

Dewitt

MEMORY OF MRS. NELLIE WILLIAMS.

As the dews of heaven fall--too disappear before an effulgent sun, human life comes forth to dwell for a brief time, and to pass on to the great beyond.

The souls of those that die are like sunbeams lifted high; thus at her home in the village of Dewitt, Sunday afternoon, May 21, 1922 at 1:30, Mrs. Nellie Williams departed this life, as softly as a shadow fadeth away. She has simply stepped from darkness into light, from toil and care, to rest and peace, the veil between her and the Master, whom she loved is lifted. Her fettered soul is free and in the light of an eternal day, no sorrow, doubt or trial can reach her.

Miss Nellie Ingalls was born in Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan, June 12, 1859, where her childhood days were passed. She received her early education in the rural school, later living for a time as one of the family in the home of her uncle, Otis Dane, in Lansing and attending the city school.

On August 10, 1884 she was united in marriage to George A. Williams of Dewitt, who passed to eternal rest May 31, 1919. To this union a daughter was born, Mrs. Maud VanFleet.

During Mrs. Williams' 38 years residence in this village she was active in church and society circles; a member of the Universalist church and Dewitt Chapter, No. 30, Order of Eastern Star. For several years she and her husband were engaged in the mercantile business.

As the sun sets and the after-glow illumines the western horizon and the snow clad ground has a crimson tint, so the passing of life is vividly portrayed.

There is no death! The stars go down to rise upon some fairer shore; and bright in heaven's jewelled crown they shine forever more. We will think of the never ending future of the departed, whose spirit has passed away for but a brief period, whose soul only waits in heaven to welcome the loved ones from whom it has been parted.

The deceased is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Maude VanFleet, of this place, a sister, Mrs. Minnie Grinold of Grand Ledge, a sister-in-law, Mrs. Charles Ingalls and family of Watertown and three cousins, who have been more like sisters, Mrs. Timothy Mulcahy of Detroit, Mrs. Conger of Buffalo Gap, South Dakota, Mrs. A. T. Van Dervoort of Lansing and a large circle of relatives and friends.

Finally, we will cherish in our hearts her memory, it is enshrined in our holiest sanctuary.

The funeral was held Wednesday, afternoon. Preceding the services at the First Baptist church, the members of the Eastern Star formed a double line that extended from the home of the daughter to the entrance of the church through which the casket was borne by the honorary and active pall bearers, John Tout and Mark T. Woodruff of Lansing and Willis McLouth, Homer Brazee, Mark Pennell, C. C. Woodruff, E. E. Lankton and Major Lewis. At this time all traffic on Bridge street was suspended. Rev. G. H. Ashworth of the First Universalist church of Lansing officiated, assisted by Rev. G. S. Northrup of the First Baptist church of this village. The theme of Rev. Ashworth's discourse was "Faith." Mrs. H. B. Haynes sang with Mrs. W. F. Kraas at the piano. The services in Dewitt cemetery were conducted by Dewitt Chapter, No. 30, O. E. S. Relatives from out of town were present from Kankakee, Ind., Detroit, Lansing, St. Johns, Williamston and Grand Ledge.

Williams

Williams

J. E. Williams, who has been living with his daughter, Mrs. E. Stampfli, died very suddenly of heart failure the evening of April 24. Funeral was held at the house last Saturday with interment at Dewitt. Mr. Williams was born at Columbus, Ohio, January 18, 1815, came to Michigan at 28 years of age and settled at Dewitt when about 40. His wife died a number of years ago. Ten children were born to them, seven of whom are living. His age at death was 86 years. He has always enjoyed good health up to this spring when he had an attack of the grippe which left him with a weak heart.

Quincy Sunday.

Mr. J. E. Williams, an old resident of Dewitt, died Wednesday evening, April 23, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ellen Stampfli. He leaves three sons and four daughters, Mrs. E. Stampfli, Mrs. Eunice Vail, of Dewitt, Mrs. Marinda Lapham, of Olivo, Mrs. Edith Mc Clintock, of Berrien Springs, George A. and Edward D. of Dewitt, and Og. Williams, of Chicago. The funeral was from the residence of Mrs. Stampfli, Saturday and interment in Dewitt cemetery. Rev. S. B. Ford officiating.

DeWitt home built in 1847 is still part of old downtown

By KEN COIN

Newlyweds Cortland and Lucinda (Reese) Hill made their first appearance in DeWitt in the fall of 1837 en route to their homestead, which was to be the first settlement in Bengal Township (eight miles north and west of DeWitt). In 1846 they returned to DeWitt where Cortland set up a mercantile partnership with Walter Hubble. The following year the Hills made plans to build a new house in DeWitt on the northwest corner of Scott and Washington streets.

In the vault of the Register of Deeds office in the courthouse in St. Johns there was recently rediscovered, an old ledger which contains copies of various business contracts dating from the mid-1800's. Among them is a

contract between Cortland Hill and James W. and Jesse F. Turner for the construction of Hill's house on lot 328 of block 42. Dated June 10, 1847, for the consideration of \$460, the Turner brothers agreed to build this house. The contract is filled with details regarding the construction techniques, materials and finishing specifications.

The house was to be one and half stories, 24'x32'. Built in a braced post and beam method, the beams and corner posts were to be 8" x 10" with 2" x 5" studs (5" x 5" beside windows and doors) and 3" x 8" floor joists. All framing was to be of oak or ash including the decking boards of the roof.

The house was to have 11 windows, each of 12 panes of glass, each pane 10" x 14". It would contain eight interior doors and three exterior doors (3' x 7' x 2" thick). All floors were to be clear "matched" pine with the exception of the kitchen, which specified white ash. Eight-inch baseboards were to be finished throughout the house with beaded molding on all doors and windows. All finish lumber was to be clear pine, black walnut or butternut (a pale walnut substitute).

