



Benajah Ticknor

THE TICKNORS (1835–1860)

The Ticknor-Campbell House was originally the home of Dr. Benajah Ticknor, a surgeon with the United States Navy and an avid diarist. A native from Connecticut, he spent early adulthood in Ohio's Western Reserve practicing medicine. There he also met and married his wife, Getia Bostwick, a school teacher. The quickly developing Michigan Territory offered property which prompted Ticknor to settle here. His brother, Herman, a farmer in Pittstown, New York, also interested in this area, brought his family to Washtenaw Country in 1835.

Acting on his brother's behalf, Herman purchased 183 acres in Pittsfield Township that included a small frame house, barn and orchard for \$1,500. Herman, his wife Eliza, father-in-law, and their six children crowded into primitive quarters until the cobblestone house was completed in 1844.

In addition to becoming a political leader in Washtenaw County, Herman oversaw a successful farmstead which produced cereal grains, corn, hay, livestock, wool, butter, cheese and honey, valued at \$10,000 by 1850.

The two Ticknor families lived together for short periods of time between Benajah's assignments at the Boston naval hospital and voyages to the Orient. Retiring in 1854, Benajah, Getia, and two adopted daughters lived on the farm until his death in 1858. The surgeon's extensive classical and medical library was given to the University of Michigan. His seven volume journal is housed in Yale University's Sterling Library.



Daughter Ellen Jane Ticknor

*"There is much satisfaction
in living in one's own house."*

—DR. BENAJAH TICKNOR
DECEMBER 28, 1844

THE BOOTHS (1860–1880)

Horace Booth purchased the farm in 1860 from Ticknor's widow. In keeping with nineteenth century custom, Horace passed the farm to his son, Nelson, wife Sophia, and their son Walter.

Throughout their tenure, the Booths greatly enhanced the property. By 1880, the farm consisted of some 400 acres extending as far east as Platt Road. Nelson's interests in horticulture were evidenced by his nursery and addition of 15 acres to the Ticknor apple orchard. He was also a fancier of thoroughbred racing horses and constructed a basement barn to house them.

While remaining the focal point, the 30-year cobblestone farmhouse underwent renovations

Nelson and Sophia Booth

that exhibited Booth's grand vision. A circular carriage drive flanked by sugar maple trees was created in the front yard. Complementing the new Italianate style porch, they installed a two tiered iron fountain which drew water from a nearby spring. The Booths left the farmstead in 1880, leading to another chapter of its story.



THE CAMPBELLS (1881–1972)

William Campbell, a Scottish immigrant who had taught school and ran a farmer's cooperative store in Ypsilanti, purchased the farm in 1881. Gaining renown for his purebred Durham cattle and sheep, he implemented a system of crop rotation and greatly extended the apple orchard west of the house. Three generations of Campbells worked the 225 acre farm and kept the house essentially unchanged for 91 years.

Never fully recovering from a disastrous fire which gutted the farm outbuildings in 1924, son Clair Campbell's heir sold much of the farmland for postwar housing developments. The Joseph Buhr family bought 39 acres north and east of the house and gave it to the City of Ann Arbor for a park in 1855. Siblings George and Mary Campbell sold the farmhouse and last 4 ½ acre parcel to the City of Ann Arbor in 1972. Throughout the years they have been instrumental in providing both artifacts and oral histories that enrich the site.



William and Mary Campbell

"quote taken from the Elisha Whittlesey Papers archived at the Western Reserve Historical Society Library. Reprinted with permission"

THE FARMSTEAD TODAY

Building on the site's domestic and agricultural heritage, guests are engaged in rich story experiences based on a farm family's journey through the seasons and the years.

Recognizing both the historic and educational potential of this resource, a partnership between the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department and the Cobblestone Farm

Association was formed over twenty years ago.

Working together, these entities integrate authentic artifacts, stories and lives which capture the spirit of mid-nineteenth century living.

Join us in opening a window into the past by participating in special programs such as:

- ◆ Guided Tours
- ◆ Living History Days
- ◆ Harvest Evening
- ◆ Country Christmas
- ◆ Pioneer Day Camps
- ◆ Educational Workshops

We also invite you to become our most valued resource-a volunteer! Dedicated and hard-working individuals serve as interpretive guides, while others assist with continual research, gardening, and costuming responsibilities.



