



# IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857

PRESIDENT'S LETTER • RICHARD L. GALANT, PhD

## Winter Holidays Exhibit

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### Information

Published Seven Times A Year  
From September-May.

Museum On Main Street  
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Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

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Web Site:

[www.washtenawhistory.org](http://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.

The Washtenaw County Historical Society will be sponsoring two special events during the fall season. One is the museum's *Winter Holidays* exhibit that runs through February 10, 2008. The other is the *Art in Washtenaw County Cemeteries* presentation by Wytan Stevens. Mr. Stevens' presentation is scheduled for November 18 at 2:00 pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, Whittaker Branch.

Even if you cannot make these events, you are reminded to come and visit the museum's gift shop. If you are seeking good gift ideas, the gift shop can become *your holiday shopping place for unique gifts*. Its inventory includes books on Washtenaw County historical themes, special Washtenaw county maps, and various nineteenth and twentieth century artifacts. Visit the gift shop and see why it is *your holiday shopping place for unique gifts*.

Finally, to all Washtenaw County Historical Society members, their families, friends, and loved ones, the WCHS Board of Directors wishes you a peaceful and happy holiday season.



FRED MAYER

# Unbuilt Michigan

About 50 people turned out on Sunday, October 21 to hear Fred Mayer's talk about the university buildings that never got beyond the planning stage. Mr. Mayer, a University of Michigan physical planner for 35 years, gave a wonderful presentation about the buildings of the university that, for some reason or another, never quite got built.

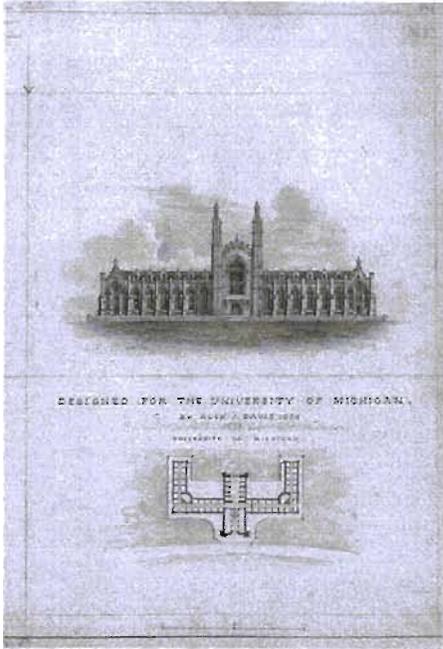


Plate 4. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1838. Design by Alexander Jackson Davis. Not executed. Watercolor on paper, 17 in. x 10 1/2 in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1941 (44.56.40) (Photograph © 2001 The Metropolitan Museum of Art.)

Original design by Alexander Davis

Mr. Mayer reported that the UM is one of the top schools in the nation for renovation and building. The administrative structure that is in place always tried to ensure that funds were available before starting a project; however, there have always been a few projects that do not make it to construction. Below is a list of the "unbuilt" buildings of the university, along with descriptions of the buildings and explanations of what happened.

Alexander Jackson Davis was hired in 1838 to create the first campus plan for the newly acquired 40 acres.

The first design was in the Gothic revival style. The building was to have a

"U" shaped configuration, with a chapel and academic elements included. The central feature was a perpendicular Gothic window facing State Street. The building was to have a central avenue between North and South University Avenues, to be used for carriage passing. To the east was to be botanical gardens.

Davis knew that professor's houses would have to be added, so he sketched those into his plan. Alas, even though this building was approved by the University Regents and the governor, the State Superintendent of schools had ultimate veto power and vetoed the project because he deemed it too expensive. It is interesting to note that the quadrangular pattern shown in the design was unusual for its time and did not become popular until later.

