

## Dundee Business Briefs

James Erwin Carr- 1841-1905. James Erwin Carr was born on October 28, 1831 in Ann Arbor, the third child in a family of seven, and he recalled huckleberry brush covering the ground that the Michigan State University now occupies. He made his own way in the world as a young boy. His mother arranged for him to live on a farm, but he returned home, telling his mother that he could not live on a farm where people cut their hay with a knife and stacked it with a fork. He sawed wood when he was so small he had to make a pile of wood beside the sawbuck to raise himself high enough to work. He began his newspaper career as a newsboy and at the age of 14, he began a four-year apprenticeship on the Ann Arbor Argus with publisher Elihu B. Pound. He rose to the position of foreman and later in partnership with L.X. Goulet, he became proprietor of the Argus and served the paper for 27 years. In 1882 he purchased the Dundee Reporter and moved to Dundee and in 1883 he purchased the Dundee Ledger and merged the two papers. He continued publishing the Dundee Reporter until the time of his death. In 1866, he married Miss Melinda Calkins. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

John J. Dixon. 1843-1917. John J. Dixon moved to Dundee shortly after his marriage to Caroline Beitzel of Lambertville and established a cigar business. In 1880, he spearheaded the organizing of the Dundee Bank, with George H. Rathbun and A.D. Gillmore. After successfully operating for a time, the Dundee Bank was re-organized as the Dundee State Savings Bank, with John J. Dixon as president, a position he held for several years. In his dealings with the public, Mr. Dixon was just and accommodating with all his actions. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Hazen W. Duclou. 1901-1964. He operated the Five Point Store and cabins adjacent to the store for 17 years. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Edward Elmhirst Fuller – 1929-2012. Born in Lincoln Park, Michigan, he was the sons of Frank and Edith Elmhirst fuller. He married Judith S. Johnston on October 20, 1956 in Tecumseh, Michigan. Edward Elmhirst Fuller attended Dundee Schools and worked at the family business, Fuller's Market in Dundee. Besides working at Tecumseh Products, he was a photographer, movie narrator, and played saxophone in several bands and orchestras over the years. He was also an expert on local Native American Indian lore and presented many programs displaying his knowledge of local American tribes. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Frank Hellstern. 1853-1893. Frank Hellstern, a marble and granite cutter, was born in Germany and he came to the United States in 1869. After settling in Jackson County for a time, he came to

Dundee in 1880. He and Conrad Brendle opened a marble and stone works called Brendle & Hellstern. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

William R. Jackson. 1929-2002. William R. Jackson was born in Dundee Township, on December 20, 1929, the son of Russell and Eula Wallace Jackson. He farmed and also worked as a line repairman for Ford Motor company in Monro and Ypsilanti for 39 years. He was a member of the River Raisin Woodcarvers and the Farm Bureau. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Charles W. Jennings. 1910-1984. Charles W. Jennings was one of the nine children of Peter and Catherine Jennings who moved from Missouri to a farm near Petersburg, Michigan. He was born on February 26, 1910, and quit high school at the age of 16 to travel around the country. In the fall of 1925, he went to work for Barrett Products Company – now Woodall Industries- in Monroe, making Ford body panels. After that he joined the Ford Flat Rock plant to make headlamps and after nine years, he was transferred to the Dundee plant when it opened on April 1, 1936. He worked nights at Fords, so he started a welding business in his home during the day to keep himself busy. By 1942, he had enough business and demand for more to open up a shop on Main Street in Dundee with his son Jim. Following the advice of his doctor and reckoning that he had put Henry Ford back in business, in 1945, Charles and his son Jim opened Jennings Farm Machine Sales and Service, a farm equipment dealer, light manufacturer, and light repair work. They specialized in building hotrods. Mr. Jennings served for eight years as deputy sheriff under Joseph Barley, and was an assistant fire chief. He was chief air raid warden of Dundee Township during World War II. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

William P. Karner. March 6, 1886.-May 28, 1960. He was born in Riga, Michigan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Karner and one of six children. Family circumstances forced him to leave school early, and he worked in various grain elevators until in 1924, he and his brother Carl purchased the Dundee and Azalia elevators from the Michigan Milling Company. In 1947, they built a tractor sales building next to the grain elevator. The next year they acquired an Oldsmobile franchise. He died in 1960 and he is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery

