

Editor's Notes

History is all about Stories

Sure, there are important dates and other details that have to be memorized for tests in school - but it's people - and their stories - that those dates relate to.

So, when Elliott Trumbull ("that's 2 L's and 2 T's" he reminds us) offered to share some stories with us we were all ears.

While Elliott was something of a local celebrity (being the PR person for the Red Wings and, later, the Lions, meant something in this sports town) it was his personal stories as a typical kid growing up in Bloomfield Hills in the 40s and 50s that we wanted to hear. **You'll find a bunch on page 3.** We're hoping to hear more from Elliott and his BFF Mickey Briggs.



Elliott Trumbull and Mickey Briggs at *The Corner* at Michigan and Trumbull

Meanwhile - we want to hear from you.

You don't have to be "famous" or "connected," just have stories to tell. Did you happen to know someone who was a patient in the Bloomfield Hospital? (*see page 2*) Did you get dressed up and have to wear white gloves to dancing school? Or even dance at dancing school? What was your first car? Why?

Let us know.

mfc

The Craig Log Cabin gets a recycled chimney, fireplace - and hearth

In the 1840s Sarah and William Craig lived in a log home that for years stood on what is now Lone Pine Road west of Telegraph.

In the mid-1950s, their granddaughter Bessie, then in her 70s, told about what she knew of life in the small log structure where her grandparents raised 11 children. She included a fascinating story that, like much of pioneer Bloomfield, centered around the stone chimney and its welcoming hearth.

According to Bessie, when Sarah "tucked her brood into slumber-land she would take up a fearful vigil to guard their safety." Native Americans still camped on the shores of nearby lakes and Sarah was "paralyzed with fear of them." Whenever William was away - which was often in those days when work took him to Detroit, a day's journey - "at night, the Indians would push open the cabin door and, without a word, sleep right on the floor" near the warmth of the hearth.

Then "one day two white men appeared at her door and demanded her money. Trembling, she turned to get it for them. She looked up and saw, peering through the window, two Indians who had come to protect her. They promptly frightened the white men away and proved them ever her friends and protectors."

A move and a decision

In 2008, facing demolition, the Craig Log Cabin was moved to the Bowers School Farm. The stone chimney and hearth that were the setting for Bessie's story had been replaced in the 1930s by "modern" brick, so it was decided that the bricks wouldn't make the move. Plywood covered the hole where a stone chimney and hearth once played such an important role in the lives of the Craigs.

That was the way it stood until this year.

For months Society member Dorm Dickerson watched as a "Century" Bloomfield home was being taken down to make way for a more modern structure. He wondered about the fate of the original local stones from its foundation and elsewhere. Could they be harvested to become a chimney for the Craigs' Log Cabin? Dorm talked to Township Supervisor Leo Savoie and Trustee Brian Kepes, who talked with owner Jake Bolyard of Bolyard Lumber Co., who talked with builder Charles H. Whitelaw III, of Whitelaw Custom Homes **and a plan was formed.**

Before

INSIDE
info@...
Was there a
Bloomfield
Hospital?

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Was there once a Bloomfield Hospital at Square Lake and Woodward?

William W. Collier Estate (1908 – 1947)

In June, 1906, William W. Collier purchased a 102 acre parcel of land along the north side of Square Lake Rd. running west from what is now Woodward Ave. Shortly after that Collier and his wife Virginia built a grand estate house on the property along with fine barns and other outbuildings associated with a stock farm – supporting his hobby of breeding and raising trotter horses.

In 1909 Collier was named the president of the national Grand Circuit Trotting Association.



Artist William Bryant, who painted the wonderful 1915 Bird's Eye View Township Map, captured the details of the estate house and other buildings in some detail.

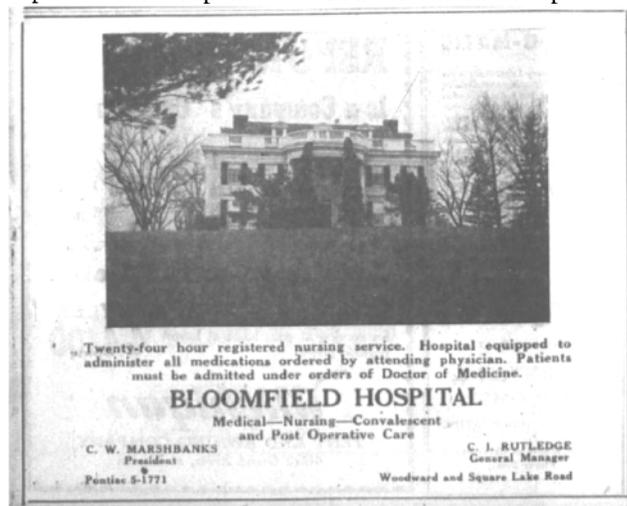
Collier was a prominent Detroit businessman. Among other ventures he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Harrow Company.

In 1914 William and Virginia were partners in the platting of their 102 acres into *Crest Hill* Subdivision, leaving their estate house and barns on the large Lot No. 1. The subdivision was later re-platted and re-named *Colonial Hills*, as it is still known today.

William died in December 1925 at age 74 years and is buried in Detroit's Woodmere Cemetery. His wife, Virginia, and three adult children continued to live in the grand estate house for a few more years. Virginia Collier died in 1946 at age 92 years.

The Hospital (1948 – 1967)

In 1948 the Collier estate was purchased by Clyde Marshbanks who turned the large Collier House into a convalescent hospital that he named the *Bloomfield Hospital*. The hospital had beds for about 70 patients



and a staff of 30 of which 22 were nurses. Marshbanks built a large house for himself just to the west of the hospital property (100 W. Square Lake Rd.).



