

DOWNERS GROVE REPORT

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR

DOWNERS GROVE, DuPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1904

Downers Grove Widows

Village a Paradise for Lonely Women—Many Young and Pretty.

Record-Herald Says Village Has More Than Its Share of Those of Whom Sam Wells Wrote—Between Seventy-five and Eighty.

Some time since the RECORDED printed an item to the effect that Downers Grove had more widows in proportion to its size than any town in Illinois. The item provoked considerable discussion at the time. According to Mrs. Lavara Hannum and Mrs. Cora Hancock, both attractive widows, who had made a study of the matter, there were seventy-six widows residing in Downers Grove. Robert B. Buchanan, a writer for the Record-Herald heard the story and came out to investigate the widows' paradise. The Sunday edition of his paper gave the result of his investigation in the following article:

Downers Grove lies 31 miles westward from the heart of Chicago, nestling comfortably on the uplands of DuPage county. It has a population of 2,500 and no vacant homes. There is no official census of the widows, but unofficially the number is variously estimated in figures found between sixty-five and eighty. Whether this is at all disproportionate to the total population is a question for the modern sociologist. Of one thing you may be sure, the town itself is one of exceptional attractiveness; if by that same token the widows themselves will pass muster—and they are said to have countless charms, both mental and physical—what's the odds? The more the better.

"We have as nice a collection of widows, I think, as any town of our size in the state of Illinois," said D. G. Graham, whose word is high authority in the place, "but I fear it would tax my powers in mathematics to the utmost to be able to enumerate eighty. Still one can never tell how many roses a bush will produce nor how lovely and fragrant they are until they are plucked and counted."

Mr. Graham is not only an old resident of Downers Grove, but he is president of the board of education and police magistrate of the village, and, with an innate courtesy, he knows how to temper justice with mercy. In a word he is a wise counselor, to whom many of the villagers go when they are in perplexity and in need of good advice. Without flattery, with a chivalry as modest as it is brave and dignified, he speaks of widows with a sense of the highest respect and honor.

But whether the widows of Downers Grove, collectively, would foot up 75, or even 100, the fact remains that many of them are more estimable women, faithful and untiring in good works, cultivated in mind, progressive and public spirited, filling their place in life with a cheerfulness and fortitude which command the respect and admiration of all who know them. They contribute their part to the welfare and advancement of the community. Among the most prominent widows there is work more important to do than to frighten away little boys who look wistfully at the flowers in the garden in summer. They have something more to do than to obtain a clear and correct knowledge of everybody's affairs in the village.

Mrs. Laura A. Curtiss, widow of Chas. Curtiss, who occupies a pleasant home at the corner of East Curtiss and Washington streets, is actively identified with the work of the Baptist church, and she is an influential member of the social and educational life of the village. Her husband was the son of a prominent pioneer of Downers Grove. He was one of the founders of the Farmers and Merchants bank of that place, and a few years before his death the electors of DuPage county bestowed upon him a seat in the state legislature. His influence for good was felt in many ways, and his advice was often sought upon questions of public concern.

Mrs. J. H. Bateman, widow of Dr. Bateman, lives in a large homelike house on South Main street, surrounded by younger relatives and friends. She is modest and cultivated and much interested in the growth and welfare of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which, Rev. Herbert H. Rood is the present pastor. Mrs. Bateman holds an official place on the church board, and her services are highly valued in the work of her denomination. She has lived in Downers Grove for 14 years, and prior to settling there, she and her husband spent nine years on a farm in South Dakota.

One of the most highly esteemed widows in the village is Mrs. Emma J. Miller, who lives on South Washington street, near the Curtiss home. Her father, A. F. Foster, was a pioneer who looked up his residence at this place when it contained only a few houses, and it was only recently that he died

at the age of 88 years. Mrs. Miller was president of the Ladies' Library association for seven years, commander in the Maccabees for six years, and at the present time is Worthy Matron in the Order of the Eastern Star. She is enthusiastically interested in the Woman's club, and is also at the head of a committee on local improvements.

"I believe in helping forward any work," she said, "which tends to make our town attractive and healthy."

Another widow of whom any village might feel proud is Mrs. Henrietta Emigh. She is well known in Chicago as she has been a member of the board of the Home of the Friendless for several years, and she has many acquaintances and friends here. She is one of the zealous supporters of St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal church, which lately completed a handsome new church edifice.

A short distance north of the home of Mrs. Emigh, on Highland avenue, is the residence of Mrs. M. H. Bates, a widow prominent in religious and social work. She is also prominent in the Ladies' Library association.

