

Touse

Leaves Four Months Old—~~White~~—White,  
Summoning Jury Officer's Horse  
Struck by Lightning.

In a fit of despondency over a domestic disagreement, Mrs. Fred Touse of south Olive ended her life yesterday morning by poison. She took half a teaspoonful of strychnine and died half an hour later in convulsions.

The Touses live on the B. J. Lemman farm near the South Olive schoolhouse. Mrs. Touse was twenty-five years old and her husband a trifle older, and both were well thought of in the community. There had been some difficulty between them, however, though it is believed not to have been of any serious nature, and it was this that lead to her taking her life. Touse got up as usual yesterday morning at four o'clock and built a fire, afterwards retiring again. At five they arose and later Touse started to go away. When he had reached the road she called from the door, "Come back and take care of the baby for I've taken poison."

"You haven't taken poison, have you?" he asked in astonishment.

"Yes, I have," she replied. He ran to the house of the nearest neighbor, Aaron Chadwick, and got Mrs. Chadwick, who returned at once with him to the house.

"We must do something for you," she said to Mrs. Touse.

"No," replied the latter, "I don't want you to," and started for the door. They both started after her and as Touse got where she was she exclaimed, "I can't go any further, my legs are giving out."

In spite of her refusal to be helped they succeeded in giving her a quantity of grease, but the deadly dose had already begun to do its work and she was soon in hopeless convulsions. She died in about half an hour, her last words being, "Fred, I'm sorry that I did it."

Dr. Sanford of DeWitt was summoned but before he arrived she was dead. Justice P. H. Wilkins, acting as coroner, held an inquest yesterday afternoon. He appointed Amos Hubbard to impanel the jury, and he summoned Charles Francisco, Jay Flynn, Riley Mead, Aaron Chadwick and O. A. Knapp. They returned a verdict that she came to her death by means of poison administered by her own hand.

The name of the deceased before her marriage was Ora Simmons. She was a daughter of Jefferson Simmons who lives just north of the South Olive school house. They had not been married long and had one child, a babe four months old. She also left a mother, three sisters and two brothers. The funeral will probably be held on Friday.

A singular occurrence, startling in view of the tragic circumstances, happened while the jury was being impaneled. When Amos Hubbard went to summon Charles Francisco he drove up to the gate and tied his horse. He had no sooner reached the house than a terrific crash of thunder was heard and on looking back he saw that his horse had been struck by lightning and killed in the very spot where he stood a few moments before.

1902

Tout

Wednesday evening, December 27, 120 invited guests met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Tout to witness the marriage of their daughter, Lillie, to Mr. Frank Yauze. Promptly at 7 o'clock Mrs. George Williams commenced the wedding march, which ushered in the happy pair, lead by the Rev. E. D. Way, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Norris, Mr. Fred Huet and Miss Lydia Tout. The ceremony was short and impressive. After congratulations, refreshments were served, which all enjoyed and a very pleasant evening was spent. The happy couple were the recipients of a fine lot of wedding gifts. The following is a list: Mr. and Mrs. John Tout, set dishes and silver butter dish; Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Tout, N. Y. trunk and \$6.00; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Norris, set silver knives and forks; Miss Anna Yauze, glass water set; Mr. Albert and Miss Anna Martzke, set glass sauce dishes; Mr. Otto Martzke, parlor lamp; Mr. Adolph and Miss Amelia Bernard, silver sugar shell; Mr. Joe and Miss Mary Bernard, silver butter knife; Miss Minnie Rogers, Lansing, set china berry dishes; Mr. and Mrs. John Brink, set silver knives and forks; Mr. Fenton Brink and the Misses Attie and Josie Pearce, parlor lamp; Mr. W. Case, Miss Mary Wager, Mr. Fred Huet, and Miss Lydia Tout, mantle clock; Mr. and Mrs. George Blizzard, set glass ware; Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Woodruff, table cloth; Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Woodruff, pair flannel blankets and towels; Miss Marguerite Woodruff, head rest; Mrs. Carrie Simmons, fruit dish; Misses Ada and Eva Simmons, rose jar; Mr. and Mrs. George Simmons, china cracker jar; Mr. and Mrs. Willis McLouth, parlor lamp; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hill, parlor lamp; Mrs. Celia Blizzard and daughter, Maud, pair towels and glass celery dish; Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Ferguson, Lansing, pair towels; Mr. and Mrs. Locher and family, table cloth; Mr. Chas. and Miss Etta Webb, glass celery dish; Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Norris, pair towels; Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Williams, set Cristy bread knives; Master Floyd Williams, table napkins; Mr. and Mrs. Honeywell, wash tub, dish pan and broom; Mr. and Mrs. James Hale, table cloth; Miss Carrie Hale, glass water pitcher; Mr. and Mrs. Spezter Norris, wash bowl and pitcher; Master Mark Norris, sugar sifter; Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Moon, silver pickle caster; Miss Grace Baldwin, china vase; Mrs. S. A. Stewart, \$1.00 in cash; Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Dille, castor; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Linn, glass berry dish; Dr. and Mrs. Simmons and Mr. and Mrs. Varney Pearce, oak rocker; Mr. and Mrs. Sannel tucker, bed spread; Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Baldwin, silver pickle caster; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Williams, pair flannel blankets; Miss Maude Williams, vase; Mr. and Mrs. Wott, pair towels; Mr. Mark Hill, small fancy bedstead; Rev. E. D. Way, books, "Wedding Bells."

St. Johns News

-4- | 894

Treadwell

F-010

Edward Treadwell  
DEWITT, Jan. 11.—Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 2 o'clock from the Vincent funeral home for Edward Treadwell, 85, who died Monday morning. Rev. LaVerne Bretz of the DeWitt Community church will officiate and burial will be in DeWitt cemetery. He is survived by several nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Lester Cook, Robert Norris, Glenn Halterman, George Mann, L. J. Griswold, and Kenneth Reed.

### Wednesday Rites For Resident of F-010 DeWitt Township

Services were held from the Vincent Funeral home in DeWitt at 1 p. m. Wednesday for Edward Treadwell, 85, who passed away Monday morning. Rev. LaVerne Bretz of the DeWitt Community church officiated and interment was in DeWitt cemetery.

The only survivors are several nieces and nephews. Pall bearers were Lester Cook, Robert Norris, Glenn Halterman, George Mann, L. J. Griswold and Kenneth Reed.

