

PIONEER HISTORY OF INGHAM COUNTY

Then while that shout goes ringing by —
 One voice, one heart, one hand—
 All enemies of Home defy
 And drive them from our land !

Else shall the fate of Tyre be ours,
 Or Nineveh, or Rome,
 Their broken altars, ruined towers,
 Heaped d'er the wreck of Home.

MRS. EDNA M. IVES, Mason.

CHAPTER I

Reports of annual meetings from 1872 to and including 1897; history of formation of the Society; paper by Mrs. M. C. Smith; remarks by Hon. J. M. Longyear; paper, Alvin Rolfe; paper, Capt. J. P. Cowles; letter by Frederick Cooley; address of O. M. Barnes, with history of township stories by pioneers; address by Rev. Augusta Chapin; poem by Elijah Woodworth; poem, J. T. Bullen; paper, J. A. Barnes; paper, Mrs. Silas Bement; account of banquets with toasts given; paper, John H. Lee; innumerable pioneer reminiscences; many mortality lists.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF INGHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL
 AND PIONEER SOCIETY FROM ITS ORGANIZATION
 IN 1872, UP TO AND INCLUDING 1897.

The Pioneer settlers of Ingham county met at the court house in the village of Mason on Tuesday, the 28th day of May, 1872, to organize a county Pioneer society.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Minos McRobert. On motion the Hon. Amos E. Steele was elected chairman, with Peter Lowe as secretary.

By request of the chairman Hon. O. M. Barnes stated the object of the meeting in a short and eloquent address in which he referred to the early history of the county, and its present population and resources.

A constitution and by-laws was presented by the secretary and adopted by those present. The Mason Cornet Band was in attendance and their music was well appreciated by the old settlers present.

The following persons were appointed a committee on the election of permanent officers for the ensuing year: O. M. Barnes, Vevny; Wm. A. Dryer, Lansing; John M. French, Lansing City; Arnold Walker, Leslie; Marcus Beers, Ingham; Uriah Coulson, Stockbridge; James Birney, Bunkerhill; Wm. Austin, Onondaga; R. R. Bullen, Aurelius; Daniel Dutcher, White Oak; G. Fletcher, Wheatfield; S. Dobie, Aliedon; Ii. H. North, Delhi; D. V. Smith, Meridian; N. C. Branch, Williamston. Upon their report the following officers were declared elected:

President: Dr. Minos **McRobert**, of Mason.
 Vice President: Uriah **Coulson**, Stockbridge.
 Secretary: Peter **Lowe**, Mason.
 Treasurer: Samuel **Skadan**, Ingham.
 Executive Committee :
 Wm. A. **Dryer**, Lansing; Arnold **Walker**, Leslie; J. M.
Williams, Williamston.

On motion the following were named to prepare histories of the townships of the county, giving date of organization, first settlement, etc.:

Jas. S. Pierson , Onondaga.	H. T-T. North, Delhi.
James Birney , Bunkerhill.	O. B. Stillman , Aliedon.
James Reeves , Stockbridge.	G. Fletcher , Wheatfield.
Abram Hayner , White Oak.	Edmund Allchin , Leroy.
Samuel Skadan , Ingham.	David Phelps , Locke.
J. P. Cowles, Lansing.	J. M. Williams , Williamston.
Peter Lowe , Veray.	J. H. Kilbourne , Meridian.
R. Hayward , Aurelius.	

O. M. Barnes was appointed to make a condensed history of the several townships of the county.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on May 15, 1873, it was voted that the secretary should extend an invitation to Hon. **J. W. Longyear** and Hon. **D. L. Case** to be present at the annual meeting and give short addresses.

It was recommended that the annual dues be twenty-five cents per year instead of fifty, as was voted at the time the society was organized.

They also recommended the appointment of a Historian, for the purpose of having collected and compiled facts and incidents of the early history of the county with a view to having the first volume published during the ensuing year.

Each member of the society was requested to hand his individual statement to the secretary, and the committee appointed to write township history hand the results to the secretary as soon as possible.

The first annual meeting of the Pioneer Society was held at the court house in Mason on May 27, 1873, President Minos **McRobert**

presiding. Prayer by Rev. Wm. Rice, of the M. E. church, then reports and routine work. Upon motion the secretary was instructed to urge the committees from the several townships to complete the township histories as rapidly as possible.

Officers elected: President, Rev. **E. K.** Grout, of Leslie; Vice President, Uriah **Coulson**, Stockbridge; Secretary, Peter **Lowe**; Treasurer, Samuel **Skadsn**, Ingham; Executive Committee: Wm. I-T. **Horton**, Vevay; **Henry A. Hawley**, Vevay; **J. M. Williams**, Williamston.

An interesting address was given by Hon. **J. W. Longyear**, of Detroit.

At a meeting of the executive committee on April 11, 1874, it was voted to invite **T-Ton. O. M.** Barnes to address the society at the annual meeting. That the secretary prepare a list of members arranged alphabetically, with the amount of dues owed, and have printed 200 postcards announcing the date of annual meeting. That the Mason Band be requested to attend and furnish music at the opening of each session, and that **N. R. VanVrankin** be asked to furnish vocal music consisting of old pioneer melodies.

The report of the first annual meeting of the Tngham County Historical and Pioneer Society, then known as the County Pioneer Society, which was held in Mason, in May, 1873, contains a historical sketch written by Mrs. **C. M. Smith**, that cannot fail to be of interest to Lansing people. She says:

"I have been requested to state any facts that may be of interest relating to the early history of Tngham county. My father, **Joab Page**, came with his family into Michigan in the winter of 1831-32. He came to Jacksonburg about the middle of February, where there was but one frame house that was lathed and plastered. A man named Ames built the house, and having just buried his wife, rented it to my father for a few months. Father built the first sawmill in Jackson county. It was situated a few rods east of where the Southern depot now stands in the city of Jackson. The second sawmill in the county father built on his own land, eight miles east of **Jackson**, and two miles south of the old trail road, running from Detroit to **Marshall**.

He built the first hotel at Grass Lake, and kept the same in 18313, when the emigration to Michigan was so great. We counted in one day over sixty covered wagons. It was almost a continual

string of teams, each carrying a family and their entire possessions. They usually carried and cooked their own provisions.

"In 1840 we came into Ingham county, near the Rolfe settlement. We were obliged to cut our road ahead of our teams one and one-half miles. They had not organized a school district, but thought best to have a school. My sister, Amelia Page (later Mrs. G. D. Pease), taught the school in a log shanty, scarcely higher than her head. The floor was made of logs split in two, laid with the flat side up. It had one window of glass, and a large stick and mud chimney which let in a good supply of light from the top.

"During the first year the Rev. Mr. Jackson preached a few times in the neighborhood. Our people made an abundance of maple sugar, took an ox team and started for market, though it was very uncertain where they would find a family that had pork, flour or potatoes to exchange for sugar. They did not return as we expected them to. In about two weeks we learned from a neighbor who had returned from market that our people were at Leoni, and that my husband was seriously ill. I set out to find a way to go to him, walking one mile and a half to get a horse, to another place for a wagon, and a mile and a half in another direction to get some one to drive for me and bring the team back. To get to Leslie, four miles and a half, we traveled eight miles, and then could not shun all the mudholes, for our wagon dipped mud and water several times. It was almost impossible to stay in the wagon.

"In September, 1843, we moved to what is now North Lansing, to put up a mill, and finish a dam across Grand River, that had been begun the year before by John Burchard, who lost his life by being carried over the dam and drowned.

"There were five voters in our family at that time: Joab Page, Isaac C. Page, Whitney Smith, G. D. Pease and Alvin Rolfe, which made it an event of some importance, as it nearly doubled the number of voters in the town.

"We occupied the one log house. It had some floor below, none above, no hearth, one door, one window, and a stick and mud chimney on the outside of the house. Our mother and some of the girls were obliged to stay back until our home could be made more comfortable. The lumber for our use was rafted down the river

from Eaton Rapids. Flour and other provisions were brought down in boats about forty miles, I think, by river. Almost every man in Lansing and Delhi worked on the job, and boarded with us between two and three months. Cooking stoves at that time were the exception and not the rule. Our baking was all done in a tin baker before the fire. Could bake three loaves of bread or two pies. We baked eighteen loaves of bread every day, except Sunday, and so we got enough on hand by Saturday night to last until Monday, I made and baked every loaf of it myself.

"The fall election was held at our house. We got dinner for every man in town and most of the women. It was one of the bright spots never to be forgotten.

"Our nearest neighbor south was Mr. Harrison North. Our neighbor east was two miles away, and had none west that we knew of. On the Fourth of July, 1844, they raised the first pole, the Indians helping, but without them the pole could not have been raised. On the same day Marshall Pease was born, he being the first white child born at what is now the Capital of Michigan.

"My father was justice of the peace, and we had some famous lawsuits. One time they had a replevin suit, and were likely to break down the suit, throw great blame on the constable and make him pay for some cattle in question, for the want of a bond that the officers had given, which could not be produced in the court. Let me say here that the court room was our kitchen. When they got hungry they would adjourn while we cooked. While the court people were partaking of their dinner on the day in question, some of us girls were strolling about to pass away the time, and found some bits of paper in the mud which had been jammed down with a stick. We picked some of them up and found they were part of the missing bond. We soon found the n-hole of it, washed off the mud, pasted it together and gave it to John W. Longyear (now Judge Longyear of Detroit), he being one of the lawyers opposed to Esq. Baker of Dewitt, who might have told where to look for the bond. When court was called after dinner, the lost bond was brought forward, greatly to the chagrin of Mr. Baker.

"We were still the only family at what is now the city of Lansing, when the Capital was located there. We had built onto our house until we were comfortable for room, yet when the people

came to view the city (that was to be) our room would be so full that many times we could not get the meals. Sleigh loads of people came, even from Jackson, and all points within reach. In some instances they were glad to give us the fire and room in which to cook them a dinner. As soon as possible our folks put up a frame and enclosed it, laying down rough boards for floors. The building was twenty feet wide, forty feet long, and two stories high. We made white wood tables and benches for the lower room, capable of seating sixty, and called it the dining room.