Perhaps no widow in Downers Grove is more widely known or more generally loved than Mrs. Calla Bush, whose spacious residence at 125 Carpenter street is surrounded by handsome grounds. Her son, Guy L. Bush, who is one of the best known business men in the village, represents DuPage county in the legislature. Next door to the Bush home lives Mrs. Lyons, who has attained the remarkable age of 84 years.

The list might be prolonged almost interminably. But our time? To what good end? The widows, old and young, are an honor to the town. In support of this statement we have the word of W. H. Barnhart, the village oracle, who quotes poetry to the effect that "The widow can bake, the widow can brew, the widow can shape, and the widow can sew. Furthermore, Mr. Barnhart is fond of repeating an old saying that "widows are a study you will never be proficient in."

"There's a strange case of widows that comes to my mind right now," mused Mr. Barnhart. "Down on East Curtiss street, near where I live, we had four widows living in one house. How could they ever agree? Search me. All I know is that the Widow Davenport, who owned the house, had for her companions, a widowed sister, the Widow Davis and the Widow Mitchell, the latter a daughter of Mrs. Davis. There was quite an assortment—all ages and sizes."

"In another house, this time on Maple avenue, we had two widows in one house—Mrs. Black and her daughter, but the former now is dead. Mrs. M. K. Crescy, a widow living on Gilbert avenue, is the relict of a prominent citizen of Downers Grove. Mrs. Cole is one of our attractive widows; she lives near the Miller hotel on Main street. Still another comes to my mind—Mrs. Kennedy, living on the south side. One of her neighbors, Mrs. Haven, is also a widow, who is fair, fat and forty."

"As a matter of fact," continued the village oracle, "I might name a great long list of widows, but you see widows don't exactly run in Downers Grove."

CASS ITEMS.

A lamp exploded in the sleeping room of Mrs. Alice Chilvers, last Wednesday morning at 2:30 o'clock, setting fire to the bed clothing, carpet and chairs. Mrs. Chilvers lives alone in a portion of the house and is quite deaf. She awakened her son Merritt, who dragged the burning mattress out in the snow and put out the fire in the room with a blanket. The loss is fully covered by insurance in the Farmers' Insurance Co. of LaSalle. A church social will be held next Friday evening at Jackson Littleford's. Refreshments will be served. ... Rindol Zielke, while operating a circular saw last week at the farm of Frank Gregory, had the misfortune to lose a portion of his left thumb. ... James Welch fell and fractured two ribs, while repairing his barn last week. ... Three carpenters were working at the church, last week, rebuilding team sheds. ... Jno. Hearty has gone to Jeffersonville, to get his farming tools and household furniture. ... James Littleford too, a sleigh load of young folks to Downers Grove, last Friday evening, and surprised Mrs. Esther Smart. ... At the annual meeting of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co., last Saturday at LaSalle, the secretary's report showed a hundred new members and a larger business than last year. The old officers were re-elected. ... Mr. and Mrs. John Sinyard have a fine, new cutter. ... Irving Oldfield now has a ferret, and is prepared to contract to kill rats by the job or day.

SAVED FROM TERRIBLE DEATH.

The family of Mrs. M. L. Bobbitt of Bargeton, Tenn., saw her dying and were powerless to save her. The most skillful physicians and every remedy used, failed, while consumption was slowly but surely taking her life. In this terrible hour Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption turned despair into joy. The first bottle brought immediate relief and its continued use completely cured her. It's the most certain cure in the world for all throat and lung troubles. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at all druggists.

Local and Personal Paragraphs

The Woehrel Cigar. White Rose gasoline, Nash's. Additional local news on fifth page.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Tholin are the parents of another boy.

M. and Mrs. Alex Tully are visiting relatives in Waterloo, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. White are here from Ottawa to visit relatives.

M. B. Downer made a trip to Mt. Vernon, Iowa, the first of the week.

Mrs. Martin Fry of Chicago was the guest of Mrs. W. W. Tucker last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fenton of Chicago were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hodler Tuesday.

The next entertainment in the course will occur Jan. 30. Miss Olof Krarer, Esquimaux lecturer.

Rev. Herbert Rood will speak at the Methodist church Sunday evening on "The Fast Young Man."

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund H. Poetter went to Aurora Monday for a two weeks visit with his relatives.

Mrs. S. F. Haller is at the German hospital in Chicago, where she was successfully operated upon Monday.

The young people of Cass gave the Misses Jennie and Ruby Smart a very pleasant surprise last Friday evening.

