

Flegler

RILEY RESIDENT DIES SATURDAY

Pneumonia Causes Death of
Herman Flegler, 53;
Rites Tuesday

Brought to Clinton Memorial hospital suffering with pneumonia Jan. 31, Herman Flegler, 53, well known Riley township man, at first appeared to be on the road to recovery, but suffered a relapse late in the week, failed rapidly and died Saturday, Feb. 4.

Herman Flegler was born in Riley township, Feb. 26, 1885, the son of Casper and Caroline Flegler. When yet a boy, the family moved to Grant county, on the Chase farm, northwest of Maple Rapids, where his mother died. The family then divided and Herman went for himself, working out among strangers.

enough to buy a farm in Riley. Later he sold and bought a larger farm in Bengal. Some time after this he purchased a threshing machine and for many years he threshed grain all around the neighborhood. In this way he gained a large acquaintance. On Sept. 26, 1913, he was married to Elvira Hopp of Riley. They began housekeeping on his farm in Bengal. In 1922, he purchased the Glenn Bliss farm of 200 acres in Riley, where he had lived since.

He was elected township treasurer for four years, and held the office of moderator in his school district at the time of his death. Sept. 26, 1938, they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with all their friends and relatives participating.

He is survived by his widow, three sons, Lewis of Lansing, and Francis and Earl at home; two daughters, Marina Bandt of St. Johns, and Alice at home; one brother, Andrew of Lansing; three sisters, all of Detroit, Mrs. Clarence Switzer, Mrs. Clarence Gebhardt and Mrs. Edward Thompson; two grandsons, Vernon and Larry Bandt of St. Johns; two uncles, Ed and Gust Biederstedt; three aunts, Mary Forest, Dorothea Nuffer and Louisa Martens, and a host of friends.

The funeral was held at the Riley Lutheran church Tuesday afternoon with Rev. F. Coellner, his pastor, officiating. Interment in the Riley Lutheran cemetery. The large assemblage testified to the esteem in which he was held.

Flewellyn

DEWITT.

DEWITT, May 26, 1891.

Died, Friday, May 22d, at Cleveland, Ohio, Sarah, wife of Frank Flewellyn, aged 27 years, of consumption. The remains was brought here yesterday, accompanied by her husband and two sisters, and now rest in our cemetery by the side of a little daughter, laid there about two years ago. Deceased will be remembered as Miss Sarah Fancher, a neice of Mr. Wm. Dills.

Forbes

Funeral Cards from the Scrapbook of C. Harry Moon

Now owned by Eleanor Moon McKinney (1984)

Inice C. Forbes- June 21, 1874 - Jan. 11, 1947

DeWitt M. E. Church Tues. Jan. 14, 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Earl Carpenter DeWitt Cemetery

Pallbearers: Floyd Hamer, C. Harry Moon, Will Lietzke,
Earl Hendrix, Herman Lietzke, William Dalman.

RENEW VOWS OF 50 YEARS AGO

FORMAN

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Plowman
Were Married at Wacousta
In October, 1879

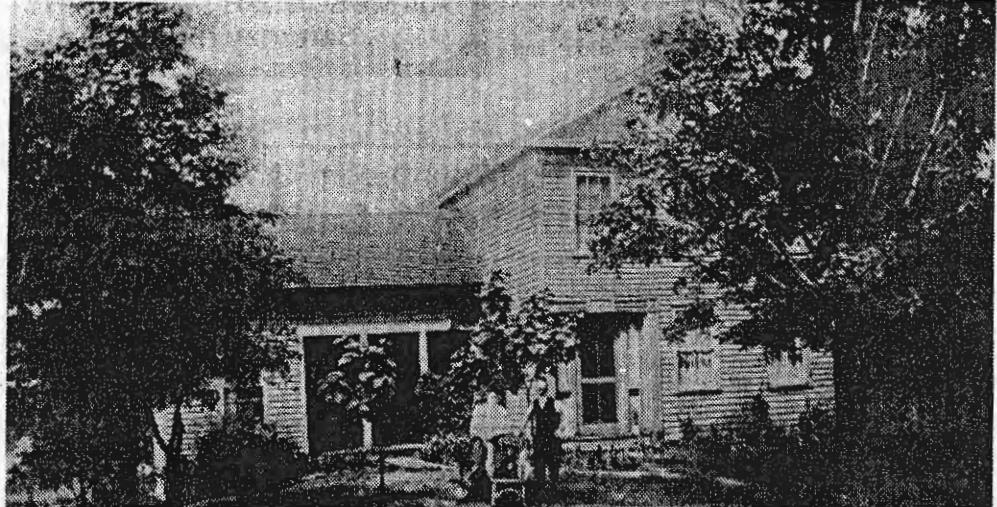
Mr. and Mrs. Luther L. Plowman were married 50 years ago in Wacousta, Rev. Skentlebury performing the service. Mr. and Mrs. Plowman were both born in Clinton county. Mrs. Plowman, formerly Miss Huldah Forman, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Forman, resided in Dewitt village for many years. After their marriage they resided near Wacousta a number of years. Later they moved to their farm in Delta township where they resided until two years ago, on account of Mrs. Plowman's health, they left their farm and went to Lansing where they reside with their daughter and family, Mrs. Richard A. Smith.

Mrs. Smith honored her parents on their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday, October 26. They received their relatives and friends at three receptions. Saturday afternoon from 2 until 4 o'clock they received friends. Several songs were sung, including "Love's Old Sweet Song," "Annie Laurie," and "Put On Your Old Gray Bonnet," by a young lady friend of their grand-daughter. The songs were followed by an original poem composed by an old friend, Miles Stark of Lansing, which aptly illustrated their 50 years of married

(Continued on page 2, column 5)

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Mar. 8 1993



Forman

DEWITT REMEMBERED — The Foreman-Emery House, one of early DeWitt's first and finest homes, it burned in the late 1920's. William and Alma (Foreman) Emery pictured. Ca. 1915. C. Jutting photographer. Photo courtesy Bob Wilcox.

