

— SPRING 2019 —

COLLECTIONS

— A PUBLICATION OF THE BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY —

IN DEFENSE OF NATURE The Origins of Environmentalism in Michigan



UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN

contents

[features]

[departments]

4 In Defense of Nature

When Michigan became a state in 1837, it was teeming with old-growth pine forests and abundant wildlife. Within 100 years, the environment would be ravaged by logging companies, reckless hunters, and industry pollution. The earliest Michigan environmentalists fought to bring the state back to health.

12 Being Black at U-M

Austin McCoy was focused on his history Ph.D. and completing his course requirements when a Florida jury found Trayvon Martin's killer not guilty of murder in 2012. The verdict was a rallying cry for McCoy, who jumped into campus activism and led the Being Black at U-M (#BBUM) movement.

18 The Sunshine That Is Needed

Blanche Van Leuven Browne's "hospital school" championed a holistic approach to disability, emphasizing exercise, nutrition, education, and employment. The work was revolutionary, and also controversial. Van Leuven Browne's legacy is as complicated as her lens on healing.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

1 Changing the Question

ABRIDGED

2 Select Bentley Bites

IN THE STACKS

24 Grand History in the Making

26 Angell in the 21st Century

PROFILES

27 Researching the American Experience

28 On the Front Lines

30 A Critical Moment in Detroit's History

BENTLEY UNBOUND

31 Written in the Stars

32 Observa-Story

(On the cover)
A hiking trail through the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in northern Michigan. Sleeping Bear Dunes became a national park in 1970.

(This page)
Today, more than one million people visit Sleeping Bear Dunes each year. The "dune climb," pictured here, is 450 feet from Lake Michigan to the top of the dune.

Correction

The back cover of our Fall 2018 issue stated that members of Ann Arbor's White Panther Party bombed three locations in Ann Arbor in 1968. It should have read "allegedly bombed," since charges were ultimately dismissed against White Panther Party members.



EDITOR OF DEARBORN INDEPENDENT, CAMERON, PLEADS IGNORANCE OF ANTI-SEMITIC CHARGES ON WITNESS STAND

Sapiro Amends Declaration by Eliminating 54 of 141 Libels. This Move Is Calculated to Speed Up the Trial and Define Issues Clearly.

JAMES MARTIN MILLER, FORD BIOGRAPHER, TESTIFIES THAT FORD PLANNED SAPIRO ATTACKS

Sapiro Complains That Libel Deprived Him of Position in Co-operative Marketing Movement, to Which He Had Devoted His Life.

Attorney On Stand In His Own Behalf

Accompanied by Louis Lipsky, President of American Zionists.

LIPSKY WILL RETURN SOMETIME DURING MAY

World Zionist Leader Satisfied With Progress With Jewish Union.

World Famous Leader Will Address Forum

I. O. B. B. Orchestra In Concert May First

Hotel Debut and Symposium Well Received by Capacity Audiences.

Call For United Effort Sounded At Weizmann-Marshall Gala Function.

800 PROMINENT JEWS GREAT NOTABLE ACCORD

NEW YORK.—J. T. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, the former Ottoman foreign minister, is expected to arrive in Detroit on Monday, April 1, to address the 21st annual convention of the World Zionist Organization.

It is also expected that the late Dr. Weizmann's widow, Mrs. Rosa Weizmann, will be called on at the convention.

The convention will be held at the Hotel Cadillac, Detroit, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 1, 2 and 3.

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Women Victors In Meal Controversy

East Boycott Monday Night With Trans-Cost Reduction On All Beef Cuts.

Having been accused a previous week of boycotting the city of Detroit, the women of the city called off the boycott on Monday, March 2, as a protest against the exorbitant price charged on the beef market.

Several hundred women attended the meeting at the Hotel Cadillac, Detroit, on Monday, March 2, when a delegation from the Michigan Women's Union came to discuss the matter.

The women agreed to have an investigation made by an expert committee, on their part, and to have a representative from the Michigan Women's Union to be called on at the Detroit Convention, which will be held in Detroit, Michigan, on Monday, March 2, 3 and 4.

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ALFRED MURPHY LAST MEN'S CLUB SPEAKER

Final Dinner Meeting on April 12 at Temple Beth El.

For the final dinner meeting of the year 1926-27 the Men's Club will hold a special meeting on the evening of April 12 at the Temple Beth El.

The dinner will be held at the Temple Beth El, Detroit, Michigan, on Monday, April 12, at 7:30 p. m.

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Anti-Semitism Rises

Anti-Semitic incidents spiked following the Charlottesville rally. Of the 306 incidents reported in the third quarter, 221 took place on or after the Aug. 11 rally.

Most disturbingly, the survey found a surge of anti-Semitic bullying and vandalism incidents in K-12 schools and college campuses across the U.S., despite in-school anti-bullying and inclusiveness training conducted by the ADL and other agencies.

The Charlottesville rally was one of at least 33 public white supremacist events in the U.S. this year.

In a separate report released in March, the World Jewish Congress—with the help of Israeli research firm Vign Social Intelligence—found that more than 382,000 anti-Semitic posts were uploaded to social media over the course of 2016, an average of 436 posts per hour, or one post every 83 seconds.

These statistics, Budaj said, are only the tip of the iceberg. For an incident to be

recorded, it has to be reported, and he said that many incidents go unreported. "We need to do a better job of reporting these incidents," he said.

At the same time, he said, it is important to continue to work on building bridges of awareness and understanding. "We need to continue to work on building bridges of awareness and understanding," he said.

"Clearly, the national political climate has been one in which those with bigoted and hateful views are emboldened to say and act to whatever is in their mind," Kurzmann said. "And in Michigan, we are not immune."

The JCR/C/AIC supports the work of the ADL by creating proactive and reactive programming in the wider Detroit community that seeks to build bridges of awareness and understanding.

"Hatred toward Jews is not a thing of the past," he said. "It is important to have a Jewish voice at the community table where things like homophobia, racism and Islamophobia are discussed to make people realize the problem of anti-Semitism is real."

Last year, the JCR/C brought a program that brought Jews and Muslims together so they can see

archive is part of the story of a community forged through adversity, motivated by common values, and full of success.

It must feel like a horrible déjà vu for this community that the anti-Semitic rantings of Henry Ford—published together under the title *The International Jew*—are now proudly displayed on alt right and neo-Nazi websites and play a significant role in the sad resurrection of anti-Semitism in our own time.

For all of us, the success stories of initially marginalized communities based on race, gender, or religion should change the question: Instead of asking, "Why are those people so sensitive about their histories?" let us ask, "Why did American society make it so hard for all of these talented people from all of these backgrounds to become part of the mainstream?"

Terrence J. McDonald

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Professor of History, and Director

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ADL and other reports show "significant bump" in incidents

Changing the Question

WHY ARE "THOSE PEOPLE" SO SENSITIVE about their history and identity?

It's a question that's asked frequently these days. It's also a question that is based on a historical myth, namely the belief that group integration into mainstream American society has been, and still is, easy.

Just ask the members of the Detroit Jewish community about their experience, which is so wonderfully captured in the Bentley's most recent digital acquisition: the complete digital, searchable archive of both the *Detroit Jewish Chronicle* and the *Detroit Jewish News* from 1914 to the present.

The harsh reality of Michigan history is this: For the first few decades of the 20th century—at least—Michigan was a hotbed of virulent anti-Semitism in America.

Henry Ford began his anti-Semitic publications in the *Dearborn Independent* newspaper in 1920; in 1924 a Ku Klux Klan member was nearly elected mayor of Detroit; and in the late 1930s, the anti-Semitic Catholic priest Father Charles Coughlin, head of the Shrine of the Little Flower Church in Royal Oak, broadcast his anti-Semitism to 30 million radio listeners. Because

of all this, the noted anti-Semite Gerald L. K. Smith moved to Michigan believing that it would be fertile soil for a run for the United States senate in 1942 (he lost

in the primary).

And until the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, Jews in Michigan did not have equal access to public places like hotels. Even after its passage, Jews were not permitted memberships in private clubs and golf courses. On campus, University of Michigan fraternities and sororities maintained discriminatory charters that were specifically exempted from the first non-discrimination policies passed by the University Regents.

So the story of the Jewish community of Detroit is one that details a rise to success and influence in the face of strong and continuous opposition. The Detroit community was never the largest or the wealthiest in this country, but its influence was second to none, as Lila Corwin Berman writes in her book *Metropolitan Jews* (University of Chicago Press, 2015): "For a medium size Jewish community, Detroit Jews played an outsized role on the national Jewish stage."

At its height in the early 1940s, the community had about 90,000 members making it the sixth largest Jewish community in the United States (Chicago had reached those numbers by 1900), but its role in national organizations and philanthropy belied its size. Every page of the *Detroit Jewish News*

archive is part of the story of a community forged through adversity, motivated by common values, and full of success.

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For all of us, the success stories of initially marginalized communities based on race, gender, or religion should change the question: Instead of asking, "Why are those people so sensitive about their histories?" let us ask, "Why did American society make it so hard for all of these talented people from all of these backgrounds to become part of the mainstream?"

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(COVER) ALEXEY STIOPALAMY STOCK PHOTO (OPPOSITE PAGE) MICHAEL HUDSON/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



Different Spokes

The start of a bike race featuring members of the U-M men's track team, circa 1898, from the David A. Forbes photograph collection.

12

Number of images of **Gérard Albert Mourou** that are digitized and available on the Bentley's online Image Bank.

Mourou, a former engineering professor at the University of Michigan, is a pioneer in the field of electrical engineering and lasers.

In 2018, he was awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics, along with Donna Strickland, for the invention of high-intensity laser pulses.

*My Dear Bela,
You probably know what is going on with us. In the little grocery store, us Jews hardly are allowed to sell anything, like petrol or sugar. You can imagine that people stop coming into the store where a lot of items are missing. My dear Bela, send us a little money, because winter is coming and I have to buy wood for heating.*

—Part of a letter dated November 5, 1940, from the Tann Family papers, which contain correspondence between family members in Michigan with relatives in what was then Czechoslovakia and Hungary during World War II as they try to survive and escape Nazi persecution. The letters have been translated and made available online.

209

Number of images recently added to the Bentley's online searchable Image Bank, which includes color photos of the historic **Haven Hall** fire at the University of Michigan in 1950.





An “indignation meeting” was held in 1849 to protest students being expelled due to their memberships in secret societies (specifically the fraternities Chi Psi and Alpha Delta Phi). The meeting took place, but the students and the fraternities weren’t reinstated until October 1850.

12,000

Number of Bentley boxes relocated to a new, upgraded North Campus storage facility to accommodate Bentley archival growth and expansion.

Detroit
Vietnam
Mackinac Island
Peekskill, New York

Locations visited in this issue of *Collections* magazine.

- MOLDED AVOCADO GRAPE SALAD
- JELLIED CRÈME DE MENTHE
- CHICKEN LIVERS OVER EGG PUFFS
- MINCEMEAT CHIFFON PIE
- SNOW PUDDING WITH CUSTARD SAUCE

Recipe titles from the Women’s League records circa 1950. More than 1,100 recipe cards were acquired by the Bentley as part of the recent Michigan Union renovation project.

34 RICHARDI & BECHTOLD.

CHAMPION FISH AND MEAT TONG.

This Wood Tong is superior to any metal tong or fork for handling pickled and salt fish, meats, etc., for the following reasons:

FIRST—It will not rust or corrode, and hence is much cleaner.

