



Photo courtesy of Faye Hanson Public Library

THE WILLIAM MARZKE FAMILY OF RILEY, 1902 — Pictured (back row, l. to r.) Emma, Theodore, Martha, Albert and Anna, (front row) Otto, Marie, William F. (father) and Minnie.

## Clinton County history book being republished

In 1980, several individuals under the leadership of the Clinton County Historical Society completed several years of work with the publication of an enormous county history. The original purpose was to account for what had happened in the county in the 100 years since the last major history book of 1880. It met its objective, and the 1,100 page book, already a prized collector's item, is impressive in both weight and content. Not only does it cover that 100-year span, it goes beyond that into areas of the more distant past to cover areas omitted in 1880 (and corrects a few untruths). But perhaps the best part of the book is its several hundred family histories, all written by amateur genealogists and included at no cost to the contributors.

The ink was barely dry however, when a great moan was heard across the land. There was wailing and gnashing of teeth, tearing of garments and smearing-on of ashes — in short, there were a whole lot of folks who were plain disgusted with themselves for not getting it in gear and submitting their family histories. Well, take heart — you don't have to wait another 100 years. The Clinton County Historical Society has reactivated plans for another book. So get out your pencils, scrap books, photo albums and family bible and get to work. And please, don't think you need to belong to one of the county's "old families". Histories are being accepted from any family currently living in the county or who have lived here in the past.

Often, just a simple obituary will give the basics for a good family write-up. By coincidence I happened upon one last month for William Martzke, pictured above with his children:

(June, 1904)

Killed by Horse

Lived in Riley 21 years

"Last Saturday evening William Martzke, of Riley, fed his horses some grain and then

removed some setting hens for the stable. One flew from him against the horse, which reared and kicked Mr. Martzke twice in the breast. A doctor was called and his injuries were not regarded as dangerous. On Sunday evening he began to grow worse and continued so until 1 o'clock when he died. He was conscious until death and he kept wishing that he could have seen his daughter, whom he had not seen since her wedding day two years ago, and who was coming to visit him in two weeks from her home in the upper peninsula. His sudden death came as a great shock to the family as well as the community. He was a kind father and an upright honest man.

"William F. Marzke was born in Alt Malzow, Stolp, Germany, Dec. 15, 1845. He served three years in the German standing army and fought one year in the French and German War. He was married to Miss Hannah Yanz and after moving to Ohio they moved to Michigan and settled on the farm where he was killed. Thirteen years ago his wife died of cancer at Orion. Seven years ago lightning struck his barn and killed one of his horses and a year later his son, Paul, was drowned at Merle Beach. At the death of his wife he was left with nine children and an aged father...Mr. Martzke was a member of the German Lutheran Church of Lansing."

Mr. Martzke has a good number of descendants still living in DeWitt and his grandchildren, I'm told, get together once a year. This should give them a good basis for a great family history. Helen, you've been elected family secretary — the others will fill in the details. Start writing!

For more information or guidelines send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Family History Forms, P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879.

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

YANZ

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 Yanz. 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 \$5.00; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Norris, set silver knives and forks; Miss Anna Yanc, 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 Altie 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 Elta 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. Spedter Norris, wash bowl and pitcher; Master Mark Norris, sugar sifter; Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Moon, silver pickle castor; Miss Grace Baldwin, china vase; Mrs. S. A. Stewart, \$1.00 in cash; Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Dills, castor; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Linn, glass berry dish; Dr. and Mrs. Simmons and Mr. and Mrs. Varney Pearce, oak rocker; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Tucker, bed spread; Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Baldwin, silver pickle castor; 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 Belia."

## Riverside-DeWitt

### AUGUST YANZ DEAD

August Yanz, an old resident of both Olive and Dewitt died at his home in this village Tuesday forenoon, Sept. 13, 1921, aged 82 years. Mr. Yanz has been afflicted with heart trouble for a long time. He is survived by five children, three sons and two daughters, Frank Yanz of Lansing, Robert Yanz of Olive, Charles Yanz of this place, Mrs. Grant Jones and Mrs. Frank Kleaver. Mr. Yanz's wife passed away many years ago and he with his son Charles have kept house by themselves. The funeral in charge of J. E. Wood of Lansing will be held at the home at 1 o'clock and at the M. E. church at 2 o'clock Friday. Rev. Frost of the German Lutheran church in Lansing will officiate. Interment in Dewitt cemetery.

St. John's News

1-4 - 1894

YANZ

Died at the home of her son, Rudolph Yanz, in Riley January 4th, 1901, Mrs. Charlotte Yanz. She was born in Germany March 7, 1817, and was married to Mr. Yanz in 1836. Her husband died about 1871. She came to America and settled in Ohio in 1882. In 1883 she came to Riley, Clinton county, Michigan, and has been a continuous resident there ever since. She was the mother of 11 children, four of whom survive her, Rudolph and Adaline, of Riley, August, of Watertown, and Gustave, of Olive, besides thirty grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. There are 41 living descendants. She was very feeble and had been blind several years. She was a member of the German Lutheran church and had often wished to die and be at rest. Her funeral was held at the Simmons school house Sunday, Rev Kramer, of Lansing, officiating. Interment in South Riley cemetery.