Extra-wide cornice



114 S. Scott Street - The pioneer home of Cortland and Lucinda Hill, Bengal township's first pioneers, built in 1847

during their brief residence in DeWitt. Photograph by Jennifer Vincent.

boards and gable-end trim was to be installed in the latest Greek Revival style "to match that of (the) store built by Thomas Lewitt". One of the exterior doors was to also be finished in a high Greek style with "extra fixings" and there was to be, in addition, a "5' square portico (porch) with roof and latis (sic) on 2 sides".

There was to be a 9' x 32' cellar and the house would rest on 18" thick stone walls, faced with cobblestones. (Note - although the house was later raised onto a higher foundation, traces of the original cobblestone facing can still be seen at ground level from Washington

Street.)

The Hill family remained in this home only a few years, selling it to Frederick Reed. Joseph Edmond Williams, a carpenter, purchased it in the early 1860's and owned it until the end of the century. He and his wife Abby had 10 children, which filled the house to capacity. A peek inside the household in the 1880 census shows eight adults and two children living within (Praise the Lord and pass the aspirin!) Their adult children included: Edmond, George, Odgen, Nellie, Edith McClintock, Marinda Worden-Lapham, Ellen Stamply and Eunice Vail.

S. Scott Street

OLIVE.

Obituary—Unice A. Knapp.

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

CR 9/14
7/16 OLIVE GRANGE.

Williams

WAS A SOCIETY EVENT

Popular Dewitt Young People United
in Marriage Wednesday

Williams

One of the prettiest society events of the season was celebrated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Knight VanFleet, on West Main street, Dewitt, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, when their son, Carl Kenton VanFleet, was united in marriage to Miss Maude D. Williams, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Williams.

The parlors were decorated with red carnations, potted plants and asparagus sprengeri, the arch beneath which the ceremony was performed, in white carnations and sprengeri. The dining room in dahlias with ropes of smilax to each corner of the table. About 135 guests were present.

As the bridal party was entering, "O Promise Me" was sung by the choir of the First Universalist church, of Lansing. The bride was preceded by two little flower girls, Merle Lott and Laura Williams, gowned in white, who scattered carnations in the path of the bride, and the bridesmaid, Miss Hazel Evans, of Lansing, who was attired in pink. The bride wore a beautiful gown of blue silk and her bouquet was bride's roses. The groom was attended by his brother, Earl VanFleet, Rev. Howard B. Bard, of the First Universalist church of Lansing, read the wedding service.

Immediately after the ceremony and during congratulations Miss Merle McLouth, of Dewitt, played several piano selections. A four course wedding dinner was served by several friends of the bride.

Mrs. VanFleet has attended the Dewitt high school and the Ferris Institute, of Big Rapids. She is an accomplished musician and has composed several selections. For some time she has been a member of the choir of the First Universalist church, of Lansing. She is a member of the Order of Eastern Star and has held the office of "Martha" for several years. She received a beautiful assortment of gifts. Mr. VanFleet assists his father in an extensive draying business in Dewitt and vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. VanFleet left at 5:30 amid a shower of rice in a hack for Lansing, and thence over the Grand Trunk to Chicago. They will reside this winter with the bride's parents, Mr. Williams being one of the leading merchants of Dewitt.

Guests from St. Johns who were present at the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. John DeWitt, Mr. and Mrs. O. P. DeWitt, William DeWitt, Mrs. T. H. Clark, Mrs. Arthnr Hotchkiss, Mrs. C. A. Cole, and C. Fred Knapp. From Lansing, Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tout, Mr. and Mrs. H. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. VanDeVort, and daughter, Sarah, and son, Frank, and Mrs. N. O. Dane. From Grand Ledge, Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Grinnell, Carl and Adolph Florian. From Bengal, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sonier and Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Harper. 11-19-1905
Chit Rep.

rominent Young Couple Wed at St. Mary's Parish Home Saturday

Williams



Mr. and Mrs. Bernard V. Smith.

The wedding of Miss Laura Williams and Bernard V. Smith was solemnized Saturday morning at St. Mary's parish house, Rev. Father Heiman officiating. Miss Florence Carrier, maid of the bride, was her only attendant while Bernard Clark Smith, of Arbor, a cousin of the bride, was the best man. The bride wore a suit of navy blue crepe and a large picture hat, carried a bouquet of white and pink sweet peas tied with tulle. Miss Carrier was dressed in blue crepe de chine, a large hat and carried a bouquet of daisies and other spring flowers.

Following the ceremony a small reception was held at the home of bride's aunt, Mrs. M. R. Carson, and a wedding breakfast was served to about 30 guests. At the reception the bride was gowned in

a lovely frock of gray canton crepe trimmed with touches of burnt orange.

Immediately after the breakfast Mr. and Mrs. Smith left for a short wedding trip. They will be at home after May 10, at 1017 Eureka st. Both are graduates of Lansing high school and for the past four years have been employees of the Michigan Employers Casualty company of which Mr. Smith is assistant secretary. He is also secretary of the Wolverine Insurance company.

The bride has been honored with many pleasant pre-nuptial affairs, among them a miscellaneous shower on Thursday evening given by Mrs. Floy Williams. The rooms were prettily decorated in yellow and white daffodils being used, and the same color scheme was carried out in the supper menu.

Williams

* * *
Mrs Williams, 90 ^{July 10}
is in Masonic home

DeWITT-- Mr and Mrs Leo Hanson and Herb attended the OES grand family picnic at the Masonic Home in Alma Sunday. They also called on former DeWitt resident, Mrs Esther Williams who has lived at the home for 10 years.

At 90, Mrs Williams is in fairly good health. She has been a member of the DeWitt Eastern Star for 71 years. Mrs Williams is the great-granddaughter of Capt. David Scott the founder of the Village of DeWitt and is one of the few living direct descendants.

Movie Home
Tel 14-64
Dear Greenwood.

I cut this out of the Lawrence Paper and thought that you would be interested in it as I was; Agnes Fae was a sister of S. C. & M. M. Pike I remember her Mrs. Fae was a school teacher and they were great friends of my Uncle and Aunt B. S. Webb and Merle's father & mother. Maybe you will remember when their daughter Florence came to visit Agnes

young

Mr. H. A. V.

