

● Spring 2015

# Impressions

NEWSLETTER  
WASHTENAW COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Capturing the County!

“Capture” as defined by Webster means to emphasize, represent, or preserve in a more or less permanent form – at any such moment as a photograph might *capture*. It also means to represent or express something intangible; “to capture the essence of an industry and the people who made it happen”. That is our goal for the next exhibit about early studio photographers in Washtenaw County at the Museum on Main Street. See page 9.

### The Washtenaw County Historical Consortium: a Gateway to Local History

Over 25 historical organizations and agencies throughout the county are on one website dedicated to promoting local history. The members represent historic homes, farms, depots, mills, churches, schoolhouses, the Detroit Observatory, museums with historical collections, and two libraries for historical or genealogical research. Check out [wchconsortium.org](http://wchconsortium.org).

### WCHS “Friends of History” Help to Answer Questions that Come Our Way

When people have a question about local history, the first place they turn to is not always the internet. The WCHS receives many questions and inquiries about Washtenaw County history.

We share these questions with our “friends of history” e-mail group and count on them to help find the answers. Friends include schools, museums, libraries, historical societies, historians, genealogists and folks who know their history and enjoy sharing the information. We appreciate those of you who volunteer your time, your knowledge and serve as a resource. If you have a question, give us a call at 734-662-9092 or send an email to [wchs-500@ameritech.net](mailto:wchs-500@ameritech.net) and we’ll try to find an answer.

**The WCHS is always interested in your feedback!** Whether you receive your issues of *Impressions* by e-mail or home delivery we would love to hear from you. Call 734-662-9092 or email [wchs-1000@ameritech.net](mailto:wchs-1000@ameritech.net).

### Washtenaw Railroads Fantasies & Facts

Since the first issue in 1943 *Impressions* has been filled with articles and papers written by some of the county’s most accomplished men and women. From University presidents and professors to public officials, scholars and historians to everyday citizens. On pages 4-6, you will read about the early history of the railroads in Washtenaw County in an article first published in March 1955. It was written by Ypsilanti’s first City Historian, Louis S. White (1887–1963). You can search and read past issues of *Impressions* at [washtenawhistory.org](http://washtenawhistory.org).

## Inside...

### Features

- 4 Washtenaw Railroads
- 9 Capturing the County:  
Early Photography in Michigan

### Highlights

- 2 Message from the President  
Congratulations Graduates!
- 8 The Argus Corner
- 10 Historic Ann Arbor
- 11 EMU Preservation Program
- 12 Spring Events & Programs

# WCHS

## BOARD OFFICERS

### President

Leslie L. Loomans

### Vice President

James E. Davis

### Treasurer

Patricia W. Creal

### Corresponding Secretary

Anita Toews

### Recording Secretary

Judith M. Chrisman

## BOARD MEMBERS

Joseph Cialdella

Tom Freeman

Emma Hawker

Dale Leslie

Karen Jania

Diana Mankowski, PhD

Jay Snyder

Jan E. Tripp

Susan Cee Wineberg

Cynthia Yao

## DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Richard L. Galant, PhD

*(Immediate past President)*

Dean Greb

Susan Kosky

Robert Yuhasz

## ADMINISTRATOR

Bev Willis, *Impressions* Editor

## MUSEUM DOCENT

### & GIFT SHOP MANAGER

John Kilar

## ARGUS COLLECTION CURATOR

Cheryl Chidester

## ADVISORS

Ina Hanel Gerdenich

David LaMoreaux

Louisa Pieper

Kay Williams

### *Impressions*

is published four times a year by the Washtenaw County Historical Society, a non profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – PRESERVATION

Preservation is a word used regularly by members of historical societies. Curators of historical collections are very concerned about preserving those artifacts for current and future generations. When I view an historic artifact in our collection, a thought nearly always occurs: how did this survive the ages when almost all others of its kind did not?

Perhaps someone, or a series of someones, say multiple generations of a family, purposely preserved an item because of its importance to their heritage. Unfortunately, all too often, a formerly important item ends up tucked away in the attic and at some point in its long history is discarded by new owners or distant relatives who do not perceive the value and importance to the family and the community.

There comes a time in our lives when we realize that plans need to be in place to preserve important artifacts so that future generations may learn from them and add to the understanding of earlier days in Washtenaw County. It's important work to be done.

*Les Loomans, President*

**The WCHS mission is to educate and inspire our community to engage in the preservation and presentation of area history.**

## Hands-on Opportunity for University of Michigan Students

In January 2013 the WCHS Exhibit Committee met with Ken Magee, a local collector and sports memorabilia shop owner, to talk about an idea for a guest exhibition in the Fall of that year.

Ken has an extensive University of Michigan football collection with many rare and one-of-a-kind items. While he had the content and the stories behind it, planning and mounting an exhibit was not something Ken had experience with. We encouraged him to contact the University of Michigan Museum Studies Program to see if there were any students who would be interested in working on this project with him.

Two students immediately recognized the opportunity to have real world, hands on experience in creating an exhibit and volunteered. From April-December 2013, Megan Boczar and Alicia Juillet co-curated "The Legacy of Michigan Football: Collection of a Super fan".

They worked with Ken to create the focus of the exhibit, selected artifacts and developed the exhibit to tell the story of the UM football program in a cohesive and streamlined manner.

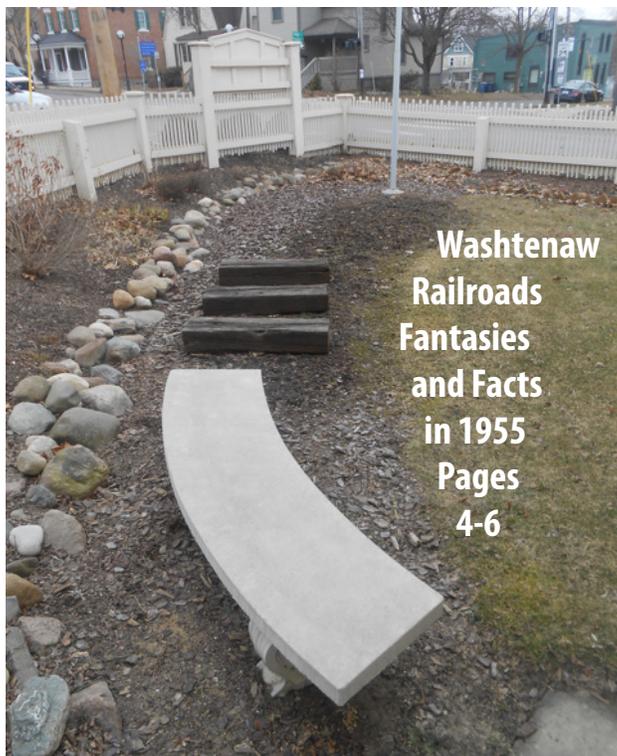


The exhibit was open through the last game of the season – Michigan vs Ohio. Ken invited Bo Shembachler's

son, Shemy and his wife Megan to stop by and see the exhibit. They both loved it and thought it truly captured the spirit of the Michigan Football tradition.

