

## Couple Speaks Vows in Church Ceremony

The marriage of Miss Mildred Lerg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lerg of Dewitt, to S-Sgt. Lyle I. Rosekrans of Harlingen, Texas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Rosekrans of Riley, was solemnized Wednesday morning, May 5 at St. Joseph church. Fr. Lewis M. Dion officiated in the presence of about 100 guests.

"Ave Maria" and "Because" were sung by Miss Brunetta Mazzolini, accompanied by Mrs. Herman Smith at the organ.

The bride was gowned in white satin and lace, made with high neckline, and long sleeves which came to points over her wrists. The full skirt extended into a train, and her full-length veil of illusion and lace fell from a beaded crown. She carried a bouquet of red roses and white snapdragons.

The bridesmaids were Miss Margaret Blanchard and Mrs. Rosemary Ornkovich of Detroit. Their dresses were blue and lavender chiffon, respectively, fashioned with sweetheart neckline, long sleeves and gathered skirts. They carried yellow roses and snapdragons, and

wore a floral arrangement in their hair, which matched their bouquets.

Lavern Lerg of Dewitt, brother of the bride, and Lloyd Rosekrans of Greenville, twin brother of the bridegroom were best man and groomsmen. The ushers were Lawrence Kramp and Daniel Lerg of Dewitt.

Following the service a wedding breakfast was served the bridal party and immediate relatives at the home of the bride's parents. The table was centered with a lovely wedding cake with a miniature soldier atop, and decorations were carried out in pink, blue and white.

The bride was graduated from St. Mary's high school, and for some time has been employed in the Farm Bureau office in Lansing. The bridegroom who attended the local high school, was inducted into the Army Air forces in March, 1942, and is stationed at Harlingen Army Gunnery School, Harlingen, Texas.

A reception and dance will be held at Olive Grange hall on Saturday evening, in their honor. On May 11, S-Sgt. and Mrs. Rosekrans will leave for Texas, where they will reside.

**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 Win. Lloyd Rosecrans of Lansing, on Saturday, March 22, 1930. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Flews 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.

Rosekrans

## YOUNG COUPLE WED AT CAPITAL CITY

DARTHEA EATON AND FLOYD  
ROSEKRANS TAKE VOWS  
ON JUNE 20TH 1933

The marriage of Miss Darthea A. Eaton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burr M. Eaton of Olive township, to Floyd U. Rosekrans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Rosekrans of Bingham, took place in Lansing, Tuesday morning, June 20, at 11 o'clock at the M. E. church with Rev. John Vickers officiating. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Rosekrans of Grand Rapids.

The bride was becomingly gowned in a blue chiffon dress and wore a blue picture hat and white accessories. She carried a bouquet of yellow roses and blue delphinium. Mrs. Rosekrans wore a dress of pale green silk organza with white accessories. She carried a bouquet of yellow roses.

Mrs. Rosekrans has been a successful school teacher in Clinton county for the past four years. Mr. Rosekrans is employed by the Sears, Roebuck Company in Lansing. After a trip through the east they will be at home at 929 Ohio street, Lansing.

Mr. and Mrs. Burr Eaton entertained about 150 relatives and friends at a reception for the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Rosekrans at their home Friday evening. The bride and groom were recipients of many lovely and useful gifts. Refreshments were served. Out-of-town guests included Mr. and Mrs. Leo Phippeny and Mr. and Mrs. King Serviss of Owosso and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Rosekrans of Grand Rapids.

# Speak Nuptial

## Vows Sunday

Sept-1940

Ardith Magsig and

Lloyd Rosekrans

Wed in Lansing

Rosekrans

Miss Ardith Magsig, daughter of Dan Magsig of Olive township, became the bride of Lloyd L. Rosekrans, son of Ivan Rosekrans of Riley township on Sunday, Sept. 8. They spoke their vows at two o'clock before Rev. Thos. Toy at his parsonage in Lansing.

The attendants were the bridegroom's twin brother, Lyle Rosekrans, and Miss Arlene Magsig of Olive, and the bride's brother, Archie Magsig, and Doris Henning of Dewitt. The bridesmaids were cousins of the bride.

Following the ceremony refreshments were served the wedding party and immediate families at the home of the bride's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Magsig of Olive. Bouquets of seasonal flowers decorated the rooms and a lovely wedding cake adorned the table.

Mrs. Rosekrans is employed by the County Agricultural Conservation Association, while Mr. Rosekrans is a well and favorably known young farmer.

Upon their return from a trip through northern Michigan the couple will reside with his father in Riley.

### Mr. and Mrs. Rosekrans

#### Honored by Reception

Sept-1940

To honor Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rosekrans, newlyweds, his father, Ivan Rosekrans of Riley, entertained at a reception at Olive grange hall Saturday evening. About 175 friends and relatives were in attendance.

The honored couple were the recipients of many lovely gifts. Refreshments were served. The bridal table was adorned by a lovely tiered cake.

June 30—Born to S-Sgt. and Mrs. Lyle Rosekrans of Harlingen, Texas, a son, David Lyle. Mrs. Rosekrans was formerly Mildred Lerg of near Dewitt.

EMBER 22, 1923

## DAN CUPID BUSY IN RILEY TOWNSHIP

ROSSOW-IRRER WEDDING BIG  
SOCIAL EVENT—150 GUESTS  
MAKE MERRY

The matrimonial wave struck Riley with full force and fury. So quiet and still has been the work of "Dan Cupid" that one would think that he had turned to "Rip Van Winkle" and was sleeping his mythical sleep. But, love does work wonders in its mysterious ways.

