

Historic DeWitt

By Kenneth Coin

The following essay was written by Agnes Pike Steinhardt, an early compiler of DeWitt area history and herself a Knapp family descendent.

Samuel Knapp, youngest child of Samuel and Polly (Hines) Knapp, was born in Richmond Township, Ontario Co., New York, April 12, 1810.

Lydia Maracong, eldest child of Joseph and Polly (Bowers) Maracong, was born in Richmond Township, Ontario Co., New York, April 16, 1818.

They were married by Oliver Adams, justice of the peace, at Honeoye, New York, Sept. 26, 1833. Soon after their marriage they came to Michigan to visit Samuel's sister, Lovina ... who had come to Michigan in 1832, locating in Washtenaw County. Samuel and Lydia returned to New York where they lived until the fall of 1843 when, with five children, they again came to Michigan to make a home. They first settled in the town of Atlas, Genesee county.

In April 1845, they came to Clinton County to the home of Samuel's sister, Lovina, who with her husband (Atwell Simmons) and two children had emigrated from Washtenaw County ... in 1836. Samuel had purchased 10 acres of land of his brother-in-law, Atwell, located in section 30 of Oliver Township. Upon this land he erected a log cabin. In the fall of 1845, Samuel moved his family into their new home.

On May 3, 1852, Samuel purchased 80 acres of land located in the southwest quarter of section 19 in Oliver Township of Levi Brown. He resold the old 10 acres to Atwell Simmons and built a good-sized square house on the newly-acquired farm. This house was constructed of logs with a large fireplace where the cooking and baking were done in pioneer style. Later, a lean-to was added to the entire length of the east side of the house, making a kitchen and bedroom. (This homestead was located at the present corner of Airport and Lehman roads).

In this home were born to Samuel and Lydia Knapp, two sons and a daughter making it a family of 11 children. But, sooner or later home ties must be broken.

During the Civil War, John, at the age of 25, bade his parents, sisters, and brothers goodbye and went out in answer to his country's call, never to return. He died at Bowling Green, Ken., in March of 1863.

From this home too, three daughters were carried to their last resting place. Sarah died of paralysis in March of 1862. Polly met a sad fate. She rode to DeWitt with a friend whose name was George Cook of Gratiot County. While he attended some errand, Polly was left sitting in the carriage. The horses became frightened and ran. Not having a hold on the reins, Polly could do nothing. When at the foot of the grade north of town (in front of the Post Office on Bridge Street) she climbed over the seat and jumped from the back of the carriage striking her head against a large stone. She died soon afterwards, Aug. 4, 1864, aged 19 years. Seventeen days later, Aug. 21, Mary, who had been stricken with diphtheria, passed away at the age of nine years.

In 1871 or '72 a new frame house replaced the log structure. The builder was John Madden. This house continued to be the home of Samuel and Lydia Knapp during the remainder of their lives.

During the earliest years, this couple endured many hardships of pioneer life and experienced many of the joys and sorrows which come to those who bravely strive to make a home and rear a family in a new land. Their declining years were quiet and peaceful, being cared for by their son, Ira and wife, who lived very near them. Samuel passed away in Dec. of 1894, aged 84 years. Lydia followed him 13 months later at the age of 78. All that was mortal of these noble pioneers was laid to rest in the DeWitt Cemetery beside their children who had preceded them.

Agnes Steinhardt

Jan. 24, 1938

The family of Samuel and Lydia Knapp included: William Henry Harrison Knapp (1836-1931), Huldah Ann Knapp Goodell (1837-1923), John David Knapp (1838-1863), Joseph Barney Knapp (1840-1927), Samuel Mark Knapp (1842-1922), Sarah Ann Knapp (1847-1862), Ira Monroe Knapp (1850-1924), George Washington Knapp (1853-1936), Mary Elizabeth Knapp (1855-1854), and Ezra Frank Knapp (1856-1919).

Knapp

Clinton County Sesquicentennial

Atwell Simmons first settler in Riley Township

Editor's Note: In celebration of the sesquicentennial of Clinton County, the Clinton County News in cooperation with the Clinton County Historical Society and Clinton County Archives will present weekly features about individuals and happenings in Clinton County from years ago.

Following is this week's feature, written by Ken Coin, about Atwell and Lovina (Knapp) Simmons.

By KEN COIN

The first settlement in what would become Riley Township began in the summer of 1836 when Atwell Simmons made a trip from his home in Salem, Washtenaw County to the Scott settlement on the Looking Glass River.

He made the trip with the intentions of surveying the surrounding country side in hopes of locating some favorable governmental land.

His wife had given him explicit instructions that any land he considered for a new home should contain a good sugarbush and be in close proximity to a lake, a throw back to her girlhood days spent near Honeoye Lake in Ontario County, New York.

ATWELL WAS impressed with the land near the "Scotts." The parcels he noted and eventually purchased from the government land office at Kalamazoo on July 30, 1836, lay in Riley and Olive townships.

He was also able to oblige his wife's requirements as Muskrat Lake was but a short distance off and the sugarbush which was on the tract would later gain a reputation as one of the best in southern Clinton County.

Atwell Simmons was born in Bristol, Ontario County, New York on Sept. 26, 1806, the son of Ephriam and Lydia (Bowen) Simmons.

His entire youth was spent in that region and in November of 1830 he was married to Lovina Knapp.

She was born on May 22, 1805, at Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York, the daughter of Samuel and Polly (Hines) Knapp. As a young girl, her parents had moved to Ontario where the remainder of her youth was spent.

IN 1832, Atwell and Lovina moved to Michigan territory, settling in Salem Township. Here, two children were born to them, George Riley and Amina Louisa.

In November of 1836, after proper preparations, the Simmons family set out in a wagon, drawn by oxen, with one cow tied to the rear of the wagon box. Regarding their early life in Riley Township, the following was written early in this century by their great-granddaughter, Agnes (Pike) Steinhardt.



THIS PHOTOGRAPH of the descendants of Atwell and Lovina (Knapp) Simmons was taken in Riley Township in 1900. Standing (left to right): Jerome Dills, Estella (Cook) Dills, George R. Simmons, Elizabeth (Tucker) Simmons, Edna (Randall) Pike, Agnes (Pike) Steinhardt, unknown, unknown, Marc D.L.

Photograph courtesy Faye Hansen Public Library
Cutler, Maud (Randall) Cutler. Seated (left to right): Amori B. Cook, David Scott Pike, Viola (Cook) Pike, Ella (Simmons) Pike, Ida (Cook) Randall, Amina (Simmons) Cook, unknown, Millard Filmore Pike.

Knapp

"The roads were in a terrible condition and the oxen were often mired. After a six day journey they arrived in DeWitt. Leaving his family with William Webb and his wife who lived about a mile west of the Scott settlement, Atwell went on to cut a road through the forest and to build a log cabin for a home.

THIS CABIN was 14 by 16 feet, built without boards or nails. Logs were fastened together with wooden pins. A shake roof was bound on with poles. A puncheon floor of split logs with a space in front of a large fireplace, filled with clay for a hearth and with a quilt hung in place for a door, Atwell brought his family home.

The time required to build this crude cabin was less than two weeks. Later, a door was made of the dry goods box in which their goods were packed while moving.

Here, in an unbroken wilderness, with many wild animals about and only Indians for callers, Atwell began clearing the land. Water was obtained from a spring a short distance west of the cabin.

One day the little boy, George, was sent to the spring with a small pail for water. He soon ran back to the cabin exclaiming, 'I found a little doggie but it ran away and wouldn't play with me.'

THE PARENTS soon learned that it was a wolf instead of a dog.

