Montana
 Citation: Bravery in action.

Private First Class William H. Thomas
 April 22, 1945,
 Zambales Mountains, Luzon,
 Philippine Islands -
 World War II



William H. Thomas enlisted for World War II in Ypsilanti. His parents also lived in Ypsilanti.

William H. Thomas was born in Wynne, Arkansas, on January 13, 1923. After he grew into adulthood, he worked as a farmer and timber worker. Around the time of World War II, Thomas followed his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas, to Ypsilanti. William Thomas enlisted for service in World War II in Ypsilanti, and entered the Army at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, in April 1944. Thomas had been rejected by the Army a year earlier for a valvular heart disease. After he went through boot camp, Thomas served in World War II in the Philippines. On April 22, 1945, Thomas was involved in a firefight in the Zambales Mountains on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. An explosion blew off both of his legs, and in spite of this, he continued bravely fighting. Thomas was approached by a medic, yet he refused morphine and a tourniquet and continued firing at the enemy to provide cover to his compatriots. His automatic rifle was hit by bullets and became inoperable, so Thomas threw his hand grenades and killed three enemy soldiers. Thomas' platoon leader stated "If it had not been for this courageous action of



William H. Thomas' grave at A.B.M.C. Manila Cemetery, Manila, Philippine Islands.

this wounded man, the platoon might have been repulsed with heavy casualties.” Thomas died later that day. A Purple Heart and Medal of Honor was presented posthumously to William Thomas’ father, and Ypsilanti resident, John Thomas.

Rank: Private First Class

Conflict/Era: World War II

Unit/Command: Company B, 149th Infantry, 38th Infantry Division

Military Service Branch: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: April 22, 1945

Medal of Honor Action Place: Zambales Mountains, Luzon, Philippine Islands

Accredited to: Ypsilanti, Michigan

Awarded Posthumously: Yes

Born: January 13, 1923, Wynne, Arkansas, United States

Died: April 22, 1945, Luzon, Philippine Islands

Buried: A.B.M.C. Manila Cemetery, Manila, Philippine Islands

Location of Medal: Michigan Heroes Museum, Frankenmuth, Michigan

Citation: He was a member of the leading squad of Company B, which was attacking along a narrow, wooded ridge. The enemy, strongly entrenched in camouflaged emplacements on the hill beyond, directed heavy fire and hurled explosive charges on the attacking riflemen. Private Thomas, an automatic rifleman, was struck by one of these charges, which blew off both his legs below the knees. He refused medical aid and evacuation, and continued to fire at the enemy until his weapon was put out of action by an enemy bullet. Still refusing aid, he threw his last two grenades. He destroyed three of the enemy after suffering the wounds from which he died later that day. The effective fire of Private Thomas prevented the repulse of his platoon and assured the capture of the hostile position. His magnificent courage and heroic devotion to duty provided a lasting inspiration for his comrades.



Charles S. Kettles was born in Ypsilanti and is buried at Highland Cemetery. He received his Medal of Honor from President Obama in 2016.

Major Charles Seymour Kettles

May 15, 1967,

Duc Pho, Vietnam –
Vietnam War

Charles S. Kettles was born in Ypsilanti on January 9, 1930. He studied engineering at Michigan State Normal College. At age 21, he was drafted into the United States Army. He attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, where he earned his commission as an armor officer in the United States Army Reserve on February 28, 1953. He graduated from the Army Aviation School in 1954 and served active-duty tours in South Korea, Japan, and Thailand.

After leaving active duty, Kettles came back to Michigan and opened a Ford dealership in Dewitt, Michigan, while he continued service in the Army Reserve. During the Vietnam War, Kettles volunteered once again for active duty in 1963 and was trained as a helicopter pilot at Fort Wolters, Texas in 1964. In 1966 he was trained to fly the Bell UH-1D “Huey” helicopter. In 1967, he was deployed to South Vietnam as a flight commander with the 176th Assault Helicopter Company of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion. It was during this deployment that Kettles was engaged in a conflict for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His second tour of duty in Vietnam was in 1969 and 1970. On return to the United States, Kettles

was deployed to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, where he remained until his retirement from the Army in 1978. Kettles moved back to Ypsilanti and earned a master’s degree at Eastern Michigan University. He worked at Chrysler Pentastar Aviation until his retirement in 1993.

