President's Letter

The May 2008 Annual Meeting was held at the Rentschler Farm Barn. Agnes Dikeman told the assembled group about the Saline Area Historical Society. After the potluck supper, elections were held and Leslie L. Loomans was elected treasurer and Patty Creal was elected as a board member until 2011 replacing Dean Greb who became a Director-at-Large. Joanne Nesbit was elected to fill Les Loomans’ position for the Director term ending 2010. We are pleased that Patty has chosen to remain a board member after having devoted more than 15 years as treasurer.

Directors, Susan Nenadic, Susan Wineberg and Cynthia Yao, whose terms expired in 2008, were re-elected to serve until 2011. Dean Greb will serve as a director-at-Large. Additionally, Wayne and Mary Florida were appointed Directors-at-Large.

A committee worked with Bidlack Creative Group and has devised a splendid four-color brochure which you will receive in the fundraising mailing in the near future. We are very pleased with the brochure.

Come and experience a story...

...either from your childhood or from earlier times. We have several exhibits a year on a variety of topics including kitchens, old bridges, politics, weddings, 150 Years of the YWCA, one-room schools, 100 years of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan, Christmas stories of today and yesterday, and much much more.
Resolutions

At the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Washtenaw County Historical Society the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS:
(person / company) contributed / donated / served the Washtenaw County Historical Society

BE IT RESOLVED:
That we express our sincere thanks and the members of the Society do thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Galant, President

Storage of WCHS Artifacts: ............... Sweepster, Inc., Philip Jenkins and Donald Socks

Programs: ......................... Ralph Beebe, chair and WCHS vice president

Sept. 2007: "Another Ann Arbor – African Americans"
Carol Gibson at David Byrd Center, 3216 Lohr Rd, 48108

Oct. 2007: "Un-Built Buildings at the University of Michigan"
Fred Mayer at University Commons, Asa Gray Drive, 48105

Nov. 2007: "Art in Washtenaw Cemeteries"
Wystan Stevens at Ypsilanti District Library on Whitaker Rd., 48197

Feb. 2008 "Ann Arbor Buildings and Architecture"
Anita Toews at Cobblestone Farm Barn, 48108

Mar. 2008 "Working Women's History Prior to 1918"
Susan Nenadic at Ann Arbor District Library, 48104

Apr. 2008 "The Restoration of St Helena Lighthouse with Scout Troop 4"
Dick Moehl at Glacier Hills Community – Hanson Room, 48105

May 2008 WCHS's Annual Meeting at Rentschler Farm Barn, 48176

Thanks to our 2008 Annual Meeting Host: Saline Area Historical Society

Mailings: ................................................ Betty Doman, Ralph Beebe

Garden: .................................................. Sue Kosky, Patty Creal, Ann DeFreytas, Judy Chrisman, Lillian Ferguson

Mowing lawn at MoMS: ......................... Mary and Wayne Florida

Lawn sprinkling system: ...................... Dick Stein and Genastar Co.

Hosting Web: ........................................ www.WashtenawHistory.org
C. Edward Wall and Pieren Press

Webmaster: ............................................. Jan E. Tripp

Exhibits:

Sesquicentennial Exhibit .................. Sesquicentennial Committee
Christmas Lights, Ornaments & Trees Alice Cerniglia & crew
Christmas Kitchens – 1830 to 1950 Alice Cerniglia & crew

Signage for exhibits: ......................... Grafaktri, Inc.

Docents:
Rosemarion Blake
Judy Chrisman
Ralph Beebe
Susan Wineberg
Ann DeFreytas
Jay Snyder
Tom Freeman
Dean & Linda Greb
Sue Kosky
Dick Galant
Pauline Walters
Susan Nenadic

Impressions Design/Layout: Deb Royal

Impressions Editor: Patti Smith

Sesquicentennial Committee:
Sue Kosky, chair
Ralph Beebe
Tom Freeman
Cynthia Yao
Susan Nenadic
Ann DeFreytas
Patti Creal
Susan Wineberg
Patricia Pooley
Trudy Bulkley
Karen K. O’Neal
Alice Cerniglia
Pauline Walters
Jay Snyder
Rosemarion Blake
Dick Galant
Judy Chrisman

Thank You!

to The Ann Arbor News
for donating seven months' worth of paper
The gown on the left was worn by Eunice Fitea, the bride of Fielding H. Yost. They were married in 1905 and honeymooned in Cuba. The two piece dress in the center was worn by Lois Burnett Hiscock in 1883 and the gown in the far corner was that of Charlotte Haas Sallade – 1945.

