

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • APRIL 2003

Your Museum

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INFORMATION

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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.



Our museum shop is full of goodies to buy.
Photo: Susan Wineberg

We have the beginnings of a **website** thanks to **Ed Wall** of Pierian Press Historical Services for helping us accomplish this feat. Check out www.washtenawhistory.org and learn about the history of Washtenaw County and of the Museum on Main Street. Mr. Wall does the website for the Pittsfield Area Historical Society and generously offered to help us with ours. Many thanks are in order! If the print looks too small, make sure your monitor settings are at 800 x600.

We are still waiting for bids from two contractors regarding the repairs of our back doors, basement door and fence. One thing that failed—the locks—were quickly repaired by **Ann Arbor Door Opener and Locks**. Needless to say, Pauline was thrilled at having ONE thing fixed in a timely manner! At our most recent board meeting, we decided to have a building inspector look at the house for problems.

Pauline has arranged with members of Cobblestone Farm and the Kempf House to share a **non-profit booth at the July Art Fair** on Liberty Street. Louisa Pieper will try to find a site as close to Kempf House as possible. Anyone

wishing to help please call Pauline at 734-662-9092. We will need to have two people in the booth from 10 AM- 9PM Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and from 10 AM-5 PM on Saturday. We'll be selling books and handing out flyers about our various organizations.

Those of you who knew **Lawrence (Larry) Ziegler** may be interested to know that he has moved. His address there is 1523 West US2, Crystal Falls, MI 49920. He's way up there!

(Continued on page 8.)



You can purchase a US-12 Heritage trail T-shirt in our museum shop. Photo: S. Wineberg

Next Program

**ANNUAL MEETING
POTLUCK
& ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Wednesday • May 21, 2003
Cobblestone Farm Barn
6:00 PM**

MARCIA MCCRARY

The Michigan Firehouse Museum



The 1898 Ypsilanti Fire House Museum at 110 W. Cross St. Photo by Susan Wineberg

On Sunday, March 16, an intrepid group of some 45 people chose to hear Ms. McCrary speak at the Firehouse Museum in Ypsilanti rather than enjoy the first beautiful spring day after a long, tough winter. The sunshine streaming through the windows and lighting up all those red trucks was a sight to behold!

Marcia was introduced by Program Chair Ralph Beebe who noted she is a native of Kalamazoo but has lived in Washtenaw County for many years. She was an elementary school librarian in Ann Arbor for 33 years and retired in 2000. She also taught kindergarten in Milan for two years before coming to Ann Arbor. Marcia has been with the Museum since 1999. She has also served as President of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County for the past eight years. She is also a Charter Member of the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the American Truck Historical Society, serving as Vice-President and Secretary for several years. She is currently the Curator of the Michigan Antique Fire Equipment Preservation Group (better known as the Michigan Firehouse Museum) and has written and spoken about trucks and genealogy to a wide

variety of groups.

The Firehouse Museum is a unique collection of fire trucks, equipment and artifacts (such as old extinguishers, sirens, nozzles and toys) displayed in a two buildings: an 1898 former fire station connected to a 2002 new building designed as a museum space. The Museum is located at 110 W. Cross St. (near Depot Town) and is open Monday-Friday, 9 AM-noon and Sunday 2-5 PM and also by appointment. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students and seniors. Call 734-547-0663 for more information. The Museum also has a fantastic gift shop, selling books, calendars, models, and coloring books—anything about fires and fire fighting—as well as books on the history of Ypsilanti.

“I’m very pleased to be here today. It is interesting how I got here. In fact, I meant to bring with me my thimble which I finally went out and bought after I had decided that I was going to collect thimbles when I went around to tractor shows with my husband, because he restored tractors... I am getting to my point... just work with me!

But before I even bought my first thimble, I wrote an article on how eight of the roads in Superior Township got their names. My husband and I had only recently gotten married (it’s now 17 years) and we were newlyweds then. We would drive around and he would point out that the Meyers lived here and they are related to so and so, and X lived here and is related to Y. I thought ‘I want to play this game too.’

*So I picked eight of the roads in Superior Township and I wrote an article about how they got their names. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, when one of the roads that I picked was **Gotfredson Road**. This road runs from Geddes through Salem Township up to North Territorial. However, I could not find a Mr. Gotfredson who had ever lived on that road. I found the **Gotfredson Land Company**, which owned almost an entire section of land and grew crops there and rented out the land. Mary Clark’s husband lived on that land. His father was in charge of the Gotfredson Farms. I said to Bob ‘all these other roads are named after people, not after*

companies.’ He said ‘I traded Model T Parts (we also have a 1918 Model T) with a guy over there, so let’s go and ask him.’ I’d been to the Courthouse, I’d been to the library, I’d been to the archives—I thought there had to be an answer as to why they’d name this road after a company. We found out that Mr. Gotfredson never lived here—but then he uttered the fateful words—‘you know he made trucks.’

Well, that sort of spiked my interest and I called around and I now know that the typical reaction of even a truck person when you say ‘I have a Gotfredson truck’ is to say ‘what? I wanted to know more about these trucks, so I called Monaghan (Tom) of Domino’s Farms who had an antique car museum there at the time, and they didn’t know anything. I finally went to the Ypsilanti District Library, where I found Gotfredson Trucks listed in a little book. My husband had also mentioned seeing an advertisement in one of his tractor magazines for Gotfredson Trucks being sold at auction in Dowagiac, Michigan. It was by the auction people from Auburn, Indiana. [At one point I went to the Genealogy Society for help, and you know how that turned out! I’m now President of that group!]