The first victim was Walter Nuffer, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Nuffer, who was married on Saturday, Nov. 10. On Wednesday Nov. 14, Elmer Martens of Bengal township, was united in marriage with Doris Chant, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Chant. It was also announced that Kermit Coffman would be married in a few days and give a wedding dance Thursday, Nov. 22, at Merle Beach.

But the big social event of the season happened Thursday afternoon, Nov. 15, when Richard Rossow, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Rossow was married to Florence Irrer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Irrer, of Riley township. This was a very large and pretty home wedding and was attended by over one hundred and fifty guests. They were married at two o'clock, p. m. at the Lutheran parsonage by the Rev. Geo. Mochring, pastor of the Riley Lutheran church. The groom was attended by Robert Chant, cousin of the bride and Amos Stevens, close friend of both contracting parties. Lula Hart, cousin of the groom and Donna Nelson acted as bride's maids. After the marriage ceremony they returned to the home of the groom's parents where a large crowd was waiting for their return and they showered the parties with rice galore. After congratulations and a social time a bounteous dinner was served, later in the evening all those who were fond of dancing, the old as well as the young, went to Merle Beach hotel and shook the "fantastic toe." A large crowd of young people greeted them and then enjoyed the bridal party's hospitality. Those who did not care to dance remained at the groom's home and spent the evening playing games and enjoyed the music rendered by Mrs. G. H. Ottmar, who sang several songs and played many instrumental solos on the piano. It was in the "wedding small hours" of the night when the party broke up and all re-

turned to their respective homes, leaving the young couple their best wishes and many valuable and useful presents. They will live on the farm in Riley township where they will be at hand to their many friends.

The bride was gowned in white silk tulle and carried a shower bouquet of roses and carnations. The groom wore a pencil-striped blue serge suit. The decorations of the rooms were very tastily arranged. The bride's table was decorated in pink and white with pink festoons around the outside. A beautiful large ornamental pink and white bridal cake topped the center of the table. The ceilings and windows of the room were festooned of pink and white crepe ribbons. The ceiling of the sitting room was decorated in green and white crepe ribbons. The ceiling of the dining room was decorated in yellow and white crepe ribbons. The floral center pieces of the tables corresponding with the color effects of each room.

Rossow



Rossow

**Army Pvt. LaVerne H. Rossow**, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond C. Rossow, DeWitt, recently was graduated from the 82nd Airborne Division Jump School at Fort Bragg, N. C. Rossow received his paratrooper wings after completing three weeks of intensive ground and aerial training which included five parachute jumps.

The 82nd, a Strategic Army Corps (STRAC) unit, maintains an immediate readiness force for airborne deployment to any area in the world.

Rossow entered the Army last July and completed basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. The 19 year old soldier is a 1961 graduate of DeWitt high school.

## Celebrating 150 years

# Clinton County Sesquicentennial

## Hewitts play role in DeWitt, Maple Rapids

*Editor's Note: The following history of the Hewitt family of Clinton County was written by Clinton County Historical Society member Ken Coin. Due to the length of the article, it has been divided into two parts. Part one this week deals with the family founders, Isaac and Phebe Hewitt, with histories of their children, William, Lyman, Deborah, and Fanny. Part two, in next week's CCN, chronicles the histories of the Hewitt's remaining children, Eliza, Abraham, Edmund, Simeon, and Luther.*

Researching family and local history often reveals many interesting and unexpected ties between families and communities. DeWitt and Maple Rapids share many such ties, most of which can be traced to the very beginnings of the village of Maple Rapids in the early 1850's — to the Hewitt family whose roots go back even further into the earliest years of Clinton County.

In 1835, the large family of Isaac and Phebe Hewitt came west out of Steuben County, New York. After coming "up the lake" to Detroit, they continued on foot and by ox team, inland to Oakland County.

Here the women remained while the men went further into the wilderness in search of favorable lands on which to settle. Along the Pontiac-Grand River Trail, they came through the small settlement of Capt. David Scott on the Looking Glass River in DeWitt. Apparently impressed with the lands about the settlement, Isaac purchased nearby land in section 17 and his eldest son, William, purchased 40 acres of government land in section eight.

During the winter of 1835-36, the Hewitt men began clearing their lands and building cabins. They soon returned to Oakland County and brought the waiting women and children to join them in DeWitt.

Isaac and Phebe Hewitt are known to have had nine children who grew to maturity. Of these, all were born in Prattsburg, Steuben County, New York, and all came with the parents to Clinton County during that winter. At the time of the move,

William, the eldest, was a married man of 23 years, while Luther, the youngest, was a mere lad of only about two years.

Isaac was one of the founders of the DeWitt Baptist Church which was organized in 1840. He died in DeWitt on March 28, 1846, and is believed to have been buried in DeWitt cemetery as was his widow when she died on Oct. 20, 1854.

The following are individual accounts of each of the nine children.

William A. Hewitt was born on Nov. 26, 1811, and was married in 1830 to Hannah Hyatt, a native of Orange County, New York, born on March 15, 1813.

