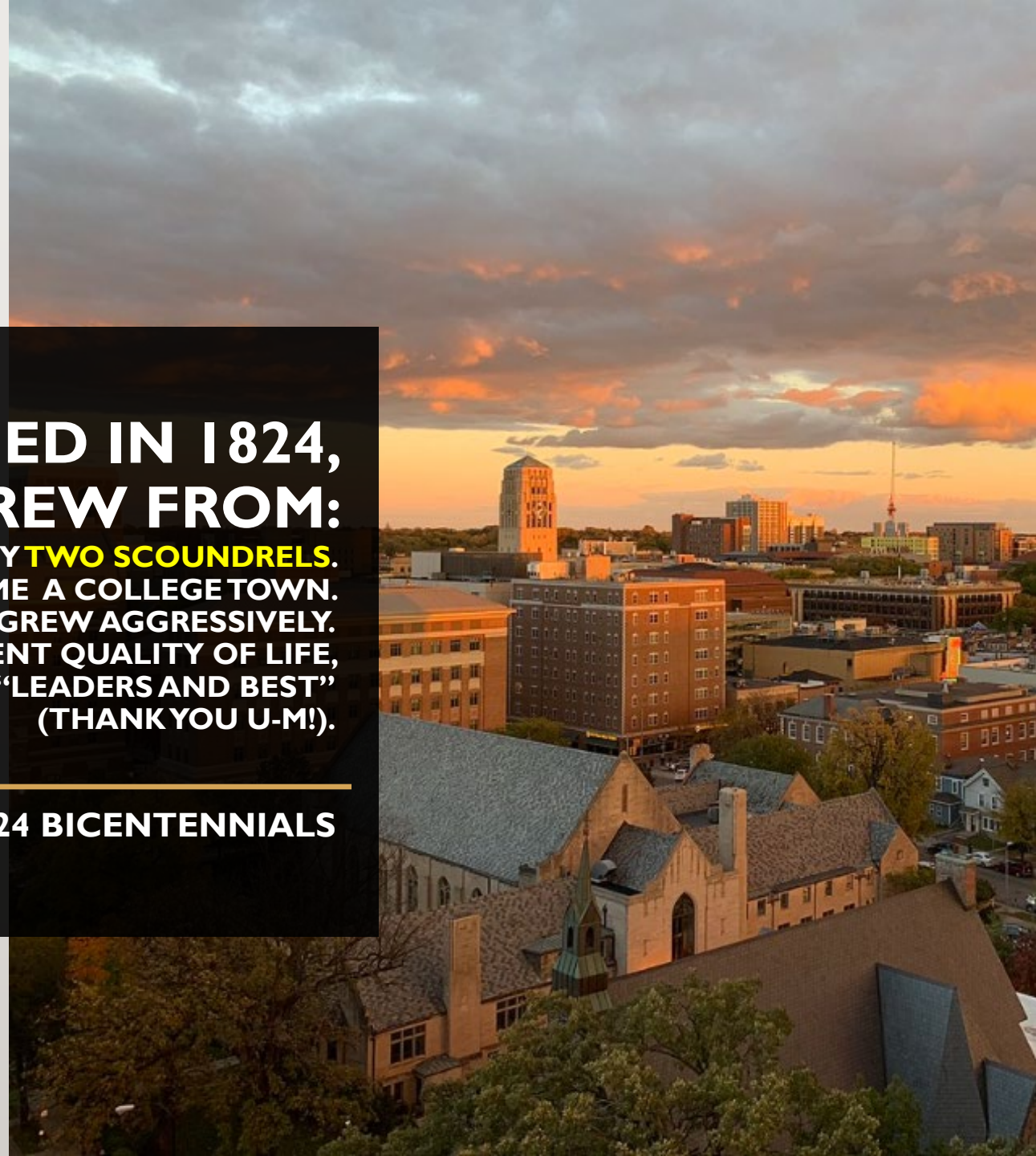
2024 BICENTENNIALS CELEBRATING 200 YEARS !

ESTABLISHED IN 1824, ANN ARBOR GREW FROM:

A FLEDGLING FRONTIER OUTPOST FOUNDED BY TWO SCOUNDRELS.
SOUGHT TO BECOME, THEN BECAME A COLLEGE TOWN.
CONSEQUENTLY, ANN ARBOR GREW AGGRESSIVELY.
IS NOW WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS A CITY WITH AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE,
WHICH ASPIRED TO BE, FROM ALMOST THE BEGINNING, "LEADERS AND BEST"
(THANK YOU U-M!).

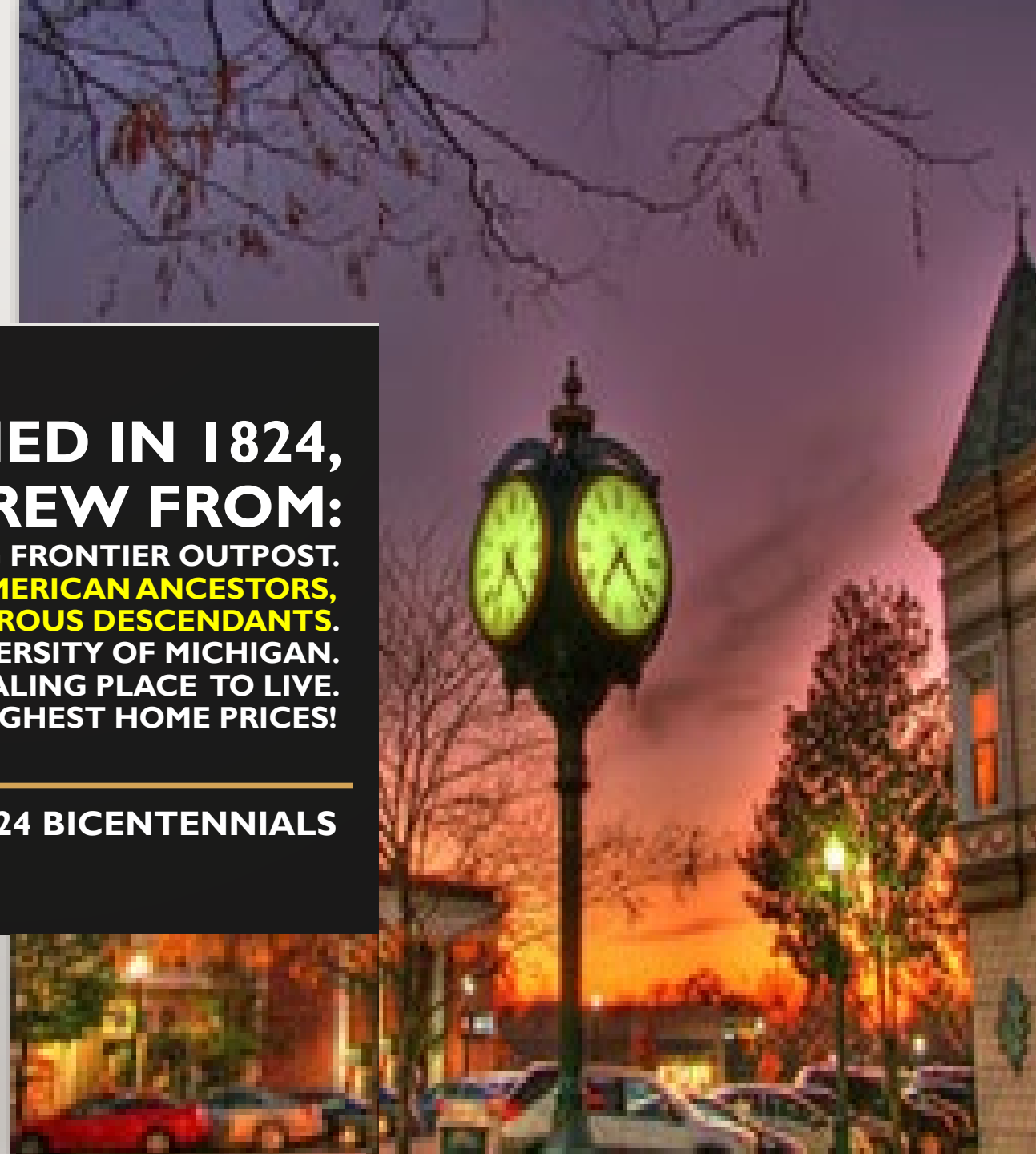
2024 BICENTENNIALS



ESTABLISHED IN 1824, DEXTER GREW FROM:

A FLEDGLING FRONTIER OUTPOST.
FOUNDED BY A MAN WITH IMPRESSIVE EARLY AMERICAN ANCESTORS, WHO ENGENDERED RESPECTED AND GENEROUS DESCENDANTS.
IT ALSO SOUGHT TO BECOME THE HOME OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.
IT IS NOW A CHARMING, HISTORIC TOWN AND AN APPEALING PLACE TO LIVE.
IT CURRENTLY HAS WASHTENAW COUNTY'S HIGHEST HOME PRICES!

2024 BICENTENNIALS



ANN ARBOR & DEXTER

WHO WERE THE FOUNDERS OF THESE TWO CITIES? WHAT OTHER TOWNS WERE FOUNDED HERE IN 1824? WHAT ANIMATED TOWN CREATION IN WASHTENAW COUNTY'S EARLY HISTORY OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT?

2024 BICENTENNIALS

THE MODERN CITIES OF DEXTER & ANN ARBOR ARE WIDELY ACCLAIMED

(& EVERYONE ELSE IN MICHIGAN THINKS WASHTENAW COUNTY, LED BY ANN ARBOR, HAS A SUPERIORITY COMPLEX)

SO LET'S EMBRACE . . .

2024 BICENTENNIALS

… OUR GREATNESS

BESIDES BEING ACCLAIMED,
WE ARE SAFE PLACES TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY:

LOW CRIME, NO EARTHQUAKES, HURRICANES, NOR'EASTERS, TSUNAMIS, DEVASTATING DROUGHTS OR WILDFIRES, WE HAVE PLENTY OF WATER (CONSEQUENTLY LOTS OF CLOUDS), BUT NO HORRENDOUS FLOODS!

WHO HAS IT BETTER THAN US?

2024 BICENTENNIALS

LET'S CELEBRATE!