"We made straw ticks of coarse sheeting and pillows of our feather beds, spread the beds on the chamber floor, added our bedding and the chambers were furnished. This was the first boarding house in Lansing and was in good demand during the summer. In the course of the summer there were many buildings put up—board shanties, slab shanties, and log shanties, each one a boarding house. Among them was the old Lansing House, a double log house, hewed on the outside, built by Mr. Jipson, and made ready for the members of the Legislature, also a school house.

"The first school was taught by Miss E. A. Powell, now Mrs. J. N. Bush of Lansing. The first sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Coburn, of the town of Dewitt, a local Methodist preacher, in the old log house. After we built the dining room, as it was universally called, we had preaching every Sabbath—two preachers from Lyons Circuit, two from Bennington Circuit, and a few times Rev. Mr. Root preached in the evening, when business called him that way. I do not remember whether he was Presbyterian or Congregationalist.

"When the Commissioners came on to select the site for the Capitol building we had no bridge and they crossed the river in boats. The man who handled the boat lost control of it, and was carried over the dam and drowned. After a few minutes they went on with their work, giving no further thought to the poor man who had lost his life in their service.

"During the summer several stores were started, one by H. H. Smith, of Mason, one by James Turner, of Mason, and one by Crossman & Walker, of Flint.

"Also a large hotel called the Seymour House, all within speaking distance of our old home. Did we not enjoy it after living there so long as we had without neighbors? Soon came the Sab-

bath schools, singing school and concerts. The first church edifice was built for a warehouse and afterwards used as a barn. All denominations joined in buying it and fitting it up for a church. The ladies furnished it and me were proud of it. It was neat and large enough for the congregations, but sometimes was irreverently called 'God's barn.'

"By this time small matters ceased to be of much importance, and Lansing moved on with rapid strides beyond the log house that cradled it; beyond the big dining room with its white wood tables and benches where the pioneers had often been refreshed both spiritually and bodily; beyond the people who ministered to their wants in the early days, for many of them are buried in the cemetery, while but few of us remain to tell the story of the pioneers."

Mrs. Smith's story, written in 1873, comes to us today like a voice from the far-away days of the late '90's and early '40's, and makes events seem so real that as we read it almost seems as though we were there and passing through those strenuous scenes.

In addition to Mrs. Smith's story, Hon. J. W. Longyear, who was present at the 1873 meeting, made the following remarks:

"I came to Ingham county thirty years ago. This county then, for a new county, was considerably advanced, so I could hardly be called a pioneer. One could even then get out to a railroad in four or five days. I suppose a real pioneer would be one who couldn't accomplish that feat in almost as many weeks. It was, however, pretty new when I came. Woodward Avenue, in Detroit, as I passed through on my way here, when I came into the county, was as had a road as Ingham county ever saw, except where it was all woods and stumps. We had some trouble getting over the road from Jackson to Mason.

"When we got here we found the circuit court in session, Hon. Judge Whipple presiding. The case on trial was the celebrated one between The People and ———, for maliciously killing some one's hog, which was described by one witness as a 'sandy complected hog.'

"We found no acquaintances here, but found what was equally as good, friends among strangers—Judge Danforth, Peter Lowe, James Turner, Dr. McRobert, Mr. Griffin and scores of others.

In those days money was not easily to be got, but maple sugar and black salts were always legal tender.

"We found Dr. **Phelps** fighting diseases subject to the flesh, but I cannot call to mind who were fighting the diseases caused by the devil, **James Turner and I-T. II, Smith** were the merchant princes of Mason. John Child was the only printer, except in tax times, when the printing offices multiplied. Those were the days when printing offices walked off and drowned themselves, and type was knocked into 'pi' in some unaccountable manner. I am glad you have a county pioneer society, and hope the early history can be preserved for future generations."

In telling of the early days of Vevay, Alvin Rolfe, in 1873, gave the following data: "If I could wield the pen of a ready writer I should like to use it in giving a short history of the township of Vevay." Being a pioneer and seeing now and then a piece written by a pioneer, I am induced to tell some of my recollections.

"In 1834, my father, Benjamin Rolfe, and family, moved from Thetford, Orange county, Vermont, to **Genesee** county, N. Y. They stayed there until June, 1836, then moved to Michigan. They started from **Bethany** on Thursday and reached Detroit Sunday morning, coming on the boat Thomas Jefferson.

"It was the time of the great June freshet, which many will remember, The country from Detroit to Ann Arbor was covered with water. It took us from Monday morning until Friday night to get to Saline, Washtenaw county, a distance of forty miles, and which can be covered now in two hours,

"We came from Saline to Jackson, and stopped there until we looked up land, which was in Vevay township, Ingham county.

"We went to the land office in Kalamazoo and took up the land, paying \$100 for 80 acres. We started from Jackson on Monday morning, cut our way to Vevay, fording Grand River. We built a shanty on the place I now live on. This was the first blow struck in this part of the town, July, 1836, Michigan at that time was a territory, In the winter of 1837 it was admitted as a State.

"The first time I went to Mason there was a small piece chopped on the section line, where the Donnelley House now stands, by **E. B. Danforth**. The next spring he sowed it to turnips, raising the largest I ever saw, Our nearest saw and grist mill was at

Jackson. Some would like to know how we got along without lumber to build with. For floors we cut nice basswood and split them into plank, 'spotted' them in the under side and laid them down as even as we could, then adzed them off, which made quite passable flooring. For roof we peeled bark. For gable ends we split shakes.

"The first lumber we had we got in Jackson, to make a coffin for a sister of mine. She died April 7, 1837. I think she was the first person who died in the town. The first marriage was Jasper Wolcott and Harriet Sergeant. She is now the wife of Edwin Hubbard. The first birth in the township was Nelson Wolcott, son of Jasper Wolcott.

"The first saw mill built in the county was by **E. B. Danforth**. A man by the name of Lacy took the job in the summer of 1836. The first grist mill was started by Mr. Danforth, who got a pair of mill stones-about twenty inches in diameter-set them in the corner of his saw mill and propelled them by the bull-wheel of the mill. Many a bag of corn have I carried on my back from my place to Mason, without any road, to get it ground. The first road we had from my place to Mason was cut in 1837.

"When Deacon Barnes moved to Aurelius, those were times that tried men's souls. It was just after Gen. Jackson vetoed the United States Bank, and removed the United States deposits, which caused a panic and made hard times. Good money was not to be found. All the money we had was 'wild-cat' and was not worth the paper it was printed on. There are some who remember those times. It was all the money we could get in 1836-37.

"Our neighborhood extended 30 or 40 miles. We often went great distances to raisings. The hardest raising I ever went to was four miles north of Mason. It was a saw mill of Mr. Lewis, father of Nicholas Lewis, our townsman. The place was then called Jefferson. We got the mill up about dark, and got home at two o'clock in the morning,

"Folks of this day know nothing of hard times. If they had to pay 10 bushels of wheat for one axe, \$85 for a barrel of flour, \$40 for a barrel of pork, \$2 for oats, 22 cents a pound for fresh pork, and 50 cents for butter, and other things in proportion, with money

that would not hold its own over night, they might cry hard times."

Sketch by Capt. J. P. Cowles, read at the second annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Association, in May, 1873.

"I came into Ingham county in 1842, from the eastern part of Ohio, with an ox team, and settled in Jefferson, October 23, 1843. I worked on the old court house in the fall of 1843, boarding at **Blain's**, afterward **Steele's Hotel**. I think I taught the first singing school in Ingham county, at least the first ever taught in Mason, Stockbridge, Bunkerhill, Meridian, Alaiedon, or Lansing.

"In 1844 politics ran high and were mingled in all kinds of business.

"To show the extent to which this was carried, I will mention one circumstance. The school district of the village of Mason elected Dr. **J. W. Phelps**, director; I think, **G. W. Shafer**, assessor, and **Peter Linderman**, collector, Phelps, the director, was the officer to hire the teacher, and he, being a Democrat, hired my brother, **F. M. Cowles**, to teach the school five months at \$17 per month, Linderman being a staunch Whig, together with all the Whigs in the district, opposed Phelps; but the latter, knowing it to be on account of party feeling, held his ground, and, being director, had by law the control of the school house, He told **F. M.** to go in at the appointed time and commence his school, and board at **Steele's** and the district would pay his bill, The Whig members of the district got together and hired **J. W. Longyear**, so they had two schools-one in the school house and the other in the court house. The first day **F. M.** had three pupils and **Longyear** five; the second day **F. M.** had one and **Longyear** three. The people were afraid to send, fearing that the whole school bill would fall on those who sent pupils. On the fourth day **F. M.** had none, and **Longyear** one. The second week **F. M.** kept the school house and **Longyear** the court house. Finally they saw that **F. M.** had the law on his side, and a meeting was called to effect a compromise. At this meeting there was great excitement. Some were for fight, while others left in disgust. Finally a compromise was made by paying **F. M.** for a full month and paying his board. Two men from White Oak stood ready to take **F. M.** with them to teach at \$18 per month. The excitement soon died out and my brother was \$15 richer by the operation.

"I was 21 days moving from Ohio to Ingham county. The last night we stayed at old Mr. Hopkins' in Vevay. He gave us nothing but buckwheat straw for our oxen and horse, but it was the best he had.

"When I came to Jefferson I owned the saw mill at that place. The next summer I got so hard up that I had to get something to cat; so I hauled two loads of lumber out to old Mr. Gray's on the openings, then piled it all on one load and took it to Dexter, where I sold it for \$10. In payment I took ten yards of cotton cloth, one broom, 25 pounds of codfish and one pound of tea. I went home well satisfied after spending five days and some money.

"The first legislative session was held in Lansing in 1848, and there was no way of getting to the Capitol except by team. The roads were in such condition that it took four or five days to go to Jackson and return. I carried four of the members from Lansing to Jackson at the adjournment, and received \$12. I paid out \$6.50 for expenses, and spent four and one-half days' time.

"The first justice of the peace in Lansing was **Job Page**, and the second was **Alanson Ward**. The first constable was **John Godley**.

"The first hotel was kept by old Mr. Hunt, in a shanty made of boards, near where the Mineral Springs House now stands. **Gipson** soon after got into a log house that he built opposite to the present Lansing House, and that was called Lansing House. Mr. **Hunt** commenced to build the old Michigan Exchange on the 5th day of June, and on July Fourth he had an Independence ball in the new house.