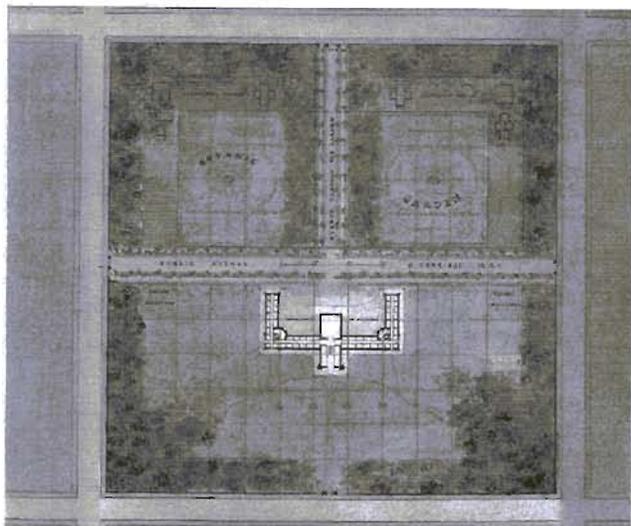


Plate 3. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, campus plan, 1838-39. Design by Alexander Jackson Davis. Not executed. Watercolor on paper, 13 1/8 in. x 16 3/4 in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1941 (44.56.40) (Photograph © 2001 The Metropolitan Museum of Art.)

Original campus plan by Alexander Davis



The University Museum, circa 1880.

In 1880, the University Museum was built south of University Hall. The museum was built in Romanesque Revival Style.

About this time, the university had received money from the state of Michigan to build a library; the university had about 100,000 books



General Library, ca. 1883, view from southeast. Built 1883, Ware & Van Drem, architects.



General Library, view from southeast, ca. 1900, showing addition of 1898 (to left).

The general library that was built in 1883.

and desperately needed its own space! In 1883, this new library was built

By the early 1900s, the library collection had expanded again and more space was again needed. The proposed addition would have linked several buildings, making it very difficult for patrons and staff to make their way around the building. Luckily, this never got built! Also, the addition was not in the same Romanesque style as the original building.

The university then wanted to build a "proper" place to hold our art

collections. Some artworks had been lost when they were stored in tunnels. The university hired Henry Ives Cobb to sketch a plan for an art building and recommend a site. His sketches showed two buildings in the Classical style.

The Classical style features light stone (likely limestone), which was different than most of the campus, which was done in Romanesque style, featuring red brick. Unfortunately, the campaign for funds to build the art building were not successful. An art museum did ultimately get built when folks who wanted to raise money for the

museum combined their efforts with a group who wanted to build a memorial for those who died in the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

Another "unbuilt building" was the proposed School of Religion. The idea was to have the building adjacent to the university, but to operate independently. This was not that unusual as most pre-Civil War colleges were affiliated with religions so as to prepare ministers and "good moral character." The group who wanted this building built had to raise \$250,000 by 1925, but was unable to do so.

The proposed site of this building was the southwest corner of Monroe and State Street; interestingly, there is still available space at the southeast corner of Monroe and State Street, so it is possible that some building of this type may eventually be erected.

The original proposed university bell tower never got built, either. In the 1900s, bells were very important on college campuses as most students did not wear watches, but still needed to know when classes began.



Two designs by Henry Ives Cobb for an Art Building at the University of Michigan, 1898 (not executed).

Two designs by Henry Cobb for an Art Building.

did not wear watches, but still needed to know when classes began. Bells were donated by many, including Andrew Dixon White, UM professor of history and later cofounder of Cornell University. Interestingly, when these bells were taken out of commission, they were melted down for scrap for the World War II war effort.

In 1919, it was suggested that an actual bell tower should be built. Then-President Burton was a champion of this idea, which called for a bell tower to be included in Angell Hall. There was not enough money for this project, so the bell tower was eliminated from the final plans for Angell Hall.

In 1925, President Burton died suddenly, and the university decided to erect a bell tower as a memorial for him. The university hired Albert Kahn to design



DESIGNING TO LACK OF A MASTER PLAN, DESIGNS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS WERE STILL BEING PREPARED. THIS CONCEPT FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE 1883 LIBRARY WAS DESIGNED BY W. O. S. OF CHICAGO. IT WAS NEVER BUILT.

