

Lucy R Gould Rogers (1848 - 1920)

Jay Campbell 2026-01-10

In 1883, when the Scott Club was organized, Lucy Gould Rogers was a childless widow of 35. According to histories, she and Lucy Carnes, both teachers, joined forces in educating themselves in all matters. Eventually, more ladies were added to the group.

In 1880, Lucy Rogers was living with her older sister, Cornelia Dewey, on Pearl St. [Cornelia was also a charter member of the Scott Club.] This is probably where Lucy was living in 1883 when she met Lucy Carnes, also a Pearl Street resident. Lucy Rogers served as president of the Club for the 1886-1887 year.

Lucy Gould was raised in the town of Forestville, New York not far from Lake Erie, the youngest of six girls.

In 1861, her older sister, Cornelia, married Henry Dewey and moved from Forestville to Erie, PA to Almont, MI, and eventually to South Haven in 1865. Henry Dewey was a partner in the South Haven lumber firm of Dickenson, Rogers & Co.

In 1870, Cornelia and Henry were living in the home of his sister, Harriet Dewey Rogers, wife of Samuel Rogers. Also living in that home was Samuel Rogers' younger half-brother, George T. Rogers. George had come to South Haven, via Chicago, where he had worked as a grocer. His first wife, Anna Woodward, who he had married in 1861 in Vermont, had died in Chicago.

Lucy was still back in Forestville teaching school in 1870. Presumably she came to South Haven on a visit to her sister and met her future husband, George T. Rogers. By 1873, the local newspaper referred to her as "Mrs George Rogers" when she was elected an officer in the newly formed Women's Cemetery Aid Committee.

George bought property on the southeast corner of Dyckman and North Shore Drive [Lots 1 & 2 in Block 10 of Dyckman Woodmans Addition, site of the current Yelton Manor.] They had a child, James, on October 16, 1874 but he died the next March. Her husband, George, died eight months later of consumption. She buried both of them on November 20, 1875 in Graceland Cemetery in Chicago next to George's first wife (and infant daughter? Ellen E Rogers d1864).

It appears that after Lucy was widowed, she lived with her sister, Cornelia. The property on North Shore Drive stayed in the family. Cornelia operated it as the Dewey Resort for many years.

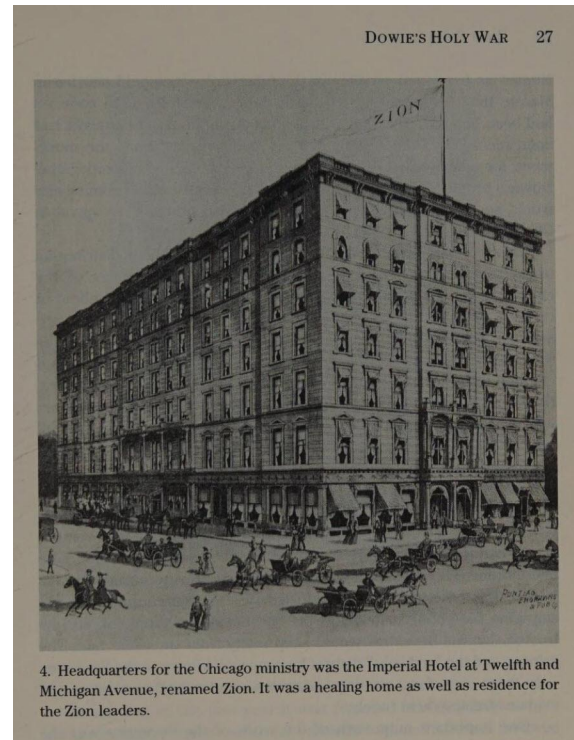
Lucy may have struggled to find purpose in her life after losing her husband and child. Perhaps founding the Scott Club was part of that. She showed a special interest in the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and gave a report in a Scott Club meeting on her experiences there. About the same time, she became attracted to the teachings of John Alexander Dowie who staged exhibitions of his "Devine Healings" on properties close to the World's Exposition. By the winter of 1893 she had relocated to Chicago and was no longer a member of Scott Club.



By 1900 she was listed in the US Census as living in the Dowie Institute (property of Dowie's Christian Catholic Church) at 1201 Michigan Ave in Chicago. Three sisters with the surname of Sisson were also living at that address and she would still be living with two of the three in 1920. They were all converts of Dowie's Christian Catholic Church.

In 1900, Dowie purchased land north of Chicago and created the village of Zion. To quote Wikipedia: "He personally owned all the property. He established a theocratic political and economic structure and prohibited smoking, drinking, eating pork, and the practice of any form of modern medicine. He also established a range of businesses, healing homes, and a large Tabernacle. Followers from across the world descended on Zion." Doctors were eschewed by the Dowieists, which would not have set well with Lucy's former friend, Lucy Carnes, wife of a doctor.

Lucy appeared in the 1910 census as "Mary" Rogers, probably a census-taker's error, but perhaps she was already ailing and not clear on her name. She was reported as blind in both eyes. She was living on Elijah Ave, the main North/South street in the new city of Zion not far from the Tabernacle complex.



4. Headquarters for the Chicago ministry was the Imperial Hotel at Twelfth and Michigan Avenue, renamed Zion. It was a healing home as well as residence for the Zion leaders.

In the 1920 census for Zion, IL, she was living with three Sisson sisters in their home at 2709 Elim Ave, not far from her 1910 address. Her Illinois death record confirms that this Lucy Rogers is indeed Lucy Gould. It identifies her parents and spouse. She died September 23, 1920 in Zion, Lake County, IL just south of Kenosha, WI and almost exactly across the Lake from South Haven. She was 73. She was buried in Graceland Cemetery in Chicago next to her son and husband. All of the "Rogers" graves in Graceland Cemetery are unmarked..... Anna, Ellen, Lucy, James, George.

East view in Graceland cemetery across the unmarked site of the Rogers' burials.

