

# THE LEDGER

Eaton County's Museum at Courthouse Square & The Eaton County Historical Commission

## *Christmas Kiddies, a 111 year old Charlotte Tradition*



Did you know the Christmas Kiddie program has been giving children in our community a Merry Christmas since 1906? The "Christmas Kiddie" program was started by leaders of our community and though it has changed over the years, the concept of making sure every child has a Merry Christmas has never changed. Because the fire department did not have fire trucks until 1914, Santa had to use horses to deliver the Christmas gifts. In the early years the gifts were selected from letters written to Santa and even though it was a huge task, these men would travel the community to get ages and sizes of children to make sure every child received a gift.

The community originally used the basement of the Phoenix Hotel as their workshop, collecting and wrapping gifts for delivery, and a huge Christmas tree was standing in the center of the pavement on the corner of the Courthouse. Hundreds of children lined up in front of the tree to receive bags of candy. Due to the long lines in the street, the Christmas tree was not allowed to stand in the center of the pavement after that, so community leader, *Met Miksell* bought a beautiful tree and planted it on the Courthouse lawn as his memorial. This began the tradition Charlotte enjoys to this day with the lighting of the Christmas tree.

We hope you were able to join us on November 25th as we once again light the Christmas tree on the Courthouse lawn. The Charlotte community thanks you for your continued support of our "Christmas Kiddie Program"

# THE LEDGER

## WORLD WAR II ROLL OF HONOR

Saturday November 11, 2017 was a Great Day for the Courthouse Square Association and the Charlotte Community with the unveiling of the World War II Roll of Honor Photograph Collection. The event took place at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center and was attended by over 350 people. Among the many who attended, 12 were WWII Veterans. They included Jean Bearup, Earl Cady, Richard Carrigan, Kenneth Feighner, Alfred Hill, Jack Johnson, Frank Kane, John O'Bryant, Clyde Ray, Richard Schneckenberger, Herbert Stacy and Richard Trumley.



It was also a special day for WWII Veteran, Clyde Ray (*Pictured here*) as he celebrated his 98th birthday with us this Veterans Day. The younger WWII veterans attending were between the ages of 90 and 97.

Two of the "Original Founders" also attended the event: Patricia Spagnuolo was there representing Bruno and Sam Spagnuolo who kept the collection safe for over 60 years; and Randy Jewel, the last owner of record, who gifted the entire collection to the Courthouse Museum.

The event was the culmination of over 12 months of work by Courthouse Square's WWII Committee lead by Rod Weaver. The committee members included: Dave Bankhead, Sarah Buckmaster, Gary Colles, Gary Copenhaver, Sherry Copenhaver, Kim Curran, Christi Dutcher, Lee Howser, Julie Kimmer, Leila Klaiss, Neil Klaiss, Sandy Maatsch, Bob Monchein, Bob Phillips, Linda Smith, Tom Potter, Jeannette Sommer and Suzette Weaver.

The World War II Roll of Honor Photograph Collection will be on display on the first floor of the 1885 Courthouse for one year beginning November 22, 2017. Additional World War II veteran photographs may still be submitted by contacting [ww2charlotte@gmail.com](mailto:ww2charlotte@gmail.com) or calling Courthouse Square at 517-543-6999



Eaton County  
Historical Commission

*Present awards to  
Rod Weaver and The G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum*



*Pictured above left to right ; President of the Eaton County Historical Commission, Randy Tooker, Rod Weaver and Chris Allen representing the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum.*

The Eaton County Historical Commission held their annual Heritage Conference at the Center Eaton Church on October 21st. The two presenters that day were Rod Weaver who spoke about his World War II Roll of Honor project and Harold Holcomb who spoke about the history of the Center Eaton Church, The Bush School and Michigan's Lt Governor, Luren Dickenson.

After the presentations the Eaton County Historical Commission presented awards to Chris Allen, representing G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum and Rod Weaver for their years of service in the preservation of our local history.

On hand to present the awards was president of the Eaton county Historical Commission, Randy Tooker and Trustee, Deb Malewski. Others in attendance

Do you know a person or organization  
who deserves this recognition?

Contact Julie Kimmer at [csamuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:csamuseum@yahoo.com) or 517-543-6999

# THE LEDGER



Owner,  
Johnathan Potter



The Courthouse Square is very excited to have **PotterVilla** as a tenant and encourage anyone looking for technology repairs to check them out.

Owner, Johnathan Potter, a Charlotte native, started his computer repair business out of his home in 2010. Within a few years his business out grew his home office and he found a new home for his computers in the old Eaton County Sheriff's building left vacant by the Chamber of Commerce.



As the business continued to grow in his new location, Johnathan hired Luke Worden ( pictured left) and together they work with over 250 satisfied clients. Luke also maintains an office in Eaton Rapids..