The Washtenaw County Historical Society also benefitted from this exchange. The exhibit was well-designed and very popular, bringing hundreds of people through the doors at the Museum on Main Street. Ken's rare and original 1902 program from the first Rose Bowl game was in a locked display case but an exact replica was available for people to read and look through. We were able to contribute an oversized photo of a full Michigan Stadium where people could guess which game it was and when.

The Historical Society wishes Megan Boczar and Alicia Juillet the very best as they graduate from the UM this spring!



Washtenaw  
Railroads  
Fantasies  
and Facts  
in 1955  
Pages  
4-6

## Pauline Walters Memorial Fund

The WCHS would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Pauline Walters Memorial Fund. She will always be appreciated and remembered for her generosity and willingness to help others. Pauline received the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission's 25th Anniversary Preservationist of the Year Award in 2013 'for 35 years of service to the preservation community. Contributions to the fund will support the continued preservation and care of the house she so loved and the historical society that calls it home. Donations may be sent to WCHS, P.O. Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

## Spring Arrives Where Three Streets Meet

Please take some time when you are near the corners of Main, E. Kingsley and Beakes streets. Stop by, sit on the bench and enjoy the beauty of the garden. Pauline particularly enjoyed adding to the collection of bulbs, flowers and trees. Each Spring brings surprises of colors and hues, vines and flowers and the fragrant scents of lilac and quince. Look for tulips, daffodils, forsythia, honeysuckle and climbing clematis. You will also see that the railroad ties have been placed in preparation for the installation of historic interurban trolley tracks that were revealed when the streets were recently repaired.

## In Memoriam – Rosemarion Blake (1923-2015)

Rosemarion was committed to the preservation of every facet of Ann Arbor history. Its stories, buildings and people. She was a member of the Washtenaw County Historical Society for over 23 years and served on the board of directors for several of those years. She was a member and chair of the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission and received a lifetime achievement award for local historic preservation in 2012. She was also a lifelong member of the Ann Arbor Historical Foundation and the Street Exhibit program. The Street Exhibit program has both free standing glass panels located in the city describing our history. One of the panels features a photo of a 1930s Bethel A.M.E. Sunday School class. Rosemarion is in that photo. As part of the annual historic school walking tours, Rosemarion would be positioned by that panel and share stories with the students.



She was also the first person interviewed in 2013 at the Ann Arbor District Library for the African American Cultural & Historical Museum of Washtenaw County's Living Oral History project. See it at [aadl.org/aachmvideos/rosemarion\\_blake](http://aadl.org/aachmvideos/rosemarion_blake)

She was so many things to so many people, however, if she was your friend – she was your friend without reservation. She was a great friend of history, and a great friend to me. *By Patricia Austin*

## The Museum on Main Street



*Museum Hours* **Saturdays & Sundays, 12 Noon–4 PM**  
**500 N. Main Street • Ann Arbor**

Also open by appointment, groups are welcome.

Call 734-662-9092 or email: [wchs-500@ameritech.net](mailto:wchs-500@ameritech.net)

**The Washtenaw County Historical Society**

P.O. Box 3336 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

WashtenawHistory.org  [facebook.com/washtenaw history](https://facebook.com/washtenawhistory)

# WASHTENAW RAILROADS Fantasies and Facts

By Louis S. White, Ypsilanti's first Historian

This article originally appeared in the March 1955 issue of *Impressions*

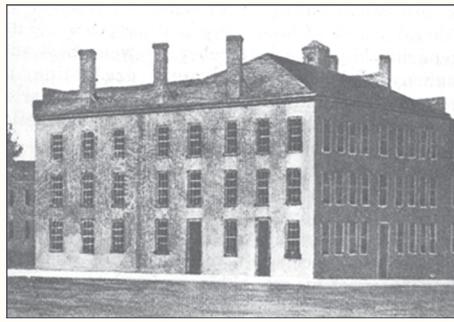
The golden age of railroad development in the eastern part of our country, covered a period from the early 1830s to about 1900. Reams have been written on the subject; millions have been made and millions lost. Some of these projects were successful, due to actual need and the sterling character of the men behind them, while others were failures, either by intention or lack of character on the part of the promoters.

The stories of the failures lie in musty newspaper files, in court records, and in our county and state histories. Occasionally flamboyant stock certificates will come to light testifying to the skillful persuasive ability of the seller and the gullibility of the purchaser. However, it has always been thus in many lines of endeavor in this land of free enterprise, and we could well be charitable and say that the promoters of the failures in railroad ventures had the best of intentions.

## Ypsilanti and Tecumseh Railroad

One of the most interesting of these fantasies, at least as it affected Ypsilanti, was the Ypsilanti and Tecumseh Railroad. It was incorporated by State Legislative Act No. 84, of 1838. Note that this makes it a contemporary of the Detroit and St. Joseph Railroad (later the Michigan Central) which started operation to Ypsilanti in the same year.

There is an interesting story concerning this incident. The Ypsilanti and Tecumseh Railroad acquired a depot site at the southwest corner of Adams and Cross Streets. It had been the general talk and belief that the Detroit and St. Joseph would pass through Ypsilanti on the west side of the Huron River and thus form a junction with the proposed Ypsilanti and Tecumseh Railroad.



*The Tecumseh Hotel in 1844*

Acting on this assumption, a group of citizens, including A. H. Ballard, Marcus Lane, Shubal Conant, DeGarmo Jones, and LeGrand Morse, formed the Detroit Land Co., and built a huge brick hotel. However, as to the busy and profitable junction of the two railroads, the gods willed otherwise. Mr. Mark Norris, a large land owner, miller and merchant of the east side, using his considerable influence, persuaded the builders of the Detroit and St. Joseph to buy his land and build thereon. This turn of events left the Ypsilanti and Tecumseh Railroad and the huge brick Tecumseh Hotel high and dry and with no visible means of support. No railroad, no patrons and the hotel failed.