Kettles was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic acts as a helicopter pilot. After an engagement with the enemy, he continually returned his helicopter to an embattled war zone to rescue wounded and stranded soldiers. Kettles later said, “We got the 44 out. None of those names appear on the wall in Washington. There’s nothing more important than that.” Upon his receipt of the Medal of Honor at the White House in 2016, President Obama said “You couldn’t make this up. It’s like a bad Rambo movie.” A soldier who was there that day said “Major Kettles became our John Wayne,” to which President Obama re-

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sponded, “With all due respect to John Wayne, he couldn’t do what Chuck Kettles did.”

Kettles died in Ypsilanti on January 21, 2019. In 2020, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ann Arbor was named the LTC Charles S. Kettles Veterans Affairs Medical Center. There is a wonderful display in his honor at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, along with another display at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center on Huron River Drive. The commemorative display at the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center is appropriately across the street from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310.

Rank: Major

Conflict/Era: Vietnam War

Unit/Command: 176th Aviation Company, (Airmobile) (Light), 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Americal Division

Military Service Branch: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: May 15, 1967

Medal of Honor Action Place: Duc Pho, Vietnam

Accredited to: Michigan

Awarded Posthumously: No

Presentation Date & Details: July 18, 2016, presented by President Barack Obama at the White House

Born: January 9, 1930, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Died: January 21, 2019, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Buried: Highland Cemetery, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Citation: Major Charles S. Kettles distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as Flight Commander, 176th Aviation Company (Airmobile) (Light), 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Americal Division near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. On 15 May 1967, Major Kettles, upon learning that an airborne infantry unit had suffered casualties during an intense firefight with the enemy, immediately volunteered to lead a flight of six UH-1D helicopters to carry reinforcements to the embattled force and to evacuate wounded personnel. Enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire raked the landing zone, inflicting heavy



Charles S. Kettles' commemorative display at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

“Major Kettles refused to depart until all helicopters were loaded to capacity.”

damage to the helicopters; however, Major Kettles refused to depart until all helicopters were loaded to capacity. He then returned to the battlefield, with full knowledge of the intense enemy fire awaiting his arrival, to bring more reinforcements, landing in the midst of enemy mortar and automatic weapons fire that seriously wounded his gunner and severely damaged his aircraft. Upon departing, Major Kettles was advised by another helicopter crew that he had fuel streaming out of his aircraft. Despite the risk posed by the leaking fuel, he nursed the damaged aircraft back to base. Later that day, the Infantry Battalion Commander requested immediate, emergency extraction of the remaining 40 troops, including four members of Major Kettles' unit who were stranded when their helicopter was destroyed by enemy fire. With only one flyable UH-1 helicopter remaining, Major Kettles volunteered to return to the deadly landing zone for a third time, leading a flight of six evacuation helicopters, five of which were from the 161st Aviation Company. During the extraction, Major Kettles was informed by the last helicopter that all personnel were onboard, and departed the landing zone accordingly. Army gunships supporting the evacuation also departed the area. Once airborne, Major Kettles was advised that eight troops had been unable to reach the evacua-

tion helicopters due to the intense enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Major Kettles passed the lead to another helicopter and returned to the landing zone to rescue the remaining troops. Without gunship, artillery, or tactical aircraft support, the enemy concentrated all firepower on his lone aircraft, which was immediately damaged by a mortar round that shattered both front windshields and the chin bubble and was further raked by small arms and machine gun fire. Despite the intense enemy fire, Major Kettles maintained control of the aircraft and situation, allowing time for the remaining eight soldiers to board the aircraft. In spite of the severe damage to his helicopter, Major Kettles once more skillfully guided his heavily damaged aircraft to safety. Without his courageous actions and superior flying skills, the last group of soldiers and his crew would never have made it off the battlefield. Major Kettles' selfless acts of repeated valor and determination are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. Details of the many of the Ypsilanti Medal of Honor recipients is attributed to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (www.cmohs.org). Additional information for this article came from Wikipedia.org, Ancestry.com, and FindAGrave.com. Robert is a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