Mr. Ellwood Price



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J. ESTHER WILLIAMS
Masonic Home, Room 327
Alma, Michigan

J. ESTHER WILLIAMS
Masonic Home, Room 177
Alma, Michigan

313



LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
FILE
BOX

Mr Glenwood Pike
De Witt
Mich

are not sure how long ago
and Agnes & Carl went to town.
To see them may be you
remember any way I or the girls
visited.

I have written several articles
in Early Clinton Co. History
which are on record at
the De Witt Library and suppose it
will more and hope to
soon.

Hope you are all well
as usual
The Best of everything
Etta

Winegar

Married in Lansing, Wednesday, February 24, 1897, Miss Agelia Winegar, of [redacted], John Monroe, of Riley. We [redacted] them a happy life.

WING

Lifestyle



Jeanne and Bob Wilcox

The Wilcoxes Celebrate 50th anniversary

Bob and Jeanne (Wing) Wilcox of DeWitt celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house Sunday, Oct. 4 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the DeWitt Memorial Building, 206 W. Washington, DeWitt.

The couple was married Oct. 10, 1942 in DeWitt. They have three children, Gary (Eddy) Wilcox of Grand Ledge, Barbara (Harold) Deines Greenville, and Ron (Dawn) Wilcox of DeWitt. They have 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Winslow

Clarinda D. Winslow Dies In Lansing

Clarinda D. Winslow, died at her home, 1421 Lyons avenue, Lansing, October 26, aged 70 years, after a lingering illness.

She leaves to mourn their loss besides her husband, Gardner H. Winslow, six children, George, of Midland, Mrs. Guy King of Lansing, Mrs. Ray Cook of Los Angeles, Calif., Fred of Saginaw, Mrs. James Hill, of St. Johns and Mrs. Asa Shaffer of Nashville, also thirteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the home Sunday at 1:00 o'clock and burial was made at Dewitt.

Dear Mother, we cannot see you anymore.
Nor hold your loving hand;
For God, who gave, has taken,
And Heaven our treasure has won.
And though our hearts are broken,
Thy will, oh God, be done. —pd.

Clint. Co. Rep.

11-1-1973

OBITUARY

Martha Amelia Winslow, eldest of three children of Wellington and Eolia Winslow, was born at West Bloomfield, Oakland county, Michigan, on December 15, 1845, and departed this life at her home in Dewitt January 13, 1924, aged 78 years and 29 days. Her father passed away when she was a small child and her two little brothers passed away at a tender age and her mother passed away in May 1875.

On December 16, 1869, she was united in marriage to Albert G. Taylor of New Hudson, Michigan. On Feb. 22, 1871, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor moved from Oakland county to their farm on section 18, Olive township, where she experienced all the hardships of a pioneer life. To this union five children were born, Rollin, Bert, Nellie, Nettie and Belle, who grew to manhood and womanhood and all being present during her last illness.

Mrs. Taylor was a very capable nurse and went far and near administering to those who were sick. Her one sublime faith was to do all she could for those who were in distress. In her younger days she took a very active interest in the church, Sunday school and Aid society of her respective community. Mrs. Taylor was a member of the Clinton County Pioneer society.

Mrs. Taylor had been in ill health for several years but in her last illness was only confined to her bed two weeks.

Besides her aged husband, she is survived by two sons, Rollin, of Olive, and Bert of Dewitt, three daughters, Mrs. Frank Norris of Olive, Mrs. Will Brinkerhoff and Mrs. Roy Gage of Lansing, two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Rollin Taylor and Mrs. Bert Taylor, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren and many friends.

The funeral was held at the Baptist church Wednesday, January 16. Rev. G. S. Northrop of St. Johns officiated. Mrs. Grace Coon sang three numbers. Mrs. Merle Kraas accompanied at the piano.

The pall bearers were Wm. Cole, Byron Blizzard, Wm. Phillips, Willis McCloud, Jerome Dillie and Frank Hurd. Interment was made in Dewitt cemetery. The many beautiful floral offerings from the neighbors and friends from away testified to the true worth of the long and useful life that Mrs. Taylor had lived.

Relatives and friends from away to attend the funeral were: Lyman and David Taylor of New Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Taylor of Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. George Gillett of St. Johns, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Gillett of Bengal and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Lutz of East Lansing, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Decke of Lansing.

Winslow

Witt

Herbert Witt And Olga McPrangle Married June 8

Herbert Witt, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Witt of Riley, and Miss Olga McPrangle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McPrangle of Dallas, were united in marriage Wednesday, June 8, 1932. The ceremony was performed at 1:30 p.m. by Rev. Arthur Beyer at the Fowler Lutheran church.

A wedding celebration was held at the Witt home in the afternoon. At 6:30 o'clock a sumptuous supper was served to between 200 and 300 guests. The young couple are well known and have many friends throughout the community.

Witt

May 1929

RILEY COUPLE WED TUESDAY

Leota Irrer and Ernest Witt
Are Well Known Riley
Young People

Two prominent and popular Riley young people were united in marriage Tuesday when Miss Leota Irrer, daughter of Mrs. Frank Irrer, became the bride of Ernest Witt, son of Fred Witt. The ceremony was performed at the Riley Lutheran church at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon in the presence of thirty relatives and friends.

The bride was attractively gown-ed in white georgette with a white bridal veil and carried a shower bouquet. She was attended by Miss Erma Witt who wore green georgette. The groom was accompanied by Mr. Clarence Irrer. Rev. H. Wohler, pastor of the Riley Lutheran church, officiated.

Following the ceremony a wedding dinner was served at the home of the bride's mother and was attended by about thirty invited guests. In the evening an informal reception and wedding dancing party was held at Witt hall. This function was attended by about three hundred neighbors, friends and relatives.

The happy young couple will make their home on the farm of the groom's father. The elder Mr. Witt will move to Fowler to make his home in the future.