WCHS members enjoy a tour by Marcia McCrary of the Firehouse Museum. Photo: S. Wineberg



A 1917 LaFrance on loan to the Firehouse Museum from Margaret and Fred Brusher. Photo: Susan Wineberg

I called the auction people and got in touch with the person who bought the Gotfredson truck. This is how I contacted Sam Doyle in Oklahoma who told me about someone else who was researching these trucks and getting ready to write about them. We also learned from the tractor people that a Gotfredson truck was for sale at Antique Auto Sales in Monroe. I still remember walking up to this truck, being very calm and cool, seeing if anyone else was interested and immediately bending down to read the serial number. I was worried if a salesman saw me, he'd think 'this lady knows way too much' [and would increase the price]. Well, we didn't buy the truck then, we waited for the price to go up, and bought it three years later, after the man who owned it (who lived in Milan) sold it to the Gibraltar Trade Center, which we bought it from later. It was a 1925 yellow and black Stake Rack Truck, and the first one we bought.

Then we went to a Fire Muster in Ontario, Canada, and we saw a Gotfredson Fire truck there belonging to the Paris Fire Department. We learned that there was a fire truck for sale in Stratford. In June of 1992, we bought this fire truck and had it shipped home. My husband and I were square dancers for many years and I was talking about my fire truck at a square dance, and a lady said 'I would be so upset if my husband dragged home a fire truck.' And I had to reply, 'you don't understand at all—I'm the one dragging home the fire truck for him to restore!'

After buying the truck we joined the SPAMFA Organization to find out about

how to find parts. We also learned more about Gotfredson Trucks. They were built in Detroit and in Windsor (Ontario), Canada, from roughly 1920-1948. **Ben Gotfredson** moved to Detroit around 1906. He married a woman named Mary Kolb whose father sold horses in Detroit and Windsor. About 1913, they formed the

American Auto Trimming Company in Detroit and Windsor. When they decided they needed a truck, they built the truck both in Detroit and Windsor. So, it's been a joint, hands-across-the border thing for a long time. Of the 15 known fire trucks that are Gotfredsons, are all Canadian. There are 59 total trucks, worldwide, as we know of a truck in New Zealand, which was in Australia to begin with. There were truck branches in Cleveland, Ohio; Sidney, Australia; Toronto, some in California (Los Angeles), Detroit etc.

I gave up a day researching Gotfredson trucks back in 1992 because a man at my church, St. Luke's Episcopal, had passed away. He had been on the International Olympic Committee and lived near us. After the ceremony I was talking to his grandson who lives on Superior Road, next to our property on Leforge Road, and somehow mentioned Gotfredson trucks, and he mentioned his cousin Patsy Robey who is married to Ed Gotfredson. So, it was clear that that was the place I needed to be that day, not in Lansing looking at the financial records of this company. As a result, we have met

members of the Gotfredson family, many of whom are in the Los Angeles area.

Bob Gotfredson has been to our house and seen our Gotfredson trucks. When my husband told him how he took the engine out of our fire truck, he said 'you can't take the engines out of those trucks. We (my father and my uncles) put the engines in first and built the frame around them.' My husband replied that he and a friend used a tractor to get the truck at just the right angle, then tipped the truck, and explained how they were able to remove the engine (which took five hours!) As you can see, we've had a lot of fun making all kinds of connections through collecting Gotfredson trucks.

We now own, besides the stake rack truck and the fire truck, a wrecker [my husband dreamt a number of a fire truck—60-055—and we went to a show and found a wrecker with that number, so we had to buy it]. We took it to the first orphan car show, and after being out in the rain all day, having my pocket stuffed with junk, I turned into our driveway, hit a tree and broke my hip! After a few weeks in the hospital, I started laughing and thought 'when do you suppose the last Gotfredson truck accident was in Washtenaw County?' and I suspect it had probably been 50 years before that. Now I just sit in the wrecker but I'm not allowed to drive it. The Fire Museum started in the old Fire Station next door that was built in 1898. There were actually two fire stations in Ypsilanti before that. One was on South Huron near City Hall and was built in 1873



Overview of the Firehouse Museum and its collection of fire trucks. Photo: Susan Wineberg



The Firehouse Museum also displays artifacts such as old extinguishers. Photo: S. Wineberg

with money from the Cornwell Company to help with all the fires at their paper mill. The other was in Depot Town in the Thompson Building on River Street and was called the East Side Hose Company #2. If you look carefully, you can see the sign on the doors there. The building there is now being cleaned out and we are looking for the original signs. From 1898-1915, horses were used at the fire station next door. After 1916, all trucks were motorized. We were told that horses were buried here on this site, and when we dug the foundation for this new building we found a horse bone, which is now on display in one of our cases.

