

MEMORANDUM INFORMATION

IN RE GRANDFATHER AND GRANDMOTHER

compiled by Louise Harvey Milburn

Sarah Shelby married Thomas Chun (sic), a tanner; married in Shelby County, Kentucky. Both born there. Of this union three children were born; Charles Chun, Caroline Chun (Louie's mother) and Eliza Chun. The family moved to Brownsville, Union County, Indiana, where the children grew up. Charles married, Caroline married John Crafton, and Eliza married Robert Williams, a tanner, in Brownsville, Union County, Indiana. Grandfather Chun, in addition to being a tanner, kept a tavern or inn, known as Chun's Tavern, at Brownsville, and it was at this inn that Eliza Chun was born.

To the union of Robert Williams and Eliza Chun was born one child, Indiana Louise. Indiana Louise was born at Chun's tavern at Brownsville, Union County, Indiana, December 1, 1833. Her father, Robert Williams, owing to domestic trouble, left her mother before Indiana Louise was born, and during all her life she never knew her father and no one ever knew what became of him.¹

When little Indiana Louise was about six years old, her grandfather and grandmother, mother and herself moved to Algonquin, McHenry County, Illinois. This trip was made by covered wagon and partly by water, and took about four weeks time. They settled at Algonquin where Grandfather Chun started a mill on a creek at Algonquin². They were at that location for a few years (between five and seven) when one of the family contracted diphtheria, then known as black tongue. The disease was unfamiliar to science at that time, and doctors in the newly settled region being scarce, nothing was done to save the family from the dreaded malady, and in two weeks time Grandfather and Grandmother Chun and their daughter Eliza Williams had died. They were all buried there, and stone headstones mark the graves.

¹ Union Co, IN Court of Common Pleas Civil Order Book C p. 56. Plea for Divorce March Term 1835 Re Robert S. Williams vs Eliza Williams - bill in Chancery for Divorce

The said petitioner by Hammand his solicitor comes and the said Eliza being duly called and comes not but herein makes default, whereupon comes William J. Brown Esq. prosecutor & comes and merits said petition, and the evidence being heard, and the Court having seen and examined the pro ____s say that the prayer of the petitioner is unreasonable and ought not to be granted, on the ground that the abandonment had been too _____. It is therefore considered by the court now here that the said petitioner dismissed and that the said defendant recover against the said complainant her costs and charges in the behalf laid out and expended.

² In 1836 Eliza Chunn Williams married James Dixon

Charles Chun and his sister Caroline now took their niece Indiana Louise, now somewhere between ten and twelve years of age, back to Union County, Indiana. The trip was made by covered wagon, the party passing through Chicago, then a small village consisting of a few small log houses and huts. After about three or four weeks, the party arrived at their destination, where Indiana was left in the care of her great-aunt, Lydia Bennett, who had been Lydia Shelby, sister to Sarah Shelby, before her marriage to William Bennett.



Indiana Louise Williams; in LBBurnett's hand, "Grandmother Berry - born December 1st 1833 - photo taken at 18 years of age." on back of photo, which seems to be a copy of an older photo, says "Bennett phone Bronze 907 - \$1.35"

The Bennetts resided on a farm near Richmond, Indiana; and here Indiana lived until she was sixteen years old. At the age of sixteen she began to teach school at Ellis' Corner in a small log school house having eight or ten pupils. She taught school a year, and then went to live with John Druly, at Druly's Corner, where she assisted in the housework and received the munificent salary of \$0.75 per week. At the age of 18 she was married to Benjamin Nutter Berry, whose history follows.

GRANDFATHER BERRY

David Berry, an Orthodox Quaker, was born in the western part of New Jersey, not far from Philadelphia, September 3 1775. He married one

Susanna Dawson, also a Quaker, who was born May 15 1772. David Berry was a farmer. He was married in New Jersey. To this union were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy, these two being twins. In the order of their ages, these children are as follows:

- Elizabeth, born Dec 15, 1802 in New Jersey
- David Jr, born April 15 1804 in New Jersey

After the birth of David, the family removed to Ohio², where they stayed four years. Here the twins were born and here they died.³ The family now moved farther westward, settling in the southeastern part of Indiana, where the rest of the children were born as follows;

- Hannah, born November 28, 1806 in Indiana
- Samuel, born November 28, 1808 in Indiana
- Eunice, born March 1811 in Indiana
- Thomas, born October 6 1814 in Indiana
- Martha, born February 1820
- John, born April 22, 1822 in Indiana

Martha died at the age of 22, from hasty consumption. The other children all married and lived to a good old age. Elizabeth married Edward S Barnett and lived to be 87 years of age. David married Sarah Nutter and lived to be 86. Eunice married Elijah Walters and lived to be 78. Thomas lived to be 75, Martha 22, and John, the youngest, lived to be 82.