Miss Edith Haymond who has been spending a week with her sister Mrs. Chas. P. Blodgett has returned to her home in Sandwich.

The third case of scarlet fever in the village has developed in the family of Alex Duncan whose 11-year-old daughter is ill with the disease.

Announcements have been received in Downers Grove of the birth of a daughter, December 31st, to Mr. and Mrs. Horace S. Mann at Seattle, Wash.

Messrs. Fred Mikoleit and Fred Radell wish to thank the firemen and citizens for their efforts in saving their property from destruction at the recent fire.

J. W. Tucker received a message from Charlton, Mass., yesterday announcing the death of his father, Daniel H. Tucker, there early yesterday morning. Mr. Tucker had reached the remarkable age of 89 years.

Several of Samuel Hoffert's children have been seriously ill but are now recovering. His mother, Mrs. Charlotte Hoffert, has also been having a serious time with a fever which failed to yield to treatment.

Fred Mikoleit who held a policy of \$1,000 in the German-American Insurance company was paid in full Monday morning. This is one of the first class companies in the local agencies of Jonas W. Tucker.

A party of Downers Grove residents formed a sleighing party yesterday and drove to the home of Dr. J. G. Frank at Fullersburg where they took dinner. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Stanley, Mrs. Ada Anderson, Mrs. Samuel Curtis and Mrs. E. C. Stanley.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Davis were called upon Saturday to mourn the death of their daughter, Dorothy, 2 years and 6 months old, whose death occurred at five o'clock from diphtheria fever. The little one was taken ill ten days previous with a Milous attack. Later the mumps developed and the fever which followed was too great a strain for the child's constitution. The funeral was held from the house Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. H. H. Rood officiating and the burial was made in the Fullersburg cemetery. The child's death has been a terrible blow to the bereaved parents and their many friends unite in extending their heartfelt sympathy.

Emery Klein was taken sick on last Saturday evening and the physician sent for pronounced it a case of scarlet fever, and his father, Louis Klein, immediately took the other two children to their grandfather's, Peter Leibundguth's. Mr. Klein, as a good citizen having the welfare of the community at heart, has closed his market voluntarily. Without waiting for orders from physicians or other authorities sent his employees out early Monday morning to notify his numerous patrons to the effect that the market will remain closed till all possibility of danger is over so that there may be no apprehension of the disease spreading so far as any precaution on his part may prevent. This action on the part of Mr. Klein cannot be too highly commended and will insure him the continued esteem, respect and patronage of the community as a good citizen and public spirited man who considers the health and welfare of the whole people above his own personal gain. The sick boy, Emery, at present writing, is doing well and hope is entertained that he will have a light run of the disease and soon be well again.

National Light oil at Nash's. Cook's Flaked Rice at the Fair. Best oil in town at Curtiss & Hearty's. W. W. Tucker has been ill with the grip for ten days.

Miss Jessie Potter of Chicago visited in Downers over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Dean are visiting in DeKalb county this week.

The condition of Mrs. Chas. Mochel who has been seriously ill still remains critical.

Conrad Buschman has again taken possession of the Lace creamery and will operate it.

Miss Biles of Chicago will spend the remainder of the winter with Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Huntington.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart of Chicago were guests of his brother, W. S. Stewart and family last week.

The loss on Fred Mikoleit's house which was partially burned last Friday was satisfactorily adjusted Monday.

Mrs. H. P. Kellogg writes to have her paper sent to Los Angeles instead of Pasadena. She will spend the winter in the former city.

A number of Downers Grove young people are planning to attend a dance given by the Naperville Social club Saturday evening, Jan. 23.

Mrs. Rosa S. Johnson is prepared to call at homes and care for children in the absence of parents, either day or evening, by the day or hour.

Mrs. A. C. Smith and daughter Edna have returned to Hollywood, Ill., after spending a few days with their cousins Mrs. T. F. Potter and Mrs. O. R. Brown.

Fred. Davies received a message, Tuesday, announcing the sudden death of his father at Toronto, Canada, of pneumonia. Mr. Davies left Tuesday night for Toronto to attend the funeral.

The January term of the board of park commissioners on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1904. There is an application on file for the pardon of Wm. Cooley, who was sent to the penitentiary from DuPage county for the charge of bigamy.

Chicago Sunday papers announce the engagement of Miss Jessie Ellett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hardin Ellett, to Mr. James P. Mitchell of Downers Grove. The marriage will take place March 9th.

The Downers Grove branch of the Tabard Inn Library has been established at Bush & Simonsen's, and patrons may exchange their book checks for books. The station has 150 books, comprising works of poetry, fiction and travel.