In 1916 we bought two Seagrave Fire Trucks. In 1924 we bought another Seagrave and in 1939 we bought 2 new Seagraves. We have a snippet on video tape, that Herb Miller (Alonzo Miller's grandson) loaned to us, of the arrival of one of these 1939 vehicles at the train depot in Depot Town and all the trouble they had getting it off the flatbed car that it was on, and then driving it down the street. The City of Ypsilanti has been very generous with sharing information with us. In 1969 I found a listing of the equipment at the time: 2-1000 gal. pumpers, an 85 foot aerial ladder truck, a 750 gal. pumper, a station wagon and a pick-up truck. If any of you have questions about that era, we have a real-live Ypsilanti firefighter here today who can help you! **Paul Woodside** is here today. He worked from 1955-1985. He is assisted by **Ernie Griffin**, bottle collector, Ypsilanti historian and co-curator of the Museum. In addition to the 'live' ones here today, I've constructed an index of all the firefighters who served Ypsilanti

and they are organized by name, with years served, indexed photographs, and newspaper articles. These are all cross-indexed as well, so you can search by picture number and newspaper article number. We've got lots and lots of information and many wonderful historical photographs of firefighting in Ypsilanti. We have

45 firefighters buried at Highland Cemetery (she brought pictures of their tombstones, organized, of course, in a notebook) and eight buried at St. John's Cemetery.

In response to my church's request to do a Lenten Program, I did a presentation about the 17 firefighters who were Episcopalians (of the total of 104 on my list). A group of these firefighters went on to become Mayors of Ypsilanti. In the late 1800s, it was high status to be a firefighter, a Mason and an Episcopalian. Eight of these 17 firefighters went on to become mayors—**Chauncey Joslin, Benjamin Follett, Francis Pembroke Bogardus, Henry R. Scovill, Thomas Ninde, Clark Cornwell, Yost and O. B. Thompson**. This presentation was later published as part of the *Family History Capers* of the Genealogical Society.

A reporter asked me if I had sketches for each firefighter. I don't but I thought it was a good idea! This is now one of the things I'm working on, which of course appeals to me as a genealogist as well. But it is also nice to have it for the City of Ypsilanti. I do have a list of the Fire Chiefs and pictures of their tombstones as well. They begin with that of **Wallace W. Worden** from 1895

and extends to **Fred Babcock** (1906), **Alonzo Miller** (1922), **James Dignan** (1941), **Gerald Kelly** (1951), **Russell Forsyth** (1965), **Ralph Crawford** (1966), **John C. Coleman** (1983), and **James Roberts** (1987-present). Roberts is the only firefighter serving today who worked in the old fire station before it became the museum.

The Fire Department Building was built in 1898. In 1975 they had a truck that was too large, so they decided to build a new building on Michigan Avenue. At that point **Tom Conway** purchased the old Fire Station and ran his plumbing business out of there for 24 years. He also had nine (9) vehicles and 48 gas pumps in there as well! It was a wonderful display of his collections. They ran their business from the second floor and they were running up and down the stairs all day long. They were young then and worked hard!

In March of 1999, **Howard and Norma Weaver** bought the fire station next door from Tom Conway's family after he had a stroke. Their dream was to have a fire station museum especially since Norma's father was **Fred Schmid**, a firefighter and former Fire Chief in Ann Arbor. If it hadn't been for Norma and Howard's interest in fire trucks, and giving back to the community, we would not be sitting in this wonderful new addition. Howard and Norma tried several jobs before they came up with the idea of providing people with dog food at any time of the day or night. They began their business on Cornell Road and last year they bought Pet Supply Plus. Now they service 32 states. The fire station actually belongs to Howard and Norma and they lease it to us for \$1.00/year. They funded the entire cost of the



Fire truck on display in the 1898 section of the museum. Photo: S. Wineberg



Marcia McCrary tells us about the museum and her passion for collecting trucks! Photo: Susan Wineberg.

addition. We are struggling now to get the museum on a self-sustaining basis. We have a director of development and we are actively seeking grants. We also have four apartments in the back and the income from these apartments helps fund the ongoing work of the museum. We hopeful that we're going to be around for a long, long time! The Weavers also run *Yesterday's Collection, Inc.* at 5899 Jackson Rd., which is a store selling tin signs, automotive art, neon clocks, jukeboxes, gas pumps and Franklin Mint models. They even have an ice cream shop there as well!

The vehicles in the museum include **Hand Pumps: 1886 Gleason and Bailey** from Arlington, OH and **1900 Rumsey** from Otter Lake (Lapeer County). These are the two oldest things we have. We also have a **1908 Ahrens Steamer** on loan from the Detroit Historical Museum and four **American LaFrance** vehicles—a **1916** from Battle Creek [this one is unrestored and doesn't look red—but it is! We always like to show this one to the young schoolchildren to illustrate how dirt changes a color]; a **1917** from Pennsylvania; a **1923** from Fredonia [NY—which says Ann Arbor—it was purchased by the Weavers and is the only truck that actually belongs to the museum—it is now a parade vehicle]; and a **1925** from Grand Rapids. We have a **1927 Model T Ford** (This summer is the 100th anniversary of the Model T and we're going to have special events here); a **1927 Graham Brothers** from Rochester (Michigan); a **1928 Gotfredson-Bickle** from Guelph; a **1928 Seagrave** from Mohawk, NY; a **1938 Seagrave** from Detroit; a **1947 Dodge** from Dexter; a **1952**

Seagrave from Ypsilanti; a **1965 Seagrave** from Kalamazoo and a **1968 Mack** from Pennsylvania. Many of them are on loan to us from various individuals and they all run pretty well.