David Berry Jr, the father of Benjamin Nutter Berry, married Sarah Nutter, the daughter of Benjamin Nutter, a farmer, at the age of 20. He was married in a homespun linen coat which cost \$0.75. They were married at Liberty, Indiana, or rather 3 1/2 miles from Liberty. David Berry was a Quaker; his wife was not.⁴ Sarah Nutter was 22 when married. (?) The family lived on a farm three miles from Liberty. To the union were born four children, three of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. They were as follows;

- Benjamin Nutter, born January 9, 1825, named for his mother's father, Benjamin Nutter
- Isom, born in the summer of 1827
- Celia Caroline, named for her mother's sister, Celia Nutter, born Sept 26, 1829
- Mary Jane, born September 20, 1832

Isom died at the age of 8 years, from what was then called milk sickness, the milk having been poisoned by something the cow ate. Mary Jane married Anthony Cole and died in 1869.

2 Salem, OH

3 This doesn't agree with actual birth dates as found in Quaker records.

4 1823 David Berry Jr. was reported to Silver Creek Monthly Meeting for marrying contrary to discipline [this means he was married by a minister or a justice of the peace, but to another Friend], using profane language & striking his father; in 1824 he was disowned.

The other two children, Benjamin Nutter and Celia Caroline, are still living. Celia Caroline married David S Coon. Isom died in August 1835, and one month later his mother died of the same malady, milk sickness. David Berry married again, this time marrying one Myra Martin, who lived to be about 70. David died Oct 3, 1889. ⁵ He had been a stanch Orthodox Quaker all his life until until 80 years old, when he experienced a change of views and became a member of the United Brethren Society.

When David Berry and Sarah Nutter were first married they lived for a time near Liberty, Indiana. They then moved to what was known as the "New Purchase." There they cut down enough timber to build a rude log cabin of one room in which they cooked, ate and slept. The family had one bed and the children slept in what was called a trundle bed; in the day time it being moved under the large bed and hidden from sight; but the reason was to give more room in the cabin, as no company was expected to pass any comments on the frontier housekeeping. This was in what is now Henry County, Indiana, 25 miles west of Liberty. Here they lived four years and then moved farther west in the same county, six miles from Lewisville. There Isom and his mother died and were buried. David Berry was also very ill from the so-called milk sickness, but he did not die. He then sold his farm of 160 acres, for which he had paid \$25 an acre, and went back to Union County, Indiana.

Benjamin stayed with his father until after the sale of the effects and then went back to Grandfather Berry's in Union County. He was then bound out, as was the custom in those days, until he was 21 years old. He was first bound out to a tool maker, where he worked in the shop. "I was 15 when first bound out. Was with this man three years, when he freed me. Had a hard life. The man had three of his sister's children living there." Wife would beat grandfather. The man was not so bad. He was a Presbyterian. Christmas he reformed, and convinced of the error of keeping a bound-boy, he freed Benjamin, then 18 years of age. Benjamin then went to work for a blacksmith at Liberty, Indiana, David Stanton by name. Stayed there a year and a half afterward when he sold out. Then went to work for a man by name of Thomas Carr, a blacksmith; worked for \$5 a month and board. Bought his own clothes. In a year Thomas Carr

⁵ He married (1) Sarah Nutter July 18, 1823 in Union Co., IN, daughter of Benjamin Nutter and Elizabeth. She was born Abt. 1802 in NC, and died September 1835 in IN. He married (2) Elizabeth Lemon 1837. She divorced him 1840. He married (3) Malinda Perdue April 24, 1848 She divorced him. He married (4) Elmira Martin after 1850. She was born about 1837 in Warren Co., OH.

died and the shop was closed. He then went to Ohio to a town just within the state border by name of Fairhaven. There worked for a man named Bell, a blacksmith. He got hurt about six months after Benjamin went to work for him and he ran the shop alone for six weeks, but finally Bell got so bad he decided to shut up shop, and later he died.

