

HISTORY  
OF  
GENESEE COUNTY  
MICHIGAN

HER PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

By  
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President Michigan Historical Commission

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With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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she went to California and had been teaching in that state for three years at the time of her marriage to Mr. Rogers. To that union three children have been born, Lena Marie, born on October 1, 1910; Kenneth Warren, June 12, 1912, and Catheryn Louise, December 3, 1913.

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### WALTER DRISS KNICKERBOCKER.

Walter Driss Knickerbocker, supervisor of Mt. Morris township and one of the best-known and most substantial farmers of that part of Genesee county, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. He was born on a farm in section 7, Genesee township, May 18, 1876, son of Walter and Mary (Abram) Knickerbocker, both natives of the state of New York, who spent their last days in this county, both living to ripe old ages, honored and influential residents of the community in which they had lived for many years.

Walter Knickerbocker was born in Dutchess county, New York, April 8, 1822, and lived there until he was sixteen years old, when he came to Michigan, arriving in Genesee county with fifteen cents in his pocket. He worked at various jobs until he was old enough to homestead a tract of land and then "took up" a quarter of a section about the center of Thetford township and proceeded to clear and improve the same. Some time later he sold that quarter section and moved over into Genesee township, where he bought land in section 7 and there, having in the meantime married, established his home and lived many years, buying more land adjoining. He later moved to a farm on section 6 in that same township, where he lived until 1882, when he bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, Mt. Morris township, where he erected a fine brick house and there lived the remainder of his life, with the exception of a few years during which he and his wife made their home in Flint, his death occurring at his home in Mt. Morris township on March 1, 1907, he then being eighty-five years of age. Walter Knickerbocker was a Democrat and for many years was one of the leaders of his party in this county. For many years he served as treasurer of Mt. Morris township and in other ways took an active part in local civic affairs. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and ever were accounted among the leaders in good works in their neighborhood. Mrs. Knickerbocker survived her husband about eighteen months, her death occurring on the day before Thanksgiving in 1908, she then being seventy-

three years of age. She was born, Mary Abram, in Lancaster county, New York, January 7, 1835, and came to Genesee county as a school teacher and was teaching school in Mt. Morris township when she married Mr. Knickerbocker. He had been married previously, his first wife, Caroline Slosser, having died leaving two children, Levant and Charles, both of whom are still living. To the second marriage ten children were born, eight of whom lived to maturity, namely: George, who is living in Vienna township, this county; William, who is living at Davison; Jennie, who married George Nichol and died in 1916; Julia, who married Dr. H. R. Niles, of Flint; Mary, who married Charles Cummings, of Flint; Anna, who married B. Jeffries, also of Flint; Walter D., the subject of this biographical sketch, and Herman, who is living at Mt. Morris.

Walter Driss Knickerbocker received his elementary education in the old Beecher district school, supplementing the same by a course in the high school at Flint, after which he spent several years as an able assistant in the work of developing and improving his father's extensive farm lands, later returning to Flint, where he was engaged in scaling lumber for the Randall Lumber Company for eighteen months, at the end of which time he returned home and resumed his place on the farm. There he worked on his own account, with the exception of six months spent in New York state, until his marriage when twenty-five years of age. After his marriage Mr. Knickerbocker established his home on the farm of eighty acres on which he is now living and there he has lived ever since, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the county. In addition to his general farming he has made a specialty of dairy farming and has done very well. His house and farm buildings are modern in construction and equipment and are lighted throughout with electricity. Mr. Knickerbocker is a Democrat and for years has taken an active part in local civic affairs. He is now serving his seventh term as township supervisor and has done excellent work in that capacity. He is a member of the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Flint and of the Order of Gleaners in Burton township and takes a warm interest in the affairs of both of these organizations.

Mr. Knickerbocker has been married twice. On February 27, 1901, he was united in marriage to Florence Russell, who was born in Genesee township, this county, February 3, 1878, daughter and only child of John Russell and wife, and who died on February 2, 1906. On March 27, 1907, Mr. Knickerbocker married Emma Marshall, who was born in Bothwell county, Ontario, December 3, 1877, daughter of James and Martha (Simmington)

Marshall, natives of Ireland, who came to the United States after their marriage and settled in New York City, going thence to Canada, where James Marshall was engaged as a farmer and oil-well driller until he came to Michigan with his family and settled on a farm in Burton township, this county, where he lived until his retirement from the farm and removal to Flint, where he died at the age of sixty-seven years and where his widow is still living. James Marshall and wire were the parents of thirteen children, all of whom are living save two, as follow: Martha, who married George Pritchard and is living at Flint; Anna L., who married Will Street, of Flint; Margaret E., widow of Alexander Ball, of Flint; Mary, wife of William Sager, of Flint; William J., of Flint; Sarah R., wife of Evan Richards, of Burton township; Hannah M., who married Carl Ball and is now living in California; Robert, of Manitowoc county, Wisconsin; Edith B., who married Horace Pettis and is living at Toledo, Ohio; Emma D., who married Mr. Knickerbocker, and Viola E., who married Burdette Smith, of Detroit. To Walter D. and Emma D. (Marshall) Knickerbocker two children have been born, Pauline Alice, born on October 7, 1910, and Driss, October 20, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Knickerbocker are members of the Episcopal church at Flint and take an earnest interest in the general good works of the community.

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#### FRED WILLIAM KNAPP.

Fred William Knapp, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers in Davison township, a member of the board of directors of the State Bank of Davison and proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and sixty acres on rural route No. 10, out of Flint, is a native son of Genesee county, born a short distance east of his present home in Davison township, August 20, 1866, son of Nelson and Marsena (Hill) Knapp, both natives of the state of New York and both for many years well-known and influential residents of Davison township, where their last days were spent.

Nelson Knapp was born on a farm in Porter township, Niagara county, New York, March 15, 1838, son of Caleb and Christina (Frohman) Knapp, and lived there until he had attained his young manhood, when he came to Michigan and located on a farm of one hundred acres in the deep woods in sections 20 and 21 in Davison township, this county, where, with the exception of about thirteen years spent in the village of Davison after he had passed middle age, he spent the rest of his life. When Nelson Knapp took