

The Washtenaw County Historical Society

● Fall 2020/Winter 2021

Impressions

•
Growing Up on
the East Side
of Town

•
Washtenaw County's
Three Courthouses at
the Same Location

•
Local History & Online Exhibit at
washtenawhistory.org

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The Museum on Main Street

500 N. Main Street • Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-662-9092 • wchs-500@ameritech.net

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

2020 was a year full of changes. 2021 looks to be a year full of promise. The Museum on Main Street learned how to pivot from being physically open to creating a virtual presence online. The Washtenaw County Historical Society board of directors also changed. Jay Snyder has retired from the board, serving since 1994. After one year on the board, he was appointed to the Endowment Committee and remained in that position. Prior to being elected to the board, Snyder was active on the Art Fair parking committee for many years as well. Jay has been a very integral part of the board and we will miss him greatly. Jay, thank you for all of your contributions and wisdom throughout the years! All the best to you and Elsie on your "retirement" from the board.

Other changes include two new members, Will Hathaway and Dave Taylor. We are excited for all the skills and knowledge that they bring to the board.

Will was born and raised in Ann Arbor. His parents served on the Historic District Commission and played active roles in saving various landmark buildings in town. Will and his mother (Mary Hathaway) worked together on various downtown historic districts and worked behind the scenes to promote loft space development in the downtown area. They later worked to create a downtown park on Ann Arbor's Library Block. Will currently serves on numerous boards and commissions in Scio Township.

Dave Taylor was raised in Ann Arbor and attended Eastern Michigan University and Michigan State University. Taylor was a teacher, school counselor and administrator in his educational career before retiring in 2010. Not afraid of the internet, he created a website to chronicle Michigan Football Depth Charts, Recruiting and History and a Timeline of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County Area History. His Facebook accomplishments include creating a group for his 1970 graduating class of 1300 Ann Arbor Huron and Pioneer High School students and he is highly active on the Ann Arbor Townies Facebook group.

A big welcome to our new board members!! If you are interested in serving on the board, please feel free to contact me kljanja@gmail.com

This year, the deadline for the Pauline Walters Memorial Award was extended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a tough decision, but the winner is the Salem Area Historical Society. The award will be used to create story boards that will recall "stories from the 1800's and early 1900's about the farming community and families of Salem Township." The panels will be displayed in the Dickerson Barn, which is part of the Jarvis Stone School Historic District." Congratulations to the Salem Area Historical Society!



I hope you will enjoy our new and improved website and our upcoming virtual exhibits. A big thanks goes out to Bev Willis and Judy Chrisman for the virtual exhibit and to Bev for the wonderful website - washtenawhistory.org

Karen L. Jania – WCHS Board President

The Women's March to the Ballot Box is online at washtenawhistory.org

By Judy Chrisman, Curator

Our online exhibit takes a look at the passage of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution through the lens of historic events, photographs, first person accounts, documents and letters. What might have been on the mind of the average young woman, living and working in a small town like Ann Arbor in the early 1910s?

We named her Edith, and she was a member of a large working class family. Edith was about to graduate from high school and was working to save money for her further education. She was hired to serve at a tea party for women's suffrage hosted by Mrs. Anna Botsford Bach.



in school and local elections, but had not been able to vote in national elections. Her father suggested she attend the meeting set up by the

University of Michigan for women her age to find out what she could do to get involved. One of her sisters encouraged Edith to enroll at the University but the family was not able to help pay her tuition so she attended the Stenographic Institute on N. University. Edith was able to

secure a job as a secretary and later a bookkeeper.

She continued to be interested in women's suffrage and joined the Ann Arbor Equal Suffrage Association. She attended local women's rights



events, joined in marches and handed out flyers. With the passage of the 19th amendment, Edith was able to vote for President of the United States for the first time. She volunteered at the 4th ward polling site, working at the voting desk and handed out ballots. At the end of the day, Edith cast the last vote.



She found the discussion about voting rights as they awaited the arrival of the 4th guest fascinating and listened intently throughout the party.

Family discussions around the dinner table often debated the suffrage movement. Edith's mother had voted

Thank You!

TO OUR MEMBERS
& DONORS

From memberships and donations to other means of support, you have made this year of adjustment for the Society easier to bear. With more time indoors, people have been asking questions about local history, people and buildings. Our residents continue to donate artifacts and we continue to do the work. This could not happen without you. Annual membership includes 4 issues of the newsletter *Impressions* and this issue, Fall 2020/Winter 2021 is #3 for 2020 members. The final issue of your 2020 membership will be Spring 2021. See page 9.