Treadwell

Aug 30 '93

## DeWitt remembered:



Courtesy photo

**EAST MAIN STREET, 1918** – The two unidentified children here are standing in the front yard of the new fieldstone house of the Treadwell family (now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chet Church). The barn to the right, which proudly announces "Arbaugh's – Lansing's Greatest Store," is about where city hall is now located. Far in the background, where the narrow dirt street curves to become Round Lake road, you can barely make out the roof tops of several barns on the south side which I believe were later moved by Del Rose to be incorporated with the stockyards of the Rosevale plant further east. Only the windmill (faintly visible to the right of the barn roofs) remains on the site and still stands in the front yard of the Pioszak home. In the left background you'll no doubt notice the absence of the pine trees of the Retreat house. Those now stately trees weren't even pine cones when this picture was taken.

## DeWitt library receives donation of old photos

Recently, I got a call from Don Harnish who said he had a bunch of old photographs he wanted to find a new home for. The result of his thoughtfulness is a treasure chest donation to the DeWitt Library of several hundred photographs dating from the 1860's to the 1920's – enough to keep me busy cataloging and writing about for a very long time.

The pictures are a conglomeration of postcards, snapshots, tin types, school pictures and studio portraits. Amazingly, only one picture is a duplicate of anything currently in the library's large collection.

The majority of the pictures are tin types of the ancestors of the ancestors of Mr. Harnish's late wife Delma, which include the DeWitt pioneer families of Young, Dunham, Treadwell and Case. But intermingled among these are many pictures of other pioneer families including the Lemm, Blood, Dills, Furgason, Rouse and Gillett clans. These will undoubtedly become much appreciated by future DeWitt genealogists.

In terms of general interest, the gems of the collection are the snapshots (like the one

above) from the album of the late Reva (Treadwell) Derham. Before she left DeWitt in the early 1920's, she captured for posterity numerous street scenes and houses in DeWitt as well as several outlying farms. Her photographs illustrate the quaintness of old DeWitt that words such as mine could never adequately describe: ladies in white cotton dresses catching the breeze on a wide shaded porch; the relaxed lollygagging of the Methodist congregation as they disperse on Sunday morning; the parking lot of the "Club Roma" in 1925; the youthful exuberance of a road trip in two of DeWitt's first automobiles and even something as simple as a DeWitt matron hanging out her wash.

I hope Mr. Harnish realizes just how much these photographs will be appreciated by future generations who go to the library to see (rather than read) what DeWitt was like many years ago.

*Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and one of the area's leading historians. His column appears here biweekly.*

## DeWitt remembered:



Photo courtesy of Don Harnish

**THE TREADWELL FARM ON EAST MAIN STREET IN DEWITT**, ca. 1918. The vantage point of the photographer would be standing in the driveway of Chet Church's house looking west across the lot where Edith Hayner's new home is now located. This photo is from the snapshot album of Reva (Treadwell) Derham, courtesy of Don Harnish.

## Edith Hayner's new home isn't the first on this land

By KEN COIN

Something's happening on east Main Street in the wooded lot between the Catholic Retreat and Edith Hayner's new home.

Trees are coming down and dirt is being moved: a sharp-eyed excavator might find something interesting there besides the rock piles and old foundations. This small lot just happens to be one of the oldest home sites in Clinton County and as the above photo shows, it has gone through quite a change in the past few generations. It just goes to show how quickly we humans can turn a woodlot into a building lot and in turn, how quickly Mother Nature can reclaim her own.

Before Capt. Scott put his plat of DeWitt on paper there were other platted villages in the vicinity. One called Middletown was located on the north side of the river and exactly east of the old plat of DeWitt. Without putting you to sleep with exact legal descriptions of the placement of Middletown, just imagine that it was roughly the property which now incorporates the Catholic Retreat, Earl and Esther Klaver's farm and the new homes along the south side of east Main.

Middletown did not survive the economic panic of 1839 and when the "village" was sold by the state for back taxes in 1842, David Sturgis, DeWitt's first merchant north of the river, was one of the buyers at that sale. He soon added to this purchase by buying the entire east portion of Capt. Scott's platted village, which included the lands this house would occupy. Judging by the tax rolls, Sturgis built this house (or substantially added to it) between 1847 and 1852.

When the whistle of the first locomotives lured Sturgis to St. Johns in the mid 1850's he sold this house to JW Gardner, who used it as home base for his large farm. His farm was bordered on the south by the river, on the

north by Cutler Road, on the west by DeWitt Road and on the east by the farm now owned by Jim Wadel.

In 1868, Gardner reduced the size of his farm by selling off everything on the north side of Main Street/Round Lake road.

The new owners of this old house was the family of Orrin and Lorana Pennell. Forty years later it passed to their youngest son, Mark (John and Marjorie's father) who lived there until about 1910 when he built a retirement home at 210 E. Main and sold the farm to the Treadwell family.

It was Charles Treadwell, a thresher in the DeWitt area for many years, who purchased the house and farm on the north side of Main street, with brothers John and Edward Treadwell buying the lands along the south side.

Charles and May (Dunham) Treadwell, with their two daughters Ila and Reva, lived in this house until 1918 when they moved to their newly-built stone house on east Main now owned by Chet Church. After that date the old house fell into disrepair. What happened to it? I can't find the answer. As is too often the case it's the more recent history I have trouble with. It appears in an aerial photo of DeWitt of the mid-1920's but after that? I've asked many people who remember the house and barns being there, then remember them not being there but don't recall how they came to "not be there". Judging by the size of some of the trees in that lot, I'd say it's "not been there" for a very long time.

As to the farm lands which would later become the Catholic Retreat, the Surratt family bought Charles Treadwell's farm in the 1930's and slowly transformed the rolling fields with the planting of pine trees.

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

IN MEMORY OF

Edward Augustus Treadwell

BORN

PLACE Cayuga Co. New York

DATE June 7, 1863

ENTERED INTO REST

PLACE De Witt Cemetery

DATE January 12, 1949

AGE

YEARS 85

MONTHS 7

DAYS 2

INTERMENT

PLACE De Witt, Michigan

LOT #77

BLOCK

B - 5  
SECTION

DATE 1/12/49

HOUR 1 P.M.

