



## *Dateline DeWitt*

*with Faye Hanson*

DeWitt City Librarian

And

Chairman, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission

*Ken Coin  
sketches  
on display*



Ken Coin

Ken Coin has drawn three large pen and ink sketches of early DeWitt which have been matted and are on display in the lobby of the DeWitt Public Library as part of their Bicentennial observance.

The sketches are of Brook's Drugstore and William's Grocery which burned in the big fire of October 1930, and the other is Brazee's General Store which survived the fire and has been remodeled into the Shingle Shack Restaurant. These buildings were built in the 1830's and 40's when DeWitt was county seat and a very busy and bustling town.

## *1839 tax assessment*

In 1839 when Clinton County became an administrative district, DeWitt Township, including the village of DeWitt, had a tax assessment as follows:

Town Tax	162.96
County Tax	205.06
State Tax	216.89
Road Tax	821.93

1,406.83 Total

They were trying to improve their roads and heavy taxes were levied for that purpose. Equalized Evaluation of the property of the township and village at that time was \$108,586., just a fraction over \$3.00 per acre. The Equalized Evaluation of Twps. and City this year of 1975 is \$510,177,857.00. In 136 years the value has gone up just a trifle!

Means of communication were in a most primitive state in 1839 and the people in hard circumstances with little money and hardly able to bear the burden of additional taxes. But they were in favor of the idea of an independent county organization. The first county commissioners were: Calvin Marvin, Ephriam Utley and Robert E. Craven.



Clinton Co. News  
1975  
**Dateline  
DeWitt**

*with Faye Hanson*

*DeWitt City Librarian  
and  
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The following was taken from the November 19, 1853 issue of the 'Clinton Express' - a newspaper published in DeWitt when it was still the county seat:

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY: BAKER & RANSOM** - Attorney's at Law & Solicitors in Chancery; offices on Main Street, DeWitt, Mich.; particular attention given to the paying of taxes and collection of demands.

Joab Baker J.W. Ransom

\*\*\*\*\*

**R. STRICKLAND**, Attorney at Law, Solicitor in Chancery and General Land Agent; DeWitt, Clinton Co., Mich.

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**C.W. LEFFINGWELL**, Attorney and Counsellor at Law, and Solicitor in Chancery, DeWitt, Mich.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A.W. PATTRIDGE & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, etc., Main St.

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**D. & J. STURGIS & CO.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, Boots & Shoes, etc., Main St. DeWitt.

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**JOHN W. GARDNER**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, Drugs & Medicines, etc., Bridge Street, DeWitt.

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**JOHN HICKS**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, Ready Made Clothing, Boots & Shoes, etc., DeWitt.

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**JOHN H. BACON**, Physician & Surgeon; office at his residence on Bridge Street, DeWitt, Mich.

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**SETH P. MARVIN**, Physician & Surgeon; office at the Register's office; DeWitt, Mich.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOHN F. McKEEN**, Cabinet & Chair Maker, shop near the DeWitt Mills.

\*\*\*\*\*

**J.D. EDWARDS**, Dealer in Stoves, Tin-Ware, etc., Main Street, DeWitt.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOHN W. LONGYEAR**, Attorney and Counselor at Law & Solicitor in Chancery, Lansing, Mich.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WILLIAM UTLEY**, Cabinet Maker, Main Street, DeWitt, All kinds of Cabinet Work kept constantly on hand. Sash, Blinds, Coffins, etc., made to order.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOHN THORNBUR**, Tailor, shop on Main Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MILLINERY & DRESS-MAKING**. Miss Ann Cain would respectfully inform the Ladies of DeWitt and vicinity that she has just received a fall assortment of FASHIONABLE BONNET TRIMMINGS, and trusts that she will be able to give entire satisfaction to all who may favor her with their patronage. DeWitt, October 22, 1853.

February 25, 1976



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This is the graduation class of DeWitt High School, 1899. In the back row are: Harry Moon, Fred Tucker, Ed Schavey, Charles Reynolds, Floyd Williams, Elmo Hath, Fred Schavey; front row: Merle McLouth Kraas Walker Burns, Celia Siple Simmons, Hugh Gibbs (teacher), Maude White Carl. Picture given to the library by Helen Kraas in memory of her mother, Merle Burns.

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October 22, 1975



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THE STONE HOUSE 407 EAST WEBB DRIVE

The Stone House was built for A.D. [Del] Rose by Harvey Butler; it was begun in 1936 and finished in 1938. A stock floor plan, modeled in clay was made by Rose's son, Frank, as a guide.

Construction featured reinforced concrete floors and ceilings throughout. Well over 100 barrels of cement was used and mixed in a one wheel-barrel mixer. Stones were hauled from as far as 50 miles away, all stones are whole and the walls are four feet in thickness in places. There is tile and cinder block inside stone. Stones were raised by block and tackle.

