

I Impressions

NEWSLETTER WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

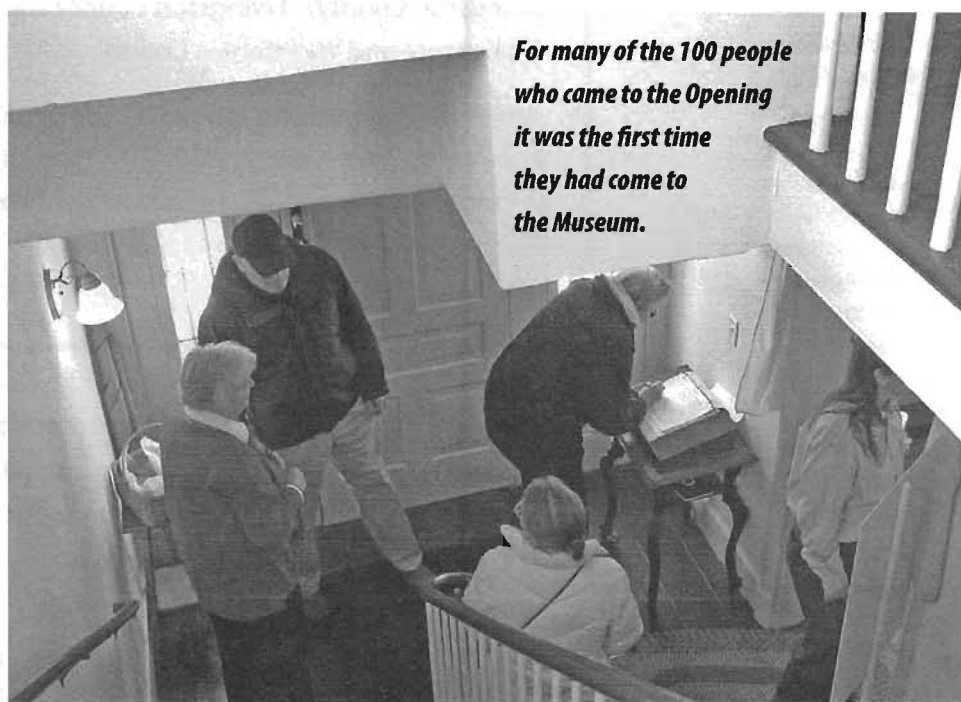
Suffrage is a story of great achievement, innovative strategies and progressive political campaigns that involved both women and men.

Our current exhibit, *Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw County, When Women Won the Vote* is presented by the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area. It tells that story from a local perspective and has already attracted over 250 visitors.

The topic is woman suffrage, but the bigger story is about democracy. Visitors will find a new view of local history and learn about those who helped win the right to vote. It reminds us of the importance of community leaders, organizers and visionaries. It is the root of the Woman Suffrage Amendment.

Stop by the Museum on Main Street and discover the role that Michigan, specifically Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, played. Come see it for yourself, then come back and bring your friends and family.

When Women Won the Vote



For many of the 100 people who came to the Opening it was the first time they had come to the Museum.

Liberty Awakes to a Great Opening – Runs through February 27

Two years of hard work by the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area all came together at the Opening on Sunday, January 16 at the Museum on Main Street.

The steady stream of guests were welcomed by League president, Susan Smith, as they signed in and entered the exhibit.

“Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw County When Women Won the Vote” is the collaboration between co-curators Zoe Behnke and Jeanine DeLay.

While doing independent research they realized how involved some of the local women were in this movement and came together to tell those stories and that history.

Special Exhibit Hours – The Museum is open 7 days a week – 12-4 PM

The exhibit is self-guided but, due to high community interest, Zoe has volunteered to be here Monday-Sunday and Museum Docent John Kilar is here Saturday and Sunday through February 27.

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Our mission is to educate and inspire our community to engage in the preservation and presentation of area history

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Impressions is published seven times a year September through May by the Washtenaw County Historical Society, a non profit 501(c)(3) organization.

The President's Letter: Area History Overlaps Counties

Washtenaw County was established on January 1, 1827 in the Territory of Michigan. According to the County's official website, boundary lines had already been established by September, 1822, although administration remained with Wayne County until 1827.

