

**DECEMBER 1916**  
**Grass Lake News**

**A Violent Death** December 7, 1916

The suddenly fatal blow of a swiftly moving interurban orphaned two young Jackson girls last night when it snuffed out the life of the mother, barely in her prime. Mrs. Jennie Burdick, age 43, West Wesley Street, Jackson, was killed about 5:50 last evening by Grass Lake—Jackson Interurban No. 44. Motorman J. Champlin and Conductor Tyrell were in charge of the car which is due in Jackson at 6 o'clock.

No blame is attached to anyone, Coroner Tibbetts deciding Mrs. Burdick's death was purely accidental. No inquest will be held.

The woman had been working at the Thomas Falahee home east of Jackson. It was raining last night as she waited for the car to bring her to this city. Her umbrella was raised. The motorman declares he did not see her until within ten feet when he observed her stoop as though to pick up the basket she had. The position brought her head in front of the car. She was struck in the right temple and it is believed killed instantly. The motorman was the only witness.

At first it was thought Mrs. Burdick was merely injured. The Johnson & Gildersleeve ambulance made a run to the scene and it was then it was learned the woman was dead. Sheriff Davis and Coroner Tibbetts were summoned. The body was removed to the Johnson & Gildersleeve undertaking rooms.

The case of the orphaned girls is pathetic. They were cared for last night at the home of an uncle in Leoni but will soon, at their tender years, be forced to face the world alone except for each other. Cora is 15 years of age and is even now preparing herself for the livelihood struggle. She is attending the Jackson Business university, getting ready to be the head of her family of one—her sister, aged 12 years. Both were frantic when the news of the mother's passing reached them. They are meeting the situation bravely, however.

Mr. Burdick met a violent death about one year ago when he was killed in a hay chute in a barn on a Leoni farm.

**A Word To Father—Advertisement Gallup & Lewis, Jackson**

Before you go any further with our Christmas plans, give a little prayerful consideration to this question: "What Are You Going To Do About Mother's Christmas?"

You know how it is with mother—always thinking of others and often the last one others think of; working early and late at countless household and homestead duties; always at everyone's beck and call, getting her main pleasure by furnishing pleasure to others. And, because she always keeps in the background, we're all quite apt to forget mother when Christmas comes, or think that any little old thing will do.

"Now, Mr. Man, March Right to Town and Select Something for Mother That's Really Worth While!"

You know how long she's wanted a complete dinner set; you know how much a Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet would cut down her hours of labor; a dainty Martha Washington work cabinet would delight the heart of any mother; and what woman, in her infrequent hours of ease, would not enjoy a comfy Rocker of her very own?

These are just a few of the thousands of Christmas suggestions with which this store teems—on every hand are articles of beauty, of artistic excellence, of real worth, from which Mother's Christmas present may be selected, with full confidence that it will give her supreme satisfaction. And throughout the whole line of House Furnishings—Library Tables, Bookcases, Bedroom, Dining Room and Living Room Furniture, etc.—you may select from endless assortments, assuring just the grade and the price you seek.

Now, get busy and prepare for Mother's Christmas—she's been thinking about yours for months!

#### **Hen House Advice** December 14, 1916

Straw is too valuable an asset on any farm to burn. Particularly is it appreciated in the hen house. Use it on the floors, along the walls and overhead. Make the hen house a home for the hens and make it comfortable. Use straw for a loft and the house will be dry. One-inch mesh wire or 1-by-4 boards laid over the rafters and placed about two inches apart will furnish good support. Along the walls, wire serves this purpose very nicely. Lath or burlap bags stretched tightly over studding may also be used.

Always provide the house with a deep litter of straw. It serves as a warm carpet and keeps the birds' feet off the cold floor. A vent placed in the roof over a straw loft will aid in promoting good ventilation and help keep the house dry.

(Linda Note: I have been including several briefs on raising chickens in the 100 Years Ago as I notice that many locals are raising chickens, perhaps for the first time. I hope these tips from the past will help you.)