Last year fiber optics were installed in the building

which has been a huge asset for the business.

**PotterVilla** not only repair computers and a variety of gaming devises but also offer professional website designing.



Vincent Brady  
NOCTURNAL PHOTOGRAPHY



At the age of six, after saving enough koolaid points, Vincent Brady acquired his first camera, which was actually pink! He continued expanding his love of photography at LCC where he began experimenting with a variety of different types of photography and became very interested in creating imagery that looks beyond the naked eye. Through his experimentation he discovered macro/close-up photography, long expose time-lapse, and 360-180 panorama time-lapse. Utilizing various techniques he built a 4 camera rig with fisheye lenses to shoot 360 degree night sky panorama time-lapse. Being quiet by nature, he finds peace in the solitude of moonless starlight. Photography is a solo sport where he sets out to create unique imagery and engage the viewer.

Since his graduation from LCC in 2013 he has pursued photography full time as an artist and currently has his photos on display at **Windwalker Underground Gallery** in Charlotte. His most recent photo works pair night sky phenomenon with interesting scapes throughout Charlotte with much of his inspiration coming from the people of Charlotte.



Above is an example of the beautiful photos he has taken around Charlotte. We encourage you to stop by Windwalker Underground Gallery located at 125 S. Cochran and check them out!

# THE LEDGER

## Eaton County History Newspaper Project

PRESERVING STORIES OF THE PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Established 2016

Price — All donations accepted

### PLAN TO DIGITIZE OLD NEWSPAPERS NEEDS YOUR HELP

*VALUABLE INFORMATION IN DANGER OF BEING LOST FOREVER*

#### Newspaper Project Update

The Eaton County History Newspaper Project has almost all of the available newspaper microfilm digitized now. We are waiting to hear from the Library of Michigan so that we can (hopefully) order some fresh copies of about 20 more reels to have the best searching possible. The Library of Michigan is taking much longer in working with us than we had hoped, but we will keep on them and maybe we can get an order in soon.

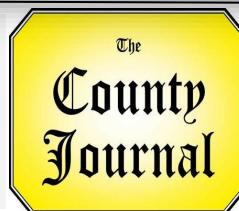
Also to be included in the project is the Dimondale newspaper which ran from the mid to late 1930's to the mid to late 1960's. The Dimondale library had their paper scanned to pdf images. We will be sending these images to be Optical Character Recognition searchable.

*Update submitted by Marci & Sherry*



**FROM THEIR TYPEWRITERS TO OUR COMPUTERS** — Many local newspaper archives are kept in perishable formats, such as bound paper volumes and fragile, aging microfilm. This project would ensure permanent digital storage and easy, searchable retrieval of these historic documents for anyone with a computer and internet connection.

*Thank you to our  
Sponsors*



#### DAILY DELIVERY TO

241 S. Cochran Suite #1  
Charlotte MI 48813  
Phone: 517-543-1099  
Fax: 517-543-1993

\*Charlotte \*Olivet  
\*Bellevue \*Potterville  
\*Vermontville \*Sunfield  
\*Mulliken \*Eaton Rapids  
\*

Charles L. Green  
Director/Owner/Manager

Burkhead-Green  
Funeral Home

Your friends  
across the Square

206 W. Lawrence Ave.  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
Phone (517) 543-3160

Kiwanis of  
Charlotte



*Proudly Serving our  
Community*

430 S. Cochran Ave.  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
517-543-6794

**Kiwanis is a global organization of  
volunteers dedicated to improving  
the world One child and One  
community at a time.**

FULTON LUMBER  
COMPANY



316 N. Washington  
Charlotte, MI 48813

*"We are pleased and proud  
to be members of the Court-  
house Square Association"*



CHARLOTTE  
LIONS CLUB

100 W. Lawrence, Suite B  
Charlotte, MI 48813

517-543-4240 or email  
Charlottelionsclub@gmail.com

*Lions meet the needs of local  
communities and the world every-  
day because they share core belief  
to serve their community."*

# THE LEDGER



## Charlotte Native Luren Dickinson was Michigan's 35th Lieutenant Governor!



Charlotte native, Governor Luren Dickinson, was born in Niagara County, New York on April 15, 1859 and moved with his parents as an infant to Charlotte Michigan where his family purchased land and began farming. As a boy, Governor Dickinson spent most of his time working on the family farm, often studying from home and was able to complete high school at the age of 18 and was qualified to become a teacher. He was impressive as a teacher and moved up quickly becoming first a principal and then superintendent of schools at the age of 21. He married Zora Della Cooley in 1888 and they had one child. Governor Dickinson's involvement in community schools sparked his interest in local politics. He joined the Republican party and was elected to the Michigan State House of Representatives, serving from 1897-1898 and again 1905-1908 and then the Michigan Senate serving from 1909-1910.