Thomas Ewing Knox. 1847-1925. Thomas Knox was born in Ohio in 1847. He graduated from McKendree College on June 15, 1871 with an A.B. degree and went on to earn a law degree. He practiced law for many years. Around 1880, he married Len Rebecca Corbin and they went to Europe for 14 years to study under well-known modern artists. Thomas is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Judith Ann Labun. 1941-2015. Judith was born at Five Points in Dundee Township on August 3, 1941, the daughter of Frank and Clara Trutt Labun, Sr. After graduating from Dundee High School, she worked for Edwards Brothers in Ann Arbor for 15 years. In 1968, she opened the Village Gift and Flower Shop, and later the Dundee Herb Depot, both businesses located in the

historic downtown. She was a charter member of the Old Mill Museum, and a member of the Dundee Business and Professionals. She is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

William D. Loreaux. 1885-1976. William D. Loreaux was born on a farm in Wayne County, Ohio on January 8, 1885. In 1910, he received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Ohio State University at Columbus. He spent the next several years acquiring more technical expertise, working in industry, and teaching in Cleveland Public schools. In 1926, he took a job at the Flint Water Department and in 1932 he came to Dundee, taking over from Otto Spohr, the local plant's first engineer.

The history of Dundee's Water System. It was completed in December 1930, at a cost of \$44,000, after a vote on the bond issue narrowly squeezed through. Water was previously pumped from Sulphur wells at Water Works Park on Ypsilanti Street. The water is taken from the River Raisin near the Toledo Street plant, treated chemically, softened and filtrated at the plant and then pumped into one of the two tanks in the park. In the 20 years of operation, customers have tripled to 600, and pumpage has increased four times. There have been so many expansions on the distribution system that Mr. Loreaux estimates that the mileage of the pipe has doubled. The record number of gallons umped per day is 275,000.

Changes in operation and a reduction in electric rates which has reduced power costs from \$88 to \$35 per million gallons has given the plant a chance to operate in the black on expenses. Today, the value of the plant is over \$150,000, Mr. Loreaux says.

William married Lillian Riley on June 19, 1919, in Copperhill. They lost a son, Eugene, 23, in a flight training accident at Freeman Field, Indiana, in 1944. Their only other child was a daughter, Mary Elizabeth.

He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Benjamin T. Larry. 1878-1955. He first went into business at Dundee as a cigar maker for several years and then he went into business with his brother Floyd in the Larry Brothers Plumbing Shop. The brothers dissolved the business in the 1940s and Benjamin operated from his home. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Ivan LaVoy 1908-1984. Ivan LaVoy was born on March 13, 1908, in Erie, Michigan one of the five children of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford LaVoy. He left high school in 1925, his junior year to work for the Wayne County Road Commission and after a six-month stint with the Michigan Central Railroad he decided to look elsewhere for employment. He entered Tanners Barber College in Toledo Ohio and he began working with Clarence Belleville in his barber shop in March 1927. After Mr. Belleville died, Ivan opened his own barber shop on Riley Street in Dundee and he and his helper Norman Brown operated the shop. He served as president of Dundee Recreation Commission and was an avid bow hunter, manufacturing bows and arrows and other equipment in his home. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Oscar J. McBride, 1857-1926. He was killed while delivering mail on Main Street in Dundee as a substitute mail carrier. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Clifford Meyer, 1902-1992. Clifford Meyer, the son of Henry and Rosa Meyer worked at his father's grocery store in Dundee after studying at the University of Michigan. In 1927, he entered a partnership with Seeley Wilson and they opened the Wilson and Meyer Hardware in Dundee. The partnership weathered the stock market crash and Depression, not ending until 1949 when Seeley Wilson died. Clifford continued to operate the hardware store with Mrs. Wilson. He was active in Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. He is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Henry Miller. 1897-1976. Born on a Dundee Township farm to William and Frederica Miller in April 1897, Henry grew up to work as a molder in a foundry and more than a decade at the Kroger Company. He eventually owned and operated Miller's Grocery in Dundee with his son Maynard Miller. He lived on a 15-acre farm on Wilcox Road and served as Dundee Township treasurer. He is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Nathaniel Newell, 1846-1907. He was born in New York but his parents moved to Michigan when he was a boy. His father died when he was 15 and his mother moved to Dundee to run a boarding house, Nathaniel helping her and learning how to establish good communications with people. Nathaniel Newell operated a cabinet/furniture maker and undertaking business in Dundee. His business prospered so well that he moved from building to building, eventually constructing a new brick two story building on Riley Street just off the main block that he called the Newell Building. The Newell Building still stands on Riley Street in Dundee. Nathan and Lucy Newell built a large brick two story home on Riley Street. As Nathan aged, his daughter and son in law, Fred and Mildred Hemenway worked with him and learned the business. Eventually Fred Hemenway took a partner Earl Valentine, and they operated the Petersburg and a Deerfield business together. Nathaniel fought in Company B of the 11<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