"The first school house built in Lansing occupied the ground where the first ward school house now stands.

"The first meeting house in the city was made from an old barn, and stood where Dr. **Nebro's** house now stands, and was used by all denominations. The mechanics of Lower Town gave some work on the house, and I gave \$5 toward it in work. The next meeting house was the Presbyterian church on Washington Avenue. The first Methodist preacher located in Lansing was **Rev. Mr. Sapp**, whose death occurred a short time ago. The first Presbyterian preacher located in the city was **Rev. Mr. Atterbury**.

"The first wagon maker located in Lansing, I think, was my old friend **Wm. Dryer**. I think the first doctor to locate in the

county was Dr. Minos McRobert, and the next was Dr. J. W. Phelps. The first Methodist preacher in the county was Rev. Mr. Jackson. The first lawyer in the county was J. W. Burchard, the first sheriff Richard Lowe, and the second A. Winchell.

"The Capital was removed from Detroit to Lansing in 1847. The bill for removal was presented by Mr. Throop of Wayne. The name of the place was left blank in the bill, and votes were taken to fill it with Lansing, Marshall, Jackson, Eaton Rapids, Red Bridge, Ionia, Lyons and Flint. The vote was taken in favor of Lansing, March 13, 1827, in the House. It had passed the Senate on the 9th, and was approved and signed by the Governor on the 16th. Alpheus Felch was Governor, and Wm. L. Greenly Acting Governor.

"Felch had been elected by Congress on February 2, so that Gov. Greenly signed the bill. The vote stood in favor of locating in Lansing: House, 48 to 17; Senate, 12 to 9.

"The first communication sent to the Legislature was by Jas. Seymour offering land on which to locate the Capitol, and this was presented to the legislative body by Mr. Parsons. Afterward John Mullett, Townsend & Bro., Justice Gilkey, H. B. Lathrop, George W. Peck, Mr. Mead and Hiram K. Andrews made similar propositions.

"The committee appointed to locate were James A. Glenn, Daniel Smart and Alonzo Ferris. They came to Lansing about the 20th of April and examined the several locations offered. On or about the 22nd of May they decided to locate the Capitol at the center of section 16 in the township of Lansing. The announcement was made the same afternoon. George Matthews, Smith Tooker, George Pease, Whitney Smith and myself were the first to arrive at the stake. The brush and some small trees were cut down with jack knives in order to clear a place to play ball, and we played until six o'clock that night.

"Smith Tooker built the first shanty in the city of Lansing. It was sixty feet long, and crowded with people who slept on the ground inside, and were very glad to get so good a shelter. I boarded with him and built Smith & Case's store at North Lansing. This was the first frame raised in the city after the Capitol was located. The Seymour House was raised the next day.

"The first store in the city was kept by D. C. Leach, then a

young man, in a small board pen about ten feet square. He had a few dry goods, a small lot of boots and shoes, tea, coffee, and sugar, about as much in all as one horse could draw. That was the beginning of D. C. Leach in Lansing. Since then he has been a member of the Legislature, a member of Congress, is now well-to-do in the world, and is editor and publisher of the Grand Traverse Herald.

"At the time of the location of the Capital, Lansing township had the fewest inhabitants of any township in the county, there being only six or seven families in it. The year before (1846) there were only thirteen votes cast in the township, twelve of them Democratic and one Whig. The Democrats were five Norths, three Gilkeys, Cooley, Earl, Delano, and J. W. Yauger. The Whig was Coe G. Jones.

"The first justice of the peace in the township was Joseph E. North, and he held the office until he died.

"Frederick Cooley claims that his father was the first inhabitant of Lansing township. H. H. North claims that Joseph E. North, Jr., came in before Jacob F. Cooley. The following is the substance of J. F. Cooley's letter:

"Jacob Cooley was born February 23, 1807: came to America and settled in New York. Married Lucy Barnes, who was born in Hartford, Conn., April 1, 1804. Her parents moved to Oneida county, N. Y., where she married J. F. Cooley. They moved to Leslie, Ingham county, Mich., arrived there May 16, 1836, and built a shanty. With no family within six miles of them, they got sick and homesick. They encountered wild beasts and snakes in abundance. One day they went to look over their land leaving their two children in the shanty. They got lost and travelled all day, expecting to stay in the woods all night, and perhaps be torn to pieces by wolves and bears, but just before dark their old dog came to them and they followed him home. This dog was afterward killed by the wolves.

"They finally returned to New York early in 1837, but on November 2 of that year Mr. Cooley came again, leaving his family behind him. He then bought in Lansing on section 30. He purchased there because a man named Ford, with others, was going to found a city to be called 'Biddle City.' Ford came with Cooley and stayed but a short time, leaving Cooley alone in the

woods on the banks of Grand River. Cooley paid Mr. Scott of Dewitt \$50 to make a plat of his land, but he lost the paper and paid another \$50 to have the work done over.

"In fixing for winter he got buckskins from the Indians and made himself a suit of clothes. He made a shanty by felling a large tree, leaving the butt on the stump, then piled brush and leaves on each side of the tree, covering the brush with dirt. He then followed the river to Jackson to get his supplies for winter. He bought lumber and built a skiff, put his provisions in and floated down the river in November, 1637. Night overtook him as he was going over the rapids at what is now Dimondale. His boat struck a stone in the darkness and broke in pieces, dropping his provisions in the water. He waded into the river among the ice and secured the most of his stores and placed them on the bank. His flour and salt was nearly spoiled by being wet. He had no way of building a fire, and had to run on the bank to keep himself warm.

"At last he heard the bark of an Indian dog, which enabled him to find the camp of an old Indian and his squaw. He was nearly frozen to death, but the Indian rubbed him until he was warm, then gave him some hedgehog and muskrat to eat. The Indians probably saved his life. He then gave the Indians \$2 to carry his things down to his place, and had Indian neighbors ever after that, for they immediately camped near him. Cooley now began to clear a spot and build a log shanty.

"In the spring he wrote to his wife to come and bring the family. On receiving the letter Mrs. Cooley again left her early home for the western wilds. She commenced her journey alone with two small children, Jacob F., Jr., and Lansing J. Cooley. It was the time of the Patriot War in Canada.

"She landed safely in Detroit and there she employed a teamster to take her to Jackson. After they had gone some distance from Detroit the sheriff came after the man, who saw him coming and ran into the woods, leaving her alone. She drove the team to Jackson, where it was taken away from her. She then started for Eaton Rapids on foot, taking her children each by the hand. After walking several miles she met a man who directed her to a trail by which he said she could save some miles. She undertook to follow this track through the woods, and after traveling for

some time found she was lost. She set the children on a log, bade them not to leave, and went to find a way out. While wandering around she heard a rooster crow, and soon found the clearing where it belonged. The man, whose name was Blakslee, went with her to find the children, which they did after a long search. Her youngest child was taken quite sick, and this detained her for several days. Blakslee took his team and carried them to Eaton Rapids. She stopped at Mr. Spicer's, where she hired an Indian to go and inform her husband of her arrival. The Indian performed his duty satisfactorily. Cooley went to Eaton Rapids, made a bos boat and moved down the river. Night came on before they got home so they camped on the bank of the river, and the next morning reached their home. She arrived in Lansing June 15, 1836.

"She and Cooley cleared off a piece of land and sowed it to wheat. They had no team, no dumb beast of any kind, and as they had no almanac they kept the time by marking each day on a board with a piece of coal.

"The Cooley family celebrated their first Independence Day in Lansing, July 4, 1838, on a flat rock on the bank of Grand River. They sang patriotic songs to the Indians who were sporting in the river, while their two little boys played near.

"About the middle of July the whole family were prostrated with sickness for several days. They got an Indian to go and let Mr. Skinner know they were sick, and he came and took them to his house. This took all the money they had. In the fall they returned and found their crops all safe, as their old Indian friend had watched and cared for them during their absence. They traded corn and potatoes with the Indians for fish and venison. During the winter they were all sick again, and lost the day of the month. In January a traveler came along and gave them the time. They were out of provisions of every kind, and the old Indian and his squaw supplied their wants and kept them from starving. Mr. Cooley was very sick and for some time was not expected to live. He told Mrs. Cooley to lay him in a bark trough, cover him with dirt and take the children and get out of the woods. He finally recovered.

"He made a mortar by cutting off a log, burning a hole in the end until he got it deep enough to pound his corn, which he did

by a spring-pole attached to one end of the house, the other to a pestle eight inches through, with a pin put through for a handle. After the corn was pounded they boiled it. The Indians troubled them sometimes very much.

"In 1839 **Mr.** Cooley went to Jackson and worked at his trade (that of tailor) and left his wife alone with the children. She did not see a white woman for fourteen months.' They were very much bothered by wild beasts. One time Mr. Cooley was bringing some meat home, and the wolves gave him a close chase, but he reached **home** with it. At another time he was in a thicket picking blackberries, when a large bear came after him, but he escaped with the loss of his hat.

"Sometimes he had to go ten miles for fire. The friendly Indians and squaws helped them very much, but a few of them were troublesome, and would demand salt and other things. When **denied** they became very angry, but Mr. Cooley was resolute and stood up for his rights.

"On January 6, 1840, Mrs. **Cooley** gave birth to a son, the first white child born in Lansing township. They named him Nathan L. Cooley. The physician on that occasion was no other than the friendly squaw, and she was the only woman present.

"They had to thresh their wheat on the ground. Mr. Cooley took a grist one day to Eaton Rapids in a log canoe, and was gone three days. The children could hardly wait to have their first **wheaten** cake baked, and gave some of it to their playmates, the little Indians.

"In the fall of 1839 or '40 they heard that a family had moved into the woods, and that family heard at the same time that there was a family living on the bank of the river. This family proved to be that of Joseph E. North, Jr., and they soon came down to see the Cooley's. They found the Cooley's by following the section lines. The next Fourth of July was celebrated at the home of **J. E. North, Jr.** There were three families to celebrate together, as J. E. North, Sr., had recently moved into the woods. **J. E. North** named the town of Lansing.