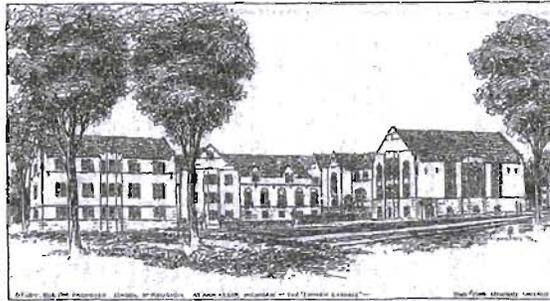
See drawing Jan 1901 Young 156

Proposed additions to the library that were never built.

it. Kahn was familiar with the designer for the Chicago Tribune Building which looks very similar to the original sketch of the proposed tower.

Fundraising for the tower began immediately, but was halted when the Great Depression began in 1929. In 1935, alumni offered money for the bells, and the money to build the tower soon followed and was named to honor Burton. The final building wasn't exactly as Kahn had proposed and the location had to be altered as well.

In the late 1930s, Kahn was asked to prepare designs for a new music school. The funding did not come through until the early 1960s, however. By then, the school had outgrown its allotted space and was ultimately built on North Campus.



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE PROPOSED SCHOOL OF RELIGION INCLUDING THE SUNKEN GARDEN  
To Be Situated on Lake Street just South of Market. From a Drawing by the Architects, Ford and Ford of Chicago

Proposed School of Religion.

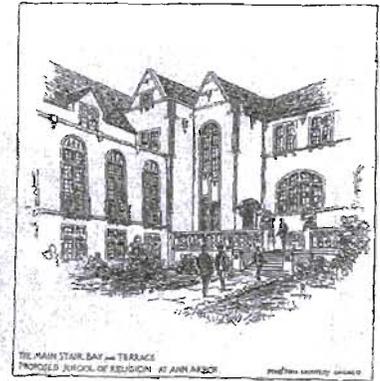


Architect Albert Kahn's First Design for the Proposed Literary College Building

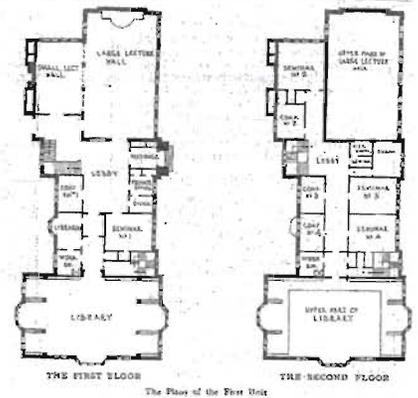


The New Literary College Building - Only the center part of the plan was built.

Albert Kahn's first proposed design for a building with a bell tower.



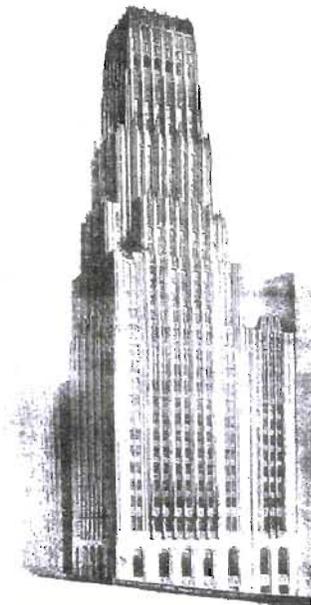
THE MAIN STAIR BAY AND TERRACE OF THE PROPOSED SCHOOL OF RELIGION



Another picture of the proposed School of Religion.

In 1966, Robert Swanson Associate architects proposed a residential college at Fuller Mitchell field. The idea was to build a free-standing college near North Campus. This came about because of a great increase in campus enrollment, and student concerns that the campus was getting too big, that they did not know their professors, that they were only "numbers", and so on.

At this time, the university was engaged in a fight with the state over who had the right to appoint architects, so there was no state money from 1964-1970. Therefore, President Hatcher included the project in the university fundraising drive, which aimed to raise \$55 million. While this money was raised, the plan never captured the attention of the donors, and so the buildings never got built. The land is still there and available to this day.