This again left young Benjamin out of employment, and he next turned his footsteps to the farm in Union County, Indiana, near Liberty. "I left the farm after a while then and went into the huckstering business with a man by name of Moses Judkins, at Cincinnati, O. I stayed there five years and went back to the farm in Union County, Ind. Went to Aunt Lydia Bennett's to buy turkeys, and while there saw for the first time his future wife, then a young girl between 15 and 16. Indiana was called upon to assist in "shooing" the turkeys into the barn, and as grandfather after expressed it, "she could shoo alright too."⁶ However he did not commence paying her attention until about a year after, when she was teaching school at Ellis' Corner. After school was out Indiana went to live with John Druly, at Druly's Corner, where she stayed a year, and during a part of this year Benjamin kept a store at the crossroads at Druly's Corner. He boarded with the Druly's during this time and his courting of the fair Indiana was easy sailing. He took her buggy riding on moonlit evenings and enjoyed himself immensely. Aunt Lydia Bennettt had frowned severely upon the suit of the young man, because he was poor, and the Druly's favored his suit, so that the young people found time to be happy in spite of the opposition of Aunt Lydia. A little less than a year after they began going together, the two were married by Justice Benjamin Nutter, Jr (son of Benjamin Nutter Sr) an uncle of the groom's. Benjamin sold out his store at Druly's Corner after a short time, and the young couple moved to Centerville, Ohio. There they started a store; the wife assisted in the store during the days and

6 Lydia A. Bennett (d Jan 4 1892) (Indiana Berry's Aunt) obituary

Lydia A Bennett was born near Maysville, Mason Co, Kentucky in the year 1800. With her parents she moved to Union Co, Ind in 1816, and was married to William H Bennett, who afterward became prominent in State and local affairs, serving as legislator and president of the State Board of Agriculture. Although struggling with poverty as many early pioneers, she never became unmindful of the poor and needy, and all through life was ever ready to aid them in their distress, and many were her donations to the church, for she was ever noted for her open-hearted generosity. Even in those early days when building churches by subscription was a very difficult task, her name was always found on the list as a cheerful and liberal giver. Her husband died Jan 29, 1864. No children were born of this marriage, but she became the mother of nine orphan children, all of whom survive her. These children she raised up to a Christian life, and was a mother to them in every way the dear word of "mother" implies, and all of them attest her motherly and noble traits of character, as few women have ever taken the motherly care and devotional interest in so many orphan children and brought them up into man- and womanhood with such a high degree of success. She moved to Richmond, Ind in 1871, where she resided until her death, which took place Jan 4, 1892, aged 92 years, 7 months, 9 days. She united with the M.E. Church Sept 5, 1841 and was baptized Aug 17, 1842, and was a faithful member and untiring worker in the cause of Christianity until overcome by the infirmities of age.

her husband worked on a farm close to Centerville during the day. To this union were born ten children, as follows:



Daughters of B.N. Berry - Lillie (Harvey & Stevens, 1866-1951),
Gertie (Pullen, 1872-1948), Emma (Burnett, 1852-1928),
Belle (Scott, 1854-1942), Flora (Estes, 1861- 1903).
About 1895, Craycraft's Studios

- Emma Caroline, born Nov 15 1852; Green Co, OH
- Mary Arabel, born Sept 24 1854 Centerville, OH
(family now removed to Union Co, Ind.)
- William R born Feb 18, 1857 (5-12)
(family moved to Coles Co, Ill, about 6 mi
from Lerna)
- David Marcellus, born Jan 21, 1859 Coles Co
- Flora Temple, born March 4 1861 Coles Co
- George Lincoln, born July 12, 1863, Coles Co
- Lillie May, born May 1, 1866 Mattoon, Ill
- Benjamin Franklin, born April 14, 1869 Mattoon
- Eva Gertrude, born Feb 28 1872 Mattoon
- Cora Ethel, born Dec 15, 1875 Mattoon

Miscellaneous Information

When living in the New Purchase, wild turkeys, deer and wolves abounded close to our cabin. Father would take his gun and stand in the door of the cabin and shoot our dinner.

After we moved to Illinois we lived close to Lerna for 8 years. I farmed there. When we came to Mattoon we lived just across from where we live now, 1121 Wabash Avenue, and our

house stood where the Brown Homestead now stands. We lived on the spot for six months (it was in this house that Lillie was born) and then moved into the present homestead at 1121 Wabash Avenue.