There is an air conditioner constructed by C. Brenner of Lansing which takes air from an old cistern. Canvas drops with a spray took the dust from the air.

Total cost of building was \$5,000. Top laborers received \$1.00 per hour and unskilled laborers received 50c per hour. Cement was \$1.50 a barrel. The farm included more than 75 ac. and had a large barn which burned during the 1960's. The old homestead that was on the site was moved 2 houses to the East and is still in use.

The first slaughter house in the area was southwest of the house and hauled water from Prairie Creek to wash the meat. The slaughter house furnished cans to DeWitt homes to collect garbage to feed the hogs. This was the beginning of Rosevale Packing Company which has now become Michigan Beef Company.

EXTRA

St. Johns, Mich., Sept. 17, 1901.



217/75

*Dateline  
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DeWitt City Librarian

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Chairman, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission

# The Clinton Republican

EXTRA

St. Johns, Mich., Sept. 17, 1901.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR THE LATE PRESIDENT.



### Proclamation By President Palmer:

Pursuant to the proclamation of the President of the United States and the natural wish of every loyal American citizen, upon this sad occasion, the death of Wm. McKinley, and the nation's loss of a beloved President, it is desirable that appropriate expressions of grief and sorrow, by outward and visible observance of proper forms of mourning, to give expression to the inward sense of national loss and personal sorrow. In the line of such observance I ask and recommend, that during the day set apart for the funeral observances—Thursday, Sept. 19, 1901, all places of business, of all kinds, and schools of the Village of St. Johns, be closed from 12 a. m. to 5 p. m. and at the hour arranged for the funeral, appropriate religious services be arranged for and held.

HENRY PALMER,  
President.

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HENRY PALMER,  
President.

Religious services will be held in M. E. Church, Thursday afternoon at 2:30. Judge S. B. Daboll, Mr. J. C. Dooling, and possibly others will speak.

The above was published in the Sept. 17 extra edition of the Clinton Republican and tells of the memorial for President William McKinley, victim of assassination. The clipping belonged to Ralph Woodruff who has donated it to the DeWitt Public Library.



## Visitors tour VFW post

On Saturday, Oct. 4, during the Bi-Centennial Kick-Off, House Tour in DeWitt, the VFW Post #671 was open for visitors. The Ladies Auxiliary had a Sloppy Joe Luncheon.

The Auxiliary also raffled a hand-made, hand-tied, old-fashioned patch work quilt. Four year old Tammie George pulled out the winning ticket at 2:30 p.m. Linda Cowan, 13834 Ducharme Drive, DeWitt was the winner. The quilt will be presented to Mrs. Cowan at a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, at the Post Home. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for a party at the Veterans' Facility in Grand Rapids.

All members are reminded of the potluck and are asked to bring a dish to pass and table service. Betty Hendrickson,

housemother at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, and her family will also attend the dinner. Mrs. Hen-

drickson will give a short talk on the National Home. There will be a Business Meeting after the dinner.



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The following is taken from PAST AND PRESENT OF CLINTON COUNTY by Judge S.B. Daboll published in 1906.

County School Commissioner, T.H. Townsend, in an article presented by him to the Clinton County Pioneer Society, has the following to say regarding the naming of Watertown Township. "I have been unable definitely to settle as to the derivation of the name Watertown, but here is at least a plausible theory. It is generally a well known fact of history that emigration takes place along the parallels. By that I mean that a people emigrating from a certain latitude in the east, for instance, say 100,500 or 1000 miles, will be found making their homes in about the same latitude that they had occupied in the east. Trace each people from east to west, following parallels, and you will find them to possess many things in common, common habits and tastes and the same family names, the same geographical names. Look at your maps and you will find in them Clinton County crosses by the same parallels as central New York and Massachusetts. And throughout N.Y. and Mass. you will find the geographical names of Essex, Clinton, Rochester, DeWitt and Watertown: Watertown especially being a favorite name in that section of the east. As above mentioned, the historic settlers of Watertown, almost to an individual, either directly or indirectly, came from Mass. or N.Y. and that, together with the fact that the part of Watertown first settled, was well watered would at least establish a plausible theory upon which to establish a reason for christening the organization Watertown."

In 1836 settlements multiplied rapidly. During this year, actual settlements were made for the first time in Bath, Dallas, Duplain, Greenbush, Ovid, Riley and Victor townships. In 1837 the list was completed, when Courtland Hill and Lucius Morton settled Bengal and Bingham, respectively. It is worthy to notice that DeWitt township, which was actually settled first of all townships of the county, was for some years the commercial center of the county and contained the county seat while Bingham was the last of the whole number to receive a settler in December, 1837, and now contains the largest city of the county and has the county seat.

