

IMPRESSIONS

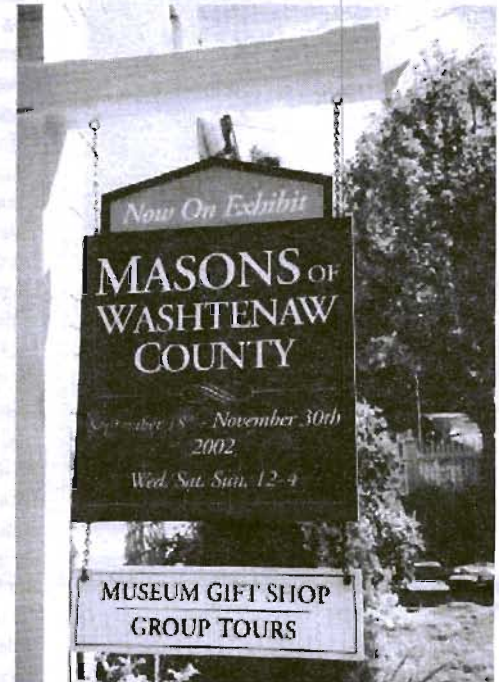
WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2002

Masons Of Washtenaw Exhibit Is A Big Hit

The history of the **Masons** (or **Freemasonry**) in Washtenaw County is as old as the county itself. Our earliest settlers were members of this non-religious fraternal organization, and one of the most prominent was **Augustus B. Woodward**. The Masons played a significant role in the establishment of the University of Michigan and many prominent citizens of the county were members. For years their lodges were located in a building at the NW corner of Huron and Main. In 1922 they opened their Temple at 327 S. Fourth Ave. This beautiful Byzantine-inspired structure was demolished in 1976 after a protracted court battle with the federal government which obtained it through eminent domain. Since then the Masonic Temple has been at 2875 W. Liberty Rd where they display many artifacts rescued from the Fourth Avenue building. They are currently expanding the site to include medical offices.



Karl Grube holds a traditional Mason's apron next to one of their throne-type chairs. Photo: Susan Wineberg.



The Masons of Washtenaw is our latest exhibit. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

The origins of the Masons are lost in the mists of time, though they trace their ancestry to the guilds that built the great cathedrals in the Middle Ages. Their emphasis today is on being men of good character and of making the world a better place. They are not a secret society and are
(Continued on page 9.)

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Published Seven Times A Year
From September-May.
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Annual dues are individual, \$15;
couple/family \$25; student or
senior (60+) \$10; senior couple
\$19; business/association \$50;
patron \$100.

Next Program

Sunday • November 17
Chelsea Court House

The Hon. Julie Creal Goodridge
will unravel the mysteries of the court
system at 2PM,

Sunday, November 17
at the Chelsea Court House,
122 S. Main St. in Chelsea.

JANICE LONGONE

Dr. Alvan Wood Chase And His Famous 19th Century Recipe Book



Jan Longone lectures on Dr. Chase and his 19th Century Recipe Book. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

On Sunday, September 15, over 75 people filled the beautiful lobby of the UM Clements Library to hear Janice Longone speak about Ann Arbor's most famous physician. Our meeting was co-sponsored with the Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor (734-662-5040), of which Longone is a founder. She is currently the Curator of American Culinary History (the first in history), the founder and owner of the Wine and Food Library in Ann Arbor (the oldest bookshop in the US on culinary history), on the National Board of Directors of Wine and Food, and holds many other positions too numerous to mention. Longone began her talk by describing the scope of the mission of the Clements Library to collect culinary items from the 16th century to 1950; an overview of what they have so far (including thousands of menus); pleas for donations; and thanks to all the docents who are cataloguing the materials.

"At 3 o'clock, on December 29, 1868, a 200-pound bell rang from the roof of an imposing three-story brick building at Main and West Catherine. It not only announced the grand opening of **Dr. Alvan Wood Chase's** newly expanded and wholly

modern Steam Printing House, but also proclaimed the achievements of a modestly educated Western New York peddler. In just a decade, A.W. Chase had made himself into a man of medicine, a newspaper publisher, and a power in local Republican politics and Methodist Church affairs. Thanks to his folksy and astonishingly popular self-help book, *Dr. Chase's Recipes or Information for Everybody*, he became an American success story of whom Ann Arbor could be proud. [This building still stands today at the northwest corner of Miller and Main and serves as the home of the Dobson-McOmber Insurance Agency, which restored the building in 1994.] The strength of Chase's influence and enduring appeal is illustrated by a letter from a man in Florence, Texas addressed to Dr. Chase's office, Corner of Main and Catharine, Ann Arbor, Mich., asking to know the "price of his book of medical recipes." This letter arrived in 1973, 88 years after Chase died!