My copy of David H. Burr's 1831 Michigan map published in New York, by S. D. Stone in 1835 in "A New Universal Atlas; Comprising Separate Maps of All The Principal Empires, Kingdoms & States Throughout the World" shows that much of what is now Livingston County was included in Washtenaw County. The Huron River and several lakes are depicted. Towns include Annarbour, Dexter, Saline, Ypsilanti, Panama and Whitmores (now Whitmore Lake in Livingston County). Livingston County was formed in 1833 from parts of Shiawassee and Washtenaw Counties which fits with Burr's 1831 date.

Until now I expect that when considering County history, the boundary lines in my mind were today's. Certainly, though, County history from at least 1822 through part of 1833 occurred in a significantly larger area. It's good that our Mission Statement says "area history."

Leslie Loomans

"WHAT'S IT?" A traveling collection of odd and obscure items from the 19th and early 20th century. Entertaining and educational. Perfect for the classroom or adult groups. Call the Museum on Main Street 662-9092 or e-mail us to set up an appointment at wchs-500@ameritech.net



Photo: Steve Schewe

Washtenaw County Historical Society

P.O. Box 3336

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

Phone: 734-662-9092

email: wchs-500@ameritech.net

Museum on Main Street

(at the corner of E. Kingsley & Beakes)

500 N. Main Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1027

Museum Hours

Saturday & Sunday,

12 noon – 4:00 PM

and by appointment

Check us out, on the web and

www.WashtenawHistory.org



Why Did Washtenaw County Vote Against Suffrage, not once but twice?

November 21, 2010 was a very snowy Sunday afternoon. We had an unavoidable change of venue from Glacier Hills to the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library. And there were still over 75 people who came to hear the program presented by the League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area.

Zoe Behnke, Jeanine Delay and Susan Smith held a compelling Town Hall program. They discussed the movement that led to the passage and ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920. When women won the right to vote.

The first part was a conversation led by LWV president, Sue Smith, about the movement from 1910-1920 then was focused on the years of 1912 and 1913. The years when the local work was being done. Seven women (including Ann Arbor's first policewoman) who used their talents to educate the citizens of Washtenaw County were highlighted. See who they are, and read about the exhibit, on page 4 of this newsletter.

Jeanine and Zoe talked about the differences between the communities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. They voted very differently on the subject of suffrage. For example, in 1912 Ann Arbor's male voters passed suffrage once, and then voted it down less than six months later.



These may be possible reasons: The presidents of Michigan State Normal College and Cleary College supported suffrage. The UM publicly hedged on the issue. The *Ypsilanti Daily Press* was an early defender of suffrage, the *Daily Times (Ann Arbor) News* did not. The second part was a lively question and answer session. We invite you to come to Main Street and see this informative exhibit and cast your vote!



Zoe Behnke and Jeanine DeLay discuss the Washtenaw County voter response

What your mailing label can tell you about your membership status: 20xx/Member 20xx

The line above your name has two numbers. The first number denotes the latest year you have been a donor. The second number denotes the type and latest year of your membership. If it is earlier than 2011, it is time to renew.

We want to hear your impressions about Impressions. If you have ideas for articles, stories you have written or would like to write, contact Beverly Willis at 734-662-9092, e-mail: wchs-1000@ameritech.net.

Renew Your Membership!

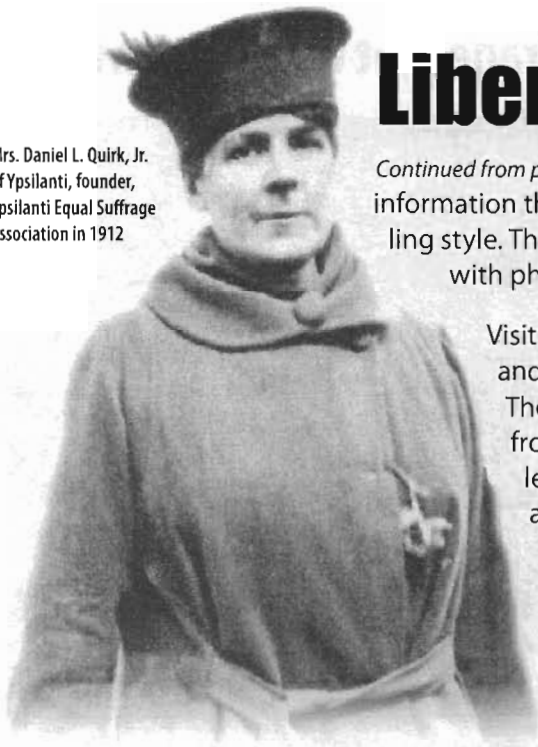
Newsletters • Programs • Networks

If you have not already done so, now is the perfect time to renew your WCHS membership for 2011.

