

Articles found in my Grandmother's Scrapbook - Frances B. (Holmes) Young daughter of John D. Holmes and May Cortright of Downsville, Delaware County, New York.

Joint Funeral Is Arranged for Small Downsville Boys: Delaware Village Mourns Death of Children Who Drowned While Sailing Toy Boats

Downsville, March 3.-Two small boys who had played together, gone to school together, and yesterday drowned together at the Downsville mill pond, will have a joint funeral service at 2pm Saturday in the Downsville Presbyterian Church. Parents of the two boys decided on a joint funeral service today, declaring that they had lived their short lives together and thus should be buried together. The boys who Archibald Holmes, Jr. 7 and Floyd Terry, Jr 6.

Residents Praise State Troopers

There isn't another thing being discussed in this little Delaware County village but this tragedy which has cast gloom over its every inhabitant. Truthfully, there isn't a dry eye to be seen along the main thoroughfare. Everyone knew the boys, knew of their close companionship because they were a familiar sight here - always together.

Many recall seeing them trot off together yesterday to sail little homemade iceboats on the mill pond ice, little dreaming that they were not to return in the same carefree manner. Apparently, they ventured too far out and the ice crumpled and they plunged into the cold water.

While sadness is the theme here, local people were high in their praise of the heroism of Trooper Forest L. Knapp who dived repeatedly into the icy eater in a hopeless attempt to bring their bodies to the surface in time to resuscitate them. From Walton, Fire Chief J. Carlton Burrhus and J. Tyler Sherwood had hurried over with an inhalator, but its use proved of no avail.

Had Same Teacher

From the first and second grades in the classroom of Miss Frances Cosgrove a group of little boys will be selected to serve as honorary pallbearers for the funeral. They had not been named late today. The Rev. James Moffatt, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church will officiate, assisted by the Rev Harry Haynes, pastor of the Downsville Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Alfred Smith, rector of the Episcopal Church at Margaretville.

Floyd Terry, Jr., 6, was the only child of Mr and Mrs Floyd Terry. He was in the first grade in Miss. Cosgrove's classroom.

Archibald Holmes, Jr., 7, was the youngest child of Mr and Mrs Archibald Holmes. He has an older brother and an older sister. He was in the second grade, also taught by Miss Cosgrove.

(Note: Archibald Holmes Sr was my grandmother's brother. Not sure what paper this and following articles are from but the year is 1938 and one article has the date penciled Mar 5, 1938)

Double Funeral Held for Victims of Drowning

(From Downsville correspondent)

There was a double funeral at the Presbyterian church in Downsville on Saturday afternoon at two o'clock for Archibald Holmes, Jr., and Floyd Terry, Jr., who were drowned in the Holmes mill pond at Downsville late Wednesday afternoon. The church was filled with people from all walks of life, who came to show their sympathy to the parents and their regard for the boys.

The boys had always been close playmates and where one was seen the other was not far

away. Dickey and Sonny, as they were called, were loved by all and will be greatly missed by the community. It was estimated that nearly four hundred people attended the funeral and the floral offerings were may and beautiful. Graham Frisbee of Andes rendered the music. Rev. James Moffatt of the M.E. church officiated, assisted by Rev. Harris Haynes of the Presbyterian church, and Father Alfred Smith, rector of the St. Mary's Episcopal church. The little boys were laid to rest in the cemetery at Downsville.

Dr. Robert Brittain, local officer, as acting coroner, issued a verdict of accidental death by drowning after the boys' bodies were recovered from the pond last Wednesday evening, March 2, and issued the death certificates as acting coroner.

(Note: Archibald Holmes, Jr., was Dickey and Floyd Terry, Jr., was Sonny. Article from 1938)

Pencil date Mar 5, 1938

DOWNSVILLE JOTTINGS

Budget of Local Matters for the Week.