Letter from the Museum Advisory Board

BY NANCY BALOGH

As the holiday season approaches, the museum is joining in the spirit. A special Halloween event took place on October 24th. The museum was transformed into a spook house complete with mannequins dressed in costumes. Children enjoyed story-telling, "hunting" for candy, and craft activities in the archives. Our EMU intern, McKinley Striggow did an outstanding job organizing the event. She said, "As an intern, my time here may be short, but it has



Halloween Event Flyer

been incredibly meaningful as I've enjoyed planning, organizing, and implementing the Historical Society's Halloween event over the past two years. None of the magic would have been possible without an amazing team of dedicated volunteers! From decorating to running activities with endless enthusiasm, everyone helped transform the museum into a spooktacular experience. I can't wait to see how the event continues to grow in the years ahead!" A special thank you goes to Liz Rodriguiz, Catherine Sanford, Jacqueline Downing and Kasen Saul.

On Sunday, November 16th, the museum was again transformed. This time it was in preparation for the Annual Holiday Open House which will be Sunday, December 14th from 2:00 - 5:00. This year the Open House will be special for two reasons. First, visitors will be able to view the results of the EMU Saturday Historic Preservation project, which was to create a bedroom similar to the one

used by a "Rosie the Riveter." The new exhibit can be found on the second floor in the former "Toy Room." Secondly, while doing research, the class discovered and met with the granddaughter of a "Rosie" who lived at the museum house. A representative from her family will be at the opening of the exhibit to be held during the Open



Children making a mask in the YHS Archives.

House. All are welcome to the Annual Holiday Open House as it is a public event and refreshments will be served.

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110 W. Cross St. – Ypsilanti 48197
734 547-0663
www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org

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Admission (online pricing):
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Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum

100 E. Cross St. – Ypsilanti, MI 48198
734 482-5200
www.ypsiautoheritage.org

Hours: 1 to 4 Thursday thru Sunday
Admission: Adults - \$10 • Kids (under 12) Free



Ypsilanti History Center House Museum & Archives

220 N. Huron St. – Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Museum 734 482-4990
Archives – 734 217-8236
www.ypsihistory.org

Hours: 2 to 5 Tuesday thru Saturday
Admission: Adults – Free Kids – Free



Michigan Flight Museum

47884 D St. - Belleville, MI 48111
734 483-4030
www.miflightmuseum.org

Hours: 10 to 4 Tuesday thru Saturday
11 to 4 Sunday
Admission: Museum Members – Free
Adults - \$13 • Seniors (60+) & Vets - \$10
Kids (3 to 17) - \$10 • Kids (Under 3) – Free



Wood Nymph of Ypsilanti

BY JAMES MANN

Newspapers across the country carried a wire service story on August 12, 1915, of a wood nymph seen near Ypsilanti, Michigan. This was called the twin of the nymph seen in the vicinity of Sparta, Wisconsin a few days before. There, a young woman was reportedly seen running through the woods, dressed only in a winsome smile and a dainty lace boudoir cap. The Ypsilanti nymph was reported to be a tall girl, “slender and beautifully formed, and apparently eighteen years of age.” The nymph was reported to have been seen wandering in the woods near the Lay Curve, three miles east of Ypsilanti. She was first reported on Sunday, August 8, 1915.