SECOND—It does not mutilate the fish like a fork.

THIRD—It is lighter and is considerably cheaper than any metal tongs.

USED BY GROCERS, MARKETMEN AND ALL DEALERS IN FISH.

PRICE.

Champion Fish Tong.....per gross, \$5.50. (Patent applied for.)

GROCCERS, MARKETMEN, AND ALL DEALERS IN FISH

The audience for the “Champion Fish and Meat Tong” offered through the 1901 Richardi & Bechtold catalog and sold for \$5.50 per gross.



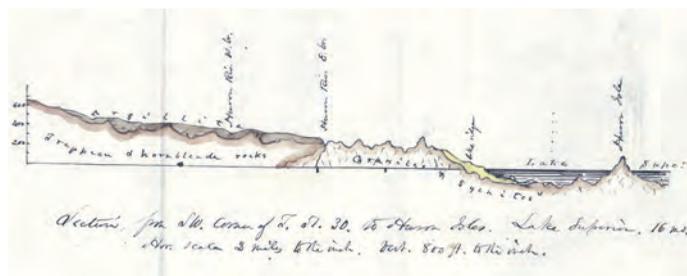
ARCHIVED DINGELL

The Bentley Historical Library is in the process of archiving many of Congressman John Dingell's tweets, including this one below. Congressman Dingell died on February 7, 2019.



Survey Says!

In 1837, the Michigan Legislature established a geological survey to conduct a comprehensive study of the state’s natural resources. The new state geologist, Douglass Houghton, appointed Bela Hubbard as his assistant, and Hubbard surveyed the state until 1841. Hubbard’s extensive field notes and drawings, like this survey of the Lake Superior coastline, are archived at the Bentley.





A scenic view of a lake surrounded by tall grasses and trees at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the water reflects the surrounding greenery and the warm tones of the setting sun. The foreground is dominated by tall, golden-brown grasses and green foliage, creating a sense of depth and texture.

BEFORE EARTH DAY AND THE CLEAN WATER ACT, BEFORE THE PROTECTION OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES AND ISLE ROYALE, THERE WERE MICHIGAN CITIZENS FIGHTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF THE STATE. COLLECTIONS AT THE BENTLEY REVEAL HOW MICHIGAN WENT FROM OVERWHELMING NATURAL ABUNDANCE TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL WASTELAND—AND HOW SOME UNLIKELY PEOPLE HELPED BRING IT BACK.

IN DEFENSE OF NATURE *By Robert Havey*

T



THE SETTLERS WHO CAME to the Michigan Territory during the beginning of the 19th century weren't thinking about how their actions were going to forever impact the environment. They found themselves in a land with rivers and lakes teeming with trout and grayling, acres of virgin pine forest filled with wild game, and few other people to share it with. There were around 10,000 people including the American Indian tribes in Michigan in 1800. A Michigan settler's main concern was about how they could protect themselves from nature, not so much the other way around.

Michigan's population exploded after the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 and several new railroad lines in 1836, connecting the territory to the expansion-hungry eastern states. The territorial government, and later the new state government, were selling off parcels of land as fast as they could, much of it obtained through unfair treaties hastily signed with American Indian tribes.

What happened next was an environmental catastrophe on a scale difficult to imagine today. Michigan's vast acres of old growth pine forests were sold to logging companies on the cheap. There were few laws in place to regulate harvesting methods and no enforcement. William N. Sparhawk, Forest Economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, wrote in 1929

that "In less than 100 years" of Michigan statehood, "nearly 33,000,000 acres, or 92 percent, of [Michigan's] original forest has been cut or destroyed."

During the lumber rush of the 1800s, forests that took centuries to grow were cut down so fast and so haphazardly, with the fields of tree stumps so choked with sawdust, that giant spontaneous wildfires became common. Sparhawk wrote, "The little [forest] left has been wiped out over wide areas by conflagrations, the destructiveness of which has been intensified by the huge masses of logging debris." He also noted that the frequent fires ruined any chance for any forests to recover. "If perchance a tree or a group of young growth escaped the first fire, it was licked up sooner or later by another."

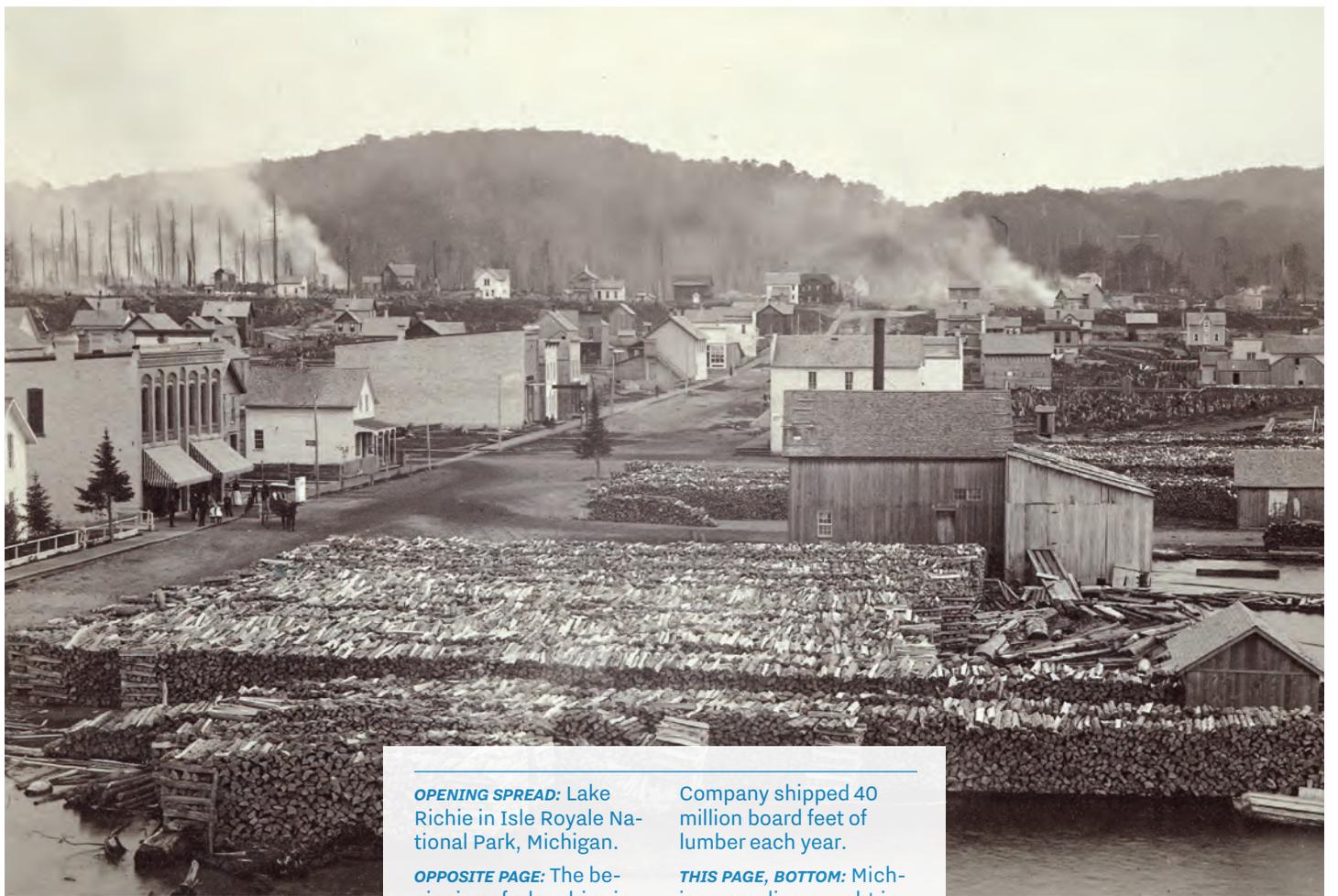
The commercial fishing industry was experiencing a similar level of harvesting with consequences just as dire. Scores of fishermen dragged densely woven nets through lakes and rivers, catching huge numbers of grayling and trout. The nets also captured many fish too small or too mangled to sell. While the best of the catch was packed in barrels and shipped around the country, the castoff fish would simply be wasted. There were reports of fish piled on riverbanks, left to putrefy in the sun while the poison runoff would eventually bleed back into the water.

A HUNTSMAN'S REBUTTAL

Some of the first people to observe and object to the waste and destruction were Michigan's recreational outdoorsmen. During their trips into what remained of the Michigan wilderness, these hunters and fishermen saw firsthand their quarry and cover disappear. William Butts Mershon, whose papers have been recently digitized by the Bentley, after fondly recounting his first deer hunting trip to the Au Gres River, lamented, "All these localities I have mentioned are now without a tree large enough to make a saw log. What the lumberman did not get, the forest fire destroyed."

Mershon, with other Michigan outdoorsmen his age, inherited the tradition of hunting and fishing from a generation who relied on those skills for survival. Hunting was a rite of passage, it was proof of self-reliance. Although he and his family owned logging operations in Saginaw, Mershon believed that "the State should purchase large areas and set them aside forever for the people who enjoy the grand, health-giving, mind-purifying sport with rod and gun."

Mershon saw the diminishing of the game he hunted as a boy not as a problem of over-hunting, but of habitat destruction. "Environment, and not the gun of



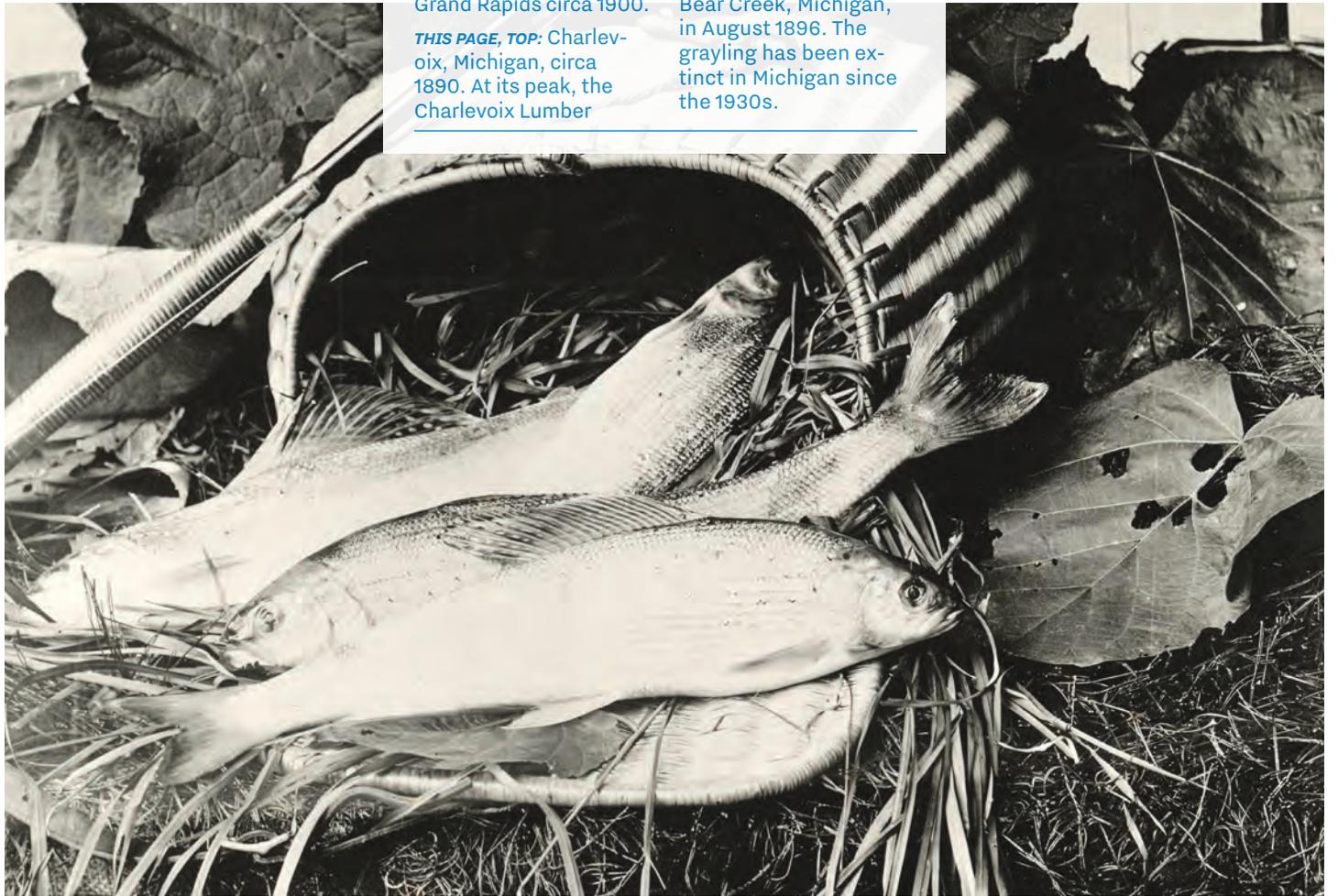
OPENING SPREAD: Lake Richie in Isle Royale National Park, Michigan.

