

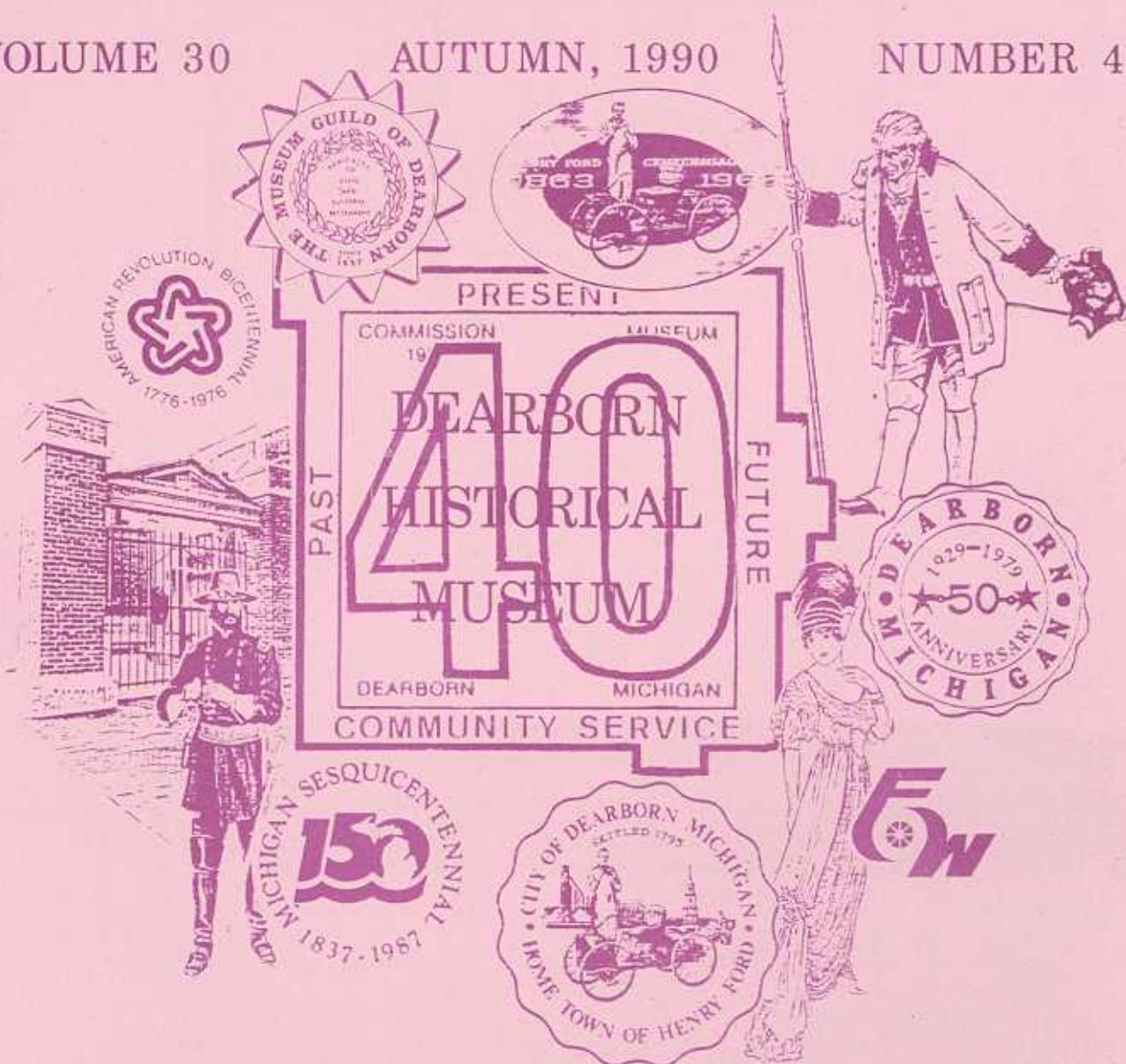
The DEARBORN HISTORIAN

Quarterly of the Dearborn Historical Commission

VOLUME 30

AUTUMN, 1990

NUMBER 4



Included in this issue...

- * Dedicating A Local Museum
- * The Good Old Days
- * John S. Haggerty, Dearborn Politician (Part III of III)

1950-1990 - A Municipal Museum Turns "40"

SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY



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Winfield H. Arneson, Editor

FRONT COVER: Through the past four decades the Museum has served the community in many ways in addition to our normal exhibits, archives, education and publication programs. This montage reflects a few of those activities.

INSIDE FRONT COVER: Santa is surrounded by a group of young people at Muirhead's Children's Center, Michigan and Military. There was a Christmas parade sponsored by the store. In this November 10, 1951, photo, Mayor Hubbard looks on. The store closed in March 1990.

ART WORK: by Mary V. MacDonald

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THE HERITAGE OF THE PAST IS THE SEED THAT BRINGS FORTH THE HARVEST OF THE FUTURE.
...The National Archives, Washington, D. C.



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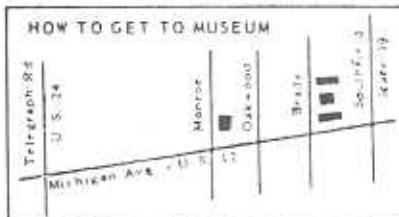
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DEDICATING A LOCAL MUSEUM

Lee A. White

[EDITOR'S NOTE: When the Dearborn Historical Museum opened 40 years ago on October 14, 1950, Lee A. White was asked to give the dedicatory address for this special occasion. Mr. White, at the time, was Director of Public Relations for The Detroit News. His speech was quite philosophical and did reflect on the times following World War II as well as delivery into the remote historical past. We are publishing this manuscript in its entirety for your enlightenment. W.H.A.]

A brilliant foreign correspondent of my acquaintance - a man with a laughing heart but a caustic tongue - was talking some time ago with a chap who burdens the air each day with broadcast comments on foreign affairs and who is much given to prophecy.

"The trouble with you commentators," said my friend, Robert Casey, "is that you know what is going to happen tomorrow but you don't know what happened yesterday!"

Might that not be said of most of us? Lacking exact information regarding events of the past, we are tempted to "save face" by probing the future and trusting that Time will play into our hand and prove us to be right. At least, when we do that, no one can immediately prove us in error, since the future is not a matter of records, as the past ought to be, and usually is.

Newspapers and magazines and books are printed; libraries are built and maintained; museums are erected and collections assembled, labeled and displayed in order that we may know the things that have transpired. Out of our resulting knowledge, if we make use of these admirable resources, will come guidance in the solution of the problems of the present hour and those of the days to come.

Some such thought, I take it, was in the minds of those who conceived a stupendous project here in Dearborn and have now brought it to realization.

-0-

Sprawling, vibrant, thriving Dearborn of 1950 is, like most industrial communities, a city of marked contrasts. Beauty and ugliness confront each other, as do great wealth and dire need, ambition and sloth, wisdom and ignorance; religious exaltation and patent ungodliness. Within its 25 square miles, one may subject himself to the bustle and the din of vast productive industrial enterprises; and yet, if he but seek them, find areas of sylvan charm and idyllic peace.

These things do not represent community impulses and inclinations of necessity. They are sporadic, episodic, individual. What matters greatly

is the spirit in which the community has met these opposed conditions, desirable and undesirable, tolerable and intolerable, escapable and inescapable. The answer will be found in the written history of Dearborn and in those tangible evidences that find a place in the museum we are here to dedicate.

But that will not be all of Dearborn's history. It will be only a few pages about perplexing today, leaving 50,000 yesterdays and ten million to-morrows to be dealt with.

Some scholar, with the soul of a poet but the exactness of a scientist, referred to the Thames River as "liquid history."

That could not be and it is not true of the River Rouge. You, who live near its busy mouth, and I, who looks down from my home onto its headwaters, are well aware of the relative unimportance of the stream, historically. Any "rouge" that is detectable is the sediment of eroding rains and flood-waters; not that sacrificial patriot red that gave its name to "Bloody Run." We know that the charm and luxuriance of its valley had its appeal for the pioneer, no less than for ourselves. But such history as has been made along its banks has been largely industrial and is peculiarly Dearborn's.

I do not mean to make light of the place of industry in history. We have greatly altered our concepts in the half-century that is behind us and the social and economic interpretations of history interest us vastly more than the mere rise and decline of dynasties and dictators and the fate of their armies.

