



IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857 • APRIL 2006

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INFORMATION

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Museum On Main Street
500 N. Main Street at Beakes Street
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

Phone: 734.662.9092

Email: wchs-500@ameritech.net

Web Site:

www.washtenawhistory.org

Annual dues: January-December
individual, \$15; couple/family
\$25; student or senior (60+) \$10;
senior couple \$19; business/
association \$50; patron \$100.

On Saturday, March 18, I mounted a small exhibit of pictures and farm tools from our collection at the first annual Project Grow Seed Swap at the Leslie Science Center. The well-attended event drew many local gardeners—both established and new. Project Grow members were on hand to give advice and hand out heirloom seeds. Since this was the first time the event was held, the seeds were free. All they asked in return is that gardeners save some of the seeds from the plants they raise and bring them in to swap next year for others. I can't wait to plant the beans and many varieties of tomatoes that I brought home. It's a good thing that I will be moving to a home with five acres soon. Melissa Kesterson, one of the organizers of the event, was very pleased with the turnout and has invited us to bring an exhibit again next year.

We are looking forward to spring at the museum as well. A garden cleanup will be held as soon as the weather permits.

Last month I mentioned that members of the Board would be witnessing the interment of the ashes of Doris Anna Bach who died in Kalamazoo in January 2001. The Bach family was very active in the Ann Arbor community. Philip Bach ran a business and was a member of the school board. Anna Botsford Bach, a very civic minded lady, founded the Old Ladies Home later known as the Anna Botsford Bach Home. Their daughter Ellen was on the WCHS board and donated many family items over the years. Doris Anna, daughter of Philip and Anna's son Waldo, followed her aunt's tradition by donating more family heirlooms to the society. When we discovered that she had no next-of-kin

and her ashes had not been buried, we decided we would honor the contributions and legacy of the Bach family by seeing her to her final resting place. The interment will be at the family plot at Forest Hill Cemetery on Thursday, May 25 at 2 pm.

Be sure to come to see the current exhibit at the museum. "East Delhi Bridge Legacy" will be up until June 7.



WCHS display of farm tools and pictures at Project Grow Seed Swap.



Table belonging to Philip and Anna Bach recently donated by Doris Anna Bach.

WCHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 4 pm

Potluck supper and election of officers
Location: Dixboro United Methodist Church
5221 Church St., Dixboro, off Plymouth Rd.
just east of Cherry Hill Rd.

Note change of day and time.

A TALK BY JEFF MORTIMER
LAURA BIEN

“Names On The Land”

Introduction by Ralph Beebe:

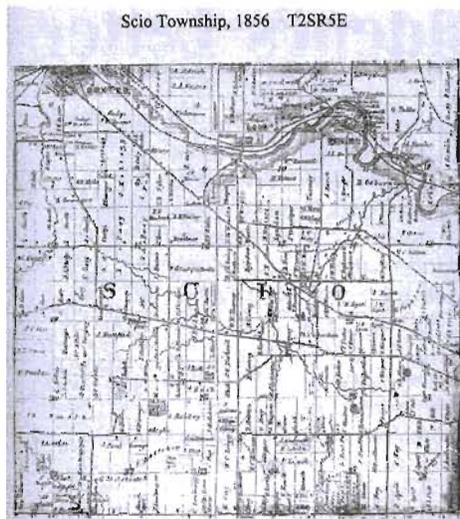
Thank you very much for coming out on a beautiful day...no snow, no sleet...You're in for a treat...about places and features and where the names came from, like "Scio"; what's the derivation of "Scio". Our speaker has earned a degree in history in 1967, and has never quite gotten over it. He immediately put his education to good use by becoming a sportswriter for the *Poughkeepsie New York Journal* and continued to haunt newsrooms for the next 23 years, as a reporter assigned to various beats, and as a section editor.

He has managed to support himself for the last 12 years as a freelance writer and editor, with many articles in the *Ann Arbor Observer*, and the *Automotive News*. This [holds up article] is the article from the *Ann Arbor Observer* from January, 2005. He's also written for a host of alumni magazines and is the author of three books, and is the principal editor of four. He says the best thing about writing for a living is that it enables him to count research as work. He doesn't claim to be an expert in place names beyond what he learned in preparing an *Observer* article. This provoked me to invite him to speak.