As to my conversion into the M.E. Church (I had been born a Quaker); I was converted Jan 12, 1846 at a Methodist revival. Preachers travelled on circuits in those days, each minister having five or six charges. This church was the Methodist Church of Liberty. I did not join the church at that meeting, but as is the custom in the M.E. Church, I was put on six months probation. I was courting my wife during that time, and I had learned a love song which was pleasing to her, but the story reached the ears of the grave deacons, and a committee waited upon me, and informed me that if I did not cease singing such a worldly and frivolous song I would be "set back." Necessity knew no choice, and I quit singing it. There were a number of others struggling along at the same time. Some of them were liked so well that the deacons let them go in three months, but I stuck it out and got through. I was baptized by immersion in midwinter, the month of February, in a creek known as Hannah's Creek, by Asbury Conwell.

Grandmother was not converted until after Sellie was born in 1859. It was at a Methodist Church near Lerna during an ordinary church service. She was baptized by being sprinkled after 6 months probation.

When we first moved to the village of Mattoon, I worked in a hardware store for Tracy Kingman. He sold out to Drish and Richmond and I was with them seven years. Then went into the grocery business. I had a store on Broadway four years. Could not stand the close confinement, and sold out and went to farming. I had a farm where the slaughter houses are now, S.E. of town. I farmed five years. Before I went to work for Kingman, however, I started a woodyard and sold wood. I had this yard for two years. After I had farmed 5 years I went into the coal business in 1866. I was not drafted for the Civil War, although I offered my services. (A lieutenant's place in the army - Pleasant Grove township) I was elected to stay at home and help care for the war widows. I was always a staunch Union man. Had a hard time with those that were not. I farmed the ground for five years that Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, farmed in Pleasant Grove township, Coles County. Farmed that ground in

1860. Moved to Mattoon in 1865, April. Joined the M.E. Church in Mattoon in 1867 by letter. Joseph Lane was then the minister.

(Wrote letters to each other when living at Druly's)

(Grandfather Berry died in May 1863 of paralysis. Grandmother Berry died in 1852 of lung fever.)

Letter from Louise Milburn to CK Shelby dated 4 Sept 1936 excerpts;

Sarah's sister, Lydia Shelby, who married William Bennett of Virginia, told my grandmother when the latter was just a young girl that her family belonged to the Shelybs of Kentucky, of which General Evan Shelby was the head. Mrs Bennett was a peculiar woman in some ways. Childless herself, she reared or partially reared nine children, most of them nieces and nephews, or grandnieces and nephews; but for some reason she seemed averse to telling these children about their families.

Sarah Shelby Chunn had four sisters, Lydia, Marcia, Jemima, and Susanna, and two brothers, Judge John and Evan. Marcia married a Mr Cobb and had one son, Thomas.

6 Oct 1936 My grandmother, Indiana Louise Williams, married Benjamin Nutter Berry. Grandfather Berry gave me, after his wife's death in 1914, what information he possessed of both families. Later I supplemented it with what I could learn from my grandmother's cousin Louisiana Crafton Brink, the daughter of Caroline Chunn, Sarah and Thomas' youngest child.

In a letter dated 28 April, 1964 to Carl Sandburg

...In 1859 they came into Illinois and in that year or in 1860 moved into the "Lost Lincoln Cabin" at Goose Nest Prairie, in Coles County, Illinois. This was doubtless not long after Mrs Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln went to Charleston, you remember, after her husband's death in 1859. Grandfather Berry farmed the Thomas Lincoln place five years. He was a man who kept everything shipshape, his stock cared for, his fences mended, etc. He told me that Thomas Lincoln was a shiftless person, which most historians hold, I believe. In 1865 Grandpa and Grandma came to the little town of Mattoon. My grandmother was wearing a little shoulder shawl and lost it in the tall prairie grass which grew in the now main commercial street of the town (Broadway). I remember Grandpa telling me that he drove to Charleston to hear the Lincoln-Douglas debate held there. My grandparent's first son, William Berry, was born in the Lincoln Cabin and is buried nearby. He died a baby of three months.