OUR HISTORIES AND VIRTUES,
EXPLORE OUR PROBLEMS AND PAIN POINTS.
HONOR OUR PAST AND PONDER
WHAT WASHTENAW COUNTY MIGHT
BECOME AS WE THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

2024 BICENTENNIALS

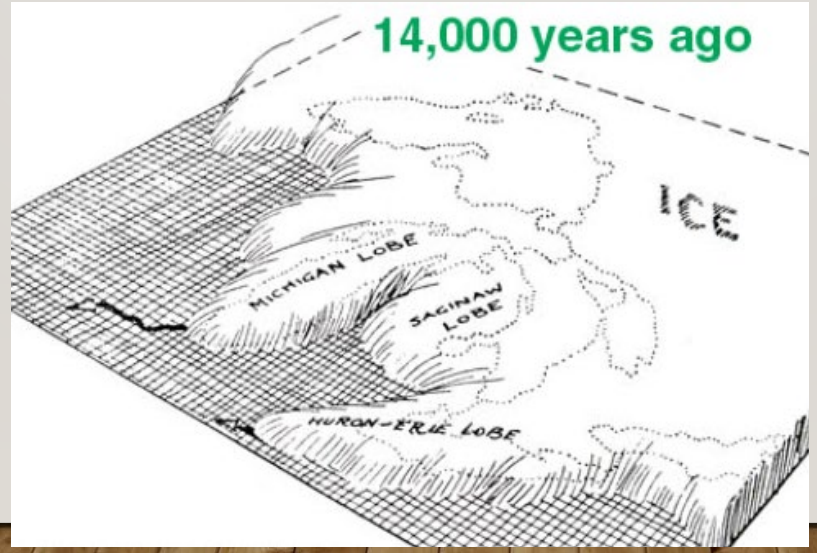
FOR SOME CONTEXT LET US REVIEW SOME OF ANN ARBOR & DEXTER'S PRE-EURO SETTLER HISTORY

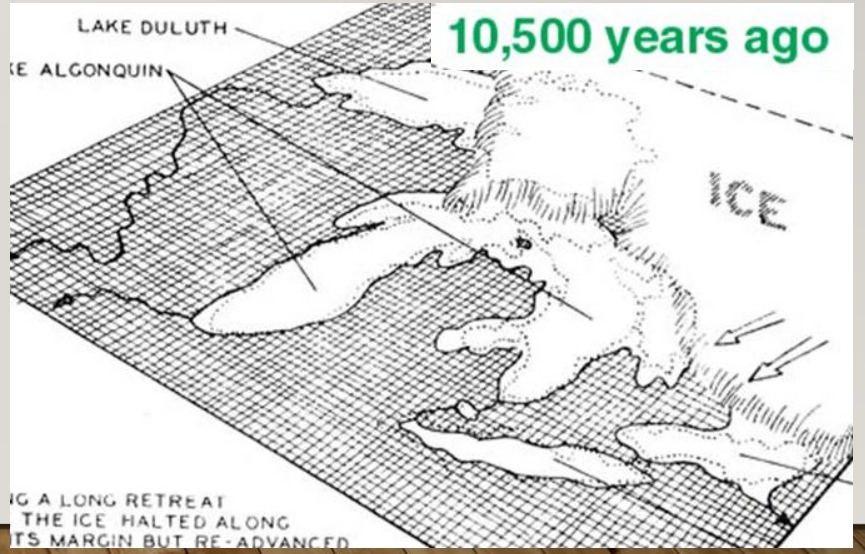
Before Europeans arrived

NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE HURON RIVER WATERSHED

AS THE WORST EFFECTS OF THE ICE AGE ABATED, NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE SETTLED THE GREAT LAKES BASIN ABOUT 10,000 YEARS BEFORE EUROPEANS ARRIVED, THE PEOPLE WERE LARGELY AFFILIATED WITH THE ALGONQUIN NATION.

OVER TIME, THIS MIGRATORY POPULATION CAME TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES INTO THREE MAJOR TRIBAL CULTURES; THE OJIBWE (ALSO KNOWN AS CHIPPEWA), OTTAWA, AND POTAWATOMI, FORMING A LOOSE CONFEDERATION KNOWN AS THE THREE FIRES CONFEDERACY.





NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE HURON RIVER WATERSHED

BY THE 1720s, EUROPEAN EXPLORATION ALONG THE HURON RIVER BEGAN.

BY THE 1750s NATIVE PEOPLES SUFFERED DEVASTATING LOSSES OF LIFE FROM DISEASES BROUGHT BY THE EUROPEANS. THE DEADLIEST WAS SMALLPOX.

IN ABOUT 1774, THE POTAWATOMI AGAIN CREATED VILLAGES ALONG THE HURON RIVER, INCLUDING WHAT IS NOW ANN ARBOR AND DEXTER.

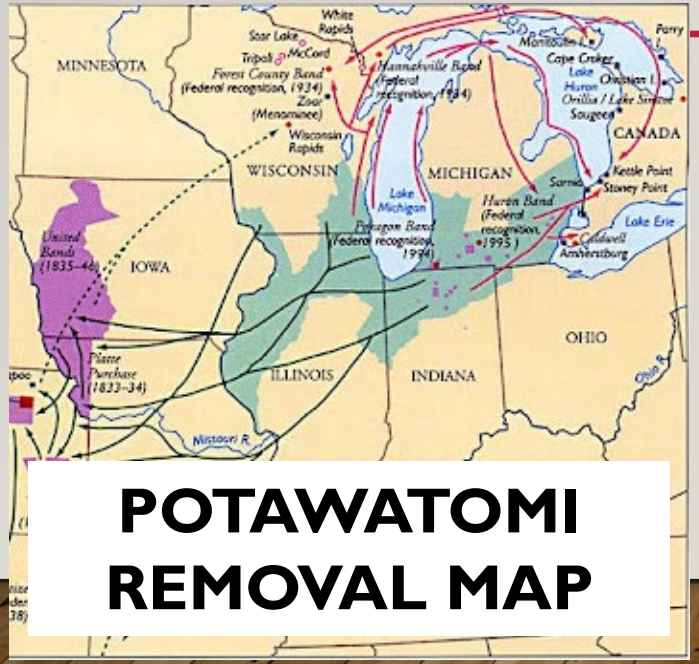
IN 1807, THE DETROIT TREATY WAS NEGOTIATED WITH THE THREE FIRES TRIBES TO ACQUIRE MOST OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN, THE TRIBES WERE PAID $10,000 IN GOODS ($.02/ACRE), AND $2,400 PER YEAR IN ANNUAL PAYMENTS.

NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE HURON RIVER WATERSHED

MICHIGAN PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE WAR OF 1812 (1812-1815). THE WAR SUBSTANTIALLY SLOWED EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT OF MICHIGAN.

SOON AFTER THE WAR OF 1812 ENDED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HELD ITS FIRST LAND AUCTION IN MICHIGAN,

LAND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BOUGHT FROM NATIVE PEOPLES AT 2 CENTS PER ACRE WAS SOLD TO EUROPEAN SETTLERS FOR $2.00 PER ACRE AND THE ACTUAL MARKET PRICE WAS $4.00/ACRE,



POTAWATOMI REMOVAL MAP

IN 1820, CONGRESS REDUCED THE PRICE TO $1.25/ACRE.

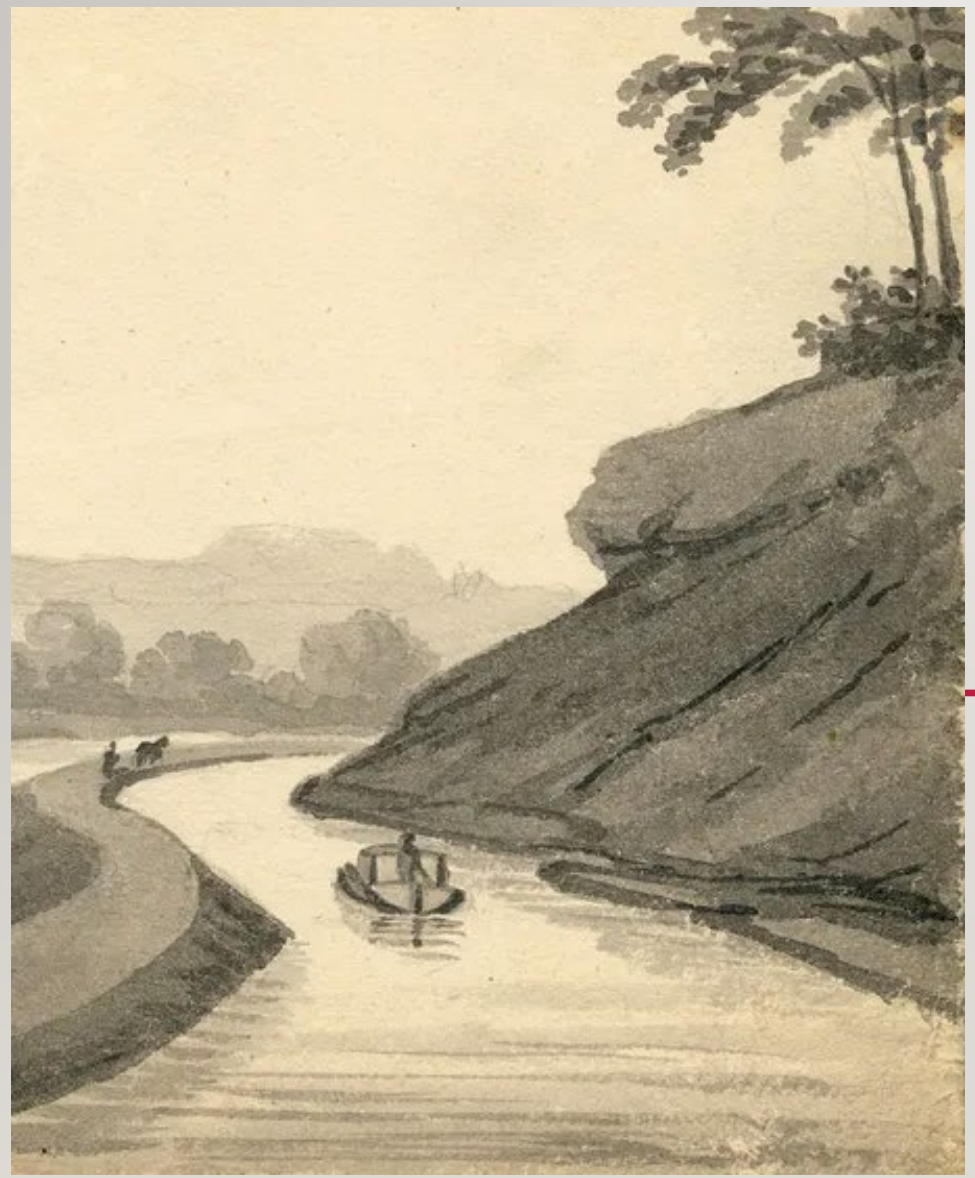
IN THE LATE 1820s, TO CLEAR THE LAND FOR EUROPEAN SETTLERS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CREATED A LARGE POTAWATOMI RESERVATION IN INDIANA.