1929

TAKE VOWS AT FOWLER CHURCH

1932

Miss Olga McPrangle And
Herbert Witt Married
In Pretty Ceremony

Witt

The St. Paul Lutheran church at Fowler was the scene of a very pretty wedding Wednesday, June 8, when Herbert Witt, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Witt of Riley took as his bride Miss Olga McPrangle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McPrangle of Bengal. The ceremony was performed at 1:30 p. m. by Rev. Arthur Beyer. The double ring ceremony was used. Miss Goldie Stoy, cousin of the bride, played the wedding march.

The young couple were attended by Miss Louise McPrangle, sister of the bride who acted as maid of honor and Mrs. Lewis Slim, another sister of the bride and Miss Marcella Witt, cousin of the groom acted as bridesmaids. The groom was attended by Fred Sehlike as best man and Lewis Slim and Wm. Grunin as groomsmen.

The bride was gowned in white satin. Her veil was fashioned entrain and fastened to a lace cap trimmed in pearls. She carried a shower bouquet of sensor roses and candytufts tied with white tulle.

Miss McPrangle wore a gown of rose georgette. A white crepe hat and white slippers completed her costume. She carried an arm bouquet of roses and sweet peas tied with pink tulle.

Mrs. Lewis Slim wore a gown of tan flat crepe and lace. A large picture hat and white slippers completed her costume. Her arm bouquet consisted of tan roses and sweet peas tied with pink tulle.

Marcella Witt was dressed in pink georgette. A white crepe hat and white slippers completed her costume. She carried an arm bouquet of roses and sweet peas tied with pink tulle.

Little Lois Witt, cousin of the groom, was flower girl. She wore a yellow crepe dress and a net cap trimmed with pearls. She carried a basket of mock orange blossoms.

Little LaVern Slim, nephew of the bride, acted as ring bearer. He wore a black velvet suit with an egg shell satin blouse and carried the rings in a calla lily.

Following the ceremony a wedding supper was served at the home of the groom's parents in Riley to about 300 guests.

The bride is a graduate of the Fowler high school in 1925 and the Clinton County Normal in 1926. She has been a successful teacher in the rural schools for the past six years. The groom is a prosperous young farmer in Riley.

Congratulations are extended by their many friends and relatives.

Bemsley F. Woodman
16 Oxford Dr. E., Holiday, Florida

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

*He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures: He leadeth me
beside the still waters.*

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, tho I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for Thou art
with me; Thy rod and Thy staff
they comfort me.

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

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

Psalm 23

BORN
February 21, 1906
Lansing, Michigan

DIED
June 30, 1977
Lansing, Michigan

SERVICES HELD AT
Gorsline-Runciman Lansing Chapel
Saturday, July 2, 1977
1:00 P.M.

OFFICIATING
Rev. Fr. John Webber
St. Gerald Church

MUSIC

INTERMENT
Rose Cemetery, Bath

CASKET BEARERS

LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
FILE
BOX 8

Woodman



DEWITT REMEMBERED — What do you get when you mix 27 Woodruff's and a drop-side wagon? A really great photograph. Courtesy photo.

Coin details Woodruff family

By KEN COIN

Several years ago the late Ralph Woodruff shared this family photo with me for copying. It was taken about 1906 and shows a reunion of the DeWitt Woodruffs and some "distant relatives". He wasn't sure just how distant but he thought they were the owners of the Daisy Air Rifle Company.

The background of the photo may be mere coincidence but I think it was planned. It is the house now owned by Bob and Sandy Hill at 402 W. Main, and

was the pioneer home of Riley J. Woodruff, an uncle to the two gentlemen standing beside the wagon; Mart T. and Clayton C. Woodruff.

The family of Worcester and Betsy (Kent) Woodruff came to Michigan in 1832 from the town of Lysle in Broome County, New York and settled in Farmington. In 1837 they came further into the interior and settled at the then promising site of Grand River City (the Ingersoll family's planned Athens of the West) now Delta Mills. Worcester died the following year (Aug. 16, 1838) and the widow Betsy, with her young children, moved the following year to DeWitt. One of the Woodruff's sons, Riley J., later described what DeWitt looked like when they arrived in 1839:

"...at that time, on the north side of the Looking Glass, there stood a log blacksmith shop and a log hotel, and a large granary and horse-barn. Captain Scott owned the property at the four corners... eighty rods east of these corners, on the Grand River Road, (east Main Street) was a log house and to the west of the location of the hotel (Scott's log hotel), a son of Captain Scott (Sylvester) had built his log dwelling. Across the river, at the site of New Albany, stood a single log house. At this time the Grand River road (Round Lake Road) was the only highway through the state from Detroit to Grand Rapids and the land office at Ionia."

Just where Betsy Woodruff settled upon her arrival in DeWitt is not known but she probably had some established kinship here. The family does not appear on the 1840 census and if the family had remained intact they were probably living in the household of either Capt. David Scott or in the household of Milo Turner at the hotel in New Albany. My personal hunch is that the family split up — Betsy and her daughters becoming domestics at one of the larger households (such as Milo Turner in New Albany) and the two boys, Riley J. and Addison, apprenticed to Hiram Wilcox at his Prairie Creek sawmill (this is only my guess).

Riley later stated that in 1848, he established a furniture and undertaking business. Undoubtedly it was more along the lines of a cabinet and coffin shop located near the mill complex along Prairie Creek. The federal census of 1850 finds him living in the household of fellow cabinetmaker J.F. McKeen. His brother, Addison Woodruff, a carpenter, was living with the Lyman Hewitt family. All were located to the south of the river in New Albany.

By 1860, Riley and Addison went into partnership together and opened a general store in a building on north Bridge St. which would later become the DeWitt Grange Hall (still standing — lately the

Coin column cont...

(Continued from page 4)

ing — lately the Dance Hall (Dairy). They remained in partnership until 1865 when Riley moved with his young family to St. Johns and purchased a store building (the first brick one in St. Johns) vacated by John Paine.

Riley married a DeWitt girl, Sarah S. Green, about 1851 and although they eventually moved to St. Johns, it was to DeWitt that they periodically returned to bury their dead children. In all, six of their children, from infants to 12 year-olds, are buried in the DeWitt Cemetery. Only two sons survived to adulthood.