In 1982, the Friends of the [Ann Arbor] Library issued a facsimile of a rare 1858 pamphlet published by Dr. Chase entitled the *'Guide to Wealth!'* It proved a great fundraiser for the library. Other reprintings of Dr. Chase's Recipe Book include a 1983 Canadian re-issue of the 9th edition (1882); yearly Chase Almanacs (also Canadian); and a 1970 reprint of the 10th edition (1866) issued by the Cookbook Collectors Library of Louisville, Kentucky. This is just a small sample of the variety of reprints that have been issued over the years. The MIRLYN catalogue at the UMLibrary has 90 listings alone! Chase was called a charlatan, a quack, a humbug, and a saint, but whatever we call him, he was Ann Arbor's most famous 19th century resident. But who was he?

Chase was born in 1817 in Cayuga, New York, in the Finger Lakes region which produced so many of Ann Arbor's earliest pioneers. His father was originally from Massachusetts, and like many of his generation, a restless man. He moved to Buffalo and his son later became a peddler in the 'Far West'—i.e., Toledo, Ohio! He traveled throughout Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Canada as a peddler and even sold beer after 'borrowing' another's

formula. He usually copied and bought recipes, however, and made and sold patent medicines and cookery recipes to earn a living. He often gave credit to those from whom he got his recipes. He was clearly affected by the suffering he witnessed in Detroit due to the cholera epidemic and decided to become a doctor.

But he didn't want to be a quack (he was too honest for that). In 1856 he moved to Ann Arbor when he was about 40 years old. He tried to enroll in the Medical School but was not admitted since he did not know Latin. This began his checkered relationship with the UM Medical School, which allowed him to sit in as a partialist. To earn money, he sold recipes for ketchup, vinegar, wine and glue and in this endeavor his marketing genius was beginning to be evident: for the price of one recipe, you could get four!

In 1858, Chase enrolled in a 16-week course of study at the Cincinnati Eclectic Institute and roomed with a distant cousin, Salmon P. Chase, who later became President Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury. After this he could rightly add 'Dr.' to his name. In 1856 he published his first pamphlet and continued throughout



Dr. Chase and family are buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

the following years to expand. Several German editions, translated by Christian Eberbach, a local druggist, were published in the 1860s. By 1863, Dr. Chase's Recipe Book had become a handsomely bound, 384-page best seller, containing more than 600 recipes.

By the late 1860s, when the bell rang to announce his newly expanded building, Chase was a very wealthy man. He also had three other enterprises through which he made money. His building served to print job lots and his major customers were the University of Michigan and Albion College. He printed a local weekly paper *The Peninsular Courier and Family Visitant* which he had purchased in 1865 and made into the highest circulation newspaper in the county, serving his political and moral views along with his recipes. Within three years he was doing enough business to triple the size of his printing plant. Dr. Chase also ran a mail order medical practice through which he dispensed remedies and cures for various ailments. Chase was living the American Dream and was elected to office, active with the Masons and Odd Fellows and in the Methodist Church.

So it was on that wintry day in December 1868 that some 400 employees, friends, business associates and dignitaries gathered inside this monument to Dr. Chase's triumph to feast at four 70-foot long tables laden with oysters, turkeys, venison, cakes, fruits, nuts and candies. Replete with food, but not with wine, since he was a committed Temperance man, the crowd was regaled with congratulatory speeches from Ann Arbor Mayor Christian Eberbach, Albion College President George B. Jocelyn and Ann Arbor Postmaster C.B. Grant.

No detail of pomp or charity was overlooked. At dinner's end, the remains of the feast were gathered up by the Ladies Christian Union, of which Mrs. Chase was certainly a member, and distributed to 30 poor but impeccably worthy Ann Arbor families. That evening some 5,000 curious local residents and University students swarmed in to enjoy a public reception.

But all was not well with the doctor. Having premonitions of an early death due to failing eyesight and susceptibility to pneumonia, Dr. Chase disposed of his businesses and retired to Sauk Rapids, Minnesota! He found a willing buyer in



Dr. Chase's Recipes were published in many forms. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

Rice Abner Beal, a wealthy retired Dexter lumber baron, who was six years his junior and a fellow Methodist. Beal convinced Chase to take \$65,000—\$35,000 in cash and a dilapidated Beal-owned hotel in Sauk Rapids—and Dr. Chase not only agreed to sell him his business and his building, but also his newspaper and the copyright to his book including the name “Dr. Chase's Recipes.” Beal further had him agree never to publish again in Michigan.

The sale was announced in the *Peninsular Courier* of September 3, 1869. Glowing testimonials to the efficacy of Dr. Chase's Recipes continued to appear in the *Courier's* columns and new editions of the book, both in English and German, embellished with drawings of the Steam Printing House and UM campus, issued forth in a steady stream from the corner of Miller and Main.