From his initial purchase of 40 acres of government land, William would eventually become one of the most prosperous men of the county. Aside from his farming, he was among the first four justices of the peace for DeWitt Township, being elected to the office in the first township election in 1837. He retained the office for several decades, both in DeWitt and later at Maple Rapids. He also studied law under pioneer attorney Joab Baker.

In 1850, William purchased the "Boston House," a small hotel on the northeast corner of Main and Franklin Streets in DeWitt. This Greek revival style structure had been built in 1843 as the private residence of Judge Hiram Stowell (the county's first judge of probate), and following the Judge's death, had been converted into a hotel by Parker Webber, the former miller for the Waterloo Joint Stock Co., at Wacousta.

William did a good business with his hotel and other business interests, especially catering to the professional trade who required lodging during the peak seasons when DeWitt swelled with people attending county court or other county business.

But William apparently had his sights set higher. He located an area in Essex Township which he felt offered great advantages for a town. He purchased the land from Solomon Moss, and on Feb. 20, 1852, after selling his interests in DeWitt, he moved his family to the site on the Maple River at the rapids.

He and his four sons began at once to construct a

saw mill and pull a dam across the river. For their first home, they moved a log cabin from Judge Pettit's farm to a location near the dam site.

Soon after, William opened a merchantile store at the site and began finalizing his plans for the future village. After platting the site, he began construction of a hotel and in 1854, he succeeded Edward Perrin as postmaster.

There were many people who undoubtedly contributed to the founding and initial growth of Maple Rapids, but the village owes its founding to the vision and industry of William Hewitt.

William and Hannah had five children: Joseph (married Sarah A. Hubbell and had three children), Zachariah (married America Hoyt and had two children), Fannie (married Martin V. Brown), Isaac (married Helen C. Lansing and had two children), and Rufus Henry (married Jennie Smith and had two children).

William died at a young age on Feb. 12, 1863. Hannah remained at Maple Rapids and on June 2, 1864, was married to William's younger brother, Simeon Hewitt. She died on Nov. 2, 1898, and was buried beside William in the Sowle cemetery.

Lyman J. Hewitt was born about 1815, and was married on Feb. 4, 1841, to Harriet Woodruff. She was born about 1820, and is believed to have been a sister to Riley J. and Addison A. Woodruff, early cabinet makers and later merchants of St. Johns and DeWitt respectively.

Lyman owned an 80-acre tract of land in section 31 of DeWitt Township as early as 1839, but was himself a carpenter by trade. The earliest mention of his occupation comes from the DeWitt Township minute books of 1842, where it is recorded that he was hired to build a public animal pound in the village for the containment of stray livestock. Upon inspection, it was noted to be "completed as specified with good padlock and hasp."

By 1850, Lyman had moved his family to DeWitt village where he opened a carpenter's shop on the south side of the river. Here the record of Lyman vanishes. He died during the latter half of the 1850's, for by 1860, Harriet was married to Daniel

Moore of that village.

Lyman and Harriet had only one known child, Milo H. Hewitt who served in Company A of the 23rd Michigan Infantry during the Civil War, and later moved to eastern Michigan.

Deborah Hewitt was born about 1818, and on Jan. 1, 1839, was married to John C. Warren. For a time they lived in the DeWitt area, but no confirmed records past 1840 have been located regarding them.

The federal census of 1850 lists a Deborah "Warner," age 33 with an eight-year-old boy, Hiram, living with Abel Hewitt in DeWitt, but the same census also lists a Deborah "Warren," age 34, living with Geo. O. and Eliza (Hewitt) Wells at DeWitt.

Fanny Hewitt was born on July 14, 1820. She, along with her father, was a founder of the DeWitt Baptist Church in 1840. She was the first new member accepted into the church following its formal organization.

On Feb. 21, 1841, she was married to William Rouse at DeWitt, where they continued to reside. They became the parents of a large family of at least eight children. All of these became orphaned following the untimely deaths of their parents: Fanny on Nov. 20, 1859, and William on April 12, 1860.

These orphaned children were looked after by Fanny's sister, Eliza, who moved into the Rouse household with her own children. Some of the orphans were known to have been sent at times to Maple Rapids to stay with family members there.

The known Rouse children include: Eliza Jane (married a Naracon), William Henry (married Helen Dunham), Caroline, Helen and Ellen (twins), Albert, Hattie (married G.W. Randell), and Mary Jane.

*Note: A special thanks to Virginia J. Watterson of Carland, Calif., (a great-great-granddaughter of William and Hannah Hewitt) for submitting much of this genealogical information to the Clinton County Historical Society Archives.*

Rouse



# features

Clinton County News 224-236

## Celebrating 150 years

# Clinton County Sesquicentennial Part two of the Hewitt family saga

**Editor's Note:** The following history of the Hewitt family of Clinton County was written by Clinton County Historical Society member Ken Coin. Due to the length of the article, it has been divided into two parts. Part one, published in the Clinton County News on April 11, dealt with the family founders, Isaac and Phebe Hewitt, and histories of their children, William, Lyman, Deborah, and Fanny. Part two, in this week's CCN, chronicles the histories of the Hewitt's remaining children, Eliza, Abraham, Edmund, Simeon, and Luther.

Eliza Hewitt was born in Aug., 1824. Her first marriage was to George O. Wells of DeWitt on Dec. 16, 1841.