CONSEQUENTLY, IN A "TRAIL OF TEARS," THE POTAWATOMI PEOPLE WERE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, REMOVED FROM THE AREA.

IN 1820, TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR LEWIS CASS AND HENRY SCHOOLCRAFT DID AN EXTENSIVE SURVEY OF THE MICHIGAN TERRITORY. THEY COMPLETED THE SURVEY TOUR AND REPORTED, WITH OPTIMISTIC BOOSTERISM, THE "INDIANS WERE PEACEFUL AND THE LAND FERTILE."

THE SURVEY WAS CREATED TO MAKE MICHIGAN APPEAR TO BE AN APPEALING PLACE FOR WESTERN SETTLEMENT AS STEAMSHIPS STARTED TO PLY LAKE ERIE AND THE ERIE CANAL WAS BEING BUILT.

THE 1820 CASS EXPEDITION (MAP CREATED BY HENRY SCHOOLCRAFT IN 1821)



ERIE CANAL, CIRCA 1825

IN 1820, ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS, MICHIGAN HAD 8,896 PEOPLE, EXCLUDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

BY 1825, STEAM SHIPS STARTED RUNNING FROM BUFFALO, NEW YORK, TO MICHIGAN. WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE ERIE CANAL A FLOOD OF SETTLERS BEGAN AS FARMERS AND FAMILIES FROM NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK JOINED THE WESTWARD MIGRATION.

BY 1830, THE POPULATION HAD JUMPED TO NEARLY 32,000.

THE 1830s RUSH TO MICHIGAN WAS CALLED "MICHIGAN FEVER" AND RESULTED IN THE TERRITORY GROWING FASTER THAN ANY OTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY

IN 1840, THERE WERE 212,267 INHABITANTS IN THE NEWLY ADMITTED STATE OF MICHIGAN.

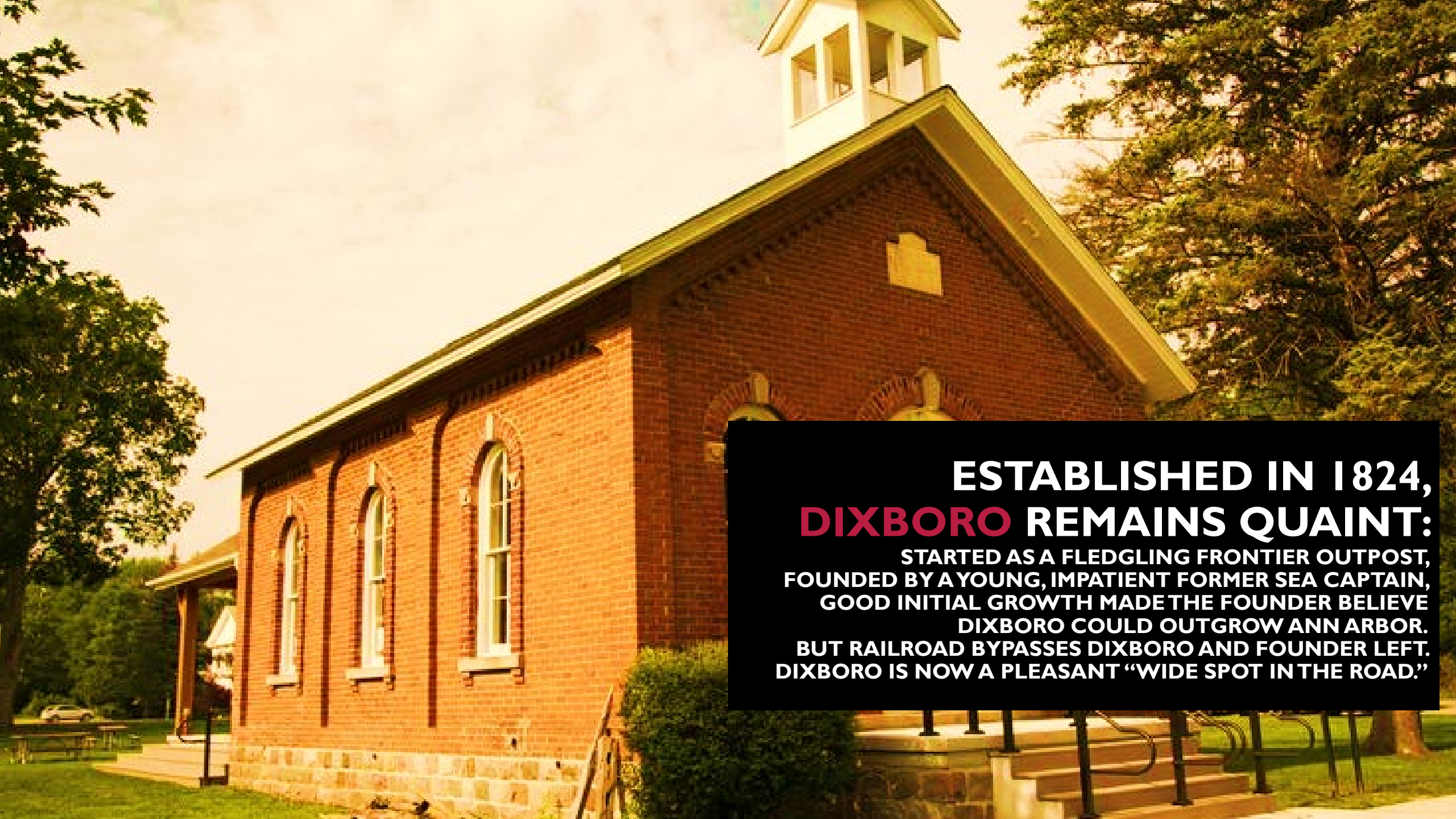
BONUS STORIES

IN 1824, BESIDES ANN ARBOR & DEXTER, TWO OTHER WASHTENAW COUNTY PLACES WERE SETTLED

BONUS

DIXBORO

SETTLED IN 1824
BY CAPT. JOHN DIX
& MARY ELIZA HAYES

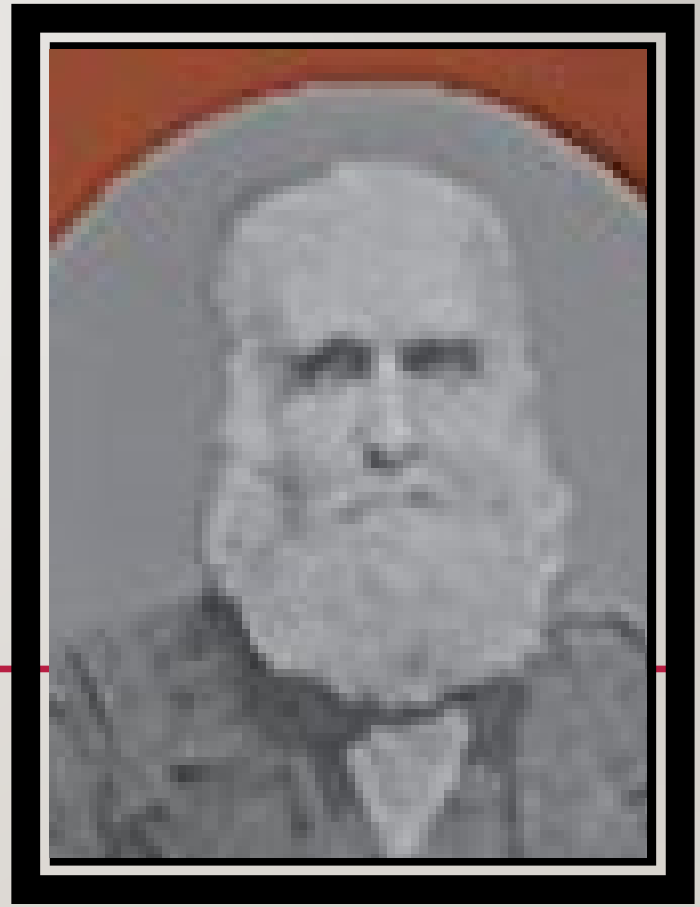


ESTABLISHED IN 1824, DIXBORO REMAINS QUAINT:

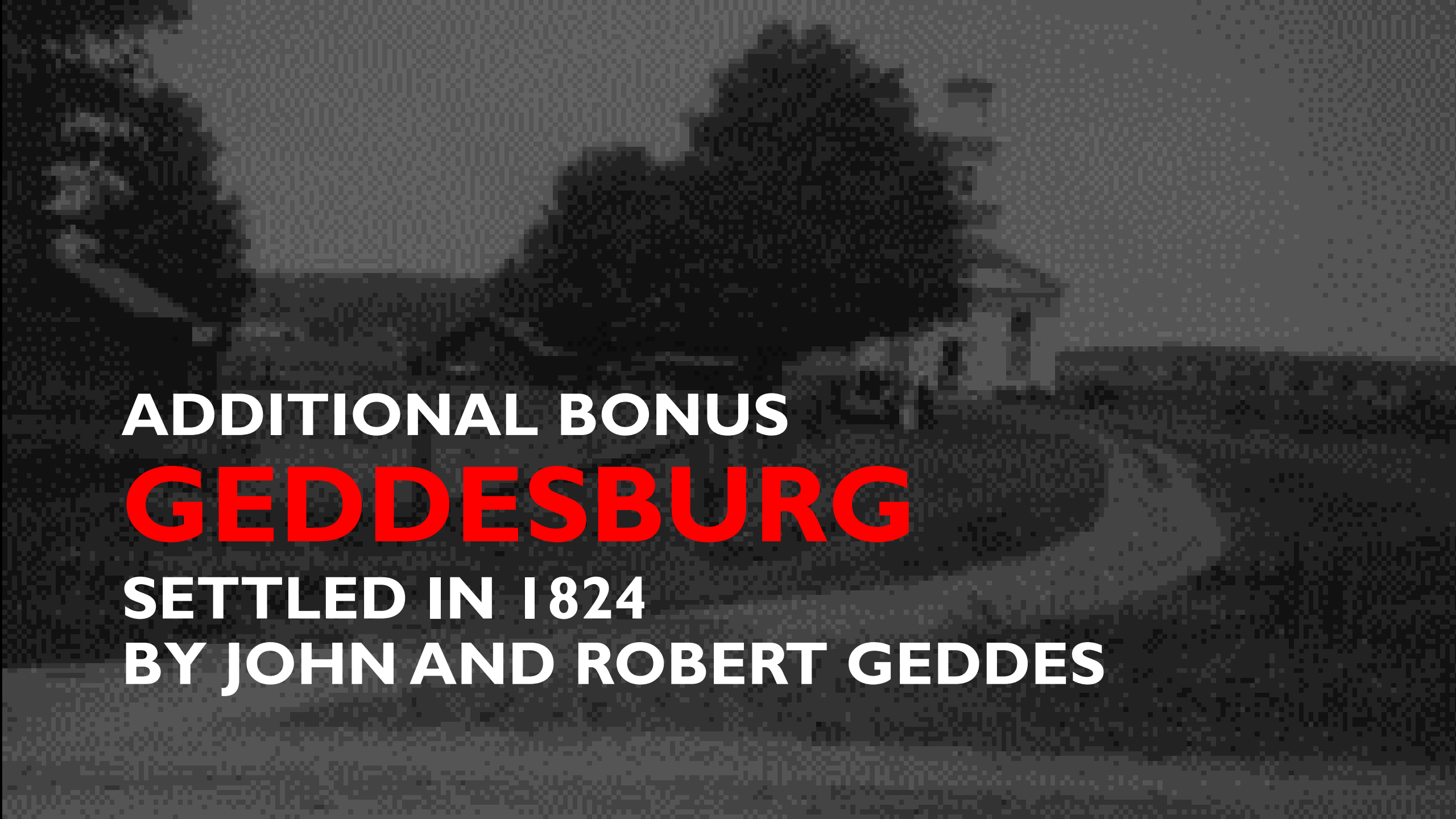
STARTED AS A FLEDGLING FRONTIER OUTPOST, FOUNDED BY A YOUNG, IMPATIENT FORMER SEA CAPTAIN, GOOD INITIAL GROWTH MADE THE FOUNDER BELIEVE DIXBORO COULD OUTGROW ANN ARBOR. BUT RAILROAD BYPASSES DIXBORO AND FOUNDER LEFT. DIXBORO IS NOW A PLEASANT "WIDE SPOT IN THE ROAD."