# Memorial Obituary

OWOSO  
ARGUS PRESS

FEB 6 1978

## Reva Derham

CORUNNA — Reva T. Derham of 606 S. Shiawassee St., Corunna, died Sunday at the Shiawassee County Medical Care Facility. She was 84.

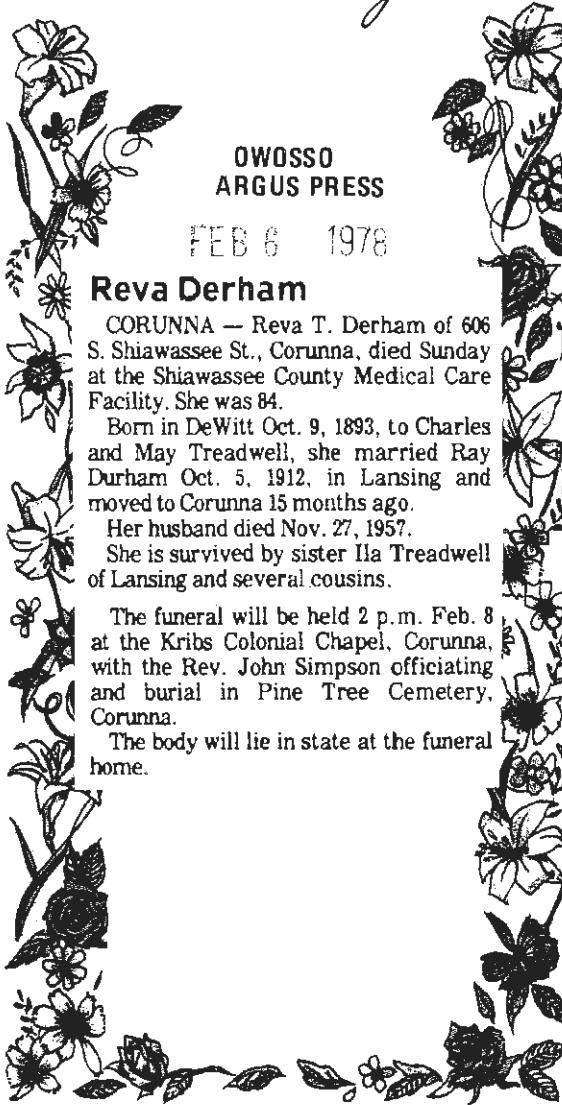
Born in DeWitt Oct. 9, 1893, to Charles and May Treadwell, she married Ray Durham Oct. 5, 1912, in Lansing and moved to Corunna 15 months ago.

Her husband died Nov. 27, 1957.

She is survived by sister Ila Treadwell of Lansing and several cousins.

The funeral will be held 2 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Kribs Colonial Chapel, Corunna, with the Rev. John Simpson officiating and burial in Pine Tree Cemetery, Corunna.

The body will lie in state at the funeral home.



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.

REVA T. DERHAM

DATE OF BIRTH  
October 9, 1893

DATE OF DEATH  
February 5, 1978

SERVICES FROM  
Kribs Colonial Chapel  
Wednesday, February 8, 1978  
Two O'Clock

OFFICIATING  
Rev. John W. Simpson

INTERMENT  
Pine Tree Cemetery  
Corunna

Treadwell

F - 10

8

## RITES HELD FOR MRS. W. V. CASE

### Funeral Services Conducted In Lansing On 50th Wedding Anniversary

Dewitt — Mary Eliza, daughter of John and Elizabeth Treadwell, was born in Cayuga county, New York, Sept. 16, 1867. When six months old her parents came to Michigan, locating in Olive township, where she always resided until her marriage to William V. Case, of Dewitt, July 11, 1888.

To this union one daughter, Ethel L., was born. Mr. and Mrs. Case went to Williamston where they lived for four years. At the death of his mother they moved back on his father's farm to keep house for his father.

Mrs. Case had been in poor health for a number of years and seven weeks ago she was compelled to give up her household duties to be taken to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Albert Young, of Dewitt, where her death occurred Saturday morning, July 9, 1938. Besides her aged husband she is survived by one daughter, Ethel L., one granddaughter, Delma V. Young, of Dewitt; one sister, Mrs. Armenia Lemm, of Lowell, Mich.; two brothers, John Otis Treadwell, of Pontiac, and Edward Treadwell, of Olive; several nephews and nieces and other relatives and a host of friends.

Her funeral was held from the Wood-Peck funeral home in Lansing, Monday afternoon, July 11, at 2 o'clock. Rev. George Percival, pastor of the Universalist church of Lansing, officiated. Interment in the Wilsey cemetery. Her bearers were Dan and John Lerg, Ora Andrews, Carl Seager, Leon Blizzard and William Elwanger.

Mrs. Case was a member of Dewitt grange and attended as long as her health permitted her to. Among the relatives from away in attendance at the funeral were Mrs. Florence Stowe, of Chicago, Mrs. Jennie Holmes, of Fowlerville, Mrs. Reva Derham, of Iron Mountain, and other friends from Grand Rapids, Lansing, Pontiac, Ovid, Royal Oak, Elsie, Olive and Dewitt.

Her funeral and burial occurred on the golden wedding anniversary of her marriage, an event they had planned to observe Monday, July 11.

#### Card of Thanks

We wish to express our thanks to our neighbors and friends and all those who assisted us during the illness and death of our wife and mother, also for the beautiful floral tributes.—Wm. V. Case, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Young, Miss Delma V. Young.

1938

Treadwell

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Treadwell

announce the marriage of their  
daughter

Rexer

to

Mr. Ray Verham

Saturday, October fifth  
nineteen hundred and twelve

DeWitt, Michigan

At Home  
after October twentieth  
at 117 East Saginaw Street  
Lansing, Michigan

Tredwell

THIS CERTIFIES

That on the 22 day of February  
in the year 1893

Charles. S. Tredwell

May. E. <sup>and</sup> Dunham

were by me united in

MARRIAGE

at St. John's. N.Y.

A. J. Dunham. Rev. W. C. Allen

Mattie Nelson. Cong. Minister.



## CARL TROUTWINE

Died at His Home in Watertown on  
Wednesday Evening.