DeWitt in the 1840's became somewhat renowned for its large concentration of shoemakers and George Wells was among the earliest. The location of his shop(s) has not been pinpointed but early letters from the period mention him as working for a time with master bootmaker Andrew J. Bement (progenator of the St. Johns Bements) at his shop on East Main Street, and also for Nelson Alport in "the hole," a large factory which operated out of the cellar of the Clinton House hotel.

George and Eliza were also the county jailers for a time, living at the county jailhouse on East Washington Street. This was probably more of a job for Eliza than for George. During these early years the main function of a jailor was to feed and possibly launder for the prisoners whose cells were located in the basement of the jailhouse.

George died at age 38, on March 6, 1855, and Eliza remained in DeWitt several years, eventually

moving into the household of her late sister, Fanny Rouse.

In the early 1860's Eliza moved her family to Maple Rapids and was married there on Nov. 24, 1864, to David Goss. She resided in Maple Rapids for many years, eventually owning the home of her younger brother, Simeon, following his death. She died at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Eugene Brya in Olive Township.

Eliza is recorded as having eight children, but many of these died young and only two survived her at the time of her death on July 27, 1906. She was also the last surviving child of Isaac and Phebe Hewitt.

**Abraham ("Abel") Hewitt** was born about 1826 and was married in DeWitt on Jan. 1, 1849, to Jane E. Gunderman.

His death in the early 1850's cuts short his pioneer history in the county.

Jane, in 1854, married widower Jonathan Pearsall, an organizer and early driving force of the DeWitt Baptist Church. The Pearsall homestead included a large tract of land south of DeWitt along the east side of "Turner's Road."

After Jonathan's death in 1868, Jane remained in the DeWitt area, and, although no record of her death has been located, she remained an active member of the Baptist church until the 1870's.

Abel and Jane had two sons, Edward and George, both of whom remained in the DeWitt area.

**Edmund Hewitt** was born Dec. 15, 1828, and was married in DeWitt on Dec. 17, 1852, to Julia Bissell.

Just prior to his marriage, Edmund lived with the family of Rowland S. VanScoy (VanScoy would later

become a wealthy land owner in Essex Township). Rowland's wife was the former Ruth Bissell (his second wife was her sister), and it is believed that there was probably a connection between the wives of VanScoy and Julia Bissell Hewitt.

Julia died shortly after their marriage and on Aug. 12, 1860, Edmund married Mary A. Collins (a daughter of James and Margaret Collins?).

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Edmund enlisted in Co. E, 3rd Michigan Cavalry, and saw action throughout the war until his discharge in 1866.

Afterwards, he returned to his farm at DeWitt and remained on section 17, the remainder of his life. Edmund died on Aug. 21, 1905, and Mary, surviving him for several years, died Dec. 2, (1920?), at Rochester, Mich., where she had lived for several years.

Only two children survived Edmund and Mary, John, and Margaret (Mrs. Charles Griffey).

**Simeon Hewitt** was born in June of 1831, and was married on April 10, 1855, to Sarah J. Warren at DeWitt. She is thought to have been a daughter of Lyman and Betsey Warren (Lyman was an early master carpenter at DeWitt).

Both Simeon and Sarah joined the DeWitt Baptist Church shortly before their marriage. They remained active members only a short time and were "erased" from the membership rolls in 1858.

Sarah's fate remains unclear. In 1860, she is listed on the federal census as living in the household of Lyman and Betsey Warren, and in June of that year she was received back into the church where she remained on the membership rolls as late as 1870.

Shortly after the death of his mother in 1854,

Simeon purchased his parent's old homestead in DeWitt Township. In the late 1850's, he bought a saw mill in DeWitt which he then operated until the outbreak of the Civil War.

In 1861, he enlisted in the regiment known as the "Lancers" and served until his discharge.

Simeon was married a second time, June 2, 1864, at Linden, Mich., to Hannah (Hyatt) Hewitt, the widow of the eldest brother William. He moved to Maple Rapids where he opened a furniture store in 1869. To this business he added an undertaking establishment, both of which he continued to the time of his death. He sustained a substantial loss from the devastating Maple Rapids fire of 1885, but through persistence, was able to eventually rebuild his business.

Soon after his removal to Maple Rapids he joined the Methodist Episcopal church and was on the building committee for the structure built in 1868. Besides a strong devotion to his church, he held memberships in the Maple Rapids Masonic Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, Grand Army of the Republic, and was a charter member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Simeon died at his home in Maple Rapids, April 10, 1902.

**Luther Hewitt**, the youngest child of Isaac and Phebe Hewitt, died at the young age of 22 years, on May 28, 1855, and was buried beside his parents in the DeWitt cemetery.

*Note: A special thanks to Virginia J. Watter-son of Carland, Calif., (a great-great-granddaughter of William and Hannah Hewitt) for submitting much of this genealogical information to the Clinton County Historical Society Archives.*

25004



Rozell

**Price-Rozell**

Agnes M. Rozell and Allie Price, both of St. Johns, were united in marriage by Rev. Ostrander at his home in Lansing Sunday Oct. 28, 1928. They were attended by Miss Lucile Price and Ralph Shoemaker of St. Johns. They will reside on the groom's farm  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile east of the Price M. E. church.

1928

5-27-79  
State Journal



John Robison



Gail Dhariwal



Photos by Justin Kestenbaum

Margaret Stacks

# 5 friends, competitors crash victims

By JAMES A. HARRIS  
Staff Writer

Up until 3:03 p.m. Friday, May 25, the five Lansing area residents aboard American Airlines Flight 191 were friends and competitors in a common vocation.