Company shipped 40 million board feet of lumber each year.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The beginning of a log drive in Grand Rapids circa 1900.

THIS PAGE, BOTTOM: Michigan grayling caught in Bear Creek, Michigan, in August 1896. The grayling has been extinct in Michigan since the 1930s.

THIS PAGE, TOP: Charlevoix, Michigan, circa 1890. At its peak, the Charlevoix Lumber



(OPENING SPREAD) GETTY IMAGES; (OPPOSITE PAGE) HS4687 (THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM) BLO05758, HS4923



THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM:
Windblown topsoil from a farm near Holly, Michigan, 1945.

An Ottawa county onion grower sorts through his yield after wind-protecting his field in 1944.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: Two men from the U-M Institute for Fisheries Research conduct a survey from their rowboat circa 1933.

An outdoor biology laboratory for the U-M Institute for Fisheries Research field work circa 1933.

Senator Philip Hart campaigns to make Sleeping Bear Dunes a national park.



the sportsman, must be the explanation,” he wrote in his 1907 book, *The Passenger Pigeon*, about hunting the extinct bird. The areas of Michigan that were once unreachable by hunters and loggers, where populations of game could recover, were gone.

“When the forests were lumbered, burned and cleared for the farm, when the lakes and marshes were diked and drained, when roads and Fords both came to the trout nursery in the cedar swamp, when the rail fence gave way to the barb wire, then there had to be a change in what inhabited these regions.”

PERFECTLY APPALLING

Four decades after it became a state, the Michigan government finally started to take action to protect its natural resources. The first Michigan Fish Commission was established in 1873, monitoring fish populations and setting up the first state fish hatchery. After much lobbying by Mershon and the Michigan Sportsman Association, the state appointed a game warden in 1887, who was in charge of enforcing the state hunting laws. The Michigan Forestry Commission was founded in 1899.

Citizen groups dedicated to protecting parts of the environment flourished in the early 1900s. Michigan’s chapter of the Audubon Society, a bird conservation group, formed in 1904. Their mission, in part, was to “disseminate information respecting the economic value of birds” and “their importance to the welfare of man.” Their lobbying efforts aimed to save more bird species from the fate of the passenger pigeon and prairie chicken.

Advances in conservation came in two types: political and scientific. Lawmakers’ decisions on things like the date when a hunting season started and ended, or if a section of forest could be cut down for lumber, depended on knowing the impact those decisions would have on the environment. And that required reliable scientific knowledge.

Such science was hard to come by during Michigan’s first attempt at conservation policy. When working to set up the state fish hatchery in 1873, the Michigan Fish Commission reported, “[T]he ignorance on the subject was perfectly appalling. It seemed as if natural history and natural



science stopped at the water's edge.”

The University of Michigan was the first in the country to offer regular courses in forestry in 1881. The Department of Forestry was created in 1903, later becoming the School of Natural Resources, then the School of Natural Resources and Environment, and is today known as the School for Environment and Sustainability. Early forestry classes were designed to teach ways that trees could be sustainably grown, maintained, and harvested for human use. This was accomplished in part with “field day” trips to the Saginaw Forest where students could learn in nature.

PLATFORMS AND MOVEMENTS

World War II profoundly affected America's relationship with industry and the environment. The post-war prosperity meant that people had time and money for leisure. Public nature parks were popular, and their protection became a priority for many Americans.

The way news and information about the environment was shared also went through radical changes during this time.

Jack Van Coevering was the popular outdoor editor for the *Detroit Times*. He wrote columns about hunting and fishing almost exclusively for the first two decades of his career, but in the late 1940s he started writing stories about pollution in the Detroit River. Like Mershon, Van Coevering stumbled upon the ugly byproducts of Michigan industry. Unlike Mershon, he had photos and a platform to show the world.

Van Coevering covered stories on environmental topics including pesticides, oil spills, and flood control. He joined the staff of U-M's School of Natural Resources in 1967, doing research and teaching classes on many topics, including environmental communication. In his later years, Van Coevering wrote a history of the conservation movement in Michigan, a manuscript copy of which resides in his collection at the Bentley.

In the 1960s, the rise of the environmentalism movement drew the modern political battle lines we are familiar with today.

This history, including U-M's role in the first Earth Day, can also be found in Bentley collections.



The Jack Van Coevering collection at the Bentley contains many photographs that accompanied Van Coevering's articles during his long career in journalism.

THIS PAGE: Oil pollution from the Detroit River, May 1959.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: A Michigan Conservation Officer displays deceased oil-soaked ducks from the Detroit River, 1951.

A sign on the Detroit River in 1948 reads: “No trespassing/danger/sewer outlet and sludge blooms/

all boats entering are subject to seizure and impounding.”

Evening grosbeaks feed on a table with a sign reading, “Audubon Serve Self Cafeteria,” [sic] March 1955.

An aerial view looking north over Lake Insula, Minnesota, October 1947.



NATURAL SELECTION

The Bentley Historical Library has numerous collections that document the history of conservation and environmentalism in Michigan.

WILLIAM BUTTS MERSHON PAPERS

This collection contains diaries, correspondence, and photographs of the famous Saginaw lumber baron, hunter, and conservationist. A large portion of the collection has been recently digitized and is available online.

JACK VAN COEVERING PAPERS

Van Coevering was a longtime nature editor for the *Detroit News* and later lectured at U-M. His collection contains clippings of articles over his 35-year career and a completed manuscript on the history of conservation in Michigan.

SCHOOL FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (U-M) RECORDS

The administrative files and photographs from this collection reflect the academic approach to conservation since 1903. There is material pertaining to classroom activities and field research.

MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETY RECORDS

Michigan's chapter of the national bird protection society formed in 1904. The collection represents its history of advocacy and its organization of conservationist causes.

MICHIGAN UNITED CONSERVATION CLUB RECORDS

In 1937, the MUCC was formed to bring together the many local clubs that were interested in conservation. The organization has advised the state legislature on conservation legislation and has led education outreach efforts to raise public awareness of conservation issues.

HELEN W. MILLIKEN PAPERS

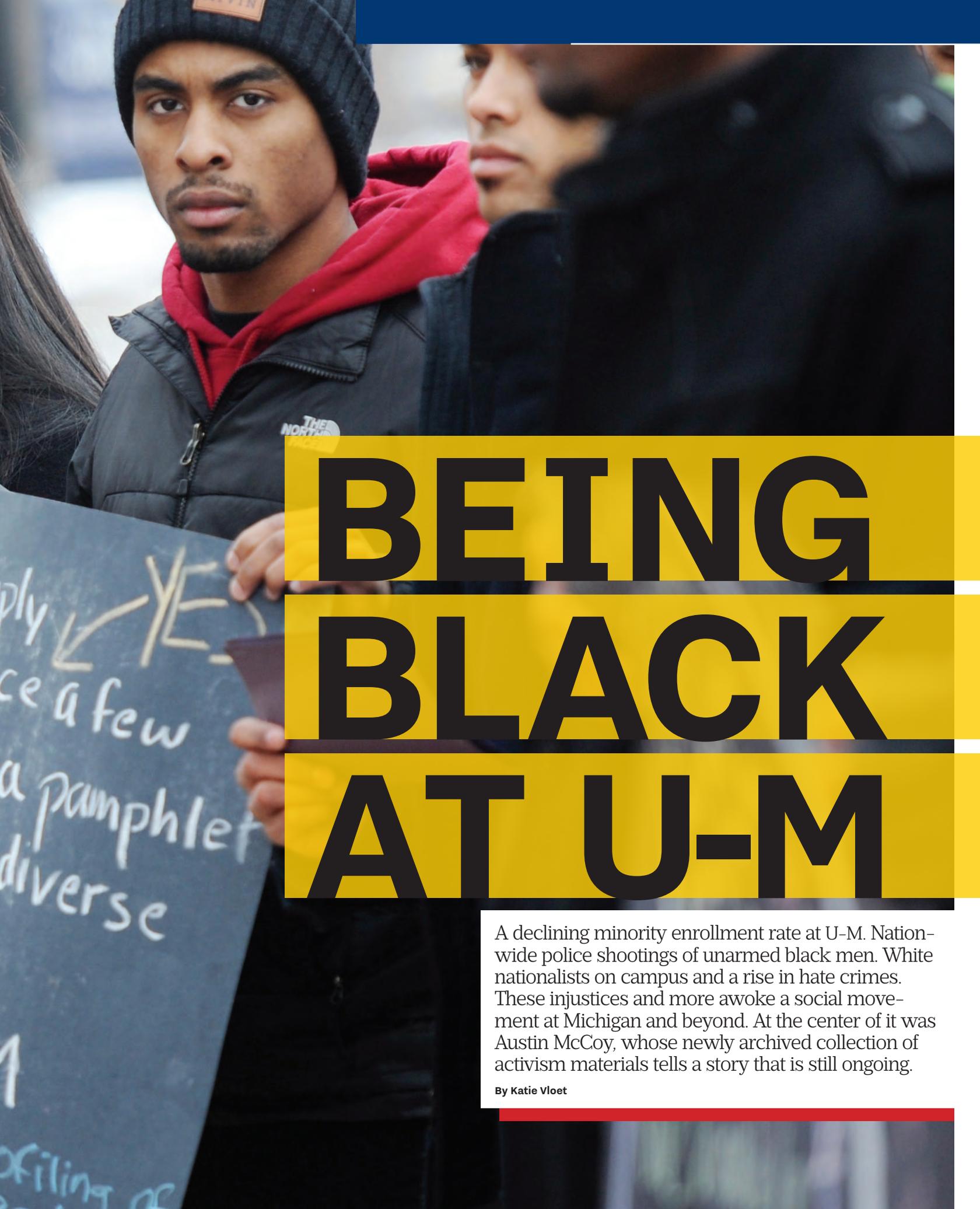
Milliken was a women's rights activist and environmentalist. Her collection spans her time as the first lady of Michigan and contains photographs, speeches, and correspondence relating to her advocacy of billboard control, bans on disposable bottles, and opposition to oil drilling in Pigeon River State Forest.