Beal had political enemies, however, who were able to lure Chase back to Michigan. Chase, it turned out, was very bored and very much alive. He returned three years later and launched an ill-considered comeback by publishing another newspaper (*The Ann Arbor Register*) and another book *Dr. Chase's Family Physician, Farrier, Bee-Keeper, and Second Recipe Book*. And in true American form, Beal sued Chase and won after a nasty and tortuous legal battle. Ann Arborites found themselves forced to take sides and this pitted Republican against Republican and Methodist against Methodist. It ended with a decision by the Supreme Court in 1875.

Chase and his family were exiled to Toledo and by 1878 he was hawking patent medicines called *Dr. Chase's Cough and Wound Balsam*, *Dr. Chase's Dyspeptic Cordial* and *Blood Regenerator* and *Dr.*

Chase's Catarrh Snuff. It was in Ohio that Chase died on May 25, 1885, in the midst of seeking to regain control of his fortunes by publishing a third recipe book. He died poor and lonely, his wife having died in 1880. He is buried in a large family plot in Ann Arbor's Forest Hill Cemetery, under an imposing obelisk. In a memorial essay by L. Davis of the Washtenaw County Pioneer Society, Chase now could rest after ‘the storms of life finally overtook him and swept with almost resistless fury around the now aged physician...’ The old doctor was dead but his book, and his building, lived on.

The third edition was not published until after his death. In the dedication of his third and last receipt book, it was noted that 1,200,000 copies had been sold in the US and Canada, and that “this is the crowning work of my life.” The clever publisher called it a ‘Memorial Edition’ as a ploy to get sales—and it did. This edition sold like hot cakes!

For many years, Dr. Chase's Recipes sold only second to the Bible and over the years had 16 publishers in three countries and in several languages. In all, some four million copies were sold. There are so many editions that it is still difficult to track them all.

Why was the book so popular? It seems to have been the right item at the right time, serving the needs of pioneers and farmers by covering every topic under the sun, including health and diet cooking, how to make stove polish, tooth powder, shampoo and cologne, as well as how to tan leather and keep bees. Dr. Chase also had a warm, chatty personality that came through many of his recipes.

One example of this is his recipe for **Toad Ointment** (for sprains, strains, lame-back, rheumatism, caked breasts, caked udders etc. etc.):

‘Good sized live toads, 4 in number; put into boiling water and cook very soft; then take them out and boil the water down to ½ pt and add fresh churned, unsalted butter 1 lb. and simmer together, at the last add tincture of arnica 2 oz. This was obtained from an old Physician, who thought more of it than of any other prescription in his possession. Some persons might think it hard on toads, but you could not kill them quicker in any other way.’

Chase also was a master salesman, some



Alvan and Martha's gravestones on obelisk at Forest Hill Cemetery. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

might even say huckster. He used students to sell his products door to door (their letters are in local archives) and his use of drawings of his buildings and those of the university gave his work an added cachet, implying that there were connections between the two. The university did benefit from him, in that the recipe for stucco used to paint the UM Detroit Observatory came from his book—it is two pages of small print and is extremely detailed, including how to give the coating a granite look.

Chase also had a large section on horses which was aimed at farriers, comments on the utility of singing (which he concludes explains the long lives of Germans), the weather, how to sleep, temperance, bathing and cleanliness.

In his description of "Female Debility and Irregularities" he noted that "in the good old grandmother-days, when girls helped with the work of the household, warm but loose clothing, plain food, good thick-soled shoes, and absence of novels, to excite the passions, etc. such a thing as a feeble, debilitated woman or girl was seldom known; but now sedentary habits, stimulating food, every conceivable unphysiological style of dress, paper-soled shoes, checking perspiration,

excitable reading, repeated colds by exposure going to and from parties, thinly clad, standing by the gate talking with supposed friends (real enemies) when they ought to be by the fire or in bed, all tend to general debility; and the real wonder is that there is not more debility than there is.' Here is the voice of morality speaking in all its 19th century glory!

My favorite recipe, in addition to that for the

Toad Ointment, is for **Monangahela**, a concoction starting with 36 gallons of whiskey! I also find the cake table for 15 kinds of cakes quite useful and interesting.

Dr. Chase has affected my life most recently as of 1982. My husband and I went to visit the famous food writer M.F.K. Fisher at her home in California. As a gesture of appreciation, we sent her a copy of the 1858 facsimile issued by the Friends of the Library. Later that year, the *New York Times* interviewed her and asked what her favorite book of the previous year had been. She answered 'Dr. Chase's Recipe Book' and it was champagne and caviar for a year! The Ann Arbor Library was deluged with orders and the Library thanked her, especially since she was a native of Albion, Michigan. In return for these thanks, she offered them some of her priceless books! In conclusion, I quote from a paean of praise written in 1875 and published in the *Peninsular Courier* under the title 'Ann Arbor in Slices'—a poem beginning with 'Dr. Chase's catches your eye...'



Dr. Chase's Recipe Book was published in this building, still standing at the corner of Main and Miller.

