

DeWitt
TOWN & COUNTRY



HOME TOUR
& FESTIVAL!

Oct. 8th 10_{AM} - 5_{PM}

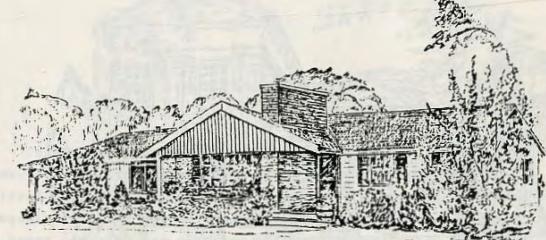
DeWitt Sesquicentennial Committee

1983
DEWITT
Town and Country
HERITAGE HOME TOUR
Sponsored by
the
DEWITT SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
Oct. 8th
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The DeWitt Sesquicentennial Committee wishes to thank the following for their support and contributions to the home tour:

The DeWitt Lionesses for their help at the ticket booth.
The Printers, ink for the tickets.
The staff of the Faye Hanson Public Library.
And, a special thanks to Norman and Mary Robison, Daniel and Marlene Matson, Burl and Ada Dieter, and Eugene and Marilyn Coin for graciously opening their homes for this event.
We would also like to thank Jean Blizzard for the beautiful illustrations of the homes which appear in this brochure.

Thank-you all,
Kenneth and Elizabeth Coin
Home tour chairmen



MATSON HOUSE

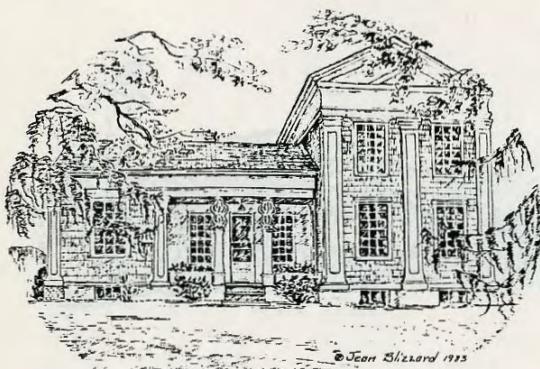
The contemporary home of Daniel and Marlene Matson was built in 1967 by Carl Wardell, the original owner. It was purchased in 1967 by the Matsons who nearly doubled the original size of the house with a large addition built in 1974. This addition, the west half of the house, incorporates a three car garage, large bedroom and other smaller rooms which comprise an area intended for use as a small apartment, though no longer used as such.

This comfortable home occupies the site of the former Samuel Foreman house which was razed many years ago. It stood in what was once the village of New Albany, the forerunner of present day DeWitt. Some current reminders of this village of 140 years ago are the two aged structures on the opposite side of Webb street, east of the Matson house. Take a minute to stop and see the historical marker erected between the two buildings during the nation's bicentennial.

Attorneys have played a prominent role in DeWitt's development since the first one hung out his shingle at DeWitt in 1842. Besides following this profession, Mr. Matson, along with his wife, are notable artists. Much of their artwork and artistic skill is evident in the warmth and personality of their home.

In 1981 the Matson's interest in promoting the arts of the DeWitt area led them to open the DeWitt Art Gallery in the historic old Strickland house on Washington street. This interesting gallery is also well worth the visit.

#2



SCOTT-ROBISON HOUSE

Welcome to the home of Norman and Mary Robison.

This old farmhouse offers the tourer a unique opportunity to visit one of DeWitt's most historic homes and one of central Michigan's finest examples of vernacular Greek Revival style structures.

The land on which this house sits was originally homesteaded by Franklin Oliver who erected a log cabin and a sawmill west of the current house, on the banks of the Looking Glass river. After his death in 1844 the homestead came into the possession of Charles and Julia (Terry) Scott. Charles was a son of Captain David and Eunice Scott and was with his parents in the autumn of 1833 when they made the long slow trip from Ann Arbor to become the first settlers of Clinton county at DeWitt. He became actively engaged in the business and land dealings with his illustrious father and was the actual owner of DeWitt's famous "Clinton House" hotel. After Charles sold the large hotel in 1847 he began construction the present home on tour today. It is thought that Charles and Julia moved from the log cabin by the river into their new home about 1848. The house and farm remained in the Scott family, through the ownership of Edward M. and Eunice Eliza (Scott) Webb, up to the late 1800's when it was traded for a store in town. In more recent years much of the surrounding Lake Geneva area was taken from the original Scott farm.