#### **Grass Lake Resident Killed by Engine** December 14, 1916

John Dakin, a resident of Grass Lake, was run over and killed by a Michigan Central switch engine in the Hayes Wheel company yards Monday morning. He has been employed at this factory about three years. The accident occurred while he was engaged in carrying some lumber across the railroad track which leads to the plant. It is said his hearing was defective. Daniel Bisbee, who saw the switch engine coming and the danger Mr. Dakin was in, shouted at him to look out, but he did not heed the warning. It is said the fireman, Mr. Tenney, also sought to attract his attention before the engine struck him, by yelling at him. Engineer Leinaer stopped his train as soon as he could after learning of the danger, but it was too late.

The Johnson & Gildersleeve undertaking rooms, and Coroner Tibbets ordered an inquest held. Police Constable Phelps empaneled a jury, which viewed the remains and adjourned to meet on Friday evening at 7 o'clock.

The deceased is survived by a widow and a son, Vern Dakin, who reached the hospital shortly after his father died. Mr. Dakin was 52 years old.

#### **Mrs. Ernest L. Cooper, Obituary**

Mrs. Ernest L. Cooper, whose earthly body was laid to rest on Thursday with the funeral rites of the Congregational church, of which she had been a life-long member, had been a resident of Michigan during the greater part of her life. She was born in Rollin, in Lenawee County, being the youngest child of a family of five children, three sons and two daughters. Her ancestors, both maternal and paternal, were for the most part of unmixed Puritan stock, of Huguenot origin. Her father, Abijah Lee Clark, was a direct

descendant of an English Separatist, who was driven from England to Holland by religious persecutions and who later, about 1636, with three of his brothers, followed others of the Pilgrims to New England.

William Henry Lee Clark, her grandfather, was a nephew of General Richard Henry Lee of Virginia and an uncle of Robert E. Lee of the Confederate Army. Her maternal grandmother, Sarah Cleveland Driggs, was a first cousin of Deacon William Cleveland, the grandfather of ex-President Grover Cleveland. Her maternal grandfather George Driggs, was a descendent of Joseph Driggs, who came to the American colonies from Portugal in 1712, the family being English merchants and traders between Portugal and England.

There was not one of her male Clark, Cleveland, Driggs, Spencer and Lee ancestors of military age but served his country during the Revolutionary war, a record of which any American might be proud.

Her grandfather Clark was killed on the lines in the War of 1812, leaving a family of small children. Her grandmother, Mary Rorabeck Clark, a slight little woman, but one of indomitable energy, kept her family together and brought them up in the faith of their father, and obtained a reputation for unselfish devotion and neighborly kindness that still endures in that part of Genesee County, New York, where she lived and died over 70 years ago.

Ada Ann Clark was born June 9, 1843 at Rollin. Lenawee Co., Michigan. Her father removed to Bunker Hill township, Ingham county, in 1845, and here her girlhood was spent. May 26, 1863, she married Albert Andrus Johnson of Sacramento, California, who almost immediately entered his country's service, and was killed in action at Spottsylvania, Virginia, May 12, 1864, and was buried on the field. He had twice been promoted for bravery in action. To this union was born one son, George Albert Lee Johnson, who died Feb. 2, 1910, at Joliet, Ill.

She married Edmond Lorraine Cooper on December 10, 1872, at Bunker Hill, Michigan and the remainder of her life was spent in Grass Lake. Ethel Cooper, her daughter, died June 16, 1914, at Winnitka, Illinois. Two sons and seven grandchildren are her surviving descendants.

She will long be remembered by her acquaintances as well as by her intimate friends for her constant acts of kindness and Christian service. Her work among the young people has influenced many and probably no one ever came in contact with her who was not bettered by the association. Her sympathy and neighborly kindness was boundless, her generosity untinged by any thought of self. For the frailties and shortcomings of others she had a ready excuse, but for herself was inflexible in what she believed to be right.

She was well acquainted with sorrow, but to those who knew her best, the way she bore disappointment and her faith in the goodness of God in spite of everything, will be a power for good as long as memory endures. She lived her life nobly and well. Her influence for good still lives in the hearts of all who knew her. (Note: A discrepancy: Mrs. Ernest Cooper or Mrs. Edmond Cooper?)

**The Birds' Christmas Carol** December 14, 1916

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades of the Grass Lake School will dramatise "The Birds' Christmas Carol" at the Town Hall Friday evening, Dec. 15 at 8 o'clock. Admission—Adults, 10 cents; children under 15 years, 5 cents.

Cast of Characters.