- In 1824, Captain John Dix, a retired ship captain from the Eastern Seaboard, arrived in Washtenaw County and purchased about 450 acres of land, which became the Village of Dixboro.
- He built a house in May of 1824 and raised his barn in July 1825.
- Dix built a sawmill in 1826 and a gristmill some months later.
- Wife Mary Eliza gave birth to son John James Dix, Jr. in 1826.
- In 1827, Dix filed a plat with 64 lots around the present village square and he named the sectioned land Dixborough.
- The village grew to include at least two sawmills and two gristmills, three taverns (one owned by Dix), an ashery, a cooperage, a general store, a blacksmith shop, a creamery, a brick kiln and a post office located in the general store.

- The future looked promising and some thought the village might outstrip Ann Arbor.
- However, it had been hoped that a second Michigan railroad line, between Detroit and St. Joseph, would pass through Dixboro.
- Instead, a route along the Huron River caused the railroad to pass through Ypsilanti instead.
- That setback, plus being "the most unpopular man in Washtenaw County," caused John Dix to sell his remaining claims to Dixboro.
- In 1833, Dix and his family moved to Texas. There they found great success in Nueces County.

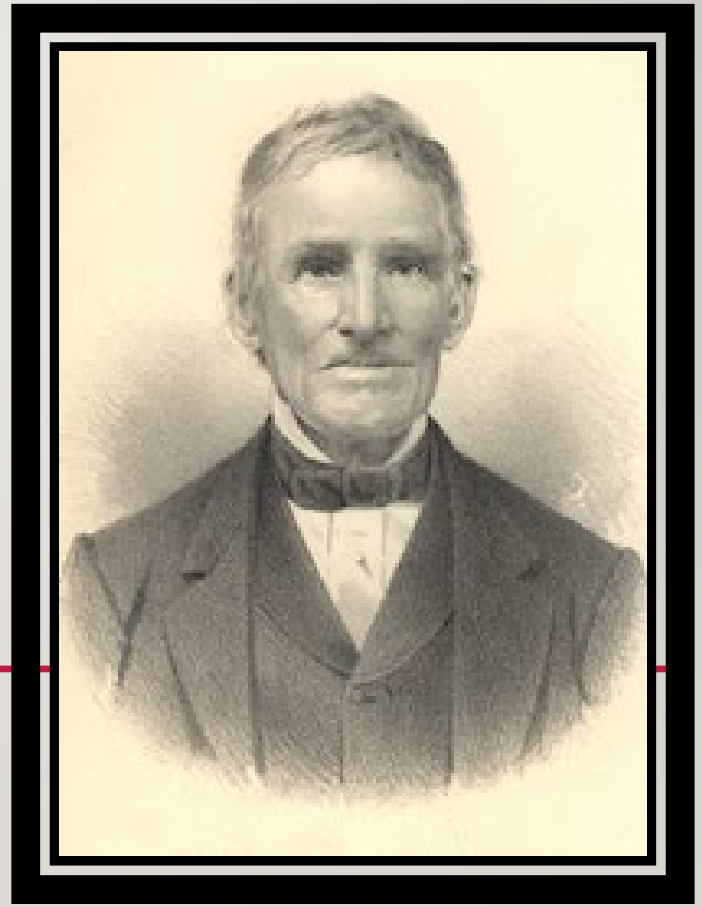


CAPT. JOHN DIX
Founder of Dixboro

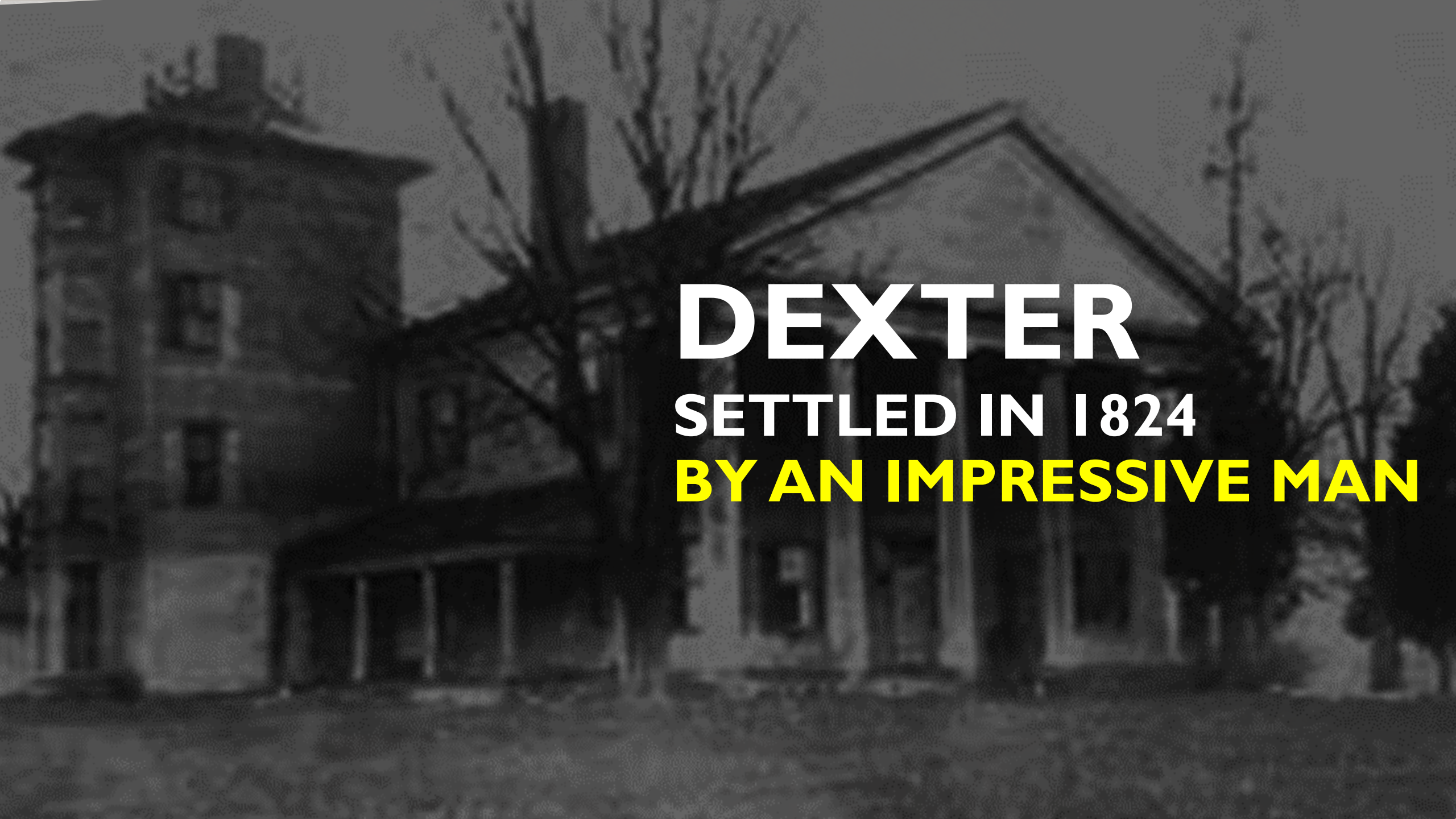

ADDITIONAL BONUS
GEDDESBURG
SETTLED IN 1824
BY JOHN AND ROBERT GEDDES

THE NOW FORGOTTEN GEDDESBURG

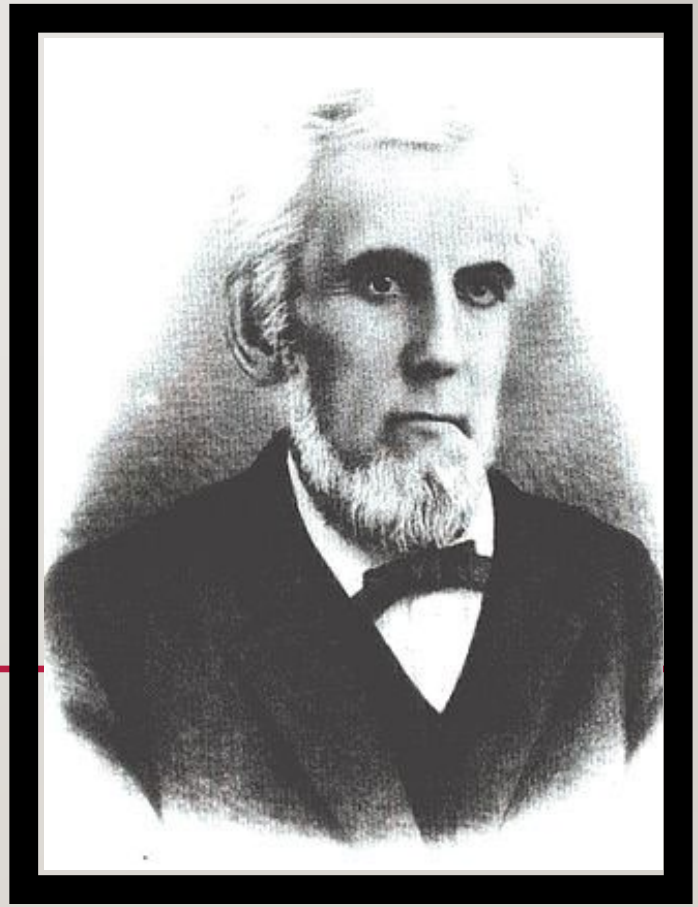
- John and Robert Geddes founded Geddesburg on July 14, 1824.
- The Geddes brothers founded a sawmill at the corner of Dixboro and Geddes Rd.
- John was known as "Uncle John," held the position of Justice of the Peace for over 20 years in Ann Arbor Township and was elected to the State Legislature in 1840.
- Robert Geddes was twice elected Supervisor of Ann Arbor Township.
- The Geddes house is pictured below.
- Geddes Road was named after John Geddes, and was formerly known as "Potawatomi Trail," created by the indigenous people of this area.