“I was on my way home from church,” said Abbott Marshall, “I had gone to a church in Ypsilanti and had taken a young lady home, so I guess it must have been after 9:30, I was walking down the tracks and a car from Detroit was approaching. I stepped aside and as I did, I saw a white figure start from the side of the road and cross the track. There is a little hill about where the car was, and the headlight dropped behind it, so I only got a glimpse. But I saw that the figure was that of a young girl of about 17. She didn’t have a stitch on except what I thought was a handkerchief. Her hair seemed kind of loose and tumbling like. She was tall for a woman and real slender, though her figure was good. I was a little frightened at first and then I started to run toward where she had crossed. I got there just about the time the car was real close and I could see the corn in

a field waving. I thought she had gone in there and I followed, I couldn’t find her and then I telephoned to some of the neighbors, and we hunted for an hour or more. I was about 150 feet from her. She walked all right, and I don’t believe she was drunk.”

The car Marshall had seen was most likely driven by W. D. Crocker, who with his wife continued to Ypsilanti, where they informed police, they had seen what they believed to be an insane person.

“The news,” reported *The Detroit News* of Wednesday, August 11, 1915, “is just starting to be circulated in Ypsilanti and as a result dozens of men are suddenly filled with desire to do a bit of fall hunting a little ahead of the season. They also seem to think that the most game can be secured near the Lay Curve.”

Ypsilanti Chief of Police Cain was inclined to believe the girl was a member of a group “who had been given liquor until intoxicated and then, either on a dare or as a mad prank after reading of the Sparta case, had decided to go a do likewise.”

Deputy Sheriff Connors was of the opinion the young woman might have been sleepwalking or was following a new form of mood worship. “He spent most of Tuesday evening driving about the neighborhood in hopes of glimpsing the gleaming flesh of field fay. A blanket was rolled in the seat beside him.”

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



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EMU named its football field Maxx Crosby Field on June 21, 2024.

Former Student Leaves Legacy

By Kasen Saul

For the first time on September 27th, 1969, the Eastern Michigan Hurons (later renamed the Eagles in 1991) played against the University of Akron at Rynearson Stadium, winning the game 10-3. This was the first game played at their new stadium. Before playing at Rynearson Stadium, the Hurons played at Briggs Field, which was located on Eastern's campus and was their home since 1933.

The reason behind the move to Rynearson Stadium came from the University. During the final years of Briggs Field, the University had been looking for more area to expand the campus. The location that they chose had been where Briggs Field was located. With that, the University would decide that they were going to build a new stadium and name it after Elton J. Rynearson. Elton was a longtime component of the football program at Eastern Michigan. By the end of his career, Rynearson had coached for 26 seasons

Maxx Crosby was a defensive end for the Eagles Football Team from 2015-2018.

In these years, Crosby recorded 20 sacks and 41 tackles-for-loss, making him a standout player for any professional football team that may have been scouting.

and held a record of 114-58-15. Rynearson had cemented himself as an Eastern Michigan legend, and to honor this, the University would name its new stadium after him.

Located at 799 N. Hewitt Rd, Rynearson Stadium has become a landmark in Ypsilanti for both students and residents alike. One key detail that visitors or passersby may notice immediately is the unique gray coloring of the turf on which the Eagles play their games. Eastern Michigan University is one of only two universities in the U.S. to play on gray turf, with the other being Lindenwood University, located in St. Charles, Missouri. The idea to create a field with gray turf was decided after a harsh winter practice took place in Rynearson Stadium. The reasoning for practicing in these poor weather conditions came from the head coach of the Eagles, Chris Creighton. The idea was to prove that the Eagles were tough and could compete in any competition under any condition. Creigh-

ton told the team they could play “Anyone, anytime and anywhere, even in a parking lot covered with broken glass.” The idea of playing in a parking lot is why the choice for gray was made, as it represented the toughness of the Eagles. In 2014, the project of replacing the old turf with the new gray turf began.