Thy labors are ended  
And calmly to rest,  
We lay thee where sorrow shall never molest,  
But, still midst our sorrow,  
One thought shall remain,  
Thy spirit in glory shall blossom again.

**YANZ, RICHARD A.**

**DeWitt**

Age 72, died March 20, 1989. Born March 9, 1917 in DeWitt, Mr. Yanz was a lifelong resident of the DeWitt area. He was employed in Maintenance at General Motors and was also a farmer in Riley Township. Surviving are 1 brother, Harold Yanz of Hart; 2 sisters, Leona Yanz and Lucille Post, both of Charlotte; several cousins. Funeral services will be held Saturday, 1 p.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel with The Rev. Willard Farrier, Pastor of South Riley Bible Church, officiating. Interment will be in DeWitt Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the Chapel Thursday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. and Friday from 7-9 p.m.

Young

## Dow W. Young

OBITUARY 12-5-1988  
D-B Rev.

Dow William Young, 84, of Laingsburg, died Nov. 16, 1988, in St. Johns.

Mr. Young was born on June 4, 1904, in Laingsburg, Olive Township. He was a member of Redeemer United Methodist Church. He was employed in maintenance at Michigan State University. He was a lifelong resident and farmer in Olive Township. He was a trustee of the Wilsey Cemetery Association.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; one daughter, Mrs. Oliver (Nancy) Smith of Arkansas; one son and daughter-in-law, Randall and Edith of Laingsburg; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; neighbors Dwight and Florence Aungst; and many friends.

He was preceded in death by two grandchildren.

Services were Nov. 19 at Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel with the Rev. Rodney J. Kalajainen, pastor of the Redeemer United Methodist Church officiating. Interment was at Wilsey Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to Redeemer United Methodist Church.

Young

**Dental Office To Be Opened  
In DeWitt NOV. '64**



Dr. Edward T. Young, a graduate dentist from the University of Detroit in '64, will open his dental office in DeWitt in approximately a week. He is a native of Hong Kong, British Crown Colony. He has completed the dental internship training program in Wayne County General Hospital in Detroit.

The office is located at 109 W. Main Street, DeWitt (formerly the location of Jan's Apparel). His phone number will be 669-9573.

# DEATH CLAIMS JOHN L. YOUNG

Esteemed Man Helped Erect  
Many Buildings Around  
Wacousta; Rites Held

(By Mary Conrad)

Wacousta—A great sadness has fallen upon the community with the passing of our friend and neighbor, John L. Young, whose death occurred at Ann Arbor. Mr. Young had been at the hospital about a week where he had gone in hope of getting relief from a serious trouble.

Mr. Young had been a lifelong resident of this place and has a host of friends who will greatly miss his genial presence and his ready willingness to give a helping hand to any who might need it. He was always a kind and considerate husband to the wife who survives him.

Early in life he took up the trade of brick layer and stone mason and many buildings stand as lasting monuments to his conscientious workmanship, among them the Wacousta and Watertown Center school buildings. He gave freely of his time and interest to the community and to the fraternal organizations with which he was associated and his kindly service and loyal friendship will be a treasured memory by all who knew and enjoyed his companionship in life. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, F. & A. M. and of Wacousta Chapter O. E. S.

John Lester Young, son of Alonzo and Mary Young, was born at Wacousta Sept. 23, 1863, and died at Ann Arbor April 25, 1932. He was married September 12, 1908, to Della Hunter who survives him. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Mary Fitch of Carlisle, Arkansas, another sister, Mrs. Emma Corson, having preceded him in death. Five nephews are his only remaining relatives, one of whom is Mr. Bert Corson of Perrinton. Funeral services were held Wednesday at 2.30 o'clock from Wacousta church, Rev. F. G. Wright officiating and Masonic services at the cemetery.

Young

Chit. Co. Rep. News

4-28-1932

Zacharias

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—JUNE 7, 1917

## POPULAR YOUNG COUPLE WED AT HOME IN OLIVE

MISS FLORENCE PHINNEY AND  
CARL ZACHARIAS MARRIED.

At a simple wedding at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Janies Phinney in Olive on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock, their daughter, Florence Louise, became the bride of Louis Carl Zacharias, the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Zacharias of this city. The wedding march was played by Miss Cecil Price as the bridal party descended the stairs and took their places in a corner of the sitting room before a bank of ferns. Rev. Wright of Dewitt performed the ceremony.

The young couple were attended by Miss Bernice Zacharias, sister of the groom and Alva Ballinger of Ovid. The bride was attired in a dainty gown of silk embroidered organdie with satin trimming, and a veil of tulle caught to the head by lilies of the valley. She carried a bouquet of bride's roses and lilies of the valley. The bridesmaid was gowned in white organdie and carried pink roses. During the congratulations Miss Price sang, "O Promise Me."

