

Another “Do you remember” and Home Coming Interview

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“I don’t remember when Lansing was known as the City of Magnificent Distances.’ Declared Mrs. A.W. Moon, in a home-coming interview, but I do remember when it was designated as Uppertown, Lowertown and Middletown, and was often added Teetertown.

“The other day I was riding with friends along Washington ave. to Mt. Hope ave. It was busy and beautiful all the way. And then we went to the cemetery. It was not at all like the long and almost deserted road as I remember it over 50 years ago when I walked the whole distance alone many times. As I recall it there was not a house beyond the Benton house bridge till the turn onto Mt. Hope ave. At that point there was a barn and only a frame-house occupied on the left was that of Mary Langhorn’s. There was a good-sized brick one on the right owned by a man named Johnson. Dr. Johnson I think he was called. I also think he was the father of old Dr. Shank’s wife. The cemetery was then a farm owned by a Mr. Miller. His small log house stood on the highest place and beyond the corner. It was a delightful place to gather wintergreens and berries.

“I suppose there are many who remember the little old burying ground of the years gone by on the east side of the river and what is now one of the city parks. Some one mentioned the old Ohio house on Washtenaw st. That reminded me that in 1858 the Misses Abbie and Adelia Rogers conducted a school on the second floor of the building and it was the beginning of what was to be the ‘Michigan Female College,’ but failure and change and success have resulted in the beautiful building and surrounding where the Michigan’s blind children learn to become good citizens.



“There is another hotel that ought not be forgotten. This was the ‘Traveler’s Home’ at the corner of Washington and Saginaw st. if I remember correctly Mrs. A.A. Ried mentioned the M.E. church and her melodion. I’ve wondered how many remember the little old frame meeting house where we went to Sunday school in 1855 when P.S. Donaldson was

pastor and James Turner was Sunday school superintendent. No doubt those who remember have a mental picture of Brother Turner as he walked to and fro with shining face as he led the children in singing. I think when I read the sweet story of old. I was sorry that a picture of the old church did not find a place in the jubilee number of the Republican some years ago. How many remember Professor Taylor who taught in the upper room of the Lowertown Union School? Then he afterward had a select school in his own building in Middletown. I would like to meet a lot of the boys and girls who attended school in Lowertown in 1860 and 1861. We were taught by Wesley Emery. I have the roll call of 1860 copied from Mr. Emery's roll. I think The Journal has found a place in our home ever since it was published.

“Some years ago an old man by the name of Augustus C. Fox called at our home. While he rested he told stories, one was that in 1835 when he was a boy he carried the first mail from Detroit to Grand Rapids. He camped on the hill where James Turner built his home. In the morning he climbed into a treetop and looked out upon the wide expanse of foliage all glistening with raindrops just as the sun was rising. ‘That forest is all cleared away now and a beautiful city is seen instead – our Lansing.