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Cover: December 1946, Jerry Buckmaster looks at the Christmas tree on the courthouse grounds yesterday on his way home from school. (oldnews.aadl.org)

Growing Up in East Ann Arbor



Mary Cruse

I was born at a Doctor's Hospital for the newborns in 1926 - then on the corner at E. University and Packard Street. My parents lived on Hill Street

and Dad felt that he should move out of the high tax area of Ann Arbor and bought property in the country (Pittsfield Township) in 1927. He purchased a parcel of land which originally was part of the Nordman Farm and built our house on Nordman Road.

As my brothers and I grew up, we used to run through the fields to one of our friend's homes. All the streets were dirt roads including Milan (Platt) Road and Packard Roads. Platt Road was paved in the 1960s. Packard Road as late as 1955 was still a two-lane road with gravel shoulders and dust from the road settled over everything. There were many farms, large and small, including the Campbell farm on Platt Road, the Platt farm, the Nordman farm, the Swift farm, the Ticknor farm (now Cobblestone Farm), the Klager farm, the large Darling Dairy farm, all on Packard Road. Most of these farms were gone by the time I was a youngster. The farms that I related to the most were the Campbell Farm on Platt Road and the Klager Farm on Packard Road.



Mr. Klager working in a wheatfield (oldnews.aadl.org)

Andrew Campbell let us play in his hay loft as long as we did not damage anything in the barn. He also would take us on hay rides, let us skate on his property and swim in the gravel pit on the southwest corner of Platt Road and Ellsworth which Andy Campbell owned - now part of the City Landfill. There were three gravel pits in that area, the one mentioned above, another on the southeast corner of Platt and Ellsworth which is now the beautiful Robert A. Lillie Park.

On the Northwest corner behind the Campbell Home was Zahn's Gravel Pit, which is now part of the Southwest Area Park in Ann Arbor. At that time, the era of the Campbell Farm already had passed - along with its animals, its barns, etc., but the area left us with many memories.

The other farm on which we frequently played was Klager's farm. We had full use of the hills to the west of the farm house. The hills were a good source of delight to us as we could toboggan (made from a makeshift piece of tin which was curved at the end to make

it look like a toboggan), sled and ski. We all didn't have sleds or skis; but all that had them shared them. Our parents always knew where we were. It seems our ultimate destination in going down the hill was going under the fence and falling into Mallett Creek, which we called Klager Creek, or hitting the oak tree at the bottom of the hill.

Mallett Creek was on the boundary of Klager Farm. It went through the Nordman Farm on Packard, crossed Packard Road, circled the boundary of the Klager Farm, coming out at Edgewood, crossed Platt Rd.; circled Scheffier Park over to Washtenaw Avenue and then eventually flowed into the Huron River.

I have other memories of that farm. I can still see my Dad swinging a covered milk pail, going down the street to the farm and getting milk for us to drink. When I would go with him, I would sneak out to the barn and watch the cows being milked by hand; later electric milking machines were used. This farm will always be a part of the history of this area. ■

The First Courthouse Cases



George Burke Jr & Luella Smith view the first Criminal Case History Book, March 1948 (oldnews.aadl.org)

George James Burke Jr. was an Ann Arbor attorney who wrote the following article for the WCHS newsletter in June 1949. His dad, George James Burke Sr., was one of the judges during the Nuremberg Trials and the prosecuting attorney of Washtenaw County from 1911-1914.

If there is anything of interest or value in what follows, full credit must be given to the Pioneer Society of Washtenaw County who in 1881 appointed a Historical Committee that compiled and published a complete and exhaustive history of the development and evolution of our County. And also to that very fine lady who is our capable County Clerk, Mrs. Louella Smith, who most obligingly resurrected musty and dusty files, journals and ledgers, so

that I could have the benefit of the original criminal records of the County.

The records disclose that the first trial to be held in Washtenaw County was in the year 1827. The forum was the County Court for the Territory of Michigan, Honorable Samuel Dexter presiding. The only lawyers mentioned in the account of this session had to be supplied from abroad. The names of Joseph W. Tong, O. D. Richardson and B. F. H. Witherell only are given. These three took at this time the oath as attorneys and counselors-at-law. Of Mr. Tong I learn nothing else. Mr. Richardson was from Pontiac, Mr. Witherell from Detroit.

It may be of interest to review the first indictment returned in Washtenaw County; it reads as follows:

Michigan Territory County Court of the County of Washtenaw. At the January term in the year of our Lord, 1827, the Grand Jurors of the United States of America, inquiring in and for the body of the County of Washtenaw, aforesaid, upon their oaths present that Erastus Priest, late of the County of Washtenaw, aforesaid in the Year of our Lord 1827, at Ann Arbor, in the County and Territory aforesaid, did then and there sell for money, rum, and wine by less quantity than one quart; he, the said Erastus Priest, then and there not having a license or permit to keep a tavern, against the peace and dignity of the United States of America and against the statute of the Territory of the State of Michigan in such cases made and provided.