Black
Having my
words
in the daily
People do not rush to be
my partner?
Expecting to my professors
why Diversity is important
why important.

I'm more than just
a wide receiver!
- D. N.
Can I just be a student
one of these days?
How can the police protect
when they treat me like the
ENEMY

You can't simply
strategically place
colorful faces on
call yourself a
institution.
#BBUN
Stop racial
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BEING BLACK AT U-M

A declining minority enrollment rate at U-M. Nationwide police shootings of unarmed black men. White nationalists on campus and a rise in hate crimes. These injustices and more awoke a social movement at Michigan and beyond. At the center of it was Austin McCoy, whose newly archived collection of activism materials tells a story that is still ongoing.

By Katie Vloet

“I don’t care to be a victor,
I care to be a truth teller.”

—AUSTIN MCCOY



Opening spread:
Student activists rally on the steps of Hill Auditorium in January 2014 to address U-M’s lack of diversity.

This page, left: **Austin McCoy leads a protest called “On the Ground for Mike Brown” in Ypsilanti, Michigan, in 2015.**

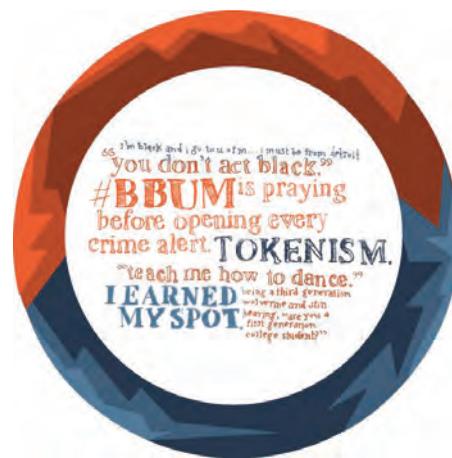
This page, right:
An illustration of some of the #BBUM tweets that garnered national attention in 2014.

“REMEMBER, WE ARE BIGGER THAN THE WHITE SUPREMACISTS.” That was Austin McCoy’s message in 2016 to like-minded students, faculty, and community members who wanted to join him in fighting racism that was sprouting up on campus in the form of speeches, fliers, and threats.

But remember to be safe, he cautioned. “You can tear down the posters. . . . Take a picture of the poster(s) for your records and report it. . . . Be careful tearing down as some white supremacists have been known to rig them with harmful objects. Have some gloves on hand.”

McCoy’s notes about how to combat these very public displays of racism are now at the Bentley Historical Library, a collection of his activism while he was a Ph.D. student and postdoctoral fellow at U-M. In that time, he was one of the leaders of the United Coalition for Racial Justice (UCRJ) and Being Black at the University of Michigan (#BBUM) and organized the 2014 Speak Out for Racial Justice, which was attended by more than 1,000 people.

Even before attending U-M, he knew that issues of racial justice were simmering just beneath the surface in Ann Arbor. And when he visited before deciding where to go for his history Ph.D. studies, black graduate students told him about declines in the minority enrollment at U-M and a feeling of being marginalized. Yet his activism did not begin the moment he set foot on campus in 2009. “I didn’t start doing activist



work until my fourth year,” he said in one of his many campus speeches, the text and notes for which are included in his papers at the Bentley. “I wanted to when I first started my Ph.D. work, but I took my first few years to focus on completing my requirements.

“Then Trayvon Martin happened,” he said.

AN ACTIVIST GETS ACTIVE

In February 2012, a neighborhood watch coordinator in a Florida gated community fatally shot 17-year-old high school junior Trayvon Martin. The young African American man was visiting relatives at the time. He was unarmed. The shooter was charged with murder, but, a year and a half after the shooting, a jury found him not guilty, prompting outrage and protests nationwide.

In Ann Arbor, McCoy heard the verdict as a rallying cry. His notes, meeting agendas, and other documents follow his rapid journey from someone who was starting to get involved with campus movements to a leader. It began with an op-ed he co-wrote for the *Michigan Daily* about the history of black student protest on campus. After that, McCoy became increasingly involved in campus social and political issues, helped organize the #BBUM social media campaign through his work with the Black Student Union, and formed the UCRJ chapter on campus.

In October 2013, he helped to organize a Freeze Out to raise awareness about declining minority enrollment at U-M. While enrollment of black students in 1995 was

Top: Close to 200 students protested against racially charged incidents on U-M's campus in September 2017.

Bottom: A crowd of U-M students gathered on U-M's Diag in 2012 after the death of Trayvon Martin.



(OPENING SPREAD) MELANIE MAXWELL/THE ANN ARBOR NEWS
 (OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT) COURTESY OF AUSTIN MCCOY, AMY MACKENS/THE MICHIGAN DAILY
 (THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM) COURTESY OF AUSTIN MCCOY, JOEL S. JOHNSON/MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

nearly 9 percent, the number had dropped to a steady 4 to 5 percent by the time of the Freeze Out. The university attributed the decline in large part to the 2006 passage of Proposition 2 (also known as the Michigan Civil Rights Amendment), which banned affirmative action programs in education and public-sector job hiring. McCoy and other leaders of the organizations with which he worked agreed that Prop 2 was a large factor in the declining presence of minority students at U-M, but that the University could make a greater effort to recruit and retain underrepresented students.

The Freeze Out gave way to the February 2014 Speak Out for Racial Justice, which brought students, faculty, staff, and community members to the Shapiro Undergraduate Library for an all-night event that expanded the conversation about enrollment and aimed to “politicize students and build coalitions,” according to McCoy’s notes and meeting summaries. “The Speak Out will be geared towards hearing from students of color who are not members of student organizations. We want to provide tools and information to underclassmen so they can make this a sustainable movement, which will continue to press the administration and hold it accountable for previous commitments.”

The event also addressed some of the friction on campus that manifested in a variety of ways, the most visible at that time being a planned fraternity party at which organizers invited people to “World Star Hip Hop Presents: Hood Ratchet Thursday.” The invitation was degrading to women and used colorful language to encourage attendees to invoke cultural stereotypes in their costumes. A public outcry resulted in the party’s cancellation.

Such well-publicized incidents, as well as enrollment and other issues, led to a big turnout. “1,000-plus flock to University of Michigan ‘Speak Out’ to share minority experience, support activism,” read a headline in the *Ann Arbor News*. “The administration needs to understand that there is a broad coalition developing that is going to push it to create a more diverse University,” McCoy said in the article. *The New York Times* also covered the Speak Out. Tweets took off from Ann Arbor, and landed around the world.

It was a busy month for McCoy. He spoke to the U-M Board of Regents later in February 2014, detailing some of the enrollment issues that the Speak Out addressed. “Sure, we have more black faces in higher

**ANN ARBOR AGAINST THE POLICE STATE
#BLACKLIVESMATTER
#AA2FERGUSON**



PACK THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**MEET OUTSIDE THE ANN ARBOR “JUSTICE CENTER”
(AURA ROSSER PLAZA)
301 E. HURON ST
MONDAY DECEMBER 15, 6PM**

**BRING SIGNS, BANNERS, WARM CLOTHES, AND FRIENDS
WEAR BLACK IN SOLIDARITY WITH FERGUSON**



places in the university. U-M has placed more black faces in higher places in the world, but isolation and marginalization remains. So, my question to you would be, ‘What am I supposed to say to prospective black graduate students when they visit in March?’

“I don’t care to be a victor,” he told the board. “I care to be a truth teller.”

AFTER THE SPEAK OUT

A few months later, in August 2014, a white police officer killed 18-year-old Michael Brown Jr., who was black, in Ferguson, Missouri, setting off local unrest and nationwide protests. Police shootings would hit closer to home later in the year, with the killing of Aura Rosser, a black mother of three, by an Ann Arbor Police officer in Rosser’s home. The prosecutor found, after a review by state police, that the officer acted in self-defense.

Many in the community saw it differently. “The city’s unwillingness to apologize to the Rosser family and the slow pace of policy change provokes one to ask: Does Aura Rosser’s life matter?,” McCoy wrote in *The Michigan Daily* a year later.

His frustration about the killings near and far prompted McCoy to help organize the Ann Arbor to Ferguson movement, which held marches to raise awareness and mourn losses. At a 2017 rally held after white supremacists killed a counter-protester and critically injured many others in Charlottesville, Virginia, McCoy spoke about the connection among all such killings. “It’s easy to reduce the struggle against white supremacy to folks wearing hoods,” he said. “It’s not just about the loudest white supremacists, it’s not about folks carrying Nazi flags, it’s not about folks carrying the confederate flag. It’s about how structural racism operates in this country, even in places like Ann Arbor.”

McCoy saw the Charlottesville rally as an example of the emboldening of white supremacists after the presidential election of Donald Trump. It occurred on U-M’s campus as well, with the widespread placement of racist fliers (including those that said, “We must secure the existence of our race and a future for white

(LEFT TO RIGHT) COURTESY OF AUSTIN MCCOY, COURTESY OF AUSTIN MCCOY, DARYL MARSHKE/MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Just tore down some Islamophobic alt right posters. umich Smh
[instagram.com/p/BLG24-gDf5v/](https://www.instagram.com/p/BLG24-gDf5v/)
12:16 PM - Oct 3, 2016

5 See Austin McCoy’s other Tweets



Opposite page: An archived flyer in the McCoy collection calls for students to rally after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014.

This page: McCoy's Bentley collection contains detailed information about how to organize on campus including how to get flyers printed, reserve rooms, obtain security, and more.

children. Make America White Again”) around campus and the proposed appearance of white nationalist Richard Spencer. McCoy’s papers at the Bentley also reference increases in racial intimidation after the election, such as racial slurs written on dorm name tags, swastikas spray-painted around town, and “F--- Latinos” painted on the iconic U-M Rock.

All of these incidents, McCoy says, put a spotlight on the continued struggle of being black at U-M. Indeed, the BBUM hashtag was revitalized by such incidents and continues to this day.

McCoy, meanwhile, accepted a position as a history professor at Auburn University in 2018. He is working on a book project—one that is informed by scholarly research and real-life experiences. Called *The Quest for Democracy: Black Power, New Left, and Progressive Politics in the Post-Industrial Midwest*, it analyzes movements against the criminal state and campaigns for participatory democracy in economics, foreign policy, and criminal justice after 1967.

Before he left U-M, other activists had taken up the causes for which he worked so diligently. He said the University was making some important headway in its diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. He was ready to start anew, in the always-complicated social and political climate of the American South.

The last time he spoke publicly at U-M, he may have coined his own epigraph. “So, this is it,” McCoy said. “This is my last speech as a student activist. I plan to be a professor this time next year. I hope I did your cause and your theme justice, because justice is all I care about.”

The Austin McCoy collection is now digitized and can be viewed online at myumi.ch/J2KNA



HISTORY IN THE PRESENT

McCoy’s decision to give his papers and digital files to the Bentley allows researchers and others who are interested in activism on campus to learn about this very-recent history.

From the existing materials, McCoy hopes that people will “get the picture of a campus where there is a vibrant protest culture. I was lucky enough to be there at a time when students were really politicized.”

Students and other researchers likely will be most drawn to his protest photos, taken both in Ann Arbor and around the country, and his oral-history interviews, he predicts. Some of the contents are embargoed until 2028, including all of his email correspondence.

