

eWitt-- Yesterday and Today

13, 1974

By Faye Hanson

THE FIRST TOWNSHIP IN CLINTON COUNTY TO BE GIVEN ORGANIZATION WAS THAT OF DEWITT. The act of the Legislature, approved March 23, 1836, provided that County of Clinton "be and the same hereby is, set and organized into a separate township by the name of DeWitt, and the first township meeting thereof shall be held at the dwelling house of David Scott in said township." David Scott had come to this area with his family in October 1833.

In 1837 the township of DeWitt as then existing, was divided along the line of the center, and a new township on the west one half and called Watertown, the first township meeting was held in the house of Henry Niles in said township.

The next subdivision occurred in 1838 when the west half of Watertown was set apart and called Wandalgon, and the first meeting was held at the home of John Campau. People dissatisfied with the Indian name later changed it to Lebanon.

At the time the County of Clinton received its organization in 1839 there were but three townships. DeWitt comprised the eastern half, Watertown the west half of the present township and what is now Wandalgon, Westphalia and Riley townships, and Wandalgon.

Information taken from "Clinton County, Michigan" by Daboll, 1900.

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CUB SCOUTS OF EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO at an outing at Alward Lake. From left to right: Gary Hanson, Bill Wedel, Mike Couzzens, Eugene Norris, Paul Phillips, Dick Overholt and Bob Bissell. Their Den Mother was Gerry Phillips.

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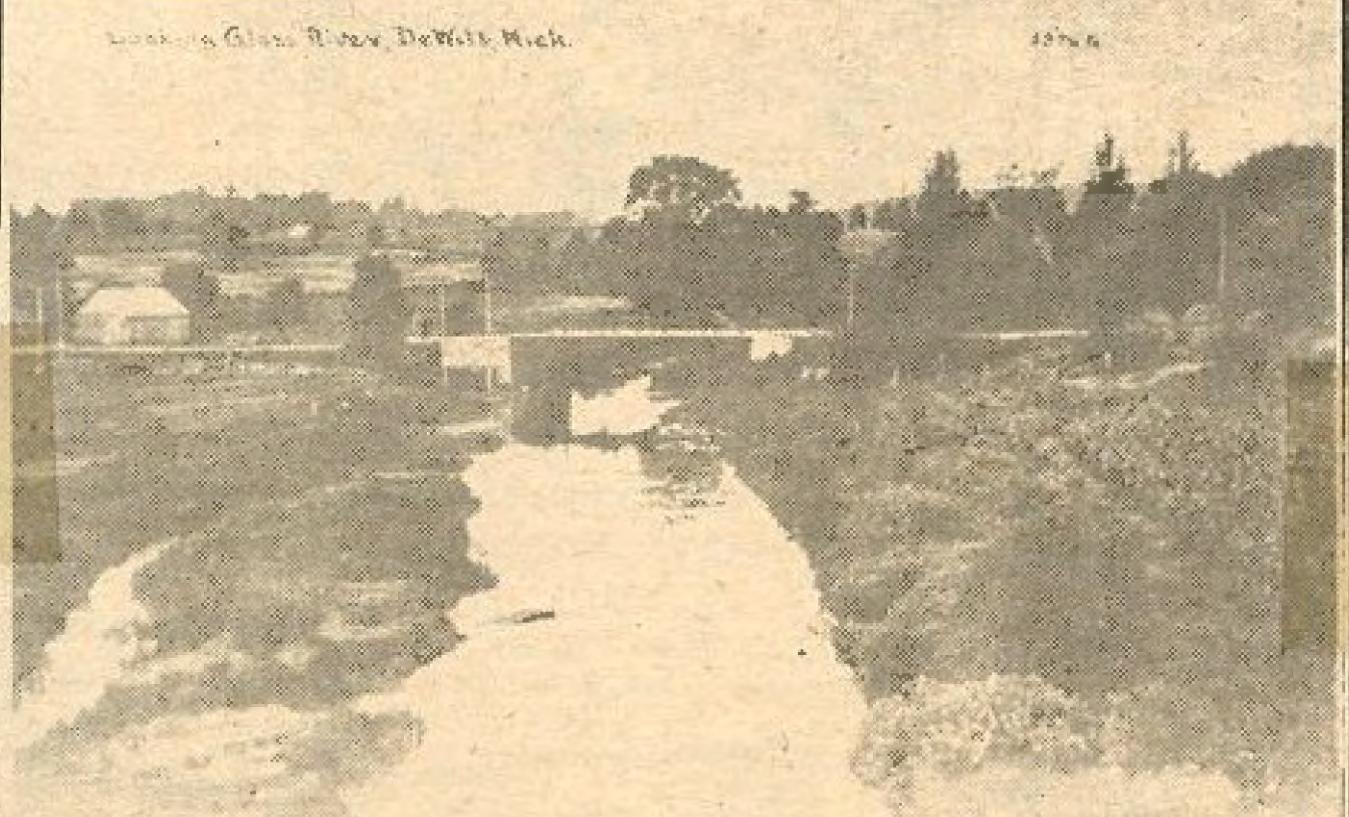


THIS IS THE DEWITT BRASS BAND which played for many functions in the DeWitt area in the 1890's. Here they are ready to march in a Fourth of July parade in St. Johns. In the front row are: George Pike, Henery Webb (director), George Mann and Adam Rupp. Others in the picture are: Charles Webb, George Myers, George Moots, Bert Mann, Charles Sipley, William Linn, Ruben Sipley, Elmer Mann, Charles Cole, William Mack and Arthur Moses.

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THIS POSTCARD SHOWING THE BRIDGE OVER THE LOOKING GLASS RIVER IN DEWITT was sent by Ella Trusdell from DeWitt to Mrs. Ella Brinkerhoff who was wintering in Miami, Florida. It is dated February 12, 1917.