With no fences, the cattle often strayed some

distance from the cabin. One night, Livona went in search of the cow and became lost in the woods. She found a tree which had fallen and become lodged in another. Climbing this tree she waited the coming of day break. Towards morning she was startled by the sound of a gun. Fearing Indians, she remained quiet until the lights came near. Then, she was overjoyed to find that her husband and another pioneer were searching for her."

Atwell held many positions in local affairs, especially the schools of which he was a generous benefactor. Lovina is credited with giving Riley Township its name. She used the same as a middle name for her son, George Riley Simmons.

Atwell died in Riley Township on Oct. 27, 1881, and Lovina remained there until the time of her death on April 30, 1891.

GEORGE R. SIMMONS who had come to Clinton County with his parents at the age of four, married his former school teacher, Elizabeth Tucker on Dec. 21, 1853.

She had come to the area in 1850 with her parents, Hiram and Lucy (Smith) Tucker. Following their marriage, George and Elizabeth took over part of his parents' homestead, the portion which lay in Olive Township and remained there first in a small abandoned log cabin and later in a fine frame house until

1882 when they retired to DeWitt.

They had two children who lived to maturity, Hiram Atwell Simmons and Ella (Mrs. Millard Filmore Pike).

Amina Louisa Simmons, a mere infant of four months when her parents brought her to Clinton County, married a young man from an adjoining homestead, Amori B. Cook on Sept. 20, 1853.

He had come with his parents, Joseph and Charlotte (Herrick) Cook to Riley in 1840.

His father had, however, made an earlier appearance in 1838 at which time he purchased the land and built a log house. Following their marriage, Amori and Amina occupied a log cabin on the Cook homestead.

Their homes improved with time and they remained on this homestead until their deaths. They had three daughters who grew to adulthood, E. Estella (Mrs. Jerome Dills), Ida O. (Mrs. William Randall), and Viola H. (Mrs. David Scott Pike).

Atwell and Lovina (Knapp) Simmons were both members of a large complex family network which extended back to Puritan New England (perhaps earlier).

INTERMARRIAGE WITHIN the extended family, typical of many early American families, was commonplace: Atwell's father wed, for a second mar-

riage, Lovina's aunt and Lovina's cousin married Atwell's sister.

The practice perpetuated onto Atwell and Lovina's descendants as their grandson, Hiram Simmons, married Atwell's brother's step-daughter, Carrie Swift; their granddaughter, Viola Cook married her own second cousin (and a foster son of her father's sister) David Scott Pike, also a granddaughter of Atwell and Lovina and the practice, perhaps, concluded in the Dec. 13, 1905, marriage of the Simmons' great-grandson, George S. Pike, to another great-grandchild, Edna Randall.

Now, while all of this may sound like a genealogist's nightmare, it is presented here as an example of normal family ties in 19th century Clinton County.

Equally, it is an important concept to remember when researching any aspect of early Clinton County history. The main reason, however, is that people came to this county or relocated within it because of family connections, often hidden by the passing of generations.

Atwell and Lovina Simmons were also important pioneers within their own extended family as the first to come to Clinton County. Many other close and distant branches of the Simmons and Knapp families would follow their lead.



Louina (Knapp) Simmons



Metropolitan Art Gallery.
Dan W. Smith Lansing, Mich.

Knapp

Knapp

OBITUARY.

Died, at her home in Olive Sunday, February 18th, 1900, Ida Hale Knapp, wife of Samuel Knapp. She was born in Bingham township, Clinton county, Mich., August 3rd 1852. She was married to S. M. Knapp of Olive township, September 29th, 1877, and has ever since been a resident of Olive. Three children were born to them, but all died in infancy. Her health has been very poor for several years from a complication of diseases. She leaves a husband, an adopted daughter, father, mother, brother and sisters. Her funeral was held at her late home Tuesday, February 20, 1900. Interment in Dewitt cemetery.

Oh these parting scenes will end
Some sweet day bye and bye,
We shall gather friend with friend,
Some sweet day bye and bye,
There before our Father's throne
When the mists and clouds have flown
We shall know as we are known
Some sweet day bye and bye.

KNAPP

Died, at her home in Riley Monday, Dec. 24, 1894, after great suffering from rheumatic and cancerous affection, Lucy W., wife of J. B. Knapp. Lucy W. Bond was born in Port Clinton, Ottawa Co., Ohio, in 1845. At the age of 14 years she accompanied her parents to Riley, Clinton Co. Mich. March 3rd, 1867, she was married to Joseph B. Knapp, of Ohio. Soon after marriage they settled in Riley where they have since resided. Three children were born to them, who with the husband and father still survive. The deceased bore her sufferings with great patience. She was a kind neighbor, a true wife, mother and friend. Her motto was either to speak well of people or say nothing of them at all. Hospitable, loyal and steadfast to her friends; many will long remember the happy hours passed in her society. Her life has been one largely devoted to home and domestic duties, and in her death the children have lost a true mother. But may they find consolation that in the future beyond the wreck of years and the grave they shall meet her again. Ever will her memory linger in the hearts of her friends as one who having to live glorified life and having to die conquered Death. Hence death is but the dropping of a flower, that the more precious fruit it grows and matures. Her funeral was held at the Baptist church in DeWitt, Wednesday, which was largely attended, Rev. Charles L. Lani from Lansing officiating. The remains were laid to rest in DeWitt cemetery.

OLIVE.

Obituary—Unice A. Knapp.

Unice A. Williams was born in Dewitt, April 12, 1852, and died in Olive township, July 6, 1914, at the age of 62 years, 3 months and 23 days. In December, 1876, she was united in marriage to Chism M. Vail, and to this union were born five children, two departing this life in childhood. Mr. Vail passed away in 1898, and in the year of 1904, she was again united in marriage to Samuel M. Knapp of Olive township, where she has since resided. Beside her husband and two daughters, Mrs. Flora McGuire, of Joliet, Ill., and Miss Nellie Vail who resides at home and one son, Fred of Dewitt. She is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Edith McClintock of Wisconsin, Mrs. Ellen Stampfly of Gunnisonville and Mrs. Minnie Lapham of Olive Center; three brothers, Ogden of Kentucky, George and Ed. of Dewitt with a host of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss. She was a kind wife, mother, sister, and friend, loved and respected by all who knew her, always ready to lend a helping hand in time of need. What higher tribute can we pay to her memory than this "The world is better for her having lived in it." The bereaved friends have the sympathy of all in their great sorrow. We may weep with them but cannot console. The funeral services were held at the home on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock with a large attendance. She lay in a beautiful casket covered and surrounded with lovely flowers. Rev. Fisher of Dewitt officiated. Interment was made in Dewitt cemetery.

CR 7-16-1914
OLIVE GRANGE.

KNAPP

KNAPP

Clinton Resident For 77 Years Is Buried Saturday

Mrs. Alice Culp Knapp, 81, widow of the late S. M. Knapp and a Clinton county resident 77 years, was buried at Dewitt Saturday, July 5, 1930. Services were conducted at the Dewitt Community church by Rev. G. S. Northrup.

Alice L. Culp was born in York state August 8, 1848, and died at the home in Bingham township July 2, 1930, at the age of 81 years, 10 months and 24 days. At the age of 4 years she came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Culp, to their home in Riley township. She had resided in Clinton county since that date. She was united in marriage to S. M. Knapp and to this union one son, Charles was born. The husband and son had preceded her in death, also her father and mother. She leaves one grandson and two brothers, John who lives on the old homestead and Dr. Geo. Culp who lives on the old Swain farm. Her father died while in the service in the Civil War in 1861 of typhoid fever, leaving her mother to rear her family of three children.

Clint. Co Rep News

7-10-1930

school near the bank of Muskrat lake on March 27, 1874, when Olive grange was organized. He became one of the 39 charter members and was also elected to be the first secretary of the grange.

