WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MAY 1996

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

Photo by Karen O'Neal

KAREN'S COLUMN
BRAINSTORMING SESSION GENERATES LOTS OF IDEAS

We are still looking for a way to get some electricians working on our electrical needs at the Museum on Main Street. The house remains in the *"Dark Ages,"* although we would like to change that as soon as possible, preferably with *"Lightning Speed."*

We are hopeful that we will be able to work out a satisfactory plan with the Plumbers and Mechanical Contractors Association of Washtenaw County, and that we will be able to get some electricians and then plumbers to work there very soon.

The list of steps left to complete the Museum is not that long. However, before we can go ahead, we must get everything into the walls that belongs in the walls, like wires and pipes. We are working with Rob Turner of Turner Electric and with Mike Krueger at Al Walk Plumbing.

A portion of the stated mission of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is *"to preserve and display local historical items, to interest and enlighten the public, and to teach, especially our youth, the history of Washtenaw County."*

On Saturday, April 27, several hours were given over to the consideration of the last part of this mission. A *"brainstorming"* session was held focusing on ways that the Society and the Museum on Main Street might work with area schools, colleges and universities, on mutually beneficial activities.

The session, led by Doug Kelley and assisted by Laura McNab, our part-time Educational Coordinator, included participation by President Susan Wineberg, Bets Hansen, Mae Hines, Eleanor Shaw, Arlene Schmid, June Rusten, Betty Byrd and myself.

Everyone had a good time generating lots of ideas about the interactions that could take place between our museum and the youth of the county (given the best of all possible worlds--a world of unlimited resources, money, people and time!).

These ideas will be followed up later with suggestions for practical ways one or several might be implemented.

Karen O'Neal, 665-2242

WCHS ANNUAL BUS TOUR

JUNE 8

SEE PAGE 7

'WHAT IS IT?' GAME OFFERED SCHOOLS, GROUPS

WCHS offers traveling exhibits of small artifacts, set up as a humorous "What is it?" game, to schools for children and another for adults. They are available for classes and meetings. Information: Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

ANNUAL POTLUCK MAY 15 WILL FETE JOHN ALLEN'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

Washtenaw County Historical Society will celebrate the 200th birthday of Ann Arbor founder John Allen at the annual potluck dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 15 , at Dixboro United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

The church is at 5221 Church Street in Dixboro, a block north of Plymouth Road.

Professor Russell Bidlack, the local authority on Ann Arbor's founders, will give a talk about Allen who was born May 17, 1796, in Virginia. There will also be election of officers.

Please bring a dish to pass serving 8-10 persons, your own dishes and table service. Beverages will be provided.

WCHS HAS 69% OF KNAPP'S POINTS TOWARD NEW GOAL

WCHS has now collected 12,141 Bill Knapp's Restaurant points toward more acid-free materials to safely store textiles. That is over 69% of our goal of 17,860 points.

Anyone who eats at Knapp's may request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time. One point is given for each dollar spent. Please give or send to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

WCHS FINERY OF PAST ON DISPLAY IN MAY

Karen Simpson, a WCHS director-at-large, has arranged an exhibit titled "In The Eye of The Beholder: Fashion and Finery From The Past" in the display case in the lobby of the old Post Office on North Main, now the County Administration Building.

She selected the items from the WCHS collection. They will be on display into early June.

Among items mounted on a lace background are a dainty red glass wine set, a lacy valentine, a fancy pink and white ink well and fans including one made of ostrich feathers.

Incidentally, Karen is the subject of an article in the May *Ann Arbor Observer* about her special African-American style of quilting and the quilting classes she teaches.

AT HOME IN ANN ARBOR -- 19TH CENTURY STYLE

The April WCHS audience met in the same parlor where Professor Silas Douglass and his wife, Helen, entertained 19th century medical students and fed them oyster soup.

The Douglass parlor was the perfect setting for Dr. Margaret Steneck's talk, "At Home in Ann Arbor," about home and family life of University of Michigan faculty in the 19th century.

Demolition of the 1848 home at 502 East Huron Street next to the First Baptist Church was under consideration a year ago but the church which owns it became committed to saving it.

"I first began looking at faculty wives a few years back when the Faculty Women's Club was about to celebrate its 70th anniversary and asked me to give a main talk at the celebration.

"The main thing historians traditionally don't do is talk any about the wives and families. I decided to give a talk without mention of men. It was wonderful.