## The Ann Arbor Railroad

The Ann Arbor Railroad or rather its ancestor, the Toledo, Ann Arbor and Northern Railroad Co., was incorporated on November 26, 1869. Probably no other railroad passed through so many changes in name and proprietorship as did this road. From 1869 to the present time, when we know it as part of the Wabash system, there have been 18 changes in name. Six of the companies built no actual road.

Probably the various aliases were assumed to escape the numerous legal entanglements which embarrassed the grandiose railroad schemes of those days. It was the custom to conduct whirlwind advertising campaigns, sell stock to individuals, towns, villages, and cities, then squeeze them out and buy up the stock at rock bottom prices.

However, the road was built by stages in somewhat this fashion: From Toledo, 5 miles by 1874; to Ann Arbor, 40 miles by 1878; to South Lyon, 15 miles by 1881; to Cadillac, 176 miles by 1886; and to Frankfort, 72 miles by 1897.

Not being very familiar with the Ann Arbor Railroad, except as I have observed it at Ann Arbor and Milan, I am not in a position to make many comments concerning it. One thing I have noted is that, in the bygone days of steam motive power, its locomotives were huge and its trains long, at least on its through service. Diesel power has now largely supplanted steam, as with most railroads.

## The Michigan Central Railroad

In early Michigan railroad history, the State Legislature settled on a plan providing for three routes across our state. They were known as the Northern, Central, and Southern routes. The northern was to start at Port Huron, the central at Detroit, and the southern at Monroe. All wandered westward, rather nebulously, in the general direction of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD.							
Passenger trains now leave Detroit, Chicago, and the several Stations in this County, as follows:							
<b>GOING WEST.</b>							
Leave	Day Ex.	Dext. Ac.	Eve. Ex.	Night Ex.	Day Ex.	Night Ex.	
Detroit,	10.00 A. M.	4.50 P. M.	6.30 P. M.	10.00 P. M.			
Ypsilanti,	11.20 " "	6.10 " "	7.40 " "	11.30 " "			
Ann Arbor,	11.40 " "	6.35 " "	8.00 " "	11.55 " "			
Dexter,	12.05 P. M.	7.10 " "	" "	" "			
Chelsea,	12.25 " "	" "	8.05 " "	" "			
Ar. Chicago	10.30 " "	" "	6.00 " "	10.30 A. M.			
<b>GOING EAST.</b>							
Leave	Eve. Ex.	Dext. Ac.	Night Ex.	Day Ex.	Day Ex.	Night Ex.	
Chicago,	5.40 P. M.	" "	10.00 P. M.	6.30 A. M.			
Chelsea,	" "	A. M.	7.40 A. M.	4.00 P. M.			
Dexter,	" "	6.15 " "	8.0 " "	4.20 " "			
Ann Arbor,	4.20 A. M.	6.45 " "	8.25 " "	4.45 " "			
Ypsilanti,	4.40 " "	7.10 " "	8.45 " "	5.05 " "			
Ar. Detroit,	6.00 " "	3.30 " "	10.00 " "	6.30 " "			
The Day Express each way is the Mail Train.							
Trains do not stop at stations where figures are omitted in the table.							
Trains connect at Detroit with the Great Western and Grand Trunk Railways of Canada, and the Detroit and Toledo, and Detroit and Milwaukee Railroads, and Cleveland Steamers.							
At the Company's Ticket Offices at Detroit, Chicago, Joliet and Lafayette, through tickets can be purchased to all the principal cities and towns in the United States and Canadas.							
LUXURIOUS SLEEPING CARS upon all night trains. Ruttan's celebrated Ventilating Apparatus upon all day trains—the best dust preventative in use.							
R. N. RICE, General Superintendent.							

The ancestor of the Michigan Central was a private corporation, the Detroit and St. Joseph Railroad, Co. This company purchased right-of-way and constructed the road as far as Dearborn in early 1837. In that same year the State of Michigan purchased the chartered rights and all the equipment of the Detroit and St. Joseph. Governor Stephens T. Mason assigned Commissioner David C. McKinstry, of the State Board of Internal Improvements, to make progress in the work on the central route. He at once busied himself in hiring engineers and getting the work underway.



*Pittsfield Junction in Pittsfield Township c. 1890. This crossing of the Ann Arbor RR track running ahead, and the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern RR track going left to right is 5 miles east of Saline MI.*

### First Passenger Train Arrives in Ypsilanti

Through the summer, autumn, and even into the early winter of 1837, third parties pushed their work with such great vigor, under the able direction of Commissioner McKinstry, that early completion of the work as far as Ypsilanti was assured. Thus on February 8, 1838, the first passenger train arrived in Ypsilanti. It was an event of more than ordinary importance, and preparation was made to celebrate it with befitting pomp and ceremony. The population was out en masse to witness the arrival of the train. The crude little locomotive, with cord wood piled high on the tender, was followed by the private car, "the Governor Mason" then by three cars of lesser elegance, and three rough cars improvised for the occasion.

Aboard the train were Governor Mason himself, many members of the Legislature, the Commissioners of Internal Improvements, numerous prominent citizens, and the Brady Guards of Detroit. The welcome was hearty but boisterous. General John Van Fossen, a prominent citizen of Ypsilanti, delivered to the Governor an official copy of a congratulatory address phrased in the exultant style of the day.

