



IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2004

AMY ROSENBERG & JUDY CHRISMAN

A Piece Of The Past

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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.



Two-piece gravy bowl with attached saucer and cover from the Bach china.

China sets were very elaborate in the 1800s. Meals were very formal and required a specific order of presentation with each course having its own china pieces placed at the 'proper' location on the table. This set is a service for twelve consisting of several sizes of plates, large soup bowls, coffee cups, tea cups and demitasse cups. In addition there are several tureens, an uncovered sauce boat, a covered gravy boat, a three-piece butter dish, serving bowls and five serving platters.

The unidentified hand-painted pattern consists of a red and gold-leaf square shape lavalier pendant design hanging from decorative purple swags with blue grape bunches that zigzag around the gold-leaf lines and dabs. The swags are decorated with wine-red dashes. There are black lines and gold-leaf on the handles, knobs and ends of some pieces.

In 1878, Philip Bach went to Cincinnati and purchased this china service for his third wife, Anna Botsford Bach, whom he married in 1876. The Bachs were a prominent Ann Arbor family that entertained frequently at their home at 424 S. Main. Philip Bach and investors built the large business block on the northwest corner of South Main and Washington Streets. P. Bach and Co., his dry goods business, was on the corner. Philip and Anna were active in both civic and social circles. He was an elected trustee of the school district from 1856-1894 (Bach school is named for him), a director of the First National Bank of Ann Arbor from 1856-1895 and a director of the Forest Hill Cemetery Association. Anna was a member of the school board for nine years and active in the Ladies Library Association, the YWCA, the Charitable Union and other organizations. She was one of the organizers of the Old Ladies Home Association,

later called the Anna Botsford Bach Home (just recently closed).

Come and see this china set which will be featured in the Holiday Exhibit.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER • JUDITH CHRISMAN

A Sad Loss

The Board of Directors of WCHS was greatly saddened by the loss of the Yankee Air Museum to a catastrophic fire. Fire is probably one of the biggest fears of any business, institution or family. Fire in a museum wipes out a large part of the past when it destroys irreplaceable mementos and artifacts of previous generations.

The members of the Yankee Air Museum are determined to rebuild and our board has offered support to them in any way that we can. We will pass on any information, clean-up dates or other requests to our members whenever we receive them in case you are interested in helping also.

www.washtenawhistory.org

Web Site A Work In Progress

Ed Wall, a member of the Pittsfield Township Historical Society, has done extensive work on the Pittsfield web site and it is very well done and informative. See: www.pittsfieldhistory.org. He has offered to do similar work for our Society. We are pleased to accept this offer. Currently, we have a volunteer, a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Information who will be working on developing material for our site on the weekends.

Membership

Membership in the Society runs from January through December. Forms will be sent out in early January 2005. Dues are used for the activities of the Society and the publishing and mailing of our newsletter, *IMPRESSIONS*. We need your support. Please watch your mailbox in January.

SPEAKER • GILBERT CAMPBELL

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN:

The History Of Gordon Hall

On Sunday, October 17, 2004 about thirty members and friends of the Society gathered at the Dexter Area Museum to hear Mr. Gilbert Campbell, president of the Dexter Area Historical Society, talk about the history of Gordon Hall.

Before we start talking about Gordon Hall you need to know about the man behind it. Samuel Dexter came from a well-to-do family. His father was a lawyer, a representative, a senator and a Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. He was also Secretary of War under President John Adams and then Secretary of Treasury under Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. So, you can see there was a little bit of money in the family. Samuel was born in 1792 and graduated from Harvard in 1812 at twenty-years of age. In 1815 he had his law degree. He was a very intelligent person and you can see that by what he accomplished. In 1816 he married Amelia Prevost and they had two sons: Samuel P. Dexter, who was born in 1817 and lived to be thirty two, and Augustine, born in 1820. Unfortunately, both Judge Dexter's wife and second son died in 1822.

After grieving for a while, he decided to take a trip west and came to Michigan, bringing \$80,000 with him, a great deal of money back then. When he arrived at the area where Mill Creek joins the Huron River, he thought that would be a good spot for a mill and a village which he named Dexter after his father.

He also did a lot of exploring in the area. In one summer on horseback, he covered two-thousand miles throughout southeast Michigan. He also bought thirty-five hundred acres from the U.S. government, so he was quite a land baron as well.