He happily confesses his ongoing fascination with history in general, and American history in particular. Especially the era of the colonial period through the early days of the Republic. So let me present our speaker this afternoon, with "Names on the Land": Jeff Mortimer.

[Jeff Mortimer]: Well, Ralph really said it all, so, I'm going to have to cut my time short. I recently read a description of journalists as "professional amateurs," and it really delighted me, because that is the way I have often felt, and when Ralph first contacted me, I thought that he thought that I had a "show to go," that this was something I had ready, with graphics and Power Point and all of that, and in fact, it was just a case of getting research counted as work. It was a subject I was interested in, and I thought I could put something together in the way of an article for the *Observer* and then get paid for it. I don't really know much more about this than what I learned to write the story, and I don't know how many of you have read the story. It is also entirely possible that some of you know more about this stuff than I do.

Ann Arbor was actually on two underground railways, because of its proximity to Canada. Pontiac Trail was one of them. I'm not clear why they would send them up Pontiac Trail when they could go the other way to Detroit. And Eber White, for whom the school and the street are named was very prominent in the Underground Railroad in Ann Arbor, and helped many runaway



Scio Township was one of four places in Washtenaw County named for the Greek War of Independence: Scio, (named for the Greek island of Chios), the city of Ypsilanti, Freedom Township, and, indirectly, Webster Township.

slaves get to freedom.

I am a cat person, or at least I own cats...I go back and forth on what level you are a "cat person," and one who just lives with cats. I like to give my cats people names. My current trio are Amelia, Emily, and Zoe, and in the past I've had Jeffrey and Rhonda, I agree that they are "fur people," and thus deserve the dignity of people names. I never had a Fluffy or a Snowball or a Smoky. Sometimes I call Amelia the Grey Ghost, but, in the end, who cares what I call my cats. And, who cares what you call your kids, other than you and your kids. But place names are obviously a different story. Many people are affected one way or the other by place names, and there are three ways that places get named.

Place names: very often the origins would find their way into diaries, into records of township meetings, because of their significance. Street names, as a drive through almost any subdivision will tell you, sometimes have as much [meaning] as cat names. People wouldn't write in their diaries why such and such a street got a name. So, figuring out street names is very much a matter of speculation. And trying to piece together what little morsels of information you can find here and there.

Main and Huron are pretty obvious where they came from. One of the street names that convinced me that I wasn't going to write about them was Fountain Street. Fountain Street could have been named for the natural features of the area. There are a lot of creeks in that part of Ann Arbor; there's a Spring Street and a Brook Street and a Bath Street. However, as I looked through reference books and old documents in an 1881 publication that was an encyclopedic

history of Washtenaw County, I said I'm going to look for the name "Fountain." Well, guess what. There was a Jarvis Fountain, who was a sergeant major in the Manchester Union Guard in 1857, and the author of this history of Washtenaw County believes that he was the state quartermaster in the Civil War. At that time the states were responsible for raising troops and equipping them and then they were turned over to the federal government from there. And Jarvis Fountain may well have been in charge of that in the Civil War.

There was a Cyrus Fountain, who was listed as a member of the 4th Cavalry, in 1862. There was a Dempsey Fountain, who was a graduate of the medical college in 1869 and listed as a Washtenaw County resident; that's about all I could find out about it. But can we find out if any of these Fountains had anything to do with Fountain Street? Nope.

I can tell you that Wall Street, and Canal Street, and Broadway, were named by Anson Brown; Anson Brown was one of the..well, consider the original founders of Ann Arbor. Like many founders of towns, they were essentially real estate speculators. They bought a bunch of land cheap from the government, and then waited for the farmers and the blacksmiths and the tanners and the mill people to say, "Oh, this would be a great place to go and settle." And the Erie Canal was finished in 1825, and was like the superhighway to Michigan. All of a sudden, you could get direct from New York to Detroit...even better than Northwest. And so immigrants were flooding into the area.

In 1824, the population of Washtenaw County was somewhere between 15 and 30. In 1827, it was almost a thousand. [Ann Arbor founder] Rumsey was from New York. [Ann Arbor founder] Allen was from Virginia, but he had gone to New York, and then met Rumsey in New York, and Allen was a fascinating figure.

