

# WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

## WCHS SEEKING \$750,000 TO BUILD MUSEUM

The Washtenaw County Historical Society capital fund drive for \$750,000 to build a museum at Barton Dam Powerhouse is underway.

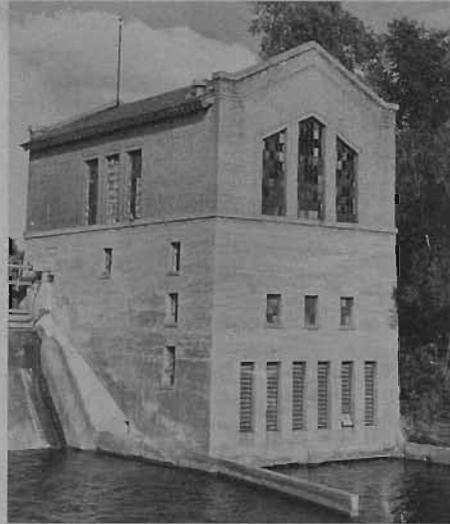
Successful completion will mean that at long last a museum can be built and Washtenaw's heritage tangibly presented to present and future generations, not locked up in out-of-the-way storage facilities.

The search for a site finally led to the former Detroit Edison Company electrical generating plant on the Huron River just north of Ann Arbor, now owned by the city. The city leased the powerhouse and three acres to the Society, which began restoration of the fortress-like structure last summer.

David Osler & Partners architectural firm has designed a 15,000 square foot building to be connected to the powerhouse.

John Corey, executive vice-president of Great Lakes Federal Savings, is general chairman of the fund drive. Division chairmen are Robert O. Eberbach, director and secretary of Eberbach Corporation, industry; Robert Reiff, executive vice-president of the 401 Service Corporation at Great Lakes, financial; James C. Riecker of Smith, Hague and Co., special gifts; Fernando Garcia, local insurance man, business; and Bonnie DeLoof, owner of DeLoof & Associates real estate firm, general division.

Eberbach is a descendant of Christian Eberbach, a pioneer pharmacist. He and Reiff are lifelong county residents.



**BARTON POWERHOUSE**  
Site of proposed museum. Photo by Sam Breck

### PLAQUES TO HONOR DONORS WHO WILL HELP PRESERVE COUNTY'S HERITAGE, SEVERAL WAYS OF GIVING OPEN

Names of donors to the WCHS museum will be engraved on brass plaques on display in the museum. Giving classifications are Museum Patron, \$10,000 or more; Museum Sponsor, \$2,000 to \$9,999; and Museum Donor, under \$2,000.

Three to five year pledges are being sought, allowing donors to spread out their contribution and the Society to make plans. Monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments may be made.

A number of opportunities to perpetuate the memory of a relative or friend, one's family name or the public spirit of business, civic or fraternal organizations are available.

Possible memorial gifts include business office and gift shop, \$35,000; storage area and workroom, \$4,000; lounge and reception area, \$50,000; mechanical equipment room, \$3,000; kitchen, \$12,000; work and repair area, \$32,000;

All the division chairmen are very active in community affairs. Mrs. DeLoof has been involved in revitalization of downtown Ann Arbor. Riecker, formerly with Ann Arbor Bank and Trust Co., served on the Chamber of Commerce and Ann Arbor Historical Foundation. Garcia, local Jaycee president was named Ann Arbor's "Most Outstanding Jaycee" in 1977-78.

Solicitations by the major gifts division and industrial division are now being made. Kick-off for the special gifts and general divisions will be early in June.

receiving area, \$8,500; service entry, \$4,000; gallery and meeting area, \$85,000.

Others are long gallery, \$45,000; terrace, \$100,000; portico, \$35,000; north gallery, \$85,000; storage area, \$32,000; large mechanical equipment room, \$13,500; south gallery, \$85,000; south deck, \$32,000; connecting gallery, \$20,000; director's office, \$12,500; society office, \$12,500; entrance gate, \$4,000; and Barton Dam Powerhouse renovations, \$75,000.