In the end, that vocation — and their love of books — brought them together to share the tragic fate of 266 other passengers aboard the doomed DC-10 which plummeted 2,000 feet to the ground only minutes after takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

All five were bound for Los Angeles' Convention Center for the Saturday opening of the American Booksellers Association's annual four-day trade show and convention.

THREE OF the five were employees of Jocundry's Books in East Lansing.

The other two were employed by Suits News Company in Lansing.

All are now dead — the aftermath of the worst air disaster in U.S. aviation history.

They are: — John Robison, 40, 327 University Drive, East Lansing. Robison, owner of Jocundry's Books and

former Michigan State University English instructor, opened the store two and a half years ago. He is survived by his wife, Madra, and his 8-year-old son, Benjamin.

— Gail Dhariwal, 23, 593 Virginia Avenue, East Lansing. Mrs. Dhariwal, married to Cyrus Miller, was an employee of Jocundry's Book Store. They had no children.

— Margaret (Peggy) Stacks, 26, 650 Wayland Avenue, East Lansing. She was a manager at Jocundry's Books. Ms. Stacks, only daughter of Frederick and Margaret Stacks of Okemos, is survived by her parents and brothers David, Frederick, and Donald.

— Douglas Ruble, 29, 307 West Madison Avenue, DeWitt Township. Ruble was chief book buyer for Suits News where he had worked since graduating from DeWitt High School in 1967. He was graduated from MSU in 1971. He is survived by his wife, Jenny, and four children, Doug, 9; Laura, 4; Barbara, 3; and Sally, 1.

— Marcia E. Platt, 26, of 1438 Haslett Road, East Lansing. She was assistant book buyer for Suits News Company where she had worked since 1970. She is a graduate of East Lansing High School and MSU where she studied English. Ms. Platt is survived by

her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Platt of Sacramento, Calif., and two sisters, Karen Platt of San Diego, Calif., and Marilyn Porter of Oskaloosa, Iowa.

BESIDES BEING common victims of a mind-boggling tragedy, many of

the passengers aboard Flight 191 shared some kind of interest in the publication industry. Many were bound for the same convention as the five from the Lansing area.

Concluded on page A-7



Marcia E. Platt



Douglas Ruble

Ruble

Bulletins on the airplane crash traveled quickly over the electronic media late Friday afternoon.

Acquaintances of the five dead say they were overcome with dread the moment they heard the news that a Chicago to Los Angeles flight had crashed, although confirmation of their suspicions that any of the five might have been on the plane wasn't to come from American Airlines until six hours later that day.

**FRIENDS, RELATIVES,** and co-workers of the Lansing victims were uniform in their descriptions of the five dead as people with an intense literary bent, artistically inclined, and exceptionally intelligent.

Ms. Platt's sister, Karen, was driving from San Diego, site of the second worst disaster in aviation history only eight months ago, to L.A. Friday afternoon to meet her sister when she heard news of the crash on her car radio.

She returned immediately to San Diego to call her father and inform him of the news.

**"THE OFFICIAL** notification didn't come until about 9 p.m. your time," said the senior Platt in a telephone conversation between Lansing and Sacramento.

"It's a terrible shock...one of those things that just doesn't happen to you or your family," he said, his voice beginning to waver.

"She was a very creative person...she was just beginning to take her graduate courses in creative writing at Michigan State University," he said. "We had just seen her a couple of months ago.

"We kept in pretty close contact — we were pretty close, we were pretty close..." he continued in a whisper veiled by muted weeping.

**DOUGLAS RUBLE** was a promising young executive at Suits News Co. and was representing the firm, along with Ms. Platt, at the convention.

He had risen through the ranks to assume the position of literature purchasing agent, second in importance only to the company's president and owner, Alan Suits.

"When we heard about the crash, we called immediately to find out if that was the flight they were booked on," Suits said Saturday. "We didn't know until 10 p.m. that they had actually gotten on the plane.

"Doug is known in the book publishing industry for his knowledge of books," Suits said.

"It is a big shock to our company because they were the top executives at Suits News...they were both very popular, very talented and capable young people," he said. "It is a major loss to us, to their families, and the entire book industry.

**ANOTHER FRIEND** said that Suits spent four or five hours Friday night sitting by and trying to comfort the young widow of the popular Ruble,

who was described as not having "an enemy in the world."

"We all held the hope that Doug hadn't gotten on the plane," said Ruble's brother, Charles.

"We all waited...but the longer we held out hope, the worse it got," he said.

"We're very shocked — it's something that comes and we just don't want to accept it, but reality came with all the confirmations that he was one of the dead and we've just got to give up not believing," he said.

**"PEOPLE AT** the store called me to say there was a crash...at that time, no one knew the flight number," said Mrs. Robison.

"But then on the radio, I heard it was an L.A. flight that crashed, and that's when I started getting worried," she said.

"I just don't know what to say," she said of the confirmations of her husband's death late Friday night. "It's a tragedy...three fine people have been lost."

**"HE'LL REALLY** be missed in East Lansing — he had a tremendous sense of community," said neighbor Tom Husband of Robison, whose bookstore was known not just as a bookstore but as a gathering place for artists, writers and entertainers.

"He'd invite poets in to do readings or whatever and break open a case of champagne," said Husband, top aide to House Speaker Bobby Crim. "At his house, too, he socialized with writers and artists. He was a literary intellectual.