Call 734-662-9092 or email wchs-500@ameritech.net

Liberty Awakes!

Mrs. Daniel L. Quirk, Jr.
of Ypsilanti, founder,
Ypsilanti Equal Suffrage
Association in 1912



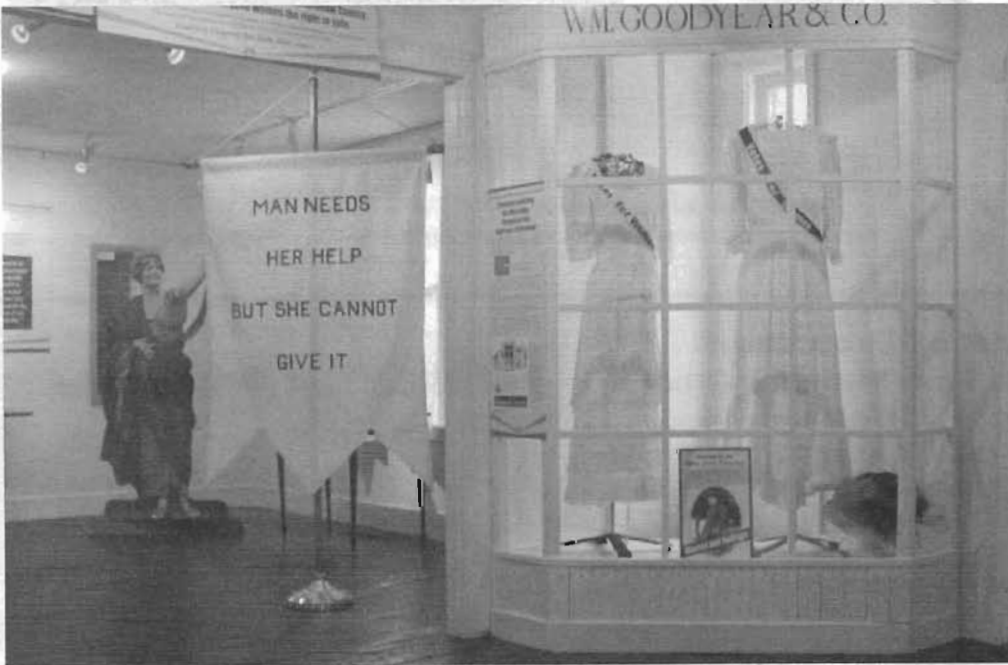
Continued from page 1 This exhibit is packed with information that is presented in a visually compelling style. The panels are clear and easy to read, with photos, letters and other artifacts.

Visitors have been taking their time and absorbing all of the memorabilia. There is so much to see. Everything from broadsides, banners and voiceless speech scripts to parade dresses and cookbook recipes for the cause.

In remarks at the opening, Susan Smith said there were two main reasons for creating this exhibit. One, it tells part of the history of the League of Women

Voters and two, there was a need to let people know what actually happened in the local suffrage movement. It was an opportunity to expose young people to history and what sacrifices people made for the right to vote. And it serves as a reminder that there is still work to be done.

Group tours and talks are welcome through the month of February. The exhibit closes February 27.



Seven Local Leaders Suffragists who Made a Difference

Miss Jennie Buell

Ann Arbor Township
State Grange Lecturer on
suffrage and farmers' advocate

Miss Estelle Downing

Ypsilanti
English instructor at Michigan
State Normal College and first
woman elected to
Ypsilanti City Council

Mrs. Maria Peel

Ann Arbor
Insurance agent and
Ann Arbor's first policewoman

Miss Jessie Phelps

Ypsilanti
Science professor at
Michigan State Normal College
and early advocate of
health education in
teaching colleges

Mrs. Sara A.C. Plummer

Ann Arbor
President of the Ann Arbor Equal
Suffrage Association in 1910

Mrs. Daniel L. Quirk, Jr.

Ypsilanti
Founder of the Ypsilanti
Equal Suffrage Association
and local leader in First World
War service work

Mrs. V.C. Vaughan

Ann Arbor
Vice President of the
Ann Arbor Equal Suffrage
Association in 1912

*This is an interactive experience.
Make sure to take your picture
with Lady Liberty in the back
room!*



*"The reason
we're calling
this exhibit 'Liberty
Awakes' is because
Liberty can also
fall asleep,"
Jeanine DeLay*



Thank You

The Washtenaw County Historical Society has enjoyed collaborating with the League as "A Museum of County Life", to tell such an interesting local story with national significance.