JOHN GEDDES
Co-Founder of Geddesburg


DEXTER
SETTLED IN 1824
BY AN IMPRESSIVE MAN

- Samuel Dexter, the founder of Dexter, Michigan, was an impressive individual from a prominent Massachusetts family dating back to the colonial era.
- Samuel received undergrad and law degrees from Harvard.
  - Samuel Dexter's father was also a Harvard graduate, as well as a U.S. Senator, Secretary of War and Secretary of the Treasury under President John Adams, and Secretary of Treasury under President Thomas Jefferson.
  - Samuel Dexter's grandfather was a successful businessman and politician who provided his home as a headquarter for Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War.
  - His great-grandfather was a Harvard graduate and clergyman in colonial Massachusetts.



Samuel Dexter's father on fractional currency as U.S. Treasurer

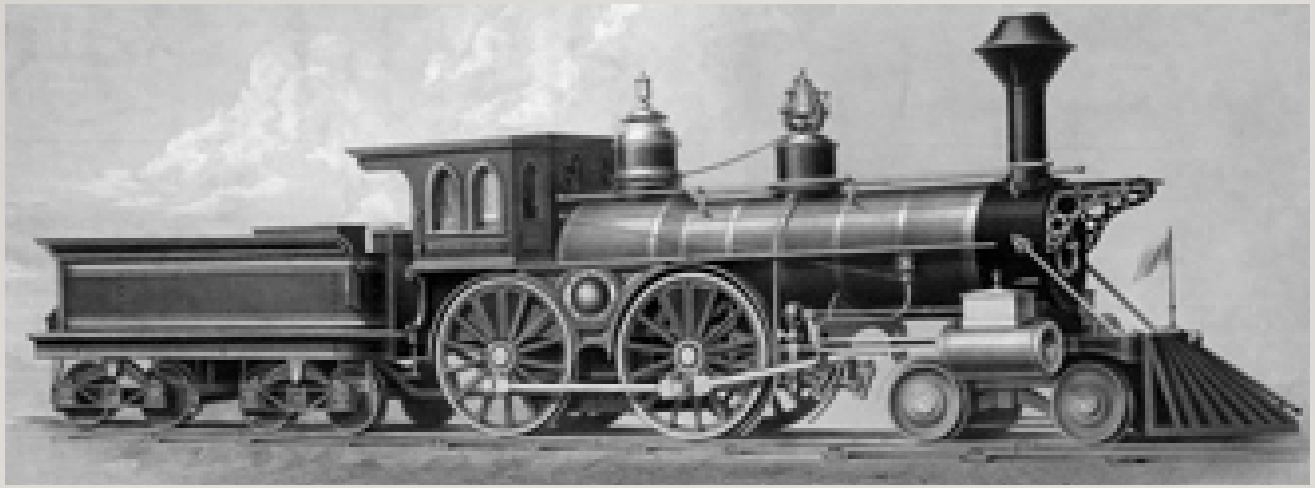
JUDGE SAMUEL DEXTER
Founder of Dexter, Saginaw and Byron, MI

- In 1824, after the death in childbirth of his first wife, Amelia, Samuel Dexter moved to Detroit with $80,000 and proceeded to purchase 926 acres of land in Michigan. His land became:
  - Byron, Michigan, Saginaw, Michigan, the village of Dexter.
- The village's original name was "Mill Creek" and featured a sawmill.
- Soon, Samuel built a frame house on what is now Huron Street. As the village grew, Dexter's house became the center of the community.
- In 1826, Samuel was appointed Chief Justice of Washtenaw County.
- In 1829 in Ann Arbor, Samuel Dexter and Ann Arbor's John Allen successfully published the first newspaper in the County, the Western Emigrant.
- In mid-1830s, Samuel sought to have U-M move from Detroit to Dexter.
- In 1836, U-M moved to Ann Arbor. Ironically, Dexter was appointed as a Regent of the University of Michigan in 1840. He served for one year.

Samuel Dexter's frame house on Huron Street in Dexter

Western Emigrant Newspaper

- In 1827, a son was born to Samuel and his 2nd wife, Susan; however, soon after the birth both Susan and the infant died.
- In 1828, Samuel married his 3rd wife, Millisent Bond (born 1811).
- The couple had eight children: Mary (born 1830), W. Wirt (born 1831). Katherine (born 1833), Hannah (born 1834), Julia (born 1837). Charlotte (born 1839), Isabella (born 1841) and Marshall (born 1858).
- In 1830, he platted a village on the land surrounding his house and changed the name from Mill Creek to "Dexter" to honor his father.
- Samuel was a vocal supporter of railroads and, in 1832, as documented in an editorial he wrote for the Western Emigrant, was the first person to publicly call for the construction of a transcontinental railroad.
- He was also believed to be an Abolitionist; Dexter was thought to be a stop on the Underground Railroad.



Samuel W. Dexter Visionary Leader

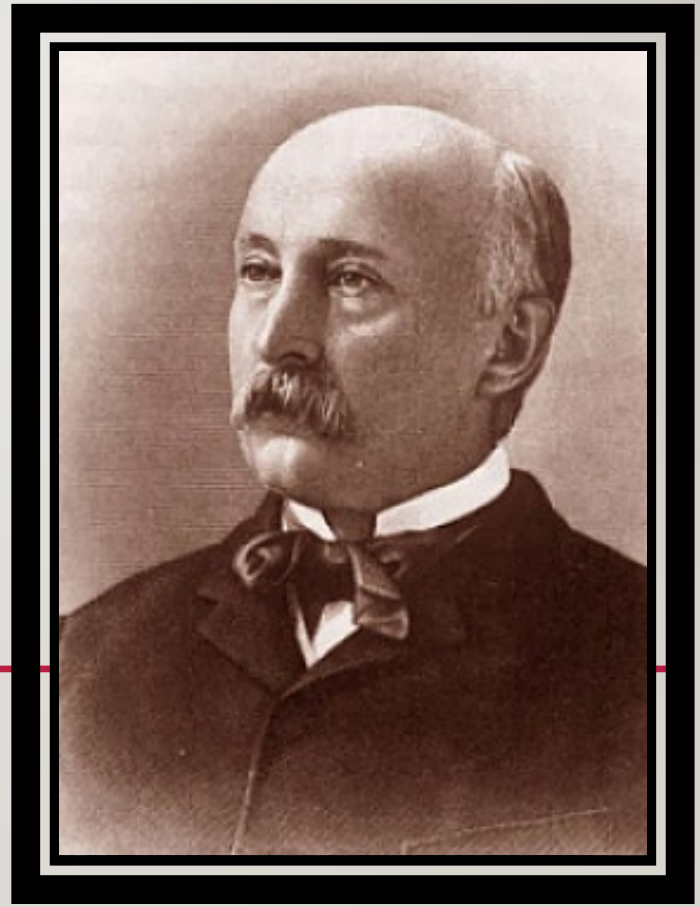
- The Michigan Central Railroad came to Dexter in 1841.
- It passed very closeby Dexter's Huron Street house.
- This encouraged him and wife Millisent to build a larger country mansion on 1,700 acres with a prominent view of Dexter.
- The house still stands and is called "Gordon Hall" in honor of his mother, Katherine Gordon Dexter.
- Gordon Hall was built as a family home and is thought to have served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.
- Samuel Dexter lived in Gordon Hall until he died on January 6, 1863.
- His businesses passed to son, Wirt Dexter, including timberland in Northern Mich., which for over 20 years provided lumber and pig iron used to rebuild Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871.
- On June 27, 1899, Millisent Dexter died (age 88).

Gordon Hall today: preserved and impressive.

MILLISENT BOND DEXTER
Founder of Dexter

- Wirt Dexter was named for U.S. Attorney General William Wirt, who was visiting the Dexter family at the time of his birth.
- Wirt studied law in Michigan and New York, but initially worked in the lumber business for his father.
- In 1855, he moved to Chicago to practice law and became a senior partner in Dexter, Herrick & Allen.
- In 1864, his first wife and childhood friend, Kate Augusta Dusenberry, died in childbirth.
- Two years later in1866, he married Josephine Moore, of Boston, Massachusetts.
- Josephine and Wirt had two children, Samuel Dexter (1867-1894) and Katharine Dexter McCormick (1875-1967).

- Wirt Dexter became one of Chicago's most prominent corporate lawyers, with clients that included Marshall Field and George Pullman.
- He was President of the Chicago Bar Association and a director of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and other companies.
- After the Great Fire of Chicago in 1871, he stopped work to chair the Executive Committee of the Chicago Relief and Aid Society.
- In rebuilding Chicago, he became a major real estate developer and commissioned the Dexter Building at 630 Wabash Avenue.



WIRT DEXTER
Born 1832 in Dexter
Died 1889 in Chicago

- Her father died of a heart attack when Katharine was 14.
- She and her mother Josephine moved to Boston in 1890. Katharine graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1904, earning a BS degree in Biology.
- In 1904, she married Stanley Robert McCormick, the youngest son of Cyrus McCormick, an heir to the International Harvester fortune.
- Katharine's plea for gender equality was a life long endeavor.
- In 1909, Katharine spoke at the first outdoor rally for women's suffrage in Massachusetts.
- Katharine organized much of Carrie Chapman Catt's efforts to ratify for the Nineteenth Amendment.
- In 1917, she joined the Committee of 100, a group of women who promoted the legalization of birth control.