"Mr. Cooley now bought a team, a cow, a pig and some sheep, but a bear came in broad daylight and caught his pig, and the wolves killed all his sheep. Mr. Cooley built a log house, and it took all the men in five towns to raise it, and they were two days,

in getting it up. In the winter of 1847 the whole neighborhood was much excited on account of the State Capital being located in this town. Mr. Cooley now had five children, three boys and two girls. He gave each of his children a farm and settled near them. **He** died June 9, 1865, and his *wife* died February 21, 1870. **J. F. Cooley, Jr.**, went to school and learned his letters after he was 18 years old. Mr. Cooley was probably the **first** tailor who ever worked at his trade in Ingham county. (Another record says that Mr. Cooley knew nothing of farming, or how to use any kind of tools except a tailor's shears and goose, but notwithstanding he made a successful farmer. He and his wife were induced to come to Michigan because of his trade and the fact that she was an expert weaver.

"I am of the opinion that Jacob F. Cooley, Jr., is today the oldest settler in the township of Lansing, and that he is the third now living in the county. His parents brought him into the county **May '18, 1836.**"

After a conversation with other members of the Pioneer Society, Mr. Cowles made these additional statements:

"**J. W. Longyear** commenced the practice of law in Mason in 1845 or 1846. He went to Lansing very soon after the location of the Capital, and became one of the most successful lawyers we had, and has been promoted out of sight of us all.

"The first child born in Lansing after the location of the Capital was **Catherine Alton**. The first marriage that of **Hiram Nichols**, who came from Eaton county and married a lady from Lyons. The first Sunday school celebration after the location was July 4th, 1848, on the ground where **F. M. Cowles** house now stands.

"I am also informed that the first singing school was taught by Clark Preston at Leslie in 1841, while others say that he first taught there in 1845."

Mr. Cowles also made the following statement to the State Republican about that time: "At the recent Pioneer meeting held in Mason, **H. H. North** and **C. C. Darling** both say I was mistaken in saying that the Cooley's were the first inhabitants of Lansing township, I have taken some pains to ascertain the following facts, which cannot be gainsaid, showing that **Jacob F. Cooley** and family were the first white inhabitants of the township. The tract books in the Auditor General's office show that **Jacob F.**

Cooley entered his land at the U. S. Land Office in Ionia, May 5th, 1837, and gave his residence as Ingham county, Michigan. Coe G. Jones entered his land October 3, 1837, and gave his residence as Monroe county, New York. No one will deny that Mr. Cooley settled here before he entered his land, which must certainly have been as early as the 10th of April, 1837.

"The statement of H. H. North that F. R. Luther visited the family of Coe Jones in the winter of 1837 is a mistake, as the letter of Catherine Jones, widow of Coe Jones, will prove. This visit must have been at least twelve months later, for the Jones family did not come into the county until about eight months after the visit was said to have been made. The accompanying letter of Mrs. Jones must convince every candid person that I was correct in my statement. 'Coe G. Jones had a piece of land on section 4 in Lansing township in October, 1837. I married him in York Center, Genesee county, New York, on the 11th day of September, 1838. Mr. Cooley's family came in the spring before we did; we moved into Lansing, October 16, 1838. We did not know that any family lived in the township until the spring of 1839, when our cattle strayed off, and in looking for them Mr. Jones found the Cooley's.

"I remember that F. R. Luther came to our house in the spring of 1839, My daughter Harriet was the first girl born in the township, and Nathan L. Cooley was the first boy born there. She was born on March 24, 1840, and he on January 6, 1840. Catherine Jones.' "

Mr. Cowles says: "People ask, where is Jefferson? I answer that Jefferson is not, but was once a village of thirteen houses, three and one-half miles north of Mason, and was a strong competitor for the county seat, George Howe, deceased, of Manchester, Washtenaw county, and a Mr. Noble, of Monroe, were the contending parties, and the latter succeeded."

J. P. COWLES.

The late A. E. Cowles, who compiled a history of Ingham county, says in his reminiscences this regarding Jefferson City: "The 'City of Jefferson' was located on section 89, in Alaiedon, at the junction of Mud Creek and the old road that ran north to Delhi, and later to Lansing.

"My father had purchased from George Howe, my mother's brother, one hundred and sixty acres of land, mostly in the city plat, with a log house on it, and the water privileges on twenty-five acres more, together with a saw mill run by the water of Mud Creek. No one crossing the creek at this point would ever imagine that it could have furnished power to run an upright saw through whitewood logs four and five feet in diameter; but it did for many months at a time, for five years that I remember. I have seen large fish, pickerel, suckers and mullet speared in its waters.

"It has been stated in histories of the county that there were thirteen log houses in the city, but there were not, besides the log school house there were only four. Those must have been countett that were from one to two miles away, in the Childs, Pierce, Strickland and Main neighborhoods."

The second annual meeting of the Pioneers of Ingham County was held at the court house on Tuesday, May 26, 1874. The day was beautiful-as much so as could be desired. A clear sky, gentle, cool breezes, with just that kind of sunshine that tempts mankind out of doors, Such favorable circumstances, together with the fact that the excellent program of exercises was well advertised, could not fail to bring out a crowd of early settlers and their friends to enjoy the recalling of memories of earlier days, in the speeches, songs, remarks and essays served up on this occasion. The house was well filled at an early hour, and the meeting throughout was by far the largest and most interesting of any held by the society.

Previous to the formal opening of the meeting in the forenoon about twenty-five persons handed in their names to the secretary as desiring to be members.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Rev. E. K. Grout, of Leslie, a pioneer minister.

A large choir of songsters, led by N. R. VanVranken, sang "Easter Anthem," after, which prayer was offered by Rev. G. W. Barlow.

The minutes of the last meeting of the pioneers was then read by the secretary, Peter Lowe, followed by singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the choir.

The names of pioneers who had died since the last annual meeting were read: James Hoffman, of Ingham; Mrs. Coe G. Jones, of

3 0 PIONEER HISTORY OF INGHAM COUNTY

Lansing; Mrs. Olive **Holden**, of Vevay; Thomas Humphrey, of Meridian; J. L. Huntington, of Vevay; Mrs. J. M. Williams, of Williamston, and Mrs. Huldah Atwood, of Ingham.

Short biographies were then read by the secretary of Mr. Huntington and Mrs. **Holden**, while Mr. North made a few remarks concerning Mrs. Jones. The choir sang "China."

Captain Cowles offered an amendment to article 9 of the Constitution which provided that persons who have resided in the State thirty years or over could become members of the society as well as those who had lived twenty-five or more years in, the county.

The secretary reported that township histories written in accordance with the instructions given at the last meeting had only been received from Lansing, Delhi, Williamston, Alaedon, Vevay, Aurelius, Stockbridge and Meridian.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, J. M. Williams, Williamston; Vice President, H. A. Hawley, Vevay; Secretary, Peter Lowe, Mason; Treasurer, Samuel Skadan, Ingham; Executive Committee: John M. French, Lansing; S. O. Russell, Leslie; Geo. **M.** Huntington, Mason.

The forenoon exercises closed with singing "Exhortation" and a benediction by Rev. P. P. Farnham.

A sumptuous dinner was enjoyed by all at the Moody Hotel,

AFTERNOON.

At the hour appointed the meeting was called to order by Dr. **McRobert**, and Hon. O. M. Barnes, speaker of the day, delivered a **most** excellent address. This proved to be the fullest, **most** exact and most interesting historical sketch of Ingham county probably in existence.

After the address short, spicy remarks were made by Hon. H. H. Smith, of Jackson; Hon. D. L. Case, of Lansing, and Wm. H. Horton, of Vevay.

W. A. Dryer, of Lansing, offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the executive committee to take measures to get full and complete histories of the towns and county, that they might be published. The meeting closed with singing the Doxology, and benediction by Rev. P. P. Farnham,

MR. BARNES' ADDRESS.

Of the county of Ingham previous to its occupation by its present inhabitants, some thirty-eight years ago, little need be said. That it was one of the chosen seats of the Indian tribes is indeed well known. And there are in different parts of the county unmistakable evidences of its having been occupied by that earlier race known as the mound builders of America.

A group of these mounds raised many hundreds of years ago existed until recently. Perhaps they still remain. On the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 25 in Aurelius, the tract originally settled by Josbua **G.** Bunk, now owned by Hiram Bristol, I first saw them in 1839 or 1840, when the log cabin of the first settler **WHY** being erected. The largest was five or six feet high, and on it large forest trees were standing.

Recently this mound was opened by Geo. **M.** Huntington and Mr. Bristol, and was found to contain, as is usual with mounds in Ohio, Indiana and other places, human bones, beads, etc. Mr. **Huntington** preserved the soil found there for some time, but it gradually crumbled to pieces. Two thousand years ago or more its possessor, a chief, or a leader of his people, resided with his race in this county.

On the northeast quarter of section 17, in Leslie, there existed (perhaps it can be seen yet, my last examination of it was in company with Mr. Huntington) an earthwork, manifestly the work of man, similar in all respects to those found in other parts of the United States. It was oblong in shape, one hundred and thirty by one hundred and eighty feet. The moats or ditches were much filled up, and the embankments were much worn away in places, but three or four feet high in most places. Large forest trees were growing all over the enclosure, and some of them on the embankment, No doubt similar structures were found in other parts of the county, for they have been found in various places throughout the State.

These things are generally believed by thoughtful inquirers to have been the work of an extinct race of men, who dwelt here long before the red man made it his home. In the mound opened by **Messrs.** Huntington and Bristol remains of the wood structure which originally shielded the human body were found. The best

judges think this race became extinct at least two thousand years ago.

When the white men first became acquainted with the county they found it for the most part a region of forest, dense forest. In some parts, chiefly along the south line, there were lands more thinly timbered, and quite destitute of undergrowth, and hence called "openings." In the southwest corner of Aurelius and the northwest corner of Onondaga, were the fertile and beautiful plains subsequently named after one of its earliest settlers, "Montgomery's Plains." The remainder of the county was almost wholly forest.

Grand River traversed the western and the Cedar the northern part of the county forming a junction at Lansing.