"He may have been physically big with a gruff voice, but he was the kindest man I ever knew," Husband added. "He was totally without guile."

**ROBISON WAS** also active in the amnesty international movement ("he abhorred injustice of any kind," Husband said) and also served on the commercial committee, an advisory committee to the East Lansing Planning Commission. There his colleagues regarded him as a visionary, whose favorite project was to some day have a large greenhouse space in downtown East Lansing.

Gail Dhariwal had been a wife for only a year.

She was interested in literature and the arts all her life.

Her husband, Cyrus, was unavailable for comment, but her brother-in-law, Tom Miller, spoke well of Mrs. Dhariwal.

**"SHE WAS JUST** a good person, an artist — she was heavily involved in the East Lansing art community," said Miller.

"We heard about the crash a couple hours after it happened," he said. "Everybody was apprehensive because we knew she was headed for L.A.

"It's terrible," he said.

Another Michigan victim was Michael Misna, 47, Bellevue, manager of University Microfilms of Ann Arbor and a president of the Van Buren Township school board.



JOHN RUIZ

## DeWitt Man Killed in Viet War

DeWITT—A 20-year-old DeWitt soldier has been killed in action in South Vietnam.

The victim was Spec. 4 John Ruiz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Domingo T. Ruiz of 11400 U.S. 27.

A telegram from the Defense Department reported he was wounded fatally Monday by fragments from a booby trap while returning from a night patrol to his unit in the 18th Infantry Division.

Spec. 4 Ruiz, a lifelong resident of this area, was a 1965 graduate of DeWitt High School and employed by Oldsmobile before entering the Army in October.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by three brothers, Julian of Owosso, Clio of Lansing and Jesse of DeWitt; four sisters, Frances, Vicki, Susie and Marie, all at home and a grandmother, Mrs. Susanna Franko of Lansing.

The body will be returned to Vincent-Rummel Funeral Home here.

DeWitt Soldier

### JOHN F. RUIZ

Date of Birth  
August 19, 1947  
Lansing, Michigan

Date of Death  
January 29, 1968  
Viet Nam

Services  
ST. THERESE CHURCH  
Lansing, Michigan  
Saturday, February 10, 1968  
10:00 a.m.

Officiating  
Fr. Robert T. Palmer  
Interment  
Mt. Rest Cemetery  
St. Johns, Michigan

Bearers  
Nick Franco Joe Franco  
Joe Lozano Dennis Abrechtson  
Dennis Schartzler Tom Isenhart

Arrangements by  
Lee R. Rummel, DeWitt, Mich.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart  
make my heart like unto Thine.

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN F. RUIZ

O GENTLEST Heart of Jesus,  
ever present in the Blessed  
Sacrament, ever consumed with  
burning love for the poor captive  
souls in Purgatory, have mercy  
on the soul of Thy departed ser-  
vant, do not sever in Thy judg-  
ment, but let some drops of Thy  
precious Blood fall upon the de-  
vouring flames, and do Thou,  
O merciful Saviour, send Thy  
Angels to conduct Thy depart-  
ed servant to a place of refresh-  
ment, light and peace. Amen.  
May the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace. Amen.

Ruiz



Rummell



MRS. ROBERT LEWIS MYERS

## Miss Debrah Marie Rummell Bride of Robert Lewis Myers

Miss Debrah Marie Rummell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Rummell of DeWitt, became the bride of Robert Lewis Myers Saturday evening in a ceremony at Valley Farms Baptist Church.

The pair will live in Lansing.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Myers, 4921 Starr Ave., are parents of the bridegroom.

The new Mrs. Myers selected a wedding gown of Chantilly lace styled with long sleeves and a tiered skirt.

Mrs. Asa A. Bigelow of Williamston wore a floor-length Empire gown of dark blue as matron of honor. Bridesmaids in pale blue gowns were Miss Sandra Rummell, sister of the bride, and Mrs. Michael Roberts, sister of the bridegroom.

Jeff Mulder was his cousin's best man and ushers were Edward Rummell, the bride's brother, and Jon Dodge, uncle of the bridegroom. Michael Roberts, brother-in-law of the bridegroom, and Asa A. Bigelow served as groomsmen. Belinda Rummell was maid of honor for her sister and

Greg Martin, cousin of the bride, was ringbearer.

A church parlor reception followed the marriage.

Thursday, July 15, 1964

## *Asks GOP Nomination for County Coroner*

Lee R. Rummell, 40, DeWitt funeral director, will be a candidate for one of the two Clinton County Coroner nominations at the Republican primary on Sept. 1.

Rummell is a native of Clinton County, born in St. Johns and a son of Lloyd F. and Adah Mosher Rummell. He graduated from the Ovid High School and attended MSU before entering military service in 1943. He served with the US Army in North Africa, Italy and in the Far Eastern theater.

\* \*

HE ATTENDED the Cincinnati College of Embalming and Applied Sciences and received his mortuary science license in 1950. He was associated with the Baird Funeral Home in Lapeer for six years and was co-manager of the Worthington Funeral Home at Brooklyn for six years before purchasing the former Vincent Funeral Home at DeWitt in 1961.

Rummell is a member of the Michigan Funeral Directors Association, DeWitt Lions Club, treasurer of the DeWitt Memori-



LEE R. RUMMELL

al Association and a committeeman for the Boy Scout troop in DeWitt. He is affiliated with the Bath American Legion post, the DeWitt Masonic Lodge and the Brooklyn IOOF.