We have collections of many other items in the display cases on both floors. Look for old toys, extinguishers, patches, emblems, breathing

apparatus, bells and clothing. Some of the old extinguishers are glass balls called grenades. Some were filled with a saline solution and others with carbon tetrachloride. The latter are quite dangerous as they release phosgene gas when thrown into a fire. Obviously they are no longer used! Upstairs Howard has toys in the display cases and another volunteer, **Bill Erickson** has brought in a small sample of his Ahrens toys—to match the trucks. We don't have a lot of information on these items yet but we are working on that.”

Marcia ended by showing a picture of a mis-painted STOP sign spelled SOPT



Old fire equipment on display in Ypsilanti Firehouse Museum. Photo: S. Wineberg

and urged us all the come again. The Museum is located at 110 W. Cross St. Ypsilanti. They are open every Sunday from 2-5 PM and M-F 9-noon and by appointment. Their phone number is 734-547-0663. You can email them at firemuseum2@msn.com or visit their website at <http://communities.msn.com/YpsilantiFireMuseum>.

New Gardeners In The Garden

We are sad to report that our intrepid gardener, **Pat Thompson**, had to resign from the Board to take care of her parents in Stony Brook, New York. **Sue Kosky** is stepping in to help coordinate a new team (**Patty Creal, Ann DeFreitas** and **Judy Chrisman**) that will be attempting to fill Pat's very large shoes. They will be setting up a schedule for watering, weeding and planting. Right now they would like some **Annuals for the garden**, which is interpreted in the 1880-1900 time period. Any flower that was available before 1900 would be appropriate. Some examples would include *spider flower (cleome), coleus, cosmos, sweet william, foxglove, globe amaranth, heliotrope, balsam, sweet pea, petunia, drummond phlox, clarkia, ageratum, sweet alyssum, pansies, French marigolds, stock, four o'clocks, poppies, geraniums, salvia, dusty miller, nasturtium, verbena and zinnia*. We will start planting in mid-May so anyone who would like to **donate flowers (or money for the garden)** please let us know. Call 734-662-9092. If you have questions you can call Sue at 517-423-5058. A volunteer group will be at the museum on **Saturday, May 31** (weather permitting) to help with the planting.

Sue has also undertaken a very interesting project. Since **Monticello** (Thomas Jefferson's home/museum in Virginia) is commemorating the **Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition** by offering seeds of many plants discovered during the journey [osage orange was a major discovery as was clarkia, prairie flax, and others], Sue is starting her own Lewis and Clark Garden! Some of the seeds have actually germinated so we are keeping our fingers crossed. To learn more about the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, visit their website at www.twinleaf.org.

PAULINE WALTERS • PRESIDENT

The Impressions And Our Membership

The membership year for the WCHS runs from January through December. As of mid-March we have 381 paid members, 19 Life Members, one Business Patron, seven Business members and 23 donors that are not members. Our newsletter, *Impressions*, is mailed seven times yearly to members, donors and select historical societies and schools.

Several years ago, we began writing to local businesses, sending examples of the newsletter, and asking for support to cover the cost of producing and mailing the *Impressions*. When the economy was good we had a great response from many businesses and have been most grateful for the support. This year we have received support from only two businesses and a gift honoring a Board member.

In February 2003 we had 1200 14-page (unusually large because of the interesting letters between two brothers that fought in the Civil War) newsletters printed. Our editor, **Susan Wineberg**, writes the copy. It is then set in Pagemaker and printed. The costs were: preparation: \$347.20; printing: \$710.47; and postage: \$180 for a total of \$1237.67, an average of one dollar per copy.

We are very proud of our award-winning newsletter and I, as president and membership and mailing coordinator, have as many copies printed as "I can get away with." Our treasurer, **Patty Creal**, is a wonderful shepherd of our monies and has cautioned me many times that we cannot afford to keep mailing out *Impressions* to people who "might not be interested" in receiving them.

The purpose of this message is to announce a new policy. Members, donors, in-kind donors and certain historical units and schools will receive this newsletter without an insert. Non-members will have a membership/donor envelope enclosed in the newsletter. We are hoping that if you enjoy the *Impressions* you would wish to help defray the costs of producing it by becoming a member or donor. Starting with the September 2003 issue, the

Impressions will be mailed only to those who are members or donors or those who receive complimentary copies. We want to thank all who have enjoyed our publication and have supported it.

News You Can Use

We received a note from **Michael V. Doyle** about his book *on Michigan Movie Theaters*. It contains over 100 pictures and information on historical movie houses. It can be ordered online from Amazon.com, be found in bookstores after April 1, or be ordered directly from him. Write him at Boreal Press, 1629 Haslett Rd., Suite 178, Haslett, MI 48840. You can call him at 517-651-9351 or email him at editor@borealpress.com. Sounds like a winner!

Chicago is fighting to preserve its historic baseball stadium, **Wrigley Field**, and has proposed designating it a historic landmark. Hearings were held in March after two years of discussion with the owners of the ballpark. If approved, this means they would have to keep the ivy-covered walls and the scoreboard. This is believed to be the first local landmark designation of a professional sports facility in the US, though other sports stadiums are on the National Register (not the same level of protection at all!) Learn more at their website www.landmarks.org.