Your Museum

Repairs are an ongoing feature in the life of an old building, but it doesn't help when newer repairs fail. This is the situation with our back doors, which will be restored while the frame is replaced. Thanks go to **Scott Diels** and **Greg Jones** of the **Historic District Commission** who examined the problem and came up with this solution. If we do what they recommend, we won't have to appear before the HDC again.

More ongoing problems are the sump pump (we are receiving bids to connect to the storm sewer), the fence (the posts have rotted, again, and the paint is failing, again!), and the outside stairs to the basement. **Joe Majorana** and crew will be dealing with many of these problems. A lot of things are on hold, especially garden projects, until these problems are solved for good.

The committee to write a job description for a part-time director has met and they discovered they had more questions than answers. They will continue to meet and formulate criteria for selecting a director. At its last meeting, the board indicated it thought the director should manage the museum, while the President of WCHS should manage the organization. Since we don't have access to our funds as of yet, there is no big rush to get this going.

Our new exhibit on the Masons of Washtenaw is up and running until Thanksgiving. The Masons will be presenting a three-hour program at the Bentley on Sunday October 20, so watch the mail for your post card. And mark your calendars now for our **Holiday Open House**, which will be held **Saturday and Sunday December 14 and 15**. Our Holiday Exhibit on "Toys of Yore" will begin the weekend of **December 7 and 8**.

Quote Of The Day

My friend Stuart's definition of 'multi tasking' is doing more than one thing a day.

Love 19th Century Style

Over the summer I've had several e-mail "conversations" with Bob Lane (with lots of help from Wylan Stevens) of Saline. It started when Lane bought a collection of letters written by William and Rufus Nutting and Lucy Gale from a dealer in Maine after hearing about them from Stevens. Rufus Nutting was the founder in 1847 of the Lodi Academy (sometimes called the Nutting Academy) which was one of the chief prep schools for the University of Michigan. Located about six miles from Ann Arbor on the Saline Road, it served this role until the high schools of the state became better developed. William was his son. Mr. Lane has been kind enough to share some of the 200 letters that he purchased this summer and I offer one as a window to the 19th century. Lucy Gale later married William Nutting.

The letter is dated August 6, 1861. William's landlord, Mr. Wood, is a little "nosy" and yells at him from below "Well Professor, she's writ, that lady from Peoria." He decides he needs privacy and starts to walk [home] to Saline to read her latest letter. He writes:

"I had proceeded about two miles on my way when I came to a pleasant grove affording just the shady retirement I wanted. Entering, I found a comfortable seat upon a hickory log and proceeded to unfold the pages of my destiny! Not with perfect equanimity, either, for though I had, as I thought, been schooled with admirable philosophy for either event, knowing that disappointment is the lot of man, yet my heart was all on one side and would threaten rebellion in spite of me. That day, that grove, that time, and that log, will henceforth possess for me a peculiar and a lasting interest. My cup of essential happiness is now full to overflowing, and if the kind Providence, the loving Heavenly Father, I should rather say who has brought me hitherto, will only perfect the blessings already begun, I feel that my cup will be full to the end of life! Dear Lucy, I can hardly believe it is not all a dream, from which I shall wake some morning to find entirely vanished! But no! I will trust Him who brought me in mercy thus far, to bring me safely to the end.

I had flattered myself, while still in Peoria, that you did feel an interest in me, a little more than that of common friendship, but

whether sufficiently deep to be permanent, I could not tell. But then my leaving Peoria so suddenly, my failure, so complete, and so full of mortification to me, the circumstances of which were better known to your family than to any other, all this well nigh blasted the little hope I had, and to this day I can hardly conceive how you can so far forget those times as to give me your highest regard and love. I accept the priceless treasure will guard it with jealousy, and may God enable me yet to prove myself worthy of it!

I dare not tell you how many times I read over your last letter, nor even how often I kissed it! It is so sweet to know that I possess the love of a pure and noble heart and that I might have possessed it long ago! You have given me all I ask, and more than I have any right to expect. I do not wish in any way to bind you, and did not when I last wrote. If I have ever known you [right?], nothing of the kind is necessary, but I could not bear to go hundreds of miles farther from you without knowing if there was a heart-bond between us which distance could not sever. May your supposition on regarding me never come true!

It was useless to fill the paper with protestations of any such arguing love. If this were merely a sudden passion, dependent upon your immediate presence for its life, any other attractive face might easily take your place, but, Lucy, I have known you as a sister, almost, better than any other young lady of my acquaintance, and esteemed you more highly.

I have found it difficult to express my feelings fully even to my best friends, except occasionally to some one who had the tact to draw me out, as my two adopted sisters have. I have tried to overcome it, for I think I am naturally impulsive, and my highest happiness lies in [living?] out more the life that is within me, strengthening the good, and correcting the bad by exposure! I have seen the time when I felt this to be impossible, and yet that I must die if I could not!