In 1925, Dama Godfrey married Cecil Creal in the 114 East Kingsley Godfrey home. Visitors to the exhibition could stand beside the gown and view the Godfrey home where the marriage took place.

The bridal gown of Ella Travis, bride of Junius Beal, 1898. The gown in the center was her going away dress. The tandem bicycle in the foreground was a wedding gift from Junius to his bride.

The gown at the top of the stairs was worn by Martha Warner, bride of James Campbell, in 1905.

The wedding exhibition has closed. The gowns have been packed away awaiting another event. The cake and cake toppers on loan have been returned. Even the bicycle-built-for-two has been relegated to its off-site storage. But memories and stories of weddings across the years remain.

Museum visitors were surprised that 19th century brides did not usually wear white and shocked that the average wedding today costs $30,000. They added to the list of movies featuring weddings, left their own wedding details for future generations and voted for their favorite dress in the exhibition. While every dress received at least one vote, the ivory lace gown worn by the bride of Fielding H. Yost was the winner.

Two guests left a note in the ballot box saying they "had a better time here than at the Manhattan Transfer or at the Purple Rose." Thank you ladies. Many thanks to all who helped us "tie the knot" successfully.
The Ann Arbor YMCA from 1858 to 2008: Serving the Ann Arbor Community for 150 Years

The Ann Arbor YMCA will celebrate 150 years of community service with an historical display at the Washtenaw County Historical Society’s Museum on Main Street starting Wednesday, September 17, 2008. The YMCA’s collection of photographs, documents, memorabilia and video interviews with local citizens traces the start of the first YMCA by University of Michigan students to the Ann Arbor YMCA of today.

One of the oldest organizations in Ann Arbor, the YMCA initially served as a place where male students could meet to socialize and hold Bible studies. Over time, the YMCA merged with the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) to form an organization where men, women and children of all ages, races, incomes and religions enjoy a variety of recreational programs.

The YMCA exhibit is organized into three distinct areas:

**History and Mission of the YMCA in Ann Arbor** depicts the founding of the YMCA by university students in 1858 and opening of Lane Hall by the UM-YMCA in 1917. Lane Hall was funded in part by John D. Rockefeller and named for Judge Victor Lane (1852-1930), a Circuit Court judge in Adrian Michigan from 1888-1897 and University of Michigan law professor from 1897-1928. Lane served as president of the University YMCA for many years.

In 1892, the City YMCA was chartered and eventually housed in a new building on North Fourth Avenue from 1904-1959. The exhibit also shows photographs and original documents for the YWCA, which was founded in Ann Arbor in 1894 and eventually housed in the Christian Mack residence on South Fourth Avenue from 1913 to 1959. The YWCA provided rooms, an employment bureau and classes for young women.

Wendell Lyons (1916-1986), Executive Secretary of the YMCA from 1951-1963, was the architect of the movement to merge the Ann Arbor YMCA and YWCA. During the early 1950s the boards of directors of both the YMCA and YWCA recognized the need for new buildings for their respective organizations, and they decided to legally merge into one organization in 1956. The idea of combining these boards was innovative for its time and resulted in the new merged organization being disaffiliated with the National Board of the YWCA.

James (1886-1957) and Verna (1900-1978) Parker were instrumental in the history of the merger of the YM and YWCA in the 1950s. Prior to the YM-YWCA merger, James was Chairman of the Building Committee. He headed the fundraising campaign in 1956 that raised over $1,000,000 within a seven-week period. James Parker did not live to see the new building become a reality; he died in 1957. Verna Parker served in many capacities as a board member of the YWCA. She was president of the board of the merged YM-YWCA from 1956-1959.

Known first as the YM-YWCA and later as the Ann Arbor Y, the new building opened in 1960. The YMCA on South Fifth Avenue was renovated four times and added onto twice between 1959 and 2005. The many transitions in this building were the result of attempts to accommodate social trends of the last 40 years, including an increased emphasis on families, fitness and organized activities.

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Hattie A.T. Crippen (1863-1955) was the daughter of Methodist Minister John W. Crippen (1833-1909) and Esther Crippen (1838-1916). Both Hattie and her mother were charter members of the Ann Arbor chapter of the YWCU (later YWCA). They attended the first meeting of the YWCA in 1894, and Hattie became the first president of the Ann Arbor association shortly thereafter. It was a position that she held for five years. "During the first years the activities consisted largely of evening classes in the three R's for those whose schooling had been curtailed by economic necessity, of social good times, and of homelike hours of worship on Sunday afternoons." City directory listings from 1888-1892 show that Hattie was a teacher before the organization was formed; she continued to teach throughout her term at the YWCA. After her parents' death, Hattie continued to live in the family home on Ann Street, taking in boarders. She never married. Hattie died in Saline on December 26, 1955. She is buried alongside her parents at Forest Hill Cemetery in Ann Arbor. Hattie's notes for teaching English grammar and a lecture on the history of tea are among the items that will be on display at the exhibit.