My membership in the Recent Past Preservation Network provides me with e-mails on fascinating subjects. Last month there was a heated debate about the **Interstate Highway System**, begun in 1956-57, and whether it should be landmarked and placed on the National Register. **Beth Savage** from the National Register (National Park Service) reported that the Federal Highway Administration is currently undertaking the development of a national historic context for evaluating the significance of the Interstate Highway System. This is being done for two reasons: to celebrate its own legacy on its 50th anniversary, and to provide leadership to assist State departments of Transportation with evaluation of the

system in the Section 106 review context. This is three years in the future, but it's nice to know they are thinking ahead.

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** has just acquired its 22nd historic site. This is the **Mathis House** (1876, Russell Norton) in **San Antonio, Texas**. This follows on the acquisition of the **Touro Synagogue** in Newport, Rhode Island last year. The Mathis house is a gift of Walter Mathis who is donating the eclectic house with his priceless collection of art and historical artifacts. Mr. Mathis restored the house in 1967 after it had been converted to apartments. With 16 men working a year and a half, it was quite an undertaking. After finishing the house, Mathis bought 14 additional houses and restored the entire neighborhood. The King William neighborhood is now a model of historic preservation and urban revitalization.

The **Great American Home Awards** are back! In conjunction with *Old House Journal*, The National Trust wants to recognize outstanding residential rehabilitation projects in the U.S. To enter your home renovation or addition, call 1-800-315-NTHP or visit their website at www.oldhousejournal.com. The deadline is May 30, 2003.

Around The Town

Everyone is thinking spring and you can take advantage of **free classes** being offered at **Downtown Home and Garden**, 210 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. Every Saturday from March 22-May 31, owner **Mark Hodesh**, **Joe Wissing** from the Manchester Wildflower Seed Co and **Tom Kraft** from Vandenberg Bulb Co. will talk on growing a wildflower garden, establishing and maintaining a lawn, principles of pruning, and much more! You can also bring in your soil to be tested for a \$14 charge on Saturdays April 5, 12 and 19. Call 734-662-8122 for more information.

The **Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor** are celebrating their 20th year. The latest issue of their newsletter, *Repast*, looks at their past programs and charts their progress. It all started in the living room of **Jan and Dan Longone** at 1207 W. Madison Street. They have succeeded in being not only a social group but an academic and

scholarly one as well. We congratulate them. If you are interested in joining, contact Randy K. Schwartz at 734-662-5040 or Rschw4521@aol.com.

The **Kempf House Museum** continues its program of Wednesday lectures through April 24th. Still to come are talks on **The Ypsilanti Historical Museum (April 16)** and **Ara Berberian, a lawyer turned opera singer (April 23)**. All talks are \$1.00 for members and \$2.00 for non-members. They take place in the 1853 Greek Revival House owned by the City of Ann Arbor. The house is also open for tours on **Sundays April 6, 13 and 27; May 4, 11 and 18; June 1 and 8**. Tours resume in September. On **April 21 and 22**, an **archaeological dig** will take place under the supervision of **April Beisaw**. They are on a mission to find the old privy. In addition, from **May 4-June 8**, an exhibit on **Mr. and Mrs. Bennett**, the first occupants of the house, will be mounted in the museum. This is to honor the **Sesquicentennial** of the house. The Museum is at **312 S. Division** in Ann Arbor. Phone **734-994-4898**.

Cobblestone Farm has many events planned for the spring, including the **Spring Family Swing on Friday, April 25** from 6:30-8:30 (\$25-40 fee), and a **Celebration of Spring** on Sunday, April 27 from 1-5 PM (\$2/person or \$8/family). On **Tuesday, May 13**, they will host a **Window Restoration Workshop** from 6:30-9:30 (fee \$20) which will teach how to re-glaze windows in historic houses. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Another workshop will be on **Historic Preservation (Fee \$10)** on **Tuesday, May 20** and this too requires pre-registration. The farm is an

1845 cobblestone house owned by the City of Ann Arbor and managed by the Parks Department. You can reach them at **734-994-2928**.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** will meet **Sunday, April 27**, at 1:30 in the Auditorium of the Education Center of St. Joseph Hospital complex at 5305 Elliott Dr. Use Parking Lot P. The speaker, **Sharon Brevoort**, will cover "**Technology for Genealogists**" and will concentrate on new ways to make the most of internet resources, tips for making better use of your computer and the expanding use of DNA to identify and prove family lines. **Marcia McCrary** will conduct the class afterwards on "**How to Write A Query**." The talks are free and open to the public. You can also visit their excellent website for more details or call **734-483-2799**.

In **Ypsilanti**, The **Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association** celebrates the tenth anniversary of its founding at Eastern Michigan University on **Friday, May 9** and **Saturday, May 10**. The **Geddes Townhall School** on campus will be the site of the reception Friday evening. On Saturday various sessions will be offered on one-room school archaeology, preservation and restoration techniques, teaching in a one-room school, and the old-fashioned spelling bee. The cost of the event is \$35. For more information contact **MORSA**, c/o Sue Daniel at Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48152, or check out their website at www.one-roomschools.org.