Following the ceremony a supper was served by six of the bride's girl friends. Mr. and Mrs. Zacharias left immediately on a trip to Detroit, from which they will return to their home at 1107 Platt street, Lansing. Both are well known here having attended the local schools. The bride graduated from the high school in 1915, from the county normal last spring, and for the past year has been teaching at the Merle Beach school. The groom is employed at the Reo factory in Lansing.

# FORMER ST. JOHNS RESIDENT PASSES

FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE  
HELD TODAY FOR MRS.  
CARL ZACHARIAS

Mrs. Carl Zacharias of East Lansing, former well known and highly respected St. Johns young woman, passed away at Sparrow hospital, Lansing, Monday evening, August 4, 1930, at the age of 31 years. Funeral rites will be held at her home on Harrison Road at 1:30 o'clock this (Thursday) afternoon and at the People's church, East Lansing, at 2 p. m. Burial will be made in Mt. Rest cemetery, St. Johns.

Florence Louise Phinney was born in Riley township August 27, 1898. She was the daughter of the late James Phinney, and Mary Phinney. After finishing high school at St. Johns she graduated from the Clinton County Normal with the class of 1916. She followed this with 14 years of successful teaching in the county.

On June 5, 1917, she was united in marriage to Carl Zacharias of St. Johns. They made their home here four years and then moved to Lansing.

Florence was a girl with a beautiful character, and a sunny disposition and was an inspiration to many. To know her was to love her.

She leaves to mourn their loss, her husband, Carl, her mother, Mrs. Mary Phinney of Olive, three sisters, Mrs. Edna Price of Laingsburg, Mrs. Loretta Nichols of Alward Lake, and Mrs. Cassie Stevens of St. Johns, three brothers, William of Muskegon, Albert of Price, and Clarence of Olive and a host of friends.

UNITS SEPARATE

## Zeeb Named Manager of Plant Food Services, Inc.

Recent re-organization of Plant Food Services, Inc., has brought about the separation of the company into two organizations.

Virgil Zeeb of DeWitt is now general manager of Plant Food Services, Inc. Managing the Manco division is Raymond Bradley of Fowler.

Assisting Zeeb on the Plant Food Services staff will be Charles McNeilly of St. Johns as assistant manager. Dennis Pandei of Westphalia will be in charge of sales.

**ZEEB HAS** with Plant Food Services since its organization in 1956. During that time he has served in a sales and managerial capacity.

Plant Food Services will continue to supply farmers with a complete analysis of bulk fertilizers, lime and other specialized plant foods. They will also continue their bulk delivery and fertilizer service in and around the county.

They plan to install a fertilizer bagger to further assist farmers in fertilizer handling. Murea liquid feeds will remain a part of Plant Food Service, and they will operate at the same location at 208 W. Railroad street in St. Johns.



VIRGIL ZEEB

Zeeb

Zeeb

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## Obituary

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### Rosetta M. "Chi" Zeeb

Rosetta M. "Chi" Zeeb, 38, of DeWitt died Oct. 27, 1986, in Lansing.

Mrs. Zeeb was born Sept. 25, 1948, in Lansing. She was executive secretary to the president of Hartman, Fahco Inc. She was president-director of the Michigan Pocket Billiards Association and she avidly promoted the sport that she loved. She was the captain of the '82 and '83 Women's BCA All American 8-Ball National Championship. Also in 1986 "Chi" took seventh place in the BCA National individual tournament in Fort Worth, Texas. She was much loved and respected by her family and friends as demonstrated by the tremendous amount of support she received during her lengthy illness. She will be lovingly remembered for her courage.

Surviving are one daughter, Nikki Zeeb; one son, Joey Zeeb; father, Gabriel Forcia of Hubbardston; mother, Beverly Decker of Evart; two brothers, Lyle Forcia of Grand Ledge and Jack Reynolds of Lake; three sisters, Debra Jangor of Barryton, and Donna Heinzelman and Laurie Zorjopoulos, both of Sears; maternal grandmother, Dortha Quick of Grand Ledge; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews; and very near and dear friends, Barbara Jo Bell and Brian Zeeb.

Services were held Oct. 30 at the DeWitt Community Church. Interment was in the Gunnisonville Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of "Chi" Zeeb.

Arrangements were by Gorslin-Runciman DeWitt Chapel.

Zwergle

## Death Takes Mrs. Celia Zwergle At Daughter's Home

Word was received today by E. F. Boron of St. Johns, that Mrs. Celia Zwergle died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Purcell in Toledo, O., Wednesday evening. Funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock Saturday morning in St. John's church, Ypsilanti.

Mrs. Zwergle was the last of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Brya, pioneers of Clinton county. She was a cousin of Mr. Boron and Fred Van

Oppen