After 10 years, the field had seen many athletes come and go. However, one of these athletes stands out more than the rest. Maxx Crosby was a defensive end for the Eagles Football Team from 2015-2018. In these years, Crosby recorded 20 sacks and 41 tackles-for-loss, making him a standout player for any professional football team that may have been scouting. In 2018, Crosby declared for the NFL draft and was drafted by the then-Oakland Raiders (now Las Vegas Raiders) in 2019. Maxx would become a star player in his professional career and record 61.5



Maxx Crosby was a defensive end for the Eagles football team from 2015-2018.

sacks so far in his time with the Raiders. This is an impressive feat for a defensive end, and Crosby would be recognized for his talent as he would become a 4x Pro Bowler with many years still to come.

With the conclusion of the 2024 NFL season, Crosby was due for a new contract, and many fans speculated that Crosby would return home to Michigan to play for the Detroit Lions, as he grew up in Lapeer, MI, and was a die-hard Lions fan growing up. However, this did not end up happening. In March of 2025, Crosby would sign a contract extension with the Las Vegas Raiders for the large sum of \$106.5 million over the course of 3 years. This, however, did not mean that Crosby had forgotten about his time in Michigan playing on the gray turf at Rynearson Stadium.

After 10 years of use, the turf that



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Maxx Crosby donated \$1,000,000 to his alma mater, EMU, for the renovation of the football field.

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the Eagles played on started to wear down and lose its coloring. Having been the only school to offer Crosby a spot on the team after high school, he felt as if he wanted to do something that would leave a legacy at Eastern Michigan. Crosby would end up donating a total of \$1 million dollars to Eastern Michigan's athletic department in 2023. This money would be used to benefit all sporting programs at Eastern Michigan and mark a new era in Eastern Michigan's athletics program. The football team benefited from this, as in June of 2024, before the start of the season, a new gray turf would be put in. Due to his major contribution to the athletic department, the field would be renamed to Maxx Crosby Field. This name would go to support the legacy that Crosby wanted to leave for his alma mater, and the only one that ever gave him a chance to play beyond high school.

Crosby's journey with Eastern Michigan and its football program would not end there. Maxx Crosby currently holds the title of Assistant General Manager for Eastern Michigan Football. His role is to help with evaluating high school recruits and new recruits that may be coming to the school through the transfer portal. Since 2021, college athletics have implemented a new rule for athletes to be paid called NIL (name, image, and likeness). This new rule allows players to use their name, image, or likeness in order to get paid

through sponsors or even schools trying to recruit them. Since implementing this rule, the college athletic transfer portal has seen more traffic than ever before, as players want to see how much schools are willing to pay them to come play for their team. With his new position, Crosby is also in charge of helping to manage EMU's NIL/revenue share budget. That, however, is not the only aspect of the budget that Crosby helps out with, as he also holds the role of Assistant to the Athletic Director on alumni relations, fundraising, and student-athlete support.

Whether it's from exposure, donations, or his new role as assistant general manager, there is no doubt that Maxx Crosby has done a lot to help not just Eastern Michigan University but also the city of Ypsilanti. The name Maxx Crosby has almost become a household name in Ypsilanti, as many remember the time he spent playing here and the ways he helped reshape the athletic department at EMU. There is no doubt that Crosby completed his goal of leaving a legacy at EMU, as now his name will forever be remembered whenever the Eagles step out onto the gray turf at Maxx Crosby Field.

(Kasen Saul is a student at Eastern Michigan University and a volunteer at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.)

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The Ladies' Literary Club of Ypsilanti and its Remarkable History of Awarding Young Women Scholarships

A Beautiful Life: Sarah Wadhams George

BY PENNY SCHREIBER

"A composite picture of energy, force, progressiveness, alertness, tact, and sweet womanliness."

—Sarah George, as described in the 1912 Ladies' Literary Club magazine.

In 1879 Sarah Wadhams George was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1847. She came to Ypsilanti when her husband, Austin, was appointed Professor of English at the Normal College. One of Sarah's first tasks after arriving in town was to join the fledgling Ladies' Literary Club. She plunged in enthusiastically. During her forty years of membership, she was a vital and beloved force in the club. Sarah twice served as club President, in 1882–1883 and 1910–1912, and she was appointed head of the Board of Trustees in September 1912.