In later life, despite his advanced age, Mr. Knapp retained his interest in community affairs and was particularly fond of instructing young people. He was active in Sunday school endeavors and worked with and for the young people of the community. In his younger days he taught district school for a

number of years.

Although he had been in failing health since 1928 Mr. Knapp's death occurred rather unexpectedly. He

KNAPP



WILLIAM H. H. KNAPP

The above picture is taken from a group photograph published in this newspaper in June, 1923, showing Mr. Knapp, then past 87, together with Frank Hubbard, 85, of Riley, and T. W. Baldwin, 81, of Dewitt.

was about the house as usual Sunday morning and seemed to be feeling better than ordinary. After eating his breakfast he laid down to rest and never awakened.

DEATH CLAIMS AGED PIONEER

Wm. H. Knapp of Dewitt Was
Clinton Resident for 87
Years; Rites Tuesday

Few people knew more of the early history of Clinton county than did William H. Knapp, aged 95, who spent 87 years of his life as a resident of Riley, Olive and Dewitt townships, and passed away at 11 a. m. Sunday, June 14, 1931, in the village of Dewitt. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Thomas Toy at the Community church at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and burial was made in the Dewitt cemetery.

Born in New York state January 16, 1836, Mr. Knapp came west with his parents at the age of 8 years and located in Clinton county when this part of Michigan was practically a wilderness. He gained prominence as a young man and was elected township clerk of Olive in 1864. Ten years later he was chosen supervisor of Riley township and served in that capacity over a period of years.

William H. Knapp was present when a group of Olive township citizens assembled at the Muskrat

20 yrs ago
Mrs. Sylvester Burbank, 77, died
in Olive December 12, 1930
1930

LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
FILE
BOX

Knapp

March 3, 1949

DeWitt Woman Dies From Stroke

DeWitt—Lydia Jane Knapp, daughter of the late William H. H. and Martha Van Dyke Knapp, was born in Olive Township July 20, 1865. She was married July 20, 1887, to Samuel Tubbs of Ovid, who passed away many years ago. She had been a resident of DeWitt for many years.

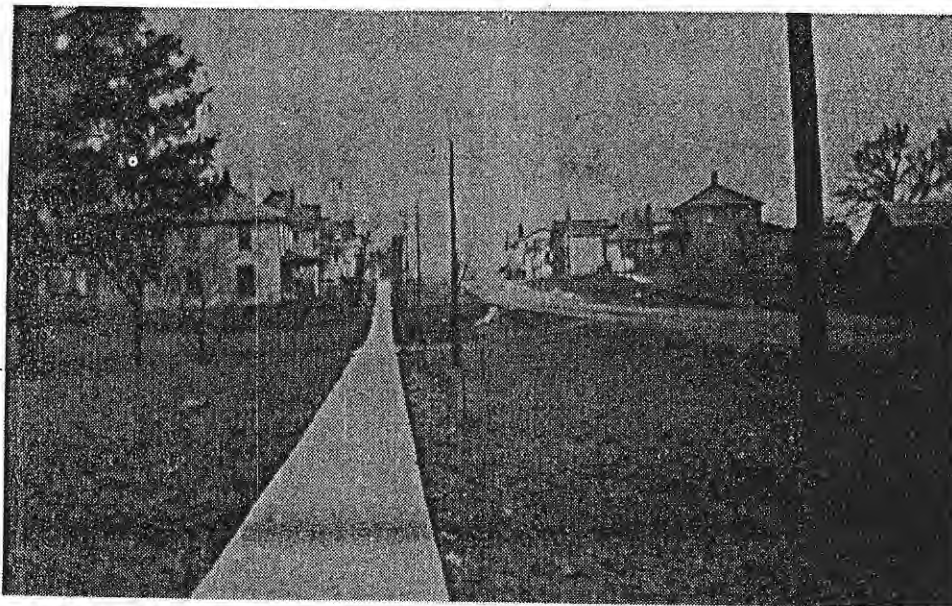
Friday afternoon, Feb. 25 she was found on the floor of her home by Daniel Ellwanger, who called to deliver milk. She was unconscious and had suffered a stroke. She was taken to Clinton Memorial hospital but was pronounced dead upon arrival there. The body was returned to Vincent's funeral home where funeral services were held Monday at 2:00 o'clock. Rev. Harry Moon officiated.

Casket bearers were cousins of the deceased: Sidney Bolles, Keith Bolles, Theron Jackway, Mickie Thuma, Harry Smith, and Lyman Young.

She was laid to rest in DeWitt cemetery beside her father, mother and brother. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Loretta Perry of Grand Rapids, two nieces, Mrs. Theron Emerson of Williamston and Mrs. Chas. McChung of Lansing, besides many cousins.

Knapp

46-52 1/244



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN from Clinton Street looking south towards "Uptown". This is north Bridge Street, the scene of DeWitt's first-recorded fatality. On the far right the post office would later be built in Easton's garden plot. On the left, Eleanor McKinney's current home. An obvious feature of the picture is the straight white sidewalk. One of DeWitt's first, it connected the churches with the cemetery north of town. Courtesy photo.

DeWitt's first big accident was a tragedy

By KEN COIN

I must have been out of town the day they dubbed the corner of Washington and Market streets "Deadman's Curve". Nice of someone to sacrifice themselves so that we could have such a marvelous tourist attraction.

I supposed it could have received the name because of either the funeral home or the jail being located at the crest of the hill. But, I think we all prefer to think that some anonymous teen angel, going a mile-a-minute, littered the river bank with himself and his '52 Bel Air.

However, I don't know of anyone who even suffered so much as a slipped clutch on that curve. There was, of course, that nasty incident with Vicki Willits who wiped out on her bike (all speed - no control). Serious enough for Vicki, even more serious for the Tooth Fairy who had to pay up big time, but hardly worthy of a name as drastic as Deadman's Curve.

From a truly historical perspective, if a map of DeWitt's local attractions were to include mention of any ghastly death scenes, by rights the stretch of Bridge Street pictured here should get the award. After all, it's the location of DeWitt's first recorded traffic fatality and it happened right here on "Deadgal's Grade".

It was August 4, 1864, the fateful day when George Cook and Polly Knapp came rolling into town in George's carriage. Needing to attend to an errand uptown, he parked his rig facing north along the side of Bridge Street. George got out, but Polly remained in place, perched high and proud in the buggy. It wasn't every day a young girl could be seen about town in anything more stylish than the family's ox cart, and she wanted to make sure everyone got a good long look at her.

George was Polly's new beau and they planned to be married. Her parents, Samuel and Lydia (Naracong) Knapp thought George was a fine snag. They already knew two men in DeWitt by that same name and both of them were fine chaps. There was, after all, a certain comfort in name recognition and George Cook (even if this one was

from Gratiot County) would do nicely for their Polly.

Perhaps it was a sudden noise or perhaps Polly opened a parasol to block the sun. Whatever the cause, something spooked the horse. It bolted and began to run. Poor Polly was nearly thrown from the seat but she dug her heels into the floorboard and gripped the dash.

In half an instant the runaway buggy had passed the Baptist Meetinghouse. As it began down the hill, Polly decided to make a jump for it. When the carriage had reached

Madison street she had managed to climb over the seat and with a leap! But when she hit the ground her head struck a rock in the roadway. Pretty Polly Knapp was dead. It was a devastating blow to her parents. The year previous, Polly's older brother John had been killed in the war at Bowling Green, Kentucky and the year before that, her sister Sarah had died at home of a mysterious paralysis. And now Polly ... But the sorrow was not to end here for the Knapp's. A mere 17 days later Polly's younger sister, nine year old Mary, died of diphtheria.