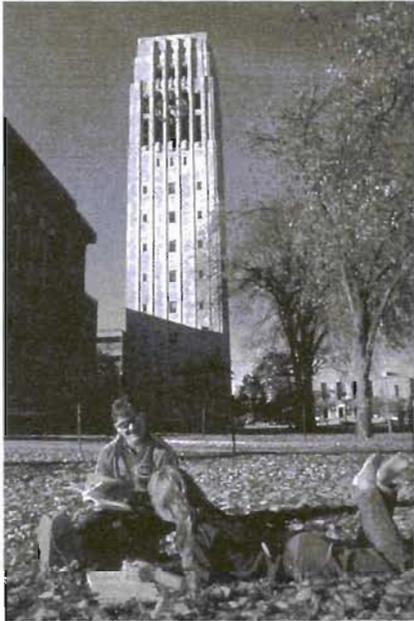


is the competition for design of the Chicago Tribune tower in 1922. Ellet's drawings were rejected prior to the drawing. Although Swanson's tower was never built, it had greater influence on skyscraper architecture than the winning design by Raymond Hood and John Mead Howells (see page 354).

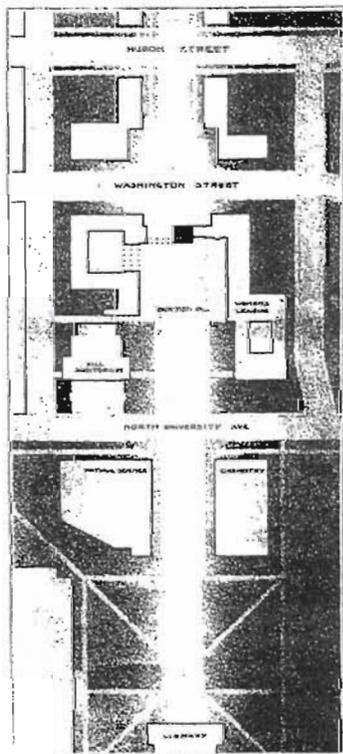
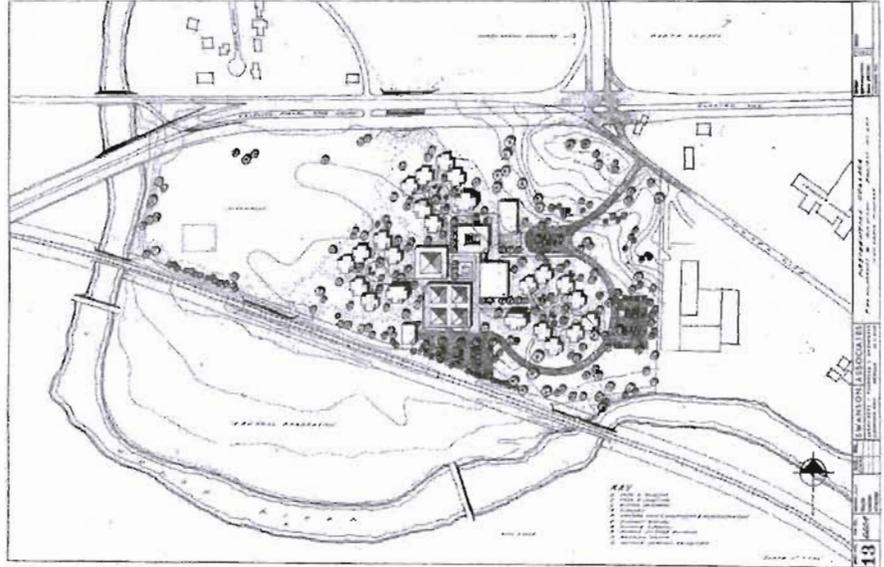
Chicago Tribune tower.



Proposed UM bell tower.



The bell tower as it stands today.



Eliel Saarinen's Concept for the Ingalls Mall  
An early concept for Ingalls Mall.