Other types of gifts may be by transfer of securities or real property, bequests and life-income trusts, insurance, construction, equipment or other gifts-in-kind.

WCHS is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

For more information on different ways of giving call the campaign office at 668-6097.

# He Studies German Taste In Architecture

By Dr. Charles H. Sawyer  
(Retired director,  
U-M Museum of Art, 1957-72)

For the past several years I have been working at intervals on a comparative study of the domestic architecture in the German or Germanic communities in the Southwest and Midwest. This began when I was teaching for a semester in Texas in 1973 and visited several communities in southwest Texas settled by immigrants from Germany and the surrounding areas between the 1830's and 1870's.

All these communities (Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Castrovilla, downtown areas of San Antonio and the La Grange area) even at a casual glance appeared to have characteristics quite different from the Anglo communities and Mexican settlements.

I became interested in comparing these Texas communities (settled by immigrants directly from Germany) with those in the midwest, some settled by Germans from earlier migrations, others whose settlers had come directly from the German provinces.

Closer to our immediate sphere of interest was the pattern of the migration farther north along the barge canal through western New York and either through the Western Reserve or across Lake Erie, which with its shallow waters, tempestuous seas, and frequent wrecks became known for a time as "the graveyard of the Germans".

I have been trying to identify in each area through a study of the domestic architecture (chiefly the vernacular, folk or anonymous aspects) those especially characteristic of the time and place, but which may also suggest the cultural and ethnic backgrounds and the relative economic status

of the original occupants. My primary focus has been on the smaller villages which have stood relatively still. To study and reveal some visual patterns in our culture which may have become obscure in the passage of time and before they are obliterated entirely is my primary objective.

Quite frankly there are potential pitfalls in giving some primary consideration to ethnic influences. It is all too easy for me to see Germanic antecedents in houses which are actually quite related to a broader regional pattern. Also until comparatively recently, it was unfashionable, unpopular, and in some periods even un-American to give any substantial weight to ethnic considerations. These prejudices are happily now largely behind us, and we have begun to recognize that a cultural diversity is part of the flavor of American society and that we need to give equal attention to the study of the life and customs of minority groups as they adapted to and were gradually assimilated into the larger culture. I present these informal observations and very tentative conclusions on the development of a Germanic society in this midwest region with a very real respect for their contributions to the total culture.

Survivals of log buildings are rare in our area, and reconstructions, especially earlier ones, must be viewed with some reservation, for they were frequently built without much concern for historical accuracy. In Texas there are more and these have been the subject of detailed analysis. They have importance for our study in what they reveal about details of construction and also in the evolution in plan and the development of early vernacular building types.

The typical log building or cabin in this country is apparently of Scotch-Irish origin, appearing first in the eighteenth century along the frontiers of the Appalachians in Virginia and Tennessee and spreading westward. The Germans in the Southwest adopted the basic forms of these Anglo prototypes and applied their own methods of construction.

Characteristics that are especially, although not exclusively German include:

The use of v-notching at the joints of the horizontal logs.

The exceptional width between these logs and the consequent amount of caulking required.

The extension of the top log below the gable as a cantilever to support the front porch—with a continuous roofline.

The use of finished boards in the gable of the roof.

(Slides included log buildings in Texas, a similar style Mennonite reconstruction at Schoenbrunn in eastern Ohio, in southern Indiana and Auglaize County in western Ohio. He showed the survival of some of these characteristics in later house types in Fredericksburg, Texas—an 1850's Episcopal chapel and nearby derelict structure, a Sunday house and combined dwelling-store c. 1855, a stone house of 1856 with double door and kitchen chimney, an 1873 frame house with stone ell, kitchen chimney and later additions.)