The Bird Family, Mr. Bird—Lozelle Hookway.  
Mrs. Bird—Marian Foster  
Carol—Matie Cutler  
Donald—Lyle Knickerbocker.  
Hugh—Leonard Wing.  
Uncle Jack—Orville Walker  
Mrs. Bird's Maid—Elizabeth Dorr.  
The Ruggles Family, Mrs. Ruggles—Gladys Cooper  
Sarah Maud—Margaret Hawley  
Peter—Harold Wing  
Peoria—Mary Winters  
Etty—Sarah Pollock  
Kitty—Veryl Reynolds  
Cornelius—Lynn Wolfinger  
Baby Larry—Eugene Cochrane

High school students will furnish music between acts under the direction of Miss Maud Shipton.

**Advertisement from Clark's Drug Store, Grass Lake**

Dr. Burnham's SAN-YAK, Vegetable Compound. The Greatest Known Cure for HEART TROUBLE. Corrects diseases of the blood and body fluid or an unequal mixture of the elements of the blood and nerve juices or a distemperature when some humor or quality abounds in the blood. Symptoms of diseased blood and body fluids are throat disease, eczema, scrofula and pus formations in the tissues, skin and the vital organs.

You Can Be Free—From Kidney & Bladder Trouble, cancerous humors in the blood, rheumatism, stiff joints and muscles, old age or tired feelings, throat, stomach and bowel troubles by its use or money refunded. Sold at Clark's Drug Store.

**Local and Personal** December 1916

Mr. George Wolf and Miss Helen Serviss were married Thursday evening and are receiving the congratulations of their friends. (Note: George Wolf was better known as Dutch, my grandmother Lydia's brother.)

Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Fox spent Thursday in Jackson and Mrs. Remington tended the switch board at the Bell Telephone office.

Esther Cooper spent Sunday with her niece Clara Hewlett who is recovering from her severe burns at the hospital in Ann Arbor.

The remains of John R. Fowler of St. Louis, Mo., arrived in Grass Lake for burial in the east cemetery last week. The floral offerings were the largest ever seen here as they filled one-half of a baggage car.

Mrs. W.A. Boland and daughter Gertrude will leave Sunday for Seattle, Washington, where they will join Mr. Boland for the winter. Grey Tower, the Boland summer home, near Grass Lake (Grey Tower Road), will be closed this winter for the first time in history.

The Revival Meetings which Rev. S.J. Pollock has been holding at Sharon have closed. The meetings were very much enjoyed and much good was done.

Arthur Russell, who was seriously injured last Friday at the Davis-Shelly lumber yard, by a pile of sacked plaster falling on him, is not improving as rapidly as his friends would wish.

Norman Davis had an exciting runaway in Grass Lake this week when his team became too frisky and took a spin down Main street.

James B. Field of Jackson who is general agent of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., transacted business in Grass Lake on Tuesday and distributed calendars among his friends.

Thieves are busy in Grass Lake at present. The Strassburg harness shop has recently been broken into. The first time entrance was made through the back door and the second time a door key was broken off in the front lock.

Rev. Wood has been pastor of the Baptist church at Grass Lake three years next Sunday. He hopes to see as many as possible at the Christmas service Sunday morning, who were there three years ago.

Mr. Lemuel Dwelle, our delegate to the Michigan State Association of Farmers' Clubs, held at Lansing Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, gave a brief report which was supplemented by remarks from Mr. E.K. Crafts, who was one of a number present from Grass Lake. The inspection of milk in Jackson county takes two forms: 1<sup>st</sup>, the inspection of the cow barns, cans, etc., as to sanitary conditions; 2<sup>nd</sup>, the laboratory work, where the milk is tested by chemical analysis, showing what germs are present, whether man or few. "A" of course is the best quality, "B" is Pasteurized milk, while "C" is used only for cooking. There seems to be evidence that infantile paralysis is spread by use of impure milk. At least this is one way. There were 4,000 cases of infected sore throat in Boston traced to milk. (Linda Note: When I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at George Long Elementary, my teacher, Mrs. Irwin, was on leave for several weeks. As I recall her illness had something to do with contaminated milk. Recently Jake DeCoster verified that this was true. Mrs. Irwin had **Undulant Fever**, "an infectious disease due to bacteria Brucella that characteristically causes rising and falling fevers, sweats, malaise, weakness, anorexia, headache, myalgia and back pain. The disease is transmitted through contaminated and untreated milk." It was about this time that my parents bought a "pasteurizer" for the milk that we drank from our cows. I mention this as there is a movement in 2016 for people wanting to purchase unpasteurized milk directly from dairy farms. Beware!)