**Spirit, Mind, Body: Programs at the YMCA** displays memorabilia from the YMCA's sports and fitness programs, including basketball and volleyball items. Volleyball, which was invented at the Holyoke, Massachusetts YMCA in 1895 by instructor William Morgan, was a mix of basketball, tennis, and handball, originally called "mintonette." The name "volleyball" came into use in 1896 during an exhibition at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, to describe how the ball went back and forth over the net. In 1922, YMCAs held their first national championship in the game. This championship became the U.S. Open in 1924, when non-YMCA teams also competed.

Viggo Nelson (1895-1971) introduced competitive volleyball to Ann Arbor. He was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in the late 1990s. Viggo served as YMCA General Secretary in Ann Arbor (1919-1931/1934/1936). He was also the Camp Birkett Boys Work Secretary in 1920 and Camp Director (1921-1922.)

**Character Values and Youth Development: Summer Camps** features displays from the Ann Arbor YMCA's summer camps, including Camp Birkett, Camp Takona and Camp Al-Gon-Quian.

**Camp Birkett** is the oldest organized camp in Washtenaw County. Thomas Birkett of Dexter deeded the property, which consists of 11 acres of woods and lake frontage on the east shores of Silver Lake, to the City YMCA in 1914. In 1920, the camp was gifted to the Ann Arbor YMCA, and from 1922 to 1933, the local Kiwanians upgraded the water-front and built sleeping lodges, a handicraft cabin, a tennis court, and a sanitary system. Originally an all-boys camp, Birkett became a co-ed day camp after the merger of the YMCA and the YWCA in 1959.

**Camp Takona**, located in Grass Lake near Chelsea, was an all-girls camp owned by the YWCA. The camp first held six-week sessions for up to 40 girls ages 10-16 years old. Each summer the camp held an extra session to enable underprivileged children from the Family Welfare Bureau to take part in recreational and social activities. By the mid-1950s, the camp had both a residence program for girls ages 9-13 and a day camp program for younger girls ages 6-9. In 1972, the Ann Arbor Community Center purchased Camp Takona from the YM-YWCA.

**Camp Al-Gon-Quian**, located on Burt Lake in northern Lower Michigan, has been in operation since 1926. It began as an all-boys camp run by Herb Twining. The YMCA acquired Camp Al-Gon-Quian in 1968 from Herb Twining's family, and the camp became co-ed in 1969. The camp remains a "...second and never-forgotten home to many." Its 150 acres include wooded areas and shoreline for activities such as swimming, sailing, canoeing, horseback riding, archery, nature study, crafts, and sports.

The Ann Arbor YMCA's 150th anniversary exhibit runs from Wednesday, September 17-Saturday, November 22, 2008.
Upcoming Events

Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum
3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130
(734) - 426-2512
eMail: dexmuseum@aol.com
Annual Holiday Bazaar:
Saturday, December 6 from 9AM to 4PM
Annual Christmas Sing:
Friday, December 12 at 7 PM

Saline Area Historical Society
Wednesday, September 17
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
with Carol Mull at the Saline Senior Center 7 p.m. Free. Everyone welcome.
eMail: SalineHistory@verizon.net
Web: www.SalineHistory.org
The Senior Center is on the back side of Saline Middle School on Maple Road in Saline. Green and white signs in the parking lot provide directions to the Senior Center door.

Sunday, October 12 THE DARK SIDE OF SALINE’S OAKWOOD CEMETERY
with Bob Lane. Meet at 5 p.m. in Saline’s Parking Lot 4 (behind Benny’s Bakery) for a walk down W Henry Street to the cemetery.
Free. 734 / 944-0442
eMail: SalineHistory@verizon.net
Web: www.SalineHistory.org

Cobblestone Farm Association
2781 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108
eMail: www.CobbleStoneFarm.org
734 / 994-2928
Sunday, October 12:
noon to 4 P.M. Fall Harvest with Halloween theme a family event $7.00 per Family, $1.50 single and seniors
Sunday, December 7:
noon to 4 P.M. Remembrance of December Seventh $7.00 per Family, $1.50 single and seniors