Hot news just in! **The Bentley Historical Library** has just announced that it will become the repository for the

architectural drawings of the **Albert Kahn Associates, Inc.** of Detroit. Long stored in the overheated basement of their headquarters, the drawings are of some 50 buildings. These include most of the major buildings on the UM Campus, the GM Building, Fisher Building and Detroit News and Free Press Buildings in Detroit; The George Booth House at Cranbrook, and the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Residence in Grosse Pointe Shores; and industrial plants such as Ford's Highland Park and River Rouge Plants, Chrysler's Half-Ton Truck Plant and Packard Building No. 10. **Sally Bund**, who has been archiving the drawings of architect **Gunnar Birkets** for the Bentley for several years, has already begun processing the drawings. Her finding aids will make drawings of all these buildings accessible to a wider audience. Congratulations to the Bentley!

And on a sad note, I have to report the death of long time supporter **Amelita (Lita) Ristine**, a granddaughter of **David F. Allmendinger** maker of the famous Allmendinger Organs. Lita just recently donated a child's cutter made by her paternal grandfather Adolph Schmidt to the society. She died March 8. Another supporter of history, former Kempf House President **John H. Griffith** died March 18th. We send our condolences to all who knew them. They will be missed!

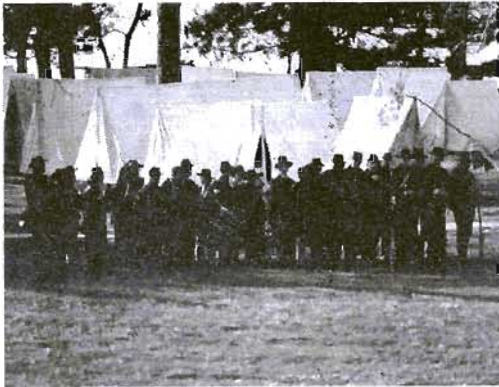
We've also learned that two friends of history and preservation are ailing. **Russell Bidlack's** had a stint in the hospital as has **Wayne Clements** of the Saline Area Historical Society. We wish them both a speedy recovery!

Historic District Commission Holds Retreat

The **Ann Arbor Historic District Commission** recently held its annual retreat to discuss amending local ordinances and making them more in tune with each other and federal guidelines. Snapped during the break were (left to right, back row first **Heather Edwards**, HDC Coordinator, **Tracy Koe Wick**, **Michele Derr**, **Sonia Schmerl (Chair)**, and **Mike Bruner**. In the front row are **H. Scott Diels**, **Susan Wineberg**, and **H.M. Hildebrandt**. These volunteers work hard to preserve the historic fabric of our beloved town.



Around The County



The **Milan Area Historical Society** will be having a program on *Egguery*, the craft of making beautiful and decorative eggs. **Donna Smallwood** will speak on demonstrate on **Sunday, April 15** at the Old Milan Fire Barn, 153 E. Main St. The event is free and open to the public.

The **Saline Area Historical Society** announced that the **Rentschler Farm** will have its Spring Opening **Saturday, May 17** from 11-4. \$1 donation per adult is requested. There will be tours, animals, crafts, food and activities for kids. For more information call **734-944-0442**. Both the

Farm and the Saline Railroad Depot will be open every Saturday throughout the summer (except for holiday weekends) and admission to either is free. If you are interested in being a tour guide, call **734-769-2219**.

The **Waterloo Area Historical Society**, which operates the **Waterloo Farm Museum** and the **Dewey School Museum**, will hold its Annual meeting on **Sunday, May 18**, at 1 PM. On **Sunday, June 29**, from 1-5, they will hold their **Log Cabin/Education Day** and **Blacksmith Festival** that celebrates log cabins both old and new. From **July 25-July 27** they'll hold a **Civil War Encampment**, hosted by the 5th Kentucky Infantry. The Farm Museum is the **Realy** (originally **Ruehle**) Farmstead from 1844 and is located at 9998 Waterloo-Munith Road in Waterloo Township. The Dewey School is at Territorial and Meyer Roads, 3 miles nw of the farm. Phone **517-851-2584** or **517-596-2254**. Or visit their website <http://scs.k12.mi.us/~waterloo> which is full of useful information.