The regional inn was an important focus and community center in Texas during the mid-nineteenth century and attracted to the German communities travelers from all regions of the country and all races. The celebrated landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, in his journey through Texas, 1847, speaks



**CHRISTIAN EBERBACH HOME, 1860's**  
 115 Woodlawn, fine example of "high style" Italian villa. Picture from *Art Work of Washtenaw County, 1893.* Courtesy Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Library, U-M.

favorably of the neatness of the German communities and of the accommodations at the inn at New Braunfels. A visitor from abroad speaks with pleasure of the good French cooking at the inn in the Alsatian community of Castroville.

There are of course parallels nearer at hand: the inn in the Zoar community in eastern Ohio and the inn at Clinton of 1831, now in Greenfield Village. As the affluence of the German communities in Texas increased these inns provided a pattern for the larger scale two-story houses and especially for the combination store-dwellings which became a distinguishing feature of the German community in the nineteenth century in both the southwest and midwest.

In the 1870's and '80's as some of the German residents of San Antonio became increasingly affluent in the mercantile trades, and in lumber, milling and breweries, they built houses in the then prevalent "high style" to reflect their new station in life.

(Two examples were designed by Alfred Giles, a San Antonio architect, born and trained in England.) They are reminiscent of some of the great houses of the period in Newport, Rhode Island. For any real trace of German

influence we have to look to the relatively ornate rococo type decoration on the exterior and to the interior furnishings which are a survival of the heavy baroque German Beidermeyer style of the earliest years of the century.

About 150 miles away in western and central Ohio, we find some German enclaves that have retained their predominantly German qualities over a period of a century and a half. West of I-75 and south of Wapakoneta and St. Mary's along the route of the old Miami-Lake Erie Canal, traces of which can still be seen, are the towns of New Bremen, founded by Lutherans emigrating from the Bremen area in 1833, and Minster, settled by Catholics from Oldenburg, Münsterland, in north-west Germany the previous year.

In 1872 both communities had populations of approximately 1,200 to 1,500, today about twice that size. At that time their basic economy was as trading centers for the surrounding farming districts. New Bremen had several small packing plants, Minster a brewery renowned in the area for the quality of its beer. These have long since disappeared and the retail trade has largely gone to the larger centers nearby. Small light

industries have provided some economic support and a Dannon yogurt plant in Minster serves as a reminder of the continuing prosperity of the farms in the area.

Both communities remain over ninety percent of German stock—New Bremen wholly Protestant, chiefly Lutheran; Minster entirely Catholic. They are only three miles apart. My local informants tell me that the rivalries between them remain very real today, although to the casual observer, the cultural similarities would seem greater than these religious differences.

(Slides included a Swiss museum near Bluffton, c. 1847 and Lutheran parsonage, New Bremen, 1852; canal multiple houses, New Bremen, 1844-70 and a brick cottage type house c. 1865 with summer kitchen, 1870, a Germanic store-house c. 1875 and joining Italianate "high style", 1874, another Italianate high style with adjoining summer kitchen, 1872; Catholic churches at Carthagena, 1877, and Minster, 1879; story-and-a-half brick houses near Minster, 1874 and 1880; two-story houses near Maria Stein, medieval and Federal "survivals"; two story farm house and village house, New Bremen, 1874; a double house and a farmstead near Minster, 1850.)

German Village in Columbus offers some striking parallels and also some contrasts with our Old West Side. It was settled by Germans who had migrated chiefly across the Alleghenys along Zane's Trace which had been extended to Columbus in 1836. These were primarily craftsmen and tradespeople from the smaller villages rather than the rural peasant stock who settled on the prairie farther west.

Their houses are interspersed with their craft shops and stores and they are built simply and well in a modest scale and in an essentially vernacular tradition whose origin we are still having trouble

identifying. Most of the houses we see there today are from the 1850's and '60's, although as they became more affluent, they built larger scale houses in the styles popular and fashionable in the late years of the century, especially the Romanesque revival and Queen Anne.