"All the information, of course, came from the Michigan Historical Collections at Bentley Library which is our second home."

She and her husband, Professor Nicholas Steneck, teach a U-M class on the making of the U-M and most of that information comes from the Bentley.

"I'll talk first about the Douglasses, a family that we know something about through letters and diaries.

She showed a slide of the early campus. "The first faculty lived on campus. There were two classroom buildings fronting on State Street and four professor's houses, two facing North University and two facing South University. Only the President's house on South University remains.

"The Medical School was built in 1850. A Hudson River painter, Jasper Cropsey, came through in 1854 and President Tappan had him paint the University's portrait. That is probably the most valuable painting the U-M owns.

"When the four professor's houses were occupied, any other faculty had to find housing in town.

"The professor's houses were nice, commodious houses but in the 1860s and '70s they started using them as classroom buildings. Two became hospitals, one a regular medical hospital, one a homeopathic hospital. A third became a dental clinic. The only one not turned to other uses was the president's house.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Margaret Steneck

Douglass daughters at home in their parlor. Left to right, Marie Louise, Alice and Kate.

"A student sketch of the campus, the earliest we have, shows the four houses, and two dormitory-classroom buildings with a wood yard in the center and a stile. Campus was fenced in by 1847.

"The houses came to be allocated by religious denomination. It wasn't intended to be that way but as it worked out Professor Williams, an Episcopalian, was put in one, Professor Ten Brook, a Baptist in another, Professor Agnew, a Presbyterian, and Professor Whedon, a Methodist, in the others.

"Very quickly, in those highly denominational sectarian times--the 1840s--when any of those changed, those denominations insisted the houses went with the appointment.

"That was one of many reasons we had to get a president. Tappan came in and ended all of this sectarian squabble.

"The young Silas Douglass was hired in 1844 to be professor of chemistry. That was really a job to keep him around until the Medical School opened. That's what we were pointing to.

Douglass daughters Catherine Hulbert (left), Alice Helen (center) and Marie Louise.

"Zina Pitcher was working to get the Medical School open because there were three doctors that they wanted to be on the faculty--Douglass was one.

"In 1845 Silas Douglass and Helen Wells were married. Helen was a niece of Dr. Ebenezer Wells who built the Wells-Babcock house at 208 North Division Street, so she knew Ann Arbor.

"They bought a lot on Huron Street for $302.87 and proceeded to have an architect design their home. It says in *Historic Buildings , Ann Arbor, Michigan* it was the first house in Ann Arbor designed by an architect.

"I was surprised. I thought it would have been a house on Division Street. They began building it in 1848 and in 1849 it was finished. At first it was just the center section.

"On the west side it had the double parlor, on the east, dining room and kitchen. Upstairs there were two large bedrooms and two small ones.

"Typical of their time, their family grew, and as the family grew, the house grew. They first added an east wing in 1855. The front part of that became Silas's study, the front room upstairs was Helen's work room.

"Behind the study was the dining room. Eventually they would enlarge the kitchen. They would also enclose a back porch as another room. Shortly after the east wing addition, they put on a west addition and a bay window.

"It was a charming example of Gothic Revival and was very much on the cutting edge of architectural style."

"A daughter, Kate Douglass, sat down and wrote her reminiscences. They are very valuable, giving a glimpse of life in Ann Arbor in the 1840s and 50s. I'm going to read extensively from them. She titled her piece 'Good Old Times.'"

Kate : "Our mother has seven children and not very much means to do with. In the first place, seven children and their parents take a good deal of sewing to clothe them, even if things are made simply."

"There were no sewing machines when the oldest children were small and one could not go downtown and buy anything ready-made."

Slide: An 1862 photo of early Ann Arbor shops. "They were utilitarian," Dr. Steneck said. "You could buy basic provisions. Everything had to be made at home."

Kate: "Mother had to make all the clothing herself or hire it done. She made Father's fine shirts by hand, stitching the tucks and hems with fine stitches. All the children's clothes had to be made as well.

"I remember once, when I was going to visit an aunt, Mother had a seamstress in the house and had her make me a lovely white petticoat, very full, with open eyelet embroidery around the buttons by hand. I have it yet. They also made me a dress all in one day."

Dr. Steneck: "You can see that the fact that the dressmaker came in and made a petticoat was a big event in her life and it was so unusual she would keep it. She was probably writing after the turn of the century."

