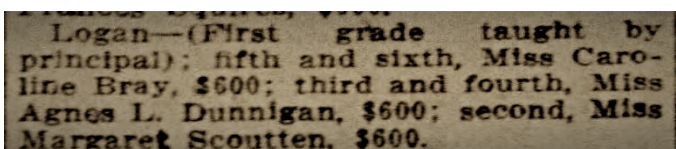


Caroline Belle Bray was the granddaughter of Freeman Bray who settled in "Hamilton," now Okemos, in 1839. Caroline, daughter of Mahlon Augustus (1851-1916) and Jennie May (Dieckman) (1862-1930) Bray, was born 3 August 1880 in Meridian Township, Ingham County. The Bray's owned and operated a working farm and Caroline, like her 3 siblings, helped her mother and father with chores and where a hand was needed on the farm.

She attended Okemos school through the 8th grade and then went to Lansing Central High School where she graduated, a year ahead of schedule, in 1898. The highest-grade level at Okemos in this particular year was 8th grade and was considered graduation. Because of her August 3 birthday, we believe she started 1st grade in 1885. Thus, Carolyn Bray graduated at age 13 and is in the Okemos Class of 1894. Carolyn 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">](#)

Caroline, who never married, was enumerated in the 1900 US Federal Census Ingham County as single, living with her parents and teaching school.

Lansing State Journal, April 23, 1912

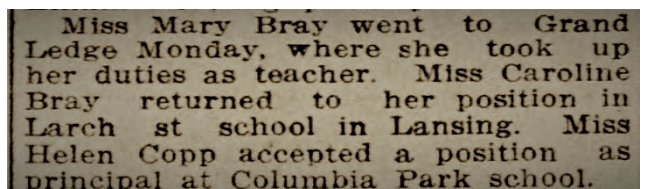


Logan—(First grade taught by principal); fifth and sixth, Miss Caroline Bray, \$600; third and fourth, Miss Agnes L. Dunnigan, \$600; second, Miss Margaret Scoutten, \$600.

The 1930 US Federal Census enumerated Caroline living on Cedar Street, East Lansing and

Lansing State Journal, September 6, 1912

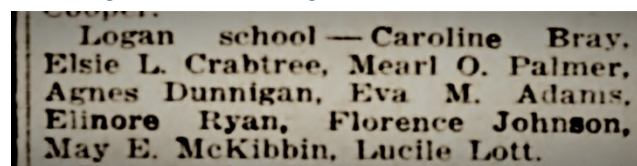
owning a home valued at \$8,000. No occupation was listed for her in either the 1930 or 1940 census. Caroline



Miss Mary Bray went to Grand Ledge Monday, where she took up her duties as teacher. Miss Caroline Bray returned to her position in Larch st school in Lansing. Miss Helen Copp accepted a position as principal at Columbia Park school.

taught High School in the Lansing area well into the 1920's. The 1940 US

Lansing State Journal, August 29, 1919



Logan school — Caroline Bray, Elsie L. Crabtree, Mearl O. Palmer, Agnes Dunnigan, Eva M. Adams, Elinore Ryan, Florence Johnson, May E. McKibbin, Lucile Lott.

Federal Census listed Caroline having 4 years of college education.

She graduated from Michigan State College with a major in Home Economics. About the time of her mother's death, 1930, she seems to

have retired from public school teaching and been a woman of independent means, active in community affairs.



Miss Caroline Bray, granddaughter of Freeman Bray, one of the area's first settlers, looks over an ancient newspaper telling of Lincoln's assassination. (State Journal photo)



Here, in this homestead on the west side of Okemos, a fugitive from Canada's "Patriot War" found refuge. Freeman Bray, the refugee, built it in 1856. His brother-in-law and fellow townsman, J. H. Kilbourne, as a legislator, was more responsible for having the capitol established here than anyone else. (State Journal photo)

Caroline died 1 December 1974, Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan and was interred Riverside Cemetery, Okemos.