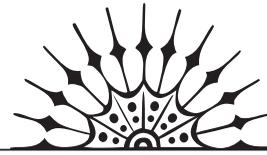
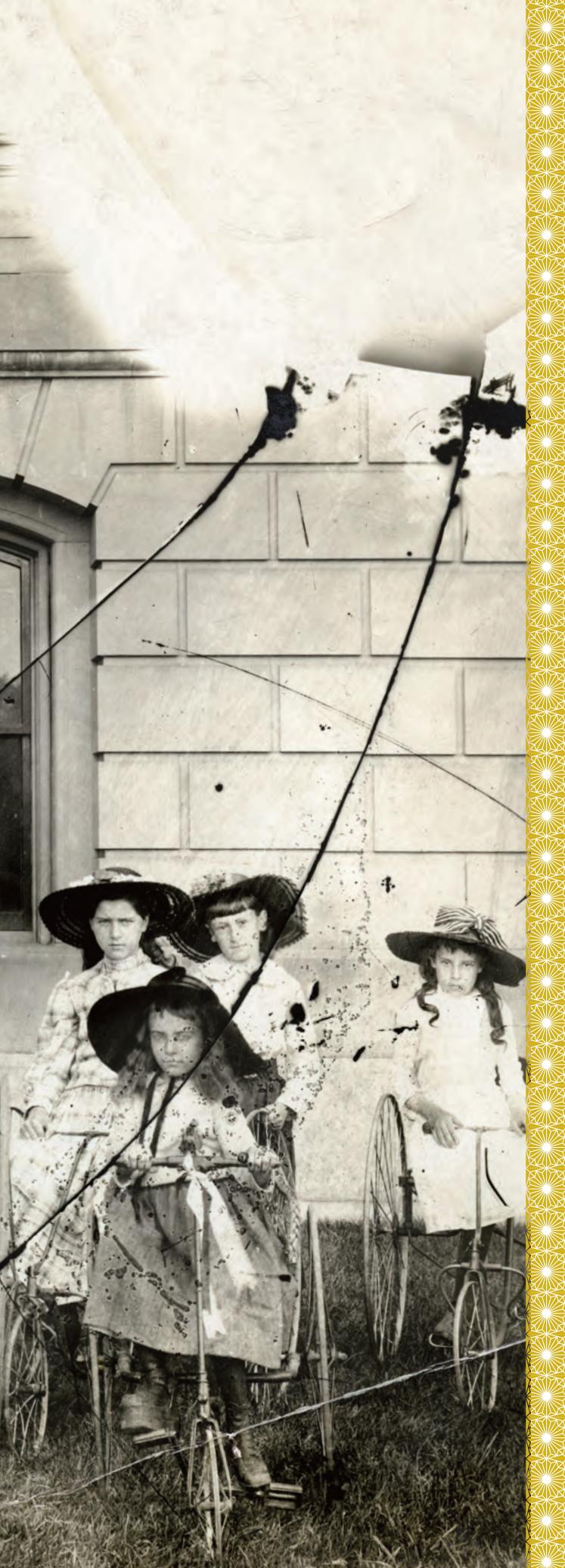
He also wants people to see that other activists did work behind the scenes, while some became very visible on campus. Among the latter were Dana Greene Jr. (pictured in blue shirt, above), a graduate student in the School of Public Health, who kneeled on the Diag for 24 hours in 2017 to raise awareness about racial justice on campus. McCoy’s files at the Bentley include the letter Greene wrote to U-M President Mark Schlissel to explain “Why I Kneel”:

“I will kneel in the Diag facing the flag in silent protest until there is nothing left in me. . . . I am kneeling because I am tired of doing nothing. I am kneeling because I want this campus and this country to acknowledge a fact that I know to be true. We are not and have never lived by the idea of our founding that ALL men are created equal. I am kneeling because we are better than this.”

McCoy hopes that anyone looking at his papers will understand that he, Greene, and others “were all trying to do our best to make things better for students and people who live in Ann Arbor.

“I was just one of the many people who were trying to make a change.”





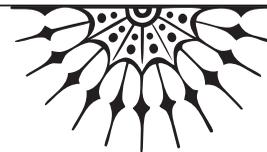
“I believe the greatest cure is the air, the water, and sunshine. I cure by congenial surroundings, plenty of healthy exercise, good food, and happiness. If the little unfortunates are contented and can have all of those things, nature, who after all is the greatest physician, will do the rest.”

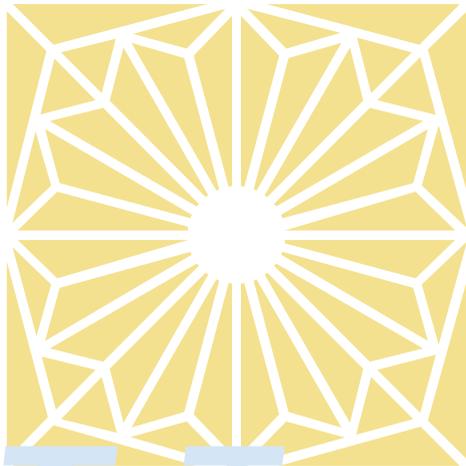


THE SUNSHINE THAT IS NEEDED

DURING THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, SOCIETY VIEWED YOUNG BLANCHE VAN LEUVEN BROWNE’S DISABILITY AS A LIFE SENTENCE. BUT, AS HER COLLECTION AT THE BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY SHOWS, THE ACTIVIST’S DRIVE CHANGED PERCEPTIONS AND OPENED DOORS—FIRST FOR HERSELF, AND THEN FOR HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN UNDER HER CARE.

By Sarah J. Robbins





“WE HAVE TURNED THE WARD INTO SCOTLAND, AND WE ARE ALL LADIES AND KNIGHTS AND CHIEFS,” wrote Blanche Van Leuven Browne in an 1898 journal entry,

describing not a bunch of bed-ridden children in St. Luke’s Hospital, in Chicago, but a world of possibility. Paralyzed on the right side from a fever at the age of three, Van Leuven Browne spent her formative years in a series of more than 50 plaster casts. But her journal from this time, part of a collection at the Bentley Historical Library, reflects a singular belief that she would become the hero in her own story.

It was in these days, at St. Luke’s, that 17-year-old Van Leuven Browne defined her life’s goal. “I determined that when I grew up, if I should ever become well enough to do anything worthwhile in this world, that I would make a haven of refuge for the cripple,” she wrote.

The word “cripple,” Old English in origin, is tricky to write and even tougher to hear. Today it’s all but taboo—one of the more pejorative ways to talk about people with disabilities. But “cripple” itself is a part of the history lesson: A century ago, when Van Leuven Browne was young, it was used to describe a mobility-impaired person perceived to be dependent on and unable to fully participate in society.

At the time, there was little understanding, let alone acceptance, of such conditions, and even fewer resources. Fortunately, Van Leuven Browne’s parents were fierce advocates. Her mother believed in a holistic approach to rehabilitation, prioritizing nutrition and performing physical therapy and massage on her daughter from a very early age. The

family of three traveled from their home in Milford, Michigan, where Van Leuven Browne’s father ran a photo gallery, to seek out innovative medical approaches in Lansing and Chicago.

Van Leuven Browne attended school up until the 11th grade, wearing “a plaster cast with a rod extending from it at the back up over my head with a halter attached, in which my head was supported, as my neck was too weak to hold up.” Then, around her 21st birthday, her family decided to try a new approach: She abandoned the casts, and school, and began work taking orders in the family-run photo gallery. She wrote of her struggles, adding that in time, and with much effort, she “grew straight and strong.” She expanded her work to include selling magazines, books, and engraved stationery. She wrote that no matter her work, “I talked of the need of the crippled child wherever I went.”

Knowing her dream was to one day open a hospital, her doctor helped her find a job at an Episcopal girls’ school in Chicago, and later at the city’s Home for Destitute Crippled Children. In 1907, Van Leuven Browne moved to Detroit with \$6 in her pocket, which she used to rent five rooms on Kenilworth Street. There, with borrowed furniture and one patient, she established the Van Leuven Browne Hospital School for Crippled Children.

From the beginning, “Mother Blanche,” as she would come to be known, sought out so-called incurable cases, similar to her own. Some children had parents who paid up to \$5 a week for a new approach to care; some had parents who left them at the hospital school and did not return. Others came from probate judges or organizations like the Child Welfare League of America. The average stay for a child was about 10 months in the hospital school, according to Van Leuven Browne’s papers. At the height of the hospital’s operation, there were typically around 25 children at a time.

To help support herself and the school, Van Leuven Browne arranged speaking engagements with charity groups across Detroit. She also sold self-published books that were accounts of her own experience including *The Story of the Children’s Ward* and *Easter in the Children’s Ward*, both of which are in the

Bentley’s collection. She also produced plays based on the same material. In 1908, she began publishing *The Hospital School Journal*, which she later called *The Van Leuven Browne National Magazine*. Sold for 10 cents a copy, the quarterly publication featured news and photos from the hospital school, and reports of every size donation, from large checks to a pail of a mincemeat. Most notably, it served as a platform for Van Leuven Browne’s own evolving ideas on faith and charity, treatment, and education.

ADVENTURES IN A HOSPITAL SCHOOL

While Van Leuven Browne lived at a time of great medical advancement, it was also a time of competing philosophies about how to treat disabilities like hers. “Hospital schools” like Van Leuven Browne’s championed an approach to disability focused less on extreme medical intervention to repair the body and more on education and opportunity—i.e. caring for a whole person—to empower and include.

As many as 70 hospital schools were built in the United States between the years 1890 and 1924. The Child and Family Life program at the University of Michigan grew out of the system’s own hospital school, which was started in 1922.

While physicians did serve at the Van Leuven Browne Hospital School in advisory capacities, they were not on staff. The emphasis, instead, was on education; school records show a curriculum that included manners, morals, physiology, geography, grammar, music, and spelling.

And, when the children had free time, they had every adventure they could.

“They used to leave the hospital, and they’d all walk in a long line down the sidewalk to the movie theater, which was down a couple of blocks,” said Van Leuven Browne’s grandson, David Taylor, who donated the collection to the Bentley. “I have a picture of somebody leading all these children in their wheelchairs and wagons.”