Funeral services for Archibald Holmes, Jr., son of Mr and Mrs Archibald S. Holmes, and Floyd Terry, Jr., son of Mr and Mrs Floyd Terry, boys aged 6 and 7 years, who were drowned in the mill pond last Wednesday afternoon, were held from the Presbyterian church on Saturday afternoon of last week at 2 o'clock. The large edifice was packed to overflowing with those who, in deepest sympathy for the bereaved parents and sorrowing at the tragic fate of the two bright boys, came thus to testify their fellow-feeling. There was a large bank of beautiful floral offerings - probably approximating in cost \$400 - from many friends and organizations, and when the two white caskets containing the remains of the two boys were placed in front of the floral bank, the pathetic scene moved many to tears. Rev. Moffatt, Rev. Haynes and Father Smith officiated. The classmates of the victims of the water were present, and the pallbearers were of this number. They were: For Archibald - William Smith, Robert Yevich, Richard McCarthy, Herbert Klindt, Felix Stepp, Gerald Place. For Floyd - Gerald Teehan, Robert Neff, Donald Frembes, Richard Frembes, Ray Place, Jr., Stanley Shields. The boys, with their toy sail boats, took the mountain road that skirts the pond, about five o'clock in the afternoon, and when about opposite the point on this side where the Wilson Hollow brook empties into the pond, made an attempt to cross. The ice was thin and weakened by the thaw that day, and it suddenly gave way, both boys going down and under the ice. Whether they both went under at the same time, or whether one was drawn in as the result of giving aid to his companion, can not be told. The bodies when found, at about 6 and 7 o'clock, were separated only by a distance of 8 or 9 feet. The body of Floyd was recovered about a half hour after Archibald's body was hooked from the water, a channel having been cut through the ice by parties in boats at the place where the bodies were discovered and taken out of the pitiless, icy stream. Troopers Knapp and Martin and a large number of townspeople were at the place and did everything possible to expedite the work of searching. All efforts at resuscitation by inhalator were futile; the unfortunate boys had been in the chilling water too long. Dr. Brittain, acting coroner, decided that their deaths were accidental. Contrary to the colored accounts to the Binghamton papers and the Oneonta Star, there were no attempts at diving, as such an effort would probably have resulted in death. Still the troopers and others engaged in the work of search manifested heroism and alertness, throughout the arduous task,

working in the icy water, waist deep, seeking for some clue to the location of the bodies. At one time some were of the opinion that the bodies had been carried by the slow current to the middle or foot of the pond, but this opinion was dispelled shortly after a channel had been cut through the ice. No one shrank from his duty, and all were resolved to do everything possible. The published report that there were out cries heard at a nearby feed store at about the time of the drowning is not true, A lady living on the alley within sight of the pond saw the two boys in the vicinity where the tragedy occurred, but she heard no cries and attached no importance to their being at the place named.



From back of Picture:
Dickey Holmes
Xmas 1937
Drowned March 2, 1938

The Warnken Studio
Oneonta, N. Y.

Pencil date Nov 15, 1934

Received Terrible Injuries.

Downsville Lady in Awful Auto Accident at East Branch Wednesday Night

Friends of Miss Esther Holmes of this village, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John D. Holmes, were shocked on Thursday morning of last week to learn that she had been frightfully injured in an automobile accident at East Branch Wednesday night. She was returning to Downsville from Roscoe by way of East Branch when, at a distance of approximately 300 feet from the bridge at that place, the auto in which she was riding slued from the side of the highway and struck one end of the concrete culvert at the point named. The impact of the car was so terrific that the engine was wrenched quickly from its fastenings and shoved against the seat in which Miss Holmes was sitting. The woman sustained awful injuries and, in an unconscious condition, she was placed in the automobile of William DuMond, who was returning from Pennsylvania early that evening and reached the scene immediately after the accident, and the woman was taken rapidly to Livingston Manor, where Dr. Bourke, who made a hasty examination, recommended that Miss Holmes be taken to a hospital at once. She was therefore quickly taken to the Maimonides Hospital, Liberty. It was here found that both lower limbs were broken, one member having two fractures and the other broken and terribly bruised; both upper and lower jaws were fractured, and a deep cut under the chin and on the neck made it possible to see the roots of the tongue. It is stated that one or two small portions of the jaw bone, removed by the surgeons, contained several teeth, At first the hospital physicians gave out no hope that the victim would recover, but on Friday and Saturday

they stated that Miss Holmes had a chance to recover. The driver of the car, being protected by the steering wheel, sustained, it is said, only a few slight bruises. He stated that he was blinded by the lights of an approaching car, and as a result lost his bearing for an instant.

Late reports from the injured woman indicate that her condition is precarious, her heart having weakened. Her recovery is considered doubtful. Miss Holmes is 38 years of age.