In the fall of 1824 he traveled back to New York, where he married seventeen-year-old Susan Dunham. A year later they came back to Dexter and had a log cabin built down by the Huron River. They didn't live there long. He had brought back plans for a grand frame house, which was built by the Huron River on Huron Street.

Dexter used to let newcomers stay in his original log cabin. He kept a barrel of flour and a barrel of smoked meat for newcomers to help them get started in Dexter. They could stay there as long as they needed until they got their own home built. That's pretty much how he settled the Village.

Dexter's new home was well-constructed with fine detail and was listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey. In 1939 the owner of the home decided



Gilbert Campbell spoke about the history of Gordon Hall.

that he was either going to tear it down or he would sell it to somebody for a thousand dollars. Three young women - Flora Smith; Cornelia Copeland, the daughter of Senator Copeland from the area; and Mary Steinbach - tried to raise \$1,000. They couldn't raise it and the house was demolished. So we have already lost one grand home in Dexter that Samuel Dexter had built.

In 1826 Governor Lewis Cass appointed Samuel Dexter first chief U.S. Justice of Washtenaw County, thus the name Judge Dexter. He was also appointed the first postmaster of Dexter. He ran the post office out of one of the rooms of that home down on Huron Street. He was also appointed to a four-year term as a regent at the University of Michigan. He only served for a year before he resigned.

In 1827 his second wife died in childbirth and the child died a few days later. He had pretty poor luck with his spouses and his children. After a period of time he married seventeen-year-old Millicent Bond, who had traveled with her widowed mother from the east coast to settle in Webster Township. He and his new bride rode a white charger back along the Indian trails from Webster to Dexter. They had a long marriage and eight children.

John Allen, one of the founders of Ann Arbor, and the Judge started the *Western Emigrant*, the first newspaper in Washtenaw County. In 1830 the Judge finally platted Dexter and based it on the plan of Washington D.C., with spoked-wheel avenues and wide streets. He assumed then that the University of Michigan was going to move to Dexter. Later he decided he didn't want the University out here because it would ruin his village so he told them to stay in Ann Arbor.

Judge Dexter established the Village of Byron up in northern Livingston County, a beautiful area that he named after the poet. He is also credited with helping to found Iona, Eaton Rapids, Tecumseh and Clinton and was instrumental in deciding the site of the county seat in Saginaw County, the city of Saginaw. He had purchased a lot of land there on one bank of the river. The other bank was quite marshy and that was where they were trying to set up the city; but he had the high ground. He donated and for the county courthouse and some other government buildings and but held on to the rest to sell it for businesses and homes. The courthouse still stands on the same site, though it is a later building.

The Judge was also very interested in the railroad, which was in its infancy back then. He was the first to print a vision of a transcontinental railroad. He wanted the railroad to come through Dexter so, in 1837, he deeded a one-hundred foot wide strip through the village for the railroad to come through. On July 4th, 1841, his dream came true. The railroad came to Dexter. Unfortunately, there was a problem - he had let the railroad come through the orchard near his house and they couldn't get any sleep at night. He didn't care for that too much and so he decided to build a new home west of the village on a seventeen-hundred acre estate with a beautiful view of Dexter.

Calvin Fillmore, a carpenter, contractor, and brother of President Millard Fillmore, was one of the designers and helped build the house. It took two years to build that magnificent mansion. Much of the lumber had to be carted in from around the state, up north, and from the Detroit area. In 1843 the home was finished and they named it Gordon Hall, which was his mother's maiden name. Much of the oak for the construction may have come from his seventeen-hundred acres. We had a chance, a couple of years ago, to tour the attic where one huge oak main beam is fifty-feet-long, with not

a knot in it.

Three presidents have visited Gordon Hall: James Polk, James Buchanan and Millard Fillmore. Gordon Hall has often been called one of the most impressive examples of Greek Revival architecture in the Midwest. Not only was the Judge an Anti-Mason and a devout temperance man, (though his original log cabin ended up a tavern), he was also a very vocal abolitionist. Gordon Hall is said to have served as a station on the Underground Railroad, though of course, nobody advertised that because harboring fugitive slaves was against the law. There is a trap door on the southwest porch, which leads to tunnels and these tunnels lead to a secret area in the basement. If you look down in the basement, it looks like a solid wall and a lot of framing of the house down there. When the university converted the building to apartments, that area was opened up. You can actually go back there now and see a fireplace and some rooms where it would have been very reasonable to hide several people. I think there were also tunnels leading from there back to the barns. We have not been able to see that because we don't have access to the house. The tunnels leading down to the secret rooms in the basement are still there.