Carl Troutwine, of Watertown, who has been sick with heart trouble for the last six months, died at his home on Wednesday morning. Mr. Troutwine was a German and came to this country 36 years ago, when he was a young man of 27. He was 63 years old at the time of his death. He leaves a wife and three children, Mrs. Paul David of Lansing and Mrs. Herman Loroff and Hannah Troutwine who are at home. Funeral services will be held at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon at DeWitt.

Troutwine

DIES AT 94



MRS. M. F. TROWBRIDGE

## DEATH CLAIMS EARLY PIONEER

MRS. M. F. TROWBRIDGE,  
AGED 94, SUCCUMBS  
NOVEMBER 18

Had Lived On Same Farm In  
Olive Township More  
Than 73 Years

Mrs. Miles F. Trowbridge, one of Clinton county's earliest pioneers, passed away Sunday, November 18, 1928, on the farm in Olive township which had been her home for more than 73 years. Had she lived until next February 10th she would have been 95 years old.

Funeral services were held at the residence Wednesday afternoon. Rev. G. S. Northrup officiated and burial was made in Mt. Rest cemetery.

Ellen Harger was born in Niagara county, N. Y., February 10, 1834, the daughter of Seeley and Arvilla J. Harger. She came with her family to Michigan in 1836, settling in Waterford township, Oakland county. Two years later they moved to West Bloomfield township.

She received her education at the district schools and at a select school. Finishing her school work and receiving a certificate, she continued as a teacher until her marriage to Crover B. Wixom of Farmington, Oakland county, September 22, 1852. After two years residence on the farm in Oakland county they moved to Olive township, where they purchased a farm on section eight, her present late residence.

Mr. Wixom became the school inspector of the township and also township clerk; he taught school winters and gave his time during the summers to clearing and working his farm. At the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted in Company G, 5th Michigan Cavalry, but passed away from disease at Lincoln General Hospital, Washington, D. C.

(Continued on page 2 column 4)

## DEATH CLAIMS EARLY PIONEER

(Continued from page 1)  
March 26, 1864, leaving a widow and four children.

November 13, 1867, she was united in marriage to Miles F. Trowbridge of Wayne county, Michigan, who passed away October 2, 1924. Mrs. Trowbridge was known throughout the township of Olive as a kind dutiful wife and a devoted mother. Her interest in the schools of her section was such that she often visited them and was always interested in the children and their success in school work; it was always one of her pleasures and delights to remember the children with small gifts and frequent entertainments. Because of the fact she became a friend of the younger set who in many ways manifested their love for her, becoming her well wishers up to the day of her final passing.

It was not alone the children whom Mrs. Trowbridge looked after, because she was a tireless worker in the neighborhood in looking after the sick and the distressed, giving of her time and her bounty to relieve distress. It was her one great pleasure to serve others; for this she will long be remembered by those who speak for her neighborly benevolences. She was a quiet but a devoted follower of the Savior, her belief in religion was service, which she continued until age incapacitated her to perform what she had made a life labor.

She was gentle and kindly with a pleasant word for all with whom she came in contact; devoted to her family as a true wife and mother, following that wise injunction laid down for all of us to observe and follow, that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

She leaves to mourn her passing, one son, Frank B. Wixom, and two daughters, Mrs. Frank C. Swain and Mrs. J. P. Huot, besides one grandson, Al J. Huot, and one great grandson, Lawrence Huot.

Trowbridge

Tubbs

Funeral Cards from the Scrapbook of C. Harry Moon

Now owned by Eleanor Moon McKinney (1984)

Lydia Tubbs- July 20, 1867 - February 25, 1949

Vincent Funeral Home, Mon., February 28, 2:00 p.m.

Rev. C. Harry Moon DeWitt Cemetery

Pallbearers: Sidney Bolles, Therol Jackway, Harry  
Smith, Keith Bolles, Mickie Thuma, Lyman Young.

Tucker

D. C. Tucker died at his home in Lyons, last week. He was a resident of Riley many years. He leaves a wife, several children, one brother, Joseph S. Tucker, two sisters, Mrs. Geo. Simmons, of DeWitt, and Mrs. Tom Barton, of Riley, to mourn his loss. His sister, Mrs. Curtis, of Tuscola county, was brought to Olive and buried four weeks ago. Mr. Tucker was a soldier in the civil war.

NONSENSE.

(Daniel Tucker)

# Tucker

Died, August 20th, 1888, at her home in Olive, Clinton county, Mrs. Lucy Tucker-Merchant, at the ripe age of 76 years. The deceased lady was born July 11th, 1812, in the township of Dryden, Tompkins county, N. Y.; was married to Hiram Tucker in 1833; removed to Michigan with her family in 1850; became a member of the M. E. church at the age of sixteen years and was always found a faithful member. Five years ago she united with the U. B. church, as there was none of her chosen church in her vicinity. Her life has been an eventful one, full of trials and hardships, but she has ever been a true and faithful follower of Christ, bearing her burdens without a murmur of complaint, and was ready to go at her Saviour's bidding. The funeral which was largely attended, was held at the Grange hall Friday, August 31st, 1888, and the remains interred in a burying ground near Allwood lake, the Rev. John Full officiating.

Mercuay.

## Card of Thanks.

To the sympathizing neighbors and friends who have rendered such timely and welcome aid during the long and fatal illness of Mrs. Lucy Merchant, do we tender our sincere and heartfelt thanks.

The FAMILY.

Clinton Rep.

9-6-1888

# Tucker

## OBITUARY.

Mary P. Tucker was born September 13, 1847 at Odego township, Tioga county, New York, and died October 6, 1912. At the age of three years she moved with her parents to Washtenaw county, Michigan, residing there nearly two years. From there they moved to Riley township where she had since resided. She was married to Thomas J. Barton Dec. 1, 1866, of the same township, moving on the farm where they now reside. To this union four children were born, three sons and one daughter; two sons, Charlie and Fred, departed this life in early childhood. Mrs. Barton was a faithful member of the United Ladies' Aid Society where she will be greatly missed and also a member of the Clinton Co. Pioneer society. She was loved and respected by all who knew her. She was a kind wife, mother, sister and friend, always obliging, ready to lend a helping hand in time of need. She was a patient sufferer of tuberculosis, being confined to her bed since last May, never complaining. Besides her husband, one son, Rolla J. Barton, of Grand Rapids, and daughter, Mrs. Lor- ena B. Knapp, of Riley, she is survived by one brother, Joseph S. Tucker, also of Riley township, besides a host of other friends to mourn their loss. The bereaved friends have the sympathy of all in their great sorrow. We know how meaningless are our words when we try to speak comforting words. We may weep with them but cannot console. Many times we wonder why our brightest hopes are blasted and our dear ones taken away. The funeral was held at the home Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock, Rev. Fisher, of DeWitt officiating. Interment was made in DeWitt cemetery.

