

**Downers Grove  
37 Years Ago**

Gen. A. C. Ducat resides here, and no man we venture to say has done more for "The Grove" than he. Seeing the beauty of this locality, and rightly predicting its ultimate value and not far distant popularity, he, in 1872, invested in its real estate. Today he owns some 800 acres, about half of which is splendid grove land, whose picturesque loveliness is not surpassed anywhere on this continent. Here he occupies the palatial mansion on which, and the grounds and other improvements surrounding, he has expended some \$50,000 within the past two years. Other improvements are being pushed forward as fast as time and money will permit, and it is confidently expected that on this and adjacent property many gentlemen's magnificent country seats will be erected, in the near future.

Col. Arthur B. Wilson is the representative legal light of the place. During his three year's residence here he has become well and favorably known personally, and as a lawyer and advocate has exhibited high attainments. He is a ripe scholar and trusty attorney and may be found, during office hours, at 95 Dearborn street, Chicago.

Drs. Le Duc & Sherwood, comprised of E. H. Le Duc and O. W. Sherwood is a partnership recently formed for the purpose of practicing medicine, and has recently had erected for their special use an office building which is very centrally located and conveniently arranged. Dr. LeDuc is an old practitioner of this place, while Dr. Sherwood has been here but a short time, yet has become very creditably successful. The firm bids to be even more prosperous than single handed, and it is expected the people will reap some of the benefit resulting from the alliance.

Dr. John B. Hench has practiced medicine for about three years in Downers Grove, and has during that time met with a very cordial support, and has proven himself to be well skilled in and personally adapted to the profession of his choice.

Albert H. Moulton, one of the most expert and practical building contractors ever located here although not an old resident occupies his own property and commands a good trade. His services are much sought after, and we may add that from what we can learn from his patrons as well as our own knowledge commends him as a valuable acquisition to Downers Grove.

James W. Sucher conducts the "pioneer" blacksmith and horse shoeing shop of Downers Grove. It was established by his deceased father in the year 1848, and for many years past has been owned by himself. Several years ago he constructed his present shop which is very centrally situated, substantial and of brick.

and as convenient as money and experience could devise. Out of it issues first class work. Mr. Sucher being an expert workman of no mean calibre.

P. William Mergenthal is a carriage and wagon builder and has his own neat and convenient place opposite the above. He is an old and experienced workman and is very attentive to every trivial detail of his business, so that work issuing from his shop may be only of one quality—and that of the best. Besides manufacturing and repairing he is agent for the sleighs and road carts produced by the Northwestern Sleigh Co., of Milwaukee, Wis.

Henry Carpenter, who located here about the year 1840, is still among us, and considering that he has passed the age of three score and fifteen years, is hale and hearty. He was the first merchant of Downers Grove, but for many years past has been out of active business, devoting his time to his private affairs. During his career here he has owned considerable real estate, but latterly has disposed of the bulk of it, but now owns quite a number of tenements which he rents at very interesting figures to the tenants.

Quirin Schmitt is a blacksmith, wagon-maker, and the livery man of the village. Since his commencement several years ago, he has been one of the most enterprising men in town, and today occupies a leading place in his line. His shop, stables and residence are located in such proximity that the public wanting anything in his line can be accommodated promptly, night or day. Mr. Schmitt is worthy of patronage and success.

U. H. Balcom, an old settler and reliable citizen and business man, deals in repairs and all kinds of furniture and upholstery, and is the undertaker of Downers Grove. Promptness, fairness, good goods and quality of work, and faithful attendance, are the principal characteristics of his motto.

E. S. Bearsley, the ex-hotel host of the town, has been with us over twenty years, and during that time has proven himself well worthy of the high name he bears. He has a fine property just northeast of the depot, where he resides, a portion of all of which he would sell at advantageous figures. Since he discontinued the hotel he has devoted his time to expressage and teaming, and his nearness to the depot, promptitude and thorough reliability, have given him a sufficiency to do in his line.

Walter McGary, an excellent blacksmith and horse-shoer for J. W. Sucher, is also proprietor of a bakery

and confectionery which is principally managed through the day-time by his family. Herein fresh bread may be bought daily. Candy of all kinds, cigars, tobacco, fruits, oysters in season, and lunches. Mr. McGary also deals in pianos and organs, but pays particular attention to the smaller instruments, quite a stock of which he keeps on hand.

E. P. Peterson, the "feed-mill man," as he is often called, and by which name he is well known, is proprietor of a well equipped feed-mill near Lisle depot, just west of Downers Grove and disposes of considerable stuff in this vicinity. His principal business, however, consists in grinding feed for the farmers, to whom satisfaction has been given and success assured to himself.

Henry Selig, the tonsorial artist of the town, is doing a nice paying business and giving good satisfaction. He owns the place he occupies, and hence may always be found "at home," ready to attend to the wants of his customers. A few years ago it was thought that out of 1,000 inhabitants the village would not support a barber, but the success of Mr. Selig has proven the error of this impression.

George Diener, the boot and shoe-maker of Downers Grove, came here about sixteen years ago, and since then has been very laborious and faithful at the trade. Today he owns his shop and residence and is kept busy with 1 or 2 assistants all the time. His new work and repairs are up to a good standard of quality, while his charges are only from one-half to two-thirds those of city prices.

Bertram Roth, the representative merchant tailor of the place, is one of the most industrious business men of the town. This, however, might not of itself be of material benefit to customers, but the fact that he is an excellent workman is of prime importance and has added to the number of

patrons of his establishment. He commenced to learn the business of tailor and cutter twenty-five years ago in Germany, and for the past five years has been in this country. His success here is well merited, and his work of a satisfactory character.

Elizabeth's Coaches Aroused Envy. In the end the husbands capitulated "and after a while divers great ladies, with as great jealousy of the queen's displeasure made them coaches, and rid them up and downe the countries to the great admiration of all beholders."

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