Mary Woodruff, a sister to Riley and Addison, married John C. Marshall, a blacksmith and a son of one of DeWitt's first blacksmiths, Hor-

ace Marshall. It is with this daughter that they mother, Betsy, spent her last years and died in 1883.

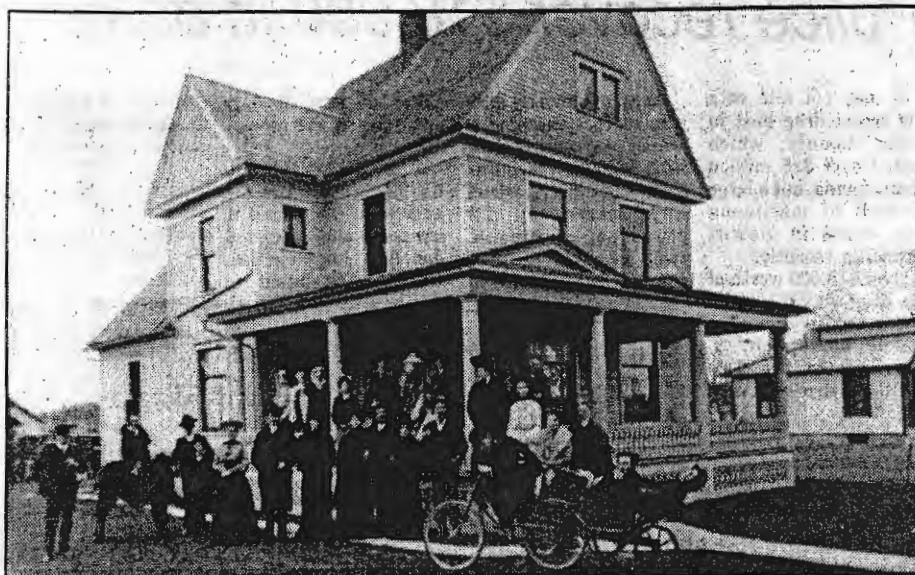
CORRECTION: Several weeks ago in a Christmas article I featured a winter photo of the homeestead of George and Elizabeth Simmons on the west side of Airport Road. Where was my head? It is (and always has been) on the east side and is now owned by Bob and Lori Welton. Luckily, two readers with a vested interest noticed the error and questioned me. Gerald Pike phoned and Joyce (Phillips) Leach wrote to each tell me that they had grown up on that farm, and last time they checked, it was still on the east side. Joyce and her parents, Win-

(Continued on page 5)

Woodruff

DeWitt-Bath Review/January 18, 1993

DeWitt remembered:



DEWITT REMEMBERED: — More Woodruff's. Same day as last week — different pose. The house pictured was the newly built home of Clayton and Clara (Lorenz) Woodruff, currently the Sirmon home at 409 W. Main, ca. 1906. Courtesy photo.

Coin continues Woodruff family saga

By KEN COIN

Addison Woodruff married Amanda Marshall, a daughter of Horace Marshall, and for the next forty years they made their home at the northeast corner of Main and Logan streets. The brick Victorian house still standing on this corner is an 1880 remodeling and enlargement of their original house which probably looked much like brother Riley's pictured last week (The Hill home at 401 W. Main).

After the Woodruff brothers dissolved their partnership in 1865, Riley moved his family to St. Johns and Addison continued this business in DeWitt. For a time he was also part owner in a foundry which operated on the southwest corner of Bridge and Jefferson streets. About 1880 he sold his store building to the newly formed DeWitt Grange and moved his mercantile business to the northwest corner of Bridge and Main. The Grange remodeled his old store building into a meeting hall which served them for the next eighty years. Although a merchant, Addison joined the Grange and became a very active member of longstanding. When he died the Grange set aside a page in their minute book for a memorium resolution and voted to drape their charter in black crepe for a period of one month.

About ten years prior to Addison's sudden death in 1901, his son Mark had taken over the Woodruff store allowing the parents a retirement to spend winters in Florida. Mark and his family moved into his parent's old home on west Main and a new retirement home was built next door (now the Shobie home at 310 W. Main) for Addison and Amanda. Amanda remained in this home until her death in 1922.

Addison and Amanda's younger son, Clayton, who married Clara Lorenz in 1888, preferred the rural life and operated a farm in Watertown town-

ship. It was not until after the death of their father that Mark convinced his brother Clayton in 1904 to form a partnership and set up DeWitt's first bank in an old store building which stood on the east side of south Bridge street (now the south half of Terranova's parking lot). The bank remained here until 1918, when Clayton bought out his brother's interest and built a new brick structure on north Bridge where its descendant, First of America, is now located.

Around 1906, Clayton and Clara built a new home in DeWitt on the then fashionable "Maple Drive" (west Main). It was among the largest of the popular Colonial-style homes being built in DeWitt during this period and was one of the few built as a family home as most, during this time, were being constructed as retirement homes for area farmers. The Woodruff's had three children: Lawrence, Lorna and Ralph and this house remained the Woodruff home until Clara's death in 1957.

After Clayton's death in 1929, his two young sons, Lawrence and Ralph took charge of the bank just in time to confront the double challenge of both the Great Depression and the DeWitt fire of 1930. They

weathered through both and the bank continued until its merger with American Bank and Trust in 1969.

The Woodruff family has remained a constant in DeWitt for over 150 years and is one of the few if not the oldest "town" family remaining. To any would-be Woodruff genealogist out there, I have received two inquiries from your distant "kin" asking for information: Margaret E. Morrissey, 1232 W. Laseter Ave., Anaheim, CA 92802 and Dorothy Davies, 5600 North Shore, Clark Lake, MI 49234 are both separately looking for you.

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

Woodruff

8-15-1901

GAN, THURSDAY,

ADDISON A. WOODRUFF

Died Suddenly at Dewitt Yesterday Morning.

Addison A. Woodruff died at his home in Dewitt Wednesday morning, aged 69 years. He leaves a wife and two sons, Mark T., a merchant in Dewitt, and Clayton C., a farmer in Watertown. He also leaves one brother, Riley J., and one sister, Mrs. W. C. Butler, both of St. Johns.