# THI

Tucker

6-20-1907

## MRS. JOSEPH TUCKER

### PASSED AWAY AT HER HOME AT MERLE BEACH.

Mrs. Joseph Tucker died at her home near Merle Beach Thursday afternoon, June 6.

Evoline Merchant was born in the state of Ney York May 5th, 1840. When she was still young her parents removed to Clinton county. She united with the Baptist church when she was twenty years of age, always having been a consistent member. In 1872 she was married to Joseph Tucker who survives her.

They settled at first on a farm eight miles south and east of St. Johns and nine years ago removed to this city. Three children were born, William Tucker, whose home is in Lansing, Mrs. Lettie Huguete of Merle Beach, under whose roof the father and mother have for some time made their home, and Lucy Tucker who died in infancy. About five weeks Mrs. Tucker suffered a hard attack of the grip from which she never fully recovered. One week before her death pneumonia set in.

She was a kind and indulgent wife and mother, a good neighbor and a true friend. The funeral services were held Sunday, June 9, at DeWitt, Rev. Hayward officiating and the remains laid to rest in the cemetery at DeWitt. Besides her husband, children and grandchildren, there is one sister, Mrs. George Smith of Grand Ledge.

Those who attended the funeral from a distance are Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Graham of Grand Ledge, Mrs. Mae Ziesse of Lake Odessa, Mrs. Hattie Madden and children Clyde and Hazel of Detroit, Mrs. Olga Throope of Ithaca, Mrs. Herbert Powell of Lyons, Mrs. J. T. Wood and daughters Lucy and Estella of Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. H. Curtis and son Frank of Lansing, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Curtis and children Dee and Ella and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Curtis and daughter Irene of Bengal.

Tucker

Obituary.

Eliza J. Tompkins was born in Newstead, N. Y., Jan. 17, 1839. She was married to Samuel Tucker, also of New York state Dec. 11th, 1859. In the year of 1865 she accompanied her husband to DeWitt township. They purchased a farm two and one-half miles southeast of DeWitt village. This farm then was almost an entire wilderness, but by hard work and perseverance the forest soon gave way to well cultivated fields and substantial buildings were erected. In the year of 1905 they sold their farm to their son, Fred, and decided to live the rest of their days with more ease and leisure, so they bought a pleasant home in DeWitt village where she has since resided. Mr. Tucker passed away May 28, 1912. Had Mrs. Tucker lived one week more her death would have occurred on the same date of his, only two years later.

Mrs. Tucker was a very industrious, hardworking woman. Never contented to idly sit and fold her hands. She was a kind wife, mother, friend and neighbor and was loved by all. None knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise. Her motto was, "If you cannot speak well of a person, speak not of them at all." There were very few persons but what she saw some good in and always had an excuse for all faults. Aunt Eliza, as she was familiarly called, always spoke well of all and evil of none. Her religion consisted in doing by others as you would have them do by you. She will be greatly missed by all, surely she has helped make the world brighter and better by her having lived in it.

Mrs. Tucker was a charter member of the order of the O. E. S. of DeWitt, also a member of the Clinton County Pioneer Society. Four sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Tucker: Frank, who died several years ago; Cassius, of Partello; Earl and Fred, of DeWitt. She is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Augusta U. Blood of Potterville, and Mrs. Sarah McMillan of Green, Kansas, and one granddaughter, Miss Ethel Tucker, of Partello, besides a large circle of other relatives and friends. She had been gradually failing for a long time from a complication of diseases but bore up as long as possible and bore her sufferings patiently. She was ready and willing to answer the call to come up higher, thy work is done. She passed away without a struggle Thursday night, May 21st, 1914.

Her funeral was held at the M. E. church Sunday afternoon, Rev. G. F. Fisher, officiating. The church was well filled with sympathizing friends and neighbors. The casket was covered and surrounded with beautiful flowers from her friends and neighbors. She was laid to rest in DeWitt cemetery. The order of the O. E. S. took charge of the services at the grave. The friends from away who attended the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Cash Tucker and daughter, Ethel, and Frank Hoag of Partello; Mrs. Augusta U. Blood, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Green of Potterville and Mrs. Mable Program for June 27: Opening song, Main of Lansing.

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
FILE

BOX

Tucker

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

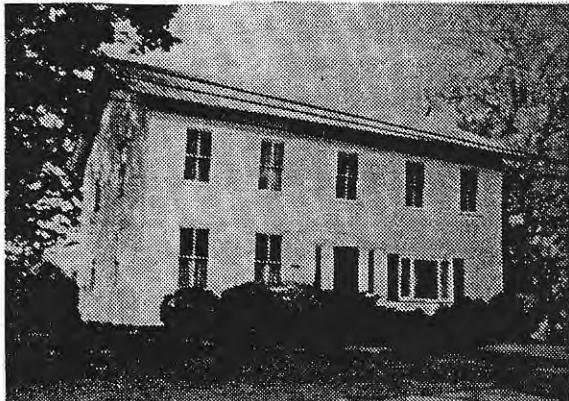
By Faye Hanson

5/1/74



THE EARL TUCKER SLAUGHTER HOUSE which was located on Turner Road on the farm owned in recent years by Del Rose and now in the hands of a group of men who hope to turn it into a golf course. It is still referred to by residents of long standing as "Bone Hill". This picture was loaned to the library by Arnold Tucker, who grew up in DeWitt and is the descendant of early DeWitt pioneers. He now resides in Grayling.

# Historic hotel building up for sale in DeWitt



BY KEN COIN

While I don't intend for this column to become a glorified classified ad, the "For Sale" sign which recently sprouted in the yard of the Klaver house has caused an amazing amount of interest. The DeWitt community may well want to sit up and take notice for a very unique historic landmark is at stake and the fact that it is located in our own "Historic DeWitt" makes us all a little responsible for its future.