As board president, Les Loomans said in his letter on page 2: *It's a good thing that our mission statement includes "area history".* This exhibit demonstrates the close connections that our communities share. We would like to thank those who have participated and contributed.

Exhibit Sponsors

The League of Women Voters of the Ann Arbor Area
Washtenaw County Historical Society & Museum
A2Ethics.org
John Lawrence & Jeanine DeLay
Bob Behnke Company
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Pauline Walters, Beverly Willis
& Staff-Washtenaw County Historical Society
& Museum on Main Street
Helen Welford
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February Program: Electric Trolleys of Washtenaw County



Electric streetcars and interurbans appeared in Washtenaw County in the 1890s. They were cheap, fast, went to plenty of places... then within decades, then they were gone. Learn what happened from the co-author of *Electric Trolleys of Washtenaw County*.

Sunday, February 20, 2011 • 2-4 PM
Chelsea Retirement Community, Theater
805 W. Middle Street, Chelsea, Michigan

The Theater is in the Dancey House Apartment Building, located within the Chelsea Retirement Community. Take the elevator to the lower level.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER Author, collector and retired pediatrician, **H. MARK HILDEBRANDT** shares a lifetime of collecting photographs, memorabilia and knowledge about steam and electric rail systems.

This is a free program and open to the public.

In Memoriam of WCHS Members

ARTHUR P. GALLAGHER

(May 16, 1911 - December 12, 2010) Gallagher was the longest serving editor of the *Ann Arbor News* and brought an enlightened perspective to managing the news of the day. In 1954, during his first months of a 22-year career as editor, he expanded the Letters to the Editor feature, leading to decades of lively exchange between readers and their paper.

Highly respected by those in the journalism profession for his 50-year career in this field, he also was among Ann Arbor civic leaders whose involvement affected a myriad of people both before and after his retirement.

He wrote a dozen historical essays on a variety of subjects, some of which are in his papers at the Bentley Historical Library. With generations of sailors in his family, he wrote stories involving shipwrecks and sailing on the oceans and Great Lakes, which were published by Michigan History Magazine. He shared a passion for history with the Washtenaw County Historical Society and we will miss him.

MARJORIE READE

(March 7, 1918 - August 17, 2010) Marjorie had an extraordinary life. that included surviving the Great Depression, tornados, locusts and the Dust Bowl.

She had Albert Einstein as a guest at her first wedding reception, stood next to John F. Kennedy at the University of Michigan as he announced his intent to form a Peace Corp, and accepted an invitation to meet Hillary Clinton at the Clinton White House along with her husband Maxwell. Marjorie and her first husband Charles Dolph, deeded Dolph Park to the City of Ann Arbor as a wildlife refuge.

Marjorie co-authored the book *Historic Buildings Ann Arbor Michigan* with WCHS Board member Susan Wineberg, and was named "Preservationist of the Year" in 1993 by the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission. She was an avid supporter and member of the Society.

FEBRUARY- MARCH 2011 EVENTS

The Washtenaw County Historical Consortium is a volunteer organization representing 27 museums, libraries, and historical attractions in and around Washtenaw County, Michigan. Member organizations can post their events directly to the online calendar and we will list as many as we can in our newsletter. For the most recent listings check out www.hvcn.org/info/wchs/consortium

The Saline Area Historical Society

Historic Churches of Saline **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2-3 PM**

Saline District Library, Brecon Room
555 N. Maple Road, Saline, MI
734-944-0442

The Pittsfield Historical Society

James Mann: author, historian, and story teller **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2-4 PM**

Pittsfield Community Center
701 West Ellsworth, Ann Arbor, MI
734-971-2384

*The Dexter Area Historical
Society and Museum*

Frank C. Wilhelme **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2-4 PM**

*The Dexters of Massachusetts:
Washtenaw County's Connection
to a Prominent American Family"*
Presented by

Dexter District Library
3255 Alpine, Dexter, MI

Free and open to the public.
Email: dexamuseum@aol.com

*The League of Women Voters
of the Ann Arbor Area*

Brown Bag Lunch Talk **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10 & 24, 12 - 1 PM**

"Liberty Awakes in Washtenaw
County -- When Women Won
the Vote"