Many architectural features of this splendidly preserved house remain, including multi-paned windows, classical pilasters along the exterior walls, the unbroken entablature across the front gable and much interior trim and doors. The two posts supporting the recessed front porch appear to be a vernacular expression of classic columns and capitals.

#3

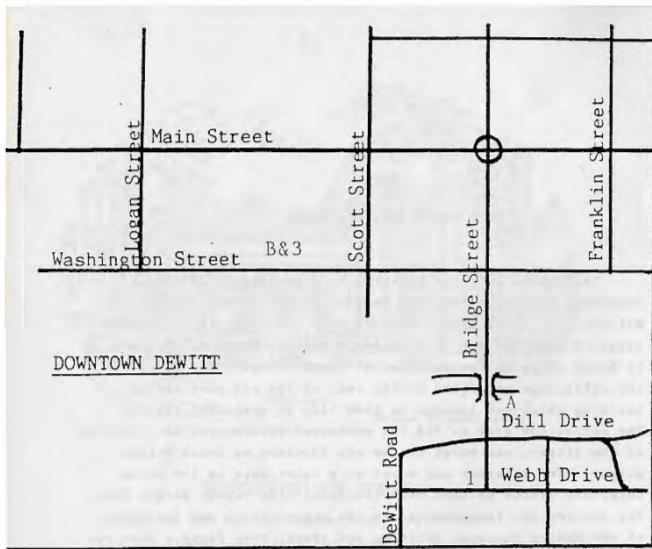
FAYE HANSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The DeWitt District Library was organized in 1933 as a community project of the now defunct DeWitt Woman's Club. Mildred Carris was appointed chairwoman of a committee to find adequate quarters and to organize a book collection. A house to house campaign for donation of books was made and space for the collection was found in the rear of the old post office building which was located at that time on west Main street. The collection grew as did the number of patrons and the location of the library was moved to the old firebarn on south Bridge street. The location was moved at a later date to the former telephone office on west Main (currently the Family Barber Shop). The library was instrumental in the organization and building of the DeWitt Memorial Building and there, they found a home in 1949. Their original location in this building was the small meeting room off of the lobby of the library. They remained located here until 1966 when they acquired their current space which had previously been the meeting hall of the Memorial Building.

Almost from its beginning in the 1930's, the DeWitt Library has served somewhat in the capacity of an archives of the DeWitt area. It was not however, until Faye E. Hanson became librarian that the library actively sought out to improve and expand its local history collection.

For the first time ever, for the occasion of DeWitt's 150th anniversary, the library in conjunction with the Clinton County Historical Commission, has organized a remarkable display of nearly all of the library's large collection of photographs, newspapers, scrapbooks, maps, books, and other memorabilia, much of which has never before been on public display. After the sesquicentennial celebration, present librarian Judith Gerred hopes to have the collection catalogued and better organized thereby making it more accessible to the public.

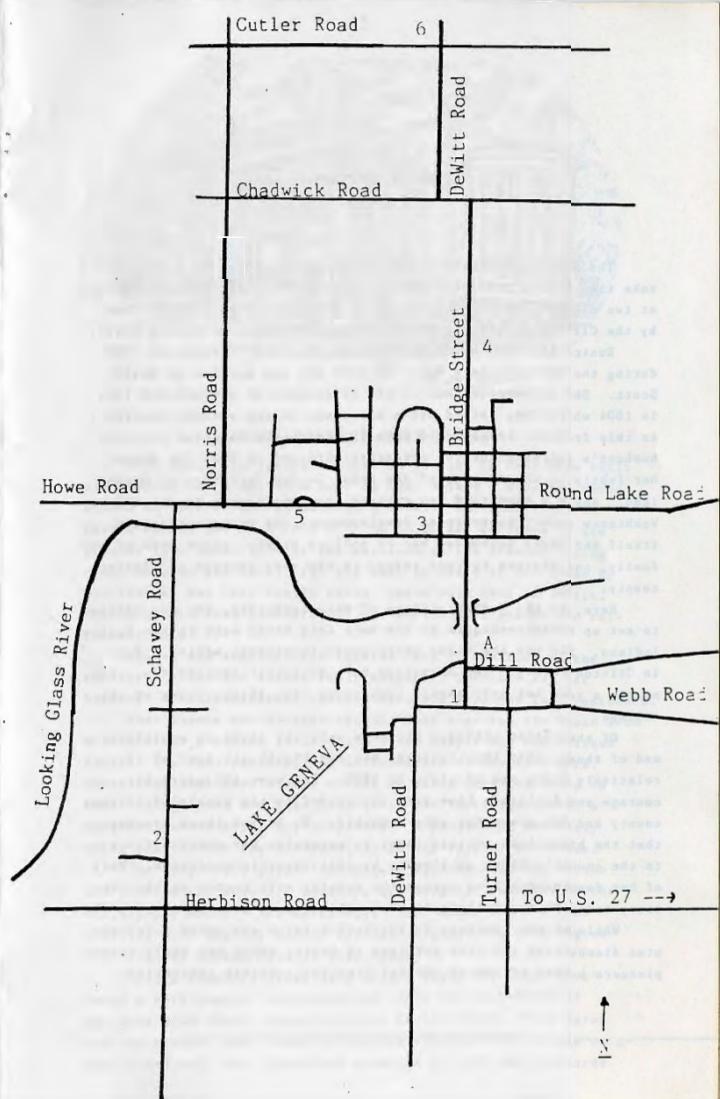
A special thanks goes to George and Geneva Wiskemann for the generous loan of the display cases and an extra thanks to the staff of the library for their extra work involved in the display.



