

Emily Ida Moore (1839-1882) and Benjamin D. Kelly (1844 – 1869)

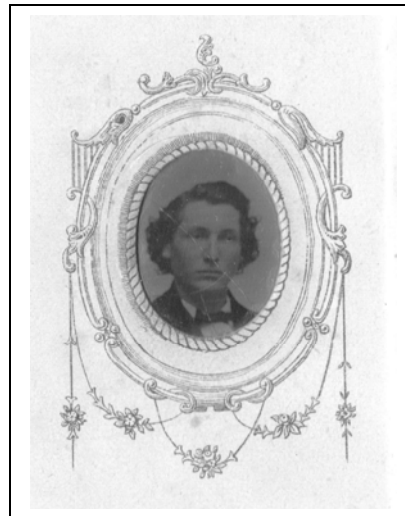
58. Emily Ida⁷ Moore (Lewis M.⁶, Eli⁵, William⁴, Andrew³, James², John¹) was born October 26, 1839 in Sadsbury Twp, Chester Co, PA., the fourth child and second daughter of Lewis M and Sarah Chalfant Moore. Emily was fourteen years old when the family moved to Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan in 1853. Emily married Benjamin Daniel Kelly, son of Christian Kelly and Sarah Steers, on November 3, 1869. (See information on the Kelly family elsewhere on this web site.) At the time of their marriage, Emily (known as "Ida") was 30 years old, and Ben was 25. Ida and Ben had four children, all born in Ypsilanti Township:

1. Ida M. Kelly, born March 09, 1871; died September 09, 1885. Died of consumption
2. Lewis Christian Kelly, born November 04, 1872; died in Marshall, Michigan.
3. Anna F. Kelly, born December 16, 1874; died October 29, 1956 in Frains Lake, Michigan
4. Mary Elizabeth Kelly, born October 17, 1877; died March 13, 1958 in Fenton, Michigan.

The Kelly farm of 175 acres was located in Section 28, Ypsilanti Township, with the farmhouse being on Whitaker Road.

Emily Ida Moore died of consumption (TB) in 1882, and her eldest daughter, Ida, died of the same disease in 1885. There was once a cemetery on the Kelly farm, where it is presumed that Ida Moore and her daughter, Ida Kelly are buried. This note is from Directory of Washtenaw County Cemeteries:

"Comstock or Kelly-graves farm cemetery. Abandoned 400 yds west of Whittaker Rd and .4 mile N of Merritt Rd. In a grove of lilac bushes. No public access."



Emily Ida Moore Kelly and Benjamin Daniel Kelly
Pictures courtesy of Christine Driksna

Biography of Benjamin Daniel Kelly
by Eloise Diehr, daughter of Christian James Kelly
Courtesy of Eloise Lavin and Christine Driksna

Benjamin Daniel was the fourth son of Christian and Sarah Ann Steers Kelly. November 3, 1869 he married Emily Ida Moore, and they had four children, Ida, Lewis C., Anna and Mary E. Emily Ida and the daughter Ida both died of consumption and in 1883 he married Helen Pester and one son William Benjamin was born to them. He bought the land on which was the Community Cemetery, donated by Lyman Graves, and in 1900 he began to remove the head stones and cultivate the land, reserving that part at the far back overlooking Paint Creek containing the graves of Sarah Dix Steers, Anna Grossenbacher Kelly and his brother Jacob.

He raised registered cattle (beef and milking), sheep, white Emden and Chinese geese and rake and exotic poultry from European countries. Each year he followed the Fair circuits all over the United States where he exhibited pens or cages of the finest of his animals, winning many prizes and blue ribbons and took orders for them to be filled from his farm at high prices. Lewis when old enough traveled with his father and learned the business.

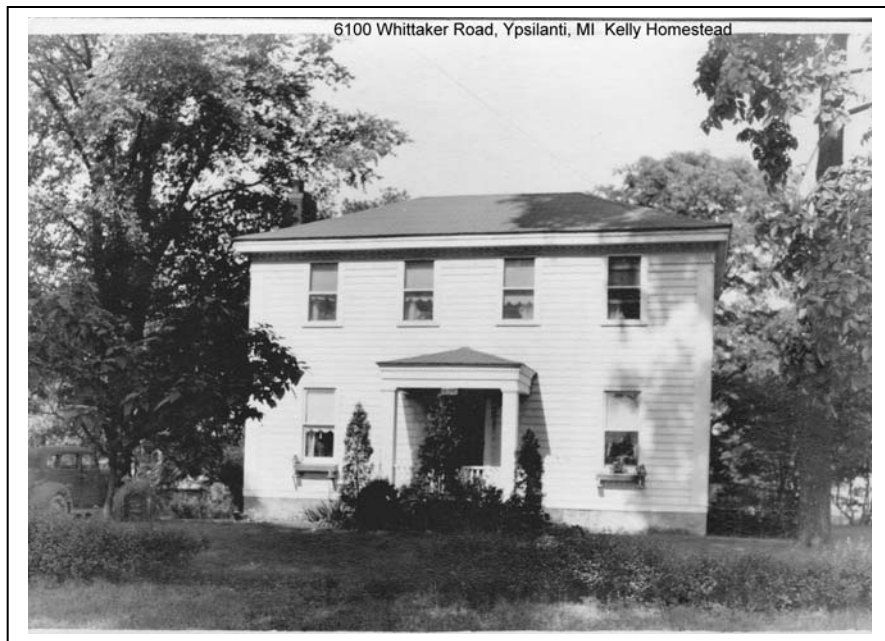
Lewis married and then bought a farm near Belleville, MI and he and his father continued traveling the fair circuits until Benjamin could no longer withstand the rigors of traveling and the hard work involved. Lewis then bought a large stock of farm out of Marshall, MI and continued exhibiting at the fairs with his son Benjamin when he was old enough. In the early 1930's they were at the last of the circuit, the Michigan State Fair at Detroit, MI when Lewis contracted pneumonia, was taken home and died a few days later. Within two weeks his wife came down with it, died and was buried. The son Benjamin continued raising cattle but no longer followed the fairs.

Mr. Bissell, the father of Lewis C's wife owned the farm north of Benjamin Kelly, (also a part of the Lyman Graves Farm) and he sold it to a Mr. Perrine, and Benjamin Kelly bought that farm also. He had tenants who lived in the house and worked for him, relieving him of having to room and board so many hired men. When his father died the son William Benjamin bought out the heirs and later sold the tenant house and a small acreage to Joseph Mueller. Upon his death the home place was left to the two younger

sons who had carried on the farming for him and Wilber the oldest was given 50 acres off the north side of the farm where he built his home and a shop where he repairs automobiles and does welding and machine repairing.

Anna married Charles Freeman who had a farm at Frains Lake (Washtenaw County, Michigan) and he raised steers. When her mother died Ida May Freeman retained the farm and rents the fields to a neighbor farmer.

Mary E. Kelly married Ross Smith, who with his brother ran a drug store in Ypsilanti, and when the store was sold they went to Fenton where they operated a hotel until his death in 1940.



Kelly Homestead on Whitaker Road