It is said that the automobile is a total wreck.

Middletown Times Herald, Middletown, N.Y., Monday, Jan 28, 1935

Leaves Hospital

Liberty - Miss Esther Holmes, thirty-seven, of Downsville, injured November seventh in an automobile accident near East Branch, left Maimonides Hospital Saturday. Miss Holmes suffered a fracture of one leg, fractures of both upper and lower jaws and the loss of virtually all her teeth.

(Note: From book given to Beta Ann Holmes (Daughter of Archibald S. Holmes) by Maude E. (Fuller) Holmes wife of George W. Holmes - brother to John D. Holmes - son of Samuel O. Holmes and Phoebe Ann Campbell; Esther married Don Gibson - she had been a chemistry professor at Oberlin College, Ohio - but she was in a terrible auto accident - it ruined her face and life - she died an alcoholic.)



Picture of Esther found in my Grandmother's picture books, no year taken but Esther was born Dec 30, 1895 in Hawley, Wayne County, Pa. Her Mother May (Cortright) Holmes was from Hawley. No know pictures were taken after her accident.

Pencil date Oct 8, 1938 (part of newspaper heading says published every Thursday at Downsville, New York - name of paper not show)

DOWNSVILLE JOTTINGS

Budget of Local Matters for the Week

Mrs. J. D. Holmes of this village, whose serious illness was mentioned in the News two weeks ago, passed away at the Delhi Hospital on Saturday afternoon of last week at about six o'clock. For several days after the amputation of her right leg in which gangrene had developed, it was

believed that her condition indicated marked improvement, but two days before her death the physicians became convinced that she was rapidly failing, as there appeared to have developed serious intestinal trouble. Mrs. Holmes failed very rapidly from this time until death came, as stated. Deceased was about 70 years of age. Surviving are her husband, two daughters, Miss Esther, at home and Mrs W. J. Young of Elmira, and one son Archibald of Downsville; also one sister, Miss Katherine Cortright of New York City. Mrs. Holmes was a member of the Eastern Star of this place and of Pepacton Grange. For many years she had been prominent in the social activities of the community and the advancement of the place. Funeral services were conducted from her late home on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Smith of Arkville and Rev. Abraham of Duanesburg officiated. Interment in Downsville Cemetery.

Mr and Mrs Floyd Soules and Mrs Aaron Ackerly of Livingston Manor were Sunday visitors at the home of Ray Place.

Card of Thanks

To fraternities, associations, neighbors and friends we would express our deepest gratitude. For the every comfort in the time of our bereavement and the every kindly word and deed received; for the lovely thoughts and the beautiful flowers which cheered us in this trouble of ours - to all and for all, we hereby extend our thanks. - John Holmes and family.

DOWNSVILLE JOTTINGS

Facts and Incidents Worthy of Perusal.

Funeral services for Mrs. J. D. Holmes, whose death is mentioned in another column, were conducted from the home on Tuesday at two o'clock. Rev. Smith of Margaretville and Rev. Abraham of Duanesburg officiated. The attendance of friends was large, and the floral offerings were many and very beautiful. Revs, Smith and Abraham spoke interestingly of the deceased, and their remarks were impressive. Among those from out of town who were present were: Mrs. Archibald Holmes and Mrs. Horton Giering, Middletown; George N. Rowe and Mrs F. J. Menamin, Oneonta; Mr and Mrs Robert Crawford, Wallkill; Kaveda Holmes, Walton; Mr Wagner, Mr. Gibbs, Hancock; Gordon Gates and daughter, Miss Helen, Watertown; Mr and Mrs W. J. Young, Mrs. Wilbur Rutan, Mrs. Ira Smith, Elmira; Mrs Charles Parsons, Painted Post; Mrs. Frank Crispell, Mrs. N. L. Baker, Poughkeepsie; Rev. And Mrs. Abraham, Duanesburg; Rev. Smith, Margaretville; Mrs. Frank Stevenson, Mrs. Charles Shandeler, Hawley, Pa; The bearers were : Charles T. Warren, Marvin Wynkoop, George S. Holmes, Leo Weintz, Archie Campbell, E. E. Peck.