'New Albany' was the money pit of 19th century DeWitt

By KEN COIN

In DeWitt's earliest days most everything of any consequence was located south of the river in a village called "New Albany". I've been fascinated by the history of this town since I first heard about it in grade school. It is bothersome when writing about early DeWitt to continually have to give an explanation everytime I use the term "New Albany", yet I don't think it's fair to just say "DeWitt" because for over a decade the area we now know of as simply DeWitt on the south side of the river, was its own entity, with its own identity and a history which, for that first 10 years of this area, far outshined anything that was happening on the north at Capt. Scott's settlement.

The house pictured above represents the very best of what made New Albany stand apart from DeWitt — money (or at least the presumption of it). Unfortunately, it is one of the few structures which stood in New Albany that I know next to nothing about until the 1870's. But its history goes back much further than that.

Unlike Scott's settlement to the north, New Albany was based on New York money, money which didn't really exist but in the 1830's that didn't seem a problem. The village of New Albany was owned by George T. Clark of Rochester and lots in his "paper village" were bought and sold sight unseen by other New York speculators. This particular lot was at the corner of Rochester St. and a short jog on the Pontiac-Grand River Road. We would know it today as the corner of Webb and Bridge streets and if we were standing on that corner now, we would be looking west at the home of Dan and Marlene Matson.

This lot was one of the few in New Albany which was developed by a residential structure and based solely on the style of the building as compared to other area buildings, this house would have been built about 1840. My personal guess as to who may have built this imposing home at that early date include: one of the Turner brothers (George Clark's agents here at New Albany), Dr. Seth Marvin or Dr. Levi

Jennison. The architectural detail surrounding the front door is very simular to that on the Klaver home across the street.

Now, to the family who for so long made it their home — Samuel Foreman was among the very earliest settlers of this area, coming here with his wife, Catherine Roberts, in 1836. They settled temporarily on a homestead south of DeWitt but soon moved to Watertown township. Their daughter Alma (pictured), in 1865, married a returning Civil War soldier, William Emery (pictured) and they too established a farm in Watertown.

William Emery was born in 1843 in Albion. Just when he came to DeWitt or who his parents were, I don't know, but I suspect that his family's farm was where I now live, east of DeWitt.

In 1872, Samuel and Catherine Foreman sold their farm and moved to this rambling old New Albany house in DeWitt. It was their "retirement" home. Their children continued farming in Watertown for some time but eventually William and Alma Emery came to DeWitt too and moved into the old house to look after Alma's father. Catherine Foreman died in 1882 and Samuel followed in 1898.

Some people may still remember this old house as the home of William and Alma Emery. They continued to live here until William's death in 1917 and Alma, (sort of on and off) until her death in 1921. Their children included: Earl, Park and Clifton Emery and a daughter, Maud. Maud married Charles Wilcox of Olive township, a son of James and Harriet Wilcox.

As to the descendants of Maud and Charles Wilcox, well, that would fill the rest of this newspaper. Suffice to say that thirty years ago, before the influx, if everyone in DeWitt had to form a line and count off "One, Two, One, Two..." all the "Ones" could easily have been Wilcox's.

(A thank you to Doris Wilcox for her information about the picture and about the Foreman's and Emery's.)

Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's primary historian.

Forman

~~WATER SOCIETY, AND ONE OF THE CHARTER MEMBERS.~~

Mrs. SAMUEL FORMAN, of DeWitt, died Feb. 26, 1882, aged 68. She was born in New Jersey, in 1814; married in 1832, and moved with her husband to Wayne county, Michigan, in 1836. They settled in Watertown. She was devoted to the welfare of those around her.

Forman

Riverside

By Mrs. Abbie E. Dill

Aged Woman Hurt in Fall

Mary Forman Davison, past 80 years of age, who has lived alone on Bridge Street, north, for a number of years, fell off her back steps Friday morning injuring her side, arm and shoulder and rendering her nearly helpless. Mesdames Franc Mann and Kate Gillett were on their way home from doing some shopping, and when near Pete Halterman's home, they heard some one uttering a plaintive "Oh, Dear—Oh Dear." They discovered Mrs. Davison trying to reach her home. She said that in unloading the wood that was taken to her house the day before the man had broken the steps and this was the cause of her fall. After the ladies had got her to her home, a doctor and neighbors were called Saturday on account of her helpless condition and being a town charge for number of years she was taken to the County house where she will receive care during her remaining years. She has been a resident of Dewitt village since young womanhood. In former years she was a story writer, and also composed a number of Pioneer selections in verse form.

Clint. Ind. Mar 2, 1882 FORMAN

Another Pioneer Gone.

Mrs. Catharine Forman of DeWitt, wife of Samuel Forman, one of the oldest of the pioneers of Clinton county, died on Thursday morning last. She was born in Huntingdon county, New Jersey, in 1814, and removed to Seneca county, New York, in 1816. She was married to Samuel Forman, in Seneca county, Sept. 20, 1832. Immediately after they removed to Wayne county, Mich., and in the fall of 1836 they removed to Watertown, Clinton county. At this time the present DeWitt village contained but one family, that of Capt. Scott, who had a small clearing. Mr. Forman had to cut his own road in order to reach Watertown. After doing their share of pioneer work, and old age coming on, they removed to DeWitt village ten years ago, where Mrs. Forman died, as stated above. She was the mother of four children, James A. Forman of Maple Rapids, Mrs. Jane Workman and Mrs. Alma Emery, both of Watertown, and Mrs. Adeline Brown of Pueblo, Colorado. She was a loving mother, devoted to the welfare of those around her, and above all led an active Christian life.

DEAD.

Forman

C.R. Dec. 15, 1898

OBITUARY.