Upon the reading of the indictment, a jury was empaneled, and the case proceeded to trial. The people presented seven witnesses to appear against the Defendant while only one witness testified in his behalf.

Twenty-two grand jurors including E. W. Rumsey, one of the first settlers of Ann Arbor, returned a true bill against Priest for selling liquor without a license. A petit jury of 12 including Eldridge Gee, the first settler to the county, heard the case, and after being out two hours returned a verdict of not guilty.

According to the records of the clerk, "The case was advocated ably by the respective attorneys. The jury retired about two hours and said severally that the Defendant was not guilty." While not wishing to detract from the able presentation of the case on the part of the Counsel for the Defendant, the record shows that the

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Defendant himself was not lacking in enterprise: because when the Court found itself embarrassed for lack of accommodations in which to dispense justice the defendant courteously offered his own dwelling for that purpose. And it would take a hanging jury indeed to convict a man in his own parlor.

There were no trials in the year 1828. In 1829 the county territorial court was again held in the village of Ann Arbor and continued to hold regular sessions until 1836, when it was supplanted by the forerunner of our present Circuit Court. When the Court convened in 1829, one of the first prisoners to be hauled before the bar was our old friend, Erastus Priest, who this time had managed to get himself in a little more serious difficulty. The indictment charged that he had committed assault and battery upon a fellow citizen.

Mr. Priest, no doubt remembering his singular succession his previous appearance, demanded a jury trial and was promptly found guilty. Needless to add that on this occasion the trial was not held in his home. It appeared, however that sentence, a twenty dollar fine, was imposed while Defendant was out of the Court room. This, along with "other alleged errors" resulted in a reversal of the verdict and Mr. Priest was discharged from custody. ■

OLD RECORDS TELL OF FIRST CASES TRIED IN THIS COUNTY

One of the most interesting books in the county clerk's office is the Miscellaneous Records of Washtenaw County, 1827. The court convened at the house of Erastus Priest and the only case tried at the first term of court was against the man in whose house the court was held.

Daniel Brown was Priest's sole witness, and at the next session of the court Daniel Brown reappeared as defendant in the case of the United States of America vs. Daniel Brown. After two trials Brown was found guilty and fined \$25. The first jury not agreeing was sent out again and finally again reported late in the evening that it was unable to agree. The jurors were then discharged as it was found that there was but 11 of them in the words of the record, "David Scott having left the jury room without leave." David Scott was brought before the court for contempt next day but what was done with him has been very carefully erased from the record.

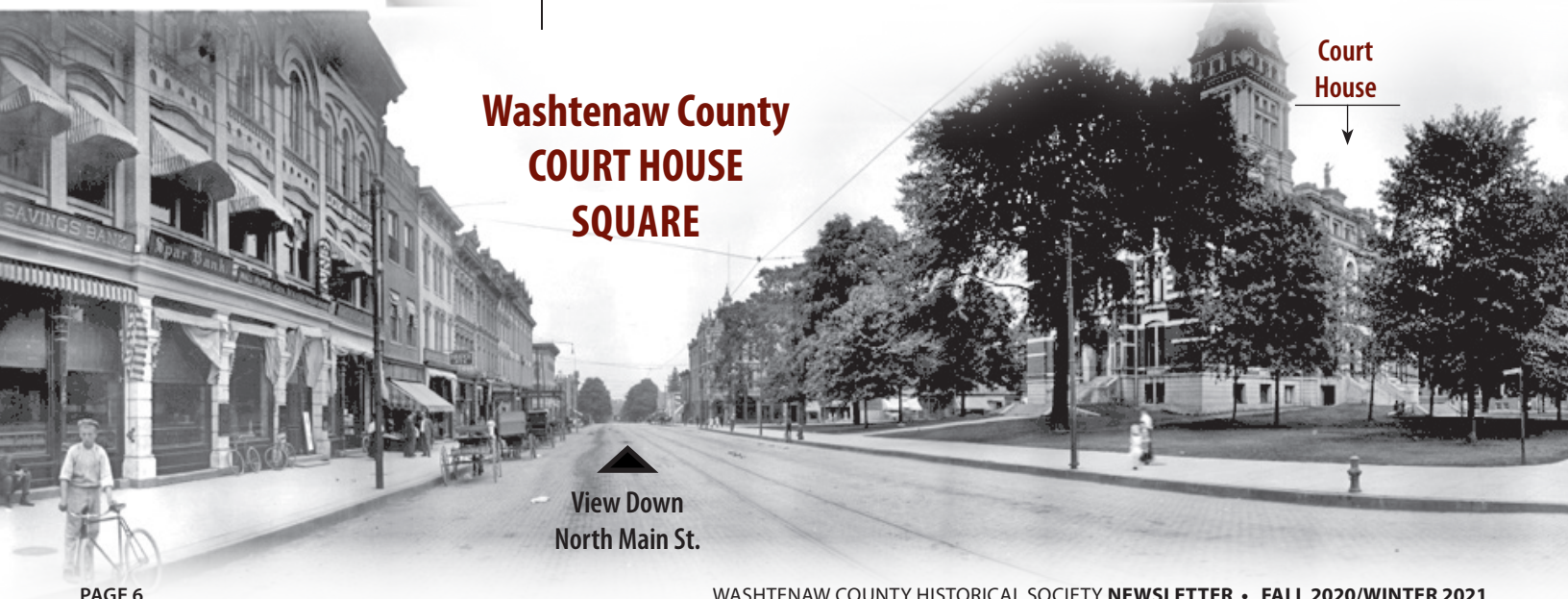
The first business of the court was the granting of licenses to keep a tavern. John Allen, Nathan Thomas and Benjamin F. Woodruff were granted licenses for such a purpose, and to retail "strong or spiritous liquors." Allen along with Elisha Rumsey were co-founders of Ann Arbor and Woodruff as the first settler near Ypsilanti and the first high sheriff of the county.