Kate: "We had quilted hoods and petticoats for winter and we all knitted our own mittens, scarves and stockings for winter, including the boys. Each had to knit his or her own."

Dr. Steneck: "In an old account book I find that materials for a dress for Kate cost 50 cents and a pair of shoes for a brother also cost 50 cents.

"Provisioning for the winter was very important and this is something that, psychologically, I just don't think we can take ourselves back to. We know we're not going to go hungry in winter, even if there's a blizzard.

"We've got freezers and refrigerators stocked with food and in a few days you are going to be able to get to wherever you shop and stock up.

"You could not do that in the 1840s, '50s or even in the '60s it was fringy. You were provisioning in the Douglass house for seven children ultimately, two parents and Carrie, the maid who lived in a small bedroom above the kitchen--ten people."

Kate: "Then, too, there was the putting down of provisions for winter. Our Father bought either a quarter of beef or a pig and had a butcher come to the house to cut it up.

Dr. Steneck: "In my mind that's not a lot of meat for ten people to get through the winter."

Kate: "If beef, they'd corn some, dry or smoke some, some was hung up to freeze.

University of Michigan faculty wives meeting with President Angell's wife, Sarah Caswell Angell.

The bones were made into soup and the fat fried out for soap or candles. Some of the meat and suet was used for mince pie which was, of course, much work--it all had to be chopped by hand--no grinders in those days. Raisins and currants had to be prepared and all sorts of good things added. Then large jars were filled to make pies for the winter.

"If the animal butchered for winter was a pig, many good things were made--spare ribs for roasting, meat for sausages was chopped and seasoned and cheesecloth bags filled with it were hung up to freeze."

Dr. Steneck: "I find that interesting because they only had ice from the Huron River and whatever nature provides and we all know there's usually a January thaw. But Kate mentions freezing things twice."

Kate: "Fat pieces for salt pork were put in brine. The hams were rubbed with salt peter, brown sugar and molasses. They were put in brine, then rubbed again, sent to the butcher to be smoked, sewed up in cloth, whitewashed and hung in the old garret. There is still a big grease spot on the floor in the garret over which the hams hung.

Silas Douglass

"Pig feet were pickled. Lard was fried out, strained and large jars filled with the beautiful white lard. All of which made lots of work in the good old time.

"When meat was cooked or scraps of fat left over, it was fried out a little at a time, strained, put in jars and saved for soap.

Only wood was burned for fires and all the ashes saved in a dry place to use for making soft soap."

Dr. Steneck: "It is difficult for us to appreciate how much time Helen Douglass had to spend on just the basic necessities, keeping life going."

"Kate: "Mother always made her own candles to last the year. The tallow was fried out and strained, some wax added to harden it. Then the candle mold, which held about 20 candles, was strung with wicking and filled.

"When cool, it was hung up to harden and the process repeated until enough to fill a box was done. She would probably make 12 dozen to last the winter months,"

Dr. Steneck: "I think of candle making as 18th century. When I read these reminiscences, I was taken by surprise. I should know better as a historian. I know you are still making candles here in the 1840s and '50s but not on the East Coast where I come from [New Jersey].

"You are on a frontier here then. I would call it very late frontier or very early settlement period."

Kate: "In the spring a platform was built in the yard out back, about 18 inches high, a groove cut in the top for a platform, a little smaller than the barrel that was to hold the ashes.

"The barrel was placed on top, holes were made in the bottom of the barrel. A little straw and lime was placed in the barrel, then the ashes dampened enough to make them pack. The ashes were put in a little at a time and pounded down very hard until nearly full.

"Then hot water was put in every day and as soon as it soaked through, the good strong lye was caught in basins. There was always an egg handy to drop into the lye. If it floated, the lye was strong enough.

"As the lye collected, it was put in a barrel in the cellar with the clean, strained grease. The lye and grease were boiled together and strained, all of which took much time.

"In the end the housewife had a fine barrel of cream-colored soap which was used for everything but toilet purposes

on one's own body."

Dr. Steneck: "I know that my grandmother made her own soap but I also know that she bought the lye and some of the grease. There was a lingering feeling that this was good soap and this is what housewives did but I know that her equipment in the early part of the century was quite different from what Helen and Silas Douglass were working with."

She showed a slide of the Douglass garden back of the house. "Preserving fruits and vegetables took considerable time in the summer."

"Gardens were very popular. They were absolutely crucial. We look at it and say how pretty. They say this is our life, this is sustenance here."