Judge Dexter died in 1863 and his wife continued to live there until her death in 1899. After the Judge's death, Millicent decided to add a tower. We have a book with a photograph of it. It's a really ugly, four-story tower on the southwest corner of the home. She did this because she wanted each of her daughters to have a bedroom with a view. The tower was torn down in the 1930s, I believe.

In 1900 Thomas Birkett purchased Gordon Hall and owned it until about 1916. Then the property sat idle for a spell until Dr. Crumrine from Detroit purchased it and tried to fix up the areas that had really deteriorated. It's said that they put 70,000 shingles on that home. Dr. Crumrine's son rented the house out for a while after the doctor passed away and then it sat empty for many years. In 1934 the U.S. Department of Interior reported Gordon Hall as one of the oldest and most historic buildings in the state. They made detailed drawings and photographs of the building, which were deposited in the Library of Congress. Just this past week we downloaded the information off the website of the Library of Congress and now we have copies of those drawings and some old photos that were taken in 1934 of Gordon Hall.

In 1938 Senator Copeland convinced Katherine Dexter McCormick, a granddaughter of Judge Dexter married to the son of Cyrus McCormick of International Harvester fame to buy Gordon Hall and fix it up. She was from one fairly wealthy family and had married

into another one. She hired Emil Lorch, founder and dean of the School of Architecture at the University Michigan to take charge of restoring the home to its original beauty so that the Ladies' Library Club and other Dexter organizations could use the structure. She truly wanted the home to belong to the Village of Dexter.

In 1949 Katherine inherited a lot of money from the McCormick family and her lawyers told her she had to get rid of the home, donate it, so that she could save on taxes. Her lawyers worked out an agreement with the University of Michigan to accept this gift and some money to finish the restoration. Here's where some confusion comes in. The University insists that Mrs. McCormick wanted them to convert the home into apartments for U of M faculty and staff. That very well could be, but I doubt that she would have put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into restoring this home for ten years in order for it to be cut up and made into apartments. Many believe the lawyers never told her the plans. She believed the restoration was going to be finished by Emil Lorch. Some say she cried when she learned what had happened and so did Dean Lorch. It was just heart breaking to have that much of your life torn up.

There was a double-page spread in the *Detroit News*, March 6, 1951 on the destruction of the home with before and after pictures. One shows that between the two drawing rooms were nine-foot high carved wood pocket doors, twelve feet wide. Those doors were cut up with chain saws because they didn't know how else to get rid of them. They cut up the staircase and the banister from the first floor to the second floor. The ceilings were high and the grand hallway took up a lot of space. They were going to cut up the fireplace mantels, too, but some of them were saved by the Washtenaw County Historical Society. I think they (WCHS) have returned some of them recently. Some mantels are still in the house but they've been painted over. They took out a couple of the chimneys and fireplaces of the four or six fireplaces when they remodeled.

One can only believe Mrs. McCormick would not have agreed to the destruction after working for ten years to bring the home back to its original beauty. The interior of the home was gutted and three apartments were built, two on the second floor and one large one on the first floor. The larger apartment was occupied by the then retired president of the University of Michigan, Alexander Ruthven. Some say that was a kind of a carrot to get him out of the University and offer him this grand home to live in. After he moved out of that apartment, the first floor was also divided into two apartments. There are four apartments there now and none is being used. Several years later

Mrs. McCormick also donated money to the University to build two three-bedroom ranch homes, which are still there.

In that article in the *Detroit News*, there were protests that came in from around the country and I like this one. In a telegram to the *Detroit News*, U. S. Grant, III, Major General, U.S.A., retired, said:

"Gordon Hall was designated by Talbot Hamlin, Fisk Kimball and Rexford Newcomb, all experts in the field of architectural history, as a foremost architectural treasure in Middle West. As president of the National Council of Historical Sites and Buildings, I did not hesitate to urge its preservation on behalf of our 82-member organization. We have noted with regret that the university's modeling will materially change its cultural value."