This imposing yet unpretentious structure at the corner of Webb and Bridge in what is now DeWitt was once the old "DeWitt Hotel" of New Albany village. Smothered in early county history, it predates most any building in central Michigan and it's unquestionably the oldest structure in Clinton County.

The "paper village" of New Albany was purchased in 1836 by George T. Clark, a speculator in Albany, New York. In 1838 he took the first steps toward developing his village by hiring, as his resident agent, Milo H. Turner of Rochester, New York, who then came here with a large stock of merchandise and opened the first store. Turner's main purpose, however, was to promote and develop the town of New Albany and sell village lots on Clark's behalf.

During his first year here, Turner leased the newly completed saw mill on Prairie Creek from Hiram Wilcox and began construction of the "DeWitt Hotel". Turner was soon joined by his brother, Jesse Foote Turner, and together they completed the building of the hotel on what was then called "Rochester Street".

When finished, the hotel was a monstrous accomplishment for its time and place. The original two-story portion, a post and beam construction, measures 40 by 32 feet and has a large one story ell to the rear which was added sometime later (perhaps merely 140 years ago!) The simple floor plan features a wide central hall with an open walnut staircase. On the east side were two large parlors connected by wide double doors; the front "Ladies

Parlor" being noticeably more elegant with fine woodwork. On the west side was the tavern room. This hotel, like the later Clinton House, was not a tame "temperance tavern": it was annually licensed by the township to serve "spirituous and intoxicating liquors".

On the second floor were three large "chambers" and three smaller rooms, all connecting. Understand that in pioneer times renting a private room was, if possible, cost prohibitive. Lodgers did not rent rooms, they rented a space, in a bed, often with a stranger. When county court was in session, or when the county supervisors were meeting, bed space in DeWitt was at a premium. It was also recorded that in 1847, when the capital was moved from Detroit to yet-to-be-built Lansing, legislators and state workers swelled DeWitt hotels beyond capacity.

The exterior of the hotel was finished with clapboard siding (an unheard of luxury in the 1830's) with only one architectural element, a finely crafted side-lighted doorway with reeded pilasters, capped by a segmented lintel of Greek-key panels. A similar side-lighted entrance (of more modest design) is located on the south end of the hall.

When the first stage coaches bumped and rumbled through the interior of Michigan in 1839, it was here that travelers stopped for lodging and food. To the pioneers then traveling along the Pontiac-Grand River Trail who were accustomed to crude shanties along the route, this hotel at New Albany must have appeared as a palace in the wilderness when they emerged into its clearing from the surrounding forests.

By 1847, village owner George Clark came to Clinton County, bringing with him his wife Jane and two young children, and took up residence in the hotel. But in May of 1849, both George and Jane Clark died within days of one another. The settling of their estate was by far the largest and most complex undertaking the young Clinton Coun-

ty Probate Court had yet faced. Appraised, the estate was estimated at excess of \$10,000 (a fortune in 1850!)

An inventory of the hotel, taken at the time, gives an interesting look at how the former hotel must have been furnished during and before the Clarks' residency. Among the outstanding features of the inventory are 45 chairs, seven looking glasses, six beds and a surprising amount of carpeting.

The auctioning of Clark's real estate began on Jan. 22, 1850 at the courthouse steps on East Main street. Milo H. Turner bought much of the property

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## Coin: Preserving hotel's heritage

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 adjacent to the mill complex on Prairie Creek and Caroline Turner (his wife) was highest bidder for the hotel, some village lots in New Albany and some acreage to the south. Although the Turners purchased much of the estate to add to their already substantial land holdings and business enterprises, they had, by this date, all but left the beckoning call of the California gold fields where they eventually became permanent settlers.

In April of 1851, Caroline Turner sold the hotel and surrounding land to Rowland VanScoy, a farmer of southern DeWitt Township. VanScoy moved his family to the hotel but remained only a short time before moving to Maple Rapids. A chance survivor from the VanScoy ownership is a gold-embossed invitation to a grand Washington's Birthday celebration "At the Assembly Room of Rowland S. VanScoy", February 22, 1853. The admission was \$1.75 but it promised "Good Music will be in Attendance".

In 1850, Henry Moon also made the hazardous trip to the gold

fields of California. He remained there three years, returning to his wife and children with, says his obituary, "a snug fortune". In 1854 he purchased the hotel from VanScoy and this commodious building was just what he needed for his equally large family. He had, at the time, six children, plus his wife Susan's four children by her previous marriage. He acquired more acreage in the vicinity of the house, built barns, planted orchards and eventually improved it into one of the showplace farms of Clinton County.

In 1875, Moon retired from farming and sold the home and farm to his son Sylvester who, with his new bride of only two months, (Jennie Harper) moved into the house. Although they had no children to fill it, they continued to make it their farm home for over 30 years, selling it in 1908 to Frank and Pauline "Polly" (Yanz) Klaver. The historic old home has remained in the Klaver family since that time, eventually passing into the ownership of their son Charlie and his wife Mable.

The name of New Albany is now a unique oddity in DeWitt. The names of its streets

have been changed; the mill complex, long vanished and the surrounding land is quickly succumbing to the machines of modern development. Of New Albany in 1838, of DeWitt and all of Clinton County, only the DeWitt Hotel, a chance survivor remains as a silent monument and sole witness to the past 150-plus years of Michigan's transformation from a wilderness territory to a modern state. There aren't many Michigan towns that can boast a 156-year old stagecoach stop. And although it needs a lot of attention it'd be a pity if "Historic DeWitt" didn't know what a gem it

had until after it was gone.

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

Turner

# BUSY CAREER

Representative of the Pioneer Physician of Michigan.

## DR. CHARLES TURNER DEAD

He Was for Many Years a Business Man and Physician of Lansing—Was 77 Years Old.

Dr. Charles Turner died at 8 o'clock last evening of heart failure at his house, 216 Madison street west. Since falling on the ice several weeks ago, when he injured his hip, he has been in a critical condition, on account of his advanced age. The funeral will be held at the residence at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, Rev. L. B. Bassell officiating.

Chas. Turner was born at Casenpvin, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1824. He was a pioneer physician of this part of Michigan and an active business man in the early days of Lansing. He came of good New England stock, his ancestors being famous along political and professional lines for generations in the colonial and revolutionary times of Massachusetts and Connecticut, where they settled first at Soituate, Mass., in 1626. His father was Captain Francis Stiles Turner, an East Indies sea captain, who for 28 years sailed from New London, Connecticut. He came to Michigan in 1831, settling at Lums, Washtenaw county, with his wife and family of nine children, and died there in 1838. In 1847 the family removed to Lansing.