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*DeWitt City Librarian*

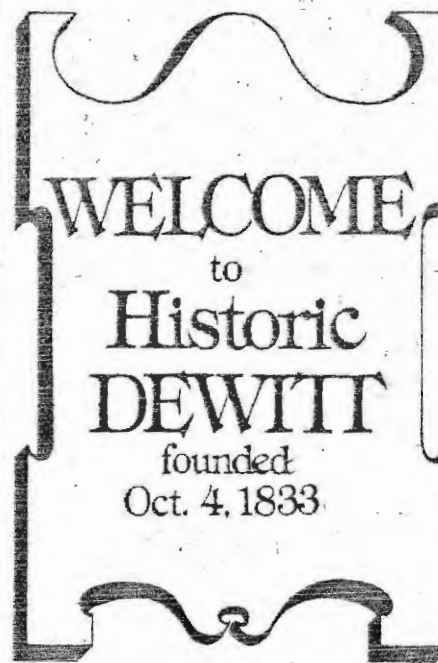
*and*

*Chairman, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission*



What's in a name? Well, for starters, it's something you live with all of your life. Among the most common for girls at present are Debbie, Sharon, Judy, Linda and Karen as well as the old fashioned Mary and Ann. For boys, Kevin, Troy, Tracy and Jeffery seem to be in vogue along with John, David and William.

I am an avid tombstone reader and you will often see me on my knees in the DeWitt, South Riley and Boughton Cemeteries reading epitaphs, and when the weather gets bad I go to the city hall and read cemetery records there. I have come across some different and suprisingly beautiful given names used many years ago; among those for girls are: Desire Ann, Dorcas, Ortency, Arvilla, Anola, Patience, Albina and Drucilla. And for boys: Ephriam, Welcome, Josiah, Amoriah, Joab and Varney. Many of those boys are picked from the bible, the one book that every household owned. Most people in those bygone days were very poor, but this was not a disgrace as very few people had much ready cash. They made their own homemade fun and gave their children unusual and beautiful names.



*News photos*

*features*

*from the*

*DeWitt*

*Area*

March 3, 1976



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## **1800 architecture**

These three buildings are typical of the architecture of the 1840's and 50's in DeWitt. They stood along the north side of the 100 block of West Main Street. All three burned in the big fire of Oct. 1930. The one on the left was Harry Moon's Grocery, the next Smiley's Variety and the last William's Grocery. Notice the hitching rails in front of each store.



NOVEMBER 26, 1975



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With the advent of Thanksgiving this week, it seems appropriate to talk about Plimoth Plantation, which is situated two miles from Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Mass.

350 years ago, a group of Englishmen, persecuted for their religious beliefs, sailed for the New World and a new life. They established a colony called Plimoth Plantation where they could worship with free conscience.



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The present Plimoth Plantation is a living full-scale re-creation of that village established by the Pilgrims as it appeared in 1627. Here, guides take courses to increase their understanding and knowledge of life 350 years ago. When you visit Plimoth Plantation, as I did in October, you come as close as they can bring you to experiencing the 17th century and understanding the Pilgrims and their world.

You walk down a dusty street lined with wooden houses with oiled paper for windows or just shutters that close; these houses are surrounded by fenced gardens. You smell wood smoke and see food cooking [I watched them cooking a large fish wrapped in seaweed and placed over an open fire outside of the house, the flies were terrible!]. The people carry on the tasks of a 17th century farming community in the same manner as was done 350 years ago. They work in the gardens, make beds, sew, dye cloth, shear sheep, feed chickens and scour pans with sand to clean. They dress in the same manner as the Pilgrims and you indeed feel like you have stepped back into another age.

Plimoth Plantation is open daily from April 1 through November. Admission charge is \$1.75 for adults and 60c for children.

While the houses are rather primitive, these people came from a highly civilized country and while their tables were handmade they had beautiful white linen cloths and chests with exquisite carvings on them.