He founded several other towns in Michigan, and then went back to New York to make a fortune on Wall Street, went bust in the Panic of 1837, and then went to California for the Gold Rush, and died there in 1851. Anson Brown arrived here shortly after Allen and Rumsey, and founded the part of Ann Arbor that is north of the Huron River. It's now called "Lower Town." Anson Brown founded Lower Town and was making a bid to become the head honcho hereabouts; postmaster for awhile, and he apparently read the mail, to find out what the competition was doing....He named Broadway, he named Wall Street, he named Canal Street. And then he died in a cholera epidemic.

Pontiac Trail was originally called Pontiac Street, and I was never able to find out when it changed or why. State Street was so named because Ann Arbor was making its bid to be the state capitol, and didn't get it. Consolation prize was the U of M. But it kept the name of State Street, which is a fairly common name, as is Division Street. For years I thought Division Street was so named because it divided the wet town from the dry campus. And I learned, that the border wasn't there.

Allen and Rumsey, when they platted the town originally, the deal was that Allen got to name the streets north of Huron, and Rumsey got to name the streets south of Huron, and then the streets perpendicular to Huron were essentially numbers. Allen named his streets Catherine, Ann, and North. North is now Kingsley. Ann was his wife. Nobody knows who Catherine was. It's possible that Ann Allen would have been interested in knowing who Catherine was.

Rumsey named his streets Washington, Liberty, and William. Nobody knows who William was. For a long time the story was that William was named for Willie Maynard—but the street was named before Maynard was a prominent citizen. Rumsey did have a younger brother named William. That could be it. Again, there's no way to prove it. At least it's given us a street that people are always trying to add an "S" to.

Place names: there are three sources for names. Honorific, Descriptive, and Commematory. Honorific is named for somebody. St. Louis. New York, named for the Duke of York. A descriptive is pretty obvious: Bay City. Commematory: many of these towns were founded by real estate speculators, and they wanted to give the town a name that would lure people. So one of the purest examples of the commendatory—again, there's no way to prove it, but how else would you explain "Superior Township?"

And "Washtenaw"—is a very tricky one to figure out, and one that requires a certain amount of imagination to imagine how it arose, but it seems to have come from an Ojibway word, which means "far country," or "land beyond," or, as I cleverly put it in my story, "far out." It got that name because after the settlement of Detroit in 1701, this was the furthest away that the indigenous people had spread...this was the urban sprawl of the time. They'd gotten this far out, and thus, Washtenaw.

Honorifics: as I mentioned, there was an awful lot of traffic from upstate New York and New England to Michigan. And by far the most common source of place names in Washtenaw County was place names in New York, or Massachusetts. Chelsea, for example, is named for Chelsea, Massachusetts. Alisha Compdon, who was involved in the building of the railroad in what is now known as Chelsea, was from Chelsea, Massachusetts. Manchester was named for a township in Ontario County, New York, which in turn was named for Manchester, England, because the town was on a river, and the hope was that the town would become as prosperous as Manchester, England.

Salem was named for Salem, New York. Salem is the Anglicization of the Hebrew work "Shalom," meaning "peace." Salem was one of the most popular place names in the United States, for just that reason; for its religious

significance.

York. An honorific for New York. Also, towns or townships in New York: Bridgewater, Lodi, Lima, Augusta, and Salem.

Sharon originally was called Peppergrass. Sounds kind of like a '60s term. It was named for Sharon, Connecticut; again, a Northeastern namesake. Bridgewater, New York: named for a town in Somerset shire, England. Honorific: by far the most interesting to me is Dexter, named for Judge Samuel Dexter, who purchased the first land there in 1824.

There are three places in Washtenaw County that are named for the Greek drive to gain their independence from the Ottoman Empire in the 1820s. The most obvious name is Ypsilanti, named for Demetrius Ypsilanti, who was a Greek freedom fighter. Ypsilanti predates Ann Arbor and had its first structure built in 1809. Gabriel Godfrey was the proprietor, followed by Benjamin Woodruff. His settlement was called Woodruff's Grove. In 1824, Father Gabriel Richard, representative of the Michigan Territory, got a road built from Detroit to Chicago, and the place where that road crossed the Sauk Trail was at the Huron River about a mile north of Woodruff's Grove. Well, the next year, three prominent settlers, judge Augustus Woodward, John Stewart, no, not that Jon Stewart, and William Harwood pooled their land and platted a settlement.