The *Van Leuven Browne National Magazine* reported the 1914 launch of “the first troop of crippled Boy Scouts in the world”; a group of Camp Fire Girls was also convened around the same time. The children posted fan mail to movie stars and other celebrities, and Van Leuven Browne’s



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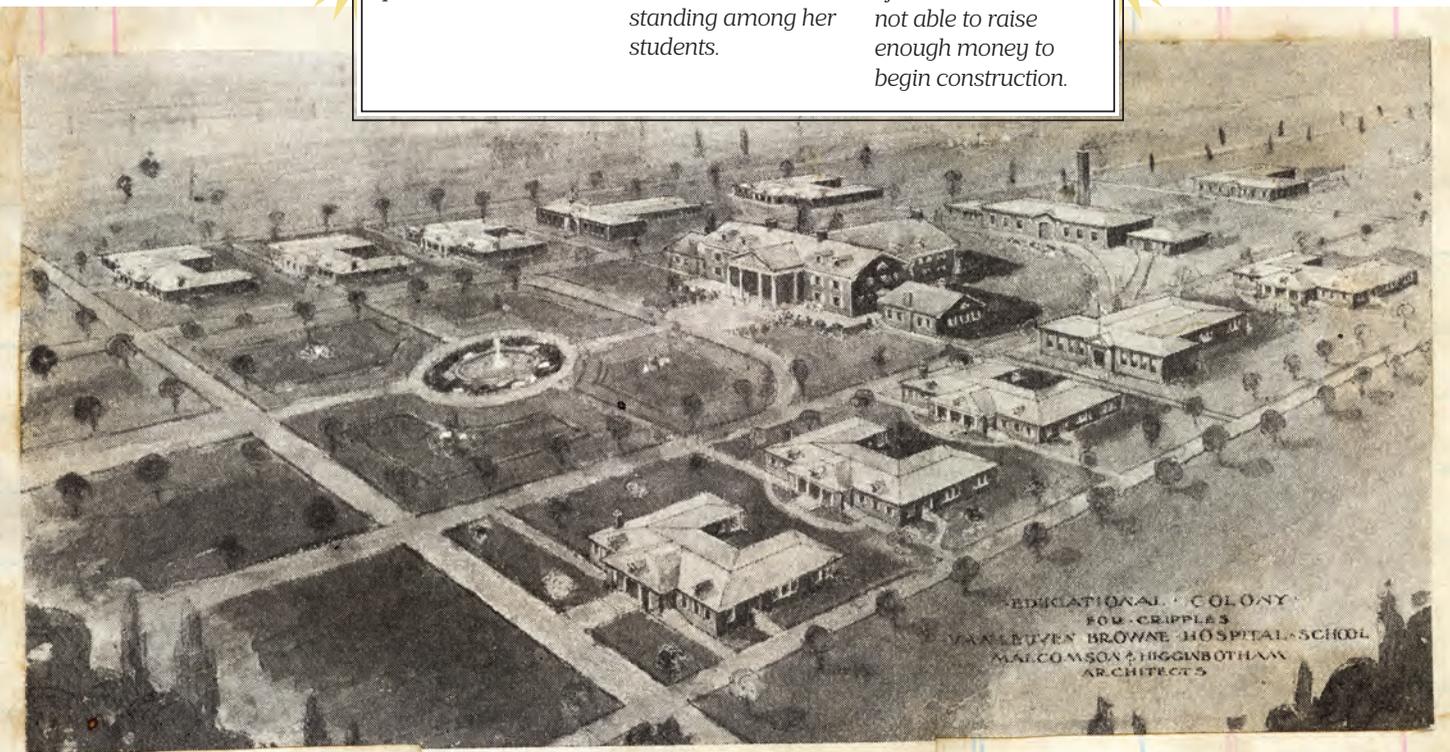
Girls from Van Leuven Browne's school pose with tricycles in this undated photo.

THIS PAGE, TOP:

Before it came to the Bentley, a star was placed on this photo to denote Van Leuven Browne, who is standing among her students.

THIS PAGE, BOTTOM:

A drawing of Van Leuven Browne's proposed "educational colony" west of Detroit. She was not able to raise enough money to begin construction.



EDUCATIONAL COLONY
FOR CRIPPLES
VAN LEUVEN BROWNE HOSPITAL SCHOOL
MALCOMSON & HIGGINBOTHAM
ARCHITECTS

Panoramic View of Proposed Colony



TOP: Van Leuven Browne believed in caring for “the whole person,” which included providing her students with fresh air, education,

and employment opportunities.

BOTTOM: Van Leuven Browne sold a piece of family property to fund a beach-front campsite on

Lake Huron as an extension of her hospital school. She is pictured in the far back row, third from the right.



collection includes some high-profile replies. “I think both Jean and Marion write very interesting letters,” wrote Mary Pickford, then one of the world’s most well-known movie stars, in a 1916 letter. “You see, I am a pretty good judge of children’s letters, for I always find a large number in my mail (and I can never find too many).”

Taylor heard stories about the hospital school from his mother, Esther, one of nine children adopted by Van Leuven Browne—and the only one without physical disabilities. Taylor’s aunts told him about complaints raised by the hospital school’s neighbors. “They didn’t want these crippled children walking down their streets,” said Taylor. “That’s how pervasive the discrimination was.”

Such criticism would likely have been little deterrent for Van Leuven Browne, who included in her founding principles that the “hospital school should create employment for its cripples.” The collection includes her argument for policies to provide training in farm work to all “crippled boys over fourteen years of age who are able to pass a physical test.” Here, and in many other examples, Van Leuven Browne served as both the authority and the evidence, arguing that “work and education and training cured the writer when all else failed.”

TAKING HER VISION EAST

After establishing a board of directors to oversee the hospital school’s operations, Van Leuven Browne began exploring ways to expand her work. She sold a piece of family property in order to fund an extension of the hospital school—a beachfront campsite in Port Huron, Michigan, which she furnished with seven large tents. In December 1915, the hospital school launched a \$200,000 capital campaign to buy and build an “educational colony” on a 31-acre parcel of land west of Detroit, on Grand River Avenue, and establish a \$100,000 endowment for the work.

That effort was ultimately derailed by a fundamental disagreement: Increasingly wary of medical intervention, Van Leuven Browne rejected the board’s decision to introduce orthopedic surgery into the hospital school; she believed it counter to the institution’s founding principle that

I need not tell you that I am deeply and sincerely interested in the work for the education of crippled children in such a manner as to render them independent and self-supporting. I wish you Godspeed in it and congratulate you very heartily on your own personal work and success.

—LETTER TO THE VAN LEUVEN BROWNE
NATIONAL MAGAZINE FROM PRESIDENT
WOODROW WILSON, OCTOBER 1915

“nature can cure more crippled children than surgery can cure.” She wrote of her “quiet resignation” to the board on June 21, 1917—a day shy of the institution’s 10th anniversary—adding that the next day, she received notice that the school would merge with the Michigan Child Welfare Society, becoming the Michigan Hospital School.

According to the journals, Van Leuven Browne soon after loaded all nine children and three foster children—a few of whom were gravely ill—into a second-hand Ford delivery truck and trailer. They drove east, camping along the roadside and in farms, finally landing in Peekskill, New York. There she penned “On the Vivisection of Crippled Children,” a speech that protested the practice of orthopedic surgery, which she later delivered to the Detroit Association of Sick and Crippled Children.

Van Leuven Browne wrote that the decision to leave Michigan was a calculated risk: “The fact that I have given up my city, my state, and my place in its work makes me hope that philanthropists will investigate and experiment with natural methods of cure for these little ones.” Still, her lack of credentials prevented her from replicating the hospital school in New York

or in south-central Pennsylvania, where the family ultimately settled. Letters in the collection do show some support and interest from her community, as well as encouragement from very prominent figures of the time, including Clara Ford, who was married to Henry Ford. It ultimately was not enough.

“I am like a fisherman casting out lines and waiting for fish to bite,” she wrote in an April 1918 journal entry. “In this case, I am fishing for fish to sustain humanity.” In these entries, she reflected on the last days of the Great War—the fear of the unknown and a new and growing need among disabled young men coming back from the fight. “The world doesn’t need doctors,” she wrote a month later. “It’s dying for a want of Mothers.”

The rest of the story is not as well-told in Van Leuven Browne’s own words, or, according to Taylor, in the stories passed down from her children to the next generation. “She got in the car and took all these kids and left, and that began the second part of her life, with unbelievable hardships,” he said. “Nobody ever talked about that part, that’s for sure.”

Some of Van Leuven Browne’s children remained close to her until her death in 1930. Others, including Taylor’s mother, chose to distance themselves from what was perhaps a complicated legacy.

“It’s an incredible story—a run at ambition—and a sad story, because in the end, it didn’t all pan out,” said Taylor. But while the journal entries taper off, the letters in the collection illustrate Van Leuven Browne’s lasting impact.

In 1927, the state of Michigan signed into law a provision that physically disabled children receive the same resources available to blind and deaf children, and they created a Michigan Crippled Children’s Commission, headquartered in Ann Arbor, on East Catherine Street.

In 2015, the state Senate voted unanimously to strike every last “crippled child” reference from the statutes.

The Blanche Van Leuven Browne collection at the Bentley is open to the public.

Additional source for this story:
Brad Byrom, “A Pupil and a Patient: Hospital Schools in Progressive America,” published in *A New Disability History* (University Press, 2001).

Grand History in the Making

Sandwiched between Michigan’s Upper and Lower Peninsulas is a legendary hotel with more than 130 years of memorable moments.

By Lara Zielin



ON TOP OF A GENTLY SLOPING hill on Mackinac Island sits the Grand Hotel—an iconic Michigan vacation destination since it opened its doors in 1887. It is a National Historic Landmark, and its front porch is the longest in the world. Countless luminaries have stayed there including movie stars, writers (Mark Twain gave a lecture there in 1895 that cost \$1), and five U.S. presidents.

The Bentley Historical Library has partnered with the Grand Hotel to digitize, conserve, and preserve thousands of photos from the hotel’s history. The Library is in the process of creating a digital collection to make many of these images available online.

Enjoy this roundup of some of our favorite snapshots from the hotel’s long and colorful history. ■



This page, clockwise from above: R.D. Musser Jr., far right, in the Grand Hotel kitchen. He would eventually buy the hotel from his uncle in 1979.

Grand Hotel staff assembled and awaiting guests.

A band on the porch of the Grand Hotel in the early 20th century.

A little girl in front of the Grand Hotel, circa 1910.

An undated aerial view of Mackinac Island.



(THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT) HS12527, HS16169, HS2144, HS16242, HS987





This page, clockwise from above:
An undated photo of a baseball game in the Grand Hotel garden.

Women dancing during a recent fashion show at the Grand Hotel.

Christopher Reeve on the Grand Hotel front porch during the 1979 filming of *Somewhere in Time*.

Bill and Hillary Clinton attend the Democratic Governors

Association meeting, 1987.

Esther Williams poses for a photo in the Grand Hotel pool in 1947 while filming *This Time for Keeps*.

A "Go-Go" dance gets couples out on the floor, circa 1960.

Children on dog sleds in front of the Grand Hotel, circa 1940.



(THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) HS2170, HS16216, HS6711, HS6717, HS16192, HS6714, HS4275



Angell in the 21st Century



The newly digitized papers of U-M President James Angell show his influence in higher education and beyond.

By Lara Zielin

JAMES B. ANGELL ARRIVED IN ANN ARBOR with his family in September 1871. The Board of Regents had elected him president of the University of Michigan, though the negotiations had taken time and numerous back-and-forth letters—many of which are archived in Angell’s collection at the Bentley Historical Library.

“It seems to me to need absolutely, paper and paint, bath room [sic] with hot and cold water, water closet, and some arrangement for a dining room closet, and a furnace,” Angell wrote of the president’s house, which would undergo an extensive renovation in advance of his arrival. He also held out for a better salary: \$4,500 annually, to which the Regents ultimately agreed.

Angell was more than worth it.

U-M student Horace P. Dix sells a ticket for the Michigan Union Circus to President James B. Angell circa 1912.

He would transform not only the University of Michigan, but the face of higher education writ large.

“Angell was a linchpin in the evolution of the research university,” says Mark Nemeč (’00), who is the President of Fairfield University and who studied the Angell papers for his Ph.D. dissertation in political science from the University of Michigan. “He recognized that the university couldn’t take its privileged place in society for granted. It needed to demonstrate its relevance, though I don’t think that’s a word that Angell would use.”

Nemeč’s book, *Ivory Towers and Nationalist Minds: Universities, Leadership, and the Development of the American State* (University of Michigan Press, 2006), outlines Angell’s contributions to higher education, policy, democracy, diplomacy, and more.