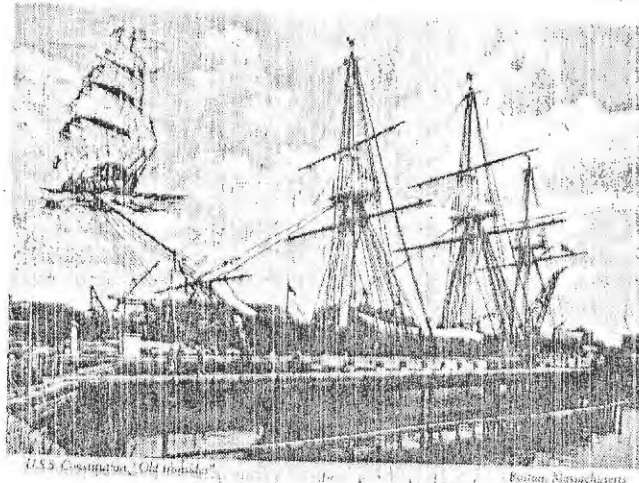
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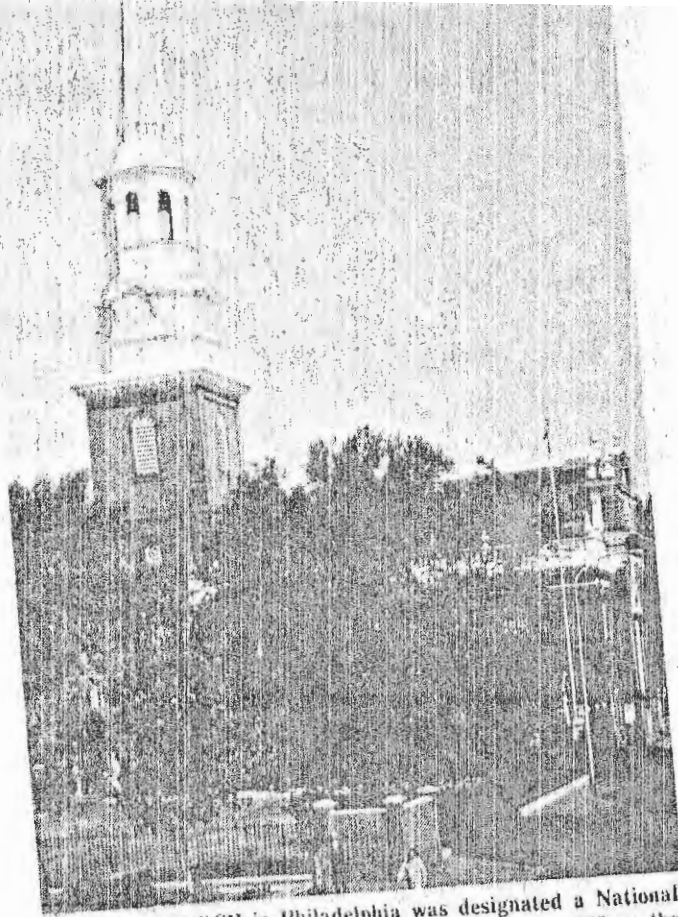
DeWitt City Librarian

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"Old Ironsides" is the name earned by the U.S. Frigate Constitution because the cannon balls bounced off her sides. She was built in Boston and launched in 1797. In her long and glorious career, she was engaged in about 40 battles and never suffered a defeat. Rebuilt and restored with funds raised by public subscription in 1833, she is now moored at Boston Naval Shipyard. The CONSTITUTION is still a ship of the U.S. Navy and is manned by sailors clad in naval costume of the 1700's. Since April 1973, she has been undergoing a \$4.4 million restoration-the first since 1927-31. Since 1941, the USS CONSTITUTION has been continuously in full commission-the longest unbroken such period in her history-and is currently serving as Flagship, Commandant, First Naval District as a source of pride, patriotism, and inspiration to millions of Americans. There is no charge to board and tour this fine old ship.



CHRIST CHURCH in Philadelphia was designated a National Shrine by an Act of Congress. It was organized in 1695 on the present site. Members of the Continental Congress, signers of the Declaration of Independence, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and many other famous Americans worshipped here. Americans of every faith who visit this historic church are reminded that freedom is divinely inspired.

The candlelit chandelier brought from England in 1944, is still in use. The "Wineglass" Pulpit was made in 1770. The ring of eight bells [later increased to eleven] was cast in England and hung in the steeple in 1754. They are still rung daily.

Two signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried in the churchyard, and five others, among them Benjamin Franklin, in the church burial ground at Fifth and Arch Streets.

The Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. was formed in Christ Church after the Revolution. The English Font is the one in which William Penn was baptized. It was a gift sent to Christ Church in 1697 from All Hallow's Church, Barking-by-the-Tower, London.

This church is now a National Shrine and upon visiting it you really feel as if you are in the presence of those bygone Patriots of this country. My feeling upon sitting in the very same pew occupied by George Washington long ago was one of awe and humble thankfulness that we had such men of courage and determination who were willing to strike out for independence against tyranny.



## *Dateline DeWitt*

12/27/75

*with Faye Hanson*

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The College of William and Mary was chartered in 1693 as an Anglican college in Williamsburg, Va. Throughout the colonial period William and Mary was the center of higher education in Virginia and Maryland; both of the tobacco colonies of the Chesapeake were taxed to finance its construction. It is the second oldest college in the United States. The Wren Building is the oldest academic edifice in English speaking America in continuous use. Several of the building's first and second floor rooms have been carefully furnished as they might have been in the eighteenth century and along with the Chapel, are open to the public year around. The building also continues in daily use for classes and faculty offices. According to an early account it was "first modeled by Sir Christopher Wren," but was adapted to the Nature of the Country by the Gentlemen there." The cornerstone was laid in 1695, and though fires in 1703, 1859, and again in 1862 did serious damage, the massive exterior walls are largely original. The building now has the outward appearance it showed from about 1716. Here were educated Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and other leaders of the Revolution.