That must be the grandson of the President U.S. Grant, but I'm not sure. There are several other notable people that wrote the University asking them not to do it. In 1958, Gordon Hall was placed on the State Register of Historic Places and, in 1972, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Skip a few years. Katherine Dexter McCormick passed away in 1967. She donated about six million dollars to MIT. She was one of the first women to graduate from there. They built the women's dorm with that money. And that's a whole other story. Katherine Dexter McCormick has really done a lot for the country. She was involved in the women's right to vote. She was vice president of the League of Women Voters. She and Margaret Sanger were instrumental in organizing Planned Parenthood. She donated a lot of money for the research to develop the birth control pill. She never donated any money after that to the University of Michigan though, and I just wonder why.

Skip a few more years. On November 17, 2000, the *Ann Arbor News* published a story that the U. of M. planned to sell Gordon Hall. They would have it appraised, advertise it nationally and sell it by sealed bids to the highest bidder. They first planned, and I have to give them credit here, to pursue having the Historic District Commission designate the structure and two acres as an historic district. Just a postage stamp-sized piece of property as far as that whole 70-acre triangle is considered. Anyway, they did start the ball rolling on that.

On November 28, 2000, many community leaders were called to a meeting right here in this museum to discuss the fate of our village founder's home. It was decided that the Dexter Area Historical Society should obtain the property for the people of the Dexter area. That night we organized two committees, a financial committee and a planning

committee and two people from Dexter, Paul Bishop and Paul Cousins volunteered to head them up. We had many, many meetings and we came up with a lot of great ideas and bright ideas to build support. I am marketing director at the *Ann Arbor News* so I arranged to have an ad inserted asking, "Please help save Gordon Hall in Dexter" and we asked for pledges and money. It didn't raise a lot but we did get a lot of people secretly saying, "When you get it, I'll pledge money." So we really wanted to build support and we ran this ad many times. I have to thank the *Ann Arbor News* for donating thousands and thousands of dollars worth of advertising. The *Dexter Leader* also ran the ad a couple of times and that also built support.

I think everybody here remembers the old Burma Shave signs. Well, we decided to do the same thing so we made up eight different little sayings and put these signs up around the county:

At a fair price
we hope to buy it
Hey, U-M Regents
Let us try it!
SAVE Gordon Hall

Columned house
high on a hill
Part of history
Important, still
SAVE Gordon Hall

Sam Dexter's farm,
grand Gordon Hall
is threatened by
urban sprawl
SAVE Gordon Hall

Historic beauty
loved by all
Help Dexter save
Gordon Hall
SAVE Gordon Hall

Save Gordon Hall
and its view
for future
generations, too.
SAVE Gordon Hall

Great white house
green fields wide
Pioneer home
and civic pride
SAVE Gordon Hall

Sanctuary for
slaves in flight
seems only right
to save this sight.
SAVE Gordon Hall

Mansions and fields
are history
Preserve them all

for posterity
SAVE Gordon Hall

We had those signs all over and everybody loved them, I thought. The University didn't really care for them. We had lots of other ideas, but we didn't get around to them. We were going to call the TV stations and we were going to try and recruit enough people to join hands and surround the property. I don't know how many people this would have taken but it would be a lot and we thought it would make the news. We were also going to hire a plane to fly around the U of M football stadium. *'Hey Regents, give us Gordon Hall'*, or something like that. We had some really great ideas and we did build up support. There were papers in Florida and New York and others mentioning that this little village was trying to get the village founder's home back from the University of Michigan. We had tee shirts made up with a picture of Gordon Hall on the front saying "Save Gordon Hall". As a matter of fact, I had a fellow from Massachusetts call to say he wanted one. His name was Gordon Hall. He sent me \$100 and said, "Send me some tee shirts. I want to give them out as Christmas presents." It was in one of the papers in Massachusetts that he had done this, so it truly was national coverage for this national treasure.

Our committees are still working although not as feverishly as we did then. One of our goals was to save the property from development and that's what I'll talk about now. The Washtenaw Board of Commissioners passed a resolution authorizing the Historic District Commission to study Gordon Hall. In February 2001 a preliminary study report was issued by the committee. In March the Washtenaw County Historic Commission reviewed and recommended conditional approval of a proposal to create a historic district for Gordon Hall. At that time they were still talking about the house and two acres.