DOWNTOWN DEWITT

TOUR SITES

1. Matson House
2. Scott-Robison House
3. Faye Hanson Public Library
4. DeWitt Cemetery
5. Pate-Lietzke-Coin House
6. Blizzard-Dieter Centennial Farm
- A. Riverside Park
- B. DeWitt Memorial Building



#4
DEWITT CEMETERY
2:00 PM

The Sesquicentennial Committee sincerely hopes that you will take time out of your busy day to be on hand at the DeWitt cemetery at two o'clock for the dedication of a new monument erected there by the Clinton County Historical Society in honor of Unice Scott.

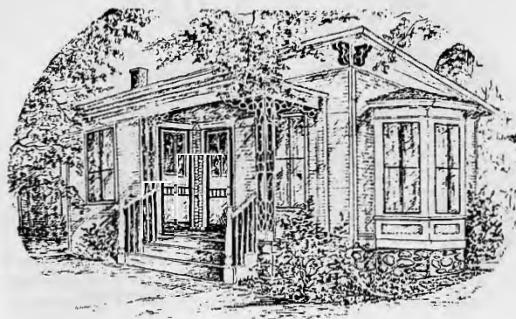
Unice (Forbes) Scott was born in Shoreham, Vermont in 1780 during the Revolutionary War. In 1804 she was married to David Scott. She accompanied him to the wilderness of western New York in 1804 where they carved out a homestead on the western frontier. As this frontier transformed into farmland, she complied with her husband's yearning for the primitive life and in 1823 she moved her family to the outpost of Ann Arbor in the Territory of Michigan. Again a homestead was cleared from the virgin forest and as Washtenaw county experienced development, the pattern repeated itself and David persuaded her to pull up stakes, leave most of her family, and venture further inland to the vast unknown of Clinton county.

Here, at the Indian village of Wabahnaseepee, she was obliged to set up housekeeping in an elm-bark long house lent to her by the Indians. She was the first white woman to attempt making a home in Clinton county. Her hardships were many, her rewards few. For nearly a year her only female companions were Indian women of the village.

Of the eleven children she bore only six lived to adulthood and of those, only four outlived her even though she died at the relatively young age of sixty in 1840. For over 140 years her courage and fortitude have gone unrecorded in the annals of Clinton county and her grave has gone unmarked. It is for these reasons that the historical society chose to recognize her contributions to the county's first settlement by this historic occasion. Many of her descendants from across the country will gather at the cemetery today to pay tribute to their illustrious ancestor.

While at the cemetery do yourself a favor and spend a few minutes discovering the rich heritage of DeWitt among the early county pioneers buried in one of central Michigan's oldest cemeteries.

#5



PATE-LIETZKE-COIN HOUSE

This small Italianate cottage is thought to have been built one hundred years ago this year by Geo. Holmes & Son, who owned a farm on Norris road as well as a sawmill and lumberyard in DeWitt during the late 1800's. The house was enlarged to its present size about 1890 by the addition of the present dining room, kitchen and bath. For the next 80 years it was owned by the Lietzke and Pate family whose farms were west of DeWitt. It was seldom used year-around, but served as a summer and retirement home.