Present at all these "goings-on" was an 8-year old boy, Theodore E. Potter, of Saline, who in later life described the scene as follows:

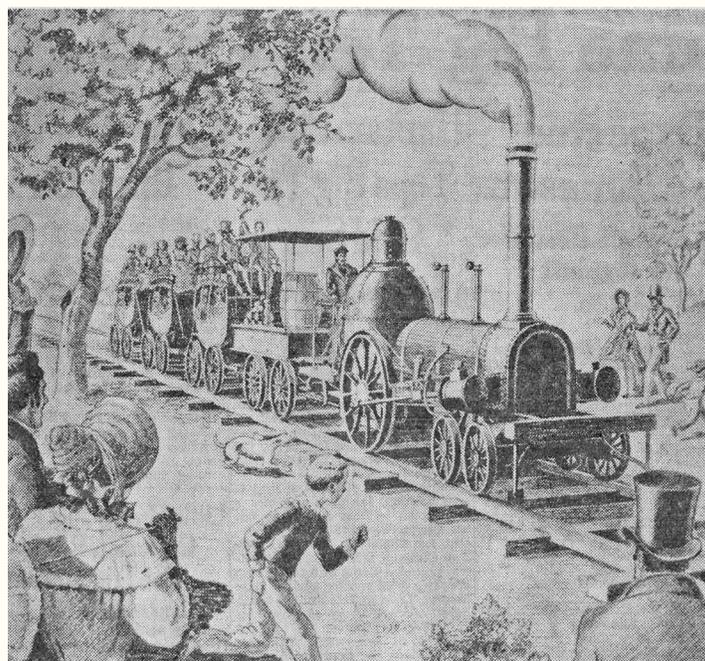
"My father went and took me with him, We found the one street finely decorated with flags and a brass band. We next visited the place where the ox was being roasted over a huge fire. Then we went to the depot to witness the arrival of the first train from Detroit, on which were the officers of the road, with General Lewis Cass and other prominent men. About two inches of snow had fallen and when the train came in sight, it presented the novel spectacle of two men sitting on opposite ends of a cross beam in front of the engine, holding large splint brooms to sweep the snow off the track. That was the first and original snow plow.

After the dinner of roast ox, baked potatoes, pumpkin pies and gingerbread, we all listened to many orations." On the return trip to Detroit, the engine came to a dead halt at Dearbornville and refused to be of any further service. Horses were procured and without further accident the men reached Detroit, benumbed with cold but burning with glory.

### First Passenger Train Arrives in Ann Arbor

On October 17, 1839, a big parade and celebration in Ann Arbor marked the arrival of the first passenger train there. People came from all around to witness the big event. Mr. James Kingsley of Ann Arbor extended a welcome to the visitors. The line of march for the parade was up Detroit St. to Fourth, then to William, to Main, and north to the public square. Taking part again were the Detroit Brady Guards, the Washtenaw Guards, and the Pittsfield Riflemen. Mr. Thomas Mosely was Marshall of the Day.

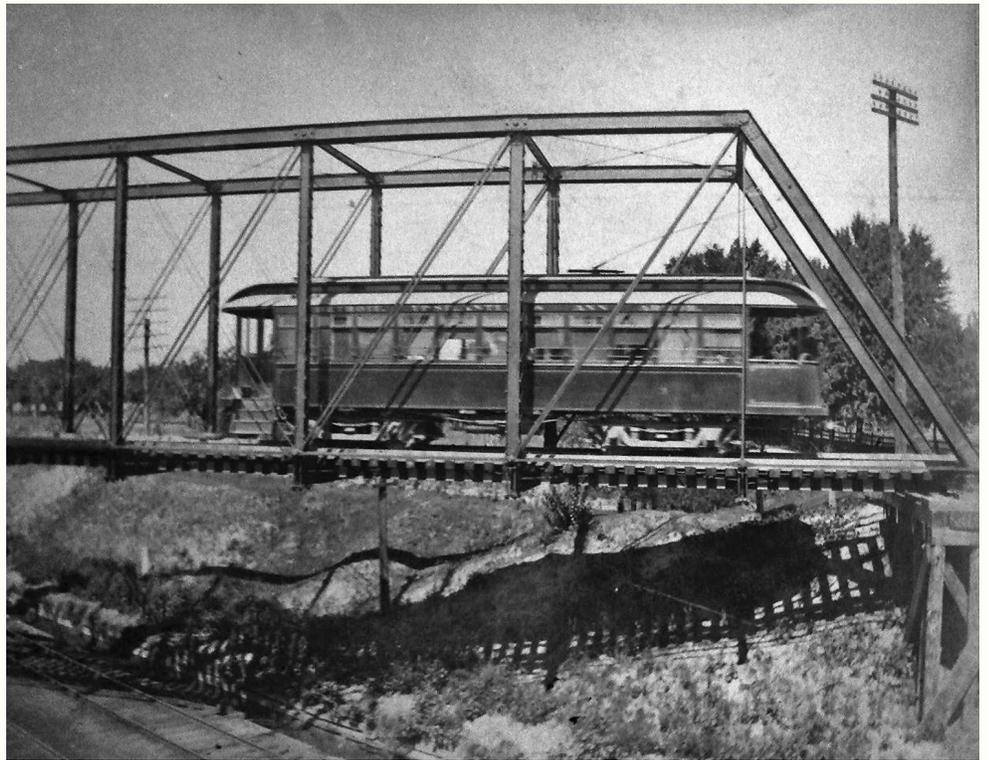
*(Continued on page 6)*



*Illustration of the first train arriving in Ann Arbor is from the Western Immigrant, printed on October 23, 1838. Printed in an Ann Arbor News article on November 7, 1939 about the first train arriving 100 years ago.*

The Michigan Central Railroad Co. acquired the Central Railroad from the State of Michigan on September 23, 1846. The price was \$2,000,000. The road was completed to Dexter, June 30, 1841; to Albion, June 25, 1844; to Marshall, August 12, 1844; to Battle Creek, November 25, 1845; and to Kalamazoo, February 2, 1846. The construction thus far was done by the State of Michigan. After the purchase by the Michigan Central Railroad the road was completed to Niles in the Autumn of 1848; to New Buffalo in the spring of 1849; to Michigan City in the Winter of 1850; and to Chicago in May, 1852. The last stage was interrupted by many legal battles concerning charters. Abraham Lincoln participated in some of these court actions.

Since this is not a history, but merely a dissertation on Railroads, we will merely add that the Michigan Central has progressed through the years to "double tracking", "automatic block signals" to automatic train control, and now to Diesel power supplanting the beloved "iron horse" steam locomotive. An improvement now in service on some parts of the New York Central and to be expected elsewhere is CTC - Centralized Traffic Control. By this system, one man may control the movement of many trains and the necessity of multiple tracks is eliminated.



*An interurban streetcar operated by the Detroit, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor Railway, successor to the Ypsi-Ann, races over the Michigan Central Railroad east of Michigan Center.*

the new station, turn around and come out "head first," instead of backing up Washington St. A new car barn and yard along Harriet St., from Washington to Adams, were also completed.