Mattoon Journal-Gazette, Wednesday Evening, January 15, 1908

Mr. & Mrs. B.N. Berry Dwell Together More than Half a Century

EVENT NOT OBSERVED

Day Not Unlike Others, with Exception That Friends Congratulate Worthy Couple

Fifty-six years ago today - January 15, 1852 - Mr. & Mrs. B.N. Berry, 11221 Wabash avenue,

were united in marriage. Although the privilege of dwelling together for this length of time is allotted to but few couples, the event was not observed, and only for the fact that the venerable citizen and his wife were congratulated by a number of their friends who called upon them at their cozy home, the day probably would have passed unnoticed.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Berry are enjoying the best of health and bid fair to celebrate many more such anniversaries.



Benjamin Nutter Berry about 1880

Both Mr. and Mrs. Berry were born in Union County, Ohio [sic - Indiana], the former on January 9, 1825, and the latter, Mrs. Indiana Louise Berry on December 1, 1833, and in the same county on January 15, 1852 they were married by Mr. Berry's uncle Rev. Mr. Nutter.

Six weeks after they were wedded Mr. Berry with his wife moved to Ohio, where they remained for three years, when they moved again, following the course of empire into Coles county. They settled in Pleasant Grove township near where Lerna now stands, in 1855, the year that the historic crossing of the Illinois Central and what is now the Big Four was made, and which established the city which is now their home.

In 1860 and again in 1864 he was elected justice of the peace, the first in Pleasant Grove township, and in April, 1865, a few days before the assassination of President Lincoln, they, with their five children, moved to this city and built the home in which they now live. In this home five more children were born, four of whom have answered the final summons which leaves six, as follows: Mrs. L.C. Burnett of Nebraska City, Neb., G.L. Berry of Indianapolis, baggagemaster on the Big Four for 20 years; Mrs. G.J. Stevens of Rankin, Ill; Mrs. E.S. Scott, Mrs. Will Pullen and B.F. Berry, a printer, all of this city.

In 1866 Mr. Berry was elected alderman and was _____ in 1868. In 1875 he was again _____ a member of the _____. In 1897 ? [Drish and] Richmond. He then opened a coal and wood office, in which business he remained a number of years. After this Mr. Berry again engaged in the grocery business, this time alone in a store room built on his premises. A number of years ago he sold his grocery stock to the James Bros.

Mr. and Mrs. Berry have long been members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs.

Berry was converted in 1854, and Mr. Berry on January 6, 1846. Both have continued members of the church and are earnest Christian workers. Mr. Berry has been for forty years class leader of the Methodist Episcopal church in this city.

MATTOON COUPLE MARRIED IN 1852

Mr and Mrs BN Berry to Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

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Read TRIBUNE since 1860

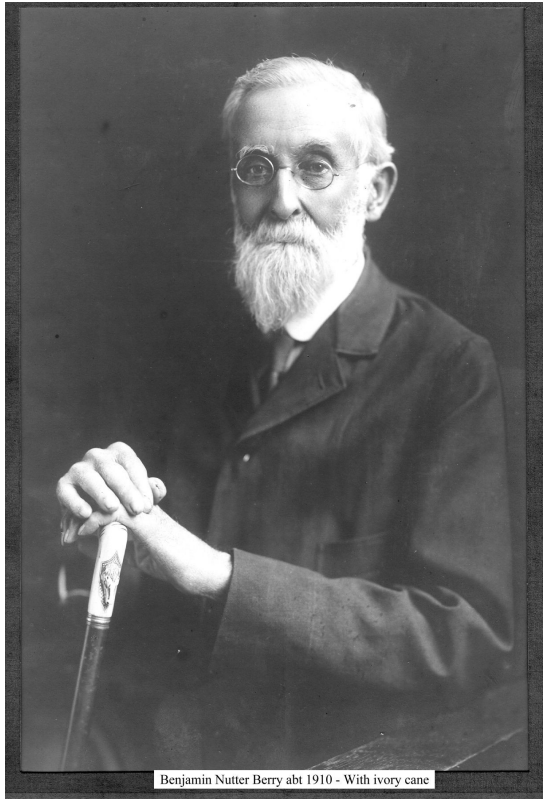
Mattoon, Ill Jan 1912 [special] The sixtieth anniversary of their marriage will be celebrated on next Monday by Mr and Mrs BN Berry of this city. A fete in which children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were expected to participate was annulled at a late date because of illness in the family.

