

**Dottie D. Allen's** father was a Civil War veteran having served as a private in Company B, 23rd Ohio Infantry. George Wood Allen, in the years after the war, worked as a blacksmith. He met and married Alice L. Harrington and they raised 4 children together. George farmed and worked out as a laborer. Dottie was born 9 November 1880, Livingston County, Michigan. The family moved into the Alaiedon-Meridian Township area when Dottie was young. She attended all 8 grades at the Okemos school and also had 2 years of high school, presumably at Lansing Central.

The highest-grade level at Okemos in this particular year was 8<sup>th</sup> grade and was considered graduation. Because of her November 9 birthday, we believe she started 1<sup>st</sup> grade in 1886. Thus, Dottie Allen graduated at age 14 and is in the Okemos Class of 1895. Dottie stayed close with her Okemos classmates. [One such gathering was featured in the \*Lansing State Journal\*, June 7, 1951. <click this area to read "The Circle of Friends">](#)

The 1900 US Federal Census Ingham County enumerated Dottie employed as a "servant" for a local farm family named Dennis. On her marriage license in 1904 Dottie listed "none" as occupation. She married Walter James Heathman 4 October 1904 Alaiedon Township. The couple would celebrate 3 children and 61 years together.

Dottie died 2 February 1965, Mason, Ingham County. Walter, born 11 May 1878, Iowa, died 13 April 1968, Stockbridge, Ingham County. They were interred Maple Grove Cemetery, Mason.

*Note the misspelling of Dottie's name in her obituary.*

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 3 February 1965*

### **MRS. HEATHMAN SUCCUMBS AT 84**

Mrs. Dollie Heathman, 84, of 2086 Hamilton Road, Okemos, died Tuesday at Mason.



Born in Livingston County, she had been a resident of Okemos and vicinity most of her life. She was a member of Okemos Community Church and Okemos Lady's Pioneer Club.

Surviving are her husband, Walter; two sons, James of Mason and George of Lansing; one daughter, Mrs. Ruth Hubbard, Okemos; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 3 p.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman East Chapel. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. at Maple Grove Cemetery, Mason.

Editors Notes: I've not seen evidence to the contrary to the rule that a child must be 5 years of age by November 1st to start school. I'm sure there were exceptions for practical reasons back in the 1800's, but this is a general rule followed to date. **The Okemos school in the 1800's graduated the area students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.** If the student were to continue their schooling at a "higher" level, they might attend a High School in Mason, East Lansing or Lansing.

School years generally run September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. The Class Year is named for the year that school ends. A child with a birthday before November 1<sup>st</sup> would start 1<sup>st</sup> grade on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they turn age 5. 8 years later, this same child would start 8<sup>th</sup> grade and graduate on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year, known as The Class Year. If the child had a birthday before the graduation date, they would normally graduate at age 14. If their birthdate was after the graduation date, but before November 1<sup>st</sup> (the assumed cutoff date), they would graduate at age 13.

Graduation Class Year is the year in which the School Year ends upon completing 8 grades. The Graduation Class is the calendar year following the start of their 8<sup>th</sup> year. So, if they started school on September 1, 1880, 8 years later, or September 1, 1888 would be the start of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and graduation on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1889 (the Class of 1889).

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