Kate: "In the early days in Ann Arbor there were no self-sealing cans or jars. Fruits had to be preserved pound for pound with sugar. In the case of tomatoes, they were put in bottles and sealed with red wax.

"Great jars of pickles were made. We had a three gallon jar which was filled with piccalilli and little cucumbers were put up by the thousands.

"I remember that Mother and Grandmother boiled them in a large brass kettle to make them turn green. I wonder what doctors would think of that today."

"We came to be a large family and had many visiting relatives who loved good things to eat and Father and Mother were always considered hospitable."

"On New Year's Day Mother always received calls. The parlors would be opened up for entertaining. Guests went from house to house. She served chicken salad made the day before in large quantity and placed in a spare room to ripen."

Dr. Steneck: "I know that 'ripen' was the term used. I heard my grandmother use it but it has passed out of our language in that use because we think it means going bad. They simply meant to blend flavors."

Kate: "She also served scalloped oysters, turkey, pickles, rolls, coffee and cake. They lived well even though it took a great deal of time to do it."

"Many times Father would invite the medical students to call. Often the large room would be full of mature, bashful young men who loved good things to eat.

"There were four or five wives of faculty who took turns entertaining the students in the evening, serving oyster soup which they ate standing up with soup plates in hand. I remember thinking it very strange that one lady made her soup in the wash boiler.

TWO FIRST FAMILIES OF ANN ARBOR - ANGELLS AND COOLEYS
Standing, left to right, Mary and Thomas McIntyre Cooley, Alexis Angell with infant, and President James B. Angell. Seated, David Horton, unidentified, Fanny Cooley Angell with Thomas A. on her lap, Mrs. Angell's mother and Sarah Angell.

"When the family consisted of seven children, it took a good deal to feed them. Mother would make a great kettle of hasty pudding or corn meal mush which was boiled a long time and stirred often with a wooden paddle. On Sunday night she would make a big pan of hot bread and milk which we loved as children.

MISS CLARK TOOK HER CHERRIES AS THEY CAME

Kate Douglass, daughter of early U-M Medical School professor Silas Douglass, attended the popular Miss Clark's School for young ladies in Ann Arbor. Kate writes that Miss Mary Clark loved cherries and always visited at two houses on Huron Street where there were a number of cherry trees.

Kate wrote that Miss Clark ate cherries "stone, worms and all."

"But the good old times were not all hard work and the good things made were thoroughly enjoyed, much more so I think than what is now ready-made."

Dr. Steneck: "Kate says Ann Arbor society in those times was unusually good for a small place."

Kate: "Father and Mother had many good friends. There were many tea parties where both gentlemen and ladies were invited. They sat around little tables, thoroughly enjoying the good supper and pleasant talk."

Slide: Interior of Douglass house with table elaborately set up for a wedding.

Dr. Steneck: "It was common in faculty houses to have small tables with four to six people where you did all your entertaining and to invite company on Sunday afternoon.

"There were many tableaus. Uncle Tom and Little Eva and Sleeping Beauty were favorites. As I remember there was very little card playing.

"The brick walk which went down to the street from the front door was bordered on either side by roses--all the old fashioned varieties and Mother loved to take care of them."

Dr. Steneck: "When you read through it is all pleasant reading but every now and then you strike a little nugget of gold. It might not be of interest to everybody but was of great interest to us."

Kate: "The back room upstairs was originally Father's study. While he was using it, Mr. Bradish, the husband of a cousin of Father's, who was an artist, came here and painted portraits of all the medical faculty, Father's among them, in that room.

"He also painted mine when I was seven years old. It was too old for me but Mr. Bradish said I would grow to it. It also seemed very strange to me at the time that he had put a low-necked white dress on me that I never had."

Slide of six Bradish portraits.

Dr. Steneck: "We never knew where they were painted until I read that. The reminiscences are in the Bentley. It's just a question of somebody finding the right box years later and rediscovering what everybody knew at the time.

"When Nick became director of the Historical Center for Health Sciences, one of the things he wanted to do was get those paintings together and get them displayed in the Medical School. We had three and were missing three others.

"Missing were Silas Douglass, Moses Gunn and J. Adams Allen. Gunn went to Chicago and many, if not all, of his belongings were destroyed in a fire. We think it probably was lost there.

"Dr. Allen was not here very long. He took his portrait with him.

"We had Pitcher, Denton and Sager. Sager was down in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Denton in Surgery and they didn't want to give them up. We had to

negotiate through that.