- In 1920, after the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified, Katharine became the Vice President of the League of Women Voters.
- Throughout the 1920s, Katharine worked with Margaret Sanger on advocacy for and education about birth control.
- In 1939, Katharine purchased Gordon Hall and hired Emil Lorch, Dean of the U-M Architecture College, to restore the house.
- In 1953, Katharine met Gregory Goodwin Pincus through Margaret Sanger. Katharine nearly singlehandedly funded the cost of Pincus's work to develop The Pill - $2 million then, equal to $20 million today.
- Katharine Dexter McCormick died December 28, 1967, age 92.

KATHARINE DEXTER McCORMICK

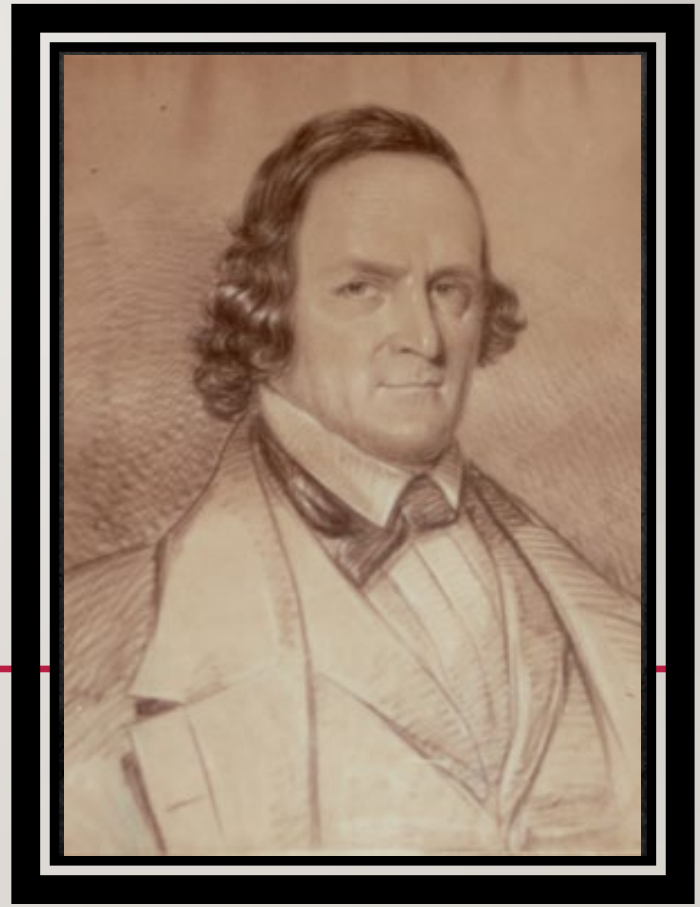
Born1875 in Dexter

ANN ARBOR

SETTLED IN 1824

BY TWO SCOUNDRELS

- February 1824, the site for "Annarbour" was staked out by its founders.
- Founders: John Allen from Virginia and Elisha Rumsey from New York.
- They named the town for their spouses (after discarding alternative like Allensville) and for the arbor-like, burr oak canopy in the 640 acres of land they had purchased for $800 from the federal government.
- NOTE: Their $800 is 1% of the cash Samuel Dexter brought to Michigan.
- In John Allen's home state of Virginia, he "absconded" livestock, sold it, left Virginia without telling his wife and made his way to Detroit.
- Elisha Rumsey, a disgraced widower from an old colonial family, left his 5 children in Upstate New York, and ran away with Mary Ann (Sprague?).
- These two scoundrels probably met in Detroit where, after consulting with territorial Gov. Lewis Cass, they headed west to start their city.
- Subsequently, they convinced Gov. Cass to name A2 the county seat.



JOHN ALLEN
Co-Founder
Annarbour, Michigan

- An unhappy pioneer wife, Ann Barry Allen arrived in A2, October 1824.
- Elisha Rumsey died in 1827. Mary Ann re-married William Van Fossen.
- By 1830, several mills, "coffee houses," (bars) and farms flourished in Ann Arbor, as well as a tannery and general store.
- In1836, Ann Arbor lost a bid to be the State Capital; since A2 expected to win the bid, State Street was named in honor of landing the Capital.
- Ann Arbor also lost a bid to be the home of the State Prison.
- In 1837, Ann Arbor won the bid to be the new site for the University of Michigan; 40 acres was offered for a campus and Ann Arbor citizens also pledged $100,000 to support the U-M – the defining win for the village!
- John Allen was clearly a good promoter. He was ambitious, with a salesman's approach to success. He was also an impatient undercapitalized speculator with a big ego. In 1836, the year before Michigan statehood and U-M relocating to A2, John & Ann Allen moved to NYC?!?

Splendid Sale of Real Estate

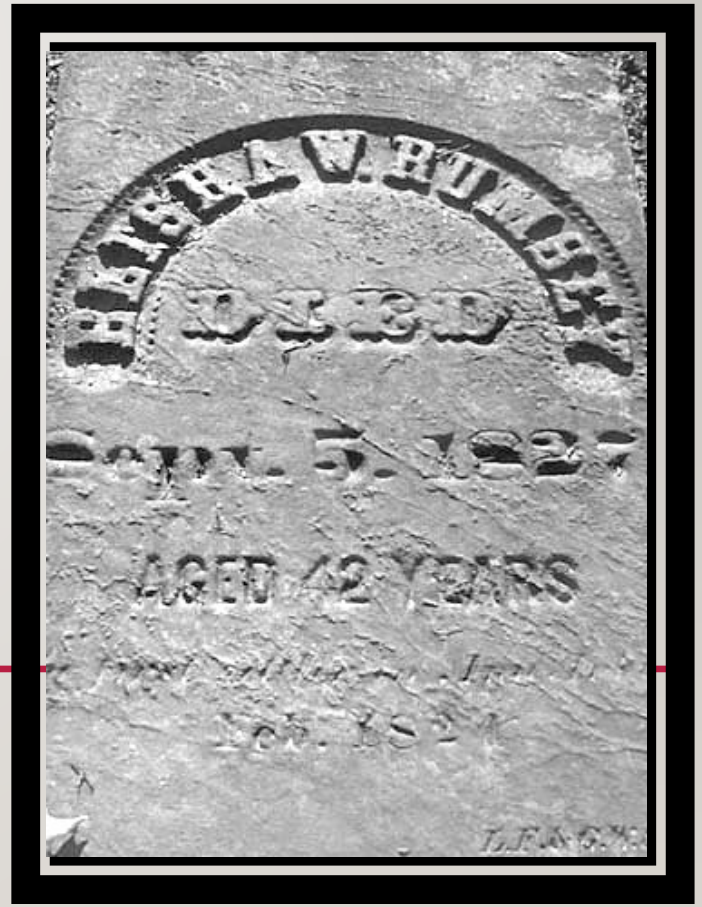
IN ANN ARBOR,

AT AUCTION!!

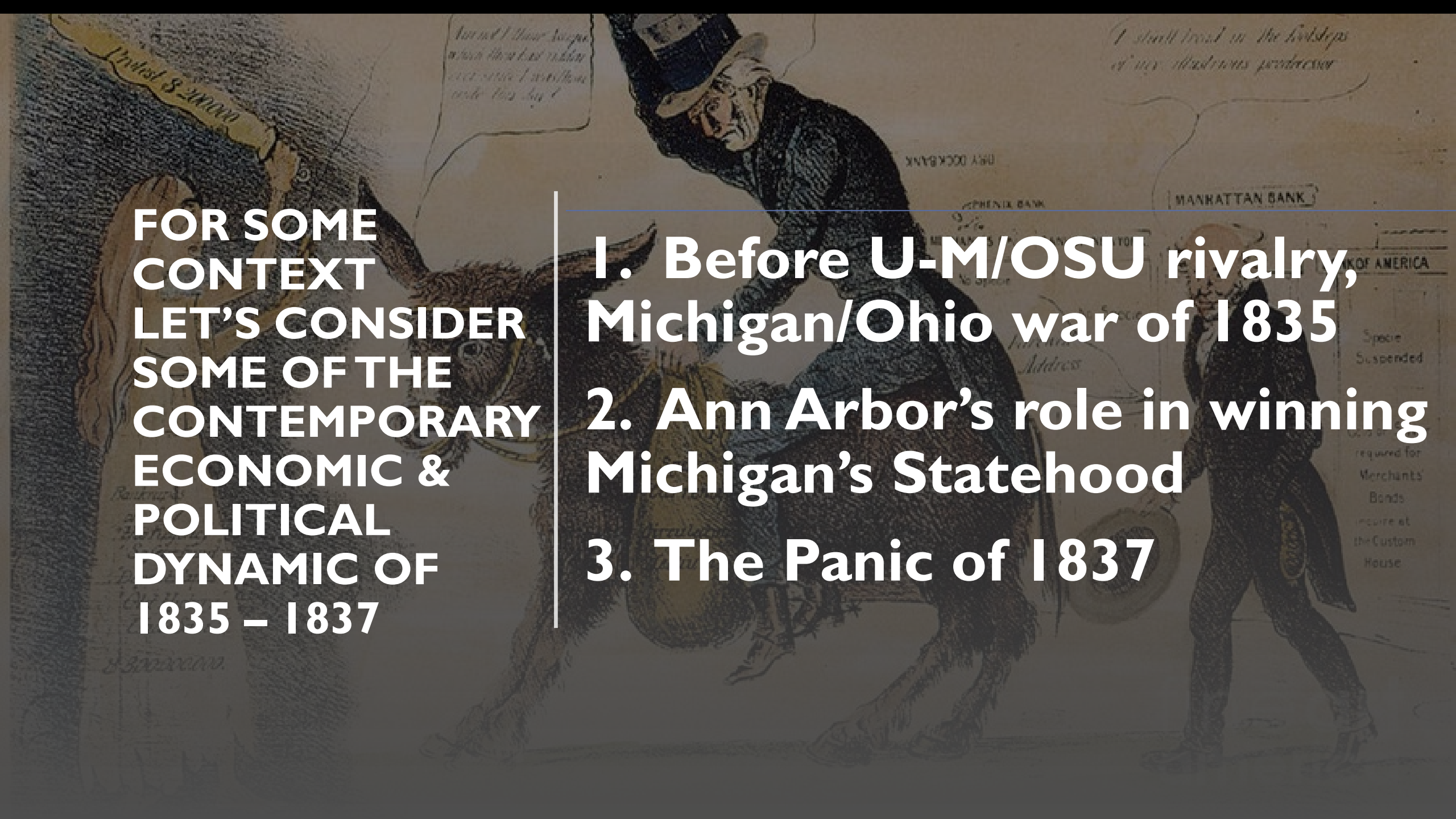
THE undersigned will offer at Public Auction on the 8th day of June next, at the Ann Arbor Exchange, in this Village, on the most liberal terms,