Salem Area Historical Society
Friday, September 19 — 7 PM — SAHS Annual Barn Dance at the Three Cedar Farm with Dance Caller and Pick ‘N’ Sticks. Admission is $5 per person or $15 per family
Wednesday, October 22 — 7:30 PM — “Restoration of Old Gravestones” presentation by Michelle Bononi at the Jarvis-Stone School

Pittsfield Historical Society
701 West Ellsworth, Ann Arbor, 48108
Info: 734/434-4047
mew 42strat@yahoo.com
Sunday, September 14 — 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Pittsfield Township Veterans’ Memories
Several veterans will attend and speak about their war experiences
Sunday, October 12
2:00 to 4:00 PM
Leticia Byrd Oral History

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, MI
Education Center Auditorium
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus
5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, MI
1:30 P.M.
Free and Open to the Public
Visitors are Welcome
Sunday, September 28, 2008
Bobbie Snow on Early Census Class-panel on Virginia and West Virginia
Sunday, October 26, 2008
Mary Griffes Old Style Handwriting Class-Caroline Griffin Tracing Collateral lines

Mystery Donation

Do you recognize these artifacts? They were found on the museum’s back porch wrapped in black plastic bags. Call 734-662-9092 if you can identify the donor.

Work Opportunity

Seeking a contract person to gather material for Washtenaw County Historical Society’s seven monthly newsletters. For information call: 734.662.9092 or eMail: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Antique Novy Family Carriage Donated

The Society has received several donations over the summer. Among them is a baby carriage purchased by Dr. Frederick G. Novy for his firstborn son Dr. Robert L. Novy in 1892. Dr. Frederick Novy was the chairman of the University of Michigan Department of Biology, founded in 1902, for more than three decades and then served as Dean of the Medical School from 1935-1937. Dr. Robert L. Novy graduated from the Medical School in 1927 and later became president of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan.

Information provided by Doranne Jacobson, great-granddaughter of Dr. Frederick Novy, indicates that “virtually everyone associated with the baby carriage has lived in Ann Arbor and graduated from the University of Michigan.” The family babies have had their portraits taken in the carriage including her daughter, Dr. Laurie Jacobson who was the first sixth-generation graduate. The child in the adjacent photograph is Laurie Jacobson’s brother, Joshua Robert Jacobson.

It has been in the family except for a brief time in 1965 when it was restored by Heidi Shultz, a friend of the family, in 1965 and used briefly for her son. She rebuilt a corner of the carriage and recovered the upholstery and umbrella. A date of 1892 was found on the bottom of the carriage. The patent date on the umbrella is June 17, 1884 and on the umbrella holder, April 1, 1881.

The Society thanks Dorothy Novy Wilson, Doranne Jacobson and Cameron Shultz for their generous donation of the carriage.

Help Tell the Story!

There are a thousand stories about the history of Washtenaw County at the Museum on Main Street. Do you have four hours to volunteer as a docent sharing this history with museum visitors? Join in the fun and excitement of greeting and meeting curious folks of all ages from across the country.

Contact: Susan Nenadic: slnenadic@gmail.com or Joanne Nesbit: mjnesbit@umich.edu

These are examples of artifacts in the WCHS collection-each with a story to tell.

World War I Souvenir

The pillow cover was donated by Betty and Harry Benford as part of a group of artifacts from the estate of her parents, Howard and Edith Smallman. Her father served in World War One and brought the souvenir to his wife.

Bach Family Jewelry Box

This artifact came from the estate of Anna Botsford Bach. The family was known to exchange silver gifts for important events.
Make Note -
Dates to Remember
2008-2009 General Meeting Schedule • 2:00 PM

Sun. Sep. 21  YMCA – Serving the Ann Arbor Community for 150 Years
Cathi Duchon & Dan Maier / Pittsfield Dist Lib, 3259 Oak Valley 48108

Sun. Oct. 19  Fox Gravel Pit – Ancient Botany / Geology
John Russell / Washt Co Resource Ctr Library, Hogback Rd, 48104

Sun. Nov. 16  A History of the University of Michigan Medical School
Dr. David Bloom / Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S Fifth Av, 48104

Sun. Feb. 15  Archeology of 1015 Wall Street & Lower Town
Dr. Henry Wright / Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes Av, 48109

Sun. Mar. 15  Transportation History Collection
Kathleen Dow / Special Collections Library, 7th Floor Hatcher, 48109

Sun. Apr. 19  The Toledo War. Don Faber / McKune Memorial Library,
221 S Main, Chelsea, 48118

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.