Knapp

DeWitt remembered:

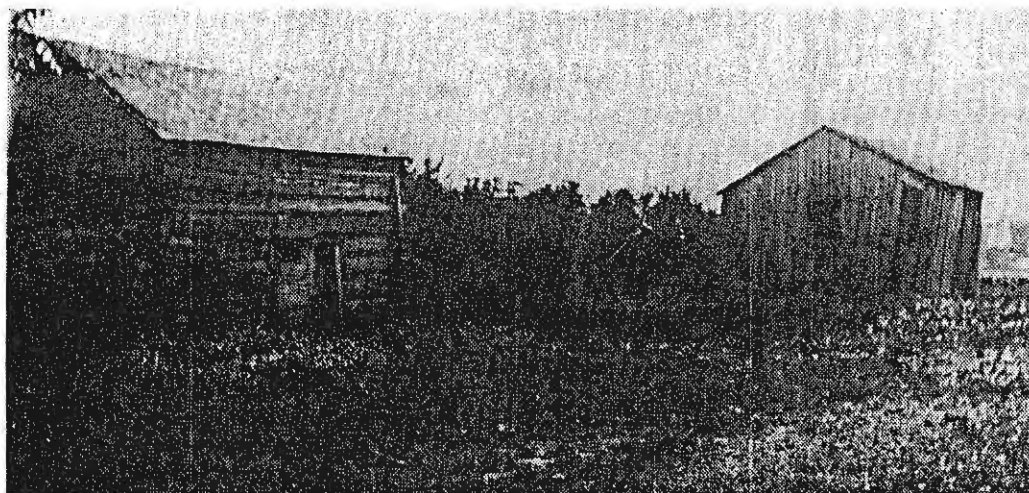


Photo courtesy of Gerald Pike.

A RARE VIEW of the pioneer log cabin and plank barn of the Knapp family. It's location was on the east side of Airport Road, one-half mile north of Chadwick Road. Photo by George S. Pike.

"Cabin fever" isn't what it used to be in DeWitt

By KEN COIN

I've had enough winter. I'm beginning to show signs of cabin fever - that is, a little squirrier than usual. The term "cabin fever" is derived from scenes such as that above: A house built for two, inhabited by 12, located smack-dab in the middle of nowhere. Now, let's add our fourth month of snow, another new baby, no pasta or chocolate in the cupboard, the horse and grandma are both in the barn, dead, waiting for the ground to thaw and we've had beans, hoecake and fatback for every meal since the Christmas goose got picked clean. In short, we've long since gone over the edge. By now we're a mass-homicide just waiting to happen.

But, you know what? They endured it just fine and actually enjoyed themselves in the process. Why? Two undeniable truths: First, they were better people than we in terms of fortitude. Second, ignorance is bliss. Never underestimate the truth and power of that last sentence. These pioneers who spent one winter after another in cramped cabins watching their children cough themselves to death (quite literally) had absolutely no idea that life held any alternatives.

But as to this little cabin in particular, William HH Knapp, of whom I've written before, was a young lad of nine when he accompanied his family to Clinton County. They lived their first year here in a "crude" cabin at the Simmons homestead until early in the winter of 1845 when the "refined" cabin (pictured here) was built. I will let Mr. Knapp tell of his boyhood home in his own words:

"The house must be built in a hurry and could not be very elaborate. He had very little help if any from the saw mill. There were no joists, no rafters, no roof boards, no sawed flooring."

"The shingles or 'shakes' were split from a near-

by tree. They were about 30-inches long and were laid on the large (roof) poles. The floor was made of planks split from logs."

"We had no stove and no fireplace at first. We made a fire (in the cabin!) by laying green logs one on another against the green log walls of the house and making the fire against the green logs till a thaw when father got clay and made a fireplace."

"Father had six men working on our house and in six weeks it was ready to move into. We moved in the evening and before we had the doors and windows in. They hung up buffalo robes that night. When we got up in the morning there had been a heavy snow storm. When we pushed the buffalo robe to one side to look out, the snow tumbled in the house in great shape."

William further relates that the family received their first house guests that same morning in the form of five local Indians: Conobwa and Concobenon (as he spells it) the chiefs from the old Indian village of Wabwahnahseepee, along with Tom Cobenon, Potash and Shantcunigan. William's mother, Lydia, had never seen the local natives before and was rather a nervous hostess, cooking up a storm to keep them happy.

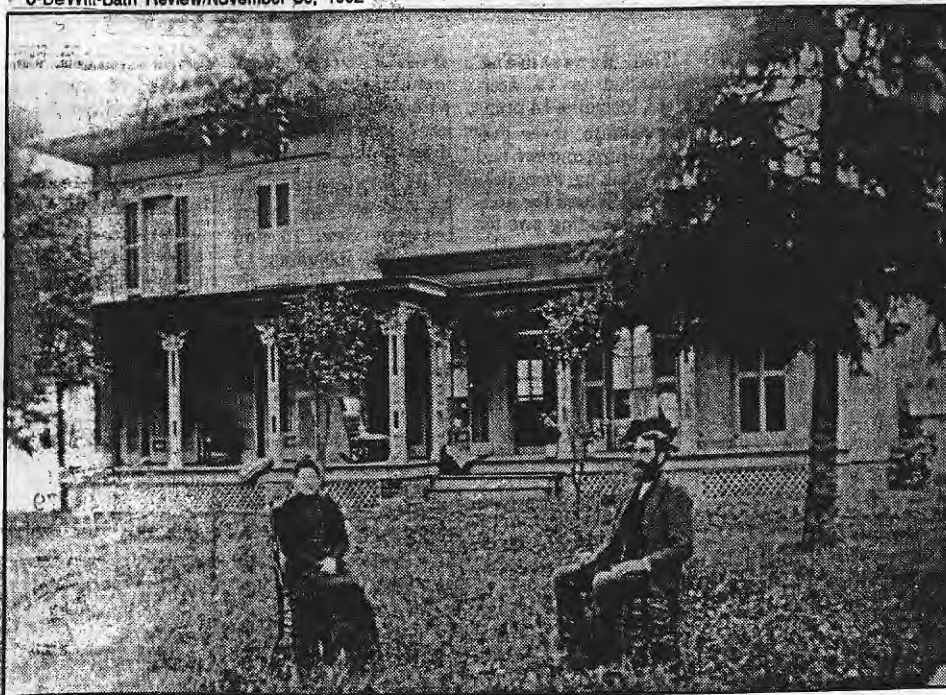
William's family lived in this cabin with eight children (count 'em, eight children!) for about seven years. In 1852 Samuel, the father, purchased a homestead of his own (the home above had actually been located on his brother-in-laws' farm) at the northeast corner of Lehman and Airport roads (later the Phillips farm). There he built a larger cabin which he then filled with yet three more children.

Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's primary historian. His column appears here twice monthly.

Coin gives mind-bending example of DeWitt's intricate family ties

DeWitt remembered:

8-DeWitt-Bath Review/November 30, 1992



MR. AND MRS. DAVID SCOTT PIKE ("Scott and Oia") awkwardly pose for a photo in front of their Chadwick Road farm in Riley (now the Zichke Farm). H. Bradley, travelling photographer. Photo courtesy of Gerald Pike.

Last week I mentioned the intricate network of families ties in old DeWitt... Well, a while back, Freddie (Tingay) Ford wrote me a note asking for some information on how her ancestors were related to DeWitt pioneers. So, until I have a chance to help her out, the following scenario will illustrate what I meant when I said, "Every time someone tried to put it down on paper a blood vessel in their brain would burst."

Pay attention now, cause I'm only going to go through this mind-bender once. Then I'm going to have to take a nap.

The story starts in the late 1700's in Londonderry, Vt. in the household of Elisha and Abigail Cook who had recently moved there from Providence, R.I. Abigail was a Williams and a direct descendant of Roger Williams, the Separatist whom Gov. Winthrop's Pilgrims kicked out of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and the founder of Providence.