Deceased was born in Lysle, Broom county, N. Y., in 1832, and came to Michigan at an early age with his parents, who settled in Farmington, Oakland county, from which place they removed to Clinton county, where he spent the remainder of his life in the townships of Watertown and Dewitt. At one time he was engaged in the manufacture of furniture, and also in the foundry and mercantile business at different times. He was a successful business man and accumulated a comfortable fortune. He was a member of the Odd Fellows.

Mr. Woodruff spent a portion of last week in St. Johns and seemed to be in usual health. He told Prosecuting Attorney Smith that he intended going to Florida next fall, and might make that state his home.

The funeral will be held at his late home Friday at 2 o'clock.

The funeral of the late A. A. Woodruff was held at his old home in Dewitt, Friday, August 16, 1901, and was one of the largest ever held in the town. Living as he lived in this county ever since he was 10 years old, none was better known than he. The house was filled and a large crowd was seated on the lawn. Mrs. Sheets, of Grand Lodge officiated. The casket was covered and surrounded by beautiful flowers. Flowers were everywhere. Through the thoughtfulness of Mr. Wilbur everything that could be done to take away the shadow of death was done. At the grave a large tent was erected and chairs placed around it for the mourning friends. No fresh earth was to be seen, and as a beautiful song was being sung, all that was mortal of Addison A. Woodruff was silently lowered to its last resting place. Words fail to express the thankfulness of the afflicted friends to all, who so kindly and thoughtfully assisted in their great bereavement.

Not a wish but was gratified
Not a thing left undone.

The following resolutions of condolence were adopted unanimously by Dewitt Grange No. 453 P. of H. of Michigan, in memory of A. A. Woodruff, who departed this life Wednesday, August 11, 1901.

One by one the leaves are falling,
Fading, Falling day by day,
And in silence Heaven is calling
One by one our brothers away.

Whereas death the silent messenger, has again crossed our threshold and taken from our midst our worthy brother, A. A. Woodruff, who greatly enjoyed meeting with us whenever his health permitted, his sudden death is a stinging blow to the Grange as well as to the whole circle of his acquaintance.

Resolved, that in his death this grange has lost a useful and honored member, the family a devoted husband and father. The grief stricken family have the heart felt sympathy of all in their affliction.

Praying that he, who is too wise to err and too good to be unkind may be their comfort and guide.

Resolved that the Grange set aside a page in their minute book and thereon, record this memorial, and that a copy be sent to the bereaved family, also to the local papers, the Michigan Farmer and Grange Bulletin.

Resolved that our charter be draped for 30 days.

CK *8-16-1901*
MRS. C. L. PEARCE,
MRS. CELIA LORENZ,
MR. ELMER E. LANKTON.
Committee.

~~Woodruff~~
Woodruff

WOODRUFF-HOPKINS WEDDING



A wedding of beautiful appointments took place at 7 o'clock Thursday evening, November 12th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark T. Woodruff, of Dewitt, when their eldest daughter, Marguerite Veda, became the bride of Carroll Lyman Hopkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hopkins, of Lansing.

Pink, green and white were the colors used all through the wedding. Preceding the ceremony Miss Lorna Woodruff, cousin of the bride, sang, "Because", after which Mr. Harry Dooker began the Lohengrin wedding march. As the music began, two little cousins of the bride, Ralph Woodruff and Jean Bradford, descended the stairs where they received long streamers of pink tulle and smilax which they extended from the stairway in the living room to the opposite corner in the parlor where the ceremony took place before a solid curtain of southern smilax. The stairway was completely concealed with southern smilax dotted with the pink chrysanthemums. Rev. James S. Williamson of Plymouth Congregational church came next and was followed by the groom with his best man, Mr. George Hopkins. Miss Helen Brown, cousin of the bride, assisting as bridesmaid with Mr. Donald Woodruff, brother of the bride, as usher, entered next, fol-

lowed by the maid of honor, Miss Ruth Woodruff, sister of the bride. Last of all came the bride, who walked alone. She was unusually charming in her dress of bride's satin and long veil. The gown was made in a toga effect with a long court train which fell from the shoulders. About her neck she wore a diamond pendant, a gift of the groom. The maid of honor was attired in a gown of pale green chiffon over faille of the same shade. Miss Brown wore a gown of delicate pink shade of the same material and made similar to that of the maid of honor. Little Miss Bradford was dressed in white silk with a pink sash and hair bow. Ralph Woodruff wore a white serge Norfolk suit. The ceremony was performed in the presence of about 150 guests. Miss Irene Shumway assisted as mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Woodruff, mother of the bride wore a gown of gray chiffon trimmed with pearls and a touch of blue. Mrs. Hopkins, mother of the groom wore corn colored silk. Madam Amanda Woodruff, grandmother of the bride, wore lavender brocaded satin.

Immediately after the ceremony a three-course dinner was served at the home of Madam Woodruff. The bride's table, which seated ten guests, was entirely in white. In the center was a

large wicker basket of white bonnaire chrysanthemums, bride's roses and maiden hair ferns. The basket was tied with a large bow of white tulle, at each place stood a miniature bridal couple of bisque, which were given as favors to the guests. The other guests were seated at small tables placed about the rooms.

Guests from out of the city were: Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bennett and Mrs. C. H. Ranch of Plymouth; Miss Lydia Hopkins of Detroit; Mr. Ray Stone of Metamora; Mr. Sanford Wilcox of Grand Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Packard and Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hopkins of Charlotte; Miss Ruth Perkins of Bay City; Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Marshall and Miss Anna Marshall of Marshall; Mrs. J. Welton Fisher of Detroit; Mr. Marks of Milwaukee; Mr. William M. Smith of St. Johns; Mr. George Hopkins of Pittsburg and Mr. Rollo Carpenter of Ann Arbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins left Thursday night for an extended eastern trip. Upon their return they will reside in Lansing.

The trouble with many of us is that we believe too many things merely because we want to believe them and too few things that we ought to believe.