Charles in 1843, having located at Mason, began the study of medicine with Drs. Singer and Phelps. He was appointed under-sheriff of Ingham county in 1844, serving until the latter part of 1847, when he left to attend the Cleveland Medical College, where he obtained a degree in 1848, and located in Dewitt, then the county seat of Clinton county. In 1850 he was elected sheriff of Clinton county, being the first Whig elected there in nearly 30 years after the organization of the county.

In 1852, being broken in health, Mr. Turner sailed from New York with Professor Gibbon, President of the American Medical board, for California. Landing at Panama he was granted a certificate, upon examination by the Spanish Medical board, to practice medicine in Spanish territory and upon the Spanish ships, his certificate being countersigned by the Hon. Thomas Corwin, American counsel at Panama. He sailed five voyages as ship physician and surgeon on the Cortez, and treated over 300 cases of cholera and yellow fever. At San Francisco he was granted another certificate without examination by the American Medical board, who complimented him on his splendid record made at Panama.

He practiced medicine in the mining towns of Prairie City and Mud Springs, Cal., and having acquired a small fortune, he returned to Michigan, where in 1855, at the old Monroe homestead, in Eagle, Clinton county, he was married to Miss Eliza Monroe, daughter of Jesse and Harriet Parker Monroe. Locating in Grand Ledge, Mr. Turner engaged in the dry goods business with Hon. D. L. Case from 1855 to 1861, when Mr. Turner was appointed surgeon of the Thirteenth Kentucky regiment with rank of major, by President Lincoln. This appointment came as a surprise, as he did not know that his name was being considered for any position. Sickness compelled Mr. Turner to resign his commission without active service.

He was at one time owner of the Turner Brothers' Iron Works at North Lansing, now conducted under the firm name of Cody & Hildreth; he also conducted a drug business on Franklin street and was in the grain business with the late Amos Turner. They erected the five stories on Turner street, for many years known as the Turner block, in 1870. Late Mr. Turner moved to Williamsport, locating later in Clinton and Clinton counties, where he resumed the practice of medicine. His business exceeding over those entire counties. In 1887 he returned to Lansing and retired from active practice, which had extended over a period of 37 years.

His wife and sons, Wesley Turner of this city, and Howard M. Turner of Apalachicola, Florida, survive him.

Turner

SEPTEMBER 30, 1921

During the last five years, Mrs. Monroe Turner, a widow in Old Town, has been well known. She is the widow of Andrew Andrew, David and Richard, all of this city, and has one son, and one daughter, Mrs. Wright Monroe of Lansing.

## MRS. TURNER, PIONEER, HERE, IS DEAD AT 86

The funeral of Mrs. Ellen Turner, who died Monday, will be held at the home, 226 West Madison St., Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment will be made in Mt. Hope cemetery.

Mrs. Monroe Turner was born at Amherst, N. Y., March 15, 1835, and was 86 years of age at the time of her death. She came to Michigan in 1836, settling at Eagle, Clinton county. She came to Lansing with her sister in 1845 and was married to Dr. Charles Turner in 1855, and had lived in Lansing almost constantly since that time. She was a charter member of the Franklin Avenue Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Turner was always active in various activities of the city. In the days of the northern Michigan forest fire she had charge of the relief work in this city. She was well known to the early residents of Lapeer, Clinton and Gratiot counties.

She is survived by two brothers, William J. Monroe of Lansing, and Horace P. Monroe of LaMesa, Cal., two sons, Howard E. and H. Wesley Turner, and one grandson, Robert Lee Turner.

Turner

Turner, Silas

Abstract from obituary- St. Johns News, Mar. 9, 1911 p.6

Silas Turner, born Trenton, N.Y., Oct. 2, 1835, came to Michigan in August of 1865. Married Miss Mary E. Luther in 1861, she died in New York. He was again married, July 3, 1868 to Miss Emma Howe of Olive. Three children: Ethel, Evaline and Mary. Evaline died in infancy. Silas died at his home in Olive, March 5th. Resident of Michigan 46 years.

## Community

# Munroe family makes trek from New York to DeWitt

## Family eventually settles in Eagle

By KEN COIN

In the spring of 1836, Jesse and Harriett (Parker) Munroe, along with Harriett's brother, Hiram Parker, took a rather unusual trip which would later have a great impact on the history of this region.

The Munroe's left their five daughters and two sons at their farm on the Batavia Road east of Buffalo, N.Y. and took a horseback ride of dynamic proportions.

In search of a new home they rode west through Ohio and on into Indiana. Not finding anything to their mutual liking they continued on into Illinois and further yet into Wisconsin; still nothing. They purposely avoided the Michigan territory. They had seen enough "Michiganders" who had returned to New York, "their sallow complexion and tales...of shaking with fever and ague."

The travelers decided to conclude their wandering with "look through Michigan, the one state they had no idea of settling in when they left home... Much to their surprise, they found the state satisfactory." They continued north to

the Grand River Valley and there the Munroes and Hiram Parker each found what they had been looking for; the Munroe's in Clinton county and Parker in Ingham.

Jesse was "captivated at first sight" with the magnificent forests, reasoning that "land which supported such growth of trees would raise anything (he) planted. There were the black walnut, butternut, hickory, black cherry, bird's eye maple, curled maple, sugar maple, silver-leaf maple, beech, basswood, sycamore, ironwood, white, black and bur oaks - many being three and four feet in diameter."

Returning to New York and disposing of their farm there, Jesse and Harriett Munroe prepared their family for the tedious journey to their new home in the Michigan Territory. Two hired men were sent overland to drive the stock through Ohio and up to Detroit while the family with one additional hired man traveled "up the lake", from Buffalo to Detroit aboard the little steamer "Robert Fulton".

"Detroit was very disappointing to the older members of the family a very uninteresting town... The buildings were low and very unpretentious, right down in the mud, a small old French town." The lake group and the overland

group met there and proceeded on through the frontier.