He and his wife, Delores, have four children—Debrah 16, Sandra 14, Roger 10 and Belinda 5.





THE LAPHAM FARM on the east side of DeWitt Road between Lehman and Alward roads, 1908. Pictured (l. to r.) are Mildred (Lapham) Miller, John F. Miller, Bouser (seated) Virginia (Huot) Lapham, Gilbert Lapham and James Lapham. The house was built on lands which Virginia Lapham inherited from her step-father, John P. Russell. Photo courtesy of Dianna (Miller) Haggerty with identifications supplied by Merle (Lapham) Klaver.

## Alward Road cemetery was moved near turn of century

By KEN COIN

You'll remember last time we were at the Alward Cemetery and I asked Earl Miller what happened to the cemetery which used to be on the west side of DeWitt road, directly across from the Alward cemetery.

His answer was simple: "They dug it up and moved it." Then he elaborated:

He couldn't remember the year but knew he was a young teenager (and he was born in 1896); he was staying with his grandmother, Virginia Lapham, (at the house pictured above) while his grandfather and some other local men were up in the north woods hunting.

Now, across the road and little north was the farm of Virginia's brother John Huot and his wife, Flora (nee: Wixom). John Huot too was among the group of hunters and while they were away the subject of "their" cemetery came up between Virginia and Flora. Unlike the Alward cemetery which was owned by Olive Township, the west side cemetery was on private land, land which Virginia and her brother John had inherited together from their step father John P. Russell.

Both Virginia and Flora had long expressed concern over the burden of its upkeep, vandalism, and the fact that they could both see it from their homes. In short, they agreed it was an eyesore and a burden and they wished it gone. They had tried before to get their husbands to see to its removal but they got no results. So...while the men were away Earl watched as his grandmother cranked up the phone and made some phone calls to DeWitt.

She found some men with wagons who were willing to come out for a price and do the job. Earl thought this was great! This was exciting! This was something that he and his friends would have gladly done for free! But they weren't asked. In fact, he wasn't allowed to even help but he did go and watch.

The graves which still had monuments were few and far between. Those were to go to the DeWitt cemetery. Of those, the only one now known were moved to the lot 21 of section B in DeWitt and they included: Mary C. Russell, Jean Louis Hout

and Marie (Hout) Lonier. A curious fact about the latter two is that the same death date, April 30, 1866 is given for both. A check of the county newspaper of that week gives a small mention that an outbreak of smallpox had been reported from DeWitt. Additionally, it might be noted that the name here is spelled HOUT instead of the usual HUOT.

There was one additional tombstone which now reposes in a brush pile along the fence row of the Alward cemetery. It matches one of the stones moved to DeWitt but unfortunately the top portion, including the name, is broke off and missing. The date is still legible, "July 17, 1862", along with a verse:

*What glorious peace I now enjoy  
Free from pain and earth's alloy  
My happy spirit soars away  
To live with God in heavenly day*

There were several other graves, either unmarked or marked only with a wooden slab or a mid-size boulder brought up from a nearby field. These, to the best of his knowledge, Earl said, were transferred across the road and later marked with a small cylinders flush with the ground, embossed simply "GRAVE".

Earl recalled that an unusual feature of some of the graves was that it appeared that when originally dug, the holes were lined with brick with no indication that a coffin had been used. His youthful curiosity was somewhat disappointed by the fact that there really weren't a lot of bones to be seen. Several skulls and a few hip bones plus some coffin handles and a few nails were all that remained.

I asked Earl who had been buried in the little graveyard. He sort of shrugged and answered, "Just some Indians and French people." He took me to the DeWitt cemetery and showed me the three graves listed above but, at the time I didn't connect them to the full story. Since that time I've done my homework and discovered that he was right, they were French people and perhaps some Indians too. But what he didn't tell me was that they were his people, his own ancestors. And that's another story.

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

# DeWitt remembered: Coin explores the history of the French settlers in DeWitt

By KEN COIN

The 1860's in DeWitt is often viewed as the time when the first wave of German immigrants made their way north from Ohio adding names to our landscape such as Schavey, Bauerle, Hepfer, Henning and etc. But there was also a lesser known immigrant group who came to DeWitt. These were the French families with names such as Brya, Clavey, Desprez, Huot, Lonier, Roussel and others.

Most of the French settled in the Alward Lake area, a few miles north of DeWitt. Over the next decades many of these families migrated towards St. Johns after establishing connections with the Catholic church there (DeWitt having no organized Catholic population). Of the families who came, that of Jean Pierre Roussel was among the earliest and remained among the most prominent.

In 1860, Roussel, born near Paris, France in 1799, came up from Starke County, Ohio with his new bride Marian Clare and settled on a large spread of land (over 400 acres) on both sides of DeWitt Road, south of Alward Road. With them also came Marian's children by her previous marriage to M. Huot: John Peter Huot and Virginia Huot (and perhaps a third child, Marian C. who would shortly marry A. Lonier). Marian Roussel was also French, having been born in France in 1816. She married her first husband in France and they came to America in the late 1840's, settling in Shelby County, Ohio.