Woodward never lived here, by the way. Just owned land. Absentee landlord. Stewart wanted to call it "Waterville." Kind of a descriptive. Harwood wanted to call it "Palmyra," after a town in New York he was from. But they compromised on "Springfield," a nice, generic name.

So they sent a surveyor to Detroit, then the capitol of the Territory, to report the plat of Springfield, and Judge Woodward was waiting for them, and he had decided that he was a big fan of Demetrius Ypsilanti, and there was a lot of popular support for the Greek war of independence in the U.S., partly because there was a classical revival going on at the time, and things Greek were valued and esteemed, and very popular, and of course Greece was known as the cradle or origin of democracy, and here was another freedom-loving nation fighting for independence, so it really caught the imagination of the American public, including Judge Woodward. And Judge Woodward said,

"You're going to call the town Ypsilanti." And they said, "Um, er," and he said, "Or, I can just not record the plat." So, it became Ypsilanti.

Demetrius Ypsilanti became famous. He held the city of Argos for three days with his forces outnumbered 100 to 1. And then withdrew during the night through Turkish lines without losing a man. His father, Alexander, had been an officer in the Russian army, and was one of the leaders of the Greek revolt, and his son carried on in that tradition, and it was for him that Ypsilanti was named.

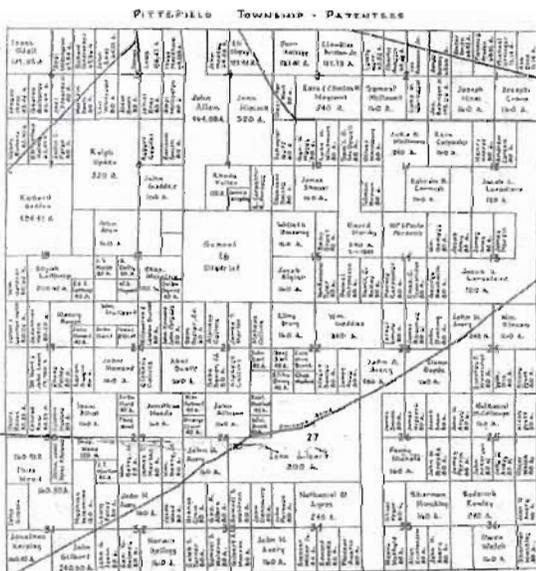
What has this got to do

with Scio Township? Well, there was a lot of misinformation about the naming of Scio, including on the Township's website. One historian said, "Well, the early records were destroyed in a fire and so nobody knows why the township was named for the Latin word for "I know." But of course there is not one shred of evidence to say that it was named for the Latin term for "I know," and why would it be? I mean, we know that's what the word is, but, as they say, what does that have to do with the price of eggs?

It's a somewhat convoluted story, but the island of Chios was apparently described as the seat of modern Greek literature: here were libraries, printing presses, and other establishments. And in 1823, this island was overrun by Turks, the libraries and printing presses were burned, and the population was enslaved, and it became a defining event, a sort of rallying cry, for people who were on the side of the Greeks and their freedom. And in January 1824 Daniel Webster who was a member of the House of Representatives from Massachusetts, got up and gave a speech that was very melodramatic, detailing the horrors of this event, and seeking support for the Greeks.

Weeks or months later in the untamed wilderness of Michigan Territory, Webster's admirers read this speech and were struck by it...and Scio was apparently a mistranscription of what Webster said. Could be a journalist messed up, or a secretary, but Scio is actually a misspelling of Chios. So it could have been Chios Township, instead of Scio Township.

And not only that, but Webster township was also named for Daniel Webster. So, indirectly, Webster Township along with Ypsilanti and Scio got their names from the Greek war of independence. Also, Freedom Township, which is sort of a commendatory name, but my own feeling is that we could also put that in the category of a name arising from



Pittsfield Township was named for William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, who was one of the leading proponents of the rights of the American colonists during the Colonial and Revolutionary period.

the Greek War of Independence as well.