On November 20, 1896, the electric car made its first trial trip, and burned out a generator. The Steam Motor Line ceased operating and the electric car made

its first scheduled trip to Ann Arbor on Thursday, November 26, 1896. The first car on the new electric line from Detroit to Ypsilanti ran to Dearborn, December 24, 1897.

On Saturday, Sept. 8, 1898, the first trip by electric car took place from Wayne to Ypsilanti. The small "Ypsi-Ann" car was used. The trip was made about every two hours.

## The Underground Railway

### Electric Railroads

On January 9, 1891, the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Street Railway Co. began operating what was popularly known as "The Steam Motor Line" between Ypsilanti and the Ann Arbor city limits. At that point passengers were transferred to the cars of the Ann Arbor Electric Street Railway and conveyed into the city. Later in the same month arrangements were completed whereby passengers were carried into Ann Arbor by the Motor Line, thus affording better service.

By September 1892, a track down South Washington St., in Ypsilanti had been completed so that trains could go to

Although not technically "railroad history", this subject is figuratively so closely related that the following description of routes in operation locally between 1840 and 1860 (taken from a May, 1885, issue of *The Ypsilantian*) will be of interest.

One route entered Michigan in Cass County, the first station being the Quaker Settlement, thence to Cassopolis and Climax, to Battle Creek, where Erastus Hussey had charge. From Battle Creek it followed the route of the Michigan Central to Marshall, in charge of Jabez S. Fitch; Albion,

Edwin L. Johnson, agent; Parma, Townsend E. Gidley; Jackson, Lauson Wilcox and Norman Allen; Michigan Center, Abijah Fitch; Francisco, M. Francisco; Dexter, Samuel W. Dexter; Scio, Theodore Foster; Ann Arbor, Guy Beckley and Jacob Volland; Geddes, Richard Glazier. Thence to Plymouth and Detroit to Canada. Many however by Ypsilanti, Trenton, and Grosse Isle.

Another route entered from Ohio to Adrian, where Mrs. Laura Haviland had charge; thence to Tecumseh, with R. L. Hall; thence to the Quaker Settlement in Ypsilanti Township; thence to Detroit.

# New in the Gift Shop

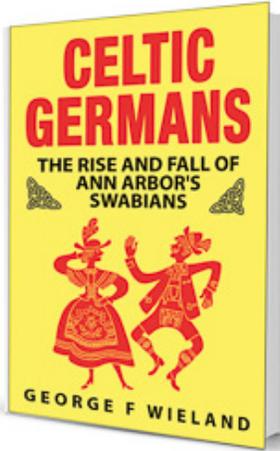
By John Kilar

## Celtic Germans: The Rise and Fall of Ann Arbor's Swabians

Ann Arbor is famous for the University of Michigan and its 43,000 students. Not known by many is that the city was once very German.

Author George Wieland, a social psychologist, describes how the peculiar mentality of the Germans affected their lives locally. Ann Arbor's Germans came from the Swabian part of Germany where they had earlier mixed with the Celts of the Roman Empire. This made Swabian Germans shorter and darker, more spiritual, and more individualistic, than other Germans.

Wieland illustrates these traits using many personal interviews. One individualistic child of immigrants, for example, describes using a wall to practice fielding a baseball or returning a tennis ball. No need for other players.



Traces of the former Swabian dominance in town can still be found. The book provides information on the five local museums of German life as well as other points of interest to today's visitor, including churches with German inscriptions, part of their stained glass windows. All around are the Oktober-fests, summer beer-fests, and few German drinking and eating places. The book contains over 160 illustrations in 10 pages. There is a full index and over 300 references in German and English for further reading.

In addition to books, there are over 120 other items such as post cards, maps, prints, coffee cups, knickknacks, earrings, bracelets, children's books, cozy throws and even a Hummel. Proceeds from the Gift Shop sales support the Society's programs.

The Gift Shop is open during exhibit hours and by appointment. You can also purchase many of the items online at [washtenawhistory.org](http://washtenawhistory.org). If you have any questions, email [wchs-500@ameritech.com](mailto:wchs-500@ameritech.com).

# Preservation of the Most Significant WCHS Artifact

If you have driven, walked or biked by the Museum on Main Street you probably have noticed the peeling paint on the exterior walls. It's to be expected, the house has no gogging for insulation, no vapor barrier and the wood is old. If the house was built in 1835 and is 180 years old, the wood is more than 200 years old. It is one of a handful of pre-Civil War buildings remaining in the city.

But this old house is full of life when young kids walk through with their classmates or families. This house is full of life when visitors share their memories as they view the exhibits.

Our job is to protect, maintain and preserve this architectural gem. The membership dues and kind donations of our supporters, enable us to do that work.

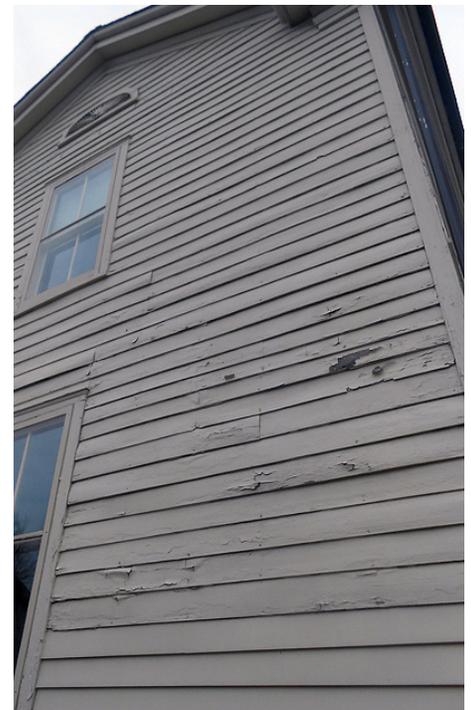
We are dedicated to the care of what the community has entrusted us with - a historical building with an extensive heritage. We encourage you to contact the WCHS if you have any questions.

## The Family Bible: Art • History • Function



When this exhibit closed, more than 250 people had visited the Museum on Main Street to see it. Over thirty Bibles and other family artifacts were on display to help illuminate the history of the Bible in the United States. They provided a peek into the devotional lives of the county's residents, and along with other objects from the collection, served as a jumping off point for presenting the story of some of the county's prominent families.

The Bible was the most printed, distributed, and read book in the United States through the 19th century, and nearly every family owned a Bible for education and devotion. Many Bibles also contain the county's earliest civic and genealogical records, offering elements of family history for those who settled Washtenaw County. We appreciate the feedback from those who attended.