Samuel Forman, an old pioneer, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. Emory, in Dewitt village Saturday, December 14th, aged 92 years. The funeral was held Sunday, the 11th, at the M. E. church and the remains interred in the cemetery by the side of his wife, the Rev. Buell officiating. Mr. Samuel Forman was born in Peekskill, Westchester county, New York, February 18, 1806. In 1827 he came to Washtenaw county, Michigan. After a short stay in Michigan he returned to New York state, where in 1832 he married Miss Catherine Roberts of Seneca county, when they returned to Wayne county, Michigan. In 1836 they moved to Dewitt where he followed his trade of blacksmith. After a few years he bought some land three and one-half miles west of Dewitt village and went to farming and blacksmithing. In 1872, finding old age coming on, they sold their farm and moved to Dewitt to end their days. His wife died several years ago. He leaves one son, James Forman, of Denver, Colorado, and three daughters, Mrs. Jane Workman, of Watertown, Mrs. Adaline Brown of Colorado, and Mrs. Anna Emory, of Dewitt, with whom he lived at the time of his death.

FORMAN

2

Sept. 20, 1923 p 2.

THE CLINTON COUNTY R

Dewitt and Vicinity

Riverside

By Mrs. Abbie E. Dill

Sketch of Mary Cline Davison
Mary Olivia Forman, only child of William and Marion Forman, was born Sept. 22, 1834 in Milford, Oakland county, Michigan. After her father's death, she and her mother, after residing in Lansing a number of years moved to St. Johns the second year after it became county seat of Clinton county, residing there until November 9, 1864, when they moved to Dewitt residing on the property now owned by Mrs. Grace Coon on the corner of Main and Scott's streets. Miss Forman received her education in the schools in Milford and Lansing. In her early womanhood she was united to a Mr. Cline. To this union one son was born, who died in infancy. Thursday evening, Dec. 29, 1892, she was again united in marriage to Joel Davison of Clare county. The following evening,

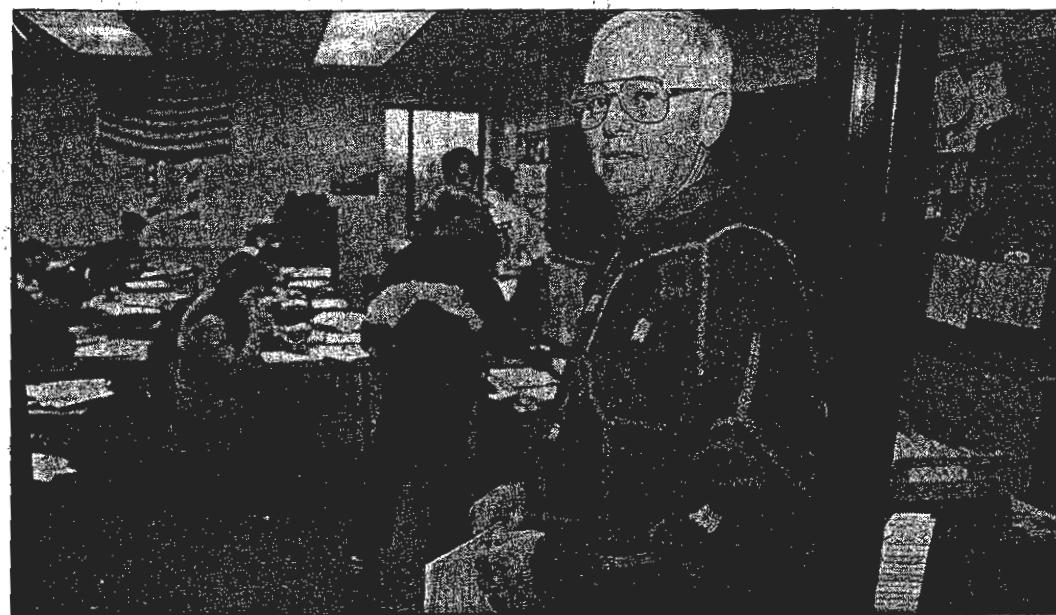
Dec. 30, 1892, her mother who had been a helpless invalid for a number of years passed away aged 85 years. During the earlier years of their residence in Dewitt Mrs. Forman and her daughter carried on both a dressmaking and millinery business. Mrs. Davison's husband died a few years ago and since then she has resided alone in her home on Bridge street south, until a year ago on account of her feeble health and old age and no near relatives she was taken to the county farm, where she passed away on Saturday, Sept. 15, 1923, aged nearly 89 years. Mrs. Davison was a writer of both prose and poetry, especially of children's stories, a work she followed quite extensively until recent years. Many of her pioneer productions are preserved with other works for the pioneer book. Mrs. Davison was a member of the Clinton County Pioneer society and a charter member of the W. R. C. of Dewitt. Her funeral was held Monday afternoon, Sept. 17, at the M. E. church, Rev. Geo. Wahl officiating. Mrs. Josie McLouth and Mrs. Minnie Moon furnished the singing with Mrs. Merle Kraas at the piano. Pall bearers, Hudson Gillett, Jerome Dills, Scott Pike, and Thomas Baldwin. Interment in Dewitt cemetery.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank the friends for the many beautiful flowers and their kindness shown at the funeral and burial of Mrs. Davison.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilcox and family.

Lansing State Journal

IN SCHOOL



CHRIS HOLMES/Lansing State Journal

Leaving the classroom: Beagle Middle School social science teacher Roger Foster is one of 16 educators who will retire from the Grand Ledge School District this year in an early retirement plan.

Foster

10/3/65

Fountain



MRS. LARRY T. FOUNTAIN

Newly Wed Larry Fountains Will Make Home in Lansing

DeWITT — Mr. and Mrs. Larry T. Fountain, who were married Saturday afternoon in the Valley Farms Baptist Church, will live at 710 N. Chestnut St., Lansing.

Formerly Miss Julie Ann Markham, the bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Markham of DeWitt. Mr. and Mrs. Orley J. Fountain of DeWitt are parents of the bridegroom.

Lace appliques distinguished the bride's silk taffeta gown which featured long sleeves, a sheath skirt and a chapel train.