We do not know how to measure, how to appraise, the revolution wrought by Dearborn's most famous son and his contemporaries in the development of the automobile; men who did so much to shrink this earth, liberating the physical man from the restraints that Nature imposed upon him and allowing him to expand his acquaintance with his fellow men everywhere. With this physical liberation, this subjugation of space and this dominion over time has come a stretching of mental and spiritual muscles, so to speak. In the process, we have gained in comprehension of the world as it is and we have discovered a vast amount about the world as it has been and as it can be.

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There is a temptation, often if not always, to attribute the miracle of man's progress to specific individuals and to fix the year, the day, the very hour of occurrence. But miracles and less startling developments do not accommodate the historian and the curator. The precipitation of historic events may be sudden, climactic but those events have their origins in the patient and persistent endeavors of purposeful men and women, often reaching back into the misty past.

It was with something like this in mind, no doubt, that Pliny the Younger said, "I hold it a noble task to rescue from oblivion those who deserve to be eternally remembered."

But how shall we identify those who have been lost in oblivion, excepting by just such endeavors as are represented here today - by setting on foot a movement and discovering the means by which the dead past and the lively present shall go into imperishable records and collections?

Not all who lay the foundations for vast achievements are conspicuous enough to be remembered. Their identities may be lost in the group of which they are a part. The picture that survives, in such event, is not portraiture but a free representation of a period, or of a social group, painted with a broad brush.

The danger exists also that those few who stand out as personalities will do so because of quaint and colorful characteristics, or involvement in dramatic episodes, rather than because of the significance of their contributions to community life and human progress. Sometimes, we cannot forget what we do not particularly desire to remember.

-o-

A museum, which is a depository of the records of the past and of articles which reveal a manner of living, does much for us in bringing remote periods back to life. It sets before each of us stimulating examples of man's triumph over obstacles and adversities. It arouses our ambition to accomplish that which is difficult, if not impossible. It awakens our creative imaginations. All this is fortunate, since those who know where they have been are best able to determine whither they are bound.

It would seem also that, by the very act of dignifying those things that belong to the past even though they may arouse an amused smile, a museum of history may encourage the diffident among us to reveal rather than to obscure what they have to offer to the community's enrichment.

I have in mind, not just the rate but the character of the growth in Dearborn's population which has been so great of late years, a growth in all the territory that is now Dearborn from about 7000, when the Arsenal properties were being auctioned off in the early eighties, to a present population of more than 95,000 - largely due to the coming of the Ford plant from Highland Park after World War I. The 49 or more nationalities represented, more than a quarter of whose members were foreign-born, afford an infinite opportunity for the preservation and mingling of cultures, each a jewel in itself. Against this wholly desirable objective is the eager, earnest effort to amalgamate so completely with once pioneer immigrant stock, that the old world culture is rejected in favor of the new. Certainly this effort is natural and one hesitates to call it a fault but the loss is irreparable and regrettable.

Conscious of the care with which the outlines of Dearborn history has been presented in the program and the narrative script of the Cavalcade, I have deliberately omitted from my remarks what must otherwise have been highly repetitious. Yet, as certain names and dates recurred in the literature I have had opportunity to study, a sense of great transitions has impressed itself on me:

James Cissne, first settler, arriving in 1795. A. J. Bucklin, first to give him neighborly companionship in the wilderness, arriving about 1812. William Nowlin, author of the precious and only extensive book* on the area, coming as a lad with his family in 1834. The Ford brothers, William and Henry, fresh out of Ireland in 1847. The late, great Henry Ford born in 1863 in what now is Dearborn. Finally, the present generation, with its many descendants of pioneer stock.

They remind me that Dearborn, like so much of Michigan and so many of its municipalities, indeed, like so many of us as individuals, has experienced three radically different economic phases, each of which will be abundantly represented in this institution:

1. Dearborn had its beginning when venturesome and ambitious pioneers out of the East and especially out of New England and New York, came in quest of liberal holdings of cheap land and harvested Nature's abundant crop of timber and fur-bearing animals.
2. The community went through that process of conversion from wooded wilderness to arable land, which was almost an expression of piety. It opened an era of agricultural development, some part of which is within our easy memory and during which the farmer was well-nigh deified.
3. Then the town and countryside, which are now within Dearborn's boundaries, gave over their fruitful acres to business and residential uses and the city had entered upon a period of industrial economy, fabulously lucrative. The struggles of Man Against the Wilderness and of Man Against the Stubborn Soil had ended in a new revelation, a new demonstration of the Machine Age.

Is there any single person among us, who is conscious of these particles of transition, who does not ask himself, "What next?"

It is not only a changing Dearborn, a changing Michigan, a changing America in which we live. It is a changing World and its changes have not only influenced Dearborn but have been influenced BY Dearborn through its prolific and amazingly flexible industry and mechanical genius.

How blind we have been, how stubbornly blind, to some of the changes that have been taking place under our eyes.

We have witnessed in this century the decline of Western Europe, politically, economically and perhaps militarily. This is the Western Europe, insignificant in size, from which we drew to America our dominant racial stocks, our political ideas and ideals, our folkways and our cultural patterns. This is the part of the world about which we have a smattering of knowledge and understanding.

Today, Western Europe manifests something like decadence as well as impoverishment. It is our "poor relation." The United States and Russia

*The Bark Covered House (1876).

are in the ascendent as countries; Eastern Europe and Asia and the Americas as continents. Except for our own land, these are the areas of the world about which we know virtually nothing but upon whose well-being and good intentions we are greatly dependent. They include lands and peoples who were civilized when our forbears were still savage; who were cultured when our forbears were primitive; who were ancient when our forbears were young. Has it been the part of wisdom to be ignorant of them?

The history-minded people, who have brought this century-old Commandant's Quarters of the Detroit Arsenal to new and commendable uses, will have the answer to any such question that you and I may ask, I hope, including that paramount question, "What does the ATOMIC AGE hold in prospect?"

- ? Cataclysmic destruction from which anything, or nothing, may emerge?
- ? Or instrumentalities for the improvement and enrichment of life, such as are the contemplated results of research under the University of Michigan's Phoenix Project?
- ? And in this inevitable change, what part will Dearborn play and who will play it?

How strange it is that the peace-loving, well-intentioned folk of Dearborn, who for all of its existence have sought nothing but opportunity to better the circumstances and enlarge the futures of themselves and their children and their children's children, have had the history of their community highlighted by things and events that were military in nature!

Nothing much happened to make Dearborn noteworthy until the Government, obedient to the peaceful design of the Treaty of Ghent, pushed into Detroit's back country to build, well away from the international border, an impressive Arsenal in the 1830's. Forty years later, a war-weary nation abandoned and dismantled it. Then the lull, until World War I occasioned the building of Eagle boats on the Rouge and the removal of the Ford industries to Dearborn ensued. World War II saw tremendous activity in the manufacture of amphibians, transport vehicles, airplane motors and other implements of warfare.

Now we experience a repetition of war orders and a willing resolve upon the part of Dearborn industry and citizenry to undertake material contracts of any character or size to the end that the United Nations may win and make secure an avenue to permanent peace throughout the world.

May the earnest and inspired people, who have brought a dream to realization, live to make accurate record of the achievement of this high purpose.

With this as a prayer in my heart on your behalf and on behalf of the Dearborn Historical Commission, I dedicate to the glory of our country and to the welfare of mankind the Historical Museum of the City of Dearborn.

* * * * *

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

Ford R. Bryan

(Perhaps the title of this article is somewhat satirical but it is an expression we often use. Looking through the deaths of the six month period of 1850, one wonders how many would have survived if these people had lived today. Although medical knowledge had gained considerable ground in the previous two or three hundred years, the science had hardly moved off "square one." The common practice of physicians washing their hands before handling a patient was not to be instituted until Joseph Lister was to discover this almost fifteen years later in England.

Although much of the medical field was primitive compared with today's methods, discoveries had been made. Edward Jenner found by vaccination inoculation against smallpox could be achieved. Although most medical men had been averse to the Indian medicine men, knowledge about herbs and other antidotes used by the tribes were not only beneficial but healing.

Undoubtedly such doctors as William Manning, Thomas Sweeney and the newly arrived Dr. Edward Sparrow Snow sat by their patient's bedside throughout the night attempting to save the person's life. The type of remuneration a doctor received for his services most likely was produce from the patient's plot or farm. When a physician did receive payment, it was small since most of the people had little to give in money. Thus, a doctor's life in the rural areas was not easy and he did the best he could under the circumstances.

Consumption took the highest toll. In most cases, it was tuberculosis. It was the most common killer at that time and for many years after. The disease usually attacked the lungs. However, people were known to survive for some time. Today this disease is a rarity.