(Notes: May (Cortright) Holmes seated to the left with grandmother and mother - daughter (my grandmother on her lap and daughter Esther standing. Notes from book given to Beta Ann Holmes from Maude E. (Fuller) Holmes - May (Cortright) Holmes was the first woman licensed to drive a car in the State of New York, she was 60 years old at the time. My mother (Elizabeth May Young) has told me as child she remembers her mother talking about May going into the hills to take care of the poor and nursing them. Have since found out since scanning the original of this picture correct spelling of Cortright is without the "u" according to George N. Cortright's Civil War Service Records)

16-151-1 (REV. 1-27-37) WITH DURABLE BLACK INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. FERRY FROM THIS OFFICE TO ANY OTHER OFFICE. INFORMATION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY SUPPLIED. AGE SHOULD BE STATED EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS SHOULD STATE CAUSE OF DEATH IN PLAIN TERMS SO THAT IT MAY BE PROPERLY CLASSIFIED. EXACT STATEMENT OF OCCUPATION IS VERY IMPORTANT. See instructions on back of certificate.

PLACED OF DEATH (District No. 1221) *1231*
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 County *Delaware*
 Town *Della*
 Village *Della*
 City *Della* (No. *Delhi Hospital*) St. *Della* Ward *23*

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH 60447
 Registered No. *23*

FULL NAME *Mae C. Holmes*
 Residence No. *97* St. *Horseshoe* Ward *4*
 (Usual place of abode) Years Months Days
 Length of residence in district where death occurred

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
 6 SEX *Female* 7 COLOR OR RACE *White* 8 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced *Married*
 9 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) *Feb 20 - 1869*
 10 AGE Years Months Days *69 7 18*
 11 Trade, profession, or particular line of work done, as spinner, weaver, bookbinder, etc. *Housewife*
 12 Industry or business in which work was done as silk mill, transit, bank, etc.
 13 Date deceased last worked at 14 Total time (years) this occupation (month and year) opens in this occupation
 15 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) *Dawson, Pa* (State or Country)
 16 NAME *George N. Cortright*
 17 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) *Delford, Pa* (State or Country)
 18 MAIDEN NAME *Emma Corbitt*
 19 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) *Dawson, Pa* (State or Country)
 20 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Signature of Registrar) *Harriet A. Thompson* (Address) *Horseshoe, New York*

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 24 DATE OF DEATH (month, day and year) *Oct 8 1938*
 25 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from *Oct 8 1938* to *Oct 8 1938*
 I last saw her alive on *Oct 8 1938*
 To the best of my knowledge, death occurred on the date stated above, at *6:30 P.M.*
 CAUSE OF DEATH* *Enteric infection, heart disease*
 CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES
 (a) *Stomachic prostration left by*
 (b) *Stomachic prostration*
 (c)
 (d) *95299*

26 Where was disease contracted, or injury received?
 27 Name of operation, if any, *Autopsy* Date *Sept 27 38*
 Condition for which performed *Autopsy*
 Organ or part affected *Lungs*
 28 What laboratory test analyzed (diagnosis)?
 29 Was there an autopsy? *No*
 (Signed) *Dr. M. Thompson* M.D.
 (Address) *Della 23*
 *See reverse side for instructions

30 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL *Dorchester, N.Y.* DATE OF BURIAL *Oct 11 1938*
 31 UNDERTAKER (License No.) *124* ADDRESS *Dorchester, N.Y.*
 (Signature) *Ray Place Jr.*
 32 Who *Oct 9 1938* *Harriet A. Thompson* Registrar

Buried at *Dorchester, N.Y.* Permit issued by *Harriet A. Thompson* Date of Issue *Oct 9 1938*
 THIS CERTIFICATE MUST BE FILED WITH THE LOCAL REGISTRAR WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER DEATH

Pencil dated Nov 15, 1938

DOWNSVILLE JOTTINGS

Local News Reported by Reliable Correspondent

Many friends were in attendance at the funeral for the late John D. Holmes, from the home, on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The death of Mr. Holmes was announced in the News of last week. The services were conducted by Rev. Abraham of Duaneburg and Rev. Smith of Margaretville, who also performed the divine service for Mrs. Holmes, who passed away Oct. 8th. The floral offerings were many and beautiful. The two funerals were in charge of the same ministers and conducted in the same manner, for husband and wife. Interment made in Downsville cemetery. Those from out of town who were present at the funeral were: Mrs.