An Indian farm existed at Williamston and an Indian village on the site of Okemos. At the latter place resided the Chief Okemos and his band. He was a fine specimen of the native tribes, very venerable and dignified, both in appearance and action. He had been engaged on the side of the British during the war of 1812; was by the side of Tecumseh in the battle of the Thames, when he received a severe gunshot wound in the shoulder, which he used to claim came from a pistol of Richard M. Johnson. He lived to a great age, and died a few years ago. I have here his token given him by the agent of the British government.

The great highway of the Indians from Okemos south consisted of a well beaten trail passing Mason on south through section 26 in Aurelius.

INGHAM COUNTY.

The first application of this name to this territory was, so far as I can learn, in 1829. On the 29th day of October of that year an act was passed by the Territorial Legislature designating the territory now composing the county as Ingham county.

When I read the names of the cabinet of President Jackson you will see the origin of the names of several counties of this State, President-Andrew Jackson, Tennessee.

Vice President-John C. Calhoun, South Carolina,

Secretary of State-Martin VanBuren, New York.

Secretary of Treasury-Samuel D. Ingham, Pennsylvania.

Secretary of War—John H. Eaton, Tennessee.

Secretary of Navy—John Branch, North Carolina.

Attorney General—John M. Berrian, Georgia.

Postmaster General—Wm. T. Barry, Kentucky.

So Ingham county was named after President Jackson's Secretary of the Treasury.

1832.

The first entry or purchase of land in the county was made on the 9th of November, 1832. On that day Eri Price, who subsequently resided at Farmington, Oakland county, entered the west fractional of southeast quarter of section 21, in Meridian. It is within the village of Okemos, and was a part of the old Indian farm of Chief Okemos. You are on the land immediately after crossing the Cedar river on the road from Mason to Okemos. December 7th, 1882, DeGanno Janes, of Wayne county, Mich., entered the northeast fractional quarter of section 25, Meridian, now known as J. H. Mullett's farm.

1833.

In the spring of 1833, May 13, Sanford Marsh entered the south fractional quarter of southeast quarter of section 21, Meridian.

May 21, 1833, Henry Whitney, of Detroit, entered the west half of northwest quarter of section 5, in Leroy.

June 24, 1833, Cyrus Jackson, of Wayne county, Mich., entered south half of section 1, and south half of section 13, in Stockbridge, now the McKenzie farm.

May 15, Henry Whitney entered east one-half of northwest quarter of section 29 and north fractional quarter of section 33, and north fractional quarter of southwest quarter of section 36, Williamston.

December 9, Joseph B. Putnam, of Washtenaw county, entered the north fractional quarter of southwest quarter of section 36, Williamston.

At the same time Hiram Putnam entered north fractional of southeast quarter of section 35, both in the present village of Williamston.

1834.

This year **Richard R. Lowe**, then of Washtenaw county, entered his land in **Stockbridge** on sections 2 and 8, on the 5th of November.

Stiles Perry, of Washtenaw county, entered the northeast quarter of southwest quarter section 82, **Locke**, March 1 ii.

Peter Cranston and **Oliver Booth** both entered lands in **Onondaga**, the latter in the village of **Onondaga**, on land now owned by **Mr. Pierson**,

The first settlement made in the county was in March, 1834, by **David Rogers**. On the 20th of February, 1834, **John Davis** entered land on section 36 in **Stockbridge**. **David Rogers** was a son-in-law of **Davis**. They resided at this time in **Lima**, Washtenaw county. The frame of a small house was made in **Lima**, loaded onto sleighs soon after this land was entered, and brought and erected on it to become the home of **Rogers**; as stated, **Rogers** and his family settled on east half of southeast quarter, and southeast quarter of northeast quarter of section 36 in March, 1834.

So the first settlement was in **Stockbridge** and the first settler was **David Rogers**.

Soon after this **Joseph B.** and **Hiram Putnam** made an unsuccessful attempt at settlement in **Williamston**. They abandoned it after raising a crop of oats there in 1834, but before harvesting it.

1835.

In January of this year **Heman Lowe** entered the southeast quarter of southeast quarter of section 33, **White Oak**.

On June 19, **Luther Branch**, of Washtenaw, entered east half of southeast quarter section 33, **Bunkerhill**.

August 3, 1835, **Ira N. Blossom** and **D. Essner**, of Erie county, N. Y., entered west half of northwest quarter and west half of southeast quarter section 36, **Wheatfield**.

September 17, **Silas Holt**, of Orleans county, N. Y., entered west half of southeast quarter, section 36, in **Ingham**.

September 23, **Wm. Townsend** entered west half of southwest quarter section 4, east fractional half of southeast quarter section 5, north fractional half of northeast quarter section 8, north fractional of northwest quarter section 9, entire section 20 and north half of 21, **Lansing**.

November 3, 1835, **Wm. W. Harwood** entered southeast quarter section 32, **Leslie**.

November 20, **Charles Thayer**, of Ann Arbor, entered west half of northeast quarter and east half of northwest quarter, section 12, and other lands iii **Vevay**.

October 12, **Nathaniel Silsbee** entered west half of section 6, **Aurelius**.

December 17, **John Montgomery** entered southwest quarter and southwest quarter of southeast quarter, section 31, **Aurelius**.

1836.

This year and 1837 were especially remarkable for the great rush of land buyers.

Stockbridge was organized this year by Act of March 26, 1836. This was the first town organization in the county. The first town meeting seems to have been held April 3, 1837.

January 28, 1830, **Charles Noble** entered the lands now occupied by the village of **Mason**.

February 19, **Daniel Goodwin** entered the west half of northwest quarter and west half of southwest quarter section 18, **Alaiedon**.

April 12, **Spencer Markham** entered the southwest quarter of section 32, and **William Page** the north fractional half of southwest quarter of section 30, **Delhi**.

H. H. Smith settled in **Ingham** early this year, and **E. P. Danforth** at **Mason**.

LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT.

An event looked upon by the majority of the few settlers at that time as of great importance took place early in the year. I refer to the first location of the county seat. Many of those whose acquaintance with the county of **Ingham** is limited to modern times are perhaps ignorant of the fact that anciently the county seat—the shire town—was at the quarter post between 1 and 12 in **Vevay**, or rather town 2 north, range 1 west. For in that earlier time townships went by numbers and not by names. Such, however, was the fact. There are forgotten cities, city sites covered with forests or wheatfields plowed by the farmer, or bunted over

by the huntsman, in Ingham county as well as in old countries like Egypt and Asia.

The city of Ingham is one of these. Once the capital of what is now, at least, a great and prosperous county, Now it constitutes the site of several farms.

The Territorial law authorized the Governor to appoint a commission to locate county seat sites. In the winter of 1835 and **1836**, three commissioners were appointed under this law to locate the county site of this county. They were Washington Wing, of Washtenaw, Mr. Brown, of Detroit, and Mr. Crawford, of Livingston. In company with Mr. Charles Thayer, long a worthy citizen of this county, the commissioners and two or three of their friends visited the county in March. The snow was quite deep. After visiting the place where Mason now is, and some other points, they established the site, as I have said, at the quarter post between sections 1 and 12 in Vevay. Of course there was no house there at that time, nor until years after. Yet the legal site remained at this point until 1840, though no legal business was done there. In 1840 the site was removed to Mason by act of the Legislature.

1837.

By act of March 3, the town of Aurelius, comprising the west half of the county, was organized, the first meeting to be held at the house of Elijah Woodworth.

By the same act, Ingham, containing towns 2 and 3 north, range 1 east, and 2 and 3 north, range 2 east, was organized. The first meeting was held at Caleb Carr's.

The first town meeting ever held in the county took place this year in the town of Stockbridge, at David T. Comfort's, on April 3. Orrin Gregory was elected supervisor; Peter Lowe, clerk; David Rogers, Ira, Wood Royal Stevens, and Heman Lowe, justices of the peace; Eron B. Webster, treasurer.

Leslie was organized by act of December 30. The first town meeting was held at Henry Tusk's.

1838.

Onondaga was organized this year by act of March 6. The first meeting was held at the home of Barney Johnson.

Vevay was organized by the same act, the first meeting was held at the public house in Mason. It seems there was a public house then in Mason.

Alaiedon, containing the four northwest towns (Lansing, Meridian, Delhi and Alaiedon), was organized this year by act of March 13. The first meeting was held at the school house in the village of Jefferson.

So slow was the progress of intelligence then that the news of this act did not reach here until the night of town meeting day. The election for Aurelius as previously constituted was held at Jefferson. At night gratification on the election was disturbed by finding that the act had passed changing the town organization; at that consequently the election of the day was void. Aurelius had been left by the act as it now is.

Both towns held new town meetings that same week, electing officers, and in March, 1839, an act was passed making the meeting valid.

COUNTY ORGANIZED.

The county was organized this year (1838) by act of April 5, 1838. The act provided that the courts, until permanent buildings should be erected at the county site, should be held at such place as the Board of Supervisors or Commissioners should determine. It also provided that an election for county officers should be held on the first Tuesday in June, 1838, the votes to be canvassed at the dwelling house nearest the county site.

The canvass was held at the house of Hiram Parker in Vevay, June 7, 1838. Number of votes cast in the county, 159. The officers elected were:

Sheriff-Richard R. Low.

Clerk—Valorus Meeker.

Register-Minos McRobert.

Associate Judges-Amos E. Steele and Ephraim B. Danforth.

Judge of -Probate-Peter Linderman.

County Surveyor-Anson Jackson.

Coroners-Horatio N. Forbes and James Phelps.

Mr. Meeker returned to Vermont and died. Mr. Danforth, Mr. Linderman, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Phelps died in this county. The others are still living. (1874.)

The first board of supervisors met in the county October 2, 1838, The members were:
 Vevay-Peter Linderman. Stockbridge—Orrin Gregory.
Leslie—Benjamin Davis. Onondaga—Amos E. Steele.
 Aurelius-John Barnes. Alaiedon-Wm. Lewis.
 Ingham-Henry Lee.
 County Commissioners—Jacob Loomis, Henry Lee and Peter Linderman.