Like today, cancer took its share of lives. What about cholera? Today this contagious disease is all but eliminated. It was contracted largely through poor hygenic conditions. Detroit had visitations of this disease especially in the 1830s due to unsanitary conditions.

The "good old days." Were they good? One wonders. D.V.B.)

The following tables are taken from National Census Records for Dearborn, Greenfield and Springwells townships for 1849-1850. They are recorded on National Archives Publication T-1163-1, of which a microfilm copy is in the archives of the Dearborn Historical Museum. Similar data for the years 1860 and 1870 are likewise available.

The records being hand written cause some difficulty in determining with certainty the exact spelling of names of people. Otherwise the data are quite clear.

TOWN OF DEARBORN

Schedule 3 - Persons who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1850 in the Town of Dearborn in the County of Wayne, State of Michigan enumerated by me, Charles Smith, Assistant Marshal.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Place of Birth</u> | <u>Mo. Died</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Days ill</u> |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Hannah - - - | 47 | F | New York | Apr. | - | Consumption | 9 mos. |
| Mary Maxwell | 38 | F | England | July | - | Pleurisy | 17 days |
| George Weaver | 45 | M | Germany | Aug. | Laborer | Cholera | 5 days |
| George Weaver | 6 | M | Michigan | Aug. | - | Cholera | 1 day |
| Mina Gully | 59 | F | Vermont | Nov. | - | Consumption | 3 years |
| Harriet Palmer | 36 | F | Conn. | Apr. | - | Dropsy | 1 mo. |
| Aurona Murphy | 60 | F | Vermont | June | - | Consumption | 4 mos. |
| Miles Wallace | 1 | M | Michigan | June | - | Dropsy in head | 1 year |
| Cepha Fullerton | 22 | M | New York | July | Engineer | Chronic diarrhoea | 1 year |
| Sarah McClary | 1 | F | Michigan | Mar. | - | Inflammation of lungs | - |
| William Cramer | 3/12 | M | Michigan | Sept. | - | Consumption | 4 weeks |
| Catherine Roeme | 42 | F | Isle of Man | Mar. | - | Inflammation - lungs | 7 days |
| Sarah Ann Coon | 6 | F | Michigan | May | - | Consumption | 16 days |
| Matilda DeMay | 7/12 | F | Michigan | Sept. | - | Fits | 1 day |
| Georgiana Bradleigh | 13 | F | Mass. | May | - | Congestion on brain | 2 days |
| Martha Sweeney | 31 | F | New York | July | - | Uterine hemorrhage-Sudden | |
| Lucinda King | 39 | F | Michigan | Mar. | - | Cancer | 3 mos. |

TOWN OF DEARBORN (CONTINUED)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Place of Birth</u> | <u>No. Died</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Days Ill</u> |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Joshua Lapham | 70 | M | Mass. | Sept. | Merchant | Old age | |
| Maria McVay | 2 | F | Michigan | Jan. | - | Bilious fever | 2 weeks |
| Albert Thomas | 1 | M | Michigan | July | - | Brain fever | 2 weeks |
| Gertrude Ternes | 2 | F | Germany | Sept. | - | Fall off tree | Sudden |
| William Sugar | 30 | M | England | Mar. | Laborer | - | - |

TOWNSHIP OF GREENFIELD

Schedule 3 - Persons who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1850 in the Township of Greenfield in the County of Wayne, State of Michigan enumerated by me, Charles Smith, Assistant Marshal.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Place of Birth</u> | <u>No. Died</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Days Ill</u> |
|------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Barzella Ames | 87 | M | Connecticut | Aug. | Farmer | Old age | - |
| Esper | - | F | Michigan | Feb. | - | Still born | - |
| Schlaf | - | F | Michigan | Oct. | - | Still born | - |
| Riley Dunphy | 27 | M | Canada | Sept. | Cooper | Dropsey | 2 years |
| Alonzo Haggerty | 27 | M | New York | Nov. | Farmer | Brain fever | 2 weeks |
| Martha Miller | 1 | F | Michigan | Apr. | - | Measles | 8 days |
| William Haggerty | 2 | M | Michigan | Mar. | - | Measles | 10 days |
| Jane Rauloe | 75 | F | Michigan | Sept. | - | Dropsey | 6 mos. |
| Lois Myers | 30 | F | New York | Feb. | - | Diarrhoea | 3 weeks |
| Isa Boget | 10 Wks. | M | Michigan | Apr. | - | Lung inflammation | 7 days |

TOWNSHIP OF GREENFIELD (CONTINUED)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Place of Birth</u> | <u>Mo. Died</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Days Ill</u> |
|------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Mary Swan | 76 | F | France | Jan. | - | Old age | - |
| William Whalen | 13 | M | Michigan | Sept. | - | Diarrhoea | 3 mos. |
| Ellen Murphy | 2 | F | Michigan | Sept. | - | Diarrhoea | 1 week |
| Mary Gaffney | 22 | F | Ireland | Jan. | - | Consumption | 3 mos. |
| Elizabeth Matte | 79 | F | France | Sept. | - | Diarrhoea | 4 weeks |
| (Twins) - Murphy | 1/12 | M | Michigan | Aug. | - | Diarrhoea | 5 days |
| Murphy | 1/12 | M | Michigan | Aug. | - | Diarrhoea | 5 days |
| John Berridge | 1/12 | M | Michigan | Aug. | - | Whooping cough | 15 days |
| Michael Kelly | 1/4 | M | Michigan | Nov. | - | Fits | 2 days |
| Richard Butler | 1 | M | Michigan | Oct. | - | Consumption | 1 mo. |
| Mary O'Flaherty | 11 | F | Michigan | May | - | Consumption | 1 mo. |
| Mary Gates | 10 | F | Michigan | Apr. | - | Brain congestion | 4 days |
| Herrick | 12 | F | Michigan | Oct. | - | Fits | 1 week |

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWELLS

Schedule 3 - Persons who Died During the Year ending 1st June, 1850 in the Township of Springwells - County of Wayne, State of Michigan enumerated by me, Samuel Sindell, Assistant Marshal.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Place of Birth</u> | <u>Mo. Died</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Days Ill</u> |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| A-- Laura in | 22 | M | Michigan | Mar. | Farmer | Bilious fever | 25 days |

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWELLS (CONTINUED)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Place of Birth</u> | <u>Mo. Died</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>Cause of Death</u> | <u>Days Ill</u> |
|------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| M. Charbonneau | 60 | F | Canada, E. | Apr. | - | Pleurisy | 11 days |
| William Belle | 11/12 | M | Michigan | Aug. | - | Unknown | 1 day |
| Henry Myers | 5 | M | Michigan | July | - | Whooping cough | 30 days |
| Henry Knapp | 4/12 | M | Michigan | July | - | Diarrhoea | 1 day |
| Sophia Trobridge | 40 | F | New York | Oct. | - | Unknown | 30 days |
| Victor Specht | 1/12 | M | Michigan | May | - | Unknown | 1 day |
| Charles Koch | 35 | M | Germany | July | - | Cholera Morbus | 1 day |
| Augusta Koch | 32 | F | Germany | July | - | Cholera Morbus | 1 day |
| Charles Koch | 3/12 | M | Michigan | July | - | Cholera Morbus | 1 day |
| Edward Koch | 3 | M | Michigan | July | - | Cholera Morbus | 1 day |
| Julienne Odelle | 60 | F | Canada, E. | July | - | Cancer | 15 days |
| Ann O'Flaherty | 5 | F | Michigan | June | - | Measles | 60 days |

* * * * *

JOHN S. HAGGERTY, DEARBORN POLITICIAN

John R. Stewart

Part III of III Parts

THE DEATH OF FLOYD HAGGERTY

Floyd Haggerty had remained active in banking and real estate activities up to the beginning of 1924. In the spring of this year, he became ill with a respiratory illness that left him an invalid for months. The condition degenerated into dropsy by July of 1924 and he died on July 17, 1924. He was buried on the old Haggerty family plot in Woodmere Cemetery with Masonic rites in which his old friend Henry Ford participated. Floyd Haggerty was never as prominent as his brother in public affairs and remains a somewhat elusive figure. He was rumored to have attempted to study both law and medicine at the University of Michigan but no documentation has been found to confirm this. He engaged in real estate speculation and some minor township politics but apparently was never as ambitious as his brother John. Similar to John, he never married and he left his small fortune to his brother, who was the only survivor of Lorenzo Haggerty's family. Floyd spent all of his life on the farm on which he had been born and he died in a brick house which he had built on the site of his birthplace sometime around 1910. His last great project was an effort to raise²⁵ money for the present Dearborn Masonic Temple, which was completed in 1926.