"The Rev. William Paige," says the record, "made application through his attorney for a license to celebrate the rites of matrimony. After producing his credentials, the court being satisfied, ordered said license."

There was trouble in locally trying the first civil suit ever tried in Washtenaw county. This suit was tried in the June term, 1827, and was entitled "Levi Hiscock vs. Daniel Brown." The jury was given permission to bring in a sealed verdict by consent of the parties. The record continues, "The jury empaneled in the case came in as ordered with a sealed verdict, to wit, 'no partnership' and was dismissed. Whereupon the material matter not being tried the court ordered a new jury empaneled." The second jury brought in a verdict of \$92.72 for the plaintiff. The plaintiff was the uncle of President Charles E. Hiscock of the Ann Arbor Savings bank and the defendant was the father of Mrs. Martha M. Wilder of Kingsley street. ■

Source: Obituaries, Deaths, Marriages, Birthdays, and Notices from Washtenaw County Newspapers, 1840-1909, Contributed by S. Brevoort

1907 panoramic view of the intersection of North Main and Huron in Ann Arbor with horses and wagons, bicycles, and pedestrians. (loc.gov)



Washtenaw County COURT HOUSE SQUARE

View Down
North Main St.

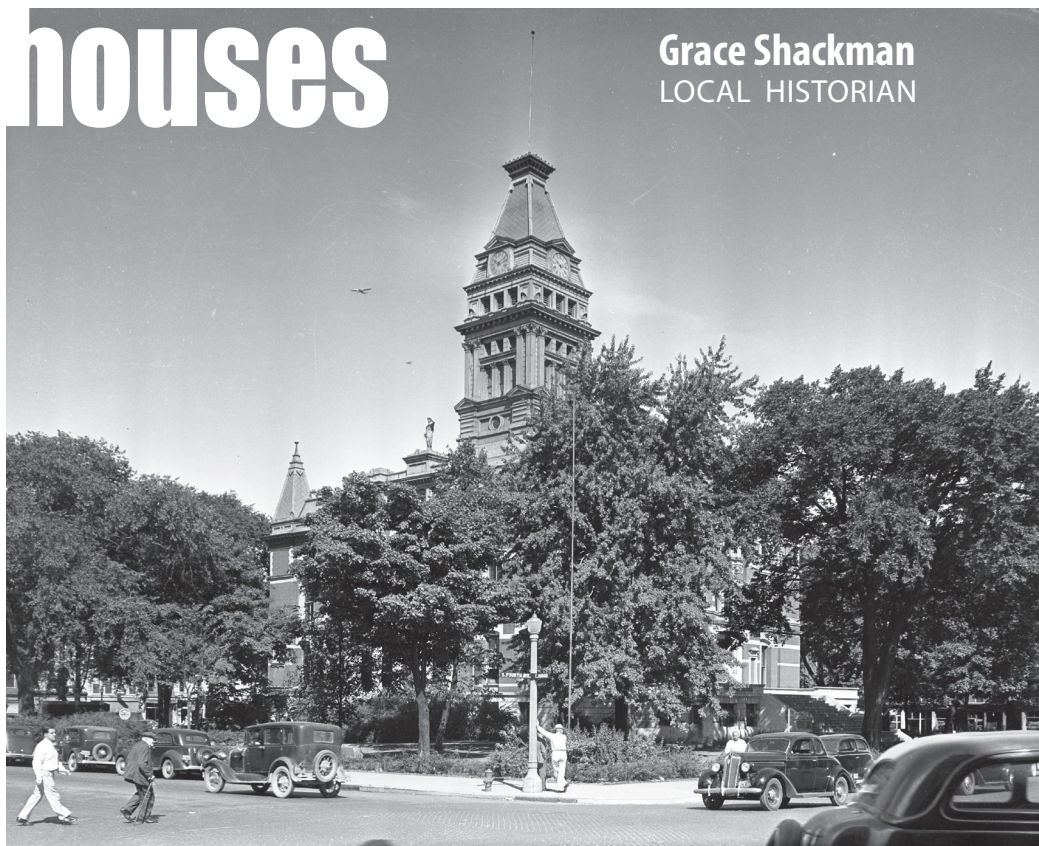
The Court

Grace Shackman
LOCAL HISTORIAN

#1

Just two weeks after John Allen and Elisha Rumsey founded Ann Arbor in 1824, Allen offered the state government free land for a courthouse. Though the site, at the corner of "Huron" and "Main" on the partners' map, was uncleared wilderness, the state accepted, and designated Ann Arbor as the county seat. Completed in 1834, the first courthouse in Washtenaw county stood at the Ann Street side facing the Courthouse Square.

The courthouse was built a decade later by John Bryan, an early settler of Ypsilanti, at a cost of \$5,350. It was a two-story building of brown-painted brick. On top was a cupola with a bell. The courtroom was upstairs, and the downstairs was rented to lawyers. Smaller one-story structures flanked the courthouse - one for the county clerk, the other for the register of deeds. The painted brick structure was razed in 1878.



#2

The new courthouse, designed by G. W. Bunting, cost \$88,000, and was far more ostentatious than the modest structure of 1834. Perched in the middle of the square, surrounded by a grassy lawn full of shade trees, the red brick building trimmed with limestone stood three stories high and was topped with a seven-story clock tower. There were smaller towers at each corner and a statue of Justice above each of the four entrances.

The inside of the courthouse was as splendid as the outside. According to Milo Ryan's autobiography "View of a Universe," all of the four doors entered into the same central lobby. From there grand staircases ascended between carved railings, of some dark wood deep-hued with stain and, probably, dust. On the main floor very tall doors opened into vast high-ceilinged offices, their walls lined with shelves of large books."