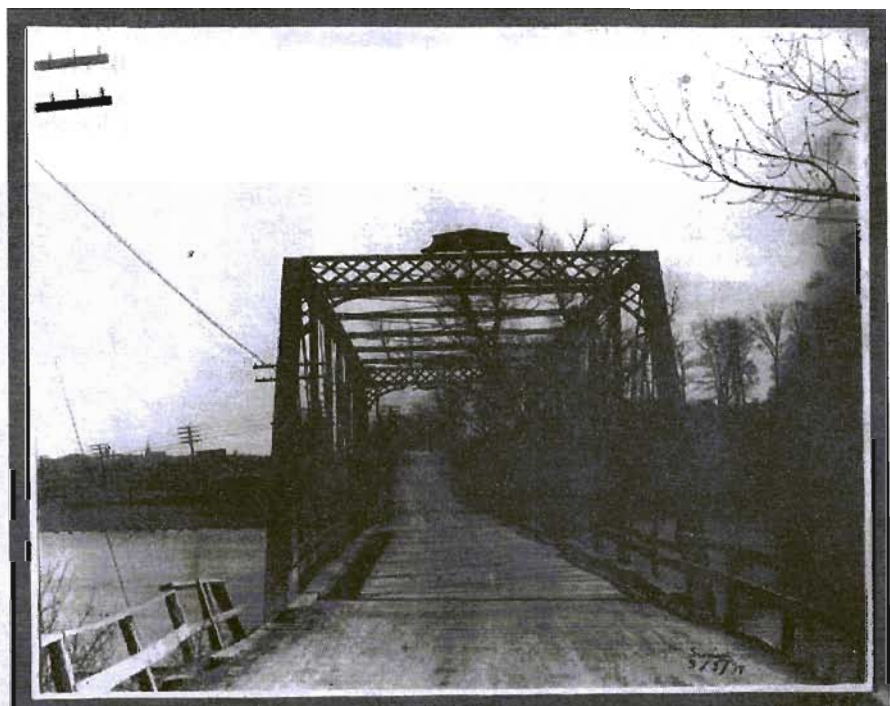
Your Museum

Continued from page 1.

Donations recently received include another **wedding dress**, worn by **Elizabeth Burrows** in her marriage to **George Huntington** in 1886. They owned property around Huntington Dr near Geddes and built a house there. The dress was donated by **Robert Beuhler**. Also received were many items from **Susan Wineberg** including an old photo of the interior of the **Spathelf Meat Market** on Broadway; photographs of **Harriet and Electa Knight**, daughters of **Scio Twp.** pioneer **Rufus Knight**; commemorative bells from **Yahr Bros.** Hupmobile, **Rohde Cement** and the **Pretzel Bell**; the photo of a lunch counter; a cooking pamphlet published for **Vogel Bros. Meat Market** at 339 S. Main St; a milk bottle from **Bolgos Dairy**; a booklet for the **DeLaval Cream Separator** from 1946; an order slip from **Warner Dairy** at 3120 Washtenaw Ave; candy box and sticker from **Drake's**; and a milk bottle from the **West Side Dairy**. Received from **Ernie Griffin** of Ypsilanti was a **Williamsburg Food Warmer**—an electric hot plate made by **Lidavap** of Ann Arbor. Thank you one and all!

Remember When

Here's a photograph taken by **George R. Swain** (a well-known Ann Arbor photographer) "at 2:30 PM, **May 3, 1917**, with [the] camera placed in the middle of [the] road opposite [the] intersection of California Ave. looking toward Ann Arbor." Can anyone identify this bridge? The picture was donated to the WCHS in memory of **Katie Amy Smith Latson**, wife of **Edwin William Latson**—life-long residents of Ann Arbor Township—and their son **Merle David Latson** and daughter **Lucille Smith Latson Proctor**. The donors are their grandchildren **David Merle Latson**, **Jane Lucy Latson Lewis**, **Nancy Arlene Proctor Simpson** and **John Edwin Proctor**.



Beyond Washtenaw

Ludington's White Pine Village in Mason County (on Lake Michigan)

opened in 1976 around the 1849 Burr Caswell Home. Now the Village is home to 23 buildings from a trapper's log cabin to an early 20th century barn. There's a chapel, farmhouse, doctor's office, general store, hardware store and one-room school—all aspects of life in a northern Michigan community. The Village opens April 22 and operates from 11-5 Tuesday-Saturday through mid-October. They have a website at www.historicwhitepinevillage.com.

Also on the west coast, the **Fort Miami Heritage Society** has recently opened a two-year exhibit called "*Shared Waters: Natives and French Newcomers on the Great Lakes*" at the Priscilla U. Byrns Heritage Center in **St. Joseph, Michigan**. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Michigan and the Great Lakes were the center for French colonial ambitions in the New World. Waterways were the highways and missions and forts were established on them. Fort St. Joseph was established in 1691. Numerous speakers are planned for the year and one special exhibit is on Cavalier de LaSalle and his ill-fated ship LaBelle, which sank off the coast of Texas in 1686. It was recently excavated by the Texas Historical Commission. In 2004, archaeology and the Fort St. Joseph in Niles will be showcased, which linked Louisiana to Quebec. You can call 269-983-1191 to learn more about guided tours. Ask for **Dale Winling**.

Wayne State University's MICHIGAN IN PERSPECTIVE, 45th Annual Conference on Local History, will be held **Friday and Saturday April 11 and 12** at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center on campus. Subjects include archives, teaching Michigan history, museums, oral history, historic preservation and much more! Our own **Pauline Walters and Louisa Pieper** will be participants in a roundtable of historical societies on Friday. Registration is a very reasonable \$12 for each day. Questions? Call 313-577-4003.

Pewabic Pottery in Detroit is celebrating its centennial this year. Founded on Jefferson Avenue in 1902, this arts and

crafts era pottery has produced tiles which grace many of Detroit's finest buildings. In honor of the **Centennial** they are issuing a **limited edition (1,000) tile** depicting the symbol of a chimney on a blue field. You can buy the tile for \$90 and visit the pottery at 10125 E. Jefferson on Monday-Saturday. Many events are planned this year including an exhibit "*A New Home 1906*" which will go up **May 23-July 19**. Call 313-822-6266 or visit their website at www.pewabic.com.

