

platform and introduced to the audience on being 102 years of age, being Mrs. Adelia Pickens, whose boy, over 70 years of age, sat by her side.

Frank N. Green, president of the Historical and Pioneer society is to be congratulated on the success of the meeting. He presided very ably, the program being carried through most admirably. He was on the job every minute, resourceful and efficient. No time had been wasted by the people present before the program began. Former residents of Vermontville were there for the handshake and renewing of old ties, and eager greetings were heard on every side. A stand had been arranged for the program, and there Mr. Green mustered a number of the old pioneers or their descendants, who were called on in turn for remarks.

Splendid music was furnished by a chorus from the Grange that won third place in the singing festival held by the M. S. C., at East Lansing recently and all who heard it Thursday were quite sure a mistake had been made by the judges, and that it should have won first.

The principal address of the afternoon was given by Daniel Strange, of Oneida, author of the Pioneer History of Eaton County that should be in the home of every family in the county interested in local history. His talk bristled with interesting information. He read the story of the settling of the township which shows plainly why Vermontville has always held a unique place in our county,—it "comes of good stock." It was the third township settled in Eaton county, Eaton and Bellevue having preceded it.

Away back in 1835 Rev. Sylvester Cochrane of Vermont visited Michigan with a view to locating, but he found settlements so scattering, and opportunities for the education of his five-children so meager, and means of religious worship so bare, that he returned to his home in Vermont with the idea of colonization in his head and forthwith proceeded to advance it. He found others ready for the adventure and these virile Vermonters got together and planned a town in Michigan before they ever left Vermont. Pity more towns are not thus planned, instead of like "Topsy, just growed." That Vermontville never at-

tracted interest to the old settlers present and their descendants was the presence of Mrs. Anna Benedict Marsh, now of Lansing a daughter of this pioneer preacher and teacher, who gave a talk that showed the culture these young ladies attained in those days. Mrs. Marsh, although in her 80's did not look 70 and spoke with an ease and grace of the early days in Vermontville, when it was considered the Athens of Eaton county.

Mrs. Marsh also was a teacher when she was a young woman, at Vermontville, and at the close of the Civil War, which took many of young fellows from the village, three negroes were brought home by returned soldiers, who were students in her class, one being Lewis Biggs, who for years resided in Charlotte.

The address of welcome was given in cordial words by A. Crook, Pres. of the village, who said the history of pioneer days in Vermontville shows that the days of courage and romance did not pass away with the old Knights of the Round Table and that he and others of the village are proud of the record of these pioneers and are trying to keep faith with these founders.

An airplane was on the grounds to take passengers for short trips, and this plane, circling over head, while it often completely "drowned out" the words of the speakers, yet added an interesting feature to these people whose forbears they were hearing about who had found it hard to make two miles a day when they were driving into the country, the roads were so impassable. Mud, hub high, under brush and swamp land, did their best to discourage these first settlers. Now automobiles and airplanes are annihilating distance, and make such gatherings a comparatively easy matter.

A fine talk, just the sort people enjoy out-of-doors at such a time, was given by Rev. Wm. H. Hayes, professor of education at Olivet College, and the audience was able to hear Jos. H. Hooper, candidate for Congress from the Third Congressional district, who was introduced by Jones Martin of Battle Creek, grandson of Wells R. Martin, one of the early colonists. Mr. Hooper had the good sense to make his talk short and snappy, but it was suff-

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