"We found a portrait painter in Pittsburgh who does reproductions. We gave him the series of engravings. That was all he had to work with. We spent quite a bit of time there.

"Our son, Alec, is graduating from Carnegie-Mellon University about three blocks from the artist's studio so when we went to see Alec we would stop and talk with the artist about the men. He had to know about them before there could be any gleam in the eye.

"He did an excellent job. They are all now hanging in the entrance to the Medical School. I think they've done a very nice job of displaying them."

Slide: Miss Mary C. Clark.

Dr. Steneck: "The Douglass girls went to Miss Clark's School in Ann Arbor. It was a flourishing establishment started by four sisters from Buffalo, New York. Mary was head of the school.

"When you study University history it is just so clear that our contacts were with upstate New York. The whole origins of the U-M re-founding in 1837, the communication is with academics in upstate New York. That's the route that people came out here.

"It's not really surprising that we have sent five presidents to Cornell from the U-M

"Another sister was Chloe. She was an artist and taught the young ladies art. Sketching, of course, was one of the things young ladies learned in the 1850s and '60s. There are sketches from Kate's notebook in the Bentley Library.

"Ruby taught music--piano and guitar, and Jessie, the fourth and youngest sister, kept house. She was the only one to marry. The other three ran the school until Mary died.

"The school was in three different places. The final location is in what is now an apartment building on [505] North Division Street. It was built for the school. They took in boarders from as far away as New York state. The school was very popular.

"The Douglass girls had been trained as young ladies and not to do anything very intellectual. They did go on to high school but they found it hard to keep up. They hadn't been given the foundation and they did not go on to the University.

"The next generation of faculty children you are going to see girls go on. Many faculty daughters growing up in the 1860s and '70s will go on and even get Ph.Ds at the University.

"Let me pass on now to some of the other faculty.

"Alexander Winchell was professor of physics. He didn't really like physics, so as soon as he could, he jumped ship and became the geologist at the University.

"Like most scientists he was interested in science very broadly. He was also very concerned with matters of health and he built an octagonal house on the site of Hill Auditorium. Of course there are still some in existence but many of them have disappeared.

"It was argued that eight walls contain more space than four walls in the same circumference. It was believed that with windows on eight sides, some would always be facing the sun and there would be a lot of ventilation and better cross-ventilation, things seen to be important to good health.

Sketch by Kate Douglass, 1872

"The idea of a central core for heating and cooling was thought easier to heat and cool as well as there were fewer steps from one room to another. He had an elderly mother. He took steps into consideration.

"I'm glad we have Hill Auditorium but I sure wish we had that house.

The professor of Latin languages and literature, Henry Simmons Frieze, built what is probably the loveliest home of that period on Washtenaw at Hill, a lovely example of Italianate style on seven wooded acres, then well out in the country. The cupola was added later.

"Trees were selectively felled and the interior woodwork was constructed from trees on the property. The house was built by stone masons from Ontario.

"They hand-dressed the stone. They'd hold it up in the position it was going to see how it caught the light, then redress it if the light was not right.

"To me, Henry Simmons Frieze is the most extraordinary person ever associated with this University.

"I know quite a bit about this place and the people who made it, and there are a lot of great people, but there's simply no one who can match Frieze in the breadth of his mind, accomplishment, talent and what he did for this University.

"He conceived a way to bring music into the University when it was not considered academic, by forming the University Musical Society. He set that path in motion that leads to the Music School.

"He started admission by diploma which we all take for granted. It was Frieze who found the $2,500 needed to build the first engineering lab on campus when he was acting president.

"Judge Cooley--Thomas McIntyre Cooley and Kate Cooley--built another Gothic Revival house where the Michigan Union now stands. It was actually used as the Union for a while, then torn down.

"It was a beautiful home. Cooley was the foremost constitutional historian of his day." She showed a picture of the Cooley family with their seven children.

"The Douglass and Cooley children were strong and healthy and they all lived to adulthood. I think it is important for us to remember, and we sometimes forget, that was not true for everyone.

"Carrie and Henry Simmons Frieze had, I think, eight children. Six of them died young, only one or two outlived their parents. Somewhere between these two extremes was probably the norm.

"When women greeted each other in those days and until quite recently, when asked how many children they have, they likely would say so many *living.*

"Frieze was an accomplished musician and a very shy man. Had he had a different temperament, he would have been a concert musician. He and Franz Brünow, the astronomer, and Mrs. Andrew Dixon White used to play in a trio on Saturday evenings in one of their homes.