In order to do this, they had to have a public meeting, and in April of 2001 one was held at Webster Township Hall to discuss this proposal. Many residents attended the meeting. The township hall was filled and most expressed, very vocally, the disapproval of only two acres being included with the home. Of course, at the time, all our committees and all our proposals were to save the whole property as just this one little green postage stamp area in western Washtenaw County that we hoped we could save for future people to enjoy. They all wanted all the acreage to be included and wanted the U of M to deed the property to the Dexter Area Historical Society. Their thought was that Gordon Hall was donated to the University; they've had it for 50 years, and they destroyed it. Let Dexter have it back.

Don't try to sell it.

Go back a little ways. We had talked to the Vice President for Finance at the University of Michigan and had somewhat of an agreement to set a price on it and we'd go to some major donors and try to raise \$2,000,000 or whatever it was priced at and another million to restore Gordon Hall. Originally he said, "Well, OK, I think we can do that. We'll give you a year to raise the funds. We'll set a price."

Then the *Detroit Free Press* filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the details of the agreement. Then, all of a sudden, our agreement with the U of M treasurer was no longer valid. "Sorry, I can't do that now." So there was another block put up. We weren't able to buy the property. We talked to the regents a couple of times: in June and July of 2001 and again in September of that year. I have the June and September letters here and I can read them if you like. I don't know if anybody else has had the opportunity to go in and speak to the regents. They sit in a big room, with columns in it, with the audience up above and there is a big table with the president sitting on the one end, about thirty feet away from you and you stand there to talk to them. All the regents are there and some very important people from U of M also listening, so you tend to get a little bit nervous but anyway, it was kind of fun.

"President [Lee] Bollinger, Regents, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to start by reading the first paragraph from a recent newspaper article:

"Just under the stone railroad bridge, and up the hill at the edge of the village, travelers are greeted by Gordon Hall, a handsome white mansion with towering columns set amid 70 park-like acres. For more than 150 years, Gordon Hall has stood at Dexter-Pinckney and Island Lake Roads, a landmark storied for its links to U.S. history."

The following is the Dexter Area Historical Society's proposal for the acquisition of Gordon Hall:

The Dexter Area Historical Society seeks to acquire Gordon Hall and the surrounding seventy acres from the University of Michigan. This historic home was built and owned by Dexter's founder, Judge Samuel Dexter.

The Society's goals for acquiring the property are:

- *To preserve, restore, and maintain Gordon Hall in its historic setting.*
- *To house the collected items pertaining to Gordon Hall and Dexter's history.*
- *To establish an historic interpretation of Gordon Hall's role during the Civil War as a station on the Underground Railroad.*
- *To continue the farming activity on this historic site.*

need to try and find ways of financing. Last year, Dexter tried to pass a recreational and arts millage. The Save Gordon Hall part of the millage request would have yielded \$80- to \$100 thousand dollars a year over a ten-year period to maintain the house. Unfortunately, the millage did not pass.

I believe a lot of the people were looking at our efforts in trying to save Gordon Hall. We need to find a way of working through the school districts to find a way of funding this project through a millage. I believe there's got to be a way of doing it. I don't believe there's a way we can coordinate so that the four townships, Lima, Dexter, Webster and Scio, can vote on something like this. I think they're all pretty independent and I don't see any other way of doing this other than through the school districts.

There are many things we need help with. Mainly we need to find a way to get the property. There is, again, a sense of immediacy here because the University assured us that there are fire alarms in the Hall but the Dexter fire department says they know of no alarms in there. The house is insured, but the University self-insures all their property. I have a feeling that if Gordon Hall were to burn, even though it's insured for a million or two million dollars, I don't think they'd rebuild it. So we really need to find a way of getting the property and controlling it for the future. Does anyone have a couple spare million dollars in their pocket today? We really do need some pledges to go to the University with, although I'd love to see them donate the property to us.

University officials said they cannot donate Gordon Hall to the Dexter Area Historical Society because they are responsible to the people of the State of Michigan and their fiduciary responsibility is to get as much money out of everything as they can. However, they did donate the Tuomy property to the Michigan Historical Society so precedent has been set. There is a lot of history in Gordon Hall and it's a great home. We would really love to save it and have meetings like this one today at Gordon Hall someday.