Miss Margaret Hawe of Lansing, the bride's attendant, wore a floor-length sheath gown designed with an emerald green bodice and mint green skirt.

Ronald K. Grant served as best man. Ushering were Steven C. Markham of DeWitt, brother of the bride.

A reception followed in the

DeWitt Memorial Building. The newlyweds are honeymooning in northern Michigan.

Freeman

MRS. P. R. FREEMAN

AN EARLY RESIDENT OF CLINTON COUNTY DIED IN FLORIDA.

The late Mrs. P. R. Freeman, whose maiden name was Miss Abigail M. Cook, was born in Richmond township, Livingston county, N. Y., May 28, 1827.

In the year 1841 she came with her parents to Riley township, Clinton county. They located on a part of the farm now owned by her foster son, D. S. Pike and A. B. Cook her brother, the only survivor of a family of nine brothers and sisters.

In March 1845, she was married to Phineas R. Freeman. They lived to celebrate their golden wedding which took place at Orange, Florida, where they have owned a home since 1887 and have passed the winters there since 1855 returning to their Michigan home summers.

At the beginning of the Civil war her husband enlisted in the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. As the regiment passed through St. Johns from Grand Rapids enroute to St. Louis, Mo., she surprised her husband by entering the car and going on to St. Louis with him and acted as army cook during the winter. But as the troops moved farther south she was not allowed to accompany them and returned to her home in Michigan.

She was a worthy member of Charles T. Foster, W. R. C, also a charter member of Olive branch No. 43. Her husband passed away November 23, 1898, at their summer home in Lansing. She departed this life December 26, at Orange Heights, Florida, after an illness of five days.

Her funeral was held at the home of D. S. Pike Sunday afternoon, January 2, Rev. H. B. Bard of Lansing officiating. The burial was in DeWitt cemetery beside her husband. She was a strong believer in universal salvation. She believed that in God's own good time the whole world would be in unison and that love would preside through all and over all.

Letters bring back the reality of Civil War

By KEN COIN

5-31-93

For the purposes of understanding what the men and women of DeWitt faced during the war the collection of Cook family letters are outstanding. The principles in these correspondence are Abigail (Cook) Freeman and her husband Phineas (a Corporal in Co. B, 3rd Mich. Cav.), her younger brother William H.H. Cook (a private in the same outfit) and their older brother George Cook, who served as a musician in a New York regiment. Added to this are cameo appearances by many other DeWitt soldiers and, of course, the family members here in DeWitt. Luckily for all of us, most of the originals of these 100 or so letters were turned over to the State Archives many years ago by the Cutler family and are available for researchers.

As a fitting Memorial Day tribute, the following lines are taken from these letters addressing the death of William "Henry" Cook in New Madrid, MO., to family here in DeWitt:

March 28, 1862.

I wrote a few lines to you on the 24th starting to tell you of the death of brother Henry, which was hard news for me to write. It seems as though it could not be so, but, O how I miss him. But we must submit to it. Our loss is his gain. He was buried by the side of four others from our regiment on the farm of Acker. I would of sent him home if I could but I had no money...

We were both taken sick at the same time but Henry had no appetite. He could not eat scarcely anything. I did not think he was dangerously sick until the night before he died.

...About one hour before he died I asked him if he knew me. He said yes. I asked him who it was. He said "Phineas" but he was so low...he wanted I should sit down by the side of him.

(Phineas R. Freeman)

From DeWitt the news was sent to older brother George whose outfit was then stationed at Alexandria, VA.

April 15, 1862

O, brother the sad intelligence that it conveyed to me, the death of our loved brother Henry. Our youngest brother, I can hardly realize that he is gone, poor boy. He was found a lonely grave far from his home but he was passed through the dark valley of death to which we are all hastening...I am glad that Phineas was with him for I know that he would do everything for him that could be done.

(George H. Cook)

I have long had a fascination with Civil War era letters; the personal observation exchanged between soldiers (and women like DeWitt's Abbie Freeman who went off to war with her husband) and those left at the homefront. Few of the letters I've read deal much with actual battles, which is just as well. Terms like brigade, column and out-flank tend to turn my mind to tapioca.

It's the feelings expressed of what was happening that interest me. I want to know what they were experiencing and how they managed to cope. I want to know what they thought they were a part of — what did they think this war was all about and what were they willing to do to meet those objectives.

Recently, Eleanor McKinney shared with me two letters written by her great-grandfather during the war. Shubael Vincent was a hospital steward in Co. G, 23rd Mich. Infantry. Just prior to enlisting he moved from Riley Township to DeWitt where he bought a home for his family on North Franklin street. His wife Jane would wait out the war from this home with their children. To break up the loneliness she took comfort with her next-door neighbor,

Mrs. George Anderson, whose husband too had gone off to war in Co. C of the same regiment.

Shubael had been a farmer and cooper (barrel and bucket maker) by trade and a minister by desire. He was licensed by the Methodist Episcopal Church to preach in 1858 and was renewed just prior to his entering the war. The following are excerpts from his letters home:

Camp Saganaw Sep 10th /62

Dear Wife

We have all arrived at camp safe and sound and was welcomed by all in the hospital. All the boys of DeWitt are doing (well) I believe I do not design to wright much of a lett this time from the fact I cannot give you my noos. Keep good hart. Do not mourn or feel bad on account of me. I was glad to get home agen I assure you. Do not think that I am lossing my attachment to my own family, it is just as strong as ever. Yes stronger for it is this that impells me on for all that is don four our country is being don for our families. Hence, it is for you and I wish you wood look at it in this, and if you should look at it in this lite you can but feel right. O if I could persuade you to think that it was right that I was hear and that it was rong even to wish me home I should feel happy. Tell Mrs. Anderson that her man is coming home as soon as he can. If any do inquire about any of the boys tell them the boys are well. Be submissive, trust the Lord and he will direct your steps. Ade me by your prayers also and so I shall remain yours forever.