At the general election in 1838, 260 votes were cast, and the following officers elected :

- Representative-Kingsley S. Bingham,
- Sheriff-Amaziah Winchell.
- Clerk-Peter Low.
- Treasurer-Hiram H. Smith,
- Register—Minos McRobert.**
- Associate Judge-Amos E. Steele,
- Judge of Probate-Valorus Meeker.
- Surveyor-Anson Jackson,,
- County Commissioners-Linderman, Loomis and Lee.

Board of Supervisors met October 22, of this year, in Mason, and at this session it was moved and carried "that every **inhabitant** of the county of Ingham that shall kill a wolf shall receive for killing the same \$2.50."

Another proceeding of the Board, 'October 22, was that "moved and carried that the circuit court for said county be established at the village of Mason."

1839.

Bunkerhill was organized this year, by act of March 21.

Phelpstown, embracing Locke and Williamston, was organized March 22, By the same act Brutus, containing Wheatfield and Leroy, was organized.

Charles P. Bush and Amos E. Steele were elected **Representatives**, and Wm. Dryer, County Commissioner,

Ephraim B. Danforth and Amos E. Steele were Associate **J u d g e s .**

The assessment rolls of this year show the valuation of taxable property in the various towns, and the town expenses to be as follows :

Town.	Valuation.	Expenses.
Leslie	\$51,565.00	\$320.10
Aurelius	an, 946.00	179.75
Bunkerhill	45,372.00	69.28
Vevay	52,956.00	212.73
Brutus	113,929.00	121.79
Alaiedon	180,611.00	245.12
Stockbridge	78,497.00	172.73
White Oak	56,751.00	135.00
Ingham	61,034.00	77.99
Phelpstown	115,729.00	550.00
Onondaga	61,292.00	156.88
Total		\$867,700.00
County tax, \$2,600.		

1840.

Leroy was organized March 19.

The old county site on sections 1 and 12, Vevay, was vacated and Mason made the county seat by act of March 6, 1840.

Associate judges-John R. Bowdish and Amos E. Steele.

County officers-Charles P. Bush and Kingsley S. Bingham, Representatives for Ingham, and Livingston counties; Amaziah Winchell, Sheriff; Geo. W. Shafer, Clerk; John W. Burchard, Treasurer; Zaccheus Barnes, Register; John R. Bowdish, Associate Judge; Caleb Carr, Commissioner; Anson Jackson, Surveyor. Population of the county, 2,498.

1841.

Brutus was changed to Wheatfield by act of March 20.

County officers-John M. French and H. II. Smith, **Representatives**; Amaziah Winchell, Sheriff; Anson Jackson, County Clerk.

1842.

Delhi, Lansing and Meridian were organized by act of February 16, 1842.

Associate judges-E. B. Danforth and John R. Bowdish. County officers-Hiram H. Smith, Representative; Nathaniel

Hammond, Sheriff; Peter Low, Clerk; Thomas North, Register; Jason B. Packard, Treasurer; Hiram Fiske, Probate Judge; Anson Jackson, County Surveyor.

1843.

This year the first court house in the county was built on lots 3 and 4 of Block 17, Mason, where the stores of Barnes and Sack-rider now are.

From the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors is taken the following December 88, 1842: "Moved and seconded that there be an appropriation of \$800 to build a court house, \$200 of real estate and \$600 of State bonds. Carried."

Building Committee:

MINOS McROBERT.
PETER LINDERMAN.
GEO. MATHEWS,
BENJ. DAVIS.
SAMUEL SKADAN.

"Resolved, That the committee appointed to receive proposals and make a contract for building a court house be instructed that if they cannot let the job for \$500 or less, of twenty-eight feet by thirty-four, with eighteen foot posts, that they make a proposal and contract for a house as large as can be built for eight hundred dollars."

The supervisors were: Joseph E. North, Lansing; Roswell Everett, Delhi; Jonathan Snyder, Aurelius; Joseph Gale, Onondaga; Benj. Davis, Leslie; Peter Linderman, Vevay; Edwin D. Tryon, Alaiedon, Melzer Turner, Meridian; Jas. M. Williams, Phelpsstown; William Tompkins, Wheatfield; Samuel Skadnn, Ingham; Lewis Case, Bunkerhill; Joseph Hunt, Stockbridge; John Clements, White Oak; Orrin Dana, Leroy; David Phelps, Locke,

1844.

At the general election this year the candidates for Representatives received votes from the two counties comprising the Representative District as follows:

	Ingham.	Eaton.
Whitney Jones, Whig	449	434
Minos McRobert, Democrat.	450	371
Johnson Montgomery, Abolition.	50	48

County officers-Representative, Whitney Jones; Sheriff, Joseph Hunt; Clerk, John Coatsworth; Register, Wm. H. Horton; Treasurer, Geo. Mathews; Surveyor, Anson Jackson.

The salary of the treasurer, including expenses to Detroit, was \$400; clerk salary, \$175.

Location of the State Capital at Lansing.

One of the most important events in the public history of the county was the locating within its limits of the Capital of the State.

This event occurred in the year 1847.

Previous to this time the seat of government of the Territory and State of Michigan had been in Detroit. The constitution of 1836 contained a provision making it the duty of the Legislature to permanently locate the Capital in the year 1847. The people expected such location to be made and from all parts propositions were made to induce the law-making department to make location desired by petitioners.

James Seymour, acting for himself, his brother Horatio Seymour, and others interested at Lansing, submitted a proposition in favor of the present location. Early in the session, Hon. George B. Throop, a representative from Wayne county, introduced a bill into the House, entitled, "A bill to locate the Capital pursuant to section nine of article twelve, of the Constitution of this State."

Of course the introducer of the bill hoped, and doubtless expected, that it would pass in a form fixing permanently the location at Detroit. It was not destined to so pass. Before its final passage it underwent many changes, and had a very exciting career. At first it was referred to a committee of the whole, but subsequently committed to a select committee, consisting of Mr. Throop, the introducer, Messrs. Chubb of Washtenaw, Arzeno of Monroe, Marantette of St. Joseph, J. D. Pierce of Calhoun, Goodrich of Genesee, and Bell of Ionia.

On February 4 the bill was reported back without amendment. On the 10th of February the Representative from Ingham county,

Hon. Joseph H. Kilbourne, submitted the communication from James Seymour, offering inducements to locate in Lansing.

Bear in mind that at this time Lansing was a wilderness. The town contained only a few inhabitants and nothing existed within the limits of the city except the mill at the lower town and one house, that of Joab Page, who, with his son Isaac C. Page, his sons-in-law, Geo. D. Pease, Whitney Smith and Alvin Rolfe and their wives, were the only residents of Lansing at that time,

On my way from home (in Aurelius) to the school at Delta, in 1841 I passed over the ground where the city of Lansing now stands. The native forest was undisturbed. No pioneer's cabin was as yet there.

John Woolsey Burchard, originally a resident of Mason, and the first lawyer who made this county his home, went to Lansing in 1842. He erected the dam across the river there and began the erection of mills. He was accidentally drowned just below the dam in the spring of 1843.

In 1849 Mr. Page and his family came. The work of improvement continued slowly, so at the time of which I am speaking, February, 1847, there were the house and the families I have mentioned. Beyond this there was nothing but the fine water power, the central location, a fertile soil and handsome county to commend the location. The State still held the school section on which the present city is largely built. As yet it had not found a purchaser at \$4 an acre, though a splendid tract of land. No doubt the advantage to the State to arise from a location on so large a tract of its own land had some influence in inducing the adoption of this site. An influence that has been justified by results, for the State has realized a large sum for the sale of lots on this section. But the fact that the section remained unsold shows how little this part of the State had as yet been developed.

The discussion regarding the location of the Capital was continued in the Legislature for many days. A blank existed in the bill for the name of the place. There was no lack of names proposed, among them appearing Grand Blanc in Genesee county, Saginaw City, Byron in Shiawassee county, Lyons in Ionia county, and also Eaton Rapids.

At length on February 11, on motion of our member, Mr. Kilbourne, "the township of Lansing, in the county of Ingham," was

inserted in the bill by the committee of the whole. When the report came before the House efforts were made to strike out Lansing and insert, first, Detroit, then Marshall, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Albion, Utica, Corunna, Eaton Rapids, Dexter and Copper Harbor, one after the other. A vote was finally reached and the amendment of the committee of the whole inserting Lansing was concurred in by a vote of 35 to 27. The bill was on the 12th of February ordered engrossed and read a third time by a vote of 40 to 24.

On the next day it came up for final passage in the House, and after many unsuccessful motions to recommit, it was passed by a vote of 48 to 17.

On the 14th it went to the Senate, where it experienced a career similar to that in the House. A Senate bill for the same purpose was pending at the same time, and location was the troublesome thing all the way through. After trying to have some other place named as the Capital, and much inserting and cutting out done, the Senator from this district, Hon. E. B. Danforth, moved to reinstate the "township of Lansing, in the county of Ingham," and the same was done by a vote of 11 to 10. So it was carried in the Senate by a majority of one only. How many fates have at different times hung on a single vote!

This was on the 8th of March. An earnest contest followed to strike out Lansing and insert other places, without success, however, and on the following day the bill passed by a vote of 12 to 8.

The act received the approval of the executive on the 16th of March, 1847. Like many other laws of great importance, this act is not lengthy.

It is as follows: "An act to locate the Capital, pursuant to section nine of article twelve of the Constitution of the State. Section 1-Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan that the seat of government of this State shall be in the township of Lansing, county of Ingham. Approved March 16th, 1847."

By a subsequent act, also approved on March 16, provision was made for selecting the site in Lansing for the erection of temporary buildings, for the platting of a town, the name of which was to be "Michigan," and for the removing of archives and offices to it by

December 25, 1847, and for the meeting of the Legislature there in January, 1848.

To carry out the provisions of the act three Commissioners were appointed by the Governor—James Glenn, of Cass county; **Daniel Smart**, of **Detroit**, and **Alonzo Ferris**.

They met at Lansing on May 20th, 1847, and on the 22nd decided on the present site, which is at the center of the school section (16) in town 4, north of range 2 west. A village or town of "Michigan" was soon platted, including all of section 16 and some adjoining territory,

Joseph L. Huntington, **John M. French** and **Richard Ferris**, all of this county, were appointed to appraise or price the lots belonging to the State.