German Village in Columbus, along with San Antonio, are the finest examples I know of the preservation and rehabilitation of a German community within a large urban setting, far more effective than anything yet achieved in St. Louis or Cincinnati, or Detroit where the considerable German enclave which existed fifty years ago on lower Gratiot has been largely obliterated.

South Columbus was in a far more advanced state of deterioration than our Old West Side when the rehabilitation began. You have to see before and after photographs to realize the miracle which has been achieved.

(Types of houses illustrated in Columbus were a village office, early 1860's; a one-room wide cottage type, 1858; "Dutch double" houses of 1860's; an urban type two-story double house, c. 1870; and twin-row houses c. 1870-80.)

Richard Campen, architectural historian of Ohio, comments of the Village, "One does not find great landmarks in the Village. What one does find is a residential enclave—harking back to the Germanic tradition—which through its forms and its scale achieves the 'grace' which is so often lacking elsewhere on the urban scene."

I now want to use these comparative perspectives in our exploration of Germanic influences in the architecture of Washtenaw County. We will begin in the western part, where much of the German population established its base in the middle years of the nineteenth century, and where its

impact is still evident today. would regard Freedom Township as the epicenter, although these rural settlers also established themselves in the adjoining townships.

Photostat maps of Freedom Township from the atlas of 1874 and of current landholdings in the area, illustrate the continuity of the population and how much remains the same. The Fredonia post office then on Waters Road and the Catholic Church on Bethel Church Road are gone, and now there is a gas pipe line, sand and gravel pits and a few scattered housing developments, but compared to the increasing fragmentation of Northfield and Salem Townships, this is a pleasantly pastoral world. Road names in the area—Schneider, Feldkamp, Esch, Kalmbach, are reminders of some of the early settlers. A surprise in reviewing the list of German settlers recorded in the 1874 atlas was that about half the Germans listed had been born in western New York State. On that premise, many of these people would have brought images of classical revival houses of that part of the world with them. It may help to explain some of the buildings we see.

(He showed Lodi town hall; farmsteads on Scio Church and Pleasant Lake Roads and a similar farmstead in New Bremen, Ohio, whose main difference was flatter land; a Mennonite barn in Goshen, Indiana; Italianate and Queen



**MENNONITE BARN**

Local barns may have similar style trim but not so much as this one near Goshen, Indiana. Courtesy Dr. Sawyer

Anne houses on Bethel Church and Scio Church Roads, more Italianate houses on M-52 near Chelsea and the outskirts of Manchester; several churches in the area—Scio, Bethel, Lutheran at Fletcher and Waters Roads, Methodist at Pleasant Lake and M-52 plus two Northfield township churches—St. Patrick's Catholic and St. John's Lutheran.)

The farmsteads have a kind of visual pattern where the house never overwhelms the barns. One of the things that seems to be very characteristic in these German communities, they didn't build a house of any dimension until the farm was prospering and had reached a stable equilibrium so there are many houses in the area which are not great architectural monuments and some were not built until 1910 or '20.

(In Manchester he showed an Italianate c. 1875 on Main Street; the classic revival Fountain home, c. 1842. later associated with the Haeussler family; a vernacular story-and-a-half Classical revival, c. 1850, and a parallel example on Pontiac Trail; others on Manchester-Saline Road c. 1850 and an Italianate farm house c. 1870 on Ann Arbor-Saline Road.)

In considering Ann Arbor, let me say frankly that I find it much easier to define and identify what is *not* German than what is. Let me deal with these very familiar examples of Ann Arbor vernacular right away: Kempf House, c. 1850, Wilson-Wahr house, a 'hen and chickens' house c. 1850 formerly on Pontiac, now at Greenfield Village. and Cobblestone Farm. The first two obviously do not become Germanic by being occupied by German families in their later years, although their occupancy is a symbol of the increasing role they played in the community from the 1880's onward.

