

memory of people still living. It was in her first home that she endured, among other discomforts, that of the use of green wood, also such privations as were inevitable from the defective transportation.

She used to tell how, if any article of use or convenience failed, she simply went without it, until the roads—impassible for months at a time—became such as enabled the men to get to Milwaukee. It was not the shortage of money, but of transportation that rendered life so restricted in those years. She was a typical pioneer wife and devoted mother. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Mills, there is no direct descendant in the third generation. She died in June, 1884.

MRS. J. M. BOWMAN

One of Madison's Prominent Pioneers

Contributed by the John Bell Chapter, D. A. R.

Mrs. J. M. Bowman, whose maiden name was Rose-lah Mariah Smith, was a descendant of Lieutenant Samuel Smith on her father's side, whose son, Capt. Asa Smith, served in the American Revolution.

Lieut. Samuel Smith sailed from Ipswich, England, (Suffolk County), on April 21, 1634. His great grandson, Deacon Aaron Smith, settled in what is now Athol, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1736 and built a fine old home. There Rose, as she was called, was born, August 31, 1834. On January 3, 1854, she married Samuel Hunter Donnel.

In 1855 they came to Madison where the husband was an eminent architect—a member of the firm of Kutzbock & Donnel. The latter were the architects for the second Wisconsin State Capitol, built in 1857-58, and used until replaced by our present Capitol. Upon arriving in Madison the Donnels boarded at the home of David H. Wright, next to our City Library.

In those days the shores of Lake Mendota along Langdon Street were dense woods, where my mother used to go for picnics and hazelnutting.

At this boarding house a lasting friendship was formed with Dr. and Mrs. John Favill, a beloved physician here for many years. They decided to keep house together as there were so few homes. Their house was situated on North Pinckney Street where the Harry S. Manchester store now stands. There she lived for two years and in 1858 moved into her own home, a fine colonial brick house situated at the corner of South Pinckney and East Wilson Streets. Here, before the completion of the Statehouse, her husband, daughter, and only son died within ten months, in 1860-61.

Indians were frequently troublesome at that time, and an uprising occurred near her home.

Mr. Donnel staked out the grounds and buildings for the Mendota State Hospital for the Insane and for Forest Hill Cemetery.

At Camp Randall, during the Civil War, a hospital was established for our soldiers, and my mother spent much time there nursing the sick and making great quantities of special salads, which it was thought would cure scurvy, so prevalent among the soldiers. Her brother, George Waldo Smith, was one of the Burdan's Sharpshooters, so the war was brought home forcibly to her.

My father and mother were devout Presbyterians and church workers, having attended the church here when a room on the second floor of some vacant building was used, (before our church was ever erected.)

In 1864 Mrs. Donnel married John M. Bowman, son of Senator John Bowman, one of the Erie Canal commissioners, who was a graduate of Union College in 1842. Mr. Bowman, who shunned all public offices offered, became acting mayor of Madison during the great Chicago fire in 1871. My mother aided him materially in getting a carload of supplies which he took in person to the stricken city. The daughter of a former resident of Madi-

son who lost everything in that fire appealed to my mother for help and came to our home. She said: "What can I do with the talents I am endowed with to make a living?"

Through my mother's acquaintance with Governor C. C. Washburn she interested him in this young woman. She was sent to Paris to study, aided by E. B. Washburn, brother of Governor Washburn, then Minister to France. My mother was very happy in aiding this young woman of 20 because of the latter's great success. Blanche Roosevelt Tucker, a cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt, and formerly of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, was her name.

She made her debut in Opera at Convent Garden, London, in May, 1876, just two years from the day she landed in Europe. The wedding of the prince of musical artists, Ole Bull, of Norway, to Sarah C., the fair daughter of the Hon. J. G. Thorp, was celebrated by a reception at their residence in 1870. My father and mother attended this, and said it was one of the most beautiful parties ever given in Madison. The J. G. Thorp home, now the executive residence, is situated on the banks of Lake Mendota, on East Gilman Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowman were early members of the Madison Literary Society which draws for its speakers from our distinguished University, and she was a charter member of Mrs. Sheldon's Monday Afternoon History Class, composed of Madison's leading women, and a charter member also of the Woman's Club of Madison.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowman were very hospitable and gave a great many delightful parties, as clippings in their scrapbook proclaim.

They had four children, one a daughter, Rose, died in infancy. The others, John Henry Bowman, a lawyer, Dr. Frank Favill Bowman, and Mrs. Cornelius A. Harper, together with their families, all reside in Madison.

(Signed) Elizabeth Bowman Harper,

Past Regent of John Bell Chapter, D. A. R. , August, 1924.