Lansing State Journal, August 30, 1982

The township bought the cemetery property about 1852 for \$30 from Freeman and Caroline Bray, Mills said. The last person buried there in 1974 was Caroline Bray, a direct descendent of Freeman Bray.

OLD LANSING HIGH

Grads of 1898 Will Be Coming Back

* * * * *

55th Reunion Is Scheduled for June 4

Remember Lansing high school? Maybe you don't. Maybe you don't even remember its successor, Central high school.

But numerous members of the class of 1898 do. More than 50 of them will be here June 5 for the class' 55th reunion.

Back in 1898, when Admiral Dewey was dealing sternly with aggressors at Manila Bay, it was "Lansing high school." It had been Lansing high school ever since 1876, and there seemed little reason to believe it would ever change. The city at that time had about 15,000 population, and old L. H. S., with its cupolas and mansard roof, located in the square between Capitol ave., Genesee st., Seymour ave., and Shiawassee st., was for many a year the largest school in the state.

But it was called when the school became a high school years later, on the west side of the square. To the square was L. H. S. Among the graduates of that address; Clarence Christopher, Petoskey; Mrs. Elizabeth Corby McKibbin, Indianapolis; Mrs. Frances Farrand Dodge, Easton, Md.; Mrs. Zoe Freeman Stoup, Norwalk, O.; Mrs. Chloe Goodrich Carpenter, Grandville, O.; Miss Lena Leitzau, Blue Island, Ill.; Harry Whiteley, Dowagiac; Lee Watling, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Emma Glickman Mendelsohn, New York city; and the following Lansing area residents: Ernest Wickham, Mrs. Marion Losey Bolter, Mrs. Alice Hurd Gibbs, Mrs. May Rose, Mrs. Pearl Curry Doyle, Ervy LaRose, Arthur Dunnebacke, Claude Chamberlain, Merton Clark and Mrs. Mary D. Tower.

Miss Caroline Bray of East Lansing, who has kept records of the class as a hobby, will be there, too.

Merton Clark and Mrs. Mary D. Tower.

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The grads will spend the afternoon nominating officers. Among the graduates of that address; Clarence Christopher, Petoskey; Mrs. Elizabeth Corby McKibbin, Indianapolis; Mrs. Frances Farrand Dodge, Easton, Md.; Mrs. Zoe Freeman Stoup, Norwalk, O.; Mrs. Chloe Goodrich Carpenter, Grandville, O.; Miss Lena Leitzau, Blue Island, Ill.; Harry Whiteley, Dowagiac; Lee Watling, Mt. Pleasant; Mrs. Emma Glickman Mendelsohn, New York city; and the following Lansing area residents: Ernest Wickham, Mrs. Marion Losey Bolter, Mrs. Alice Hurd Gibbs, Mrs. May Rose, Mrs. Pearl Curry Doyle, Ervy LaRose, Arthur Dunnebacke, Claude Chamberlain, Merton Clark and Mrs. Mary D. Tower.

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Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 5 December 1974

CAROLINE B. BRAY

FORMERLY OF 139 CEDAR ST.,

EAST LANSING

Miss Bray died Dec. 1, 1974 at Clark Memorial Home, Grand Rapids. Born Aug. 3, 1880 in Okemos. She was a lifelong resident of the East Lansing-Okemos area and taught school for 25 years. She was a member of Peoples Church, the Evening Service Guild, the Pinetum Club and the Senior Citizens Club and was a life member of the East Lansing Women's Club, the Okemos O.E.S. and the Pioneer Club of Okemos. She is survived by 2 nieces, Mrs. Allan (Jennie Becker) Barron of Wyandotte, Mrs. Neil O., (Esther) Barrick of Elkhart, Kansas; a nephew, Mahlon B. Hammond of California; 3 grand-nieces and 3 grand-nephews. Funeral services will be held Sat. at 11 a.m. from the Gorsline-Runciman East Chapel, East Lansing with Rev. Roy. J. Schramm officiating. Interment Riverside Cemetery, Okemos.