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Two charming Aussies are visiting in DeWitt this week; they are Allan and Peg Cary of Perth, Western Australia. They are the house guests of Mr. Cary's sister, Barbara [Mrs. Donald] Bautel, 1220 Longspur Drive, Lake Geneva. The Carys came to the U.S. to visit their daughter, Jennifer, who is an exchange student in Lake Tahoe, California. She met her parents in San Francisco and accompanied them on a trip down the coast to the Mexican border. They visited with the three families who are Jennie's hosts while she is in this country before heading for Michigan.

The Cary's, who are from the coast of Western Australia, had never seen snow until they arrived in the mountainous area of California and they have never seen snow falling so we are hoping that a little will fall before they depart for home on the 17th. While they are enjoying their visit to this country they will be glad to return to their three sons who are with relatives at home. Perth, Australia is half way around the world from Michigan, no matter which way you go, east or west, it is the same distance to Western Australia.





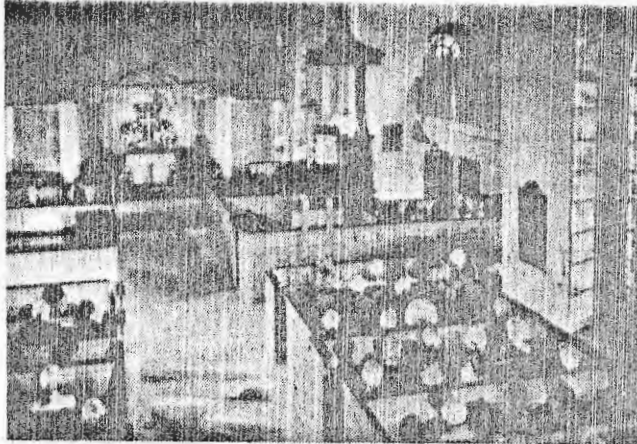
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This is an interior view of Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, Va. This church is a link between the past and the present. From 1715 to the present time this building has been in continuous use, a fine architectural example of the colonial church in America, and a reminder in bricks and mortar of the part religion played in the daily life of eighteenth-century Virginia. It was the rector of this church, the late Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin, who first conceived the restoration of Williamsburg, and interested Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in this project.

Bruton Parish was formed in 1674 by merging two earlier parishes [one of them founded in 1633]. The present church was begun in 1711 and completed in 1715. The vestry set aside a large square pew with a canopied chair for the governor of the Council. The transept pews during sessions of the Assembly were reserved for members of the House of Burgesses.

Church and state were united in colonial Virginia and officeholders were obliged under the Crown to conform to the established church. All classes of colonists, from great planters to the humblest artisan and slave, participated in the sacraments of the Anglican church. The stone font, according to tradition brought from the church at Jamestown, probably witnessed the baptism of fourteen slaves for whom George Washington stood godfather. As the Virginia aristocracy was politically minded, most of the leading planters became members of the Assembly and, as such, worshipped in Bruton Parish Church. At times of political crisis, the aid of God was humbly sought; in 1774, when word reached Williamsburg that Parliament had closed the port of Boston, the burgesses set aside a day for fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and went to Bruton in a body "to implore the divine interposition, for averting the heavy Clamity which threatens destruction to our Civil Rights, and the Evils of Civil War."



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This is a picture of Chowning's Tavern, Williamsburg, Va. In 1766 Josiah Chowning advertised the opening of his tavern "where all who please to favor me with their custom may depend upon the best of entertainment for themselves, servants, and horses, and good pasturage." The rates which could be charged for food and drink were duly fixed each year by the justices of the county and were ordered to be "openly set up in the public entertaining room of every ordinary." Chowning's Tavern served a less august clientele than the Raleigh or King's Arms, and good sturdy made tables and chairs have been selected for today's furnishings.

When weather permits, guests are served in the garden behind the tavern. Colonial statutes were explicit in stating that all licensing laws were equally binding out of doors in "booths, arbores and stalls". The kitchen, dairy, and smokehouse have been reconstructed on their original sites.



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Dining is an unforgettable experience when done in one of Williamsburg's three reconstructed Colonial Taverns: King's Arms, Chowning's and Christiana Campbell's. You must make reservations way ahead as they are always booked in advance. You dine by candlelight and are given a three by four foot napkin which is large enough to use as an apron! You are served famous foods of a long ago south.

When dining at Chowning's this fall I started off with SANGAREE. This is a drink made from an 18th century recipe using the wine of Maderia blended with the juices of fresh lemons and oranges, lightly sweetened and served cold. It is quite different from the present day Sangria. This was followed by clams on the half shell. Next came Brunswick Stew, made from young fowl, ham and fresh garden stuff. The finishing touch was Pecan Tart.