At the time the seat of government was so located at **Lansing**, **Ephraim B. Danforth** was Senator and **Joseph H. Kilbourne** Representative from this county. Mr. Danforth then resided at **Mason**. He was one of the original proprietors of **Mason**, and made the first settlement here in **1836**. After the location of the Capital at **Lansing** he removed to that place, where he remained until his death, which occurred in **1856**. He was a man of great energy and a very useful citizen. He occupied a very conspicuous position in our county, and is connected with our earliest history and most important events. He has held many important offices, having been associate judge from 1835 to 1840, and from 1842 to 1846.

I have been told that when the name of **Lansing** was first proposed in the Legislature for the seat of government he gave it very little favor, not thinking it possible to effect such location. This view receives some support from the fact that Senator **Pebton** of **Flint**, introduced **Mr. Seymour's** communication in favor of **Lansing** in the Senate. When, however, the action of the House gave unexpected hope that the effort might be successful, **Mr. Danforth** exerted himself efficiently in favor of this location. **Mr. Kilbourne** was in favor of the present location from the first, and to him belongs the honor of first suggesting this location. He still lives in this county on his farm in **Meridian**, lives to see the fruits of his exertion and to receive the gratitude of his constituents for the part he took in this important transaction.

It is not possible in this address to do justice to the many

friends of the measure who then resided outside the county. **Hon. Charles P. Bush**, then Senator from **Livingston** county, and **Hon. Geo. W. Peck**, the Speaker of the House. Both were earnest and enthusiastic friends of the measure, and soon took up their home in **Lansing**.

To enable you to appreciate the progress this county has made, there was in this county, according to the census of **1870**, **25,268** inhabitants, of which **5,244** were in **Lansing**. That gave the county **35.5** persons to each square mile outside of **Lansing**, while **Jackson** county, outside the city of **Jackson**, had but **34** people to each square mile.

In other words, the country outside of the two cities, **Jackson** in the one county and **Lansing** in the other, is more populous in the woods of **Ingham** than in the open lands of **Jackson**. I find an argument here in favor of timbered lands.

At the time the county was organized in **1838** settlers were in every township in the county. Let us stop for a moment to contemplate those hardy adventurous pioneers.

Pioneers are to be associated with discoverers and inventors. High in our esteem stands the great discoverers like **Columbus** and the great inventors like **Gutenberg**, **Newton**, **Franklin** and **Morse**. And fortunate are those who are able to connect their names honorably with the discovery of countries, the origin of States, the invention of useful arts or implements, the discovery of new modes in science, or new laws in nature.

The founders of States are justly held in grateful remembrance. These **Ingham** county pioneers were founders of new communities, communities which are now prosperous municipalities.

The first of every nation occupies a very conspicuous, and in some respects a very fortunate place in history. The mind delights to trace things to their beginnings, and to dwell on the causes and actors that are connected with beginnings.

The people of **Italy** have looked upon **Aeneas** as the introducer of civilization into their country. Heroic poetry has celebrated his deeds and his virtues in matchless verse, and the inhabitants have regarded him as "pious **Aeneas**." **Romulus** is regarded as the founder of **Rome**. Go where you will in the seven-hilled city and you find monuments commemorating his name and adding to his fame.

We, as a nation, are not unmindful of our own founders. For example, Joh'n Smith and his associate settlers in Virginia. Wm. Bradford and his associate founders of Plymouth Colony are enshrined in our memories.

The pioneer belongs to the same class. His theatre in general is not so conspicuous. He is only the founder of a county, a town or a city, perhaps, but he is n founder, and if n true founder of prosperous municipalities he is forever blessed. I have no praises to bestow upon those who live in the woods and the wilds because they prefer rudeness to civility, and the hnunts of savage life to the abodes of civilization. I commend those heroic spirits who brave the privations nnd dangers of the howling wildcrnss, in order to make it the home of civilization and refinement. These are effectual proclaimers in the milderness of the glad tidings of civilization. These arc missionnrics indeed, in deeds more than words. They nre planters of institutions which grow to become States, or counties or towns, according to the reach of their operations. The founders of Ingham county gave another, nnd as we now see, an important municipality to the State.

The planting of new communities in the wilderness is not accomplished without heroism nnd toil. There are heroes and mnrtyrs, too, in the army of pioneers. It is common for heroism to be admired by mankind in proportion as the events with which it is connected nre striking or conspicuous. The chief who lends the army to victory is much more generally admired and applauded than the common soldier who exhibits the same virtue in equal degree. Noble deeds are not limited to persons of high rank or position. Noble qualities and thrilling incidents are found in the lives of the unconsipuous as well as in the exalted, though unnoticed and unrecorded. This is true of the unwritten life of the pioneer,

I have always admired the virtues while I contemplated the lives and history of these early founders. I knew them well and was n witness of their courage and endurance, nnd in some degree was a sharer of their labor and their pleasures.

Take a common case. I have many similar ones in mind. A young mnn of twenty-two hns just married a wife of twenty, in one of the eastern States. They decide to seek their fortunes in the unsettled west. They leave that parental roof, bid adieu to

the mothers who reared them, and turn from weeping faces to find a home, not among strangers, but where no white man's abode has ever been built. Accumulations from their own industry, or the parental endowment, has enabled them to purchase of the government a 40, 80 or 160 acre tract of land. Upon this they enter and commence the work of life in earnest-this stout-hearted young mnn and his happy but now thoughtful hride-hc all the stronger for loving her, she 'all the braver to endure for loving him. The land is covered with an untouched wilderness in all directions, Hastily a few trees nre chopped away, n log cabin erected, and the first housekeeping begins. It seems the work of a lifetime to clear away the forest. Years may pass, it may be, before another settler will be near. There are women in this county now, or were until recently, who lived in the wilderness here for years without seeing another white woman. Now behold this young mnrried pair as I have seen them, and tell me if they were not brave. See them as they stnnd alone beneath the canopy of spreading oaks, he in his shirt sleeves, ax in band, and she in her neat but fitting dress, and listen to their discussions and note their plans.

You hear him say, "In time these woods will disappear, for work will do it. On that rise of ground we will build our house, here shall be our barn nnd there our orchard. Just here will be the place for our well. My wheat fields and my meadows I have planned for, and your flower beds can be close to the garden. Here, my dear, shall be n home as rich and beautiful in time as your father's home. Time and labor will affect it."

The work before him is, indeed, great. The present is full of privations, but a charming picture of the future rises before him, and they both look forward to the time when they can see the realization of their hopes.

The pioneers before me who can remember the pictures they painted ns they began their new life, have, I rejoice to say, lived to realize the fulfillment of their hopes, and have the comfortable home that fancy pictured to them thirty-five years ago. Look over the county and see it now. Note what has happened. So far as needful the forest has been cleared away and prosperous farms are everywhere met. The woodland county has become

one of the wealthiest and best. Yes, it is also the capital county of the State.

Tell me, then, were not the pioneers brave, and have they not signalized their bravery by a glorious conquest, a new proof that

“Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war?”

Long may they live to enjoy the conquest.”

The third annual meeting of the Pioneer Society of Ingham County was held at the court house in Mason on May 25, 1875.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Wm. A. Dryer; Vice President, Henry A. Hawley; Secretary, Peter Lowe; Treasurer, Samuel Skadan. Executive Committee: **J. M.** French, Lansing; **Geo. M.** Huntington, Mason; **M. McRobert**, Mason,

The secretary read the names of pioneers who had died during the year:

Oliver Griffin, Mason, aged 89.

Ephraim Rolfe, Vevay, aged 52.

James Reeves, Stockbridge, aged 62.

David Rogers, Stockbridge, aged 77.

Sally Gunn, Delhi,

Hon. **J. W.** Longyear, Detroit.

Wm. Huntoon, Leslie, aged 56.

Ron. O. M. Barnes was called upon to explain the duties of the town historical committees. He suggested that they first learn what land was earliest located in the town; next the first settlement in the town; then its organization into a municipality, which can be found in the laws and records of the town. Then they should follow its history, giving the names of officers elected from year to year; the history of the leading citizens, giving the number of votes cast at township meetings and also the number of inhabitants.

The more of detail the better, as a full and complete history of each township will be very valuable, and grow more so from year to year.

Upon motion of the speaker the secretary was instructed to prepare and have printed, to send to each member: of the com-

mittee, a set of questions and suggestions calculated to aid them in procuring the desired information respecting the various towns.

It was suggested that the stories and speeches be restricted to ten minutes, and one remarked that those who knew enough interesting things to take him over ten minutes to tell should be allowed the time, which led **Amaziah** Winchell, of Ingham, to say “the men that know the least usually talk the longest.”

Thales Huntoon, of Leslie, led off, stating that he came into the county in 1840, and had lived in the town of Leslie most of the time since. He had many pleasant, as well as unpleasant, recollections of the early days of his life here. He was only a boy when he came, and claimed to be not much more than a boy yet. He related one incident of his early life. Being detained quite late one evening while visiting a lady of his acquaintance, he found it necessary to go home in the dark, part of the way through the woods with no house nearer than a mile and a half. As he entered the woods he heard a loud noise that caused his hair to raise on end. He picked up a club, accelerated his speed somewhat, losing a boot heel in his haste, glad to reach his home with no worse mishap. The next day a huge bear was killed near where he heard the noise. The greatest trouble of all was, he said, that he did not get the girl he risked his life for.

Elijah Woodworth, of Leslie, said he was forcibly struck with the idea of contrast on this occasion. He contrasted the present with the time when he located land in this county in 1835, and settled on it the next year. He supposed he was the first man to build a house in the county. As he traveled the length and breadth of the county in choosing a location he did not see a single white man. He spoke of the many advantages of the present as compared with those of earlier days; the schools, churches, cars, beautiful farms and good houses, where then was only the wild forest. He thought the present generation was happy, “physically, but not more so mentally, than we were. We dreamed that some such time was to come, but the realization has greatly surpassed our expectations. Our farms for which we paid \$1.25 per acre are now worth as many hundred dollars per acre.”