Among Elisha and Abigail's twelve children were four who connect to current DeWitt: Safety, Joseph, Edward and Nancy Alta.

Safety, the oldest of the twelve, married James Cochran. She died in New York state but her husband and children soon moved to Michigan and settled at Eaton Rapids. Her son married a Naracong (a sister to the Naracongs and Knapps of DeWitt) and two of her grandchildren married one another. Their descendants, the Tingays, later moved to DeWitt.

Joseph and his family moved to DeWitt about 1840 and, settled northwest of town. His daughter Abigail adopted her cousins orphan, David Scott Pike. David married Viola Cook, Abigail's brother Amori's daughter (they were second cousins) and his grandmother was Nancy Alta (mentioned further down). Now, Viola had a sister (Ida) whose daughter Edna married Viola and David's nephew George Pike (they too were second cousins by way of their mutual great-grandparents, Atwell and Lovina Simmons, as well as third cousins on the other side of the house, by way of their mutual great-grandparents — Elisha and Abigail Cook. Joseph's son Amori (already mentioned) married Amina Simmons (they weren't related that we know of but, the both were related to the Naracongs'). Descendants in DeWitt from this branch include: Gerald Pike, Wally Cutler, Martha Reed and Bonnie Ward.

Who's got a headache? Raise your hand.

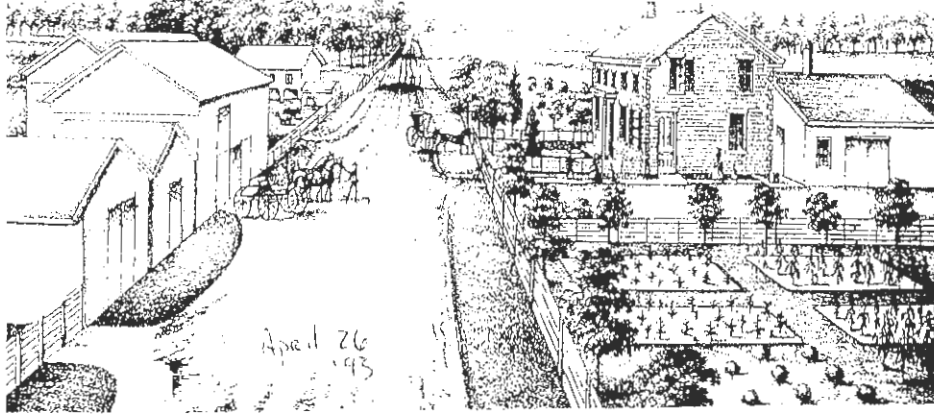
Edward settled in southern Michigan but his wife was connected to DeWitt because she was an Utley. Their son Addison (a veteran of the Toledo War) came to DeWitt and married an Antoinette Alexander from north of town and they settled here. Their descendants apparently had a dispensation to marry outside of the family; their daughter Ada married Edward Bedell and some descendants might still be located in Bath or Lansing.

Nothing exciting there — but get out the aspirin for this last one.

Nancy Alta married Mark W. Pike (raised by the same Utley family that Edward Cook married into) and they followed the Utleys from Vermont to DeWitt in the 1840's. Their daughter Alta married David Scott, Jr., a son of DeWitt's founder, and the Scott's son married a Moon (but that's another story). Another of Nancy Alta's sons, James, died young leaving several orphans who were farmed-out to friends and family. One of his orphans was David Scott Pike (see up above). Another was Millard Filmore Pike who was raised by his father's cousin, Amori Cook. Millard later married Amori's wife's niece, Ella Simmons. Ella's mother was her father's school teacher (now there's a new twist). Millard and Ella's son George married Edna Randall, Amori and Amina's granddaughter. Amina's parents (Ella's grandparents) were Atwell and Lovina (Knapp) Simmons (Riley township's first settlers). Lovina's brother Samuel married one of the Naracong sisters and her uncle, Ebenezer Knapp left a widow who later married Lovina's husband's (Atwell's) father, Ephraim Simmons. And, Atwell's sister Lillis married her own step-brother (Lovina's cousin), Henry Knapp.

Thank you Freddie for that thought provoking question (a SASE will get you a diagram of the whole mess).

K
Z
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DEWITT REMEMBERED — An old lithograph of the farm and imposing cobblestone home of Rufus and Lamira (Scotty) Knight near Ann Arbor. Source unknown, ca. 1870. Courtesy of Myrton "Krip" Knight.

Scott sisters were collectively known as 'Mrs. Rufus Knight'

By KEN COIN

Several weeks ago I shared one of the secrets of the Scott family — the Captain's other wife. This week, another secret, or rather a mystery regarding two of the Captain's daughters. Individually these daughters were named Sally and Lamira. Collectively they were known as "Mrs. Rufus Knight".

In 1983 myself and one of the Captain Scott's great-great-granddaughters, Dorothy Scott, tried to piece together a genealogy of DeWitt's founding family which was no small undertaking. We managed fairly well tracking four descendants of the three Scott sons who came with their parents to DeWitt in 1833, but as to any of their other children, all we had to go on was a statement by David Jr. which read that his parents had 13 children of which he mentioned the three sons who came to DeWitt: Sylvester, David and Charles and three daughters: Susan, Lamira and Sally of which he didn't elaborate any further.

Then, about 10 minutes before our manuscript was due to the printers I was working at the dining room table in my house on Scott street when I heard the squeal of brakes and saw a big cloud of dust out front. The big Lincoln had hardly come to a complete stop when out popped a white-haired gentleman who bounced up the porch and banged on my door.

"Hi! I'm Krip Knight!" he said (as if he were merely reminding me). Then without bothering to inhale he proceeded to explain to me that he was just passing through town, saw Scott street and my old house and wondered if maybe I knew anything about his ancestors, the Scotts. Well tie me up and poke me with a stick; I hadn't been so shocked since I found out that Ward and June Cleaver weren't really married.

He on the other hand seemed unphased when I ushered him in and showed him that his family history was strewn from one end of the room to the other — as if this would have been a standard feature of any DeWitt home. But as he began rattling off the top of his head what he knew of his branch of the Scotts, I became even more surprised. The names he was using were DeWitt people which I never would have associated as being one of the lost tribes of Scotts.

On June 15, 1833, as the Scott family was making preparations in Ann Arbor for their journey into the wilderness, their daughter Sally died from complications of childbirth. Her father, Captain Scott, has only recently returned from his tour of Central Michigan and was full of enthusiasm for the prospects that awaited them. But now, Sally's death would have to set back their departure.

Sally had married Washtenaw pioneer Rufus Knight about 1827 and had bore him three children, the last one causing her death. Her younger sister Lamira had planned to accompany the parents into the wilderness but now it was decided that it would probably be best if she stayed behind for a time to help care for her dead sister's three children. I suspect that her older brother Sylvester's wife, Sophronia, also stayed on at the Knight homestead as she did not come to DeWitt that first year either.

The situation worked out well; so well in fact that within a short time (a very short time), Lamira took over completely where her sister Sally had left off and also married Rufus Knight. In 1848, she and Rufus began work on the house pictured above which was completed in 1849 and has remained to this day one of the architectural showplaces of southern Michigan. It is of cobblestone. Not rocks or fieldstone but precisely set stones of uniform size and shape. A rarity in Michigan, such houses were all the rage in the Scott's old home of western New York where the digging of the Erie canal had offered an unlimited supply of stone for the sorting and taking.

As an aside — if you don't think Lamira's family in DeWitt was impressed by her new home, check out the foundation of her younger brother David's house here in DeWitt at 609 W. Main (the pretty yellow house with the fancy roof brackets). Hidden behind the evergreen bushes is an architectural rarity of Clinton County — not the usual split rocks but precisely set stones, each about the size of a baseball.