Another honorific name: Pittsfield Township. Pittsfield was first settled in 1824. Settlers from New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New England, the usual suspects. It was the site of the first schoolhouse in Washtenaw County, built in Pittsfield in the summer of 1825. The first person to buy federal land in what is now Pittsfield Township was George Noyes.

There was a meeting to pick a name at the schoolhouse, in 1834, which was when Pittsfield Township was formally being established. At that time, Dexter Township was about half of Washtenaw County, and also parts of Livingston and Jackson, and it got subdivided into smaller units. Thirteen citizens went to the schoolhouse in the winter of 1834 to select a name for the township. Each of them had come from a different town in New York. Imagine...the mind reels. Might have been a cold night, but it could have been a hot meeting.

Edward Carpenter—yes, Carpenter Road—proposed that the township be named in honor of William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, who was one of the leading proponents of the rights of the American colonists during the Colonialist and Revolutionary period. Partly, I suppose, for the virtuous reasons and partially because he thought it was worth defending. In any case, they went along; it was a great compromise. So, originally, Pittsfield Township was called the township of Pitt, renamed Pittsfield Township in 1839, and then Pittsfield charter township in 1972.

Also, in terms of a very obvious descriptive: Saline. Water and salt, essentially. Six Indian trails met at the salt wells along the river, south of where the current city is located.

Ann Arbor: There are many stories, some rather fanciful, O. W. Stevenson, in a 1927 book called, "Ann Arbor: The First 100 Years," said that John Allen was trying to come

up with a name, had the town platted, but he didn't have a name. And he happened to run into Mary Ann Rumsey sewing in an arbor. Allen mentioned what a beautiful place this was and Mrs. Rumsey supposedly said, "This is Ann Arbor; don't you think that is a good name for the place?" Nice story, but hard to document. And hard to believe that in a town of a couple log cabins that Rumsey's wife would have time to sew in an arbor.

Another similar story was that the wives would get together to gossip in a place called "Ann's Arbor." A fascinating tale, in a book called "Ann's Amazing Arbor." The gist of the story was that Governor Cass sent out surveyors and that most of these surveyors were rough-and-tumble characters, heavy drinkers, German for the most part, not a very strong command of the English language, and their job was to mostly straighten and mark Indian trails. And supposedly one of them botched the job and hung signs around the place saying "This is an Error," with "error" spelled with an "A". Sure. It seems very far-fetched.

Stevenson does say that there was a name for the area as far back as 1821, years before it was founded. Two men "took a ramble up the Huron as far as "Annarbour," Maddeningly, Stevenson has no citation for this. No one else cites this. I suspect that it's shaky.

John Allen, said that whatever town he founded, he would name for his wife, and he was thinking of Annapolis. There also was a town in Virginia, not far from where he grew up, called Arbor Hill, so there may have been an elements of nostalgia.

Ann Arbor is the only place in the world called Ann Arbor. There are 53 Springfields in the US, and 19 states that have two Springfields. Sylvan Township is a descriptive, and probably a commendatory. There's only a brief reference, but it's supposedly named by the wife of the postmaster, which makes it the only township with given by a woman. However, Ann Arbor is the only place that was named for women. And if you were going to move lock, stock, and barrel from New York, it probably sounded pretty good.

SUNDAY • MAY 21, 2006

Annual Meeting & Election

Officers

President	Richard Galant
Vice President	Ralph Beebe
Corresponding Secretary	Pauline Walters
Recording Secretary/IPP	Judith Chrisman
Treasurer	Patricia Creal

Directors -- Term ending in 2009

Ann DeFreytas
Lawrence Kestenbaum
Sue Kosky
Jay Snyder

Directors -- Term ending in 2008

Fill space created by resignation
Susan Nenadic

Endowment Committee

Tom Mich

Nominations may also be made from the floor.



Upcoming Historical Events

Saturday May 6:

Antiques Appraisal: Washtenaw County Historical Society.

10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, near Cherry Hill Rd. off Plymouth Rd., across from Dixboro General Store. \$10 (verbal appraisal per item), \$15 (written appraisal per item). 662-9092.

Bring antiques for appraisal by representatives from the DuMochelle Gallery. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Friday May 19:

55th Annual Home Tour 2006: Ann Arbor Women's City Club.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets \$13, available in advance at the City Club and in Ann Arbor at Alexandra's, Anderson Paint and Wallpaper (West Stadium and Washtenaw), Delux Drapery, Downtown Home & Garden, John Leidy Shop, Tiara Hair Stylists, and Wenk's Pharmacy. Tickets \$15 on the tour date. 662-3279.