The Wilson-Wahr house does reflect in its current interior considerably more evidence of

German taste than the exterior. Of the type exemplified by the one now in Greenfield Village - and formerly on Pontiac Street, I have identified only one associated with a German family. The cobblestone houses were, of course, of western New York origin and Federal in character with no apparent German associations.

I want to turn, however, to more modest scale dwellings in the middle of the German community: the so-called 'worker's houses' which like the modest homes we saw in Texas, begin to tell us something of their common origins.

(He showed cottage-type houses at 626 W. Liberty, c. 1870; story-and-a-half houses c. 1870 on Broadway and Traver; two-story cottage types with rear ells on Broadway and Crest c. 1870 and 1900, respectively; multiple row houses c. 1910-15 on Murray and front gable houses c. 1915-25 on Murray and Crest.)

These houses, characteristic of other modest dwellings on the west and north sides, are not exclusively German but represent the type of house in which the majority of German craftsmen and workmen of the period lived.

In terms of the German middle class on the west side, the front gable house with variations in plan, scale and decoration, became the predominant form from the 1870's through the 1920's. They were of classical revival origin (spreading from New England through New York state and the Western Reserve) and are represented in all sections of Ann Arbor, but become predominant on the west side.

I agree thoroughly with the observation of the study on the Old West Side that the importance of the whole is much greater than the sum of the parts. I think that part of the charm and continuing sense of identity which we admire today comes from the probably unconscious adoption of a



#### TEXAS GERMAN LOG CABIN

Germans there usually used cantilever porch roof.

Courtesy Dr. Sawyer

common house type which met their needs and which they adhered to with variations for over fifty years.

(He showed several variations of these front gable houses including the Wiegant-Hochrein house, mid-1880's, at 631 Second Street, now occupied by Clarence and Ruth Roy.)

In addition to this emphasis on a single house type, I stress the insistence on quality in craftsmanship and an adherence to German taste in interior detailing and furniture combined to give these houses a particular character we can call "Germanic."

The German "high style," symbolic of the taste and mode of living of those, chiefly of the second generation, who had come into degrees of affluence during the second half of the century are the John Lucas house, 1882, at the corner of Jefferson and Sixth, the John Gott house on West Huron, the Christian Eberbach house off Packard and John Adam Volz house, 716 North Fifth Avenue.

The Lucas house represents a departure from what I have been showing you on the west side. Built in 1882 it is a transition between the Italianate and the Queen Anne in style, somewhat freer and less symmetrical in design than the German bankers houses in New Bremen.

The Gott house (Martha Washington House), 709 West

Huron, of the late 1850's is a splendid example of the grand manner of the Italian villa style, and the Christian Eberbach house, another fine example of the late 1860's and a somewhat freer and more random treatment. These houses, and in a somewhat more symmetrical vein, the John Adams Volz house rank among the finest of their kind anywhere.

In proposing these as essentially characteristic of German taste, I would distinguish them from The Reverend Guy Beckley house, 1425 Pontiac, dating from the late 1830's in Federal Classical style, or across the street, the Jonathan Lund house, 1847, late Greek Revival mansion style. These I would regard as typically Anglo-American. The Germans it seems to me had a particular affinity for the Italianate, continued with it for a longer period of time, and did well with it.

The Jacob Laubengayer house, 416 South Main, mid-1880's, and next to it, the Martin Haller house of 1890 represent the very active participation of the German community in the Queen Anne style.

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Washtenaw County Historical Society drive to raise \$750,000 to build a 15,000 square foot addition to the Barton Powerhouse for a county historical museum is now underway as explained in articles elsewhere in *The Impressions*.

The organization is complete. Workers have been and are being trained. Solicitations are being made. We now await the results.

There will be a plant sale in September so please don't forget to grow some plants to help the Society. The date will be announced later.