ONE OF ANGELL’S MANY LASTING LEGACIES WAS “CREATING A STANDARDIZED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM,” SAYS NEMEČ.

“One way was through his support for and expansion of admission by diploma, where the University of Michigan would accredit high schools in Michigan and elsewhere, even as far west as California, to help set

university admission standards. And secondly, he was willing to join the Association of American Universities at its founding in 1900, and was influential about getting skeptics, such as Arthur Twining Hadley (President of Yale), to join. He was an opinion leader among the university presidents.”

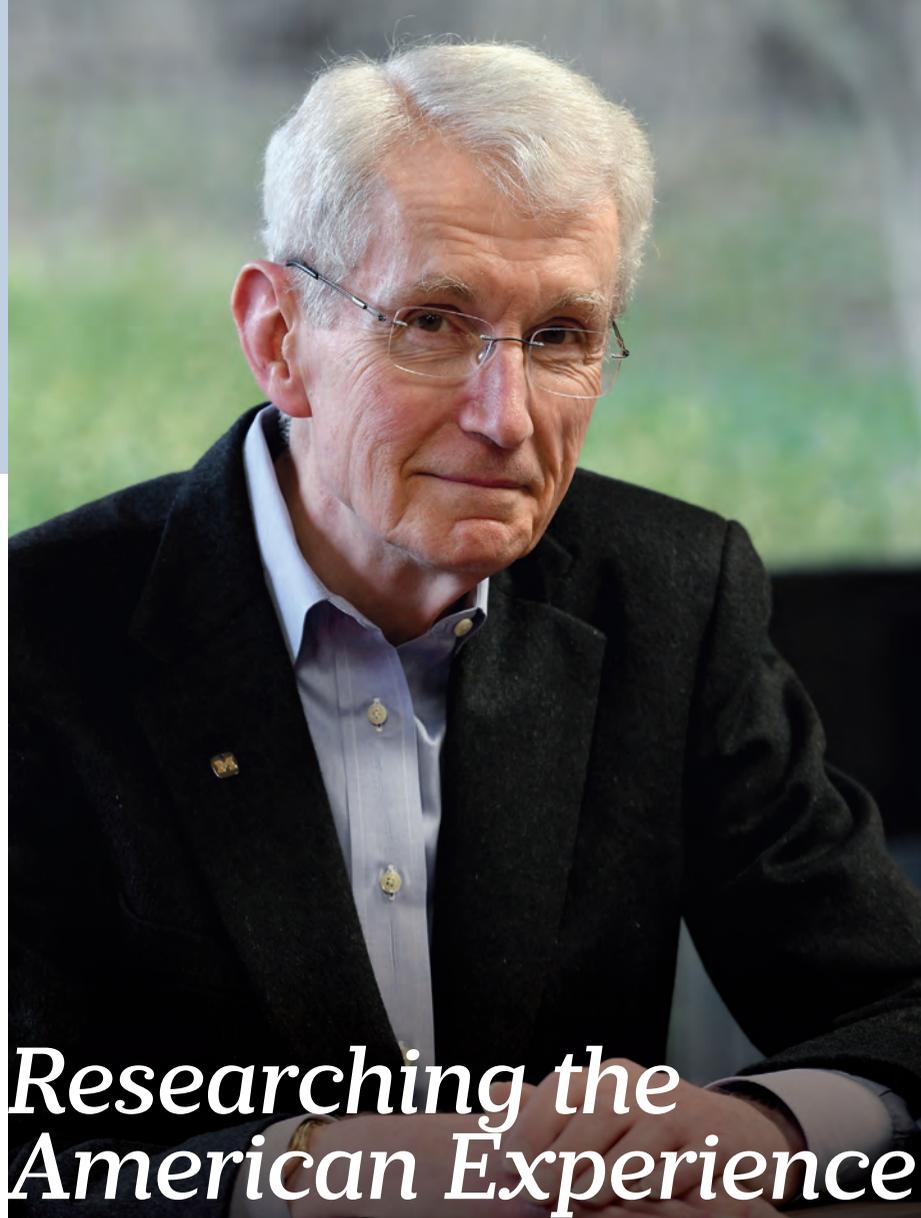
Angell both built and strengthened the University—hiring modern research faculty like philosopher John Dewey, economist Henry Carter Adams, and chemist Moses Gomberg—and served as an important adviser to other higher education leaders around the country.

In the Angell collection, which has been newly digitized and made available online, researchers can read decades’ worth of letters to Angell from his peers. The digitization was completed in partnership with MLibrary, which supports and hosts the content.

“Angell had all the respect of the established universities of the East, but he also had the respect of those starting newer universities in the West,” Nemeč says. “They all wrote to him looking for guidance, recommendations, and advice.”

Angell served as University of Michigan president until submitting his resignation in 1905. The Regents wouldn’t accept it until 1909. He lived in the house he’d once diligently negotiated to renovate until his death in 1916. ■

To see the Angell papers online, visit quod.lib.umich.edu/a/angell/



Researching the American Experience

A gift from alumnus Tom Jones will fund undergraduate research and encourage engaged learning.

By Katie Vloet

TOM JONES ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN during the Vietnam War era and vividly recalls the activism that radiated throughout campus. The protests, the marches, the teach-ins—national events and movements played out before him and his classmates, allowing them to learn about participatory democracy in real time. It also made him more aware of the rich history of questioning and dissent at U-M. “Challenging the status quo has always been a part of the University,” he says.

Jones (B.B.A. '68, M.B.A. '71) would go on to become president of CIGNA Retirement & Investment Services and chairman of the board of directors at Hagerty Holding Corp., among other high-profile roles. But his experiences as a U-M student were permanently imprinted on him.

Now, he wants other students at Michigan to learn about history, including significant events that unfolded on campus. “I’m very supportive of opportunities for students to get in and learn,” Jones says.

That’s why Jones recently gave a gift of \$175,000 to the Bentley to establish an expendable fund, called the Jones Fund for Engaged Education.

THE FUND WILL SUPPORT AN ARRAY OF ACTIVE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES THAT ENCOURAGE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TO RESEARCH, WRITE, AND—IDEALLY—PUBLISH NEW HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS BASED ON THE PRIMARY SOURCES HELD IN THE BENTLEY.

The fund can be used for paid internships, the costs of publishing student work, prizes for students or teams, partial tuition scholarships, and more.

“I hope the funds free them up to take the time to dig through and create the history of a time or issue at the University,” says Jones, now vice chairman and chairman emeritus of

the board at Hagerty. “It’s a skill that they will be able to use after graduation in a variety of ways.”

Engaging undergraduate students in research is a vital part of Bentley Director Terrence J. McDonald’s goal of making the U-M community more aware of the rich resources available at the library. McDonald, an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and director of the Bentley, worked with Jones to find the best use for his gift.

“At a time when we are buffeted by claims of ‘fake news’ and ‘fake history,’ there is nothing more important for our students to learn than the ability to construct a truthful account of the past based on their own research,” says McDonald. “Tom’s wonderful gift provides the financial support students need to have the experience of doing this.”

Jones is hopeful that students who benefit from his gift will cross the traditional boundaries of departments and colleges in doing their research.

“I think the greatest opportunities are between the disciplines, not within a single discipline,” says Jones, who also has given generously to the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. He cites the intersection of political science and history as one example.

“Ultimately,” he says, “I want students to use the research process as a way to think about the American experience.” ■



On the Front Lines

Elizabeth Allen spent her career on the battlefield, first in Vietnam and then at the forefront of social justice issues.

By Dan Shine

ELIZABETH ALLEN COMES FROM A FAMILY OF WARRIORS, strong women who led families and generations of men who served in the military and in their communities.

Allen probably should have shared this fact right away with the soldier at the U.S. Army recruitment office in Columbus, Ohio, when she walked in one day in 1967. But it likely became apparent to him rather quickly that he was dealing with a no-nonsense woman. The soldier asked if he could help her and Allen replied no, but that she could help him. Allen was a nursing school graduate, had just earned her master's degree in psychiatric nursing at Ohio State, and wanted to enlist.

But first, Allen told him, she had three demands before she would sign up. Wisely, the soldier got his superior officer. Allen told them that she wanted to serve in Vietnam, she wanted to be sent

Above: Elizabeth Allen in her Ann Arbor home.

Opposite page: An aerial view of the 25th Infantry Division base camp at Cu Chi in 1970.



there with the next class, and they had to give her an answer before the U.S. Air Force did because she also gave them the same demands.

The Army said yes on the spot and she was commissioned as a captain. Many people tried to talk Allen out of it, from her professors and advisers to her family. But Allen was undeterred.

“I had the skills to do it,” she said. “If I say, ‘Well, I’m not doing it,’ then who was going to do it? So off I went.”

Allen, now 78, would later become an associate professor at the U-M School of Nursing and director of its continuing education department. She has donated her papers from her military and academic careers to the Bentley. Included in her collection are records of her military service, photographs, some video interviews, correspondence, papers related to her advocacy for Vietnam veterans, her personal letters, and newspaper clippings.

She has appeared in the documentaries *Vietnam in HD* produced by the History Channel and the locally produced *Our Vietnam Generation*. She also was interviewed by the Library of Congress for its Veterans History Project.

ALL WOUNDED ARE EQUAL

Allen was born in Huntington, West Virginia, and raised by her grandmother after her mother died of tuberculosis when Allen was four years old. Her travels along the tunnels and bridges of the Pennsylvania Turnpike made her dream of being a civil engineer. Somewhere along the way, her career path was re-routed to nursing.

“God knows I didn’t want to be a nurse, but life is a funny place,” she once told an interviewer.

She had two brothers in the military, including one serving in Vietnam, and she decided she wanted to serve too.

The Army initially tried to station her at hospitals in the United States, but she kept sending the orders back. In Vietnam, they tried to have her work in what she called “white uniform” hospitals treating the commanders; she wanted to wear fatigues and work near the front lines. Eventually, she was shipped to the remote 12th Evac Hospital at Cu Chi, where she treated U.S. and Viet Cong soldiers, as well as Vietnamese citizens.

Allen told an interviewer she treated all wounded equally.

“I didn’t start the war and I don’t end the war,” she said. “But it’s my responsibility to take care of whoever comes in.”

She later worked at the 71st Evac Hospital at Pleiku, which saw numerous casualties during the Tet Offensive and once took a

direct hit from a rocket. Allen says she knows she made a difference with U.S. troops while in Vietnam, from tending to their sun-scorched skin to keeping them calm during shelling.

“I was scared too,” she said. “I’d slide under the bed with them and they would lean on me. I was comforting them and they were comforting me too.”

After a one-year stint, Allen had to return to the United States because of a rule that prevented nurses from serving more than one year in Vietnam.

In 1976, she joined the U-M School of Nursing faculty. She said most of the students “had never seen anyone like me.”

CARING FOR THE TROOPS

“There weren’t a lot of African American nurses,” she said.

Many of her students wanted to hear about her work in Vietnam, while some didn’t. Others asked why she did something they perceived as being crazy.

“There was a lot I could teach them about wounds, about caring for someone with no arms or no legs, about death,” she said. “The war was a long time ago but it was still there in me and alive.”

While working at U-M, she continued to care for troops. She was a constant advocate for Vietnam veterans and spoke on issues affecting them, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. In 1987, she was appointed by then-Michigan Governor James Blanchard to the state’s Agent Orange Commission, serving twice as chair. She also spoke out on the treatment of women and African Americans in the military.