Another view of the proposed Residential College.

PATTI SMITH

## Editor's Note

Happy Harvest! With all the wonderful events happening in our county this fall and winter, I hope that you all get to go to at least one or two events! I just got back from the harvest at Cobblestone farm. What a wonderful event! Of course, now I want my very own wood stove in *my* house, too!

I got a lovely letter from Robert Greenough, sharing with me a tradition from his school days. Robert talked about the May Day celebrations that they had back in the 1930s. He described how he and classmates would gather wild flowers on May Day (May 1<sup>st</sup>) and deliver them to teachers and girlfriends (being a teacher myself, I know that I would certainly love the gift!). As the boys tossed the bouquets onto the porches, they would yell "May Day", so that the recipient would know to come and get her bouquet.

What a lovely tradition! Thank you, Robert, for sharing your memories!

And happy early May Day to everyone!

# The Museum Shop at the Museum on Main Street

Our Museum Shop is a treasure trove of small items suitable for holiday stocking stuffers. Most are written by local historians / history buffs and fall in the \$10 to \$25 price range – with many at \$20. Visit our web site: [www.washtenawhistory.org](http://www.washtenawhistory.org) or call 734-662-9092 for further information. Also, there are many other items of interest available.

## Books of Washtenaw County Interest

- AA in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*  
Shackman • \$20
- AA in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*  
Shackman • \$20
- Ann Arbor Observed*  
Shackman • \$20
- Ann Arbor: The Changing Scene*  
Christman • \$9
- Ann Arbor's First Lady: Ann Allen Bidlack* • \$7.50
- Another Ann Arbor: History of African Americans*  
Gibson & Jones • \$20
- Lost Ann Arbor*  
Wineberg • \$20
- Windows of St. Andrews*  
Hildebrandt • \$25
- Argomania: Argus Cameras & the Company That Made Them*  
Gambino • \$40
- Pipe Organs of Ann Arbor*  
AA News • \$12
- The Ann Arbor Railroad*  
Burkhardt • \$20
- Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor*  
Reade & Wineberg • \$15
- Indians of Washtenaw County, MI*  
Hinsdale • \$7
- Saline: City & Rural Scapes*  
Saline Area Schools • \$10
- Images of Saline MI*  
Kosky • \$20

- Saline: a Videotape*  
Eicher • \$20
- Celebrating Our Memories: Rentschler Farm* • \$3.50
- Down by the Depot in Ypsilanti*  
Dodd & Mann • \$20
- The Story of Ypsilanti*  
Colburn • \$10
- Ypsilanti: A History in Pictures*  
Mann • \$20
- Ypsilanti: in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*  
Mann • \$20



# Sugar Plum Fairy to Visit Kempt House Museum!

Experience an old-fashioned Christmas and take home your holiday portrait! The **Kempf House Museum** is pleased to partner with the **Ann Arbor Ballet Theater** by offering opportunities for children to have their portraits taken with the stars of the *Nutcracker* ballet. Photo sessions will be held in the Kempfs' historic music studio from **10 am to noon on Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9** at the museum, 312 South Division Street. Parking is available in the library lot just south of the museum. For \$10 each child will receive a personal photograph, a holiday gift bag, and refreshments.



Tickets to the *Nutcracker* ballet, to be performed on December 15 and 16 at The Power Center for the Performing Arts, will be available at the Kempf House Museum during the photo sessions and during the German Family Christmas Open House Tours.

For more information, visit our website at: [www.kempfhousemuseum.org](http://www.kempfhousemuseum.org), phone us at 734-994-4898, or email us at: [kempfhousemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:kempfhousemuseum@gmail.com)

Top: A selection of gifts from the gift shop.

Bottom: More gifts from the gift shop.