Shubael Vincen

Bowling Green Kty Jan 7th /63

I feel as though if permitted to return home in safety I shal be more than compensated for all my sufferings in the army. I know it is but a debt I owe my country and I mean to do all my duty faithfully. I have much to do and as a general thing I have abundant strength to do it. I enlisted to work with all the power I had and am going to do it wile I have strength. We still have a great deal of sickness in the camp. Enysipelas prevails to a considerable extent and is quite fatal. Many have died of it already. You asked me whether the men in the hospital

were left to die without being converted. I answer that many of them die as they live; no hope in Christ but while I was reading you letters last night and before I got through a messenger came to me requesting me to come immediately to hospital No. 2 to see a man under deep concern of mind. I went and talked and prayed with him and left him hoping in God. Others say they mean to stop swearing so you see the Spirit is at work amongst our soldiers. Our captain told me that there had bin several conversions and many more were inquiring the way to Zion.

The Companies are divided into squads and in some of those squads they have morning and evening devotion. In fact there has bin a great reform in our camp for which I am truly thankful. John Ammerman has also met with a change. Please inform his Mother the first opportunity. My chance for doing much good to the souls of men is limited.

You wanted to know about the burying of the dead. Every man dying at the hospital is put in a coffin and buried, generally in the cloths in which he dyes.

Shubael continued ministering to the health and soul of the wounded soldiers at Bowling Green for nearly a full year after this last letter. Then, the sickness that surrounded him overtook him. He died and was buried there in a military cemetery in, like he said, "the clothes in which he dyes." Like so many DeWitt area men, there is no monument to him in the DeWitt cemetery.

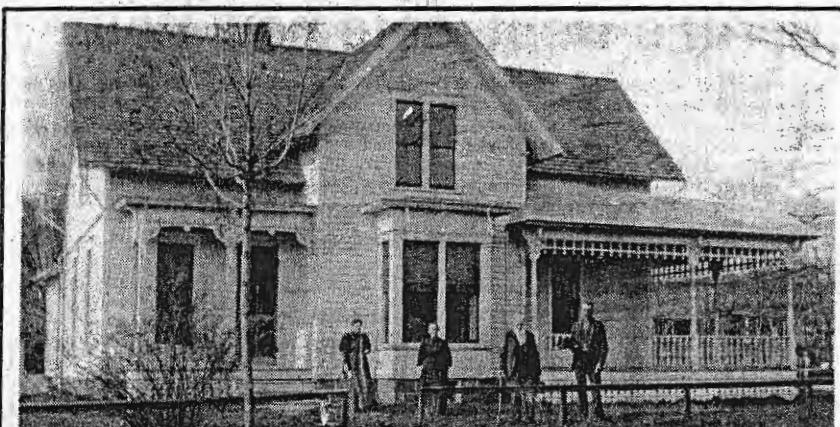
If his widow Jane sought in her next-door neighbor, Mrs. Anderson had little to give. Her husband George was in a rebel prison camp called, ironically, "Andersonville". He died of starvation two days after Christmas in 1864. In later years, when the war had become but a bad memory for most of the participants, the DeWitt survivors named their veterans' post in Anderson's memory.

As to Jane Vincent's loss, the government set an amount. She would receive a widow's pension of \$12 per month until her death in 1908.

Ken Coin is a resident of DeWitt and the area's primary historian.

Free man

6-DeWitt-Bath Review/April 5, 1993



THE RETIREMENT HOME OF DEWITT'S HUSBAND AND WIFE CIVIL WAR VETERANS — Phineas and Abigail (Cook) Freeman. The house, looking much the same, still stands at the southeast corner of Maple and Capitol in Lansing. After their return to DeWitt from the war, the Freemans' took over a portion of the Cook homestead on Chadwick road. In the 1880's they "downsized" and retired to this smaller house in Lansing and sold their farm to their foster son David Scott Pike and his wife (their niece) Viola (Cook) Pike. The Freemans also had a winter home in Orange Heights, Florida. Pictured here, (l. to r.) "Ola" Pike, "Abby" Freeman, Phineas Freeman and "Scott" Pike. Ca. 1890. John Black, Photographer. Photo courtesy of Bonnie (Cutler) Ward.

Coin shares letter from wife who saw Civil War firsthand

By KEN COIN

In the earliest years of the Civil War many DeWitt men, upon enlisting in the army, were sent to Camp Anderson in Grand Rapids for basic training. When the time came for the third Michigan Cavalry to be sent south for active duty they were transported by train to New Madrid, Missouri. Railroading in Michigan at this time being still in its infancy, to go southwest meant first having to go east to Owosso then south, then west.

On board the troop train that cold November day was Phineas Freeman and his young brother-in-law William Henry Harrison Cook. Knowing their boys were to be coming through St. Johns the Cook family went to the St. Johns depot to say their quick farewells and cheer them on. But Abigail Cook, recently Mrs. Phineas Freeman, and young Henry's older sister, had more elaborate plans. She brought with her a small carpetbag stuffed with essentials and just as the train began pulling away from the platform she pulled the bag out from beneath the seat of the buckboard and made a mad dash for the train and her beloved husband.

As her family stood there, their mouths agape, she waved them farewell and blew kisses as the train picked-up speed. They did not hear from her until the following letter arrived at the DeWitt post office:

Camp Benton, Dec. 5, 1861
Dear Father, Brother and Sister,

I rather think you would like to hear from one that is in the land of cotton. I am writing on a camp kettle, my desk is the camp chest.

We arrived in camp Sunday morning and it is the first chance I have had to write and it is after nine.

We left St. Johns Thursday night, Saturday night in St. Louis. Quite a distance from home. Had a very good journey. Citizens all through treated the soldiers first rate. At Owosso they had a supper of crackers and cheese — coffee and bier at 11 p.m. in Detroit — breakfast at Adrian. At White Pigeon we saw a hundred soldiers. At Elkhart the ladies treated with all they could, wished and cheered for the Union to a man.

