

The following was contributed by James Ditman, great-grandson of Josephus Ditman in late November 2021.

*"I thought I would write some lines about Josephus and Eva Ditman's children.*

*When I first saw the school photo of Ms. Breese and her students the first thought I had was how proud she would have been if she knew what those two boys did when they grew up.*

*They both became scientists.*

*You see, being raised on the Radiance farm, in Darrrtown, had very big impact on those two boys. In fact, that whole community did. They saw that there were big risks for farmers every season. They both saw that insects were a very real problem. The boys were very intelligent and they dreamed of helping the farms across the whole country.*

*When Lewis was in high school in Westminster, he worked his very first experimental crops. There is a photo of this experiment some place.*

*When Lewis attended the University of Maryland, he specialized in entomology; Joshua too. Lewis continued his education and became a professor at U of M. Lewis also worked for the Dept of Agriculture - Beltsville research labs. Lewis has many publications written by him. He did not seek fame or*

*fortune. He was most happy wearing his plaid shirts and jeans and walking in a field.*

*It was, as a student at U of M that, Lewis met his future wife, Marion Helen Conner. She too earned a master's degree in chemistry. After they married, she started teaching chemistry classes at Greenbelt High school.*

*Dad tells stories where he and Lewis would be driving somewhere and suddenly, he would stop the car, get out and walk into a stranger's field that did not look well at all. He would walk just a couple rows. The farmer would come out and Lewis would tell the farmer what he needed to do. Spray this or that. Lewis just loved helping all the farmers wherever he went.*

*Joshua patented a special formula that fought off the Japanese beetle grub's milky white disease. After Joshua died, Lewis sold the patent to a New York firm.*

*When I was a boy, Dad brought home fresh corn on the cob every summer. I loved it and it never bothered me that they were full of caterpillars. Lewis gave Dad corn from the control group, the group that had no pesticides on it. That why they were so wormy."*