Firemen are very bitter in their denunciation of the course of the authorities in permitting fire-plugs to become covered with snow and ice, as is the case with practically all the hydrants about town. Such a condition of affairs seriously retards their work when a fire occurs.

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Brown have returned to Downers Grove after spending nearly a year in Talladega, Ala. During their absence Mr. Brown has erected, among other buildings, a beautiful Memorial chapel. They will make their home for the present with her sister, Mrs. T. F. Potter.

Attorney M. Slusser has gone on a western business trip as attorney for the contestants in the will of Jonathan Clark who was a wealthy real estate man in Chicago. Mr. Slusser goes to Iowa, Nebraska and California to cross examine witnesses who are to make depositions in the case. About two million dollars are involved in the litigation. He will return about the 1st of February. Mrs. Slusser accompanies him on the trip as far as Los Angeles.

A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY.

In these days of fine homes and skyscraping office buildings, every step towards greater beauty, utility or comfort in house making is of real value. One of the professors in Wheaton college has recently added one important advance in the treatment of natural wood for floors, furniture and interior finish. It is a compound called Oxaxum which can be applied with a cloth and has remarkable properties which give to the wood a fine soft polish and prevent the adhesion of dirt. But the most incredible feature is its durability having a nature which resists the tread of boot nails and still is not hard in the degree to crack and peel. It promises to bring the polished floor into common use by its low cost and great saving in the work of cleaning. This will be hailed with delight in these days of expert sanitation and war upon disease producing germs. It is the result of several years experimenting to secure a suitable floor for the college. Like most discoveries it has a larger application than one immediately thought, and it is to be specially advertised on plain paper.

FIRE DAMAGES MIKOLEIT HOUSE

Starting From a Defective Chimney, Near \$1,000 Worth of Damage Before Being Checked.

Fire damaged the residence of Fred Mikoleit, on Railroad street last Friday afternoon to the extent of \$1,000, fully covered by insurance. The blaze started in the attic and had probably been smoldering for some time before breaking out on the roof of the east wing. After the department had responded to the alarm, the firemen were delayed in getting water owing to the fire plug at the Miller House being covered with snow and ice. A lead of hose was laid from this hydrant but the line was short and barely reached the house. Another hose was brought through from Curtiss street and soon had the fire under control. The roof on the east wing was destroyed and the flames damaged the rafters and roof timbers in the main building. By prompt work most of the furniture was removed before being damaged. A defective flue caused the blaze. Insurance to the amount of \$1,000 was carried in J. W. Tucker's agency on the house; the furniture was not insured. The house was occupied by Fred Mikoleit and family, who lived down stairs. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Radell occupied the upper floor.

As usual the officious citizen took a hand in destroying property and hindering the work of the firemen. These people always are at work at a fire. Under the mistaken impression that their services are of value, and in order to be "doing something" they manage to damage everything they can get their hands on—either breaking out windows kicking in doors or smashing furniture.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

Sealed proposals will be received by the board of local improvements of the village of Downers Grove, Ill., until 7:30 o'clock p. m. January 20th, 1904, at which time said proposals will be opened for grading, curbing and paving a portion of Main street, in said village, requiring approximately 2,710 linear feet of combined concrete curb and gutter and 6,414 square yards of brick pavement on macadam foundation. Plans and specifications may be seen and blank proposals obtained at the office of Chas. Mochel, Downers Grove, or at room 1715, Marquette building, Chicago. Payment for above work will be made by special assessment bonds bearing 5 per cent interest. Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified check for not less than 10 per cent of the total amount of the proposal and be made payable to Chas. Mochel. The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. W. S. Shields, Engineer; Chas. Mochel, President; J. W. Graves, Secretary; O. B. Hearty, board of local improvements.

THE ARCADIAN CLUB.

Last Friday evening the Arcadian club held its regular program at the new home of Miss Majorie Adams on Saratoga avenue. The business was first taken up and elaborate preparations made for the society's annual banquet to be held next Saturday evening. This banquet is one of the society's chief events of the year. It is strictly a club affair, no visitors being allowed, as is the custom at the regular meetings. After the business the regular program for the evening was taken up, the author for the evening being Dante. A short historical sketch was given, also a short talk on Dante's greatest work "The Divine Comedy." After the regular business a general discussion ensued and the members thus brought into closer touch with the author's works. The club adjourned at 10:30 with a warm appreciation of the hospitality of the hostess.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, holds Sunday services on the top floor of the Oldfield building at 10:45. Subject for Jan. 17, "Truth." He is the rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are judgment. A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He. Deuteronomy 32:4. Sunday school for children at noon. This church holds regular Wednesday evening testimonial meetings at 6 p. m. in Oldfield hall. Reading room for the benefit of the public open every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock at 108 Gilbert avenue. All are cordially invited.