It does not seem as if I was seven hundred miles from home in the land of Secesh. Their regiments left camp yesterday and there are twenty thousand here now, it is a grand sight to see them out on dress parade.

I enjoy myself first rate so far but wouldn't be a soldier. There are two ladies in (the) company besides myself, one of them is first rate.

Father, I hope this will find you well. I would like to see you but I am a great ways from home. But you will think of me and not blame me for going with Phineas will you? For he is near and dear to me. Write to me Father, won't you?

.....I must bid good night and go to my bunk and rest my weary self and may God bless you all with health and prosperity.

AMF

Several of Abby's letters from the war still survive and they offer a good commentary of the events and a rare perspect from a woman's point of view. Her husband being an officer, she was allowed to remain with his regiment for quite some time. But, when the third Michigan Cavalry was ordered to the deep south she was not allowed to accompany them and sadly returned to DeWitt.

Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's primary historian.

Mrs. P. R. Freeman

Obituary of Mrs. P. R. Freeman written by her neice, Mrs. Estella Dills.

Miss Abigail M. Cook was born in Richmond Township, Livingston county, N.Y., May 28, 1827. In the year 1841 she came with her parents to Riley, Clinton county, Mich. They located on a part of the farm now owned by D. S. Pike, her foster son, and A. B. Cook, her brother, the only survivor of a family of nine brothers and sisters.

In March, 1845 she married Phinias R. Freeman. They lived to celebrate their golden wedding which took place at Orange Heights, Florida, where they have owned a home since 1887 and have passed the winters since 1885, returning to their Michigan home summers.

At the beginning of the civil war her husband enlisted in the 3rd Mich. cavalry. As the regiment passed through St. Johns from Grand Rapids enroute for St. Louis, Mo., she surprised her husband by entering the car and going on to St. Louis with him and acted as army cook during the winter, but as the troops moved farther she was not allowed to accompany them so returned to her Riley home. She was a worthy member of Charles T. Foster W. R. C. Also a charter member of Olive Grange No. 358.

Her husband passed to the higher life November 23, 1898, at their home in Lansing. Our beloved sister and aunt departed this life December 26, 1903, at Orange Heights, Florida, after an illness of five days.

-Poem-

Her funeral was held at the home of D. S. Pike in Riley, Sunday p.m., Rev. H. B. Bard, of Lansing, officiating. The burial was at DeWitt cemetery beside her husband.

She was a strong believer in Universal Salvation. She believed that in God's own good time the whole world would be in unison and that love would prevail and preside over all. Her faith was strong in the following beautiful lines of Whittier.

"I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air,
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care."

Freeman

Phinias R. Freeman, who died Wednesday afternoon at his home in Lansing, was well known in this vicinity. Mr. Freeman had been a confirmed invalid for many years, but his final illness lasted five weeks. The deceased was born in Chautauqua, N.Y., March 18, 1822, and he came to Michigan, locating near the city of Lansing, the same year the late Hon. D. L. Case emigrated to Lansing. Mr. Freeman took up the land now known as the Lansing Farm, where he resided for a number of years. In 1845 he was married to Abigail Cook of Riley, and she survives him. At the begining of the war he enlisted in the third Michigan Cavalry, but after being in the prison at Macon, Ga., for considerable time his health failed and he was honorably discharged. He was at one time a member of Anderson Post G. A. R., of DeWitt. In the early days of Lansing, Mr. Freeman ran a grocery store on Center street, North Lansing, he also assisted in raising the first building ever put up in the city, a saw mill, at the foot of Maple street across the river from the Hart mill. For several years Mr. Freeman and wife have spent a greater part of their time at Orange Heights, Fla. Scott Pike, of Riley is a foster son of the deceased. Mr. Freeman has been a member of the Universalist church at Lansing since 1858.

Freeman

**CAKE TO ST. JOHNS FROM LAINGS-
BURG ABOUT A YEAR AGO.**

Richard Freeman passed away at his home on Trowbridge street yesterday morning about half past nine o'clock. For the past three years he has had heart trouble, and was taken quite seriously ill last spring while visiting his daughter in Savana, New York. Since his return to St. Johns his health has failed and a severe hemorrhage relieved him of his suffering. He was born in Bath, New York, October 18, 1829, and had just passed his seventy-fourth birthday. In 1853 he was united in marriage to Elvira Gillett, who died eight years later. They had three children, only one of whom survives, Mrs. Ida Harvey of Savana, New York, who was with her father during his last illness. In 1876 Mr. Freeman moved to Michigan and settled on a farm in Olive township, Clinton county. He was again married April 20, 1881, this time to Mrs. Alice Pratt of Northville, who had one daughter, Mrs. Nellie McIntyre. To them was born one daughter, Blanche. Five years ago last spring they removed to Laingsburg, where they resided until about a year ago, when they removed to St. Johns.

The funeral will be held at the home Saturday afternoon at two o'clock, Rev. R. S. McGregor officiating. The interment will be made in St. Johns cemetery. The deceased was survived by his wife and three daughters.

GOD LOVES YOU AND I DO TOO

Frees

R.D.F.

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Reva D. Frees

1. When your friend is troub - led and you long to cheer, When And a loved one's to
 2. When you see a stran - ger who is you're deep in with, And you stop want
 3. When your day is hap - py and and you're filled joy, to to

lone help share - ly him and with needs kind some some word girl - one and near, When If Make your he the neigh bor's the you bur - den you would
 help with with kind some word girl and or deed; boy, When Make your he the neigh bor's the you rea - son why you match the

like help him to on life's share, Here are words to help you tell him you care:
 help hap - py song way, Here is how act ans em - pha - this is the what song you you say:
 hap - py song bring Let is your to ions - pha - size the song you you sing:

MY WAYS
are not like
YOUR WAYS

Words and music by

Reva D. Frees

BOX
FILE
LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters: He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake... as though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou prepareth a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over... Sure is goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever...