"The first day out of Detroit (they) went only 10 miles. The road was simply terrible. There were places where there were half a dozen tracks where different travelers had endeavored to get around the deep mud holes, but each one seemed equally bad. The wagon wheels would sink below the hubs."

By early October the Munroe party reached the Scott settlement at DeWitt. The Scott's "were prepared to take care of travelers, having a double log house provided with appetizing food." The log hotel mentioned here was located in the middle of the block bounded by Main, Scott, Bridge and Washington streets.

Harriett Munroe and her five daughters stayed on at Scott's for the next three weeks while Jesse and the men went on into Eagle to construct the family's log house. The size of the Munroe cabin was so unusually large for its wilderness setting that a curious neighbor, who followed the sound of the construction through the dense forest, asked upon discovering it, "Are you intending to keep hotel?"

At the end of October, Jesse returned to Scotts to collect his family and take them to their new home in

Eagle township. "The rains had raised the Looking Glass River so that it could not be forded, we were all taken across the river in an Indian canoe. A pole was used instead of a paddle."

And so, the five Munroe girls, ages 3 to 18 years, left DeWitt, for the time being. But they'd be back. In the meantime they were off on an adventure in their new home where "each one found something interesting" and each left their mark on the history of mid Michigan.

*Note - the quotations used in this piece are all those of the Munroe women, several of whom later wrote of their pioneer experiences. In the next*

*installment I'll expand on who these Munroe girls became and why they had so much to say about the history of this area.*

*Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's primary historian. His column appears every other week in this newspaper.*

TURNER

# Coin continues story of DeWitt's Munroe sisters

By KEN COIN

In the last installment, its autumn of 1836 and the Munroe sisters, their brothers and parents are leaving Scott's hotel at DeWitt and being ferried across the Looking Glass River by Indian canoe in the last stretch of their journey to their new home in Eagle township.

Marion, the eldest sister, became a teacher for the neighborhood school. She was also recruited by her uncle, Hiram Parker to teach near Mason at a settlement called Jefferson City.

Her travels between Eagle and Mason took her on a route along the Grand River, including the site where Lansing would later be established. A favorite resting spot for her was the high bluff on the north bank of the Grand and she often rested her horse there dreaming of someday having a lovely home high above the river.

She married a Mason merchant, James Turner in 1843. The couple lived at Mason until 1847 when the state capital was moved from Detroit to Lansing. They then moved to the new town of Lansing and built a small house (pictured here) on a site purchased several years earlier. Marion had planted trees on the site anticipating her eventual residence. It was, after all, only a few hundred yards south of the high bluff that she dreamed of years earlier.

James Turner prospered as a merchant and land agent in Lansing and outlying communities. He became actively involved

in many business enterprises including plank roads and railroads. In time, the Turner's purchased Marion's bluff to the northwest of their home and later built an impressive brick home which still stands as the nucleus of the Turner-Dodge mansion in North Lansing.

James Turner died in 1869 at the young age of 49. Marion continued to live in their home on the bluff for nearly 50 more years; saw its transformation into the mansion we see today and died in 1912.

Betsey, also an early school teacher in Clinton and Ingham Counties, was the first Munroe girl to be recruited to teach at the Jefferson City settlement.

In 1840, while teaching at the Waterloo settlement (Wacousta), she married a local miller, Parker Webber. They moved to DeWitt in 1848 and purchased the Stowell home at the northeast corner of Main and Franklin and converted it into a "Temperance Tavern". Selling the tavern in

1850 they purchased the DeWitt Grist Mill on Prairie Creek and also the former New Albany Store (110 E. Webb Dr.) which was converted into their family home. Parker Webber became DeWitt's miller, a position he kept about twenty years until his death.

Although she retained ownership of the DeWitt mill (even after it burned in 1902), Betsey moved about 1880 to Lansing where she remained until her death in 1912.

Harriett was also a teacher in Clinton and Ingham counties. In 1849 she married John W. Longyear, an attorney who had come to Mason from New York in 1844 and had resettled in

Lansing when it became the capital.

Longyear was one of Lansing's earliest and most successful lawyers. He was elected to Congress in 1862 and reelected in 1864. Following an appointment to the U. S. District Court in 1870, the Longyears moved to

Detroit but following Judge Longyear's untimely death in 1875, Harriett returned to Lansing where she died in 1917.

Adelia married Daniel L. Case, an attorney and merchant who had established himself at Lansing in 1847. Case became involved in politics by

being elected to the State House of Representatives in 1850. In 1858 he was elected to his first term as Michigan's Auditor General.

Throughout the Civil War he was actively engaged in enlisting troops in the Lansing area. It is

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Turner

## Business

### Monroe

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**Constructed at Mason, but shipped to North Lansing where it was assembled, the first home of James and Marion (Monroe) Turner, located near the corner of Turner and Clinton streets, is said to have been the first frame house in Lansing. Ca. 1910, Emery Hamilton, photographer.**

also noteworthy that Case along with two of his fellow brothers-in-law, James Turner and John Longyear were the founders of the Michigan Female Institute (also known as Miss Roger's Institute), a woman's college located where the School for the Blind now stands.

Unlike her other sisters, Adelia died relatively young in 1887 at the age of 55. Her husband died in 1898.

Eliza, the youngest went to Lansing about 1847 to live with her older sister Marion. She later married Dr. Charles Turner, a younger of Marion's husband.

Dr. Turner had established his first practice in

DeWitt in 1848. He also dabbled in politics, being elected Clinton County Sheriff in 1850. He married Eliza Munroe in 1855 after his return from a three year excursion to Panama and the California gold fields where, it was said, he made a sizeable fortune.

Dr. Turner was involved in several different business enterprises in Lansing (often in connection with other family members). In 1876, in partnership with his nephew Amos Turner, they constructed the "Union Block"

a series of five brick stores still standing in the 1200 block of Turner Street in N. Lansing.

About 1880 the Turners came to DeWitt where Dr. Turner resumed his medical practice.

In 1887 he retired and they returned to Lansing. Dr. Turner died there in 1901 and Eliza, the last surviving Munroe girl, died in 1919.

*Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's leading historian. His column appears twice monthly in the DeWitt-Bath Review.*

Turner



Twitchell

DEWITT—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cusack of rural DeWitt announce the engagement of their daughter, Dawn Arlene, to James Twitchell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Twitchell, Wacousta. An Aug. 1 wedding date has been set.