Woodruff

After an illness of nearly a year, Mrs. R. J. Woodruff died at her home in this city last Thursday night. Mrs. Woodruff's maiden name was Sarah S. Green. She was born in 1831 at Utica, Mich. She removed with her parents to DeWitt and was married in 1850 to Riley J. Woodruff. Nine children were born to them, only two of which survive her, Geo. and Clarence, both of St. Johns. Mrs. Woodruff had been an earnest member of the First Congregational church of this place for eighteen years and has always been a patient and willing worker. She will be greatly missed in this society and by a large number of warm friends. The funeral services were held at the house last Friday conducted by Rev. H. E. Butler and the remains were laid to rest in St. Johns cemetery.

~~Wood~~ Woodruff

Funeral Cards from the Scrapbook of C. Harry Moon

Now owned by Eleanor Moon McKinney (1984)

LAWRENCE A. WOODRUFF~ October 13, 1891 - April 1, 1951

DeWitt Community Chirch Wed. April 4, 2:00 p.m.
Rev. LaVern Bretz DeWitt Cemetery
Pallbearers: C. H. Fuerstenau, L. J. Griswold, V. D.
Pearce, Leon Blizzard, Archie Moore, Fred Tucker.

Woodruff

tended DeWitt High School and Michigan State University where he was a member of the Theata Chi Fraternity. Mr. Woodruff was a member of the DeWitt Lions Club; the DeWitt Masonic Lodge and along with his wife was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lansing. Mr. Woodruff's father started a bank in the back of a local grocery store in 1904; it was soon known as Woodruff Bros. Bank. After his father's death, the bank was run by Ralph and his brother, Lawrence; it was one of the few private banks in Michigan to survive the Depression. Mr. Ralph Woodruff went on to become President of Woodruff State Bank in DeWitt and then later a member of the Board of Directors of the American Bank & Trust in Lansing (now First of America-Central). He was dedicated to his job and devoted to the banking industry many years after his retirement. Mr. Woodruff was preceded in death by his son, Russell A. Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Norma Jean; daughter, Marilyn A. Morris; grandchildren, Christopher W. and Marnie A., all of Bloomfield Hills; daughter-in-law, Nancy Woodruff and grandson, David Douglas Woodruff, both of Clarkston. Funeral services will be held Thursday, 2 p.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel with The Rev. W. Carlton Younge, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lansing officiating. In-

terment will follow in DeWitt Cemetery. Casket bearers will be Ray DeWitt, Clarence Austin, Robert K. Kinning, Richard B. Foster Sr., Ronald Phillips and Kenneth E. Richards. The family will receive friends at the Chapel Wednesday from 4-9 p.m. with special services provided by the DeWitt Masonic Lodge #272 F. & A.M. at 7:30 p.m. Those desiring may make contributions to the DeWitt Memorial Building or to the American Lung Association in memory of Mr. Woodruff.

WOODRUFF,

RALPH LINDEN

DeWitt, MI and

Scottsdale, AZ

Ralph Linden Woodruff, a resident of DeWitt and Scottsdale, AZ, died Saturday, May 6, 1989 at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital. He was born May 23, 1905 in DeWitt; at-

1931

1981

In honour of the
Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Woodruff

their children

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene D. Morris
Mrs. Woodruff
and grandchildren

request the pleasure of your company
at a Reception and Buffet
Sunday, the seventh of June
nineteen hundred and eighty-one

from two until five in the afternoon
DeWitt Community Church

505 Coff Drive
DeWitt, Michigan

Woodruff

DeSoto

LOCAL HISTORY
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FOX



115-64

Woodruff

MRS EUGENE MORRIS

Woodruff-Morris repeat nuptials here Saturday

DeWITT—Now honeymooning in Bermuda are newlyweds, Mr and Mrs Eugene D. Morris, who exchanged wedding vows Saturday morning at St. Gerard Church, Lansing.

The bride, the former Miss Marilyn Ann Woodruff recently of New York City, is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Ralph L. Woodruff, 210 West Webb Drive, DeWitt. The bridegroom is the son of Eugene A. Morris of South Amboy, N. J. and the late Mrs Morris.

THE FORMER Miss Woodruff chose a wedding gown of peau taffeta and re-embroidered Alencon lace featuring a portrait neckline, wide skirt on which were appliqued scalloped lace panels in front and back and a wide chapel train.

She carried a cascade of white roses, stephanotis and ivy.

Mrs Clo Impronta of Norwalk, Conn. served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Miss Ashia Wald of Oak Park, Mrs Richard Lewis of Lansing and Mrs David Koester of Mayfield Heights, Ohio. They were identically gowned in amber color crepe emire sheath gowns and carried cascades of pompons in fall shades.

MRS Ralph L. Woodruff, mother of the bride, wore an ankle length rose colored sheath with a white orchid.

Best man for his brother was Joseph Morris of South Amboy, N. J. Ushers were Russell Woodruff of Pontiac, brother of the bride, Daniel Rodd of South Amboy, Clo Impronta of Norwalk, Conn. and David Carney of Syracuse, N. Y.

Brunch followed the ceremony at the bride's parents' home in DeWitt, and a reception was held in the Michigan Room of the Jack Tar Hotel in Lansing for two hundred guests. Jim Harvin trio played for dancing.

The newly wed Mr and Mrs Morris will reside in New York City.

Special wedding guest was Mrs Edna B. Reed of DeWitt, grandmother of the bride.

Miss Edith Stampfli is ill in St. Lawrence Hospital.

Fred Tucker was taken to Clinton Memorial Hospital Friday, Oct. 24.

Mrs Ernest Shaffey underwent surgery at Sparrow Hospital Friday, Oct. 24.

Mr and Mrs Cecil Gearhart of Houghton Lake were Sunday dinner guests of their daughter, Mrs Leo Hanson and family.



RALPH WOODRUFF

Woodruff

Woodruff new VP for AB & T

DeWITT—Election of Ralph L. Woodruff as a director of the American Bank and Trust Co. was announced Wednesday by Hubert B. Bates, board chairman.