"The next morning Frieze would play the organ at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church where he was organist. People came from all over to go to church but really to listen to him play.

"Churches were very important. These people spent their lives in the University, in their home and in the churches. Clubs and reading groups are much more the creation of the late 1860s, '70s and '80s.

"The 1840s were a time of sectarianism in religion and it was very bitter, very divisive in the University. It was one of the factors that almost closed us down, not the only one by any means but a very important one.

"One's denomination mattered and re-

flected often the views that you held on social and moral issues of the day. Some of those issues, such as slavery, were big and very important issues. They were not trivial.

"It does not seem to have divided the University faculty as much as it did people throughout the state and in the town. The church was the anchor of their lives.

"The Douglasses were very active in the Episcopal Church. Silas was a vestryman. He was also mayor of the town at one point. The Friezes were Episcopal, Winchells were Methodist, Angells were Congregational.

"The old Presbyterian Church was where the *Ann Arbor News* is now. The Congregational Church split off from the Presbyterian here in Ann Arbor over the issue of slavery.

"That was not at all uncommon. It happened in my small town. There was a schism. Half of the church members did not go to church until the Civil War was over.

"I was talking to a kinswoman not too long ago. She said that her mother every day hung out the American flag because she was a Presbyterian and the Presbyterian iron master across the way was soft on slavery.

"Economic forces drove many congregations apart. Merchants and commercial people were concerned about trade and tended to be a little softer on slavery than others.

"In Ann Arbor the Methodists were very strongly anti-slavery. The Anti-slavery Society of Michigan was founded in the First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor in the 1840s."

Of an 1872 picture on Huron Street, she commented, "You can see we're getting more buildings, more hotels. It's beginning to show signs of real settlement."

Slide: 1855 Cropsey sketch of President's house.

"The President's house, of course, was an important center of social life in Ann Arbor. The sketch showed it as it looked at first--two stories and no additions on either side.

"When Henry Philip Tappan came to town, he was Presbyterian so it was logical to put him into the house that for the last decade had come to be the Presbyterian house. That's why it happens to be the one that was saved.

"Social issues such as temperance were overriding and issues of elitism versus democracy were important here on the frontier. Tappan, an aristocrat from New York, simply never understood that nor did his wife.

"He came here to build a university and he did. If Frieze is the most extraordinary, Tappan is the most important man in University history. He set the University on the path of research and education that it will take from that time on and it will never look back.

DANCERS TRIP NOT SO LIGHT FANTASTIC

Kate Douglass wrote of her home at 502 East Huron, "This house saw many dances. At one time the floor in the long parlor threatened to collapse and Father had a great beam put across in the cellar to strengthen it." *Editor's Note: It's still there.*

"He is the great reformer in America's higher education in the 1850s and '60s and he is the only president ever fired by the Board of Regents. There were many reasons.

"From all the reading and research that I have done, I know that many of the problems were local.

"Tappan was well-traveled. He had great admiration for Prussian culture and it was the Prussian model of a university that he was going to plant in Ann Arbor. He did get that started.

"Tappan wore more casual attire around town, a soft hat rather than the stove pipe hat in fashion at the time. He had a bit of the lord of the manor air about him. The Tappans drank wine at meals in an age that was intensely temperance conscious.

"He saw no problem in students imbibing liquor as long as they did it moderately and this simply ran against the grain of many people of his age.

"His daughter married the Prussian astronomer Franz Brünow, the first director of the Observatory. That was not liked by many people. Culturally, they were all wrong. They simply did not fit in.

"The Tappans fit in fine with the Douglasses. Douglass was probably his best friend among the faculty. They fit in fine with Andrew Dixon White of Princeton and Frieze from Brown University--people that Tappan brought here, an extraordinary collection of academic talent.

"There were others who had some legitimately different views. The faculty member with whom he tussled most was Alexander Winchell. They didn't see eye-to-eye on a great many issues. Winchell was firmly in favor of women being admitted to the University, Tappan was not. He was very old school in that regard.

"In no way can you line them up and say these are the bad guys, these are the good guys. There were a lot of issues swirling around and they came down on different sides of them.

"Tappan was subjected to terrible vituperation by the press. Awful things were said about him by the faculty. He beat them all back but in the process a very populist Board of Regents was elected and three or four of them were out to fire him and before they went out of office, they succeeded on their very last day in office.