HOURS OF OPERATION

By Appointment and Special Events

For More Information

Phone 734-794-7120 (Voice message only)

Or

www.cobblestonefarm.org

www.cobblestonefarmmarkets.com

Tuesday 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

May through November

ADMISSION

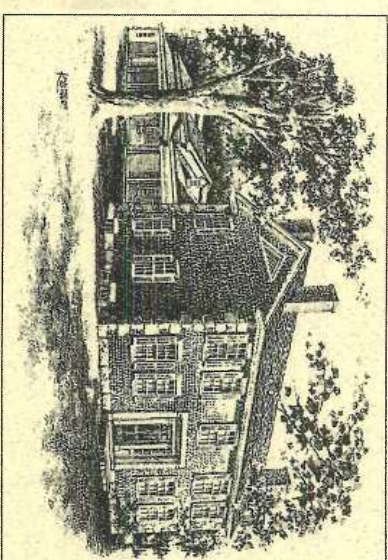
\$2.00 Adult \$1.00 child/senior

\$5.00 Family

Address

2781 Packard Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48108



COBBLESTONE FARM MUSEUM

Hired Man, Alexander Noble, CA 1900





COBBLESTONE FARM ASSOCIATION

Founded 1974

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating the 43rd year of the Cobblestone Farm Association

The 2017 event year at the Museum was our busiest yet. The following are highlights of events.

Winter Evening was a success with about 81 people in attendance. There was music in the parlor enhancing the smell of cooking on the woodstove. Candlelit rooms throughout really made the event special.

The 2016 Annual Meeting was held in the Barn. The program featured E. Edward Wall on *The Origins of the Mallette Creek Settlement of 1824*. The talk was followed by tours of the house.

Spring Fling meant games on the grounds and some cleaning in the house. Bed ticks and rugs hung on the line for beating. Cooking in the kitchen again tempted folks with wonderful smells. This year, the Girl Scout Troop assisted with the lawn games for 33 participants.

At our Independence Day event, the reading of the Declaration of Independence is always eagerly anticipated. There were games for the kids supervised by our Girl Scout volunteers, tours of the house with a weaving demonstration on the second floor by Barb Schutzgruber, music in the parlor, wool spinning in the exhibit room, and cooking in the kitchen for 60 attendees.

Hallow Harvest had its usual spooky activities with 62 people attending. The museum volunteers added more decorations this year to celebrate Halloween. A weaving demonstration was upstairs, music was in the parlor, and there was cooking in the kitchen. Outside on the grounds were activities run by our Girl Scouts along with cider pressing and a hot dog vendor for 93 people.

Country Christmas showcased the house decorated for an 1830 – 1840 – 1861 holiday with our Girl Scouts helping throughout the house. Holiday music in the parlor was provided by Kevin Gilson on the Dulcimer. Great smells from the kitchen complimented this wonderful event for 101 people.

We hosted 6 preschool to 3rd grade groups. The tours started in the 1837 Harris log cabin, a visit with the animals and a walk around the farm yard tours of the house, and activities for the children to do. These included making butter, shelling feed corn, and washing clothes.

The Ticknor-Campbell Farm

2781 Packard Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48108 • 734-794-7120 • www.cobblestonefarm.org

We also hosted 23 wedding open house tours of the House for their wedding guests. The fees collected added substantially to our budget.

I want to thank our Girl Scouts and their leaders, Heidi Ellis and Sherry MacKay, for their contributions.

We also sponsored the Cobblestone Farm Farmer's Market. The market hired a market manager this year. We are looking forward to another good year with them.

This year we had an intern from the EMU Historic Preservation Program. Jane Henry did her final project on deaccessioning items from our collections. She worked from April to December, after which she received her graduate degree.

I would like to personally thank Kevin Gilson for his yeoman effort for the Farm. Also all of the board members for their diligent work. Our newest board member is Max Cope from the Historic District Commission of Ann Arbor.

Restoration of the log cabin interior was an Eagle Scout project that took a couple of months. Chase Taylor my grandson from Troop 240 in Ypsilanti was the project leader. They re-chinked the inside of the cabin and gave it a fresh coat of whitewash. I am very proud of my grandson and his troop for the work they did. He will have a short report at the Annual Meeting.

We have moved into our new office space thanks to the work of the AA Parks crew. New carpet, upgrading of the kitchen and bathroom and lighting make the space formerly the hired men's room and caretaker residence. New paint and lighting fixtures, cabinets and counter tops make the space wonderful. We purchased new and used office furniture for the space. The former office space will be repurposed into a research room.

We also added a second intern with the arrival of Amber Besonen. She is helping with reorganizing the office and assisting in other museum activities. She is our intern from the UM Museum Program who joined us in December.

Looking ahead, please join us in 2018 for these possible happenings:

- Restore our 19th century Owosso-made sleigh and Studebaker gig
- Aligning our student education programs with the Michigan Schools Curriculum

Please join us in these efforts.

Interesting additional figures for 2017:

1,573 volunteer hours

1,545 visitors through the house

Respectfully,

George Taylor
President

Cobblestone Farm Association