# Kempf House Museum

312 S. Division Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-4894

[www.kempfhouse.museum.org](http://www.kempfhouse.museum.org)  
[kempfhousemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:kempfhousemuseum@gmail.com)

**December • 2007**

## German Family Christmas Open House Tours

**Weekends  
1:00 to 4:00 PM  
Admission Free  
Donations Welcome**

**Parking is available  
in the large  
library lot just south  
of the House**

**Saturday  
December 8  
and Sunday  
December 9**

**Saturday  
December 15  
and Sunday,  
December 16**

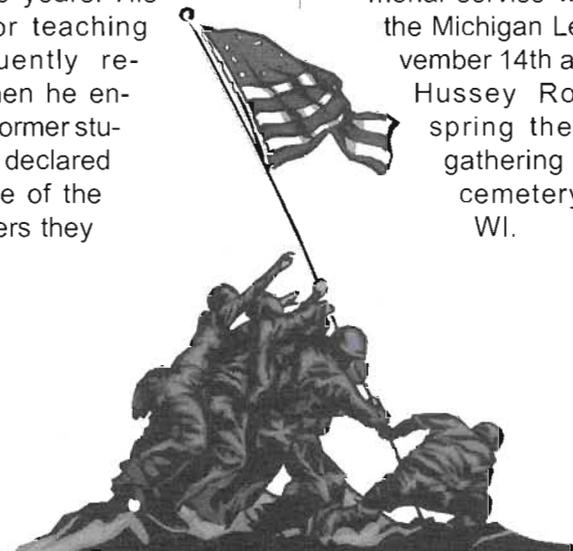
### IN MEMORIAM

## Shaw Livermore

WCHS is sad to announce the death of former board member, Shaw Livermore. Below, please find his obituary, taken from the *Ann Arbor News*.

Shaw Livermore, age 80, died quietly at home on October 21, 2007 of an obstructive pulmonary condition. For some months he had been under the care of Ann Arbor Hospice. Shaw was born on December 6, 1926 in Cambridge, MA, the son of Evelyn and Shaw Livermore. He spent his childhood in Buffalo, NY and later graduated from Mercersburg Academy and Harvard College. For a time he worked for a marine insurance company on the docks of the NYC as an assessor of damaged cargo. Returning to his love of history, he received a PhD in American History at the University of Wisconsin in Madison working with Merle Curti. He began teaching at Princeton University and later wrote *The Twilight of Federalism* (Princeton University Press 1962). In 1964 Shaw came to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where he taught American history for over 40 years. His passion for teaching was frequently rewarded when he encountered former students who declared he was one of the best teachers they

had ever had. After formal retirement he continued teaching a seminar in the honors program on historiography until 2006. During retirement he served as president of the Sunset-Brooks Neighborhood Association and the Hemlock Society of Michigan and volunteered as a patient escort at Planned Parenthood. Shaw had a creative mind in history and in public affairs, always following his independent view of truth. He had a catholicity of interests and many talents including eloquence, participation in sports, and creation of wood sculptures and mobiles. Shaw was an enthusiastic father and a tender husband. He never ceased to surprise. He is preceded in death by his sister, Gloria Duclos, and his son, Bradley. He is survived by his wife Nancy, his daughter Jorda of Alpena, MI, his grand daughter Evelyn Rose of Henderson, NV as well as his nieces and nephews. Instead of flowers, donations may be made to Planned Parenthood in Ann Arbor or to The Cradle 2049 Ridge Avenue, Evanston IL 60201. A memorial service will be held at the Michigan League on November 14th at 2 p.m. in the Hussey Room. In the spring there will be a gathering at the family cemetery in Hebron, WI.



ALICE CERNIGLIA

## The History of Hanukkah

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights, starting on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar (which is November-December on the Gregorian calendar). In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication."

The holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy temple in Jerusalem after the Jews' 165 B.C.E. victory over the Hellenist Syrians. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods.

In 168 B.C.E. the Jews' holy Temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus.

Some Jews were afraid of the Greek soldiers and obeyed them, but most were angry and decided to fight back.