# The Argus Corner

By Cheryl A. Chidester,  
Argus Museum Curator/WCHS

As usual, we at the Argus Museum have been busy. The museum kicked off its 2015 photography exhibitions on February 12th with the opening of *Sextant: Navigating the Visual* with work by the Renegades with an Argus Group (RWAG). RWAG is a fluid group of artists interested in analog image-making seen through an Argus camera. The concept for this show explores the idea of navigation and measuring in quadrants with each member as a quadrant. The artists, Dan David, Erin Gordish, Katrine Hofman, Brian Jamieson, Deborah Kingery, Kelsey Kistler, Kylen Palmer and Adrian Wylie, explore both earthly and celestial maps utilizing the Argus camera as their metaphorical Sextant. Despite the frigid weather, the opening was well-attended and festive. Guests' feedback complimented the exhibition, the museum and the event in general. The exhibition is available for viewing 9-5, M-F through April 10th. Images are for sale; a portion of the profits is being donated to the Argus Museum.

**Research is an aspect of museum work**, whether to identify an artifact, establish provenance, to write display descriptions or to answer questions. Questions come from museum members, those writing articles for publication or someone who is just trying to operate an Argus slide or movie projector for a family reunion. Often it is someone who, while conducting research, military or camera-related, discovers the Argus Museum. We pride ourselves doing all we can to

inform (and to promote the museum). If the answer cannot be discovered in the museum's collections, there are dedicated members who specialize in various facets of Argus and are willing to give of their time and knowledge. Thank you to those members.

**Because the Argus Museum's collections are continually growing**, additional shelving units for the museum's storage room were recently purchased. The assembly for the heavy metal shelving required volunteer assistance. Luckily, returning volunteers were in town for two weeks in February! Parisians (and granddaughters of Joe and Karen O'Neal), Britton, Austen and Nella Hoffer assisted in the project. They also helped with storage room organization and filing.

**Volunteers are vital to the success of the Argus Museum.** We are looking for volunteers for several projects, including construction of interactive displays, accessioning collections, conducting oral histories and hosting special events. Please contact Cheryl Chidester at: [cchidester@onealconstruction.com](mailto:cchidester@onealconstruction.com) or at: 734-769-0770.

If your group is interested learning more about the Argus Story and scheduling tours of the museum. Contact Cheryl for details.

**The Argus Museum** documents the history of the Argus Camera Company. It is located on the second floor of 535 W. William St, inside the Argus I Building. The museum is open M-F 9-5, or by appointment. Extended hours are available for special events. 734-769-0770. Donations are welcome.

## Upcoming Argus Events



### April 22

The Argus Museum will host the University of Michigan Faculty-wise Antique Club. A lecture and tour will be given by Cheryl.

### May 1

*Cheap Shots II – Blurred, Not Shaken*, New exhibit opens featuring work by the Ann Arbor Area Crappy Camera Club (A3C3). The A3C3 is a returning group; their work is of high caliber and well-worth the effort to view the show.

## Dexter Area Museum Events - May 1 & 2

**Friday, May 1** – The Dexter Area Museum opens for the season. Hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 1-3 PM and by appointment. This year's featured exhibit will be *Clothing Through the Ages*. **Friday Evening** – 7-9 PM the Dexter Area Historical Society will hold an Open House and Fund Raiser for the Museum. Cost is \$25 per ticket. **Call 734-426-2519**  
**Email: [DexMuseum@aol.com](mailto:DexMuseum@aol.com)**

**Saturday May 2 – DuMouchelle Appraisal Clinic** at the Dexter Area Museum, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, 3443 Inverness St. Call 734-424-9998 to schedule an appointment.

## Chelsea Area Historical Society has a Home

The vision of the Chelsea Area Historical Society is to provide area residents a dynamic interaction with its history and heritage. They now have a place to tell that story: the historic 1853 Boyd house at 128 Jackson Street, Chelsea. The Boyd house is an ideal location for the organization's permanent home. It sits directly across the street from Chelsea's landmark depot. Plans are to get everything settled in with a goal of opening the doors - hopefully no later than spring 2015. **Call 734-476-2010**  
**E-mail: [info@chelseahistory.org](mailto:info@chelseahistory.org)**



**New Exhibit  
Opens 5/17**

Edward I. Thompson's Reo Auto on whose running board he proudly sits in October 1910. In the automobile are his wife Henrietta Margel Thompson (1875-1942) in the front seat and Blanche Root (Mrs. J. Atherton) Marris (1874-1961) in the left rear. The other woman is unidentified. Thompson (1863-1953) was an Ypsilanti businessman with his father O.E. Thompson. In the background is the photo booth out of which the photographer undoubtedly worked. (*Ypsilanti Historical Society*)

## Capturing Washtenaw County – The Art and Business of Early Photography

Much of what we know of the county's past is from the documents of early settlers including oral histories, newspaper articles, diaries, journals and letters. Some of the earliest records date to the settlement of the community in the 1820s. These materials and much more are housed in the archives of the state of Michigan, the Bentley Historical Library and other institutions.

Much of what we know of the visual appearance—our buildings, residents and events—can be attributed to local photographers. It is their visual documentation dating from the late 1850s that provides us with a view of what we looked like as a community.

The oldest known Ann Arbor photograph is a daguerreotype showing the

staff of the Michigan Argus, the city's Democratic weekly newspaper, circa 1850. Editor and publisher L. W. Cole is in the center of the picture in black suit and top hat, surrounded by his youthful staff in rolled-up shirtsleeves. It's on the front of this issue of *Impressions*.

We know that more than a few photographers established studios downtown. They spent as much or more time outside of their studio photographing landscapes, street scenes and newsworthy events. The work of these men and women was often anonymous and uncredited. Studio photographers would sometimes emboss their name on the corner of a portrait. Some also had elaborate and ornately decorated backs. Landscapes and street scenes rarely were marked.

This exhibit will open your eyes to what it was like to be in the photography business back in its early days of the industry. You'll learn about local photographers; how to date and identify physical features that give clues to photo identification; and how a local company's camera changed the industry by putting a 35 MM camera in the hands of the masses. You can even take your own family portraits or selfies in our salon setting.

### Do You Have Something to Share?

As always, we welcome member input. If you have photographs of the County or information about its early photographers email the exhibit committee at [wchs-1000@ameritech.net](mailto:wchs-1000@ameritech.net) or call 734-662-9092.