THE UNITED STATES TRUST COMPANY

The bank that John Haggerty and Howard Wade had founded in 1916 continued to prosper and was installed in its own office building in 1925. The United States Trust Company Building still stands at the corner of Shelby and Congress in the heart of the Detroit Financial District. In 1925, the company expanded its business to include personal as well as corporate bank accounts and it took over several local banks, including the Ecorse State Bank, the River Rouge State Bank, the Inkster State Bank and the Halfway (East Detroit) State Bank. The bank building also housed the headquarters of the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association, which was headed by John Haggerty, George Clippert and John Mercier. This group was important in marketing the use of common brick and had an important influence on the Detroit Builders' Exchange.

John S. Haggerty was inaugurated Secretary of State of Michigan in the first week of January, 1927. He earned a reputation as an honest and thorough administration who ran the department like a private business. He encountered a major budget crisis when he took office because Groesbeck had spent large amounts of money in the last few months of his term, leaving the state several million dollars in the red. Haggerty gained respect in his skillful resolution of the problem and the debt was erased by 1928. Another area in which he

distinguished himself was in improving the service to motorists by his department, opening more local offices for obtaining license plates and making the process of getting plates easier. He also started the practice of publishing a free booklet on traffic laws for distribution at Secretary of State offices, which is still done today.

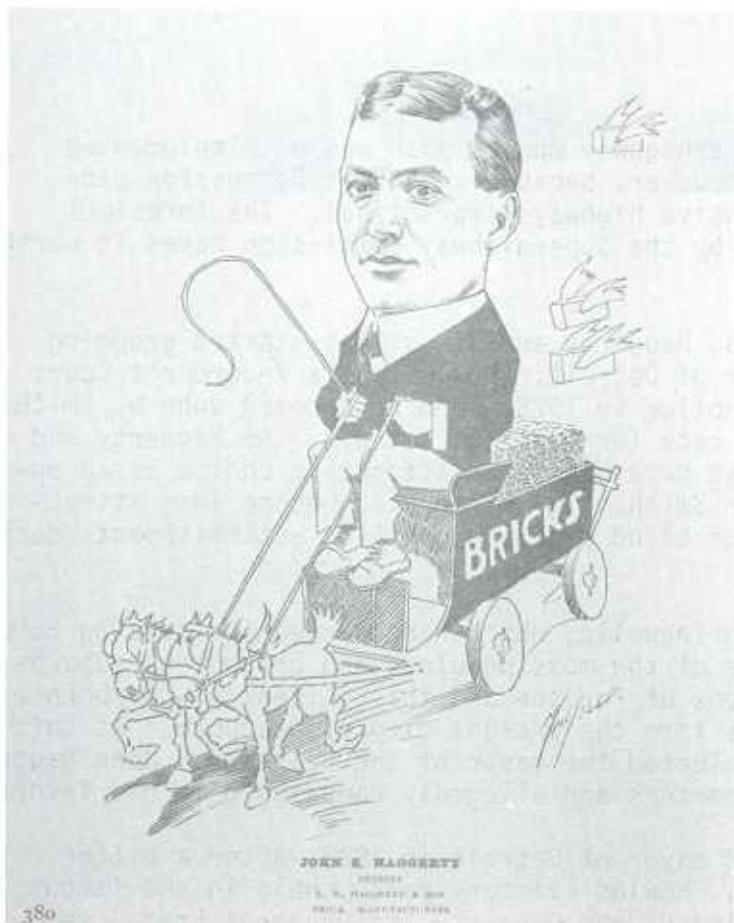
Almost as soon as he had become Secretary of State, there was agitation for Haggerty to run for governor in 1928. The call for him to run was led by Milton Carmichael, who wrote a long editorial on the merits that qualified Haggerty for the governorship in the Detroit Courier. How Haggerty felt about running for governor at that time is unknown, although he had considered the possibility before. The Detroit Courier became ever more sharp in its criticism of Fred Green starting in the spring of 1927, even though the Haggerty-Green alliance seems to have been as strong as ever at that time.

On July 12, 1928, an adulatory issue of the Michigan Digest was published extolling the virtues of Haggerty, which was probably backed by Republicans who were urging Haggerty to run for governor at this time. In this issue, Howard Wade is suggested as a possible successor to the position of Secretary of State. What prevented Haggerty from pursuing the office of governor in 1928 is unknown, especially since Groesbeck did not seek re-election that year.

Fred Green was re-elected in 1928 and Haggerty was returned for a second term as Secretary of State. New problems were appearing in the Wayne County organization, however. This may have been a factor in Haggerty's decision not to run for governor because his heavy commitments in Lansing may have prevented him from mending fences in his home district. Edward Barnard and his allies were a growing threat to the Haggerty organization and Barnard became the chairman of the county convention in December of 1928. Haggerty's control was not broken but was weakening. John W. Smith, one of his strongest allies during the feud with Groesbeck, switched his loyalty to the Barnard faction. Barnard was an ally of Frank McKay of Grand Rapids, who was a member of a new generation of politicians that would take control of the Republican Party in the 1930's. The problems in Wayne County were only an early sign of this transition.

THE SUPER HIGHWAY COMMISSION

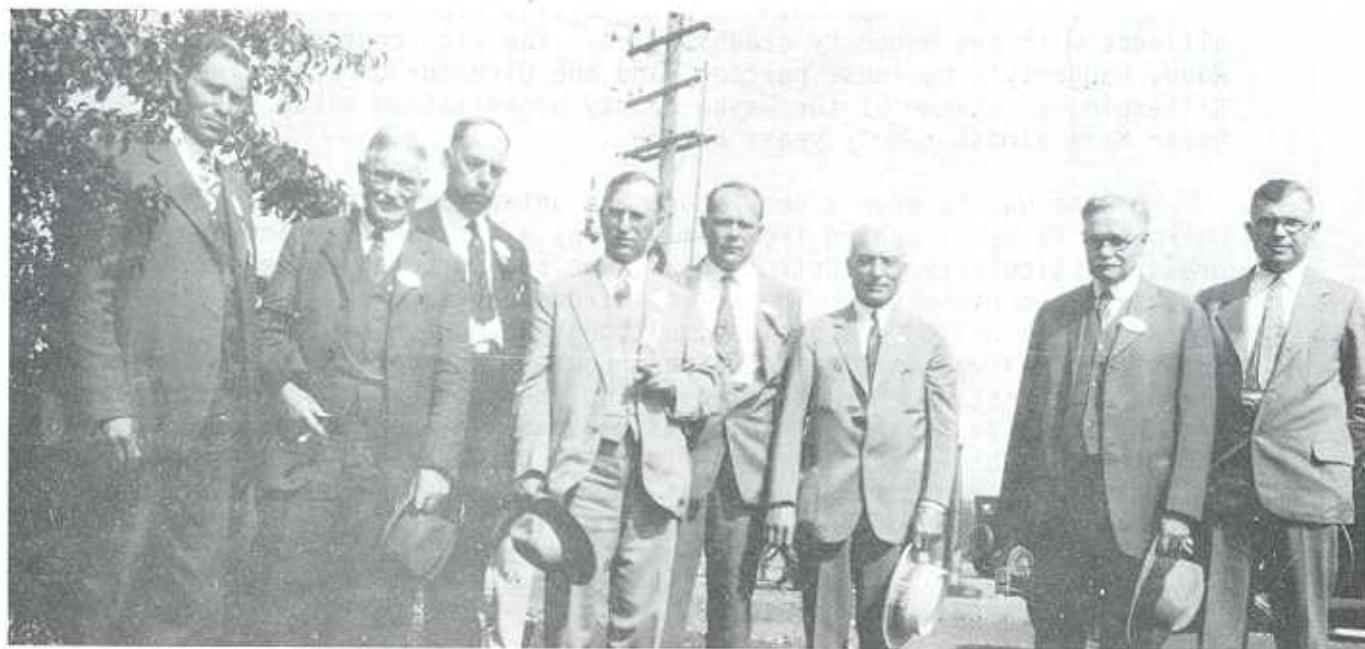
The election of John Haggerty as Secretary of State did not prevent him from continuing his duties as Road Commissioner but probably gave him a certain advantage in lobbying for legislation favorable to Wayne County. One of the most important acts to be passed concerning Wayne County roads at this time was the Darin Act, setting up a superhighway commission to develop a master plan for superhighways in the Wayne-Oakland-Macomb region. As a member of this board, Haggerty helped develop a master plan which designated several superhighways which later became an integral part of the expressway system. He also hired an engineer from California, at his own personal expense, to design a new type of superhighway to be built within the Detroit city limits. The design was very elaborate, featuring an elevated highway with separate express and local lanes, rapid railway lines and interchanges with



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Our Michigan Friends ("As We See Them") by Newspaper Cartoonists Association of Michigan. C. O. Youngstrand, Editor. William Graham Printing Co., Detroit, 1905.