Leigh Anderson

## IF YOU THINK ANN ARBOR POTHoles ARE BAD YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN IN THESE PARTS IN 1830'S

If you think Ann Arbor potholes are bad, consider this eyewitness account, written by a literary eastern woman, Caroline M. Kirkland, whose husband founded Pinckney, in the 1830's:

"Since I have casually alluded to a Michigan mud-hole, I may as well enter into a detailed memoir on the subject, for the benefit of future travelers, who, flying over the soil on railroads, may look slightly back upon the achievements of their predecessors.

"In the 'settlements' a mud-hole is considered as apt to occasion an unpleasant jolt—a breaking of the thread of one's reverie—or in extreme cases, a temporary standstill or even an overturn of the rash or unwary. Here, on approaching one of these characteristic features of the 'West,' the driver stops—alights—walks up to the dark gulf—and around it if he can get around it. He then seeks a long pole and sounds it, measures it across to ascertain how its width compares with the length of his wagon—tries whether its sides are perpendicular as is usually the case if the road is much used.

"If he finds it no more than three feet deep, he remounts cheerily, encourages his team and in they go, with a plunge and a shock rather apt to damp the courage of the inexperienced. If the hole be narrow the hinder wheels will be quite lifted off the ground by the depression of their precedents, and so remain until by unwearied chirruping and some judicious touches of 'the string' the horses are induced to struggle as for their lives; and if the Fates are propitious they generally emerge on the opposite side, dragging the vehicle or at least the fore wheels after them.

"When I first 'penetrated the interior' (to use an indigenous phrase) all I knew of the wilds was from Hoffman's tour or

Captain Hall's 'graphic' delineations: I had some floating idea of 'driving a barouche and four anywhere through the oak openings'—and seeing 'the murdered Banquos of the forest' haunting the scenes of their departed strength and beauty. But, I confess, these pictures, touched by the glowing pencil of fancy, gave me but incorrect notions of a real journey through Michigan."

*From A New Home—Who'll Follow*  
by Mrs. Mary Klavers, pseudonym for  
Caroline M. Kirkland.

## POLLY BENDER TO TALK ON 'MIGRATION TRAILS'

Polly Bender will discuss some "Migration Trails East of the Mississippi" at the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 27, at Washtenaw Community College. A 1 p.m. help session is planned.

A June picnic with annual meeting and a cemetery reading are planned during the summer, dates to be announced.

## COBBLESTONE ANTIQUE MARKET SEPTEMBER 9

Cobblestone Farm plans an antique market and sale from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, September 9, at the farm. Adrienne Malley and Pat Mangrum of Restorations Unlimited are in charge. Anyone wishing to sell, or donate antiques to the farm's own booth or help may call 663-5232.

## 'EARLY 19TH CENTURY ANTIQUES' IS TOPIC

Cobblestone Farm's annual meeting with election of board members will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday May 23 at Pioneer High School's Little Theater. Jane Tice, curator of textiles at Henry Ford Museum, will give a slide talk on "Early Nineteenth Century Antiques"

## HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

**Chelsea Historical Society**—8 p.m. Monday, June 14, in McKune Memorial Library.

**Dexter Historical Society**—Museum open through summer from 1-3 p.m. each Tuesday and the second and fourth Saturdays of month. Local quilts and spinning wheels are to be on display through June as well as permanent school, farm and dental office displays. A special exhibit of military miniatures is planned July through September.

The society's annual meeting will be a potluck dinner at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 29, at the museum. The society plans to start fixing up the basement this summer.

**Milan Historical Society**—Continues to meet through summer at 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday of month at Milan Community House. Booth planned at Milan Free Fair July 9-14.

**Saline Historical Society**—Annual potluck picnic 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, at home of President Norman and Wendy Blackie, 6039 Saline-Ann Arbor Road.

**Ypsilanti Historical Society**—2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 27, Beverly Shankwiler will tell "The Story of Depot Town—its Past and Future." That is the last "special event" at the museum until October.