John C. Norman. 1887-1958. John Norman was born on March 11, 1887 on a farm near Van Wert, Ohio. He worked on his father's farm and then on the family farm near Milan, when his family moved to Michigan. For ten years, he worked in Detroit as a tool and die maker and then returned to Dundee and operated a livestock, poultry, and egg business. He also worked at the Raisinbrook Rabbit Company, and an engineer at the Dundee Ford Mill. In February 1945, he and his partner Ernest Berndt bought the Dundee Bar, formerly Fred's Tavern, from Kurt Fredericks. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Gilbert R. Oyer – 1897-1963. Cashier, Dundee branch of the Monroe County Bank. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Emmanuel Perpirakis. 1891-1960. Charles Basp. Cigarette maker, shoe, and bicycle repair business. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Curtis G. Reynolds, 1868-1962. Curtis G. Reynolds was born on February 7, 1868, on a Brewer Road farm three miles west of Dundee. He attended business college, traveled extensively and worked at various places until the death of his mother in 1905 returned him to the family farm. When the farm was sold, he and his brother Sidney and Fred Corkett formed the Dundee Mercantile Company where he worked until he was appointed postmaster of Dundee in 1922. From 1911 to 1922, he served as justice of the peace and from 1914 to 1920 he was secretary of the school board. In 1935, Michigan Governor Frank Fitzgerald appointed him as old age assistance director for Monroe County and in 1939 he became a case worker for the Monroe County Welfare Department. He served as justice of the peace and served regularly on the election commission. Curt Reynolds took an active part in both wars. In 1917, he enlisted as a mechanic and was part of a crew sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, building cantonments. At the outbreak of World War II, he went into defense work at Woodall Industries, Monroe, and worked there until the end of the War. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Thomas Arthur Rutter. 1932-1972. Thomas Arthur Rutter was a self-employed farmer and a member of St. Irene's Catholic Church. He was the president of the Michigan Tractors Pullers Inc., first vice president of the National Tractor Pullers Association and director of the National Tractor Pullers Association for Michigan. He also served from 1955 to 1957 with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee

Edward A. Schaap. 1896-1973. He was born in Thael, a small South Dakota town to Otto and Marcy Schaap who moved to Michigan when Edward was six years old. When the United States entered World War I, Edward joined the United States Navy and served a year of construction and communications duty in England and France. After his discharge in 1919, he returned home to Zeeland where he had been living and after a few months he moved to Dundee to open an egg business. A few years later, he decided that hatching chicks could be profitable and he opened the Dundee Hatchery in 1929 and operated it until his retirement. He served on the Village Council for ten years and was a member of the Board of Education for 13 years. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Nancy Joann Schafer, 1964-2011. Nancy Joann Schafer was born in Monroe, graduated from Monroe Community College, and began working for the United States Postal Service in Ida. In 1993, she the postal service transferred her to Dundee. Since she had spent her entire life in Dundee, everyone knew her and as she went on her postal rounds, she had a smile and a wave for everyone. She was on the Administrative Board and was the chairperson of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee of the Dundee United Methodist Church. On March 8, 2011, a concrete porch collapsed as she was delivering the mail and a large broken slab fell on top of her, suffocating her. She is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

John Franklin Slayton-1846-1918. John Franklin Slayton owned and operated a store in Dundee, selling meat, groceries, and dry goods. For many years, he was one of the leading livestock shippers in southern Michigan and both Dundee villagers and farmers respected his business acumen and integrity.

Hugh W. Smith-1890-1952. Hugh was born in Usk, South Wales on August 23, 1890. He came to the United States in 1909 with his brother Thomas and he worked on several newspapers in Minnesota. In January 1918, he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps and served overseas until September 1919. After another secession of newspaper jobs, he accepted a typesetter position on the Dundee Reporter in May 1929 and continued to work there except for a year and a half at the Tecumseh Herald and a stint at the Willow Run Bomber Plant during World War II. He served as Dundee Village Clerk from 1936-1943 and as a justice of the peace in 1947. He was active in Sea Scouting. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Dundee.

Wilbur A. "Gus" Williams, 1907-1985. Wilbur A. "Gus" Williams, came to Dundee in 1917 and celebrated 50 years in the automotive business in 1967. Beginning in 1927, he operated Williams Brothers Garage on Main Street and in 1939 he moved to a location on Barnum Street. In 1931, he ran the Dundee Buick Agency and in 1932, he became the Chrysler dealer and continued in that position through 1974, when he retired from that dealership. He continued in his business location with used cars sales and service. He is past president of the Monroe County Automobile Dealers Association.

Gus served in Dundee Village Government for 13 years, three years as a councilman and ten years as village president. He served as Dundee mayor from 1941 to 1944, and from 1952 to 1954. He was named Dundee Citizen of the Year in 1977. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.