1000 VILLAGE LOTS,

comprising some of the most eligible locations for business, and many of the most delightful sites for dwellings in the village or its vi-

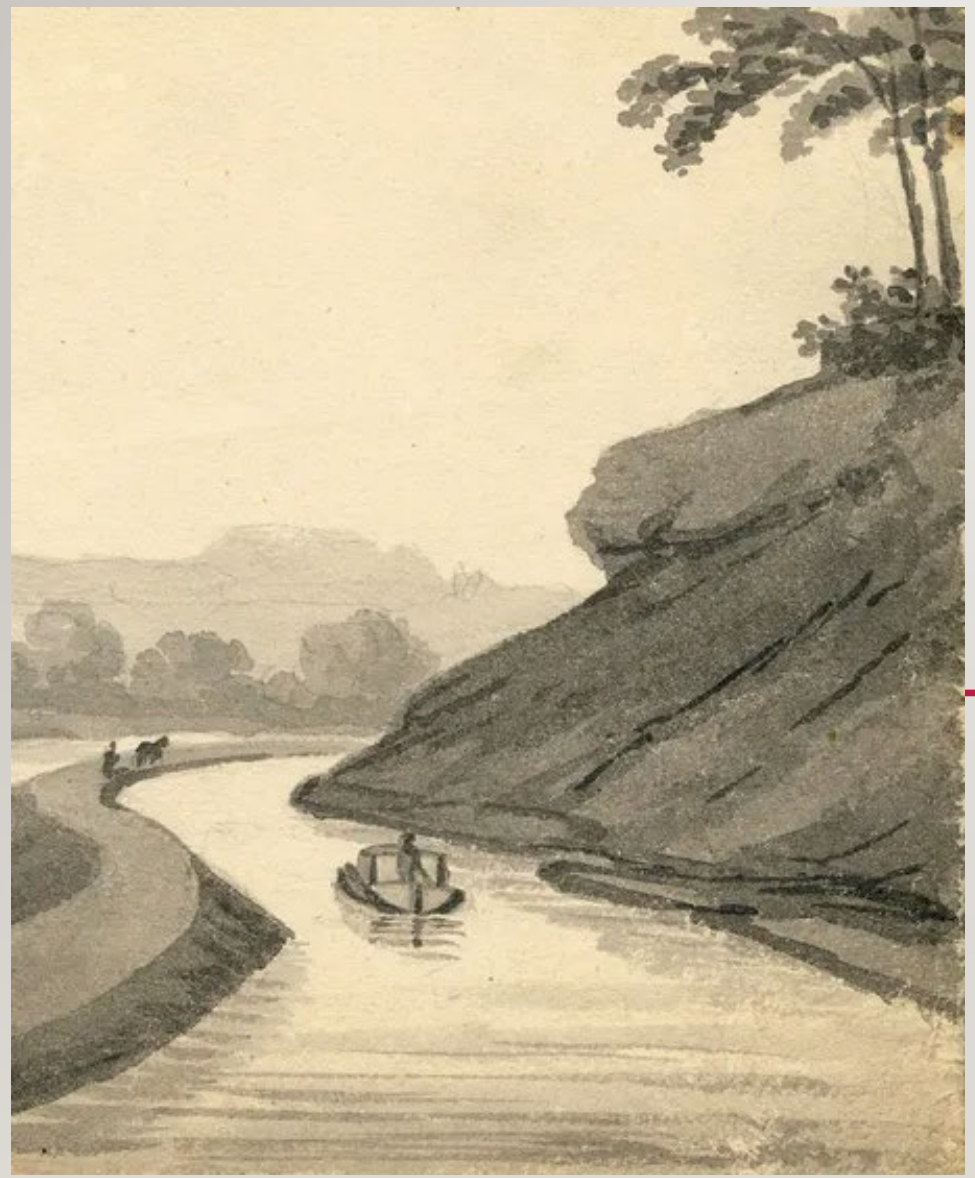


ELISHA RUMSEY
Co-Founder
Annarbour, Michigan



FOR SOME CONTEXT LET'S CONSIDER SOME OF THE CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC & POLITICAL DYNAMIC OF 1835 – 1837

1. Before U-M/OSU rivalry, Michigan/Ohio war of 1835
2. Ann Arbor's role in winning Michigan's Statehood
3. The Panic of 1837



ERIE CANAL, CIRCA 1825

ALLEN & RUMSEY, SAMUEL DEXTER, JOHN DIX AND THE GEDDES BROTHERS TIMING IN MOVING TO MICHIGAN IN 1824 WAS SAVVY

REMEMBER

IN 1825, SHIPS STARTED RUNNING REGULARLY FROM NEW YORK TO MICHIGAN.

BECAUSE OF THE COMPLETION OF THE ERIE CANAL, IMMIGRANT TRAFFIC FROM NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

BY THE 1830s, THE RUSH TO MICHIGAN WAS CALLED "MICHIGAN FEVER," BECAUSE THE TERRITORY GREW FASTER THAN ANY OTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY.

"BOY GOVERNOR" STEVENS T. MASON HAD A FONDNESS FOR ANN ARBOR

IN THE SPRING OF 1835, STEVENS T. MASON, THE "TERRITORIAL SECRETARY" AND A YOUNG MILITARY OFFICER, LED THE MICHIGAN MILITIA'S OCCUPATION OF TOLEDO IN THE "TOLEDO WAR." THIS ENRAGED PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON WHO REMOVED MASON FROM OFFICE.

HOWEVER, THE "TOLEDO WAR" MADE MASON A HERO TO MICHIGAN VOTERS AND HE WAS ELECTED GOVERNOR, 1835-1840.

ANN ARBOR WAS WHERE THE STATEHOOD OF MICHIGAN WAS NEGOTIATED. AS A RESULT, GOV. MASON BECAME AN A2 FAN.

ANN ARBOR IS WHERE THE "CONVENTION OF ASSENT" OCCURRED – AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE "TOLEDO WAR." HOWEVER, MICHIGAN DELEGATES DID NOT ACCEPT OHIO'S CONDITION OF RELINQUISHING THE "TOLEDO STRIP."

IN DECEMBER 1836, AT THE "FROSTBITTEN CONVENTION" AGAIN HELD IN ANN ARBOR. TOLEDO WAS EXCHANGED FOR THE U.P. AND MICHIGAN BECAME THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE.

BANK OF WASHTENAW – TYPE OF BANK NOTE RENDERED WORTHLESS BY "SPECIE CIRCULAR OF 1836"

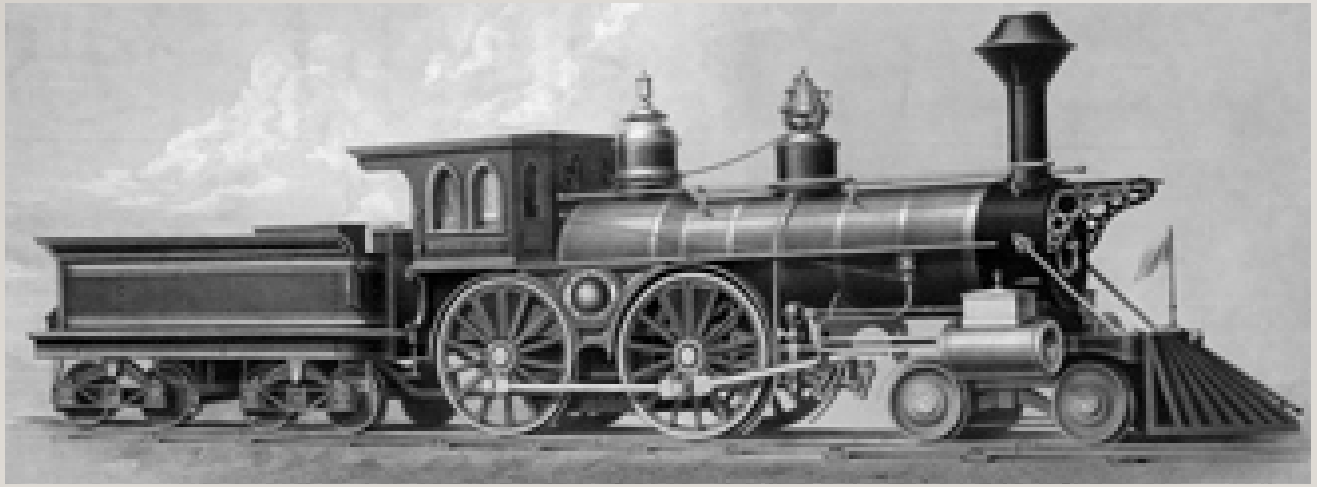
IN 1837, WITH STATEHOOD ACHIEVED, THE NEW STATE GOVERNMENT BORROWED $5 MILLION TO FINANCE A VARIETY OF PROJECTS. THESE INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE RAILROADS ACROSS THE STATE, A NETWORK OF ROADS AND A SYSTEM OF CANALS.

ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN WERE EVENTUALLY COMPLETED, BECAUSE OF THE "PANIC OF 1837" MANY PROJECTS, INCLUDING CANAL BUILDING, WERE NEVER FINISHED – A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE NEW STATE.

WILD LAND SPECULATION, ESPECIALLY IN PLACES LIKE MICHIGAN WHERE LAND SALES WERE EXPLODING, AND LAX BANKING REGULATION LED TO THE "PANIC OF 1837."

THE SLOW FUSE THAT SET OFF THE FINANCIAL PANIC WAS PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON'S "SPECIE CIRCULAR OF 1836," WHICH REQUIRED PURCHASES OF GOVERNMENT LAND BE BOUGHT, NOT WITH PAPER BANK NOTES, BUT WITH GOLD OR SILVER COINS. THIS CAUSED BANKS TO FAIL EVERYWHERE!

- 1836: John & Ann Allen moved to NYC to better manage business affairs but lost all their fortune because of the "Panic of 1837."
- 1837: John & Ann Allen move back to Ann Arbor, broke, seeking help.
- 1839: Mich. Central Railroad arrives making A2 a transportation hub.
- 1841: the first class of students started studying at U-M in Ann Arbor.
- 1844: fed up with pioneer life and John, Ann Allen returned to Virginia.
- 1845: students graduated from U-M in Ann Arbor for the first time.
- 1845-1849: a large number of German immigrants from the state of Württemberg came to Ann Arbor, as well as escapees from the Great Irish Famine. Canadians, however, were the largest percentage of A2 immigrants during most of the 19th-century.
- 1849: John Allen became a "49er," looking for gold in Northern California. He died there in 1851. His gravesite is unknown.



