

Following his defeat for a fourth term as governor in 1926, Groesbeck returned to Detroit at the expiration of his term and resumed the practice of law under the firm name of Groesbeck, Kelly & Francis.

Groesbeck was born March 7, 1873 in Warren township, Macomb county, a descendent of original French settlers of the state.

He gained his common school education in Mt. Clemens and Wallaceburg, Ont., but his parents were poor and he went to work in a sawmill at the age of 13.

At about that time, his father was jailer in Port Huron and the family lived in the building which housed the jail. Thrown into contact with that phase of the law and with little to read but books dealing with criminal law, the boy developed an interest in the subject which shaped his entire life's course.

He studied in the office of Stevens & Merriam, in Port Huron, then entered the University of Michigan in 1892, graduating in 1893. That same year he resumed the practice of

AT THAT TIME about 215 members of the House followed her into exile. The City, which operates a hotel and seven farms in Michigan, still has about that number of followers.

Its members are distinguished by a religious tenet against shaving or cutting their hair.

Mary and Benjamin began their religious careers in 1894 as street preachers in Maysville, Ky. They had five followers when they came to Benton Harbor in 1903.

In 1923, three years before Benjamin's trial began, the House had 920 members and assets valued at several hundred thousand dollars.

THE COUPLE entwined themselves in an aura of the supernatural. Benjamin maintained that a dove perched on shoulder in 1895 and directed him to go to Benton Harbor as the leader of the sons of Israel.

FOUNDED RELIGIOUS SECT "Queen"

House of David's 'Queen' Mary Dies

Special to the Free Press

BENTON HARBOR — Mrs. Mary Purnell, who rose from a street preacher to become "Queen" of the fabulous House of David, is dead at 91.

Death came quietly Wednesday to the aged religious leader, who taught that everlasting life in this world would be the reward of those who adhered to her tenets.

Coroner Harding Dey, of Berrien County, learned of her death Friday. He said he had been asked by the City of David, a second religious group founded by Mrs. Purnell in 1930, to "make arrangements."



'Queen' Mary Purnell in 1930

NO SERVICES are planned, although the body will lie in state Saturday, Dey said.

Mrs. Purnell founded the House of David in Benton Harbor in 1903 with her husband, Benjamin, who died in 1927 while on trial in a notorious morals case.

Benjamin, known as the "King," was accused by two woman members of the sect of committing immoral acts. Testimony during the trial was the most lurid ever to come before a Michigan court.

In 1930 Mrs. Purnell "abdicated" from the House and

founded the City of David, which is located in buildings adjacent to the older colony.

Bellevue Gazette
Charlotte Republic
News
Eaton Rapids Jour
Grand Ledge Inde
Olivet College Ech
Olivet Optic
The Pottsville Ne
Sunfield Sentinel
Vermontville Ech

EMMET CO

Emmet County G
Petoskey Evening

GENESEE C.

Olio Messenger
The Davison Inde
Fenton Courier
Fenton Independe
Flint Daily Journa
Flint-Genesee Co.
Flint News-Advert
Flint Weekly Rev
Michigan Mirror
North Flint News
Flushing Observer
Grand Blanc Press
Linden Leader
Genesee Co. Herald
The Mt. Morris T

GLADWIN CO

Gladwin County
Clarion

GOGEBIC CO

Bessemer Herald
Ironwood Daily C
Ironwood Times
Wakefield News

(a) During col