500 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI
Free and open to the public.
Call 734-662-9092

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County

Genealogy Lectures and Classes **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1:30 - 4:30 PM**

Lecture: *Native American Lore of the Detroit Area,
1701-1842.* Presented by David Irwin

Class: *No Dumb Questions*

Education Center Auditorium
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus
5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, Michigan
Use Parking Lot "P"

Free and open to the public. Email: gswcmi@gmail.com



David Irwin

Michigan History Day – Saturday, March 19

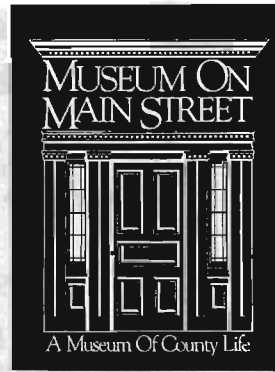
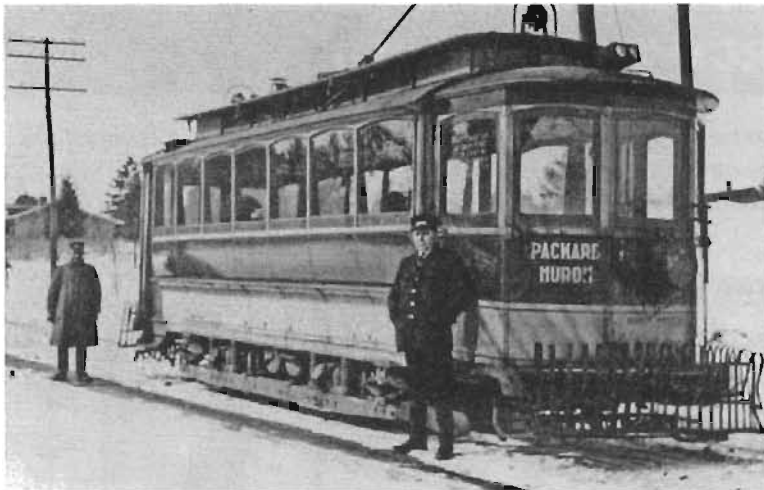
By Jan E. Tripp

Michigan History Day is an educational competition designed to encourage students in grades 4–12 to explore historical subjects related to a broad annual theme. Students learn through self-directed study on a topic of their own choosing. Students present their projects through art, literature, music, drama, visual communications, and writing.

Michigan History Day's ultimate goal is to kindle an appreciation of the past among students of today. Last year, 5,500 Michigan students competed in Michigan History Day. 278 students from across Michigan reached the finals after competing in district competitions. Finalists in the state competition went on to the national contest in Maryland.

This year our district (8) competition is on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the Detroit Historical Society in Detroit. The state final event is Saturday, April 30, 2011 Grand Valley State University in Allendale.

History Day in Michigan (National History Day in Michigan) is an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan. Visit them online: www.hsmichigan.org for more information or call (517) 324-1828.



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You are Invited to February's Program

Electric Trolleys of Washtenaw County

Sunday, February 20, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Chelsea Retirement Community,
805 West Middle St., Chelsea

Bring a Friend and find out why the trolleys disappeared from the streets. See page 6.

The Washtenaw County Historical Society • www.WashtenawHistory.org

Save these dates WCHS Programs February-April, 2011

Women in the Civil War

Jane Schultz presents a lecture on Women in the Civil War

Sunday, March 20, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Ann Arbor District Library,
343 S Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor

The Civil War

Tom Collier on the Civil War. This is a joint meeting with the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.

Sunday, April 17, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital,
Education Center Auditorium
5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. Use Parking Lot "P".

The Washtenaw County Historical Society offers free monthly programs September-April (excluding December & January) for our members!

Citizens of Washtenaw County...

We Need Your Civil War Items!

2011 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. The Museum on Main Street is planning our Civil War exhibit and asking WCHS Members to help out. We are looking to borrow a few specific items. If you have any of the following artifacts in your collections or can point us in the direction of someone who does it would be greatly appreciated and acknowledged. They include:

1. Civil War Bugle
2. Civil War era washboard
3. Copies of the *Michigan Argus* (1860-1866)
4. Any other Civil War era campsite artifacts; uniforms, photographs, letters or other items with a connection to Washtenaw County.

Please call Judy Chrisman at 734-662-9092 or email wchs-500@ameritech.net for more information.