The puzzling aspect of the Knight family as it relates to the Scotts is that Rufus and Sally's son David Knight (named after his grandfather) came to DeWitt as a young man and is counted among the early settlers of the area. He settled on land in section 1 of DeWitt Township at the southeast corner of Krepps and Round Lake road. He and wife Susan raised a large family there and were counted among the socially prominent people of DeWitt for many decades along with his Scott uncles, aunts and cousins. Yet, not once during the next hundred and some odd decades was it ever recorded that the Knights too were descendants of the town founders, Capt. David and Eunice Scott.

As the history of the Scott family is continuously in the works if anyone out there has any information on the Knight family (their children included Byron, Ida (Mrs. Reuben Brink), Florence, Ira, Willie, Eva and Julius) we're waiting to hear from you.

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

Knight

Knight

**Dorothy Knight
And Lansing Man
Wed March 22nd**

Miss Dorothy Knight, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miles Knight of St. Johns, became the bride of Wm. Lloyd Rosecrans of Lansing, on Saturday, March 22, 1930. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Plews of the Mt. Hope Methodist church. The young couple were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Dobson, cousins of the bride.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosecrans will reside at 1428 Lyons avenue, Lansing.

William E. Knight, a former resident of this place, passed away at his home near Iaingsburg, Jan. 17th, at the age of 57 years. Nearly all his life had been spent in this vicinity and his many friends here extend their heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved wife and son and other relatives. He was a member of Olive Tent No. 617 of the Macca-bees of this place and also a member of the Gleaners who attended the services at his late home Jan. 19th. Burial was made in the Wilsey cemetery at this place.

Knight

DIED—In Bath Township Nov. 11th, the four-weeks old child of William E. and Nellie Knight. The funeral services were held at the Lemm school house and the remains interred in the Lemm cemetery. Rev. J. H. Full of DE WITT officiated.

"DeWitt News"
Nov. 15, 1894 2

Funeral Cards from the Scrapbook of C. Harry Moon

Korella

Now owned by Eleanor Moon McKinney (1984)

Emil L. Korella- March 14, 1880 - August 3, 1957

Colonial Chapel Estes Leadley Funeral Home

Tues. August 6, 1957 1:30 p.m.

Rev. Aaron Buhler - Miss Mildred Koonsman, Organist

Pallbearers: Vincent Moon, Loyd Marzke, Louis Yanz,
Justin Marzke, Henry Janz, Edward Sipple.

Kowalk

Johns, Michigan—February 16

Miller-Kowalk Vows Exchanged

DeWitt—Mr. and Mrs. Blake Miller announce the marriage of their daughter, Joan, to Vernon Kowalk on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 5:30 p. m. at the home of the Rev. J. Oliver Hall of East Lansing.

They were attended by Albert Schulz and Janet Lankford. Mr. Kowalk is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kowalk of South DeWitt. The young couple will make their home in an apartment on the Locher farm in Olive.

Married



MRS. VERNON A. KOWALK

Mr. and Mrs. Blake Miller of DeWitt announce the marriage of their daughter, Joan, to Vernon A. Kowalk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Kowalk, R. 4, Lansing, Feb. 4 in the home of Rev. J. Oliver Hall, East Lansing. Miss Janet Lankford and Albert Schulz attended the bride and groom.

Kowalk



KOWALK - MILLER

Vernon Kowalk, employee in patronage records office, was married to Joan Miller by Reverend Hall in East Lansing. The newly weds spent a short time honeymooning at Grayling. The Kowalk's are living at Route #1 DeWitt.

Kowalk

Obituaries

Herbert Kowalk

Herbert R. Kowalk, 86, of DeWitt died Jan. 5, 1993 in St. Johns.

Mr. Kowalk was born Dec. 11, 1906 in Clinton County.

He was employed by the Lansing Dairy Company and retired from the Mooney Oil Company in 1972.

He was a member of the Redeemer United Methodist Church of DeWitt, and loved to fish and be in Northern Michigan.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mildred (Locher); one son, Vernon (Joanie) of DeWitt; two daughters, Geneva (Don) Gilding, and Eleanor Barnes; both of Grand Ledge; one son-in-law, Frederick (Anita) Henningsen of Centreville; one sister, Ruth (Noyles) Lathrop of Lansing; one brother, Francis (Carol) Kowalk of Taylors, S.C.; one sister-in-law, Margaret Kowalk of Lansing; 14 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Doris Henningsen and a brother, LaVern Kowalk.

Services were held Friday, Jan. 8, 1993 at the Gorsline-Runciman Co., DeWitt Chapel with the Rev. Rodney J. Kalajainen, Pastor of the Redeemer United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment was in the DeWitt Cemetery.

Contributions may be made in memory of Mr. Kowalk to the Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Rd., DeWitt, Mi., 48820.

Kowalk



SGT. LAVERN A. KOWALK has been stationed somewhere in New Guinea since May where he is attached to a division of the Coast Artillery. He was inducted May 5, 1941, and has served overseas since April, 1942. Sgt. Kowalk is the son of L. A. Kowalk of near Denville. He was employed by Rosevale Packing Co. before entering service.

Lavern A. Kowalk

Lavern A. Kowalk, 73, of 3503 W. Clark Road, DeWitt Township, died Jan. 3, 1987, in Lansing.

Mr. Kowalk was born July 8, 1913, in Clinton County. He was a farmer for more than 30 years and was later employed by the Capital Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) for 10 years, retiring in 1979. He was a member of VFW Post No. 671 American Legion, DeWitt, and the DeWitt Chapter No. 2291 Loyal Order of Moose, a member of Lansing Aerie No. 1039 Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Baltic Inn Men's Club. He was also a member of the Redeemer United Methodist Church and a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theatre.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret E.; three daughters, Mrs. Herman (Elizabeth) Reyes, Mrs. Howard (Margaret) Robbins, and Barbara Kowalk, all of Lansing; one son, Morris Kowalk of Ionia; eight grandchildren; two brothers, Herbert Kowalk of DeWitt, and Francis Kowalk of South Carolina; and one sister, Ruth Lathrop of Lansing.

Services were held Jan. 7 at the Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel with Pastor Harry Johnson of Redeemer United Methodist Church officiating. Interment was in Hurd Cemetery. Graveside services were conducted by the VFW Post No. 671.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association.

KRAAS

A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING

Charming Dewitt Lady the Bride of
a St. Louis, Mo., Merchant

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis McLouth, on Bridge street, Dewitt, was the scene of a beautiful wedding Wednesday afternoon, August 29, at 3 o'clock, when their elder daughter, Florence Marie, was united in marriage to Mr. William Frederick Kraas, of St. Louis, Missouri. About two hundred guests were present.

An abundance of asters, with bride's roses and green were used in the decorations. The color scheme in the parlor and sitting room was green and white, with a bank of palms and white asters in the corner. The decorations in the dining room were pink and white. Lohengrin's wedding march was rendered by Mrs. Jay Brooks, of Grand Rapids, as the bridal party descended the stairs. The ribbon bearers, the little Misses Majel Weale, of Duplain, Ruth Woodruff, Laura Williams and Pearl Moots, of Dewitt, gownned in white, entered first and formed an aisle. The little flower girl, Margaret Brooks, gownned in pink, scattered rose petals in the path of the bride who entered alone. The bride wore a beautiful gown of white net over white silk with tulle veil and carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses. The full ring service of the Methodist Episcopal church was impressively read by Presiding Elder Louis DeLamar, D. D., of Lansing.

Following the ceremony young lady friends of the bride, from Albion, sang several solos, and a wedding luncheon was served.