Other things offered on the menu are: Backfin Chesapeake Bay Crabmeat, Welsh Rabbit with Surry County Ham, Fried Chicken, Sally Lunn bread, escalloped oysters, green-gage plum ice cream, orange-nut pound cake, buttered apple pie and old fashioned cheese cake with fresh strawberries. You take your time and don't rush and every mouthful is a joy.

Another eating experience at its best is the Hunt Breakfast served at the Cascade Inn in Williamsburg. There are 80 varieties of food on the breakfast buffet which is served from 9:00 A.M. until noon. If planning to visit Williamsburg, Va. this Bicentennial year it is my suggestion that you start making reservations now. They told me when there in Nov. that there were few openings left for housing for 1976.



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The middle 2 weeks in October I spent walking in the footsteps of America's forebearers. I left Lansing Oct. 8 going into Canada at Sarnia and on to Niagara Falls for the first night, the next morning crossing over into New York State and on to Bennington, Vermont where we visited the monument to the Battle of Bennington which was fought in 1779 and the museum.

Then we took the Molly Stark Trail across the Greene Mountains to Brattleboro, Vt. across the corner of New Hampshire and into Mass. The colors were glorious everywhere.

We arrived in Boston on Oct. 10 for 2 days. We went aboard the ship "Old Ironsides" in Boston Harbor which is still a ship of the U.S. Navy. We visited Old North Church, Faneuil Hall, Bunker Hill monument, Old State House and the campuses of Harvard, M.I.T. & Radcliffe.

We toured Concord & Lexington and the homes of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow & Louisa May Alcott. On the 12th we left early for historic Cape Cod where we stopped and went on board Mayflower 2, viewed Plymouth Rock and observed life as it was lived in the 1620s at Plymouth Plantation.

We went on to Provincetown and spent the night in Hyannis. Our next stop was Newport, R.I. where we toured the Breakers Estate, erected in the 1890's by Cornelius Vanderbilt, also visited Trinity Church built in the 1720's.

The next day we went to Mystic, Conn. where we spent most of the day at Mystic Seaport, a restored fishing village with over 60 buildings as they were in the whaling days. We spent the night at New Haven, Conn. and saw the Yale Campus.

The next day we visited the campus of West Point, this country's oldest military college. We went on to Bear Mountain State Park then on to Philadelphia for 2 days. Here we visited Independence Hall and saw the Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross' House and Christ Church where Washington worshipped and where 7 of the signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried.

We also visited Benjamin Franklin's grave. We toured the U.S. Mint and made our own coins. We left on the 18th and visited the Amish in Lancaster County, Pa. and had dinner at the Good & Plenty Amish farm. From there we went to Gettysburg and toured the battlefields before heading back to Michigan.

It really was a wonderful trip and gave great insight into the background of our Founding Fathers. Now, after a week in the office, I am off to Williamsburg, Va. to continue my walk back into history.



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*DeWitt City Librarian  
and*

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7/23/75

Many people say that Bicentennial should be spelled BUYcentennial and they are right because everywhere you go you are offered cheap, and not so cheap, souvenirs commemorating our country's 200th birthday.

Here in DeWitt we are trying to tone down the selling to a few souvenirs that have special meaning for the people of this area and Clinton County, and all profit from this venture will go back into a fund to pay for our 1976 celebration.

We have not asked the City Council for any funds, preferring to earn the monies ourselves.

We have a 2-inch button which says 'American Revolution Bicentennial 1776-1976, DeWitt, Michigan, founded 1833'. They are collectors items. We have 1000 and when they are gone no more will be ordered. A local artist, Madeline Brockway, has sketched several DeWitt landmarks which have been put on note stationery and are for sale.

Also for sale are the ARBA and Bennington Flags, which are collectors items and may be flown for years to come.

Three businessmen in the area generously paid for new "Welcome To DeWitt" signs and our new McQuire Park came from local and state funds. The new welcome sign on US-27 was erected by the DeWitt Businessmen's Association.



## *DeWitt Dateline*

*with Faye Hanson*

DeWitt will be having a day-long celebration on July 3 (Saturday), culminating its Bicentennial festivities. There will be a huge parade at 10:30 with a \$100 prize for the best float. We are asking people from all over the county to participate, not only with floats but with marching units of all kinds.

We will be celebrating not only our country's 200th birthday, but DeWitt's 143rd year of existence. Above is a blank for parade entries, clip and send it in and help make this one huge successful birthday party.