The fighting began in Modiin, a village not far from Jerusalem. A Greek officer and soldiers assembled the villagers, asking them to bow to an idol and eat the flesh of a pig, activities forbidden to Jews. The officer asked Mattathias, a Jewish High Priest, to take part in the ceremony. He refused, and another villager stepped forward and offered to do it instead. Mattathias became outraged, took out his sword and killed the man, then killed the officer. His five sons and the other villagers then attacked and killed the soldiers. Mattathias' family went into hiding in the nearby mountains, where many other Jews, who wanted to fight the Greeks, joined them. They attacked the Greek soldiers whenever possible.

Judah Maccabee and his soldiers went to the Temple, and were saddened that many things were missing or broken, including the golden menorah. They cleaned and repaired the Temple, and when they were finished, they decided to



have a big dedication ceremony. For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah. They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask that contained only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. This gave them enough time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit. Today Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every night, thus commemorating the eight day miracle.

### The Menorah

On each night of Hanukkah, the menorah is lit to commemorate the miracle which occurred after the Jews proclaimed victory over the Syrian armies in 165 B.C.E., as described above. In Israel, the Hanukkah menorah is called the Hanukiyah. Menorahs come in all shapes and sizes. The only requirement is that the flames are separated enough so that they will not look too big and resemble a pagan bonfire.

Ancient menorahs were made of clay. They consisted of small, pearl shaped vessels, each with its own wick, which were arranged side-by-side.

Today's menorah, which stands on a base from which the branches sprout, resembles the holy Temple's menorah and started to appear towards the end of the Middle Ages.

## Upcoming Events

### Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan

Sunday, December 2, 2007  
1:30P.M.

Free and Open to the Public  
Visitors are Welcome  
Education Center Auditorium  
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital  
Campus  
5305 Elliott Drive  
Ypsilanti, Michigan

#### LECTURE

Locating Living Persons  
Jim Jackson

#### CLASS

Remembering and Celebrating  
Our Ancestors and Heritage  
Jeryllyn Cross Lynn

Jeryllyn will present a class about the history of the settlement of Isabella, Mecosta and Montcalm counties by her ancestors. This will be followed by a question and answer session on how she developed a book about this topic.

Jim Jackson is an Oakland County Genealogist and 2006 recipient of the Michigan Genealogical Council Lucy Kellogg award.

Contact: Marcia McCrary,  
President

(734) 483-2799,

Marciamccr@aol.com

For more information,  
see the GSWC website at  
<http://www.hvcn.org/info/gswc/>

## Saline Area

Saline Area Historical Society will host Grace Shackman on **Wed. Nov. 21 7:30 p.m.** for an Education Program titled *Early Settlement of Saline, Chelsea, Dexter and Manchester*. The program is free; everyone is invited and welcome. Light refreshments will be served. The program will take place at the former Calico Cat (Methodist Church) building on S. Ann Arbor and E. Henry Streets in Downtown Saline. This building is in the process of housing a new business, which may or may not have a visible business sign. However, come on in — the program will likely take place on the lower level. Information: 734-944-0442 or contact Terri at salinehistory@earthlink.net. Free.

**Christmas at Rentschler Farm, 1265 E. Michigan Ave. Saline; Sat. Dec. 8 12:00-5:00 and Sun. Dec. 9 1:00-4:00.** See how farm families coped at Christmastime when they were faced with a tight money situation year after year, during the Great Depression. Our 12-room farmhouse will be decorated with natural things that might have been found on the farm. a live tree will grace the parlor with 1930s ornaments and lights. Simple window decorations, good smells, sights, and sounds will greet visitors as they come through the front door. The dining room table will display German-American foods, all made with farm products. Sprinning and quilting will be demonstrated. The gift shop will feature our newly published 500-piece Rentschler Farm Puzzle, a fundraiser for our two museums. Light refreshments. Admission by donation. Parking on the grounds. [www.salinehistory.org](http://www.salinehistory.org) or contact Agnes at 769-2219.