The tour features 4 private homes and the fraternity house Phi Delta Theta, Ozone House, the Evans Scholars house, and the City Club. Proceeds benefit Ozone House. Lunch is available at the City Club (11 a.m.-2 p.m., \$13).

Saturday May 20:

Springtime on the Farm: Rentschler Farm Historic Museum.

11 a.m.-4 p.m., Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, near Sauk Trail Shopping Center. \$1 donation (kids free). 769-2219.

Opening day for this century-old sheep farm, now a museum which recreates 1930s farm life. Farmers at each exhibit give talks and demonstrate blacksmithing and other traditional crafts. Also, a chance to see piglets, sheep, chickens, ducks, and geese. Refreshments available. Live music. Free wagon rides from the Sauk Trail shopping center, at Michigan Avenue and Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

Sunday May 21:

Annual Meeting: Waterloo Area Historical Society.

1:30 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left at the dead end of Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Twp. Free. (517) 851-7890.

After a short business meeting, the Two Hearted String Band performs a set of Civil War era songs. Followed by a potluck dinner (bring a dish to pass with serving utensil).

Sunday May 21:

"Introduction to Scottish Genealogy": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.

1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. (734) 483-2799.

Talk by EMU School of Technology studies lecturer Bob Ferrett, a Scottish genealogy expert who teaches genealogy classes for Elderwise. Followed by "There Are No Dumb Questions in Genealogy," a Q&A with a panel of club members.

Do You Have Some Time To Spare? Some Talent To Share?

The Washtenaw Historical Society, "Museum on Main Street" is looking for volunteers for the following tasks.

Garden Help: Good opportunity for Master Gardener community hours. From general spring maintenance to planning the plantings in this historic home.

Docent Opportunities: Saturday or Sunday, Noon-4 PM. Greet visitors and assist in explanation of current exhibit. Commitment- as your schedule permits.

Office Help: Filing, letters and data entry. Good organization skills necessary.

Membership Trainee: Work with current membership chair to take over these tasks in near future. Requires good computer skills and on-site training. Commitment - off and on several hours at peak times.

Exhibition Research and Preparation: Help with the research and development of an exhibition program from the museum. Commitment - a few hours a month.

Outreach and Education Assistant: Assist with the growth and development of an educational outreach program for the Museum. Flexible commitment

General Maintenance: For minor repairs, painting. Especially needed: a person to check the thermostat, outside light timer and filters on a monthly basis. Commitment - a couple of hours a week or as needed.

Contact: Alice Cerniglia - Director, Washtenaw County Historical Society, Museum on Main Street. Phone; 734-662-9092.

Family Tree – Suitable for Framing

Ideal for Baby X: for a baby shower; for displaying grandchild(ren) ancestors

Genealogy Fundraising Project Workbook

The workbook contains forms relating to the client's family and two basic genealogy books.

The client will fill out the information for each member of the family to the great-grandparents. A focus will center on either the client/children/ grandchildren and the siblings of the focus person(s). The starting point will be the pedigree page on which the client will record the names of the ancestors as a guide. The next step is to fill in the name, birth (where/when), marriage (where/when), death (where/when) and where buried of both the paternal and maternal branches of the focus person(s).

Then make an appointment to come to the

Museum on Main Street,
500 N Main at Beakes Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