# Historic Ann Arbor

## An Architectural Guide

On a Sunday Afternoon  
with Susan Wineberg  
and Patrick McCauley

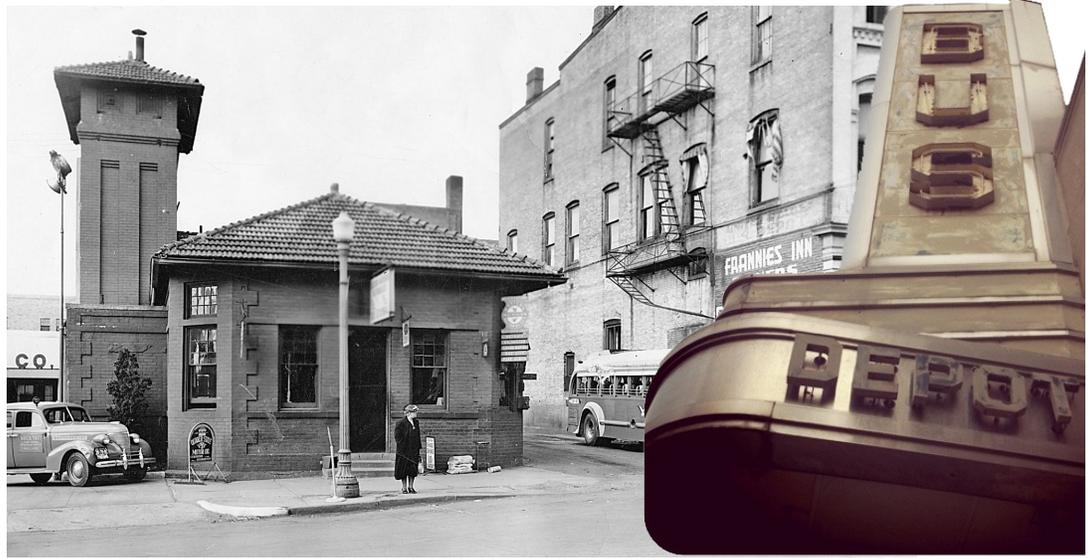
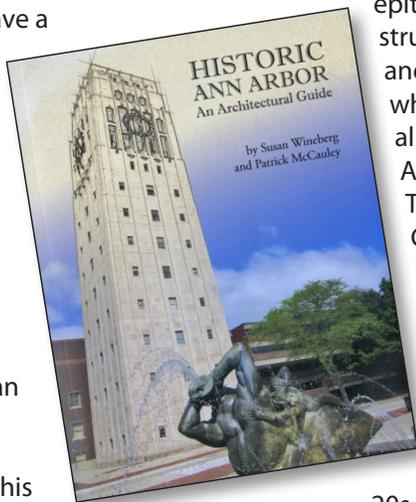
The Spring Educational Program series opened on March 15th with a booktalk and signing at the Ann Arbor Kiwanis Building on First Street in Ann Arbor.

The audience of more than forty people settled into the comfortable environment on the second floor as the program began. WCHS Vice president Jim Davis welcomed everyone and introduced fellow board member and host, Dale Leslie who gave a short history about the Kiwanis.

Following his remarks, the speakers were introduced. The presentation opened with Patrick's house at 1526 Pontiac Trail.

### How they Got Started

In 2006 Patrick and Susan were introduced by a mutual friend, Ed Rice. Patrick had just bought his house on Pontiac Trail and had some questions. When Susan saw the exposed corner posts on the inside, she knew the house was built around 1830. A new and enduring friendship was formed. They combined their talents, passion and curiosity for historic buildings to uncover the mystery of his house. This led to further collaboration of Patrick's genealogy background and Susan's incredible depth of local history and archives to create *Historic Ann Arbor-An Architectural Guide*. The goal was to make this new book as comprehensive as possible and there are 375 buildings with history, photographs and maps.



The talk also included a power point presentation with images and maps. Highlights included:

**Ann Arbor Landmark** –The most iconic of Ann Arbor's historic houses Wilson Wahr House (considered by many as the epitome of Greek Revival structures), Zingermans, and the Fleetwood Diner, which was one of the first all metal buildings in Ann Arbor. The State Theater was designed by C. Howard Crane in 1940, who also designed Fox Theater and Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

**Schools** – Ann Arbor has an amazing collection of 1910's-20s school buildings up through World War II. Burns Park, Jones School (now Community) and Angell Elementary are great examples of three school buildings that have maintained their integrity.

**Churches** – There is a huge array of different types of Church architecture from the pre-Civil war years all the way to mid century modern. First Presbyterian Church on Washtenaw, built in 1937 is a wonderful example of neo-gothic architecture. Second Baptist Church built in 1952 on Beakes Street has all the typical features of an Art Moderne building, the orange brick and glass block

with an undulating footprint. It was designed by Kasurin & Kasurin to replace the church built there in 1883. This church was one of the two African American churches. They were one congregation as the Union Church in 1857 at a house at 504 High Street, which still exists. By 1871 they split into Bethel AME church on 4th Avenue (currently condos) and Second Baptist Church (currently a school).

### Monuments

The Westpark Band Shelter built in 1938, Forest Hill dedicated in 1859 and Fairview, Ann Arbor's oldest cemetery established in 1831 have fantastic Civil War monuments. Fairview is the final resting place of many of Lower Town's prominent families.

### Ann Arbor's Oldest Building?

Two possibilities exist: the Mills Cornelius-Breed house at 317 East Ann built in 1830s and the Willcoxson-Eaton House built in 1827 at 511 E. Ann. Other contenders are the Anson Brown House on Pontiac Trail, built in 1832 and Cobblestone Farm built in 1828/1844.

### The Neighborhoods

From Lower Town and Northside to the Old Fourth Ward, Kerrytown to Downtown to the far south side. The authors have divided the city into eleven districts that allows readers to explore individual neighborhoods and the dozens of historic structures contained within.

## Architectural Styles

There are more than 22 different styles of architectural design in these 430 pages of buildings. Patrick and Susan highlighted a few of their favorites including: Folk houses built by carpenters based on the traditions of where they came from, or unusual buildings like the Lustron house on 7th built between 1948 and 1950. Everything in the Lustron house is all steel including the inside walls with space-age built-in appliances. (They were cheaper than frame houses but people did not warm up to them.) And the Holy Toaster, a poured concrete Church on E. Huron built in 1960.