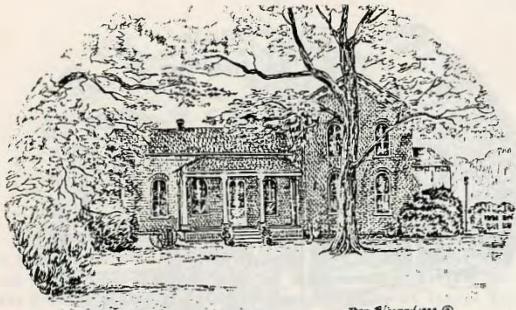
August and Adeline Pate retired here at the turn of the century. After the 1930's their daughter, Gertrude and her husband, William Lietzke, retired here and were the last residents.

When Eugene and Marilyn (Staub) Coin acquired the house from Mrs. Lietzke's estate in 1975 its water supply was the antique pump in the side yard and the bathroom was in the back yard. Since that time they slowly worked at rebuilding the house to meet modern needs and restoring it to its Victorian charm, a process that is still not completed. A project is currently being planned for the old woodshed on the rear of the house.

The lacy front porch, the unique four-beveled bay window and most of the interior woodwork are original features of the century-old house. The extra-wide front steps and the iron cresting over the bay window are not original but were copied from vintage photographs of this house.

Having formerly lived in a larger house the Coins have faced a hard task of incorporating their own collection of antiques with those pieces original to the house. They have also originated some creative storage areas as the cottage originally had only one closet and no attic or built-in cupboards.

#6



BLIZZARD-DIETER HOUSE

This centennial farm was homesteaded in 1854 by Thomas Blizzard, a native of England who came to America as a bond servant. He first settled in Ohio and returned there, briefly, in 1862 to marry Hannah Stanton. The newlyweds set up housekeeping in a log cabin which stood on the same site as the south wing of the present house.

In a letter dated March 15, 1873, Hannah Blizzard wrote: "We did not get our building up last fall as we talked..... Tom thought we had better try and build something warmer as what we have was not warm enough..... He concluded he must build something so to have a cellar. He made calculations to put up a kitchen on the south and draw brick & stone & since he has concluded to put up the upright on the north..... He had bought ten thousand (bricks) for the kitchen for eleven dollars a thousand & when he concluded to put up the upright the brickman let him have twenty thousand for 6½. He has drawn twelve thousand; he gets them at Lansing."

The south and west wings were added to the upright soon afterwards.

This unique old house with its double brick walls and interesting round-top windows passed on to successive generations of the Blizzard's descendants and is now owned by their great-grandson, Burl. When Burl and Ada (Hawk) Dieter acquired the house and farm after their marriage, it had no electricity, running water, heating system or bathroom. Many changes were made to meet their requirements but they retained the authentic charm of their home.

The majority of the furnishings in the house are family heirlooms and treasures which the Dieters uncovered in the attic and outbuildings and put back into everyday service. To this they have added their own impressive collection of antiques.

DEWITT SESQUICENTENNIAL 1833 - 1983

OTHER EVENTS OF THE DAY INCLUDE:

A reunion of the Scott family, DeWitt's "FOUNDING FAMILY", at Riverside Park on Bridge street. It begins at 11:00 a.m. and is sponsored by the Clinton County Historical Commission.

History Display (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at the Faye Hanson Public Library. Photographs and memorabilia of DeWitt's past.

Book Sale (10a.m. - 5 p.m.), sponsored by the Friends of the Library, at the Faye Hanson Public Library.

Chicken Barbecue (4 p.m. to 8 p.m.), sponsored by the DeWitt Lions Club, at the DeWitt Memorial Building.

Fireworks (9 p.m.) sponsored by the DeWitt City Fire Department.

Monument Dedication (2 p.m.) at the DeWitt cemetery. A monument honoring Eunice Scott, wife of Capt. David Scott and the first woman pioneer of Clinton county, has been erected by the Clinton County Historical Society in cooperation with the City of DeWitt.

RESTROOMS are located at the DeWitt Memorial Building, the Faye Hanson Public Library and at Riverside Park.

LUNCHES or REFRESHMENTS can be obtained at several locations both uptown in DeWitt and at Country Meadows (just south of the Scott-Robison House) on Schavey road.

The DeWitt Sesquicentennial Committee would like to thank you for your participation in the festivities of this historic occasion.

ENJOY THE DAY!