ANN BARRY ALLEN
Southern Belle
Reluctant Pioneer

ANN ARBOR
WINS OVER
DEXTER
SCOUNDRELS
BEAT PEDIGREE
IN LANDING U-M

POPULATION GROWTH 1830-2020

	Dexter	Ann Arbor	Detroit
1830	750	973	2,222
1840	800	2,991	9,102
1850	850	4,868	21,019
1860	856	5,097	45,619
1870	1,161	7,363	79,577
1880	1,008	8,061	116,340
1890	879	9,431	205,876
1900	900	14,509	285,704
1910	726	14,817	465,766
1920	587	19,516	993,678
1930	894	26,944	1,568,662
1940	1,087	29,815	1,623,452
1950	1,307	48,251	1,849,568
1960	1,702	67,340	1,670,144
1970	1,729	100,035	1,511,482
1980	1,524	107,969	1,203,339
1990	1,497	109,592	1,027,974
2000	2,338	114,024	951,270
2010	4,067	113,934	713,777
2020	4,500	123,851	639,111

U OF M – A CONSEQUENTIAL "PRIZE"

WHY DID ANN ARBOR WIN ?

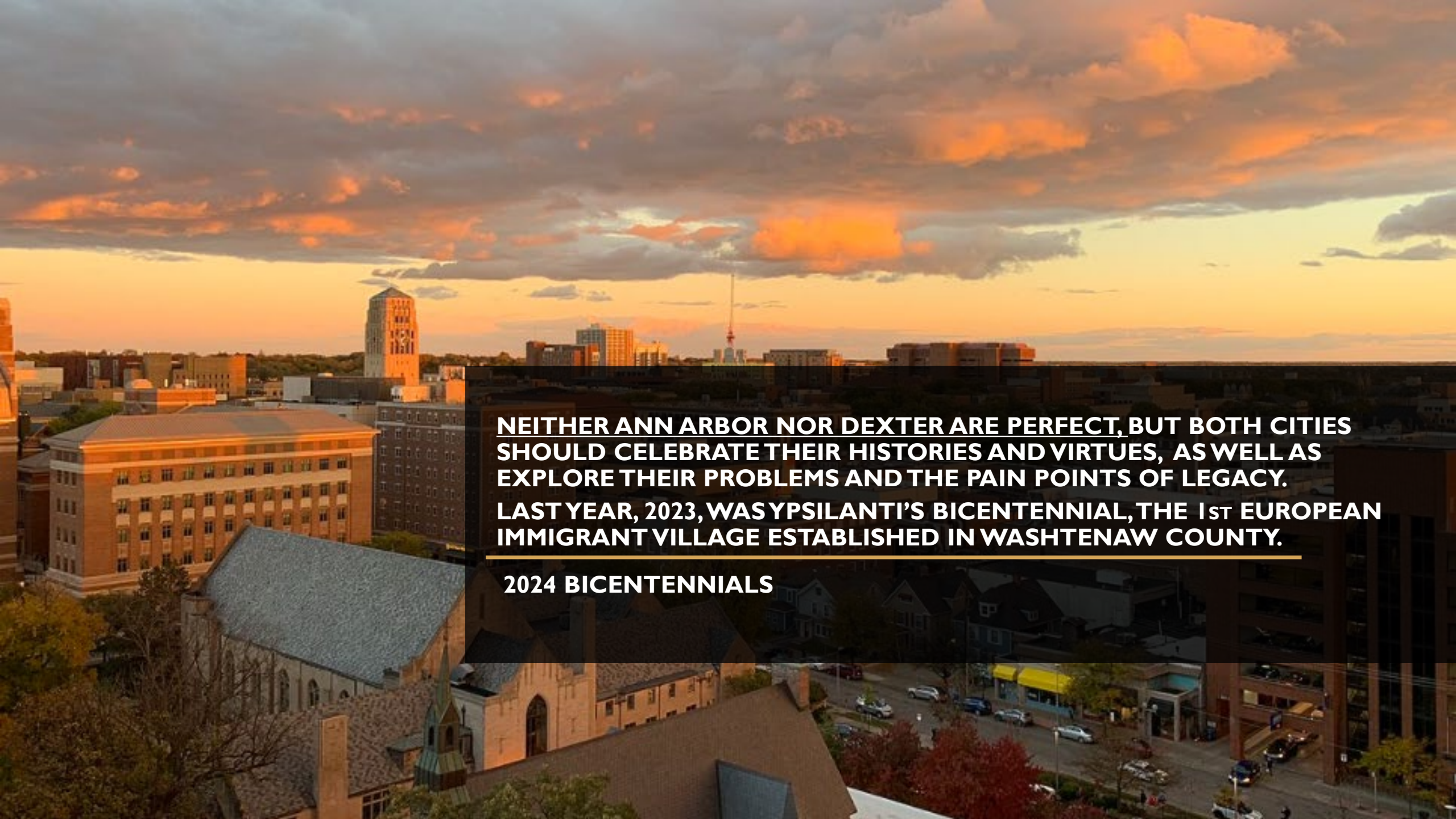
ANN ARBOR WORKED WITH TERRITORIAL OFFICIALS TO BE NAMED THE COUNTY SEAT TO ATTRACT THE STATE CAPITAL AND PRISON.

ANN ARBOR PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN MICHIGAN BECOMING A STATE. GOVERNOR MASON APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN ANN ARBOR FAN.

ANN ARBOR OFFERED 40 ACRES AND $100,000 AS A DIRECT INCENTIVE FOR THE STATE TO LOCATE THE U-M IN ANN ARBOR

JOHN ALLEN WAS A SCOUNDREL, AN UNDERCAPITALIZED, UNSUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN. BUT ANN ARBOR GREW MORE QUICKLY BECAUSE HE WAS AN EXCELLENT PROMOTER AND SALESMAN.

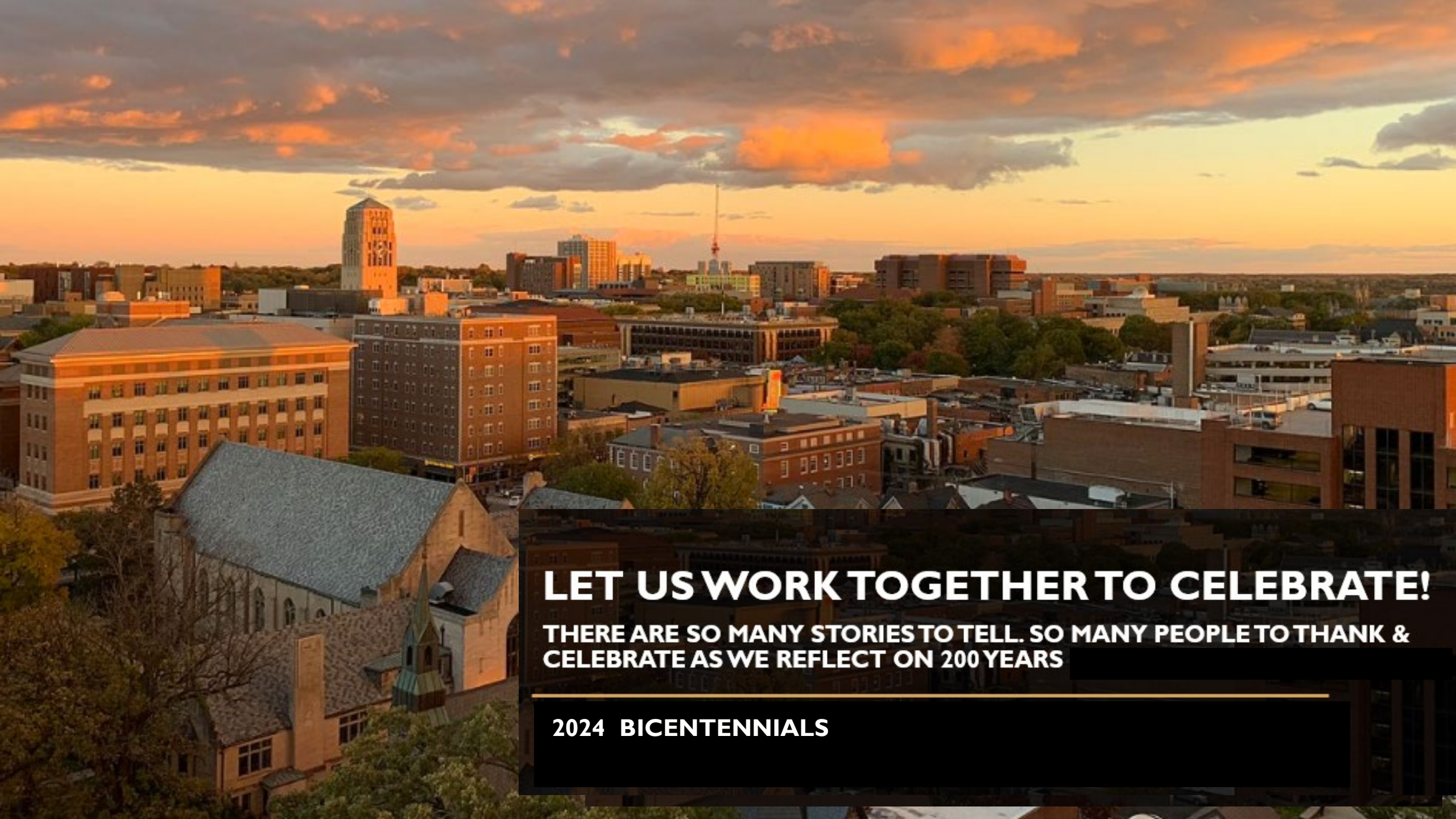
SAMUEL DEXTER WAS A WELL-CAPITALIZED AND EFFECTIVE BUSINESSMAN. HE HAD OTHER PROFITABLE LAND HOLDINGS, WAS A RAILROAD VISIONARY, APPEARED TO SUPPORT THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND WAS A DEDICATED HUSBAND AND FATHER.



NEITHER ANN ARBOR NOR DEXTER ARE PERFECT, BUT BOTH CITIES SHOULD CELEBRATE THEIR HISTORIES AND VIRTUES, AS WELL AS EXPLORE THEIR PROBLEMS AND THE PAIN POINTS OF LEGACY.

LAST YEAR, 2023, WAS YPSILANTI'S BICENTENNIAL, THE 1ST EUROPEAN IMMIGRANT VILLAGE ESTABLISHED IN WASHTENAW COUNTY.

2024 BICENTENNIALS


LET US WORK TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE!
THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES TO TELL. SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK & CELEBRATE AS WE REFLECT ON 200 YEARS
2024 BICENTENNIALS

THANK YOU!

2024 BICENTENNIALS