"After commencement, after everyone had left town in 1863, they passed a resolution to fire him.

"It was terribly humiliating. Tappan was not expecting it. The Tappans promptly packed up, left town, took boat for Europe and never came back. From then on they lived in Switzerland.

"After the brief interval with Haven the Angells will settle into the president's house.

"In the University as Tappan left it, the Medical School was off and running and already had an addition. There was the chemical laboratory, the Observatory is built and what will be Haven Hall--the Law School--is going up.

"That is not the Law School of today. You are at the corner of State and North University. Haven Hall burned in 1950.

"Tappan established the concept of research and graduate education. That chemical lab is going to be absolutely vital in moving this University forward in science and medicine. It will start getting additions as soon as it is built.

"Then Angell comes. They courted him for two years before he agreed and he made a lot of conditions. One was that they would put a third story on the President's house.

"He was coming with his mother-in-law and three children and they had much better premises at the University of Vermont where he was president."

"So they put that on and installed the first flush toilet in Ann Arbor and started the first addition to the side."

Slide: President James B. Angell at time he came to Ann Arbor in 1871.

Dr. Steneck: "He, of course, was our longest serving president. Finally, they allowed him to retire in 1909.

"Eliot at Harvard, who retired in 1911, served two years longer. They were two great presidents of that era.

"Angell was asked to be minister to China to negotiate a very sensitive immigration treaty. The Angells stopped in San Francisco and had their portraits taken.

"It's hard to relate life of the 1870s back to the 1840s, a very different time. Although the Angells are very down to earth, they will bring a lot of sophistication to town with them. Their family life is absolutely exemplary."

Dr. Steneck: "Two first families of Ann Arbor. Judge Cooley was a great constitutional jurist and a member of the Mich-

igan Supreme Court.

"The only reason he wasn't tapped for the United States Supreme Court was because he was soft on Cleveland. Cooley was a Republican and he didn't come out and say so but people knew he did not mind that Cleveland was elected the second time and that probably cost him the court.

"If you look through the photograph albums in Bentley there are far more pictures of family life and leisure life in the 1870s, 80s and '90s. Women had so much more time with indoor plumbing, furnaces, city gas company (which was founded by Silas Douglass), ready-made clothing and enough dressmakers.

"Life for everyone, but certainly for women who were doing a lot of housework with not many maids, became much easier then.

"There are a critical number of people in town to make clothes, to make product, to make life easier. People's life centers around church and community. There were many community activities and a lot of literary groups, clubs, Daughters of the American Revolution. The Ann Arbor D.A.R. Chapter is named for Sarah Caswell Angell.

"When I read Mrs. Angell's diaries, she is extremely busy. She will make three or four social calls in a day, she will be out to lunch, she will have a meeting or reading groups or another club and probably have someone into dinner.

"Now you know she has a lot of help. She isn't running the president's house by herself and neither are the other faculty women. It's a far cry for the ladies of the 1870s from what Helen Douglass had to deal with."

Slide: One of Mrs. Angell's reading groups.

"Of course the upshot of the reading society will be the library. The Ladies Library Association Library was built on Huron Street in 1885."

Slide: A wedding invitation in the Douglass papers. "Mr. and Mrs. James B. Angell request your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Lois Thompson (known as Daisy) to Mr. Andrew Cunningham McLoughlin on Tuesday evening, June 17, 1890, at a quarter before 7 o'clock, First Congregational Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan." Included were cards to present at the church and reception.

Dr. Steneck: "McLoughlin was an assistant professor of history and would go on to a very distinguished career at the University of Chicago.

"Kate Douglass is out of town and her sister, Alice, writes to her next day about the wedding."

Alice: "Several thousand were invited. (Dr. Steneck: I suspect that's an exaggeration.)

"The church was packed to its utmost. The guests were from California to Rhode Island. It was handsomely decorated with white ribbons and daisies.

"The reception was at the President's house with only a select party of guests." She goes on and says it is the largest and most complete ever given here.

"The presidential mansion was most beautifully decorated both inside and out. The large grounds were brilliantly illuminated by a number of arc lights and innumerable Japanese lanterns hung in artistic arrangement.

"To entertain so large a party without crowding or crushing in a private residence requires extraordinary management and this was certainly displayed here.

"The night was warm and sultry. The arrangements were so complete that the crowd was not noticeable. The music was elegant and the refreshments were light and elegantly served."