I have not written nearly all I intended, and yet must evidently soon stop. I said you had given me all I wanted, not quite. I must have those laughing eyes, and those rosy cheeks where I can see them, (for it is utterly impossible for one to visit you this summer though my desire to do so has

increased a hundred fold.) It seems hardly possible for me to command myself sufficiently to wait another year.

Please [convert?] the enclosed "paper" into a faithful representation of your usual self, and enclose in your next letter. I can better procure a case here. —If you love me, dearest, call me "Willie." That is the name my friends who love me best all know me by. May God bless our beloved country and my darling."

Automobile National Heritage Area (ANHA) Rolling Along

A recent visit to the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau at Huron and Ashley provided me with all kinds of great reading material. One of the best things I found is a series of brochures on the **Auto Heritage Area** that covers a good deal of SE Michigan. There are twelve brochures including one on how to join, one on the general history of automobiles in Michigan, and 10 on regions including the Ypsilanti Hub, the Irish Hills Hub, The Motor Cities Hub, Lower Woodward Ave., Upper Woodward Ave., Flint, Lansing, the Lower Rouge, the Middle Rouge and the Detroit River. These beautifully designed brochures in silver and black made me want to visit every one of these spots! The ANHA was established by an act of Congress in 1998 and is an affiliate area of the **National Park Service** and one of 23 congressionally designated National Heritage Areas in the U.S. Its mission is to preserve, interpret and promote the region's rich automotive and labor heritage in ways that are meaningful to contemporary society. If you can't get to the Ann Arbor Convention Bureau, write them at **300 River Place, Suite 1600, Detroit MI 48207**, call **313-259-5254**, visit their website at www.autoheritage.org, or e-mail them at membership@autoheritage.org.

Graveyard Gatherings

The indomitable **Wystan Stevens** once again offers us his wit and knowledge as he takes us on historical strolls through picturesque **Forest Hill Cemetery**. Just next to the Nichols Arboretum, the hilly, tree-filled cemetery was laid out in 1857 by landscape architect James Glen of Niles, Michigan. It is a wonderful example of the Romantic cemetery movement, which eventually led to the creation of the public parks system in many US cities. The lovely 1866 gatehouse was designed by the well-known architect Gordon Lloyd in the then popular Gothic Revival style. Not only is the cemetery a remarkable work of landscaping and architecture, it serves as the burial ground for the movers and shakers of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan.



Wystan Stevens gives tours of the cemetery in October and November. Photo: Susan Wineberg

This marks the 25th anniversary of this annual event that takes place every Sunday in October and the first two Sundays in November, beginning at 2 PM each day. There are no tours if it is raining, and the cost is \$10 for adults (minor children are free if accompanied by adults.) The cemetery is located at the corner of Geddes and Observatory. For further information call 734-662-5438.

Program Schedule 2002-2003

Our Sunday program has already been arranged due to the hard work of Vice President **Ralph Beebe**. As usual, we have a fascinating array of topics in unusual locations. We hope you will join us the third Sunday of every month, from 2-4 PM. All programs are free and open to the public. Light refreshments are usually served. Members receive a post card every month with more details and maps of how to reach the meeting.

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 20 • 1-4 PM UM BENTLEY LIBRARY (please note time change)

Dr. Karl Grube has organized this program on the history of the **Masons of Washtenaw County**. It includes groups from the Ann Arbor Lodge, Golden Rule, Zal Gaz Grotto, Phoenix Lodge, Prince Hall, and York Rite Masons. The keynote address is entitled "*Judge Augustus Woodward and What it Means to be a Mason*" by **Dr. Richard H. Sands**. This talk is in conjunction with a concurrent exhibit at the Museum on Main Street organized by Dr. Grube.

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 17 • 2 PM CHELSEA COURT HOUSE

The **Hon. Julie Creal Goodridge** will speak on "*The Mysteries of the Court System Unraveled*." The meeting will be in the Chelsea Court Building, the 101-year old former Glazier Bank Building, which was recently totally restored and given a historical marker by the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. A beautiful dome and oculus grace the interior.

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 16 • 2 PM LOCATION • TBA

Pam Newhouse, a former Board Member and activist with the Civil War Roundtable in Washtenaw County will lecture on "*The Ryder Brothers' Civil War Letters*." John and Alfred Ryder of Livonia were both killed at Gettysburg, July 1 and 3, 1863.

SUNDAY • MARCH 16 • 2 PM YPSILANTI FIRE EQUIPMENT MUSEUM

Marcia McCrary, President of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County and curator of the Fire Museum, will speak on the history of the Ypsilanti Fire Museum and its brand new addition.

SUNDAY • APRIL 27 • 2 PM ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH ANN ARBOR

(please note this is the fourth Sunday)

As part of the continuation of the celebration of the 175th anniversary of St. Andrew's Church, **Louisa Pieper** and **Grace Shackman** will give walking tours of the Old Fourth Ward Neighborhood surrounding the church, while docents will be giving guided tours of the church. *The Windows of St. Andrew's*, a book on the history of the church's windows, will be available for sale. Light refreshments will be served at 4 PM.