An indoor-outdoor potluck is planned at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 20, at the home of President Herbert and Grace Cornish, 830 W. Clark. Guests are to bring table service, a folding chair, a dish to pass and their own meat. Grills available.

## WEST SIDE HOMES TOUR PLANNED SEPTEMBER 16

The annual Old West Side Association house tour will be Sunday afternoon September 16 from noon to 5 p.m. Six or seven houses will be open. Home craft displays such as spinning and weaving are planned.



#### 1861 CIVIL WAR LETTER

Soldier wrote his Aunt Sarah after first battle of "Bulls Run"

Photo by Herb Pfabe

#### PHOTOGRAPHS OF LOCAL CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S LETTER TO AUNT IN ANN ARBOR GIVEN TO WCHS

A Civil War soldier's letter to his aunt in Ann Arbor after the first Battle of Bull Run belonging to Mrs. Chester Nowland whose late husband was a relative of the aunt has been photographed for the WCHS collections by Herb Pfabe.

The envelope bears a patriotic design titled "The Rock of our country" and the stationery has a picture of the United States Capitol. The letter was written by George E. Bull to "Aunt Sarah" who was Mrs. Hiram J. Beakes. Mr. Beakes was probate judge in Washtenaw County from 1865-1873.

Dated July 31, 1861, Washington, it reads: Dear Aunt Sarah, In Mother's last letter to me she said that you had not received the letter I wrote you and hoping these few lines will find you well, I will try it again. I havent (sic) got over that long march we took on our retreat from Bulls Run we wer (sic) (hiding?) all day and had to march all night. I lost my gun, blankets, \_\_\_\_\_ box and jacket but am in luck to think I got off with my life. When you see mother tell her I will send \$20 home as soon as I can get a chance. We were paid off a week ago. Give my love to all. I do not feel able to write any more at

present. with much love from your Affect (sic)

Nephew Geo E Bull

P.S. Why don't Uncle write I have not heard a word from the babies yet.

#### LOCAL HOUSECLEANINGS YIELD GIFTS FOR WCHS

Housecleaning sometimes turns up treasures and WCHS is the recipient of a couple of nice finds.

Judy Corwin of Ypsilanti and Mary Smith of Pinckney found a two-piece brown dress with lace trim of nineteenth century vintage in their parents house on Davis Street in Ann Arbor and have kindly given it to the Society. They think it belonged to their grandmother Koch, member of a longtime local family.

Rita Buku found three little turn-of-the-century autograph books in a local house and has given them to WCHS.

#### ART TRAIN A-COMING

The Art Train is a-coming to South Lyon Thursday, May 31, for a five-day stay during which the South Lyon Historical Society is planning an arts festival with art show, performing arts and dinner theater. Opening ceremonies are planned at 6 p.m.

#### RECENT BRIDEGROOM IS SIXTH GENERATION ON PITTSFIELD FARM

Neal Wilson and the former Anita Bruder were married April 21 at his home, 797 Textile Road, and are making their home next door.

Neal is the sixth generation of his family to live there and at least the fourth generation to be married there. Not many persons in today's transient society can make such a statement.

While the family has not yet applied for Centennial Farm status, the farm should certainly qualify. Neal's great-great-great grandparents Langford and Lydia Sutherland came to Pittsfield township from New York state in 1832 or 1833. Langford lived there until his death in 1865. When the *Washtenaw County History* was published in 1881, Lydia was still living there with two of her eight living children.

One of those children was Tobias Sutherland who married Josephine Kanouse on December 6, 1871, and continued to live there. They had two children, Ernest and Bessie. Ernest's only child, Mildred, married Arthur Wilson. Their son, Harold, and his wife Mary Roy Wilson continue to live in the old family home.

Neal and his wife live in the "tenant" house that the Wilson's believe is at least 100 years old. They think their home is even older, probably built within a few years after the Sutherland family first came.