After his one term in the State Senate, he was elected the 35th Lieutenant Governor of Michigan in 1914 and would spend most of his career as Lieutenant Governor serving under 5 Governors. In 1939, incumbent Governor Frank Fitzgerald died suddenly in office and then, one month short of his 80th birthday, Dickenson became Governor of Michigan. As governor he spent much of his time conducting state business at his farm rather than the State capital in Lansing. He never drove, so a car was sent for him and he would be driven to Lansing when he needed to be at the capital. He was well known for his informal appearance and actions, which included having his swearing in ceremony at his home so his ailing wife could attend. He dressed in modest clothing and continued to work on the farm during his term. During his 21 1/2 months in office, a law was passed making it mandatory for public school teachers to take an oath of loyalty to the government. Also during his term, gambling and open bars were contested and the Michigan National Guard was activated for service in World War II. While Governor, he appointed Matilde Dodge Wilson (*Widow of John Dodge co-founder of Dodge motor company*) as the first female Lieutenant Governor in Michigan.

He died April 22, 1943 and is buried in Charlotte at the Maple Hill Cemetery.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JAN PHILLIPS



Jan has worked tirelessly this year planting and taking care of the beautiful landscaping around the Courthouse grounds! Your efforts are very much appreciated!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE.....

**MICHIGAN NORDIC FIRE FESTIVAL**

Fire Performer Competition  
Viking Camp  
Kids' Quest  
Petting Farm  
Food and Drink  
Cardboard Long Ship Race  
Costume Contests  
Horn Blowing  
Hammer Throwing  
Reenactments

Ship Burning Bonfire  
Archery  
Belly Dancers  
Sword Fighting  
Torch Procession  
Speakers  
Bee Keepers  
Music  
Snow Sculpting  
Mead Hall

**FEBRUARY 23-25, 2018**  
CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN USA | CHARLOTTE SLEDDING HILL

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

From The Eaton County Courthouse Square Association

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Level of Annual Giving

#### INDIVIDUALS

Docent	\$25-\$ 99
Archivist	\$100-\$499
Curator	\$500-\$999
Director	\$1,000 +



#### BUSINESS

Scholars (1)	\$250-\$ 499
Historian (2)	\$500-\$999
Conservator I (3)	\$1,000-\$2,499
Conservator II(4)	\$2,500 +

*Number in parenthesis indicates quantity of 1/4 ads in the Ledger*

I would like to ensure the future of the Courthouse Square by becoming a member of the Courthouse Square Association at the \_\_\_\_\_ Level of giving. I agree to make a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and in return received the benefits of membership at that level.

Check here for an additional \$5 donation to the Children's summer camp scholarship fund.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

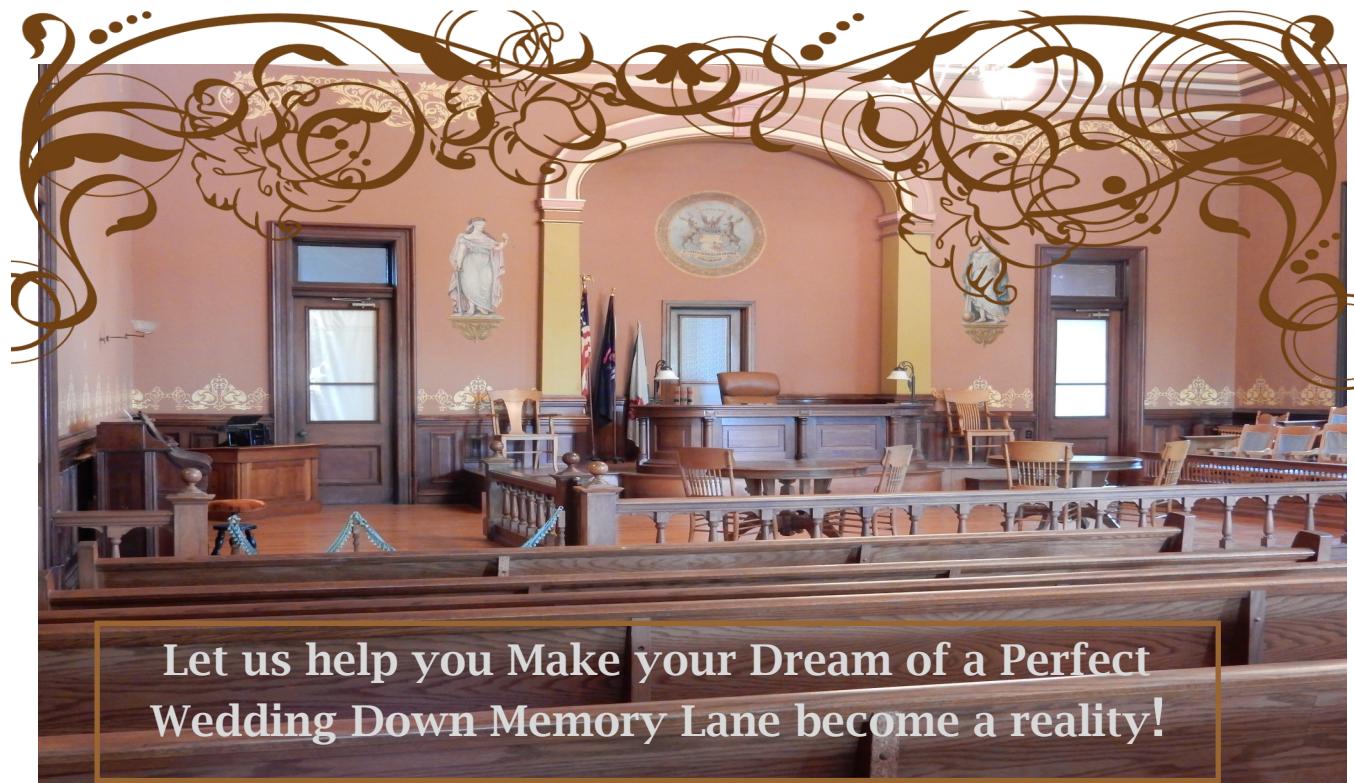
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print clear*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive The Ledger, invitations to events and exhibits, membership reminders and other notifications via email.