WEDNESDAY • MAY 21 • 6 PM ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Meeting** will be held at **Cobblestone Farm Barn** and will consist of our usual yummy potluck plus a guided tour of the 1844 Cobblestone House and outbuildings.

Do You Want To Be A Docent?

The museum is open on a regular basis on **Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday** from noon to 4 PM. Currently we have an exhibit on the "**Masons of Washtenaw County**." Team with a friend and spend an afternoon at our museum greeting visitors and helping in the Museum Shop. We will give you amply training and you would find it enjoyable.

Around The Town

Mark Hodesh of **Downtown Home and Garden** (210 S. Ashley) has just opened up the ground floor of his business to make it more customer friendly. He also decided to create a 'history corner' with historic photos of the business when it was Hertler Bros. as well as others of Ashley Street (see photo page 10). Also exposed are the old (and very worn) wood chutes used to dispense the wheat they sold. Mark is always happy to talk if he's not too busy and he is looking for more Hertler's material for this corner. He is especially interested in learning the name of the team of horses that are in many of the photos.

The **Downtown Ann Arbor Historical Street Exhibit Program** has just released a **seven-minute video**, put together by **Norm Tyler**, describing the large frames of historical pictures embedded in sidewalks throughout the downtown. Six more frames will be installed around the campus area in the coming year. These exhibits are getting national attention and may be a model for other cities. If you are interested in contributing money or time, call the Chair **Ray Dettler** at the Historic District Commission office **734-996-3008**.

Work is progressing at the corner of **Ann and Fourth Avenue** (Wooden Spoon) where the stucco-over-brick Greek Revival **1836 Bank Building** is finally getting a paint job and a new porch. It will be a real gem when it is finally finished. This may take some of the sting out of losing the former Persian House of Art building at 320 E. Liberty which is of a similar age and style.

In the Old West Side area, **Scott Munzel** and **Lori Ward** have won their court case and will proceed to transform the commercial buildings on **Jefferson Court** to a new home for themselves and their three children as well as build new homes in a complimentary style.

The last **Cobblestone Farm Association** newsletter reported that their president **George Taylor** had discovered some 'free' outbuildings in the villages of **Vermontville** and **Homer**. They published pictures of eight buildings (two barns, a corncrib, well, ice house and chicken coop) and asked the public to rank them if you

could have just one! We'll keep you posted. **Rick Rockwell** is the new hired hand and will assist the facility coordinator, manage docents, and conduct tours.

Remember that the CFA is sponsoring several workshops in the coming months. The next one is "**Exploring Michigan's Historic Barns: An Introduction to Timber Framing**," which will be held from 10-2 for a fee of \$20. It's limited to 20 people, so sign up soon! In the future there will be workshops on **window restoration (January 11)**, **Historic Preservation (February 8)** and **Tools of the Trade (March 8)**. You may want to register now for these since they are limited to 20-25 people. Call **734-994-2928** to register.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** features **Ms. Willie Edwards** on **Sunday, October 27** at 1:30 PM. Her topic is "**The Underground Railroad in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti**." **Barbara Snow** will teach a class on "**The 1930 Federal Census**." All meetings are free and open to the public and are at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center (use Parking Lot P). The Center is just east of Huron River Drive and Clark Road. Visit their website at www.hvcn.org/info/gswc for more details.

On **Saturday, October 26** a genealogy workshop will be conducted by **Sandra Hargreaves Leubking** in the Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College. This event will cost \$30.00 which includes a box lunch. Many groups from all over Michigan are already slated to be there. To register call **734-482-8029** or e-mail clgriffiny@aol.com. You can also find a registration form on the website.

The GSWC also announced in their last newsletter that their **library has reopened** at its old location at **Hill and Tappan**. The new hours are Monday, Thursday and Saturday from 10-2; Tuesday nights from 6-9 PM and Sunday from 3-6 PM.

Remember When



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Luncheons and Dinners
 MISS MARJORIE D. SMITH
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*Saturday
 June 2, 1940*

LUNCHEON I. 40¢ Soup or Dessert
*Fried Giblets - Apple Sauce
 New Potatoes in Cream Sauce
 Stewed Tomatoes*

LUNCHEON II. 40¢ Soup or Dessert
*Chop Suey with Rice
 Pineapple Salad*

LUNCHEON III. Soup or Dessert
*65¢ Individual Chicken Pie
 25¢ Minute Steak
 French Fried Potatoes
 New Beans
 Herb Potato Salad
 and Salad Dressing
 Asparagus
 Soup 15¢ Tomato Juice 10¢
 Whipped Cream Cake
 Vanilla
 Lemon Custard and Cream*

T-BONE STEAK DINNER 1.25
 Coffee - Tea - Milk

A 1940 menu from the Haunted Tavern, a restaurant in an 1840s house, just before it was closed and demolished. From the collection of Susan Wineberg.