Eva French
Burcham Hills, East Lansing

BORN
May 19, 1898
Bath, Michigan

DIED
June 24, 1983
East Lansing, Michigan

SERVICES HELD AT
Ball-Dunn Chapel
Tuesday, June 28, 1983
2:30 P.M.

OFFICIATING
Rev. William J. McKeon
St. James Catholic Church

MUSIC
Mrs. Margaret E. Welsh — Organist

INTERMENT
Deepdale Memorial Park

CASKET BEARERS
John D. Bergeon William E. Parsons
Rolland J. Bergeon Donald W. Parsons
Robert L. Bergeon Kevin McDonald

French

MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1948

4-H Dress Revue Queen



MARGARET FUERSTENAU

DeWitt Girl Chosen Miss Michigan 4-H

Daughter of School Superintendent
Wins Title at Dress Revue

By DICK FRAZIER
(Journal Farm Editor)

The 4-H dress revue, the live-stock auction, the honoring of 134 club leaders with long service records, and the concert of the WJR studio orchestra were things of the past at the State 4-H club show at Michigan State college Friday as the 1,500 members prepared to pick up their exhibits and return to their respective homes.

The 33rd annual show was scheduled to close at 3 p. m.

Lansing area delegates to the show — and their leaders — were prominent in Thursday's activities, which were climaxed in the evening with the annual 4-H dress revue.

Named "Miss Michigan 4-H" at the close of the style show was pretty 16-year-old Margaret Fuerstenau, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fuerstenau, superintendent of DeWitt public schools. Miss Fuerstenau — green-eyed, brown-haired and slightly freckle-nosed — won the praises of the judges as she strode graciously across the stage in an evening gown of plaid taffeta. She took every stitch on the gown herself.

As a reward for being chosen the No. 1 4-H seamstress in Michigan, Miss Fuerstenau was awarded a trip to Chicago this fall to compete in the national 4-H dress revue with all expenses paid.

Fuerstenau

Fuerstenau

Bride-To-Be



MISS MARGARET ELLEN
FUERSTENAU

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Fuerstenau of DeWitt announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret Ellen to Donald Frederick Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Nelson of Indian Hills. The bride-elect was graduated from Michigan State College where she was affiliated with Chi Omega. She is now teaching at Wyandotte.

Her fiance was graduated and received his Master's Degree from the University of Michigan. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Psi Upsilon fraternity. He is now studying for his doctor's degree in Physics at the University of Michigan.

Teacher, Superintendent to Be Honored at DeWitt

Fuerstenau

DeWitt school board members, teachers and citizens, many of whom are former students of DeWitt school superintendent Clarence H. Fuerstenau and teacher Loretta Sharp, will gather at the high school gym at 2 p.m. Sunday to pay homage to these two highly respected educators, who have between them a total of 60 years service to DeWitt schools.

The DeWitt board of education decided May 1 that this would be an appropriate time to honor Superintendent Fuerstenau, who will complete his 35th year at DeWitt, and Mrs Sharp, who is finishing her 25th year. Mrs Virgil Zeeb, treasurer of the board, arranged the three-hour program with the help of the other board members' wives.

Born in Memphis, Mich., Fuerstenau attended country schools and was graduated from Richmond high school in 1919. He started teaching at DeWitt in 1923 after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and business education from Albion College.

* * *

After five years as a 9th and 10th grade teacher and head of the 10-grade school, he went to Laingsburg, where he was superintendent three years. Fuerstenau taught night school in Flint one year after leaving Laingsburg, returning to DeWitt in 1932 to take over his present job.



LORETTA SHARP



CLARENCE H. FUERSTENAU

The superintendent continued his education, receiving a Master of Arts degree in economics and business administration from MSU in 1944. He was married in 1926 to the former Beatrice Bisbing of Flint.

The Fuerstenaus have two daughters, Mrs Duane (Barbara) Davis of St. Johns and Mrs Donald (Margaret) Nelson of Summit, N. J., and a son, William, married to the former Patricia Sowers of Farmington, now living in Trenton, N. J. William is attending Princeton Theological seminary. There are also six grandchildren in the family.

FUERSTENAU IS active in professional organizations and community affairs. He is a charter member of the DeWitt Lions club and belongs to the Masons and the Hi-12 club of Lansing. He served two terms on the DeWitt village council. He and Mrs Fuerstenau attend the First Presbyterian church in Lansing.

Mrs Sharp was born in Gratiot county, where she attended country schools and was graduated from Alma high school. After her marriage to LaVern Sharp and the birth of her daughter, Marjorie, she enrolled in County Normal at Ithaca.

She returned to her own country school for her first teaching assignment. She taught there three years, meanwhile attending Ferris Institute and Central Michigan University until she obtained her Life Teaching certificate.

* * *

MRS SHARP then went to Wheeler, Mich., where she taught four years and was principal two years. She came to DeWitt in 1937.

She continued her education at CMU, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree. In addition to her classroom duties, Mrs Sharp has conducted the girls glee club for the past 20 years.

Her daughter married Richard Brainerd of Bath. They have three children. Mrs Sharp attends DeWitt Community church.

Fuerstenau

DeWitt

Mrs Leo Hanson
Telephone 669-9384

Sept. 8 '65

Dinner honors

C. Fuerstenau

DeWITT— The DeWitt Masonic Lodge No. 272 honored Clarence H. Fuerstenau at a testimonial dinner Saturday night at the Temple.

Fuerstenau retired, after serving the lodge, as secretary for 32 years.

The main speaker of the evening was Fred Chase, secretary of the Michigan House of Representatives. Archie Moore presented Fuerstenau with a 35 mm slide projector from the group.

Special guests were Mrs Fuerstenau; their son-in-law and daughter, Mr and Mrs Duane Davis of St. Johns, and past grand master, Rex Sackett.