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Cook
House

Farmers &
Mechanics
Bank

Glazier
Building

View Down
East Huron St.

View Down
South Main St.

W. Huron St.

The new courthouse, like the original, was a center of community events. Memorial Day parades started there. Fourth of July programs were held on the grounds, and summer band concerts. Visiting celebrities, including William Jennings Bryan, spoke from the courthouse steps. When no events were scheduled, workers ate lunch there, children played around the war memorial on the lawn, and others exchanged gossip on warm summer evenings.

The second courthouse served the county for over seventy years. But like the first, it eventually became too small as Washtenaw County continued to grow. Micki Crawford, recently retired as chief deputy county clerk, remembers that when she began work for the county in 1950, the nineteenth-century courthouse was crowded, unsafe, and inefficient. "It may have been beautiful, but it was no joy to work in," she recalls. Clerk's forms were stored in the hallway. Records were kept under the stairs. Rats and mice were a problem. And most seriously, it was no longer felt to be safe from fire. The seven-story clock tower had been removed in 1948 because there were fears it might topple. The Main Street entrance was closed because the steps were in such bad shape.

County residents and officials offered various solutions. One was to build the new courthouse on the site of the County Infirmary (now County Farm Park), or at Vets Park. Most residents, though, wanted the courthouse to stay in the center of town, near the title companies and law offices. What really cinched the decision to put the new courthouse on the same downtown site was the discovery that under the terms of the original grant, if the courthouse land was sold for another use, the proceeds would go to John Allen's heirs, not to the county.

In the whole debate, no one seems to have mentioned the possibility of keeping the 1877 courthouse and renovating it. But in the age before

preservation became a common cause, replacement seemed the only option. Mayor William Brown, speaking in favor of a new courthouse, demonstrated the assumptions of the era perfectly: "The present courthouse was built before the turn of the century. Need I say more?"

#2

Again, it took two elections for the voters to approve the necessary funds. Voted down in 1950, the new courthouse was approved in 1955. The final plan, designed by architect Ralph Gerganoff of Ypsilanti, cleverly addressed the problems of parking and having to move twice, which had worried

proponents of the other sites. The new courthouse would be built around three sides of the existing one, which would continue functioning until the new one was finished. Then the old would be torn down and that space used for parking.