While Neal's great grandfathers were farmers, his father and grandfather have been carpenters and contractors. Neal now works at the Saline Ford plant but hopes to go back to school to study music. He plays several instruments, does some composing, played with a rock band and had a stint handling lighting at the Black Sheep Theater in Manchester.

## PANEL TO ADVISE HOW TO DATE OLDER HOME AT MAY 24 MEETING

Expert advice on "Dating The Older Home" will be given at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24, in the conference room of the new main Ann Arbor fire hall.

The program, one of a "Preservation Month" series sponsored by the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission, will serve as the WCHS May meeting.

Wystan Stevens will open the program with a slide show of different types of local older homes. A panel discussion will follow. Panelists will be Brett Waller, director of the University of Michigan Museum of Art; Peter Schmitt of Western Michigan University; Richard Neumann, an architect and AAHDC member; and Susan Weinberg, who is researching older homes in the Division Street Historic District.

Other programs in the series will be "Why Live in an Older Home?", May 10, and "Buying, Financing and Maintaining the Older Home," May 17. Both will be at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room.

## IN 1879 WCHS THOUGHT IT HAD PERMANENT HOME

Ironical today as WCHS seeks finally to build a permanent museum is an item in the April 4, 1879 *Ann Arbor Courier* saying "A room has been set apart in the new courthouse . . . at last we have a home wherein to gather together all the precious mementoes of the past."

### WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

7:30 p.m. THURSDAY  
MAY 24, 1979  
Conference Room  
New Fire Station  
111 N. Fifth Avenue  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

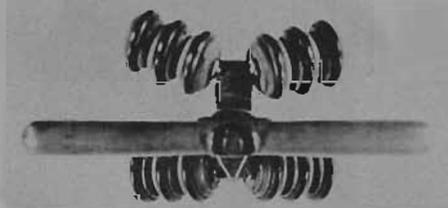
## ANNUAL WCHS TOUR TO FEATURE DEXTER LANDMARKS, CATERED CHICKEN DINNER AT BARTON POWERHOUSE

The annual WCHS tour will feature a bus tour of Dexter and catered fried chicken dinner at Barton Dam Powerhouse, site of the proposed county historical museum, Saturday June 9.

Stops at Gordon Hall, the stately 1840's Greek Revival Home of Judge Samuel Dexter, the century-old cider mill, the Dexter Leader office, the museum and at least two old homes are planned.

Chartered buses are to leave the Great Lakes Federal parking lot at Washington and Division Streets in Ann Arbor at 1:30 p.m. Saturday the 9th.

Judge Dexter's home was built by Calvin Fillmore, brother of the 13th president of the United States. Judge Dexter founded the village in 1824.



### WHAT IS IT?

The round things roll. You can hold it in your hands. It's for what may be thought of as a modern problem but apparently a few of our grandparents thought it a problem, too. If you saw Demaris Cash's program at WCHS in March you already know. Answer next issue (September).

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826  
Keylining: Anna Thorsch  
Printing and Production: Courtesy of Great Lakes Federal Savings & Drury, Lacy, Inc.

The cider mill has been owned and operated by the Wagners for more than 80 years. While the *Dexter Leader* is now printed in Chelsea, the old press and type cases are still in the building.

The museum is in the former St. Andrew's Church moved from Ann Arbor Street to 3443 Inverness nearby. Bruce and Doris Waggoner of 3294 Broad Street and Pete and Nancy Walker of 7901 Ann Arbor Street plan to open their homes.

The bus tour and dinner donation is \$9 per person or \$5 for children 12 and under. Dinner only tickets are \$7 per adult, \$4 per child. Reservations may be made by telephoning Mrs. Palmer or Mrs. Austin at 663-5281 by June 6. (See attached coupon.)

### LAST ISSUE UNTIL FALL; THANKS DUE ALL HELPERS

This is the last issue of *The Impressions* until September. Many thanks are due to Great Lakes Federal Savings for printing, and Drury, Lacy, Inc., for help in production.

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