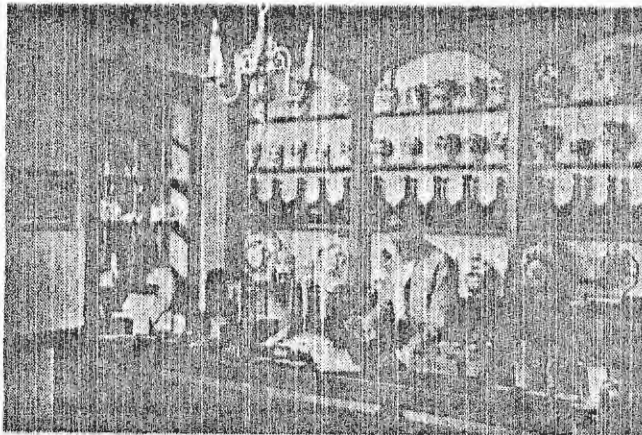
January 28, 1976



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Chairman, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission



This is the interior of the Apothecary Shop, Williamsburg, Va. in the eighteenth century, the owner of such a shop was usually a doctor, who in addition to his medical practice, served as a dispenser of medicines in the role of pharmacist. This shop is one of Williamsburg's operating craft shops, exhibiting an imposing array of the elixirs and ointments of colonial medicine and "complete sets of amputating instruments." Delftware jars of medicinal herbs and aromatic spices line the shelves. Tobacco and other wares were carried as valuable sidelines. [Not so different from our modern Drug Store].

This is one of the shops featured in the "Candlelight Craft Shops Tour" offered to visitors to colonial Williamsburg.

## *Seven from DeWitt on CMU honors list*

MT. PLEASANT - Seven students from the DeWitt area have been named to the honors list for the fall semester at Central Michigan University.

They are: Charles L. Bissell (junior), 13615 Francis Rd.; Stephanie Kay Hiatt (Senior), 1118 Turner St.; Cynthia R. Jaskiewicz (Sophomore), 1007 E. Geneva Dr.; Michale J. Moody (Senior), 1125 Primrose

Lane; Cindy Parks (Sophomore), 1280 Herbison Rd.; Sharon Eileen Wood (Sophomore), 10720 Norris Rd. and Debra Lynn Young (Junior), 247 Round Lake Rd.

To be eligible for the academic honors list, a student must have a cumulative grade average of "B" or better for his or her entire college career.





## DeWitt Dateline

with Faye Hanson

This is a letter written by Mark A. Childs to his wife after he had enlisted in the Civil War. Mr. Childs was the editor of a DeWitt newspaper.

Camp Sec, Grand Rapids  
Sunday, December 6, 1863

Dear Clarra,

I thank you for your letter, which I received yesterday. My health is quite good-much better than it has been since returning from the South. I had a cold so severe that if I had been at home-and tried former habits and remedies, would have been very liable to have produced a severe fit of sickness. I rode on the platform of the cars much of the way-and was much exposed to the weather. How grateful we should be to God for health. I was glad to hear that you were having the cellar made. Inform me how far the bank extends from the house, how you like it and how much it costs. I suppose you are writing to me today, and I am apprehensive that I shall leave here before your letter arrives. I expect to remove from here tomorrow or next day, but do not know whether I will go to Detroit or Chicago. I am in hopes that it will be Chicago. I am pleased with the idea of leaving here. I want to be with my regiment as soon as possible.

There is not the society in camp here that I expected to find when I get to the Regt.-there are a great many thieves and gamblers among the men, and they start from small amounts up to \$500. \$50. was taken from bunk under me two or three nights since. I am hopes in getting the other portion of my bounty and pay soon. James Child is here among the drafted men and "Uncle Mark" appears to be his joy and his son. I do not see him all the time!! I shall try to send home my shawl and one army blanket-keep two for myself, not knowing but I shall want them if the weather should be extremely severe. They will keep me comfortable. I appreciate that it will be difficult to acquire the habit of sleeping in bed, as formerly. I saw the Rev. Mr. Mason on the ground before leaving for the South-introduced myself, and had a pleasant conversation with him-have not seen him since. I will write you again when I am located. If I leave before receiving a letter from you it will be forwarded to me. It is most impossible for anyone to get a furlough from this camp-when I get to Camp Douglas I am in hopes it will be different.

This camp is considered by old soldiers, under more strict discipline than any other in the country and there is much complaint in consequence. I see the necessity of it, and have no complaints. With the class of men they have to manage, there is necessity of it. Many of them are in chains-others two are handcuffed together. Many of the substitutes are a hard class of Canadians. I should advise all friends, if they thought they stood one chance in ten to be drafted, to enlist-and avoid the stigma of going to war because they are compelled to. About 700 have been added to the army by the October draft, and forwarded from this camp. I had to be at a few dollars expense on my journey, and some in treating my cough, buying apples, etc. I am presently engaged in making toast and broiling meat. I generally keep butter on hand. I have not paid or seen to speak to Col. Spaulding since my return. He is now absent and if he returns here, I wish you remit the amount to him. As I think of nothing more of interest to you, I close, hoping that God will protect you all.

Affect.

M.A. Childs



## *Dateline DeWitt*

*with Faye Hanson*

DeWitt City Librarian

And

Chairman, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission



This is how one got around back at the turn of the century. This sporty rig belonged to Arthur and Ray Magsig who are seated in the buggy. They lived on U.S.-27. The picture was loaned to me by Mrs. Raymond Magsig.