This cartoon of John S. Haggerty reflected the brick industry in the area. The Museum has this volume in its library and the reader may wish to look at it sometimes.



Labor Day Weekend, 1930 - Dedication Picnic for Frank Rogers Monument in St. Ignace, Michigan. Left to right: Sidney Waldon (Super Highway Commissioner), Luther Allen (Oakland County Road Commissioner), Sidney Schulte (Haggerty's assistant), John S. Haggerty (Secretary of State), Frank Rogers (Retired State Highway Commissioner) and Grover Dillman (State Highway Commissioner).

local surface traffic. The superhighway master plan was not implemented at the time it was published, however, because the Great Depression made the construction of these expensive highways impractical. The foresight and ambitious designs advanced by the Superhighway Commission makes it worthy of note.

After the election of 1928, Haggerty and his allies started grooming Charles Bowles to run for mayor of Detroit. Bowles was a Recorder's Court judge who had risen to public notice in 1925, when he opposed John W. Smith as a write-in candidate in the race for mayor of Detroit. As Haggerty and Smith drifted apart, Bowles must have become an attractive choice as an opponent to the recalcitrant John Smith. Smith had also become less attractive because of his tolerance of blind pigs and gambling establishments during his administration.

Haggerty's home town of Springwells, which had changed its name to Fordson in 1925, had now become one of the most populous and prosperous suburbs of Detroit. In 1929 the citizens of Fordson and the citizens of Dearborn voted to unite their two cities into the present city of Dearborn. At this same election, Clyde Ford was elected the mayor of the new city. John Haggerty was one of Ford's major supporters and allegedly campaigned in his favor.

Charles Bowles was elected mayor of Detroit in 1929, after a bitter campaign against John W. Smith. Bowles' victory party, held in the famous Allen's Gardens roadhouse, included John Haggerty and Governor Fred Green among its distinguished guests and was reported in a national magazine as an event at which illegal booze flowed freely. After the inauguration of Bowles in the new year, the appointments of the city department heads honored his alliance with the Haggerty organization. The city controller was Howard Wade, Haggerty's business partner, and the director of public works was John Gillespie, a veteran of the Wayne County organization since the election of Oscar Marx almost twenty years before.

Bowles was to have a very short and unfortunate career as mayor of Detroit. He was troubled from early on by a hostile relationship with the press, particularly the Detroit News, who soon started to depict him as incompetent and dishonest. The actual circumstances which led to the movement to have him recalled are unclear, although he hurt himself badly by dismissing Street Railway Commissioner Frank Couzens and Police Commissioner Harold Emmons and by stubbornly standing behind the controversial John Gillespie when he was attacked for certain changes made in the Public Works Department. Bowles was probably not any worse than any of his recent predecessors but the city was in ferment over the recent stock market crash and the recall may have helped diffuse some of the public frustration. The fall of Charles Bowles from public favor was very damaging to any ambitions that John Haggerty may have had for running for governor in 1930, especially since Bowles was so closely linked to his organization.

Fred Green decided to not run for re-election, purportedly because he wanted to run against his own recent appointee, Arthur Vandenberg, for the office of United States Senator. Green and Haggerty endorsed the State

Attorney-General, Wilber Brucker, for Governor. Brucker was opposed in the primary election by Alexander Groesbeck, who was defeated by Brucker by a very close margin. Groesbeck sued for a recount, suspecting that Haggerty may have doctored the results, since the Secretary of State supervised the counting of the ballots. The recount still gave a majority to Brucker, who was elected in November of 1930.²⁶

In the county convention of 1930, Haggerty lost control of the Wayne County Republican Party to Edward Barnard. The recall of Charles Bowles had been the culmination of the decline of the Haggerty organization. The new mayor of Detroit, Frank Murphy, attempted to dismiss City Controller Howard Wade but was forestalled until 1931 because of a lawsuit by Wade. John Haggerty was now the leader of the opposition faction among the Wayne County Republicans and his group was distinguished in remaining supportive of Governor Brucker long after Barnard had broken with Brucker.

ECONOMIC TROUBLES

The United States Trust Company was one of the first of the Detroit banks to go into receivership after the stock market crash in 1929. The company went bankrupt early in 1930 and the several local banks affiliated with it were also forced to close. The exact amount of money that John Haggerty lost at this time is not known but probably was at least a million dollars. Several investors sued to regain their lost money and the suits lasted until 1936. The brickyard was also affected dramatically by the Great Depression and a newspaper account from 1932 mentions that hardly any new brick was being made. An amusement park that had stood on part of the brickyard property was forced to close and a roller coaster called the Whoopie Roll was left on the site. Haggerty allowed local residents to remove wood from the structure free of cost for use as fuel. The Haggerty brickyard was incorporated in 1935 for the first time, perhaps as a legal move to avoid the lawsuits over the defunct United States Trust Company.

The continued economic hard times resulted in an anti-Republican backlash in Wayne County in 1932. The first Democrat was elected to the Wayne County Road Commission, of which Haggerty was now chairman. Michael O'Brien was to clash frequently with John Haggerty and Edward Hines, who were accused of wasteful practices, accusations which were found to be groundless. In spite of the depression, the Wayne County Road Commission remained the most fiscally sound of all county departments. Another casualty of the 1932 elections was Wilber Brucker, who later became Secretary of the Army under President Eisenhower. John Haggerty's role in the Wayne County Republican Party was diminished by the defeat of Brucker, whom he had supported. Frank Fitzgerald, an ally of Barnard and McKay, was one of the few Republicans to stay in office after 1932 (he was Secretary of State).

Another Republican who had lost influence in the party in the early years of the 1930's was Alexander Groesbeck. Groesbeck and Haggerty had a reconciliation in 1933, apparently through the mediation of Fred Green but their friendship never was as close as it had been before 1925. Groesbeck ran as a

candidate for governor in 1934, with Haggerty's support but was defeated by Frank Fitzgerald in the primaries.

As his political fortunes declined, John Haggerty sold his house on Arden Park and moved out to his Canton Township farm permanently in 1933. Two of his oldest adopted children were married at this time. Frances Spittler married Harry Hamman of Detroit and Edward Richards married Donna Finnegan of Canton. Edward and his wife moved into the old Carleton home-stead just north of the Haggerty mansion.

John Haggerty suffered a further setback in the election of 1934, when he was defeated by the Democrat Peter Schoenherr when he ran for re-election to the Road Commission. Haggerty was quoted as saying "The people threw me out" and he apparently was so embittered by his loss that he declared that he would retire from politics. The Wayne County Board of Supervisors, which was now heavily Democratic, altered its policy on the appointment of road commissioners in 1935. Haggerty had lost by a relatively small margin and was apparently seen as having a good chance of regaining his position. The Supervisors decided to end the policy of selecting road commissioners by popular vote and made the position an appointment by the Board of Supervisors. This change in policy was challenged but was upheld by the state Supreme Court. Peter Schoenherr died early in 1936, leaving a vacancy on the Road Commission. John Haggerty was one of the men nominated for appointment in the next session of the Board of Supervisors but he was eliminated early in the selection process. This was the last time that he actively sought a political office.²⁷

BRICKS FOR GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Business at the Haggerty brickyard was drastically reduced by the Great Depression. Haggerty brick was used in some of the New Deal public works projects in Wayne County but the construction business in the area was moribund compared to the boom years of the late 1920's. A valuable source of business in these hard times was Haggerty's childhood friend Henry Ford. Ford used Haggerty brick extensively both in the buildings that he built for his village industry project and in Greenfield Village. At first he only used the standard common brick that was produced at the brickyard but he then proposed that a small branch business of the Haggerty brickyard be set up at Greenfield Village. The brickyard at the village would manufacture brick in the old fashioned manner as it was done in Springwells in the late 1800's. The bricks that would be produced would be special bricks that would be used in the restoration of some of the buildings which had been brought to Greenfield Village. The brickyard would use an exact replica of an old Blazer brick machine that was still at the Haggerty brickyard, which would be housed in a reproduction of one of the original buildings of the Haggerty Brothers yard. The Blazer machine was of interest to Henry Ford because of its uniqueness and its rarity and the project gave him an opportunity to commemorate one of his old friends with a building at the village.²⁸

The Haggerty Power Plant was dedicated at Greenfield Village in 1937. It was constructed out of vintage haggerty brick which had been salvaged

from an old smokestack that had recently been demolished at the brickyard. Tablets above the two doors of the building were adorned with a facsmilie of John Haggerty's signature. After the special bricks had been manufactured for use at the village, the Haggerty Power Plant became a pottery shop, where pottery making demonstrations were held until the 1960's. This building is currently being used as a maintenance garage.

