

A letter written in 1907 to Hervey Church: This is about the school which was held in the Chapel (Museum) in about the year '58 or '59.

Dr. Green was teaching upstairs in the academy and Josiah Barber and George Davis gave my brother George a fire cracker if he would fire it off in school. After George had lit the fire cracker and got it ready to go off, he threw it forward under the seat where George Davis and Josiah sat, and the moment it exploded George Field jumped clear on top of his seat, apparently scared to death. Dr. Green called Josiah and George D. up on the floor and asked them if they had fired the fire cracker. They said they had not.

Dr. Green determined to prove that the boys had told a story, and called up every boy in school, one by one, and asked them if they had fired it. All said "No". My brother George was the last one called up because he had jumped so and apparently very much scared that he was the last one Dr. Green thought could have fired it. When he asked George if he had done it George said, "Yes, sir." Dr. Green was so taken back that he simply said, "You will all take your seats." "I don't want any more of this in school."

Both of these boys gave up their lives in the south during the Civil War. Josiah Barber was a great uncle of Vance Barber and Dr. Green was related to the Green's here in town, also Leta Nagle, Mabelle and Celia Sprague.

Plats were drawn off with a stick showing just where all the melon patches were for miles around Vermontville, especially those that belonged to Mr. Squier and Hawkins.(Jay)

I don't know whether or not this flag-staff that is shown on the card is the one or not that Josiah Scovell climbed up one Fourth of July until he got about 40 feet then fell on his heel and made a hole in the ground about a foot deep.

NOTE--I wonder if Dr. Scovell remembered this when he ascended Mount Orizaba, Mexico in 1892 for the U. S. Coast Survey and measured the elevation. Josiah's father died in 1850 and his mother married Argalus Sprague, great grandfather of Mrs. Bruce Priddy.