Also in Detroit, the firm of **Historic Hospitality Investments** has been chosen to run the \$160 million renovation of the former **Book-Cadillac Hotel** on Michigan and Washington Blvd. The Friends of the Book-Cadillac were instrumental in getting the city to this point and are now focusing on the endangered **Madison Lenox Hotel** across the street from the Detroit Athletic Club. Owned by the Ilitch family, this facility could be a stunning renovation project. The FBC held a rally for the Madison-Lenox on Tigers Opening Day, March 31. Read more about it on their website at www.book-cadillac.org.

I'd tell you about the historic tours of Detroit by the **Detroit Historical Society** but they are already sold out! This includes the church tours, Elmwood Cemetery, and The Ferry Street Inn. Not sold out yet is the \$20 tour of the **Cadieux Café** and **Feather Bowling**. And the **Annual Spring Flea Market at Historic Fort Wayne** is **Saturday and Sunday April 12-13, 10-4 PM**. Check their website at www.detroithistorical.org.

Other historic buildings in Detroit are undergoing changes as well. *The Detroit Free Press* (2/25/03) noted that the **Farbman Group** has submitted a proposal to gut the old **Detroit Free Press Building** (Albert Kahn, 1923) but keep the structure intact for a new headquarters. The **Detroit Police** are also looking for new digs and threaten to demolish their old building (1922) once they are settled elsewhere. However, one candidate for their new headquarters is the abandoned ruin of the **Michigan Central Depot**. Wouldn't that be something? We also got a copy of an RFP from the Michigan SHPO asking for

consultants to nominate the '**Milwaukee Junction**' area of the city of Detroit as a **historic district**. This district includes parts of Piquette and Hastings Streets, as well as Woodward and Endicott. This area is just full of abandoned auto factories that would make great spaces for working and living.

It's not too late to sign up for the **Michigan Historic Preservation Network's 23rd Annual Conference**, being held in **Kalamazoo April 24-26**. "*The Politics of Preservation*" theme will focus on existing and future preservation policy at federal, state and local levels. There will also be workshops on campus preservation, Michigan's new Main Street program, County-wide Heritage programs, Historic Schools, Maritime History and much more. You can download the conference program and registration materials at www.mhpn.org or call 517-371-8080.

The **Historical Society of Michigan (HSM)** has revived its former Centennial Business Award Program which is now known as the **New Milestone Awards Program**. This is for businesses and organizations to celebrate their history. Now they can buy a plaque for only \$495 for non-profits and \$595 for commercial businesses. **Michigan History Day** will be held in **Allendale on April 26** with over 1,000 students participating. New History Workshops are planned for spring, summer and fall. Other important dates are the **UP History Conference in Cedarville, June 20-22**, **Michigan Week (May 17-26)**, the **17th Log Cabin Day**, a statewide celebration with tours and festivals in over 80 places on **Sunday, June 29**. You can find out about them from the website (www.hsmichigan.org) or by calling 800-692-1828. This spring HSM will also be offering small historical societies without their own webpage to have a 'web presence' if they are HSM members. And if you like to plan early, note that the **2003 State History Conference** will be held the first weekend in October, **October 3-5**, in **Port Huron**. Mark those calendars!

Annual Meeting

Our next meeting will be our Annual Meeting. We will hold it at The Cobblestone Farm Barn on Wednesday, May 21, 2003. We gather at 6 PM for a social hour and then enjoy a pot luck supper beginning around 6:30. After the meal the Society will hold its annual Election of Officers and then have a tour of the 1844 Cobblestone Farm home led by members of the Cobblestone Farm Association.

The following officers are nominated for (re) election: **President: Pauline Walters; Vice President: Ralph Beebe; Corresponding Secretary: Richard Galant; Recording Secretary Judy Chrisman; Treasurer: Patricia Creal; Impressions Editor: Susan Wineberg.**

Nominated for the board for three-year terms are: **Ann DeFreytas, Peggy Haines, Sue Kosky and Jay Snyder.** Running for a board seat to replace **Pat Thompson** will be **Pat Austin.** **David Lamoreaux** will serve 2 years on the Endowment Committee.

Watch your mail for a letter describing a **change to the Bylaws.** We will be asking our membership to approve **changing our fiscal year** to be the same as our calendar year, to correspond in the future with our membership cycle which is from January-December. This is to help our Treasurer have one less headache!

**Support
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Impressions**

This issue of the *Impressions*
is partially supported by

**Member
Norma Marshall**

Union Cake

A friend sent me an Ann Arbor cookbook published by the Ladies' Aid Society of the **Methodist Episcopal Church** of Ann Arbor in **1887.** In it was a **recipe for Union Cake:**

Dark Part: The yolks of three eggs, one cup of molasses, half a cup of butter, three tablespoons of sour milk, one teaspoon of soda, two cups of flour, one cup of chopped raisins, cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg to taste. **White Part:** The whites of three eggs, half a cup of butter, one cup of sugar, three-fourths of a cup of sweet milk, two cups of flour, two teaspoons of baking powder. Put in the tin a portion of the dark cake then of the white, alternately in the same way until all the batter is used. Submitted by Mrs. W.W. Tozer.

I wonder if the ladies made this cake when they raised money for the Civil War soldiers. Does anyone know more about this cake?



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ANNUAL MEETING

POTLUCK

& ELECTION OF OFFICERS

WEDNESDAY • 6:00 PM

MAY 21, 2003

COBBLESTONE FARM BARN