The southern portion of the brickyard south of Ford Road was sold late in the 1930's. The clay deposit had long since been depleted and the buildings were old and delapidated. The man who purchased the land was Charles Newton, attorney for the Ford Motor Company and son of Haggerty's old business partner Frank Newton. Charles Newton was involved with Henry Ford's village industry project and also with his collecting activities in preparation for the opening of the Edison Institute and Greenfield Village. Newton later sold the property to Mobil for construction of a tank farm. The original buildings of the Haggerty brickyard were demolished during World War II, although the brick pond remained up to the 1960's. Part of the original brickyard, including the site of the Haggerty farmhouse, was obliterated by the construction of Interstate 94 in the late 1940's.

The northern portion of the brickyard remained in operation until the early 1950's. Haggerty Field, the airstrip on Wyoming Avenue, continued to be used by amateur pilots. The land between the airfield and the kiln buildings was purchased for a drive-in theater about 1946. The Ford-Wyoming Theater was opened in 1948.

John Haggerty was appointed to his last political position in 1939. Governor Frank Fitzgerald died suddenly early in that year and the elderly Lieutenant-Governor Luren D. Dickinson was appointed to succeed him. Dickinson was an old friend and ally of Haggerty and they had served together for many years in the state government. Dickinson appointed Haggerty to the Civil Service Commission on August 22, 1939, as a political birthday present. Haggerty served on the commission up to the end of Dickinson's term in 1940.

After his retirement from politics, Haggerty enjoyed an occupation as a gentleman farmer. His farm produced milk for the Wilson Dairy and he took pride in the fact that he could still do the daily chores as vigorously as younger men. The last of his children were married by the early 1940's and only his cousins Martha and Lucinda Campbell remained as permanent members of his household. Weekends were times for family reunions and frequently all of his adopted children and their families would visit the house on Sundays for dinner together. Haggerty remained in relatively good health up to the time of his death in 1950, although his eyesight deteriorated in the last few years of his life.

John S. Haggerty died in his sleep early in the morning of September 4, 1950. His funeral was attended by several of the leading political figures of the time, including judges, state officials and former Governor Alexander Groesbeck. The funeral was celebrated with Masonic rites in keeping with

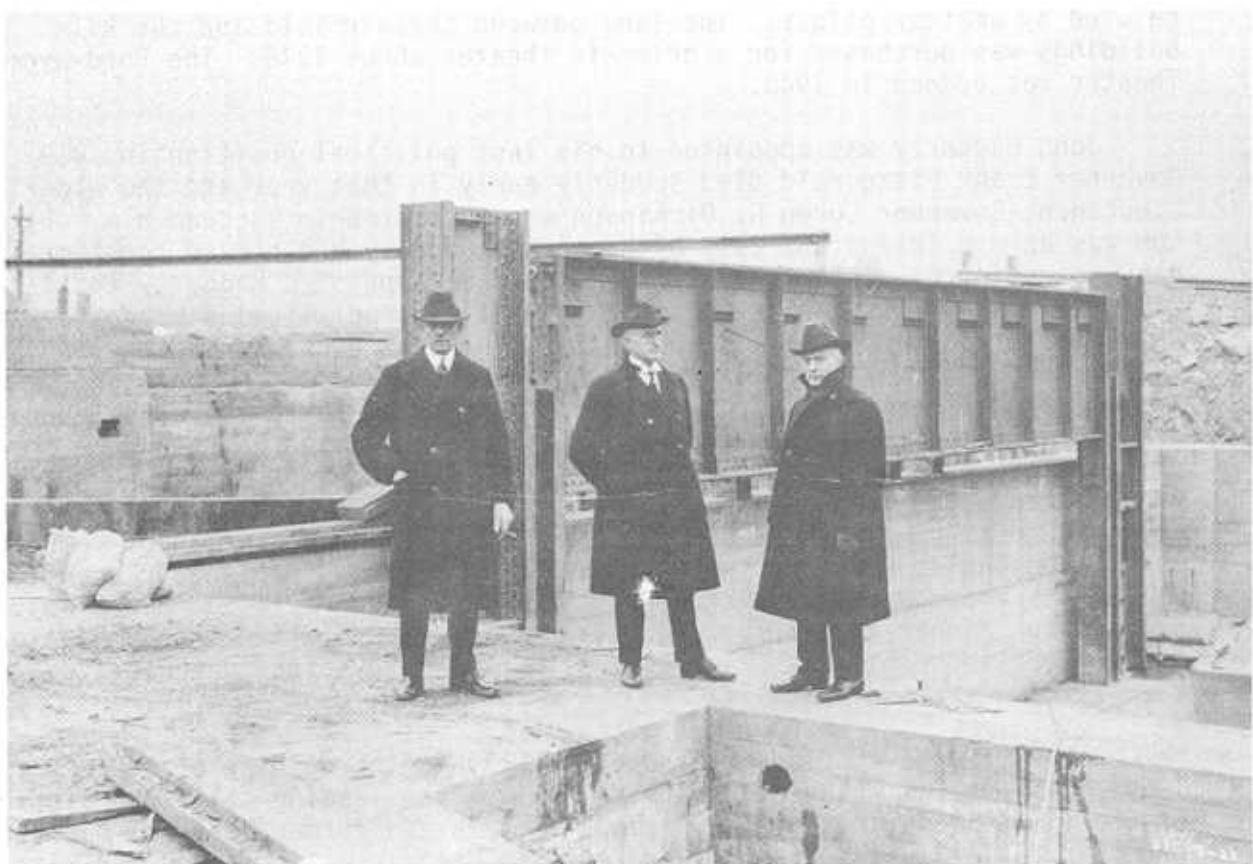
his advanced rank as a Shriner and Knight Templar. He was buried in Grand Lawn Cemetery in the family mausoleum which he had built in 1926 for his brother and parents. His former political greatness was eulogized in all of the local papers, including those which had been highly critical of him during his period of greatest success.

* * * * *

FOOTNOTES

25. "Floyd Haggerty Dies," Springwells Independent, July 25, 1924
26. Woodford, 265
27. "John S. Haggerty Dies In Sleep," Detroit Times, September 4, 1950
28. "52nd Birthday Marked Friday by Haggerty Brick Company," Dearborn Independent, May 5, 1939

* * * * *



Left to right: William Murdock, Edward N. Hines and John S. Haggerty on the Jefferson Avenue bridge - possibly over the Rouge River.
(December 8, 1921)

MUSE EDITORIAL

"When You Donate!"

Dearborn Historical Museum opened as a one-building municipal museum on October 14, 1950. However, preparations for its existence began earlier - actually over a period of time when there seemed to be a real possibility of the wrecker's ball doing its "thing." However, it was saved and that lit the spark for a local history museum in one of Michigan's most significant and historically interesting communities.

When the first visitors entered the 1833 Commandant's Quarters that day they noticed items on exhibit in the various rooms. This museum has a two-pronged collection: (1) an outstanding archives, and (2) a representative collection of the handiworks of man - commonly called the 3-dimensional collection. That first day of operations the public did see documents, photographs and some of these handiworks. People began to donate things from their families or artifacts they thought a new museum could use. That really was the nucleus for collections which continue to grow to this very day. We have collected for over 40 years but today we must be selective, especially regarding large items as we have storage problems. When another building is acquired, we will still be selective but will not have to turn down museum-worthy additions.

Our Museum, as is so with most municipal or public museums, depends largely on artifacts which are given by a concerned citizenry. Many lovely items have come our way over the decades - from the people of Dearborn and its environs. As we look forward over the next decade to the Museum reaching the half-century milestone, we hope you and your friends will always keep the Museum in mind. We are always interested in subject matter which reflects our historical, cultural, commercial-business-industrial, religious, ethnic, educational and political roles in the community.

It is always nice to share objects of beauty, significance, timely interest and a sense of the past with our fellow-citizens and others who may frequent the Museum now and in the future. Also the records or photographs you make available to the Museum are important to our work. If we can't have the originals at this point in time, we could make copies of them. Think about it! [W.H.A.]



NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

TWO NEW COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED. We are pleased to introduce two new commissioners to the Historical Commission. Earl K. Lundy is the Data Processing Computer Programmer for Wayne State University. He is a life resident and has been involved in cultural activities in the community. He is married to Theresa Lundy with whom many of you are acquainted. Currently Mr. Lundy is meeting with staff personnel in preparation for plans of the Museum to join the world of computers. This program will be funded through the Floyd and Mary Haight Charitable Trust Fund. Mr. Lundy occupies the position held by a past Commission Chairman Elmer Ledbetter who had resigned.

The second name is that of Joel R. Carr who is Business Manager and Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Romulus School District. Mr. Carr has been a Dearborn resident since 1976. He also has been active in various community events. His budgetary skills and knowledge about fund-raising will be very helpful in our pursuits to obtain a multi-purpose building for the Museum. Mr. Carr is married to Lynn Carr. He fills the 12th position on the Commission and is taking the place which was vacated when Steve Riga, Jr. resigned recently.

* * * * *

Lecture Series. Attached to this issue of THE HISTORIAN is the schedule of our Museum Lecture Series - now in its 8th year. We have had fine programs and speakers and we encourage you to join us the first Wednesday of the month October through May at 7:30 P.M. at the McFadden-Ross House. There is no charge.

* * * * *

Murder at the Museum. The Museum staff is planning its third "Murder at the Museum" dinner-theatre program for January 25-26 and February 1-2, 1991. This is another one of what has turned out to be a popular event at the Museum. It is a fund-raiser for the plans of the Dearborn Historical Foundation. Keep these dates in mind.

* * * * *

Two Flyers Attached. With the 1990 holidays approaching we have attached two flyers for your interest. The Museum Guild of Dearborn is scheduling its annual Christmas Victorian Open House at the Commandant's Quarters on Friday, December 14 between the hours of 1-8 P.M. We always have a large beautiful real tree in the parlor. Also many of the florists in the community as well as other organizations add festive decorations. A special treat will be the first usage of the Ray and Leah Adams Victorian organ in the parlor. Come join us and meet old and new acquaintances.

Also on Saturday, December 15 between the hours of 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. old St. Nicholas will join us. Bring the children and your cameras. Meet Santa,

enjoy a puppet show and receive candy and a Christmas brochure. The kids love it and so will mom and dad or other members of the family.

* * * * *

Something special for the December 14 Christmas Open House. The Dearborn-Fairlane Chapter of the Embroiders Guild of America, Inc. are preparing a benefit for the Museum and its plans for another building. The members have been busy embroidering decorations for Christmas. There will be three drawings:

1st Prize - 3' Angel Christmas Tree

2nd Prize - Angel Christmas Wreath

3rd Prize - One dozen Angel Ornaments

Tickets are \$1.00 donation or 6 for \$5.00.

The handcrafts are beautiful and you may see them at the Commandant's Quarters. Tickets are at the Museum or call 563-7772.

* * * * *

Guild Officers for 1990-1991. As of September the following Museum Guild of Dearborn members served as officers for the September 1990 - August 1991 year:

President - Irene Hojnicky

Vice President - Ruth Crowley

Treasurer - Margaret Schrader

Secretary - Harvey Thiede

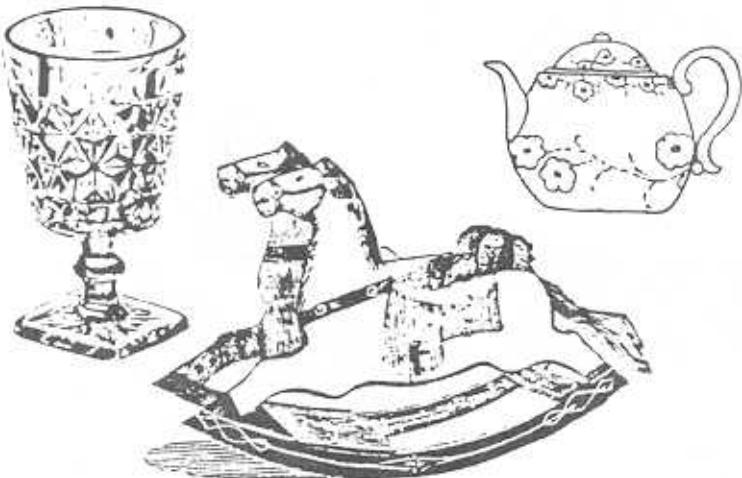
We wish them well in their Museum-related work!

* * * * *



RECENT DONATIONS

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Booklet, c. 1912 "WINTON SIX" | ADDISON DIXON |
| Toaster, c. 1920 | MARY LEE GOYERT |
| Yearbook, c. 1990 | ST. ALPHONSUS HIGH SCHOOL |
| Prescription Bottles, c. 1900's | ALLAN COPLEY |
| Riding Boots, c. 1880's | LINDA OSHINS |
| Rocking Horse | PAT KUPTZ |
| Eastlake Settee & Chair | LOIS FRENTZ |
| World War II Boots, c. 1943 | MUSEUM GUILD OF DEARBORN |
| Bridesmaids Dress, c. 1980 | |
| Light Blue formal gown, c. 1980 | |
| Black Evening Coat, c. 1975 | |
| Multi-colored evening gown, c. 1968 | |
| Gas containers, c. 1945 | MR. & MRS. ARTHUR JEFFERSON |
| Wedding dresses, c. 1945 & 1948 | ESTATE OF PEARL REID |
| Bridesmaid dresses, c. 1945 & 1948 | |
| Evening bag, c. 1930 | PHYLLIS BROOKS |
| Assortment of infant attire, c. 1900's | THELMA RUDDUCK CHRISTENSEN |
| Books, "DODGE DYNASTY" "A GUIDE TO AMERICA'S HISTORIC PLACES", "CIVIL WAR FRONT PAGES" | SHARON BINGLEY |
| Assorted books on Glassware and China | MR. & MRS. KENNETH GUST |



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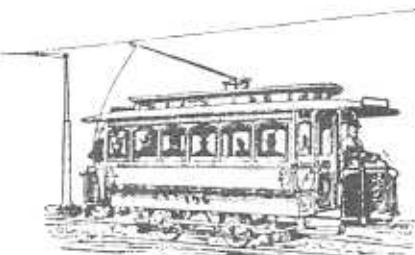
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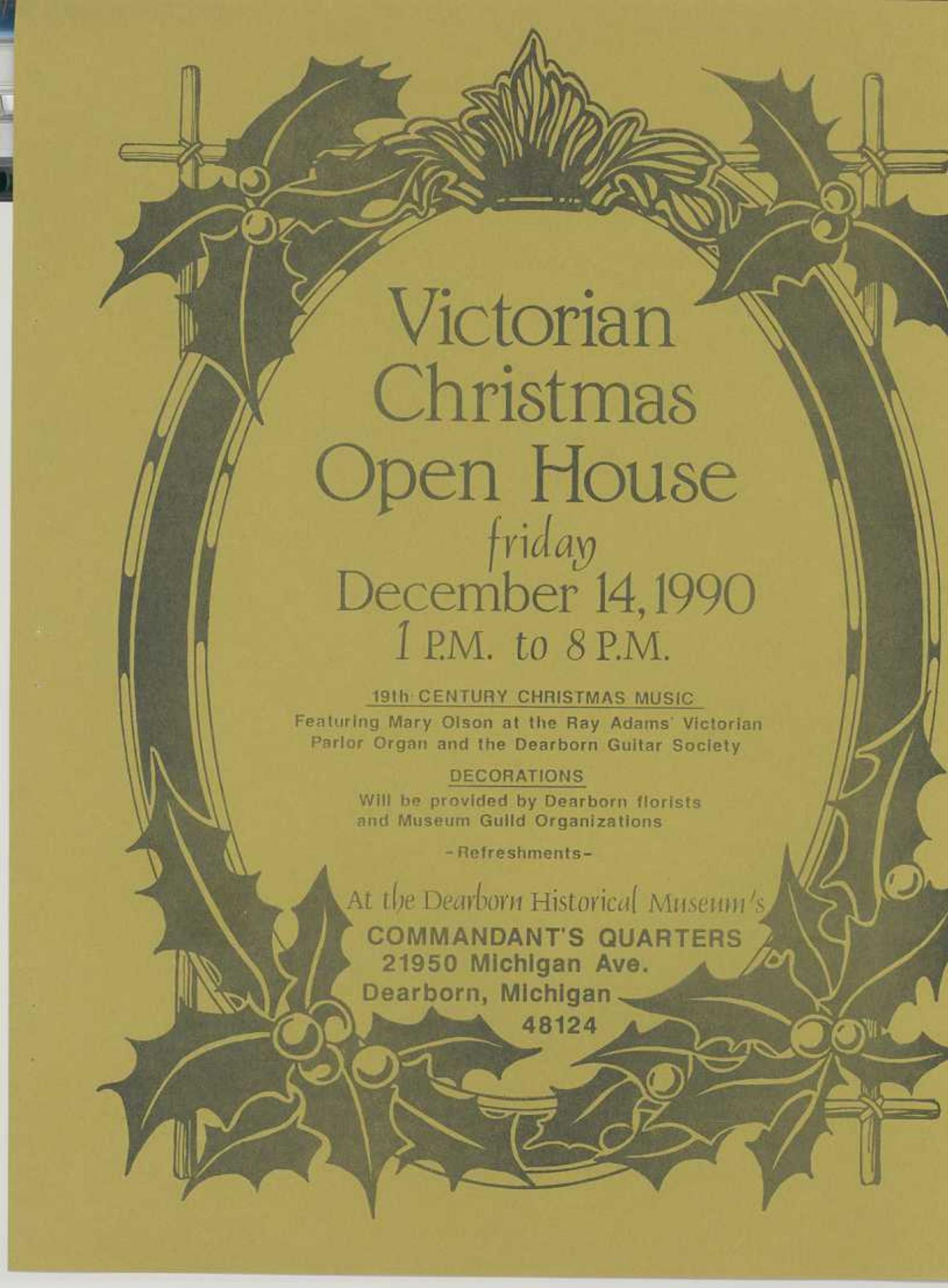
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CODE TO ABBREVIATIONS