Mrs. Kraas has always resided in Dewitt. She graduated from the high school in the class of 1899 and from the conservatory at Albion in 1903. She is a charming lady and a talented musician. Mr. Kraas formerly resided in Dewitt, but for some time has been engaged in commission house business in St. Louis, Mo., where the young people will be at home at 5514 Virginia avenue after October 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Kraas left late in the afternoon in an automobile for Lansing enroute to Chicago, where they will spend some time before going to their home. The bride's going-away gown was blue and she wore a pearl grey hat.

Among the many guests from away were the Misses Marcia and Gretchen Lutz, and Georgia Pratt, of Albion; Miss Louise Bangs, Miss Tillie Krause, Misses Belle, Mollie and Deborah Hartley, Miss Helen Esselstyn, Mrs. Louis Esselstyn, Mrs. Nellie Houston and daughter, Ida, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Houston, Mr. and Mrs. John Schlee, Mr. and Mrs. H. Glenn Holmes, Hubert Pratt, Clifford McKibbin and Miss Donna Savage, of Lansing; Mr. and Mrs. Jay Brooks and daughter, Margaret, and Miss Florence Rader, of Grand Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Goette and daughter, Blanche, Mr. and Mrs. Galusha Pennell, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Munger and daughter, Olive, Attorney and Mrs. E. L. Walbridge and daughter, Zoe, and Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Church, of St. Johns; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holmes and daughters, Josephine and Margaret, Mr. and Mrs. George Weale and daughter, Majel and son, Carl, and Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Pearl, of Duplain; and Mr. and Mrs. Elsworth Holmes, of Bear Lake.

C.R.
8-30-1903

OBITUARIES

Mrs. Samuel Krebel.

After long and patient suffering from creeping paralysis, Mrs. Samuel Krebel passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Perry Lewis, in Middleton, on Tuesday, August 7. Funeral services were held at the United Brethren church in Bingham on Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, Rev. C. W. Ballou officiating. Burial was made in the Bingham cemetery.

Rosina Delp was born in Medina county, Ohio, on August 31, 1856. She was united in marriage to Samuel Krebel on April 19, 1873, at St. Johns and lived in that vicinity until about three years ago when they purchased a home in Orlando Fla., and went there to live. Last May they returned to Michigan on account of her failing health.

She is survived by her husband, two daughters, Mrs. Perry Lewis of Middleton and Mrs. John Vaughan of Riley; one son, Dwight Krebel of Riley; one sister, Mrs. Eleazer Sperry of Bengal; ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

About Christmas time, Mrs. Krebel felt that she would never recover and said that she was ready for the great change. Besides the relatives she leaves a large circle of friends to mourn their loss.

SAMUEL KREBEL, 81, DIES IN FLORIDA

SPENT MANY YEARS IN THIS
COUNTY; FUNERAL HELD
HERE MAY 3RD

Samuel Krebel, 81, former well known resident of St. Johns and community, died April 27, 1935, at his home in Orlando, Fla. The body was brought here and last rites were held Friday at the Os good funeral home. Rev. G. B. Northrup officiated and burial was made in South Bingham cemetery.

Samuel Krebel was born in Summit county, Ohio, Aug. 27, 1853. He was married to Rosena Delp of St. Johns, April 10, 1873. They lived in this vicinity a short time, then returned to Ohio, coming back to Michigan in 1871 and living here until 1913 when they moved to Orlando. Mrs. Krebel passed away Aug. 4, 1916.

To this union were born two daughters and one son; Mrs. Perry Lewis of Carson City, Mrs. Maud Vaughan of St. Johns and Dwight Krebel of Riley.

Mr. Krebel was again united in marriage, to Miss Sara Drummond, on Thanksgiving Day, 1922, and lived in Orlando until his death.

Besides his children he leaves his widow, one half-brother, Charles Morehouse of Bradley, Ill., 10 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Krebel

Riley Couple Observe Wedding Anniversary

Krebel



MR. AND MRS. DWIGHT KREBEL

Sunday, February 19, was the occasion of a Golden Wedding celebration for Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Krebel, who were married February 22, 1906. The Krebels' were united in marriage in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Halsey where they now reside. The couple has lived their entire married life in Riley Township.

Arrangements for the affair were made by their children, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bishop of County Line and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Krebel of Riley, and was held at the home of their son, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The serving table was centered with a beautiful wedding cake flanked by lighted gold tapers. Mrs. Bishop cut and served the cake, while Mrs. Floyd Scranton and Mrs. Raymond Clay presided at the coffee service. Mrs. Harold Martin was in charge of the guest book, and Mrs. Perry Clay, Mrs. Ro-

land Leslie, Mrs. Julie Jury and Miss Celia Maxwell assisted with the serving. White wedding bells lettered with gold and crepe paper streamers decorated the house, also lovely floral arrangements presented to the couple from friends in Illinois, Dimondale, Middleton and St. Johns.

Seven who attended the wedding 50 years ago were in attendance, among them Mrs. Tim Cressman, who was Mrs. Krebel's bridesmaid. Both Mrs. Krebel and Mrs. Cressman were wearing corsages of yellow carnations, tied with a gold bow.

The 140 guests who came to call were from Cleveland, Ohio, Dimondale, Grand Rapids, Middleton, Evart, Grandville, Cadillac, Lansing, DeWitt, St. Johns and vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. Krebel were remembered with many beautiful cards, flowers and a "Tree of Gold" from their many relatives and friends who made this day a memorable one.

For Whom You Cared
The one for whom you cared
With such abiding love,
Has found the wondrous
shining path
Up to the home above.
The home where joy
forever dwells
Where loved ones but await,
For us to share their happiness
Beyond the heavenly gate.

In Memory Of
MAUD VAUGHN
Born
JUNE 2, 1877
COPLEY, OHIO
Date Of Death
JUNE 9, 1963
LANSING, MICHIGAN
Services From
OSGOOD FUNERAL HOME
3:00 P. M. WEDNESDAY
JUNE 12, 1963
Clergyman Officiating
REV. PETER F. NIEUWKOOP
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Burial
SOUTH BINGHAM CEMETERY
CLINTON COUNTY MICHIGAN

Obituaries from the Scrapbook of C. Harry Moon
Now owned by Eleanor Moon McKinney (1984)

Krebel

Services for DWIGHT G. KREBEL, 77, of R 4, St. Johns, long-time Riley Township board of review member, who died Tues. night in Clinton Memorial Hospital, will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the Osgood funeral home here. Burial will be in Mt. Rest cemetery.

Mr. Krebel served on the Riley township board of review for 20 years. He was a retired farmer.

Surviving are the widow, Mary; a son, Willard, of Riley township; a daughter, Mrs. Alice Bishop of R 1, St. Johns, and a sister, Mrs. Maud Vaughn of Lansing.

Krebel

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.

Yea, 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 preparest a table before me in
the presence of mine enemies: Thou
anointest my head with oil; my cup
runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall fol-
low me all the days of my life: and
I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

In Memory of
Oella B. Lewis

Born
July 12, 1876

Died
March 17, 1955
Middletown, Michigan

Services held from
Dodge Funeral Home

March 20, 1955
1:30 P. M.