On 21 July 1954 the Hospital suffered a very serious fire. It was responded to by eight local fire departments with 13 pieces of equipment. The fire was covered in great detail in both the *Birmingham Eccentric* and the *Detroit Free Press*, with many photographs. No one was seriously injured, although seven patients were transported by ambulance to St. Joseph Hospital a short distance north on Woodward Ave. As a frame of reference the famous Ted's Drive-In restaurant (a favorite stopping place for those cruising Woodward from the mid-1950s until very early 1970s) stood diagonally opposite the Bloomfield Hospital on the southeast corner of the intersection of Long Lake and Woodward.

The hospital fire damage was repaired and it continued to serve the area until it closed about 1970.

Memories of Bloomfield

by Elliott Trumbull

Elliott Trumbull was a long-time resident of Bloomfield Hills, starting in 1942. He graduated from Cranbrook School in 1953 and went on to become the publicity director of the Detroit Red Wings and then the Detroit Lions. He retired and moved to Florida in 1999. He now lives in Naples with his wife, Patti. Here are some of his "Memories of Bloomfield"

I remember: Moving out of Detroit in 1942 and relocating to the "distant" suburbs – Bloomfield Hills. Our family moved into the impressive white-bricked Georgian house on Dunston Road (no numbers, back then).

I remember: Riding my bike to Brookside School, going down Cranbrook Road and always marveling at the big tree (the Lone Pine?) in the intersection below the hill at Christ Church.

I remember: During school recess, going to the Booth estate across the street (using the tunnel by the old mill wheel) and playing "Capture the Flag" on the expansive, sprawling lawns there.

I remember: Walking to late Christmas Eve services at the Church and coming out to the falling snow and the sounds of the church carillon – it was Christmas morning!

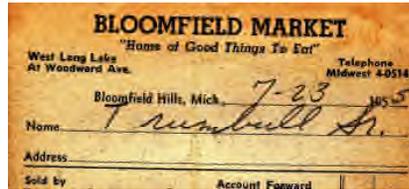


I remember: Going to dinner at the Fox and Hounds every Thursday which was regarded each week as the regular night out.

I remember: Dressing in our "Sunday best" to attend services at the Church where we had to be on our best behavior with no talking or any noise.

I remember: My surprised reaction when at a special ceremony held at church, Mr. Booth, after presenting the coveted Cranbrook Service Medal to long-time employees, requested we now "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" – and the assembly erupted into applause!

I remember: Weekly trips to Bloomfield Market where my assigned chore was to get our supply of soft drinks from the vast display of sodas in glass bottles fitted into wooden crates.



I picked out our choices and carried them out to our wood-paneled station wagon.

I remember: Delivering the mail during summer vacations [in the early 1950s]. Working with Mickey and Jimmy Briggs, we went to the old Post Office every morning at 8AM to sort letters and packages (by addresses only – no Zip codes back then) under the guidance of Postmaster Jack Redman. We loaded up the Briggs' Plymouth station wagon (those little USPS vans weren't around back then) and made our rounds, which didn't take long in those days.

But I must admit that our incentive to finish fast was more to get done so we could go down to Briggs Stadium to watch the Tigers than to get the mail delivered!



Elliott Trumbull,
Now – Naples, Florida
Then – Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Celebrating 200 Years — of Something

You may have heard some buzz about celebrations being developed around a variety of activities that occurred in 1818... or '19, or even '20. There was a lot going on back then in what would become Oakland County.

For us in Bloomfield the exploratory expedition of October 1818 (200 years ago *next* October), as reported in the *Detroit Gazette*, has real historic significance. The group of Detroiters that came through Bloomfield and turned North off Maple – following a Native American trail past what would become the Historic Wing Lake Schoolhouse and naming the lake for one of the group, Austin E. Wing. really marks the opening of Bloomfield for the settlement that would follow.

A small group is looking into ways to celebrate this. If you want to join in please let us know.

Bloomfield Historical Society

The Bloomfield Historical Society is dedicated to fostering an appreciation of the rich history of the Bloomfield area by identifying, promoting and conserving our heritage. We encourage research to educate and engage all generations.

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We love it when a plan comes together

Working with Preservation Bloomfield, they offered to move the stones and provide the talents of the stone masons from Scott Albaugh Masonry Stone and Tile to handle the conversion of the stones to chimney, fireplace and hearth.

What's a fireplace without a mantle?

The fireplace still needed a mantle. So that's when Society members Katie Kiyoo and Dwight Diener donated a beam with a story of its own. Back in the 1920s Bloomfield developer Manly Davis acquired the nickname "Barn Wrecker." He was known to salvage local barns, some close to a century old, in order to use their beams and other materials for his many projects. One of those projects was his Fox & Hounds Inn which he built at the corner of Woodward and Long Lake in 1927.

When the Fox and Hounds was being torn down in 2007 Katie and Dwight made "friends" with the operator of "the claw" that was doing much of the deconstruction work.

According to Katie, "Dwight plied him with gas station coffee and donuts and then we posed the question...we asked if he could extract a few beams, and we told him we would be forever grateful. I think he enjoyed the challenge! So while he was "sorting" wire and other recyclable bits from the huge piles of debris he, quite deftly, with the claw, moved a few beams aside for us to have. You can see a couple of them on the ground to the right of the bricks."



A true (green) community effort

So the original log cabin (moved to the Bowers School Farm to save it), gets a recycled stone chimney, fireplace and hearth (from a Century home) and a recycled mantle (from a recycled beam that was recycled from a 19th century barn to begin with.) And it's all thanks to the generosity of the Township, local businesses and local residents who cared about preserving the history of their Bloomfield community.

The Result

The Craig Log Cabin
with its "new" chimney, fireplace and mantle