The project worked as envisioned. Helen Rice, who was working at the courthouse at the time, remembers, "I could open my window and reach out about twelve inches and touch the new building." Much of the move was effected by employees handing materials out the old windows into the new. ■



RECORDS ON SHEEPSKIN UNCOVERED

Mrs. Helen A. Rice is shown microfilming a 128-year-old land grant uncovered among old county records at the Courthouse. The grant, signed by President John Quincy Adams on Feb. 1, 1927, gave property in what is now Pittsfield township to James Aray. The document is one of more than 150 uncovered. February 1955 (oldnews.aadl.org)



Want to Learn More about Courthouse Square? Take a Walk Downtown



The **Downtown Ann Arbor Historical Street Exhibit Program** is a series of permanent sidewalk historical exhibits at several landmark sites throughout downtown, UM Campus and lowertown Ann Arbor. The first exhibit, "Courthouse Square", installed in 1999, illustrates the hustle and bustle of town life that once centered on Courthouse Square. Subsequent exhibits throughout the downtown showcase the city's artistic heritage and the roles of business, banking, manufacturing and education in shaping the community. The panels in front of the Court house at Huron and Main Street give viewers a sense of what it was like on that corner in the year 1878.

WCHS Membership 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic brought our 2020 plans for programs and exhibits to a screeching halt. We were looking forward to a program about the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment with historian Susan -, a tour and talk at the beautifully restored Starkweather Chapel in Ypsilanti's Highland Cemetery with Barry LaRue, and a presentation by historian Matthew Siegfried about Native American History in Washtenaw County. We were looking forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of the house being moved from 1015 Wall Street to 500 N. Main to become the Museum on Main Street. We had exhibits planned to celebrate the local story of women's suffrage and toys and dollhouses for the holidays. And most of all, we were looking forward to seeing you.

The exhibit, "The Women's March to the Ballot Box" was re-created for digital viewing online at washtenawhistory.org. A second high density storage unit was installed and every artifact that is onsite will now have a secure and protective home. That project should take all winter. Plans are still in place for the first exhibit when re-opening safely is possible. Guest exhibitor, The International Dinnerware Museum always curates educational and beautifully creative exhibits.

As a volunteer board-directed organization, the Washtenaw County Historical Society has been preserving and celebrating the heritage of our communities since 1857. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which receives no federal, state, or local funding, the support of our members is important to us, and essential to the mission we serve. The Society is truly thankful to our members, especially this year. Some of you have already renewed before the renewal letter has gone out and what a gift that has been to collecting, preserving and sharing history.

Memberships and tax-deductible donations make this work possible. They keep our educational programs, school outreach and exhibits free and open to the public. They also support the stewardship of important historic properties like the Museum on Main Street. Please join or renew your WCHS membership – where the focus has been – for the last 163 years – on the preservation, interpretation and community engagement with local history.

Membership Benefits include:

- 4 issues of the WCHS newsletter, *Impressions*
- Seasonal educational programs, talks, walks and tours
- Behind-the-scenes house tour of the Museum on Main Street
- Free parking when visiting the Museum on Main Street or the Argus Museum
- Connecting to and working with others who have a passion for local history

For more information, feel free to contact the Society at 734-662-9092 or email wchs-500@ameritech.net with any questions. A membership renewal letter with a return envelope will arrive soon or you can renew online 24-7, 365 days a year at washtenawhistory.org.



FOCUSED LOCALLY

Located inside of the CVS Drug Store at 2100 W. Stadium in Ann Arbor, you will find a tall rack of local history books by the greeting card section. These are written by local authors.



Ask Our Historian at washtenawhistory.org

Susan Wineberg, WCHS board member, author and local historian, has been answering your questions about local history. If Susan does not know the answer, she can point you in the direction of the resources or people who might be able to help in your research.

Submit your question online at washtenawhistory.org or email it with the subject line "history question" to wchs-500@ameritech.net. You can also mail your inquiry to Washtenaw County Historical Society, PO Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Doing the Work and Planning for the Future

As one Argus Museum donor stated, "Keep up the good work, and don't let covid19 get in the way!!!!" And, that is what we've been trying to do at the Argus Museum. Despite the continued closer of the Museum, we've been moving forward on projects and are planning for the future. We've made progress on relocating the collections and on scanning over-size documents which will soon be added to our online collections database found at: argusmuseum.pastperfectonline.com. Even the pandemic couldn't stop the annual Argus Museum/Argus Collectors Group Fall Conference! We realized early on, that this conference would need to be different - changes and modifications had to be made, but we found ways to continue some of the conference traditions and discovered ways to enhance the conference, extend our outreach and encourage donations.

We had over 40 participants from more than 20 states and three countries for the virtual conference that took place October 9 and 10. (Ken and Judy Anderson of Melbourne, Australia won the award for crossing the most time zones.) The two-day event was jammed-packed!