DeWitt Road in the early 1860's was still a major north and south thoroughfare through Michigan. As Lansing, the capital city, was still without a railroad connection, DeWitt Road offered one of the closest links via a few hour stagecoach ride to the depot at St. Johns and coaches ran daily along the route as well as freight wagons. To take advantage of the enormous traffic, Roussel immediately set about building a "hotel" on the east side of DeWitt Road just south of the Alward Cemetery. Roussel proudly called his establishment "The Travelers Home".

Thomas J. Baldwin, a later neighbor of Roussels', who lived at the southwest corner of Lehman and DeWitt roads wrote in 1906: "He (Roussel) was a large, genial, and honest man and, together with his tavern, carried on farming. A small brewery was conducted a short time on the same farm by a Frenchman named John Huot who died in the spring of 1868 (should read 1866?) since which time it was used for other purposes. A Frenchman who used the building before Mr. Huot, it is said, in an underground cellar, carried on for awhile the business of making whiskey with an apparatus which he used for the purpose and, succeeded in avading the revenue tax. The apparatus is still in the possession of one of the relatives." Both the brewery and hotel are noted on the 1864 "Geil Map" of Clinton County.

The "John" Jean Louis Huot mentioned by Baldwin was probably a brother-in-law to Marian Roussel. Another probable brother-in-law was Francois "Frank" Huot and his wife Polin ("Pauline") Bally who came to the area in the spring of 1864. Their children included: Salinda, Isabell (later Mrs. Frank Peltier), Julius F. and Virginia (later Mrs. Keyes).

When Roussel died March 28, 1876 he left a sizable estate. Besides his large landholdings

he held notes and mortgages against his family and neighbors to the tune of about \$5,000. In his will he left most of his land to his widow Marian to be split equally upon her death between her two children, John P. Huot and Virginia Lapham. He also bequeathed some land to Louis and Peter L. Vauconsant, whose father Peter J. of St. Johns was also a native of "near Paris", France. Peter L. was named administrator of the estate.

A separate item in Roussel's will gives the explanation of the little cemetery which was once located directly west of the Alward Cemetery: "I give and devise for a family Cemetery a piece or parcel of land, containing one acre in square form, in the North-east corner...of section 20 (Olive) to be used for burial purposes forever." Sorry Jean Pierre, but "forever" is a long-long time and in this case it lasted only about 35 years.

As we all are aware, money has a certain smell to it which, once in the air, knows no political boundaries. The aroma of this money wafted all the way to Paris, France where it was picked up by some of Roussel's relatives. In the early months of 1878, a letter arrived at the courthouse in St. Johns from a Detroit attorney who had been engaged by the French Consulate of Chicago to look into the matter of Roussel's estate. What Roussel's will did not bother to specify was who was to inherit any of the proceeds from his estate and his relatives in Paris were quick to proclaim themselves the "Legitimate Heirs".

Throughout much of 1878 Henry Harris, a Paris attorney, fired off numerous letters trying to get his client's foot in the door. He wrote to the Judge of Probate for Clinton County asking for delays in settling the estate so that his clients, being "very poor peasants", could be heard. He wrote to the French Embassy in Chicago asking them to intercede. He wrote to local attorney Randolph Strickland, sending him family charts and genealogies and asking him to argue the case on behalf of the French heirs. He even wrote to Peter Vauconsant asking him to acknowledge the claims of his clients.

As is too often the case, the Probate Court records seem to dwindle out just when the story gets interesting. In the end the French heirs evidently did win a settlement. By this time Roussel's widow Marian was also deceased so the French relatives' claim gained legitimacy. Who were these relatives? They are never named in the court records. They may possibly have been older children of Roussel as some records from Ohio indicate that Roussel had a wife and family prior to his marriage to Marian Huot. Or, they may simply have been nieces and nephews. But that story must be left to a better historian than myself.

Land-wise the Huots of DeWitt profited from Roussel's success and generosity. Portions of his homestead are still owned by two of his wife's great-grandchildren: LeRoy Miller and Merle (Lapham) Klaver.

As to the old Roussel cemetery and the question which started all this research, the graves which were removed to the DeWitt Cemetery many years ago and pointed out to me by Earl Miller as "just some Indians and French people" included his great-grandmother Marian Clare Huot-Roussel ("Mary C. Russell wife of John Russell"), his grandmother's sister

(Continued from page 6)  
Marian Huot-Lonier ("Marie Huot wife of A. Lonier") and possibly his great-grandfather's brother John L. Huot ("Jean Louis Huot") the brewer at the "Travelers' Home". And Jean Pierre Roussel himself? I'm afraid his grave site has now been lost. That he was originally buried in the cemetery he set aside is quite certain but was his grave moved across the road to the Alward Cemetery or to DeWitt with his wife's?

So this answers the question about the French people Earl spoke of but what about the Indians? There's some substance to that part of Earl's remark too but that's another story.  
Note — In this article I have given the subjects' names as they themselves spelled them: Jean Pierre Roussel, Marian C. Roussel, Jean Louis Huot, etc. You will usually find their names in local records and histories as John Peter Russell, Mary C. Russell and John Huot, K.C.

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

## Roussel family history continued

**Huguelet-Rust**

Newell H. Huguelet and Miss Arvena Irene Rust, Dewitt young people, were united in marriage by Rev. T. S. Cleaver at the Congregational manse at 8:30 a. m. Wednesday, June 19, 1929. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Plowman of Lansing. Directly after the marriage Mr. and Mrs. Huguelet left for northern Michigan and will spend their honeymoon at Beulah. They will reside at Dewitt.