

Emelene Abbey Dunn

by Lynne Belluscio

The internet is a wonderful thing! Fourteen years ago I wrote a short article about Emelene Abbey Dunn, an art student at Ingham University, Class of 1884. At that time we knew that she was from Rochester and that she had studied with Lemuel Wiles. After graduation she maintained a studio and taught art in Burlington, Vermont. She also worked for the Prang Company of Boston and

search today. She is listed in "Stories in Stone" compiled by Mount Hope Cemetery. I also discovered that the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester has a piece by her. Emelene – also known as Emma – was born in Rochester on May 26, 1859. She was the daughter of Samuel and Harriet Newell Dunn. Her brother was Thomas B. Dunn, a Congressman. She graduated from the Rochester

An article in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle mentioned that during World War I "Miss Dunn devoted herself so unsparingly to the work of bringing comfort and cheer to American and Allied soldiers that she undermined her health and returned to Rochester somewhat of an invalid."

She continued her work with veterans at the Rochester State Hospital. "At times during her life, subjected to long ordeals of physical pain. She rose triumphant time and time again to carry on her chosen work."

According to a book published in memoriam after her death, "The most cruel of blows came when, long months before her death, physicians advised her to give up painting ... she could do no more than thumbnail sketches and she did, hundreds of them as letter headings and greeting cards."

She died at her sister's home at 97 Oxford Street on February 17, 1929. Her sister, Mary, compiled many of her watercolors with selections of her writings about travel in the Mediterranean. I found a copy of the book in California with a Google search and in a couple of days we will have a copy of "Mediterranean Picture



supervised drawing in the schools of New London and Willimantic, Connecticut.

In 1890 she was living in New London, Connecticut. We have two small water color pieces of hers and a wonderful sketch book with landscapes and portraits in ink and pencil. She was very talented. But we knew nothing more about her until I did a Google

York City for twenty years, where she established the New York Normal Art School for advanced instruction of teachers and supervisors of art. Her art work included oil, watercolors, pastels and pen and ink. Her art was exhibited throughout the Northeast, including the Memorial Art Gallery and the Edgerton Park Gallery in Rochester.

Lands" to add to the upcoming exhibit of art from Ingham University.

The small pencil sketch that I printed with the article I wrote in 1995, was from her small sketch book. It showed three little girls sitting under an umbrella, playing tea with their dolls and the caption was "My Ma says that women ought to vote." Not only do we have her sketch book, but now that we have indexed the photographs on the Ingham students, we were able to find a photo of Emma Dunn, Class of 1884.

New Homes • Additions • Garages • Pole Barns



Todd's

CUSTOM CARPENTRY LLC.

Todd Carli • Phone 703-0964

tfn

- Decks • Windows • Doors
- Kitchens • Baths
- Ceramic Tile
- Basement Finishing
- Custom Shelves/Built-Ins
- Siding • Remodeling
- Roofing • Snow Plowing
- FULLY INSURED**

Painting & Remodeling



Interior / Exterior
1 Room To
Total House

Family Owned and Operated

For 30 years

Local References - Insured

CALL TODAY

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

Jim & Jesse

Qutermous

585-880-9774

585-519-2651

Now Booking Exteriors

For Spring '09

3/22