In 2003, she was part of a U-M committee that presented a series of forums titled “War, Health, and Ethics.”

She continued to serve as a major in the Active Army Nurse Corps Reserve until 1988. And at U-M, she served as the University’s acting director of minority affairs from 1981–85. When she retired in 2007, the University Regents named her an associate professor emerita of nursing for her years of service to her country and to the University of Michigan.

“My time here was good,” Allen said of U-M. “The students wanted to learn, and I wanted to teach them.” ■





A Critical Moment in Detroit's History

Daniel Cherrin was at the epicenter of change in Detroit after Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick resigned.

By Dan Shine

DANIEL CHERRIN SAYS HE DELIGHTS in disorder, disarray, and disruption.

"I really like to rise above chaos and help bring calm to a situation," he says.

It makes sense, then, that Cherrin, an attorney, lobbyist, and public relations professional, was tapped in 2008 to assist with the transition from the turbulent—and criminal—tenure of Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick to his appointed successor, Kenneth Cockrel Jr.

"From the time Ken knew he was going to be mayor and the time he took office was a two-week span," says Cherrin, who served as communications director and press secretary. "In those two weeks, we had to recreate government, restore the trust and faith in the city of Detroit, and start to put together a new government to move the city forward."

Top: Protestors demonstrate outside of Orchestra Hall on March 11, 2008, in Detroit.

Right: Daniel Cherrin.

The transition period, especially early on, was eye-opening, Cherrin

says. He passed ex-Mayor Kilpatrick leaving city hall as he was heading in. Some of the ex-mayor's belongings, including a varsity letter jacket, were still in a closet. And some of Kilpatrick's appointees were still milling around the mayor's office, unaware that they were now unappointed.

"It was an interesting and awkward time," Cherrin says.

His main tasks were working with others to make sure the transition from the Kilpatrick administration to the Cockrel administration was a smooth one, and dealing with the media. Interest in the disgraced—and later imprisoned—former mayor was running high at the time, and Cherrin was often showered with Freedom of Information Act requests from local media.

"I enjoyed it because I was able to see what the media was interested in, and frankly it was a chance for me to learn a little bit about what was going on," he says.

His job also gave him an education about city services. One day, a television reporter called him and told him they found a dog chained to a fence in southwest Detroit. The reporter wanted to know what he was going to do about it. Cherrin told her to call the dog pound.

"She told me, 'You're the dog pound,'" Cherrin recalls. "I said, 'Really? I am?' I had no idea. I was still learning all the city operations myself."

When Dave Bing defeated Cockrel in a

special election to fill the remainder of Kilpatrick's term, Cherrin was out of a job.

"I describe it as probably the best eight months of my professional life," he says. "It was a tremendous honor and privilege to be able to be a part of the city at this time in the city's history."

Cherrin donated his papers from his time as communications director to the Bentley Historical Library. They include documents on the city's finances during the 2008 economic crisis, various mayoral resolutions, speeches Mayor Cockrel gave, and letters to President George W. Bush and mayors around the country asking for support during the auto bailout.

"It's a window into Detroit's history that I could share, and I feel that Mayor Cockrel's time was an important time," he says. "We tend to gloss over it and go from Mayor Kilpatrick to Mayor Bing without Cockrel in

the middle. I want to make sure he's part of the history.

"He wasn't elected mayor, but he was the right person for that job." ■



(TOP TO BOTTOM) BILL PUGLIANO/GETTY IMAGES, COURTESY DANIEL CHERRIN

Written in the Stars

Plans for a new Detroit Observatory renovation bring the campus's second-oldest building into the 21st century.

By Robert Havey

THE DETROIT OBSERVATORY, the oldest academic building on campus, is being renovated for the 21st century. On March 26, 2019, the U-M Board of Regents approved a plan that will add 7,000 square feet of additional program and support space, while preserving the historic Observatory itself.

The renovation will add features designed to improve the use and accessibility of the building, including: a multi-purpose room for teaching and social gatherings; multiple exhibit spaces; a catering kitchen; multiple handicap-accessible bathrooms; and an elevator to the old Observatory.

The construction will require significant earthwork and specialized footings and foundations to protect the historic building and support the below-grade addition and landscape above.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE RENOVATED OBSERVATORY WILL HAVE CLASSES AND EVENTS FOR THE U-M COMMUNITY AND WILL BE A PLACE TO CELEBRATE U-M HISTORY.

The Detroit Observatory was built in 1854 as part of U-M President Henry Tappan's plan to transform the University of Michigan into a world-class research facility. Tappan commissioned the Fitz Refracting Telescope, which was one of the largest in the world when it was installed in 1857. (The telescope was fully restored in 1999 and will be available during public viewings after the construction is completed.)

The Observatory immediately contributed to the academic prestige of the University. Measurements were made at the Observatory that were used to calibrate precise timepieces for local banks and rail stations, making Ann Arbor run on "Detroit Observatory Time." U-M faculty members discovered and named more than a dozen asteroids.

The expansion of the University and the city made the Detroit Observatory's location less and less ideal for serious academic work. The building fell into disuse after the Astronomy Department moved to the Dennison Building (now Weiser Hall) in 1963. In 1994, U-M President James Duderstadt and his wife, Anne, led an effort to restore the Observatory to its original 1854 condition. The Bentley Historical Library took over Observatory operations in 2005.

Construction is slated to start in May 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in 2021. ■



Observa-Story

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DETROIT OBSERVATORY'S LONG HISTORY.



1854

The Detroit Observatory is built with funding from Detroit citizens and businessmen, giving it its name. Franz Brünnow is its first director (possibly pictured above in the earliest known photo of the Observatory).

1857

The Fitz Refracting Telescope, one of the largest in the world, is installed in the Observatory.

1868

The second director, James Craig Watson, adds a residence for his family, attached to the west side of the building, with an entrance through the director's office.



1878

A Students' Observatory (depicted here circa 1890 in a hand-colored postcard) is erected, partly in response to student complaints that the Observatory's telescopes were seldom available because the faculty used them for research.



1908

A large classroom building and dome are added to the east side of the Observatory.



1911

A new telescope with a 37.5" lens is installed in the Observatory's newly completed dome. It was one of the largest telescopes in the world at the time.



1922

The Student's Observatory is razed to make way for Couzens Hall, a new dormitory for nurses. A 27" refractor was built in Ann Arbor (it was set up on the lawn of the Observatory for testing) and subsequently sent to a soon-to-be opened observatory in South Africa, the Lamont-Hussey Observatory.

1954

After being divided into apartments, what was once Watson's residence is razed to make room for an expansion of Couzens Hall.

1963

The Astronomy Department moves to the Dennison Building.

1973

The Observatory is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



1976

The 1908 addition is razed, having been condemned due to termite damage.



1997

U-M President James Duderstadt and his wife, Anne, lead an effort to preserve and restore the Observatory. The renovations are completed in 1999. (Above, the original telescope is un-crated after the restoration is complete; and the east and north facades are prepped for paint.)

2005

The Bentley Historical Library takes over Observatory operations.

2019

A new Observatory renovation and expansion is approved by the Regents and slated for completion in 2021.



COLLECTIONS, the magazine of the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, is published twice each year.

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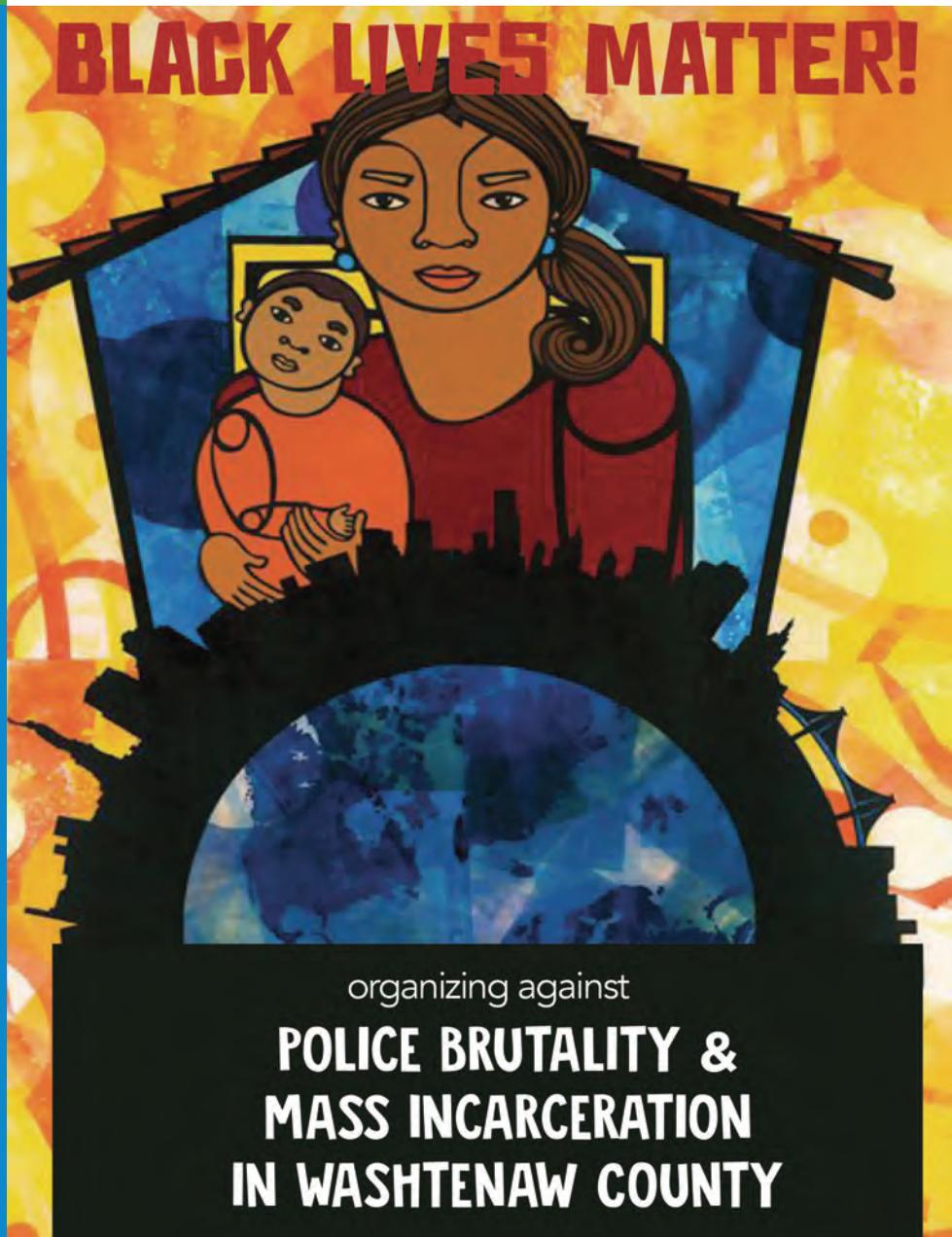
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(Above) A poster in the Austin McCoy collection invites U-M students to organize after the death of Aurora Rosser, a 40-year-old African American woman who was shot by Ann Arbor police officers in 2014. Michigan State Police concluded that the officer who fired on Rosser acted in lawful self-defense and that the killing was not motivated by racism. McCoy, a history Ph.D. student at the time, wrote a rebuttal online at counterpunch.org, arguing the response to Rosser's death "downplays the fact that police officers kill African Americans at a disproportionate rate." For the full story on McCoy, his activism, and his newly digitized archive, see page 12.