Mr and Mrs Berry were married in Union Country, Ind on Jan 2, 1852. Mr Berry was 27 years old and his bride was two years his junior. Four years later they came to Coles Co, Ill. on one of the first railroad trains operated on the Terre Haute and Alton railroad, now a portion of the St Louis Division of the Big Four.

Mr Berry engaged in various branches of retail business. During the civil war he was captain of a company of home guards. He was acquainted personally with Abraham Lincoln and knew Lincoln's Coles County relations intimately.

"I am a great admirer of **The Tribune**," said Mr Berry. "On the day we celebrate our anniversary, the first thing I shall do after breakfast is read **The Tribune**. I like its editorials. I have read them daily for slightly more than fifty years. I started on July 10, 1860 to read it.





Benjamin Nutter Berry abt 1910 - With ivory cane

Now I am proud to say I am a Lincoln Republican- but not a Lorimer-Lincoln hypocrite. I am a progressive at the age of 87, think Mr Roosevelt the logical leader of the party, and believe Republican politics in Illinois need a cleaning. So does **The Tribune**, and that is one reason I like it.

Of ten children born to Mr and Mrs Berry, six are living- Mrs Emma C Burnett of Nebraska City, Neb; Mrs Belle Scott of Mattoon; George L Berry of Indianapolis, Ind; Mrs Lillie Stevens of Chicago, BF Berry of Mattoon, and Mrs Gertrude Pullen of Peoria, Ill.

Mrs Berry is not so active as her husband.

"I have never used liquor or tobacco in any form,"

said Mr Berry when asked the secrets of a long life. "Always arise from the table feeling that you can eat more. Temperance in all things is the rule. Leave worry to the other man."

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(1915) Uncle Ben Berry Reaches Rife Age of Ninety Years

"Uncle Ben" Berry, one of Mattoon's oldest and best known citizens, celebrated his ninetieth birthday Saturday, when he was the guest of honor at an elaborate 6 o'clock dinner given at the home of his son, Frank Berry, 1710 Wabash Avenue. Six children, nineteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren congratulated Mr Berry on the anniversary of his birth.

Mr Berry was born in Union county, Indiana January 9 1825, and made his home at his birthplace for a number of years. He came to Mattoon about sixty-three years ago and since that time has become known to the majority of citizens. He conducted a grocery store in this city for more than ten years.

Four times Mr Berry was elected to the city council and he served the people of his ward

and the city of Mattoon as one of the most able aldermen elected by them. Mrs H F Chappel, of this city, is a sister of Mr Berry and was present at the celebration yesterday. Mrs Chappel is Mr Berry's only living sister. She is past eighty-five years of age.

The Berry home was beautifully decorated in red and white. A huge birthday cake, lighted by ninety colored candles, occupied the center of the table.

(1919) B. N. Berry Honored

Benjamin Nutter Berry, better known as Uncle Ben Berry, was honored Thursday afternoon when a reception was tendered in his honor by Rev. and Mrs R.F. McDaniel in the Sunday school room of the First M.E. church, the occasion being the ninety-fourth anniversary of Mr Berry's birth.

Members of the church and friends called between the hours of two and five o'clock, paying their respects to the aged citizen and felicitating him upon having reached such a ripe old age.

The Sunday school room had been given quite a homey appearance with the addition of handsome rugs and large easy chairs, while in the center was a table adorned with beautiful cut flowers.

Seated in a large arm chair, his head crowned with the frost of many winters, the face of the guest of honor presented a radiance that was almost boyish as he happily greeted his many friends and members of the church of which he is the oldest member, he having been a class leader for more than forty years.

During the afternoon devotional services were conducted by Rev McDaniel, he reading several passages from the Bible on old age, and offering prayer. During the services the hymns "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" and "How Firm A Foundation" were sung by those present.

Following the services Mr Berry, escorted by Rev and Mrs McDaniel, was taken to the pastor's study which had been converted into a dining room, and there refreshments were served by Mrs. Frank Davis, Mrs. W.H. Robertson, Mrs. Paul Crane, Mrs. Ed Knight, Mrs. T.E. Rice,

and Miss Nora Myers.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in social conversation between Mr Berry and his friends, and upon his return home he found gifts in the shape of a box of candy and a large bouquet of flowers. During his absence too, Uncle Sam, through the medium of a mail carrier, had remembered him with a shower of post cards, all bearing greetings and congratulations to him on the happy occasion.