Clergyman Officiating
Rev. Joel Hardin

Interment
South Bingham Cemetery
Clinton County

Deceased
Grandmother and Nephew

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

PSALM 138

The Lord is my Shepherd

With good things I am supplied

His goodness I will praise

all my days

For in the house of the Lord

Thou shalt dwell

all my days

For thou, O Lord, hast said

that I should dwell in thine house

all my days

IN MEMORY OF
DWIGHT G. KREBEL

BORN

COPLEY, OHIO
APRIL 1, 1879

DATE OF DEATH

SEPTEMBER 25, 1956
ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN

SERVICES FROM

OSGOOD FUNERAL HOME
2:00 P.M. FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 1956

CLERGYMEN OFFICIATING

REV. G. C. RICE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. A. L. SPAFFORD
BENGAL EVUB CHURCH

FINAL RESTING PLACE

MT. REST CEMETERY
ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN

DEARIES

Clarence Trumbull Stanley Geller
Raymond Bullard Max Ballinger
Almond Cressman Hershel Lovegrove

Krebel

*I'll sleep, my dear, where pastures
green abound,
where waters cool flow clear with
pleasant sound.
I'll dream of joyful hours we shared
when sorrow's hurt despaired
to touch and change.
I'll wake to find how God will
rearrange
both time and space
and we will once again embrace,
for Christ's sweet resurrection hope
is given
to indicate our final union to be
formed in heaven.*

IN MEMORY OF

MARY KREBEL

Date of Birth

November 20, 1881
Clinton County, Michigan

Date of Death

September 29, 1976
Clinton County, Michigan

Services

Osgood Funeral Home
Saturday, October 2, 1976
3:00 p.m.

Clergyman Officiating

Rev. Brian Sheen
Pilgrim United Methodist Church

Interment

ML Rest Cemetery
St. Johns, Michigan

Casket Bearers

Harold Irwin	Stanley Geller
Raymond Sperry	Max Bailingger
Clarence Trumbull	Raymond Bullard

Krebel

"LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS"

*Here, - take my hand I offer you.
I've been this way before.
It's dark but I have light.
Stay close, - I'll guide you through.
Don't yield to dying's secret terror.
Trust me, I'll be near.
See, - I've been this way.
You have naught to fear.
Just walk where I have trod.
- Was I afraid the day I came?
Not really.
I held the hand of God.*

Honorary Bearers

Jane Swanchara	Cressie Wakefield
Vera Bailey	Evelyn Kuntz
Mildred Kelley	Velma Beaufore
Julia Jury	Luella Canfield

IN MEMORY OF
Virgene E. Krebel

Date of Birth

August 17, 1910
Clinton County, Michigan

Date of Death

January 26, 1980
Mesa, Arizona

Services

Osgood Funeral Home
Thursday, January 31, 1980
1:30 p.m.

Clergyman Officiating

Rev. Brian Sheen
Pilgrim United Methodist Church

Interment

Mt. Rest Cemetery
St. Johns, Michigan

Casket Bearers

Gerald Shepard	Ernest Carter
Richard May	Dale Henning
Marvin Lovegrove	Roger Overway

Krebel



KREBEL, WILLARD F.

Formerly of Rt. 4

St. Johns

Obituaries

W. F. Krebel, former Clinton aide

ST. JOHNS — Willard F. Krebel, a former Clinton County Registrar of Deeds, died Sunday. He was 76.

Formerly employed by the state treasury department, Krebel had also been Riley Township supervisor and a Clinton Memorial Hospital board trustee.

Krebel, who was also a farmer, was also active in the Olive Grange and Pilgrim United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his daughter, Elyse Trimmer of Holt.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday in Osgood Funeral Home, St. Johns.

Died Feb. 10, 1985 at the age of 76. He was a member of the Pilgrim United Methodist Church, Riley Twp. Supervisor, member of the Blue Lodge #105 F.&A.M., the Olive Grange, former member of the Clinton Memorial Hospital Board, worked for the State Treasury Dept. and also farmed. He was the Registrar of Deeds retiring in 1976. He married Virgene E. Heuer on April 10, 1940 in Riley Twp. and she preceded him in death. He is survived by 1 daughter, Mrs. Elyse Trimmer of Holt; 3 grandchildren, Nicole, Scott and Michelle Trimmer all of Holt; 1 sister, Mrs. Alice Bishop of St. Johns; 2 nephews, Jerry Bishop of St. Johns and Larry Bishop of Coldwater; 2 brothers-in-law, Doyme Heuer and Lawrence Bishop both of St. Johns. Funeral services will be at the Osgood Funeral Home, Sat., Feb. 16 at 1:30 p.m. Burial in Mt. Rest Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Pilgrim United Methodist Church or the Clinton Memorial Hospital in his memory.

Kuhnle

DEATH OF MRS. A. K. KUHNLE

Mrs. Christina A. K. Kuhnle passed away Saturday, October 1, at the home of her son Henry Kuhnle, at the advanced age of 80 years, 8 months and 13 days. She has been a resident of this vicinity for many years and was highly esteemed by everyone. She leaves one daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, besides other relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at the home Tuesday at 2 o'clock with burial on the family lot in the Wilsey cemetery, by the side of her husband who died April 14, 1892, and her son Jacob, who died a few years ago.

Clint. Co. Rep. News

10-6-1921

It's a Long Time

Warden Kyes, Retired DeWitt Township Clerk, Just Reminisces

Kyes

By WILLIAM J. DUCHAINE
State Journal Staff Writer

DEWITT — Warden Kyes, who retired recently after 36 years as a DeWitt Township official, the first two years as treasurer and the remainder as clerk, was in a talkative mood as he sat at the kitchen table at his home, 11445 Krepps Road.

"Yep," he said, "I was born in this house 72 years ago last Oct. 3. This will be a centennial farm next year.

"I remember when US-27 was just a narrow road and it had farmland all around.

"When I became township treasurer in 1927 our tax roll was \$80,000, the largest it had ever been. Now, it's about \$800,000. Our township valuation is over \$20 million, and we figure next year it will be about \$25 million.

"It's been a wonderful experience working for the township when you consider all the

changes in taxes, elections and other business.

"Take a guess on what the taxes were on my 90-acre farm back in 1868. Fifty dollars, you say? You're way off. I was looking over some old tax receipts and found out the taxes were less than \$9. They're over \$500 now.

"Yep, times have changed. When I started as township clerk I was paid \$400 a year. When I quit the salary was \$6,850 plus mileage.

"But it was a 15 hours a day job. Lots of days I worked until midnight.

"I enjoyed the work, though, but after losing my wife and the boy I didn't care to go on with it.

"My wife died a year ago last Aug. 26. The boy — he was really my nephew, but he was like my own boy — was killed in Vietnam this spring. My nephew was James Warden

Peltier. He lived about a mile away, but before he went into service he was with us here about every day.

"When I was treasurer those two years there wasn't a man in the township I couldn't tell you where he lived. Now I don't know hardly any of the people; so many new folks have moved into the township. We've got about 4,000 voters now. We voted about 800 back 40 years ago. I doubt if we even ran that much.

"I was in Governor Brucker's recount. They tallied the votes at the vocational school in Lansing. Tellers came from all over Michigan with their ballot boxes.

★ ★ ★

"As township clerk I got \$1 a day and had to pay my own expenses while the tally people got \$1 an hour. What tickled me most was that the DeWitt election records were perfect.

"What am I going to do now? Gosh, I've got more jobs coming my way than I'll be able to handle. I'll do a little farming; just plant some wheat.

"I'll buy some furs, I suppose. I started buying furs around here when I was 14 and going to school. Jerry Werbelow, up at Alma, wants me to do some buying for him.

"In my younger days I used to trap a lot — foxes, beaver, raccoons, and muskrat. Used to travel in a canoe on the Looking Glass River and average 90 rats a night.

"The muskrats are gone in this part of the country now. Where they've gone is the \$64 question. Water pollution, maybe. I really don't know.

★ ★ ★

"I used to buy more furs in one bunch than I do now in one year. I remember when my partner, Vern Woodbury, who lived near Laingsburg, and I bought 75,000 rats in one season. Vern is not with us anymore.

"Oh yes, I'm still getting calls to clerk at auctions. I've clerked sales all over the state; started when I was 22. I clerked a sale just last Sept. 20 about six miles east of Clare. I know almost every auctioneer in Lower Michigan.

"I'm going to miss the township job in a way. I still have an interest in township affairs. They've put me in as deputy clerk in case they need someone for part-time help."



Warden Kyes Reflects