For information, donations and pledges, contact:

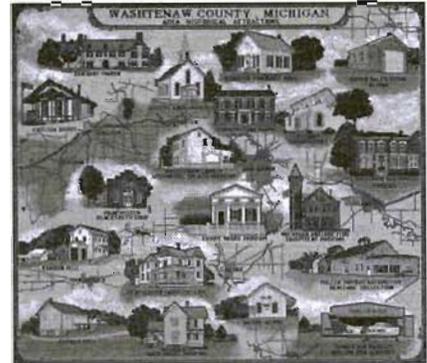
**DEXTER AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**
3443 Inverness
Dexter, Michigan 48130
734 / 426-2519

Historical Holiday Gift Suggestions

The Washtenaw County Historical Society has a few. The throws are \$50 each and are available at the Museum on Main Street and from other historical society groups in Washtenaw County.

These throws are woven in North Carolina of 100% cotton and are 60 inches by 50 inches. There are 19 images of buildings of groups that are members of the Washtenaw County Consortium. Mailing by US Priority Mail is available for \$8.00 each. For additional information: 734 / 662-9092.

Our Museum Shop has many interesting items available for purchase: Grace Shackman's two books on 19th & 20th Century Ann Arbor; books on Ypsilanti and Saline history; tiny hand-made bells; note cards; post cards; a birds-eye map of Ann Arbor (1880) and much more. Check our web site for list: http://www.washtenawhistory.org/gift_shop/books



Speaking Of Washtenaw County Consortium

Our Society was one of the groups instrumental in developing this Consortium of 26 units in Washtenaw County that had buildings and/or organizations of historical interest. The Yankee Air Museum, in western Wayne County, is also a member and, sadly, was destroyed by fire in early October 2004.

The Consortium held a **WANDER WASHTENAW Open House** in May 2004 wherein 16 of the units were open for visitors, much as a house tour. With one tickets guests were able to inspect any of the buildings on that weekend. There are early plans in the works for such an open house in September 2005 on a non-UM home football weekend.

The Consortium has a four-color brochure available at the member organizations. The Washtenaw County Historical Society has them available for visitors. To receive one by mail send a self-addressed, stamped (\$0.83 cents postage) to: Washtenaw County Historical Society, 500 N Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. For additional information: 734 / 662-9092.

ALICE CERNIGLIA

Holiday Exhibit Tables & Chairs

Come and taste a slice of the holidays of the late 19th century. Take home sample recipes to make at home. Enliven new traditions with some of the old.

Vintage table settings and recipes are the fare at the Museum on Main Street this holiday season. Using a selection of table ware from our collection, and featuring the china service of the Philip Bach family, volunteers will recreate recipe favorites and table settings of the late 19th century. The museum will present a warm and tasty rendering of the holiday season in 1860-1900 Washtenaw County.

Homemade taffy, butterscotch cakes and candy canes will be part of the treats shared at our special Holiday Open House weekends of December 4th & 5th and 11th & 12th. The exhibit will run from December 1, 2004 through February 20, 2005. Our regular hours are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 4 pm and by appointment. Groups welcomed.

INFORMATION • 734.662.9092

Volunteer Opportunities

DOCENTS

Spend an occasional weekend afternoon greeting our guests. Can you spare a Saturday or Sunday afternoon once a week, once a month or once every few months? If so, give us a call.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Yes, we are still hoping a person will come forth, a volunteer, to coordinate a team that would coordinate the creation of our newsletter, *Washtenaw Impressions*, seven times a year. We already have two volunteers that would like to work under a leader—would a volunteer editor please step forward?

ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

We are seeking a person, computer literate, who would like to learn the ins and outs of being an assistant membership chair. The Society has excellent museum-specific software which keeps track of members, donations, thank you notes and mailing labels. The work is somewhat seasonal—greatest the month after the membership letters are sent out in early January. The work must be done at the Museum.

HOUSEKEEPING ANGELS

There must be a person or a team of two that really love making things neat and clean. Our Museum would welcome a team that would come in bi-weekly and spend a couple of hours shining up the place. We would truly appreciate these people.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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“RESTORING A COMMUNITY TREASURE”

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 20, 2005
2 PM

SPEAKER
RUSSELL COLLINS

MICHIGAN THEATER
503 E. LIBERTY ST. • ANN ARBOR