Does anyone remember the **Haunted Tavern Restaurant** located at 417 E. Huron (just east of Division Street)? Here's a menu from June 1940 with two lunches for 40 cents each (fried giblets with applesauce or chop suey with rice and pineapple salad.) The restaurant was housed in the historic Miles-Sinclair House, built c. 1845. Miss Marjorie Smith ran the restaurant there for 10 years, in conjunction with Mrs. Dorothy Dickens. It was demolished in September 1940 and replaced by an A&P store (remodeled for a bank and now the temporary home of the Rackham Graduate School). The owner, M. K. Thomson of Ypsilanti, was quoted as saying the building was so old "he can find no other use for it except at prohibitive prices."

Around The County

We were negligent in our last issue in forgetting to mention that the **Saline Area Historical Society** helped move the 1868 **Weber-Blaess one room school** last June from the **Weidmayer** property in Lodi to Woodland Drive in Saline. **Jim Hoeft**, a member of the **Saline Area Schools Preservation Committee** says they have great plans for the building which they hope will open in the Spring. The main idea is to have a functioning classroom from the 1930s and 40s which, in turn, will make history come alive for students today. On **Saturday, October 12** (this is **Michigan Archaeology Day** throughout the state) from 10-2 archaeologist **April M. Beisaw** will host activities for kids and adults at the school to learn about archaeology and the history of country schools. For more information contact **Scott Graden** at 734-429-8020.

The SAHS will also be hosting a talk on **Weller's Mill** (formerly known as the **Schuyler Mill**) on **Wednesday, November 20** at 7:30 at the Saline Railroad Depot, located at 402 N. Ann Arbor Street. On **Friday, December 6**, from 5-8 PM their **Christmas Open House** will also be at the Depot. Everything is free and open to the public. Refreshments are served too! Call 734-944-0442 or 734-769-2219 for directions or more information.

Sharon Mills will be re-opening as a county park this fall. The mills, which most recently served as a Winery, are a collection of buildings dating back to both the 19th and 20th centuries (writing this made me feel OLD). A white frame gristmill dating to the 1850s stands next to the fieldstone mill built by **Henry Ford** in the 1930s to be part of his **Village Industries** plants. This one produced cigar lighters and light switches. They were purchased in 1999 by the **Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission**, and now, after a \$1.4 million restoration with the services of architect **Gary Cooper**, are ready to face their public. Their location on the River Raisin in beautiful Sharon Hollow, a snip of a village four miles northwest of Manchester, allows us to step back in time. However, only schools and other groups

will be able to tour the mill building. The rest of us will have to wait until spring, according to **Tom Freeman**, Superintendent of Planning for the Parks Commission (and a member of our Board!) You can call 734-971-6337 for more information. It's so beautiful in this part of the county in the fall that it's worth a drive out there just to see the scenery.

The **Old Milan Fire Barn** will be rededicated on **Saturday, October 26** at 11 AM. This has been a labor of love by the **Milan Area Historical Society**, who hosted us last fall in the Hack House. You can reach the Fire Barn in downtown Milan by taking US 23 to **Carpenter** and then turning right to the 4-way stop sign at Dexter and County. Turn right again, go two blocks and voila! Call **Bonnie Jurgensen** at 734-439-7522 if you need more help.

We've got some 'tidbits' from Ypsilanti with the help of the Heritage News published by the **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation**. A new publication by **James Thomas Mann** entitled *Ypsilanti: A History in Pictures*, will soon be in our museum shop and is part of the Arcadia America series which also published Grace Shackman's book last year (and will publish another one very soon). A **historical plaque** honoring **Rev. John D. Pierce**, the first Supt of Public Instruction in Michigan, was recently returned to EMU and reinstalled on a boulder marking the site of Pierce's home. **Bill Nickels** of the Heritage Foundation spearheaded this effort. The plaque notes that Pierce lived at the site from 1867-1880 and that the plaque was installed by the **Rotary Club** in 1923.

Also in Ypsilanti, the **historic preservation program** at EMU presents **Rebecca Savage** discussing the **Art Deco Architecture of Detroit** on **Friday, October 25** in King Hall Lounge at 8 PM. Dessert and coffee will be served. This event is aimed at current and former students but anyone can attend and it's free!

Plymouth Historical Society is sponsoring a series of **Genealogy Workshops**. The first is **Saturday, October**

19 from 1-3 (includes lunch) and is an introduction to doing genealogical research. Future workshops will be held on **Saturday, November 16**, and **Saturday, January 18**. Each workshop is \$25.00 per session or \$65.00 for all three. Call 734-455-8940 or use a registration form from their webpage at www.plymouth.lib.mi.us/~History/genwork.htm. All sessions are at the **Plymouth Historical Museum** in downtown Plymouth. The Museum is currently exhibiting "*Plymouth's Hidden History*," a yearlong exhibit which will be accompanied by a series of programs about "*Plymouth's First Century*." See www.plymouth.lib.mi.us/~history/pfcbook1.htm.