APPT. - Appointed
D.H.C. - Dearborn Historical
Commission
C.Q. - Commandant's Quarters





Victorian Christmas Open House

friday
December 14, 1990
1 P.M. to 8 P.M.

19th CENTURY CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Featuring Mary Olson at the Ray Adams' Victorian
Parlor Organ and the Dearborn Guitar Society

DECORATIONS

Will be provided by Dearborn florists
and Museum Guild Organizations

- Refreshments -

At the Dearborn Historical Museum's

COMMANDANT'S QUARTERS

21950 Michigan Ave.

Dearborn, Michigan

48124

SANTA IS COMING!

and... He'll be
at the -

McFadden-Ross House
915 Brady St. - Dearborn

Saturday

DECEMBER 15th

10A.M. - 4P.M.

FREE Candy and Santa Brochure!
Talk to Santa - Take your own photos!





DEARBORN HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND COMMISSION SERVICES

* Exhibits

- Preservation of Two Historic Arsenal Era-(1833-1875) Buildings
- Exhibit Annex: Early Farming & Shops
- Period Rooms
- Changing Exhibits
- Special Exhibits

* Education

- Guided Tours
- Local History Lectures
- Pioneer & Indian Lectures
- Museum Collection Lectures
- School Education Program
- Junior Historians Program

* Volunteer Program

- * Souvenir Counter
- * Special Events
- * Cultural-Civic Meetings

* Research

- Historical Records & Library
- Local History Files
- Manuscripts & Archives
- Microfilms
- Books & Journals
- Pamphlets & Newspapers
- Photographs & Slides
- Tapes
- Maps

* Historical Markers

* Publication Program

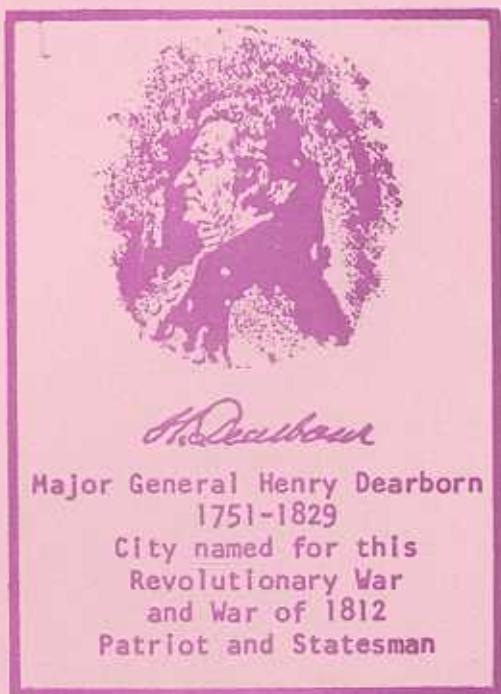
- Quarterly: THE DEARBORN HISTORIAN
- Book: THE BARK COVERED HOUSE
- Free Literature: Arsenal, Museum, Research, Local History, Indian, Dearborn Story, Dearborn's Names, & Other Special Pamphlets

The Museum sponsors the Museum Guild of Dearborn

The Museum is a member of:

- * American Association of Museums
- * American Association for State & Local History
- * Dearborn Community Arts Council
- * Dearborn Genealogical Society
- * Dearborn Historical Society
- * Historical Society of Michigan
- * Michigan Archaeological Association
- * Michigan Museums Conference
- * Midwest Museums Conference
- * National Trust for Historic Preservation
- * Organization of American Historians
- * Society of American Archivists

The Museum and Commission assume the responsibility of collecting, preserving and disseminating all aspects of Dearborn's long heritage by means of its educational, exhibit and research facilities.



DEARBORN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
915 Brady Street
Dearborn, Michigan 48124

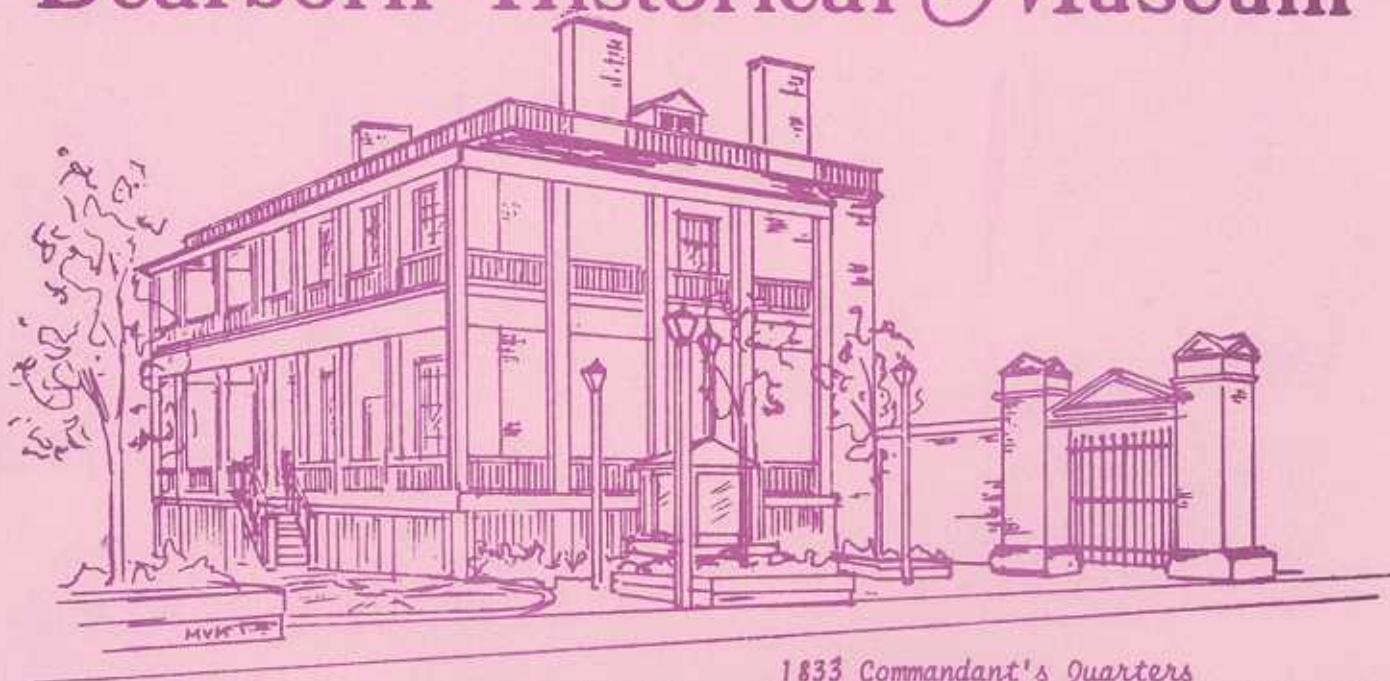
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Michael A. Guido
Mayor

Dearborn Historical Museum



1833 Commandant's Quarters
(listed on the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES)



McFadden-Ross House and Historical Records and Library
(Originally the 1839 Powder Magazine)