(734) 223-8357

eMail: popowalt583@comcast.net

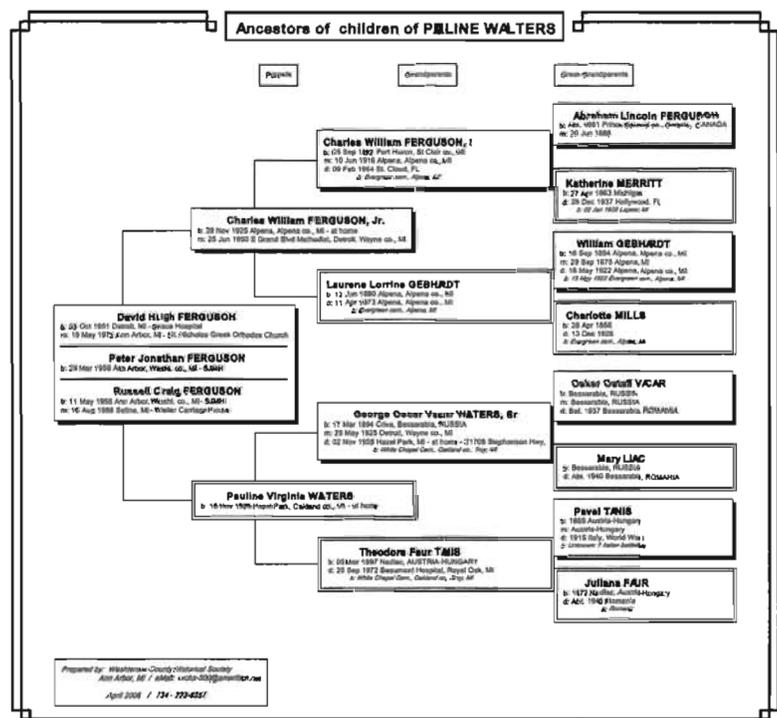
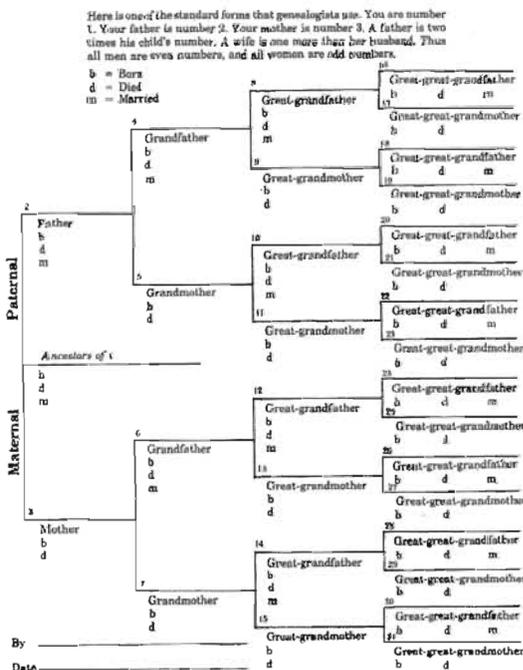
The client will come to the museum to work with Pauline Walters to read the information as it is entered into genealogy software. The more complete the information supplied, the nicer the family tree will be.

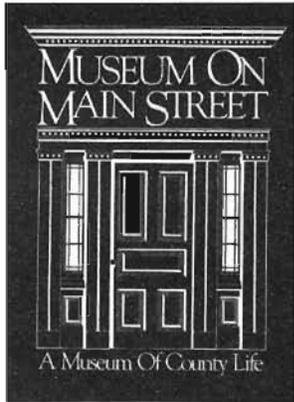
For those not in the immediate Washtenaw County area, arrangements can be made to supply the information for input via the mail, with arrangements for phone consultation.

COST: \$15 for the workbook which will be returned to client with copies of the family tree, 8.5 x 11 inches and 11 x 17 inches, each suitable for framing plus a disk with the genealogy material. Plus an additional fee, payable to the Washtenaw County Historical Society, of \$25 per hour for the time spent at the Museum on Main Street on the consultation. Additional printouts can be arranged.

The consultation will consist of material supplied by the client. Any research necessary will be directed to: www.gswc@aol.com / www.hvcn.org/info/gswc/ the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.

Pedigree Charts





**WASHTENAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IMPRESSIONS

APRIL 2006

Program Schedule 2006

Antiques Appraisal

Saturday, May 6 • 10am to 3 pm

Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church St, off Plymouth Road just east of Cherry Hill Road.

Bring up to 3 carryable items for appraisal by representatives from DuMouchelle's Gallery. Verbal \$10, Written \$15.

You will be given a number upon arrival and appraisals will be done in that order.

Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper

Sunday, May 21 • 4 pm

Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church St., off Plymouth just east of Cherry Hill Rd.

Dale Leslie will give a thumbnail sketch of the hamlet of Dixboro. We also hope to have a tour of the church. We'll also have the election of officers. Bring a dish to pass.

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.