Woodruff, a former president of the Woodruff State Bank of DeWitt, became a vice-president of the American Bank and Trust Co. upon the recent consolidation of Woodruff State Bank with AB&T.

A lifelong resident of DeWitt and a student of DeWitt and Lansing Central high schools, Woodruff graduated from Michigan State University in 1928. He joined the Woodruff State Bank in the same year and has been active in local banking and civic activities since that date.

He is a member and current Treasurer of the DeWitt Lions Club, life member and treasurer of Masonic Lodge No. 272, past president of DeWitt High School Alumni Assn., a former member of the DeWitt City Planning Commission, a charter member of the Lansing Chapter of the American Institute of Banking, past president of the Clinton County Bankers' Assn., and former chairman of Group 7 of the Michigan Bankers' Assn.

He attends the First Baptist Church of Lansing, is a former member of the board of trustees, and is currently serving as a member of the Endowment Committee of that organization.

Mr and Mrs Woodruff reside at 210 W. Webb Drive in DeWitt.

1973
Woodruff



RALPH L. WOODRUFF

Banker At DeWitt Retiring

Retirement of Ralph L. Woodruff, vice president of American Bank and Trust Company and manager of the bank's Woodruff Office in DeWitt, was announced by Hubert B. Bates, chairman of the board.

Formerly president of the Woodruff State Bank of DeWitt, he became vice president of AB and T upon consolidation of the two banks in 1969. He will continue as an AB and T director.

A lifelong resident of DeWitt, Woodruff has been active in local banking and civic activities since first joining the Woodruff bank in 1928.

He is treasurer of the DeWitt Lions Club, life member of Masonic Lodge No. 272, past president of the DeWitt High School Alumni Association, and has served on the DeWitt City Planning Commission.

Woodruff is a charter member of the Lansing Chapter of the American Institute of Banking, past president of the Clinton County Bankers Association, and past chairman of Group "7" of the Michigan Bankers Association.

His nephew, Howard Woodruff, an AB and T assistant vice president, will assume management of the Woodruff Office in DeWitt.

Woodruff

Woodruff Retires After 47½ Years in Banking

Ralph L. (Woody) Woodruff of DeWitt has retired after serving 47½ years in banking. His long career began in June 1928 after four years at what is now Michigan State University, joining his father Clayton C. Woodruff and his brother Lawrence A. Woodruff, in the partnership known as Woodruff Bros. Bank. The bank was established in DeWitt in 1904 by the Brothers Clayton C. Woodruff and Mark T. Woodruff.

Woody's early training began during school vacations as a bookkeeper and as a teller, starting full time as an assistant cashier. In 1935 he was named cashier and vice president and cashier in January 1941. Upon the death of his brother he became president and executive officer in January 1949, continuing in that capacity, upon the bank's conversion of one of the last Private Banks in Michigan to a State Bank on January 1, 1951.

In February, 1969, when Woodruff State Bank was merged with American Bank and Trust Company of Lansing, Woody became a vice president and director and the manager of the Woodruff office in DeWitt. Retirement from the daily banking routine came June 1, 1970 and he continued as a director until April 1973.

One of the organizers of the American Bank of Grand Ledge, Woodruff served as a director upon its opening in December 1973 until December 1975. He has enjoyed this 47½-year span in banking and remembers with pleasure the friends he has made.

Although Woodruff has relinquished many of his non-banking connections, he is still active in the DeWitt Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge, and his Church. He is a chairman of the Cemetery Board of the City of DeWitt and a member of its Bi-Centennial Commission.

Woody and his wife Norma Jean now enjoy December through April in their townhouse in Mesa, Arizona, with summer residence in DeWitt.

LOCAL HISTORY
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BOX

Woodruff

OBITUARY

R.L. Woodruff, DeWitt banker

DeWITT — Ralph Linden Woodruff spent his most of his life in the banking business. The 83-year-old DeWitt native died Saturday at a hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz.

His father started a bank in 1904 in the back of a local grocery store. Woodruff and his brother Lawrence took it over after their father's death.

Woodruff became president of the family bank and served on the board of American Bank & Trust in Lansing, which later became First of America Bank-Central.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Jean; a daughter, Marilyn Morris of Bloomfield Hills; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel. The family will receive friends Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., with special services by the DeWitt Masonic Lodge at 7:30 p.m.

Contributions can be made to the DeWitt Memorial Chapel or the American Lung Association.

Workman

*Speak Nuptial Vows
In Lansing, Aug. 4*

A marriage of interest in this vicinity was solemnized at nine o'clock Thursday evening, August 4th when Miss Geraldine Plowman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Plowman, of Olive township, and Arthur Workman, son of Mrs. Floyd Grubaugh, spoke their vows. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. Ray Prescott at the parsonage of the Michigan Avenue Methodist church, in Lansing.

The bride was attired in a light blue lace gown, with which she wore navy accessories. Her bridesmaid, Miss Beth Delhampter, also wore blue with white accessories. Frederick Norfleet attended the bridegroom as best man.

Mrs. Workman was graduated from the local high school with the class of 1934. During the past year she has been employed at the St. Johns National Bank. Mr. Workman, who also attended the local schools, is employed at the National Machine Products Company, in Detroit.

Wygant

DEATH TAKES TWO AGED DEWITT MEN

JOHN WYGANT AND RICHARD
HAVENS PASS AWAY
WEDNESDAY

Dewitt village lost two of its oldest residents yesterday, March 15, when John S. Wygant, 78, passed away in the morning, to be followed in death by Richard G. Havens, 79, in the evening.

Mr. Wygant, who with his son, the late Nelson Wygant, operated the Capital Glass Works in Lansing for many years, died Wednesday morning at his home in the village, where he had lived since last October. Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Minnie S. Wygant, a daughter, Mrs. Ralph Soules of Lansing, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Vern Jepson of Dewitt. The son, Nelson, died three years ago. Funeral services will be conducted from the Vincent funeral home Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, E. W. T., Rev. L. E. Price officiating. Burial will be at Charlotte.