Please make checks payable to and mail to  
 Courthouse Square Association, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 411 Charlotte, MI 48813



Above is the restored Circuit Courtroom of the Historic 1885 Courthouse which is a perfect setting for a wedding! The Courtroom has a capacity for up to 180 guests as well as a dressing room for the bride. There are also other rooms available from one room to the entire building and grounds for your special event.



### RENTAL PRICING

\$250 Historic 1885 Courthouse ( Above)

\$100 Historic 1845 Courthouse ( Below)



This Historic 1845 Courthouse offers a \$100 Wedding Special ( weekend access.)

This location is in a beautiful setting located next to Bennett Park and has a capacity for up to 80 people.

Contact the CSA office today for reservations at:

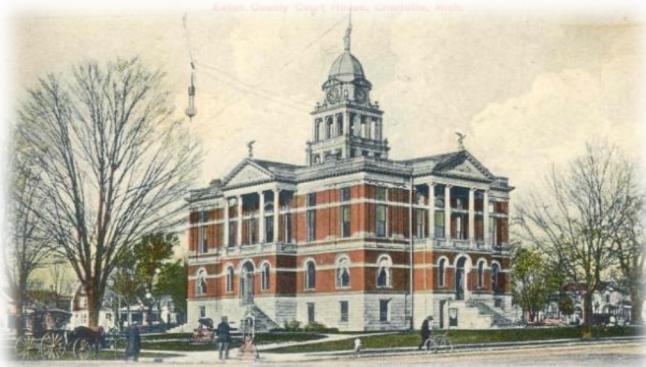
Courthouse Square Association

100 W. Lawrence Ave. Charlotte, MI 48813 P.O. Box 411 Phone 517-5436999



**Eaton County's Museum at  
Courthouse Square**  
100 W. Lawrence Avenue  
PO Box 411  
Charlotte, MI 48813

[WWW.CSAMUSEUM.NET](http://WWW.CSAMUSEUM.NET)



*Keeping History Alive on The Square!*

Courthouse Square Association is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Other times can be arranged for special events and by appointment.

#### **Museum Admission**

\$1.00 pp

Children 12 and under free

CSA Members Free

Group & Family rates available!

We are happy to make special arrangements with sufficient notice. Please call the museum office at 517-543-6999 for more information. You can always email us at [csmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:csmuseum@yahoo.com).

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The Eaton County Genealogical Society is also located in the 1885 Courthouse and is open Tuesday thru Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Call ECGS at 517-543-8792 for more information.

Other businesses located in the 1885 Courthouse include:

- ◆ ***Alpha Video & Computer Services***
- ◆ ***Ann Prater Attorney & Counselor at Law***
- ◆ ***Johnson's Framing***

Located inside the 1873 Sheriff's Resident adjacent to the Courthouse are:

- ◆ ***Cobalt Communications / William St. Amour***
- ◆ ***PotterVilla Applied Technology***
- ◆ ***Precision Investigations / Chris Walker***
- ◆ ***United Way***

Remember to bring your family and friends to your favorite Museum!