## SALINE, MICHIGAN

# One-Room School Holiday Program at Weber Blaess

Turn the calendar back to the 1940's and the week after Thanksgiving. The students at the Weber Blaess One-Room School are bustling with anticipation. They are very excited, because this is the time of year that they will begin preparing for the highlight of the school term, the annual Holiday Program. Every single pupil participates in the program. Each student must decide what he or she will be performing for the program, individually or in a group — a skit, a poem, a reading, a song or maybe even a recitation. They practice in school and at home because they want to do their best. Everyone in the community will be attending — neighbors, parents, friends, and relatives. In the weeks ahead, they are also very busy making decorations for the school; so it will look just right for the event.

Today, more than 65 years later, the Weber Blaess One-Room School is again alive with that same spirit of the 40's. That's right. Local students are beginning to prepare to re-enact the Weber Blaess One-Room School Holiday Program for the community. They are busy practicing their acts and making

decorations. The program will be held at the school located at 525 Woodland Drive, Saline on Sunday, December 2nd. There will be three shows to choose from, 3 p.m., 5 p.m., and 7 p.m. Each show, lasting 1 hour, will be filled with entertainment, light refreshments, and maybe even a visit from old St. Nick himself.

The event is being sponsored by the Saline Historic Preservation Foundation with proceeds benefiting their ongoing programs and restoration. Tickets will cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. Tickets are available starting October 1st through Saline Community Education, 734-429-8020 Ext 1.

If you are looking for a unique traditional activity this holiday season, this program will meet your expectations. It will be entertaining for people of all ages, families, and for those who remember the one-room days. It will bring back many fond memories of those days gone by. Help Saline celebrate its past by attending the One-Room School Holiday Program!

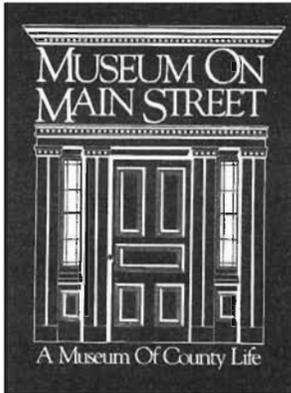
For further information call 734-429-8020 or 734-429-5922.

## Holiday Memories Washtenaw County

**Sunday, December 9, 2007  
Noon to 4 PM**

All are welcomed to come view the newest exhibit at the Museum on Main Street. Various holidays will be featured: Christmas, Hanakkah, New Year Eve, Valentine Day artifacts will be on display.

***Come visit our newest exhibit.***



**WASHTENAW COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 3336  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Ann Arbor, MI  
Permit No. 96

**SUNDAY • 2 PM  
FEBRUARY 17, 2008**

**“ANN ARBOR BUILDINGS  
AND ARCHITECTURE”**

**SPEAKER • ANITA TOEWS**

**COBBLESTONE FARM BARN  
2781 PACKARD • ANN ARBOR, MI**

**INFORMATION • 734.662.9092**

**WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IMPRESSIONS**

**NOVEMBER 2007**

# Program Schedule 2007-08

**Sunday, Nov. 18 • 2 pm  
ART IN WASHTENAW COUNTY  
CEMETERIES**

Speaker: *Wystan Stevens*

Location: Ypsilanti District Library,  
5577 Whittaker Road

**Sunday, February 17, 2008 • 2 pm  
ANN ARBOR BUILDINGS AND  
ARCHITECTURE**

Speaker: *Anita Toews*

Location: Cobblestone Farm Barn,  
2781 Packard

**Sunday, March 16 • 2 pm  
WORKING WOMEN'S  
HISTORY—PRIOR TO 1918**

Speaker: *Susan Nenadic*

Location: Ann Arbor District Library  
343 S. Fifth Avenue

**Sunday, April 20 • 2 pm  
RESTORATION OF ST. HELENA  
LIGHTHOUSE WITH SCOUT  
TROOP 4**

Speaker: *Dick Moehn*

Location: Glacier Hills Retirement  
Community—Hanson  
1200 Earhart Road  
Room, AA

**May 2008**

**WCHS ANNUAL MEETING**

Potluck supper & election of  
officers. Date & location to be  
determined

## 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.*