### **Birthday Party** December 21, 1916

A very delightful birthday surprise party for Miss Eliza Smith was held at her pleasant home and that of her sister, Mrs. Murray, Thursday. This was planned by the nephews and nieces who came from various parts of the state. There were present Mr. and Mrs. Baker and son of Lansing, Mr. and Mrs. Benton and son of Napoleon; Mr. and Mrs. Cornwell of Blissfield; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Greenwood of Eldred; Mr. R.H. Bronk of Detroit; Mr. and Mrs. Raby of Norvell; Mrs. Nellie Beals of Jackson; Mr. G.W.

Gutekunst and wife and Miss Carrie Wood, of Grass Lake. A very enjoyable social time was passed interspersed with music and original papers. The visiting guests brought beautiful flowers and each a gift for Aunt Eliza, as well as serving a bountiful dinner for the company. To show the esteem in which Aunt Eliza is held we will quote part of a poem composed by a niece, Mrs. Greenwood:

We have gathered today to honor the one, Who has shared all our sorrow, our joys and our fun.

And we feel it a pleasure to show her our love, Brighten her pathway as she nears the home above,

So that we moor our frail bark on Eternity shore, We may meet with the loved ones who have gone on before;

And dwell in the mansions not built by hand, Just over the river in fair Eden land.

We are thinking today of times that are past, Of friends who once with us are now gone to rest,

Of occasions like this which occur each year, usually at Christmas the day of good cheer.

When we met at Grandpa's and partook of a feast, including both turkey and pumpkin pie,

Which was greatly enjoyed from the great to the least, And seemed but a foretaste of the "Sweet Bye and Bye."

We were treated by Grandpa and Aunt Eliza, too, And made to feel welcome in a manner so true.

The time passed quickly, altogether too soon, Before we could think, it was time to go home.

We cherish fond memories of days that are gone, And hope to retain them as time passes on,

May love grow still sweeter, And our joys more completer,

Ere, we shall all join the heavenly throng.

We have gathered today to honor the one, Who has shared all our sorrows, our joys and our fun,

We feel it a pleasure to show her our love, And brighten her pathway to the Home above.

She has done many things to make life brighter, Always lent a hand to make a task lighter,

When the Death Angel came, she was there to console, With sweet words of comfort a balm to the soul.

She has ever been faithful, kindhearted and true, A friend to depend on, as everyone knew;

May we ever profit by what she has taught, And make our lives useful and good as we ought.

As the years pass by, each one too short,

We will cherish our love for her as we ought,

When we moor our frail bark on Eternity's shore, We will meet the loved ones gone before,

And dwell in the mansions not made by hand, Just over the river in fair Eden land.

**Town Hall Denial?** December 21, 1916

The question has arisen as to whether the Town Hall shall be used for indoor sports by the boys and girls of the High School. First—Is it necessary? The school has no gymnasium. Boys left to themselves congregate in places down town where they hear almost nothing good and everything that is bad. When occupied with something that they enjoy, these other objectionable things are left in the background. What is true of the boys is true to a less degree of the girls. A place for the boys and girls to work off their surplus energy in a clean sport is absolutely necessary. A game like basket ball teaches team work and co-operation, a thing that is essential in a well-ordered community. Besides, the game stimulates physical efficiency. The stoop-shouldered, wizened-faced student is forced to the rear. The student with a whole body and plenty of snap is ahead.

Second—Why the Town Hall? Just now our public school has no gymnasium. Our students are nearly three-fourths from the surrounding country. The Grass Lake High School is the finishing center for all the country schools in this locality. Therefore the Town Hall which belongs to all these people who send their children to the Grass Lake High School or can send them if they have them to send should be at the disposal of the people interested.

The Town Hall under the theory of our government is the servant of the people. If the people by petition or otherwise indicate that it is their wish to use the Town Hall to supplement what their High School lacks, it is the business of these public servants to grant that wish and to do it graciously, always under proper supervision and with certain definite restrictions.