September 3, 1975



## *Dateline DeWitt*

*with Faye Hanson*

*DeWitt City Librarian*

*and*

*Chairman, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission*

Few people in DeWitt Township know that their neighbor, Fordney Cushman, of 3360 East Clark Road, is a direct descendant of John Howland, one of the original passengers on the Mayflower which landed in Plymouth, Mass. in 1620. And that another direct descendant, Thomas Cushman, arrived the following year 1621. Howland's daughter, Ruth married Cushman's son.

Fordney Cushman is the tenth generation to live in America. He resides on a Centennial Farm at the Clark Road address. A 7th generation descendant of John Howland, Gilbert Cushman, homesteaded a farm in the Gunnisonville area of DeWitt Township in 1839. He was born in Kent, New York and came to Michigan bringing his wife and 10 children. Most of them are buried in the Gunnisonville Cemetery. Cushman still has the land patent granted to Gilbert.

He belongs to the Genological Society of Mayflower Descendants which was founded in 1897 to 'perpetuate the memory of the Pilgrims to maintain and defend the principles of civil and religious

liberty, to cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American Freedom and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity.'



Fordney Cushman

Cushman has been to Massachusetts and has had to document all facts of his ancestry to become a member of the society.

# *Dateline DeWitt*

## *with Faye Hanson*

*DeWitt City Librarian*

*and*

*Chairman, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission*



The following is a letter written in 1844 by George Cook to his brother, Joseph in York State telling of the state of affairs in DeWitt at that date.

DeWitt, July 21st, 1844

"Dear Brother, I received your letter the 17th of June but have neglected to answer until now.

"My health and Sarah's is good. Father's folks are about the same as when you left here. Father has the ague and fever. Mother's health is about as usual. Abigail's health is gaining. The rest of the Friends are all well.

"You ask me to write all the particulars of the Fourth but I suppose Uncle and Aunt told you all before this time. It went off about the same as last year, about the same number of people there, music rather bad. Ball at Utley's [one of DeWitt's hotels] in the evening, about twenty couples. A large party at Scott's. 120 took supper. It was voted to take supper there again as soon as James Polk is elected president of these United States but the probability is, that it will not be this year. [He was wrong, Polk was elected]

"I bought three months time from Simmons for twelve dollars a month and made my escape and went to work for Geo. O. Wells. Have plenty of work and doing fair business.

"Elisha Cochran [a cousin] is at work for Utley's. E. Q. Pike has hired to D. Scott for one year for eleven dollars a month. Addison [another couple] is troubled by wild varments. Tuesday night last a bear came to his house and got hold of one of his hogs. Addison had to get up and beat him off three times during the night. He has not heard from him since.

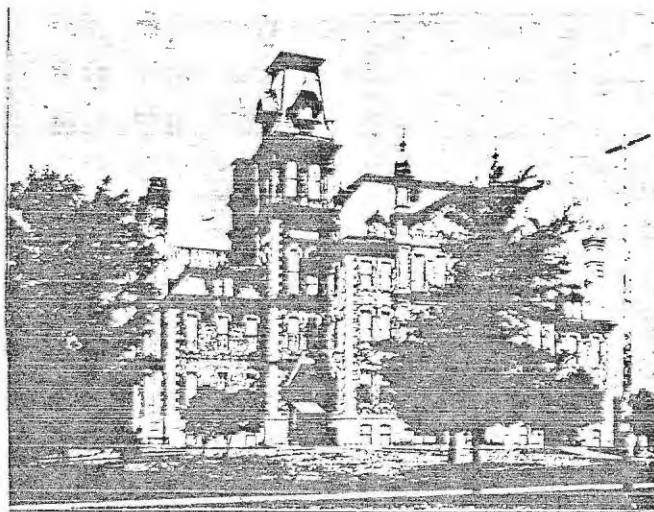
"The farmers here are about comencing haying. The wheat crop will be rather small in this part of the country, it is very smutty and some rusty. Please write as soon as you receive this for we all want to hear from you. I have nothing more to write at present.

"Father's [Joseph Cook, Sr.] folks and all of our friends send their respects to you.

"Yours, Geo. Cook"

## *Birth*

A girl, Krissanne Michelle, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kowalk of 7850 N. DeWitt Rd., DeWitt July 5, 1975 at Lansing General Hospital. She weighed 7 lbs. 9½ ozs. Grandparents are Vernon and Joan Kowalk and Joe and Mila Spousta. The mother is the former Linda Jean Spousta.



*High School - Lansing, Mich*

MANY DEWITT AREA PEOPLE GRADUATED from the old Lansing High School in years gone by as DeWitt's High School only went through the tenth grade and to complete an education from the twelfth grade a student had to commute to Lansing. This building is now incorporated into Lansing Community College and is still in use. Picture loaned to the library by Mr. and Mrs. Burl Dieter.

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