In past years, a photography exhibit opening was the first event of the conference. Planning began over a year ago for the photography exhibit, "How Far Have We Come?". We felt that too much was invested to just call it off - artists' and our partner CameraMall's efforts and the importance of the message - commemorating the 19th amendment reflected in our time.

Fortunately, CameraMall recently relocated to a larger space which was designed to display photography. It is worth a trip to the store to see it.

The exhibit was well-done and the images were moving, thought-provoking and relevant. As in the past, participating photographers talked about their work on Saturday of the conference.

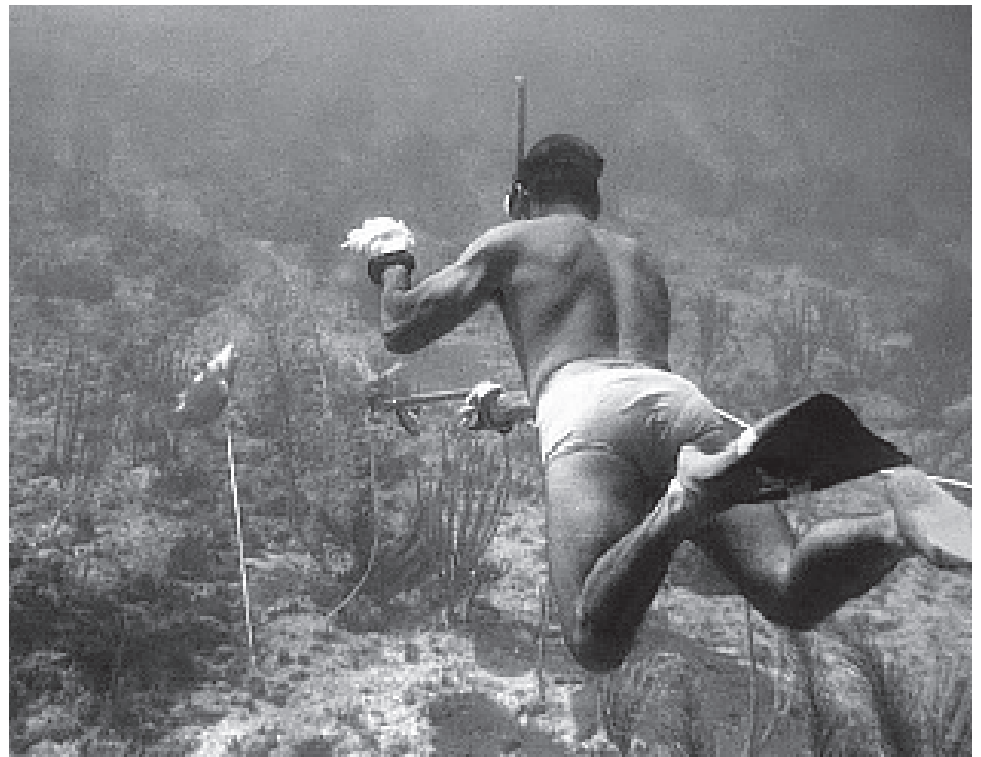
This year, the opening "event" was a half-hour tour of the Argus Museum. Many newer members, and some not-so-new members, have yet to visit the Museum and none were able to visit this year. The tour was followed by a virtual visit to check out CameraMall and to see the exhibit.

As in the past, we presented to members Argus Museum and WCHS board updates, interns and volunteers shared their projects (thank you Ashley Winbrough Holsomback and Nate Coryell), and members talked about their recent projects, research and finds.

Bob Kelly (Racine, Washington) presented Hand Held and Camera Mounted Argus Light Meters and Phil Sterritt (Denver, CO) shared his knowledge about Argus darkroom equipment. Mike Reitsma and Pam Buckley (Burlingame, CA) talked about underwater housing for Argus cameras and the story of Francisco "Paco" Güell, a Cuban immigrant, deep-sea diver and a photographer who is "a (Argus) C3 man from the heart". (We hope to create a small display in the Argus Museum about his story.)

Michigan Photographic Historical Society's Cindy Motzenbecker (Royal Oak, MI) entertained us with her informative presentation on occupations depicted in tintypes from iron salesmen, to ice-cutters and weavers.

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Francisco "Paco" Güell, a Cuban immigrant, deep-sea diver and a photographer who is "a (Argus) C3 man from the heart".



"My Hometown seen through the Lens of an Argus Film Camera" - The Winning Photograph

Although slightly modified, another tradition that continued is the photography competition. The theme, "On my way to Ann Arbor", was instead, "My Hometown seen through the Lens of an Argus Film Camera". While there was a four-way tie before the final push to vote, Wesley Furr (Bridgewater, VA) took the prize with this picture of tractors at the Rockingham County Fair, VA.