A "TOUCHING" MATTER.

This is the season of the year when a large number of subscription accounts fall due. We desire to mention the matter but it would afford us particular pleasure just now to add our name to a receipt showing all arrears paid by any of those indebted to us. If you are one of the fortunate ones referred to, don't let any feeling of modesty prevent you from calling at headquarters.

What Did He Do?

Once Formerly of Indiana, Later of Illinois, He Was Found Dead in a Field Near Plainfield, Ind., on Monday.

Downers Grove has a man who was a part of Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, and finally the state of Ohio since the creation of Illinois. It has been a portion of St. Clair, Crawford, Clark, Elletts, Fulton and Cook counties. The man is Stephen J. Scott, who was a trip through here in August, 1881, his son and daughter, the daughter near Plainfield, and some other "The Forks." The man was as the old records show, a resident of Orange county, Ohio. In 1881, Captain Joseph Scott, Ohio with his brother, John, and Captain in an active way, a trading house and was in Pottawatomie, Indiana. He followed from Ohio and was a settler. The present location of Naperville was named after Naper. The first school teacher, Peter Peet, who began his career in 1881. The winter of 1881-82, he suffered one for the settlers, and followed by the Black Hawk war, the whole settlement was born. DuPage county was organized in 1839, and Naperville, capital, changed later to Wheaton. The first court house was built in the first election of county officers, same year.

James W. McKee, aged 60, was laid to his last resting place at the village cemetery on last Sunday.

Among the number of veterans in DuPage county at the ill-fated theatre. Mr. McKee was a well-known resident of this county, where he was born in 1846. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic from 1894 to 1900, and was prominent in many progressive enterprises. He still vigorous and active when he came. The county officers were in attendance at the funeral and were present. The estate of James W. McKee consists of about 200 acres of land, some personal property. He was married to Frank J. Knight and Hester Jean Staravia, nee Staravia. The will gave the property to be sold in trust for the benefit of the daughter.

After a long winter sleep of smallpox, Lemont, during which a strict quarantine has been maintained, the epidemic now been checked and the village committee has planned its effort to prevent citizens leaving or entering the town of a population of 5,000, 200, or over per cent, have been afflicted with the disease, but not a single case has proved fatal. As most of the smallpox patients were of the poorer class of people, it was much poverty had needed and thousands of dollars had to be expended for their support as well as medical attention. Cook county donated \$2,000 for the purpose.

Tuesday morning it was found that window light had been broken at Wheaton school house, where had been taken from the school about two hundred dollars worth of serial, principle among which were boxes of microscopes lenses. They took 8 miles. The thieves then went to the court house, broke a window in Morgan's room, and apparently sought to find microscopes there. The two seen in the evening left town the morning on the 5:30 train.

Congressmen are practically unanimous on the proposition of liberal appropriations for rural mail delivery. The department of the mail service has met with such universal approval the rural free delivery service should be extended and improved to cover the country. The service entitled to more pay, and this should be looked after. Fifty dollars a month the carrier to find and care for his horse, is not sufficient compensation.

John Johnson, an employe at Downers Washburn's green house at Elletts, was rowly escaped death Friday when being caught in a moving belt. The belt was stripped from his body, with exception of his shoes and stockings before he could be attended to. Swiftly moving machinery had badly injured. Dr. Scott was called to his home. Whether or not he will internally is not known.

Downers Grove, Ill., has a man who was a part of Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, and finally the state of Ohio since the creation of Illinois. It has been a portion of St. Clair, Crawford, Clark, Elletts, Fulton and Cook counties. The man is Stephen J. Scott, who was a trip through here in August, 1881, his son and daughter, the daughter near Plainfield, and some other "The Forks." The man was as the old records show, a resident of Orange county, Ohio. In 1881, Captain Joseph Scott, Ohio with his brother, John, and Captain in an active way, a trading house and was in Pottawatomie, Indiana. He followed from Ohio and was a settler. The present location of Naperville was named after Naper. The first school teacher, Peter Peet, who began his career in 1881. The winter of 1881-82, he suffered one for the settlers, and followed by the Black Hawk war, the whole settlement was born. DuPage county was organized in 1839, and Naperville, capital, changed later to Wheaton. The first court house was built in the first election of county officers, same year.

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