Fuerstenau served his Lodge as master in 1926. He was principal of DeWitt High School from 1923 to 28 when he went to Laingsburg as principal from 1928 to 31. He taught in Flint from 1931 to 32 and returned to DeWitt as superintendent of schools, a position that he has held since.

DeWitt honors Fuerstenau

BY SHEILA SCHIMPF
Journal Correspondent

DeWITT — Clarence H. Fuerstenau, who was superintendent of schools for 43 years, is the 1984 Citizen of the Year.

Fuerstenau, 82, will be honored at a dinner on Mayor Exchange Day, May 21.

"I was surprised," Fuerstenau said. "I didn't expect it. I didn't think they'd pick an old fellow like me."

Fuerstenau divides his time between his house on Wilson and a trailer park in Florida. He came to DeWitt after graduating from Albion College in 1923 and took the superintendent's job in the 10-grade, four-teacher school.



Fuerstenau

In 1929 he wanted experience in a 12-grade system, and became superintendent in Laingsburg. After three years, he came back to DeWitt because the community wanted him, he said.

This year's mayor exchange program is with Laingsburg, DeWitt Mayor Lynn Thayer said Thursday.

Thayer last week reappointed Fuerstenau to a five-year term on the DeWitt Cemetery Board.

Thayer said Fuerstenau, who was appointed by a citizen committee, was a good choice for the award. The award has been given annually for three years to a citizen who has contributed significantly to the betterment of the community. The first two awards went to Bertha Lenneman and Arthur Newman.

Fuerstenau and his wife Beatrice have three children. He has been active with the DeWitt Lions, Masonic Lodge and the Boy Scouts. He served two terms on the Village Council.

Fuerstenau

Clarence H. Fuerstenau

Clarence H. Fuerstenau, 87, of 117 Wilson St., DeWitt, died on March 3, 1989, at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, Fla.

Mr. Fuerstenau was born near Memphis on March 21, 1901. He lived in DeWitt for 66 years and had spent the past 26 winters in Bradenton, Fla.

He graduated from Richmond High School in 1919, from Albion College in 1923, and received his master's degree from Michigan State University in 1944.

He was superintendent of DeWitt Schools from 1923-1928. He was superintendent of the Laingsburg School System from 1928-1930, and then returned to the DeWitt School System where he was superintendent from 1931-1966.

He married Beatrice Bisbing in August of 1926. She preceded him in death in April of 1985.

Mr. Fuerstenau was past Worshipful Master of DeWitt Lodge No. 272 F&AM and past Patron of DeWitt Chapter No. 30 Order of Eastern Star. He was a member of the Capitol City Hi-Twelve of Lansing and Bradenton, Fla., a member of the Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel, a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lansing, and had served on the DeWitt Village Council and the DeWitt Cemetery Board.

He is survived by one son, William of Detroit; two daughters, Barbara Foster of Pompeii and Margaret Nelson of Worcester, MA; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were April 7 at Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel, DeWitt.

Contributions may be made to the DeWitt Public Schools Foundation, 608 Wilson, DeWitt, MI 48820 in memory of Mr. Fuerstenau.

Furgason's 50th wedding anniversary captured on film

Lived in the old Williams home at the corner of Washington and Scott

By KEN COIN

Several years ago I was fortunate enough to purchase a large quantity of vintage photographs of an old DeWitt family from a St. Johns antiques dealer.

Before donating them to the DeWitt Library, I did a little detective work and found that they had once belonged to Floyd and Olive (Averill) Furgason who lived in DeWitt many years ago.

Some were of easily recognizable scenes but most, such as the one pictured here, were group pictures, family pictures.

I did my best to put names to the old faces but a few, including this one, eluded me. I knew that the older couple seated in the center of the picture were James and Ellen (Keeney) Furgason; but the other folks? Ellen's sporting a sizable corsage so I figured it was some special occasion.

Well, I hadn't done anything further with the photographs for several years when the story behind this picture found me. It's true what they say: "The easiest way to find something is to stop looking for it."

I was recently at the Library of Michigan going through reels of microfilmed county newspapers, looking for something else completely, when I spotted a write-up regarding a 50th wedding anniversary celebration of the Furgasons.

I discovered this picture was taken on that occasion and includes Ellen's siblings; Carrie (Keeney) Groger, Joseph, James, Nicholas, Alanson and Edward Keeney (plus a few sister-in-laws to round it out). Besides being her 50th anniversary, the day was also Ellen's 72nd birthday.

The Furgasons were married in 1864 following James' return from the Civil War. They lived for a time near Ellen's family homestead at Cambridge, Lenawee county and in 1880 came to South Riley where several of Ellen's siblings had previously migrated.

By 1885, medical problems resulting from his war service forced James' to retire from farming and the couple moved to DeWitt.



A meeting of the Keeney Family - The 50th wedding anniversary of James and Ellen (Keeney) Furgason, taken at the Furgason home at 215 S. Scott St., August 21, 1914.

Photographer unknown, courtesy of the DeWitt Public Library.

They purchased the old Williams home at the corner of Washington and Scott (see Feb. 27, 1995) where they remained until their deaths in 1915.

While I could find no one living who remembered James and Ellen Furgason, the names of their eight children and spouses should ring familiar with some of our older residents: Finis (married Francis McArthur and Lola Miller), Feron (married Grace Baldwin), Floyd (married Olive Averill), Effie Ellen (Mrs. Clark Lankton), Edith (Mrs. Clarence Lankton), Ettie (Mrs. Cash Baldwin), Charles and Elsie (the later two died young).

Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's primary historian.

1
10/29/95
10/29/95
10/29/95

Furl

GAGE-FURL

Arthur J. Gage of Bingham and Miss Edna C. Furl of Olive were united in marriage New Year's morning, at 8 o'clock, the ceremony taking place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Furl, in the presence of the immediate families only. A. H. West of the United Brethren church was the officiating clergyman.

After a short wedding trip to Carson City and other Michigan points Mr. and Mrs. Gage will reside in Bingham.