

# THE VERMONTVILLE ECHO

ESTABLISHED 1874

Publishers

O. E. McLAUGHLIN, Editor

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Display Rates on application; by card.  
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Card of Thanks, 5 cents per line, minimum 50 cents. Poetry in Obituaries or Cards of Thanks, 5 cents per line extra.

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Entered at the Vermontville Postoffice as second class matter.

Subscription \$1.50 in Eaton County. All out side \$2.00, cash in advance.

## CELEBRATED 80 ANNIVERSARY OF VERMONTVILLE

(Continued from front page)

cient to show that this candidate will make an up and coming representative, and one we may have reason to be proud of.

We are used to ministers praying and preaching at public places, but Vermontville was able to show preachers are good for something else, for two of her preachers are violinists, Rev. L. H. Cone, conductor of the chorus and Rev. H. H. Rogers, giving a violin duet that "brought down the house."

Mr. Green called on J. R. McCotter of Charlotte, who gave a very interesting talk. Mr. McCotter is a son of Simeon McCotter, one of the original F. F. V's, (First Families of Vermontville) and he told of some of the hardships those people en-

for he played for the old fashioned dancing in the evening. The crowd was so great that the dancing was adjourned to the pavement outdoors and they say it was three o'clock in the morning when it broke up. It was "The End of a Perfect Day."

### Some Facts Gathered

The first hotel keeper at Vermontville was Wells R. Martin, three of whose grandchildren were present, Miss Jennie Martin and Mrs. Edith Biggs, of Vermontville and Jones Martin of Battle Creek.

The first houses were log cabins, with puncheon floors. The first frame house was built by Wait J. Squires, who has a grandson and granddaughter in the Dakotas.

Simeon McCotter made the coffins for the colony and he did not keep much stock on hand, quite often making them after an order came in, even though the day might be Sunday.

S. S. Church lost his position as preacher through becoming so absorbed in his sugar bush making sugar that he forgot it was Sunday. The congregation assembled, but no preacher and it was not long after that a new preacher was hired. His son, Hervey, lives at Nashville.

Each year the Eaton County Pioneer society presents the oldest person attending the annual meeting with a dollar. This year Mrs. Pickens was presented a five dollar gold piece by the society and a few other friends and Hiram W. Gray, born September 1841, was presented the dollar for being the oldest person present born in Vermontville township.

Especial honor was paid to the Barber family, the original colonist, was Edward H. Barber. The oldest son, Edward, now 98 years of age, is in Florida, and has brought much distinction to the family name. He was editor of the Jackson Patriot for many years, and distinguished himself for his brilliant life and work. Albert Barber, another son, resides in Charlotte and there is an Edward the Third, who is a business man in Vermontville.

Rauba Sanford was the first white child born in Vermontville.