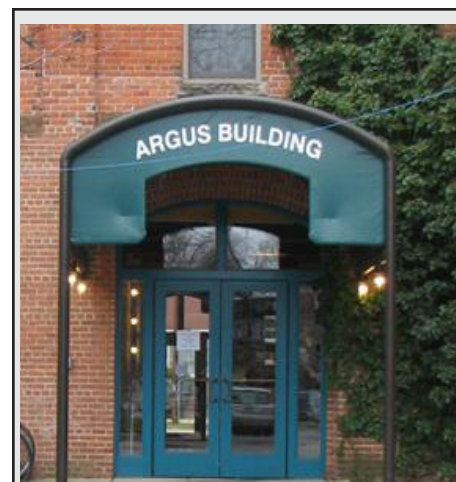
Another tradition, which was started during our first virtual "gathering", is a segment we call "getting to know our ACG members". On Saturday, Phil Sterritt of Colorado gave us a tour of his basement - a basement that is home to quite impressive photography equipment collection, which of course, includes many Argus products.

Putting on an event like this can be an overwhelming prospect. It wouldn't

have been nearly as successful, or even possible, without the dedication and generosity of Argus Museum and ACG members. As with our two past virtual "gatherings", Wesley Furr took on the role as our tech guru and Zoom host. As in past conferences, Bob Kelly acted as the monitor and auctioneer. Generous members who were willing to share their knowledge and donate funds and items in support of the Argus Museum played a significant role in, not only the success of the conference, but of the Argus Museum itself. The Argy_Eyes EBay account, established and managed by Mike Reitsma and Pam Buckley, continues to be successful generating funds for the Argus Museum. The account specializes in photography equipment, much of which is donated "finds" by Bob Kelly and Phil Sterritt. A check of \$5000 was presented to the Museum during the

conference. Conference and gathering donations of funds and equipment and purchases of Argus-related miscellany total nearly \$9,000. We also have received several Argus artifacts and archival materials for our collections. Thank you!

We are planning to hold a "winter gathering" - an afternoon of Argus - in February. Information will be available in early 2021 on the WCHS's Argus page (washtenawhistory.org/argus-museum), on the Argus Facebook page (facebook.com/ArgusMuseum) and on the Argus Collectors Group site (arguscg.org/). So, stay tuned... as always, all are welcomed to join us regardless of the extent of your Argus knowledge, so consider spending a winter afternoon with us. ■



The Argus Museum

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Check Out the Argus Museum Online Collections Database!

The Argus Museum features products manufactured by the Argus camera company and tells the stories of the company, the people involved and showcases unique collections connected to Argus. The museum is housed in one of the facilities where Argus products were manufactured. The Keyword Search button allows you to perform a general search across multiple fields for any catalog records online (We will be continuously adding more items to the site. argusmuseum.pastperfectonline.com)

2021 is the 76th Anniversary of the Flag Raising at Iwo Jima



There is – an Ann Arbor Connection

Joe Rodriguez, fifth from the left, first row, thumbs hooked in pockets, was one of the 18 survivors of E Company who made it to the top of the Mount Suribachi and had their picture taken by Associated Press Photographer Joe Rosenthal on February. 23, five days after the Marines landed on the island in 1945.

Moments later Rosenthal took the famous flag-raising shot, shown in insert. The company was in the second wave of Marines to hit the Iwo Jima each and lost 130 men in the first four days of fighting. (oldnews.aadl.org)

Chelsea Veterans Speak

Stories of Chelsea: WWII Veterans

Project collected the stories of Chelsea area WWII Veterans. Oral histories are from: Merle Barr, Ellis Boyce, Dan Ewald, Cameron Figg, Glen Geer, Jake Haag, John Hale, Howard Hascelschwardt, Carl Heldt, Phil Hume, Richard Kinsey, Duane Landwehr, Donna Lane, Leonard Lillard, Art Lindauer, Lester Miller & John Woodward, Norman O'Connor, Marcel Ramaut, Stephen Rogers, Alex Roskowski, Richard Schmidt, Dick White, George Winans storiesofchelsea.org/documentaries/wwii-veterans



Marie Clark, World War II pilot, holding her parachute ripcord (Ann Arbor News, May 1977)

Willow Run Workers Helped Win the War

Industrial architect Albert Kahn designed Willow Run Assembly Plant, one of the largest manufacturing plants under one roof in the world. Completed in early 1942, they produced 8685 B-24 Liberator Bombers and had a peak employment of 42,000 men and women.

The sheer amount of vehicular traffic was a catalyst for regional transportation expansions including one of the country's first triple-decker highway interchange. Learn more at gisappsecure.washtenaw.org/public/hp/willowrunstory/

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