Bumper Stickers Keep Us 'Rolling Along'

By now most of you have received your bumper stickers in the mail urging you to "Explore Your History" and visit the Museum on Main Street. Many of you have responded already and Treasurer Patty Creal reports we've already gotten \$1,000! Thank you one and all. President Pauline Walters reported to us that this is the first bumper sticker she has EVER put on her vehicle. Maybe this will help others to 'come on down' and visit us.

Kudos

Our board member **Peggy Haines** was named **2002 Clerk of the Year** by her peers at the Michigan Association of County Clerks conference in August. Haines worked 25 years in the Clerk's Office before getting elected Register of Deeds in 1990 (and re-elected ever since). Congratulations Peggy!

Masons Of Washtenaw Exhibit Is A Big Hit

Continued from page 1.



Many of our Presidents were Masons. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

open to all who believe in one God—though American women still have subordinate groups such as the **Eastern Star**. They support many charities including the **Shriners** who help crippled children; the **Grottoes** who support dental care for the retarded; the **Scottish Rite** who help with schizophrenic research, the **York Rite** who support eye research, and the **Tall Cedars of Lebanon** who support Muscular Dystrophy research. Artifacts



Theo. Aprill's Knights Templar uniform cuts a dashing figure. Photo: Susan Wineberg.

from all these groups are on display. The exhibit has artifacts from groups in **Dexter (Washtenaw Lodge #65)**, the **Shriners, Ypsilanti (Phoenix Lodge #13)**, **Ann Arbor (Golden Rule Lodge #159 and Ann Arbor Fraternity Lodge #262)**; and **Prince Hall-St. Mary's Lodge #4**. Also on display are swords, aprons, and **Theophil Aprill Sr.'s Knights Templar uniform**, a chair from the **George Washington National Memorial Temple**

in Washington, DC, four **Royal Arch** pillars with stones and ballot boxes, **Knights Templar** grave markers and more! Come on down and see for yourself! The exhibit will be up until November 30.

Happy 100th Birthday

One of our most loyal members turns 100 years old on November 1. **Margaret Underwood** has been a force in Ann Arbor for many years. She wrote a history of the road names in Ann Arbor and successfully got the name of **Glacier Way** changed to **Glazier**, to honor the Quaker family that previously owned her property and was so active in the Underground Railroad. Margaret recently broke her arm and is now convalescing. Her good friend and neighbor **Sally Bund** will be helping Margaret create an oral history and biography and we will be printing sections of that as they become available. So **Happy Birthday Margaret!**



Black Masons have a long history in Washtenaw County. Photo: Susan Wineberg



The 1922 Masonic Temple at 327 S. Fourth Ave. Demolished in 1975.

Collections

Collections Chair **Judy Chrisman** has been busy and will be even busier as she empties another room at Willow Run and brings artifacts to the Museum. This will reduce our storage costs and also make it easier to mount exhibits at the Museum.

Judy announced several donations at the September board meeting. From **John** and **Richard Beasley**, we received many school and children's books from the Bolgos Dairy Farm building (Plymouth Road and U.S. 23), as well as some miscellaneous papers belonging to **William Bolgos**. From **Efi Heim** and **Hanne Lillich** we received items of clothing from the 1930s (including a wool bathing suit!) and from **Patty Kempf Black** we received books which belonged to **Edith Staebler Kempf**, a longtime supporter of the Museum. **Art French** also donated a paper item from the Probate Court of 1895. Thank you all for continuing to think of the Museum before you toss things away!

Support The *Impressions*

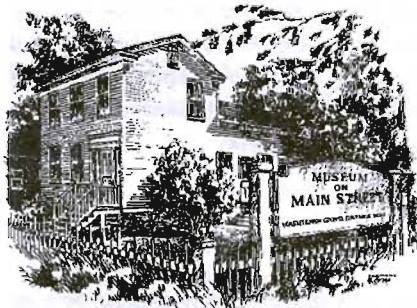
We need your help! Many businesses (and some individuals) have supported our newsletter in the past and we are asking for your help again. Our newsletter continues to expand and printing and mailing costs continue to rise. If you—or your business—sends us **\$400**, you will be acknowledged in a box and listed as a co-sponsor of one issue. This amount represents about half the cost of one issue of the *Impressions*. Send a check to our Treasurer **Patty Creal**, **P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336**.

Business Support

This month's issue of *Impressions* is co-sponsored by the **BANK OF ANN ARBOR**



Mark Hodesh at Downtown Home and Garden has a new history corner and is looking for more memorabilia from Hertler Bros. Photo: Susan Wineberg.



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