Sarah and Austin George raised six children in their house on Normal Street. Both were deeply involved in city affairs. Sarah helped raise money for the expansion of the Congregational church, she was a leader in the local women's suffrage movement, and she served as President of the Ypsilanti Home Association, among many other community activities.

Sarah George bubbles up everywhere in the archives of the Ladies' Literary Club at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library. Sarah enriched those archives by saving so many club programs and memorabilia. Sifting through the early club records, one discovers a much-appreciated Sarah George, with her hand in everything.

Sarah served on the first finance committee, which met to consider the purchase of the clubhouse. In notes she made about the home-purchase negotiations, she describes the house as "an opportunity to do a beautiful and honorable thing for the community."

In the 1928 yearbook Sarah is listed under "active members." On the club's fiftieth anniversary, May 9, 1928, Sar-



Sarah George

ah George, in her eighty-first year, gave a talk, vividly recalling many long-ago members. After Sarah spoke, Mrs. Frain stood up, saying: "I wish to propose, at this time, a Sarah George Loan Fund, not only to honor Mrs. Sarah George, but to help worthy high school students to continue their education in a college or university."

Sarah George died eight months later, on December 29, 1928. The headline on her long obituary in the Ypsilanti newspaper read, "Death Closes a Beautiful Life."

Today the Ladies' Literary Club awards the Sarah George Scholarship annually to a young woman who has graduated from any public high school program in Ypsilanti and who plans to attend EMU. The first Sarah George Scholarship was awarded in 1953 to Betty Ann Curtis. Qualifications include outstanding leadership, scholarship, and community service.

It is fitting that so many years after her death Sarah George, Ladies' Literary Club member extraordinaire, is still remembered and honored through the annual scholarship given in her name.



Joan Willoughby

The club established its Joan Willoughby Scholarship in 1999 with a grant from Dr. Robert Willoughby in memory of his wife, a dedicated and beloved past president of the club.

Joan Willoughby trained to be a nurse at Temple University in Philadelphia. This scholarship is awarded annually to a female high school graduate or a non-traditional student from Washtenaw County, who can demonstrate unmet financial need and is in her second year of the nursing program at Washtenaw Community College.

The Barbara Weiss Scholarship was created in 2014-2015 to honor the memory of Barbara Weiss, a past president of the



Barbara Weiss

club and a true giant in Ypsilanti's and Eastern Michigan University's volunteer community.

Young women graduating from a high school program in Ypsilanti planning to enroll fall term at any university in Michigan or the United States may apply. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding leadership, scholarship, a n d

community service.

The Mary Irene Pappas Scholarship was established in 2024 by her loving family to honor her memory. Mary was a Life Member of the Ladies' Literary Club, joining in October 1974. A former teacher, she was an ardent supporter of the scholarship program and an enthusiastic partic-



Mary Pappas

ipant in the club's many activities. Mary is remembered as warm, funny, and interesting, "the blessing her family deserved."

Young women graduating from a high school program in Ypsilanti planning to enroll fall term at any university in Michigan or the United States may apply. Applicants must demonstrate outstanding leadership, scholarship, and community service.

The club estimates that from 1953 to the present day they have awarded approximately 244,200 scholarships to young women in the Ypsilanti community.

The club is now raising funds for an endowment to support their new Centennial Scholarship. This scholarship is going to provide financial support to some of the most vulnerable young women in our area—those who have or who are aging out of the Michigan foster care system. This fund will supply vital financial resources for those stepping into the adult world alone, without parents or families.

To learn how to donate to this new scholarship, please see the ad below.

LLC Centennial Fund Scholarship Drive

Help us grow a scholarship endowment specifically for some of the most vulnerable young women in our area — those who are aging out of Michigan's Foster Care system.

Since 1928 the Ladies' Literary Club of Ypsilanti has supported post-secondary education for young women in our community with university scholarships. The Centennial Fund Drive celebrates 100 years of giving and targets young women working to reach beyond their challenging life circumstances.

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