They talked about houses with famous residents like Arthur Miller who lived at 411 North State. A great mid century modern house at 1223 Pontiac Trail built on the footprint of the house that Robert Frost lived in when he taught at UM. That house was later moved by Henry Ford to Dearborn. Anne Wehrer who lived at 1502 Cambridge where John Cage, Iggy Pop and Andy Warhol were known to visit. John Sinclair and his wife created a commune of two houses built in the 1890s at 1508-1522 Hill Street for the White Panther and Rainbow People's Party. Frank Zappa listed these houses as his home address on early LPs.

## The Architects

The Palmer house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, might be the most famous house in Ann Arbor. Built in 1950 it is the only Wright house available in Ann Arbor for short term rental.

Alden Dow designed City Hall often referred to as the "Poor man's Guggenheim". His first residential project was the Towsley house for his sister Margaret. It was Ann Arbor's first mid-century modern home.

Albert Kahn was another prominent architect who shaped Ann Arbor. From the old Ann Arbor news building built in 1938 to a good chunk of the Central campus including Burton Memorial Tower, Hill Auditorium, Angell Hall, the Clements and Hatcher Library and more.

## Why do they do this?

To raise awareness about historic buildings and their importance. Since the book has been written, two buildings have been demolished– the Art Deco style Greyhound bus depot, and the George Dock house on Cornwell Place.

The talk was followed by questions and answers, refreshments and a book signing.

## There is a lot of great preservation going on!

On June 1, 2015 fifteen winners will receive Ann Arbor Historic District Commission's annual preservation and rehabilitation awards. These awards honor the work done by individuals and institutions to preserve the city's character and architecture. They will be presented by Ann Arbor Mayor Chris Taylor at City Hall. This is the 31st year awards have been presented. For more information see [www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org).

“We hope that people really have their eyes opened to all of the great buildings that surround us and that we walk by every day. Ann Arbor is a special place, and has been the scene of many influential historical events and people. The houses and buildings that remain, really help to tell this story. We want people to know their neighborhoods and the history of these places.”

PATRICK AND SUSAN ””

## Members Receive a 15% Discount

Get your copies of this book at the Museum on Main Street and save 15% with your member discount at the Gift Shop. You can also order online at [WashtenawHistory.org](http://WashtenawHistory.org) or at [annarborhistoricalfoundation.org](http://annarborhistoricalfoundation.org)

## EMU's Award Winning Historic Preservation Program

Les Loomans, the president of the WCHS board wrote about preservation in his quarterly message. He says "There comes a time in our lives when we realize that plans need to be in place to preserve important artifacts so that future generations may learn from them. It's important work to be done." We are fortunate to have two major universities with excellent museum studies and preservation programs training historians to do that work.

Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation program is more than four decades old and is the largest of its kind in the nation. The program has received multiple state and national awards over the years. The program is very generous to the community of museums, libraries and historical societies in this area with the sharing of information, resources and ideas. EMU has restored a number of its historic campus buildings and many are

listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Eastern won a Michigan Historic Preservation Network Award in 2009 for its preservation of the core historic campus. These buildings include Starkweather Hall (1896), Welch Hall (1896), Sherzer Hall (1903), Pease Auditorium (1914) and McKenny Hall (1930-31).

Ted Ligibel is the director of EMU's Historic Preservation Program. He began his academic career at Eastern Michigan in 1991, and was named director of the Historic Preservation Program in 1999. He continues to inspire and encourage students in their academic work and careers. In 2014, Governor Snyder reappointed him to the State Historic Preservation Review Board.

"It allows me to stay on top of both the state's and nation's historic preservation activities, which in turn, helps our students stay current as well."

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #823  
Pinckney, MI



THE KEMPF HOUSE

Open House & Tours

312 S. Division, Ann Arbor

734-994-4898

kempfhousmuseum@gmail.com

Open Houses begin on April 12, and continue every Sunday through June. They resume September 27, 2015, and continue every Sunday (with the exception of Thanksgiving weekend) through December 13, 2015. Stop by for a guided tour of the Kempf House Museum between 1 pm and 4 pm. They are FREE! Donations appreciated.



Noon Lectures

12 Noon to 1:00 PM  
Admission \$2.00 (members \$1.00)

**April 22**  
**Quality of Life and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation**  
Neel Hajra, Pres. & CEO, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

**April 29**  
**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Twentieth Century**, H. Mark Hildebrandt, Author, Historian, retired Pediatrician.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Central Campus Architecture Tour

Sunday, May 10 • 2-4 PM

Fred Mayer will lead a walking tour of the architectural highlights of the central campus of the University of Michigan. Meet-up location details to follow.

Schembechler Hall & UM Football Stadium Tour

Friday, May 15 • 4-6 PM

Join Bill Austin for a walking tour of the University of Michigan football stadium "The Big House" and the Towsley Family Museum inside of Schembechler Hall.

WCHS Annual Meeting & Picnic

Sunday, June 7 • 2-4 PM

County Farm Park, Under the big pavilion - The Farm Park is located at the Southwest corner of Washtenaw and Platt Road. Parking lot and entrance off Platt Road. Lunch is on us! Bar-B-Q from Satchel's with a mix of salads, sides & beverages will be served. Great playground for kids Please RSVP by June 5th so that we may plan accordingly. Call 734-662-9092 or email [wchs-500@ameritech.net](mailto:wchs-500@ameritech.net)

COBBLESTONE FARM

Spring Fling and Farmer's Market

Sunday, May 3 • 12 noon-4 PM  
2781 Packard Rd., Ann Arbor

The farmhouse will be open for tours, and costumed volunteers will depict mid 19th century farm routines and preparations for spring. Activities may include butter churning, needlework, and cooking.

The public can enjoy traditional lawn games for children such as hoops and stilts. The gift shop will also be open and stocked with new merchandise. Join us in welcoming spring, along with the resident goats, sheep and historic varieties of ducks and chickens. Admission: \$2 adult, \$1 kid, \$1.50 Senior / \$5. Family rate: Children 3 and under are free!

From farm fresh locally grown produce to other locally sourced and delicious food, to hand crafted items Cobblestone Farm Market has something for everyone. The Market and Museum are open 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Tuesdays starting May 26 and runs through October 13.



In addition to the farmhouse and barn, the CFA also looks after the Willis Log Cabin, built in 1837.