Dr. Steneck: "The Angells did their bit in moving Ann Arbor onto another level of sophistication. They were the leaders of the community for almost 40 years."

WCHS ANNUAL BUS TOUR JUNE 8, WILL VISIT SEVERAL HISTORIC SITES ALONG THE MAUMEE RIVER IN OHIO

The annual WCHS bus tour Saturday, June 8, will explore historic sites along the Maumee River in northwestern Ohio, guided by Eastern Michigan University Professor Ted Ligibel.

Stops are planned at *"Wildwood"* to tour the grounds of the former home of the Stranahan family who owned Champion Spark Plug Company, now a Toledo Metropark, and at Fallen Timbers battle site. On the way to Grand Rapids, Ohio, a small pre-Civil War town, Professor Ligibel will talk about the Maumee River Heritage Corridor. Lunch will be at the LaRoe Restaurant and Tavern at Grand Rapids. The restaurant is in a restored Victorian building.

The luncheon will be baked chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy or baked potato, vegetable, tossed salad, rolls and muffins, coffee, tea or lemonade and raspberry sherbet. An alternate vegetarian meal will be available on request.

After lunch tourgoers will have time to choose two out of three activities--visiting antique shops near the restaurant, visit Isaac Ludwig's restored sawmill or take a boat ride on the Providence Canal for an extra $4 each.

Finally, before returning home to Ann Arbor, the bus will meander around to see features relating to the Great Black Swamp, guided by WCHS Vice-President Ina Hanel.

The bus will load at 8:45 a.m. at Pioneer High School's parking lot near the shelter on South Main Street and is to return by 5 p.m.

Pre-paid reservations at $30 each are due by postmark of May 30. See reservation coupon below. The basic $30 fee includes lunch.

WCHS BUS TOUR ALONG MAUMEE RIVER IN OHIO SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1996

Fee $30 each. Reservations due by postmark of May 30.
Send check or money order to:
WCHS Tour • P.O. Box 3336
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

Please make reservations for _____persons. Total enclosed $ _____.

☐ Please check for vegetarian meal.

Name(s)_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Phone_____

Please list names as you wish them to appear on name tags:

_____

_____

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

Marie Louise Douglass, the last surviving sibling of Silas Douglass' family, was a member of the Washtenaw Historical Society, as it was called then.

She died March 20, 1941 and in her will tried to secure WHS a museum. She left her home at 502 East Huron to the Regents of the University of Michigan for use as a Washtenaw Historical Museum, according to Society minutes.

However, the Regents declined the trust, believing they had no business supporting a local historical society. The Society couldn't see how it could raise enough money to take over and run the house as a museum and it was sold to the Michigan Baptist Convention.

ARTIFACTS TO DONATE?

Anyone wishing to donate an artifact to WCHS should contact Judy Chrisman, collections chair, at 769-7859 or by mail, 1809 Dexter Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Depot, North Main at Railroad.

Dexter Society: 8 p.m. first Thursday at museum, 3443 Inverness.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday at Township Hall. May 23 Roger Sutherland will talk about *"A Sweet History, Honey and Maple Syrup."* The society is planning an exhibit at Salem's Flag Day celebration June 15

Saline Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday, at Depot Museum, 402 N. Ann Arbor St. May 15 speaker, Larry Darling of the Eastern Michigan University Preservation program will talk about *"Old House Construction."*

June 19, Ed Krasny of Huron Architectural Society will talk about *"Geology, Mastodons and Salt."* July 6, Celtic Fest and museum tours all day. Depot regularly open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays.

Webster Society: 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, picnic potluck at home of Heloise Dunstan, 5030 W. Huron River Dr., Dexter. Old time games will be the program theme.

Ypsilanti Society: Museum, 220 N. Huron St., open 2-4 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Archives open 9 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday.

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations, businesses, schools, etc... for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826.

HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, P.O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336.

Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple (one 60+), $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

LOOK FOR NEXT ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER!

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mailing: Caroline Mohal, 663-6106
WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092
Published September-May, except December, January.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Permit No. 96
Ann Arbor, MI

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL POTLUCK

"JOHN ALLEN'S 200TH BIRTHDAY"

6:00 P.M. • WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 1996

DIXBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5221 Church Street
Dixboro, Michigan

Life Member
Douglas and Margaret Crary
1842 Cambridge Road
Ann Arbor MI 48104