Wm. A. Dryer said he would tell a “sort of scare story,” in contrast to Mr. Woodworth’s remarks. In 1838 he used to go to Caleb Carr’s, some distance from home, to get the mail. On the

way he had to pass through a dense thicket in the woods, near Hiel Phelps's house. One night after leaving Phelps's house he felt an unusual timidity—a feeling he had never had before. He felt that something was going to happen to him. As he neared the thicket he heard the noise of some animal walking in the leaves. He made up his mind he had got to meet a bear. He thought it would not do to be a coward and run, so he mustered up his courage and moved on. Pretty soon he could distinguish something passing between him and a large white stone that was quite plainly seen in the darkness. He felt sure Mr. Bear was there and there would have to be a fight or else some tall running, when he heard "ugh, ugh," and an old sow ran off into the thicket. His hair settled back on his head and he went on home.

Amaziah Winchell, of Tngham, said so many pleasant recollections of the past came crowding his memory that he hardly knew where to begin. He thought the hardships of pioneer life were often more in the imagination than in reality. He came, a poor man's son, to Michigan in 1833, from a land of rocks, clay and hard work. He first settled in Washtenaw county, and in 1836 located the farm in Ingham township on which he still lives. He related an interesting incident of his being lost in the woods one night from having taken the wrong trail.

H. A. Hawley, Vevay, said he would promise the pioneers to prepare some remarks for the next annual meeting. He had promised his wife and children that when he reached the age of GO he would not work so hard as in the past, but take his ease. That time was drawing near, and he had so much to do before it arrived that he had not had time to prepare anything for the present occasion. At the first town meeting, when Ingham and Leslie were one, he had the honor of being elected constable, Mr. Critchett, of Leslie, was town clerk. He related the story of his adventures in coming home in the night from Mr. Critchett's where he had gone to qualify for his office. On his way home he tried to follow the shore of Sycamore Creek, but after stepping off into deep water once he dared not risk it any longer, so made his way to the Hogsback and followed that, knowing it would lead him to Mason. A wild animal about fifteen feet from him at one time caused his hair to stand on end, but a flash of lightning revealed that it was only a deer. He reached Mason at

two o'clock in the morning and went to Judge Danforth's and crawled into bed with him.

R. P. Griffin, of Mason, gave an interesting account of his father's early experience in a little one-story shoe shop, where now stands the finest three-story building in town. He also related an incident connected with his mother, in which she thought she had discovered a bear in the woods at night as she was passing along, but when she called for help her would-be rescuer found it was only a black stump.

John J. Tuttle, of Leslie, said he hardly felt at home trying to make a speech, but if it was an auction he would feel different about it. He said, "If you had to wait three or four weeks before you could raise 25 cents to get a letter out of the post office from your father, as I had to in my early pioneer days, you would notice a contrast between the value of money now and then." He gave a vivid description of life in the woods when a team would not pass his home oftener than once in two or three months." He alluded in an amusing manner to Hon. O. M. Barnes making black salts with which to pay for his education; how he and his brother John went to Jackson to sell them and became so smitten at the sight of a young girl on the way (not seeing them very often at home) that they let the ox team run away and dump the salts in the mill dam. He said women did not have to get down on their knees and scrub floors then as they do now, for oftentimes they did not have enough floor on which to make a grease spot.

Smith Tooker, who built the first shanty in Lansing, was called upon for a speech but declined on the ground that he was not a natural orator.

A resolution was presented and adopted, which designated pioneers as those having lived in Michigan thirty years and in Ingham county twenty-five years.

The fourth annual meeting was held May 23, 1876, at the M. E. church in Mason, at which time a committee was appointed to consider changing the time of meeting, and it was voted that in the future it should be held on the second Tuesday in June.

The president, W. A. Dryer, gave a very interesting address in which he noted the many changes that had taken place in the northern part of the county where he settled in the Fall of 1836. He said, in addition:

"When I think of the old pioneers all over the county, one by one, as I very often do. my heart swells with emotion and true brotherly love. Most especially should we be careful of the fair fame of those who have gone to their reward. Many of them had warm friends, some of whom may be with us today, and we should respect their feelings. They, the dead, are but just a step or two before us, just over the line, and we too will soon have told our last pioneer story to the friends here.

"Not only for the above named object do we meet, but to obtain and hand down to posterity an authentic history of the first settlement of each township in the county, with incidents and anecdotes, joys and sorrows, deprivations and hardships of individuals, that all in turn experienced more or less, which could not fail to make an interesting volume which we could sell for enough to pay all expenses and leave a handsome balance in the treasury.

"The initiatory steps have been taken, committees have been appointed with this end in view, and some considerable progress has been made of which we shall be informed by the secretary, and I hope before the close of the meeting today the consummation of this much desired object may be assured."

At this meeting a man from each township was appointed to report the death of pioneers to the secretary, so that they might be tabulated.

As in every preceding meeting the historical committee was urged to bring in all the interesting material it had been able to collect.

The officers of last year were re-elected, with the following Executive Committee: Wm. H. Horton, Vevay; O. M. Barnes, Lansing; J. M. Williams, Williamston.

Fifth annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Society was held at the M. E. church in Mason on May 29, 1877, and opened in due form,

The secretary reported the following deaths during the year:

Israel Ames, Lansing, aged 80,
Hiram B. Puller, Leslie, aged 70.
John Strickland, Alaiedon, aged 60.
Israel Chapman, Alaiedon, aged 62.
Ephrhim Meech, Leroy.
Nichols Lewis, Vevay.

James Harkness, Leslie.
Mary Austin, Leslie.
John D. Bohannon, Aurelius.
John Willoughby, Aurelius.

The officers elected were: President, Almon M. Chapin, Vevay; Vice President, I. H. North, Delhi; Secretary, Peter Lowe, Mason; Treasurer, R. L. McRobert, Mason; Executive Committee: J. M. Williams, Williamston; J. P. Cowles, Lansing, Andrew Hunt, Ingham.

In spite of the fact that many of those gathered had passed the allotted span of "three-score years and ten," they were a jolly, sturdy lot, and it was a pleasure to hear them recount their adventures and tell of their trials and triumphs as they "made the wilderness to blossom like the rose," and turned a wilderness into smiling meadows and cornfields. After toil comes rest, and now these old men are reaping the harvest for which they sowed amid so many hardships in early days.

The chairman stated that efforts had been made to secure the early history of each township, but without success. A committee was appointed for this purpose by the State society, but it has accomplished its mission only in part.

The following incidents were related by pioneers present, which throws some light on activities at an early day.

R. Tryon told of the difficulties the pioneers were obliged to overcome as they cleared the land and raised their log dwellings.

Wm. Cook, who now owns a fine farm in Delhi, went to mill in a wagon the wheels of which were made from sections sawed from a large log.

S. O. Russell settled in Leslie in 1836 and helped organize the west half of Ingham county into the township of Aurelius.

I. H. North came into the county in 1837. He said they got along very well except when the family were sick, and then they realized what pioneer life meant. Dr. McRobert, of Mason, who was the only doctor anywhere accessible, was his family physician.

Mrs. David Rogers, the first white woman in Ingham county, was present. She settled in Stockbridge in 1833. The next year Peter Lowe's father settled in the same town and supposed

for some time that he was the first settler, when he discovered the family, of Mr. **Rogers**, six miles distant.,

Mrs. Presley, Peter Lowe's oldest sister, planted the first gooseberry and currant bushes in this county.

Mr. Woodworth, eighty-five years of age, said the first voting was done in Leslie in 1838. A committee selected the candidates and they were voted into office in about five minutes. Thirty-four votes were cast.

Wm. **H. Horton** said the town officers were chosen the same way in Vevny for the first two years. In 1848 there were three parties—Democratic, Free Soil and Whig.

Garrett Dubois, of Bunkerhill, built the first frame barn.

J. J. Tuttle, of Leslie, settled there in the woods in 1838, and lived there four years before a team passed his shanty. He made a living by burning trees into ashes and manufacturing black-salts in the winter and making maple sugar in the spring.

George Webb, of Aurelius, came to Michigan when Jackson contained only three houses. When he got to Mason he found only one habitation, and that was a log shanty occupied by a man named James Blaine. It stood near the spot where the residence of Judge Steele now stands. He helped chop ten acres in what is now the city of Mason. He and Dr. **McRobert** cut the first crop of oats with a sickle. He bought his first yoke of oxen with the bounty paid by the State for wolf scalps.

Ira Rolfe moved to the fine farm he owns in the southern part of Vevay in 1836, and has lived there ever since.

There were others present who could have told equally interesting incidents, but time would not allow it. All enjoyed these reminiscences of by-gone days and looked eagerly forward to the next annual meeting for a continuation of these stories.

June 11, 1878, the sixth annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Society was held at the county fair grounds, where five long tables were spread and laden with all the delicacies of the season, to which those present did full justice.

The secretary reported the following deaths since the last meeting:

Leslie—Hiram W. Hull, Rev. Ezra Rummery, Rev. E. K. Grout,

Mason—Amos E. Steele.

Ingham—Jabez W. Brown.

Delhi—Almon D. Aldrich.

Bunkerhill—Lucius Lord.

The following officers were elected: President, Wm. H. Clark, Mason; Vice President, Wm. A. Dryer, Lansing; Secretary, Peter Lowe, Mason; Treasurer, J. A. Barnes, Mason; Executive Committee: S. O. Russell, Leslie; H. A. Hawley, Vevay, Capt. J. Price, Lansing.

Henry A. Shaw, of Eaton Rapids, delivered a pleasing address and painted in gorgeous colors the future of Michigan. Dr. Ion B. Chapin, of Battle Creek, one of the earliest pioneers of Ingham county, told some of his experiences in pioneer life. Capt. Price, of Lansing, and S. O. Russell, of Leslie, told stories which brought out the humorous side of pioneer life.

June 10, 1870, the seventh annual meeting was held at the county fair grounds, with a picnic dinner in charge of a committee appointed by the president.

Upon motion it was voted to have a committee appointed to ascertain how many residents of the county were here in 184% and also how many have lived in the county more than twenty-five years. There were 41 present at the meeting who settled in Ingham county previous to 1840.

Pioneers who have died during the past year:

Vevay—Almon M. Chapin.

Ingham—Mrs. Lucinda Beers.

Leslie—Mrs. Solomon Woodworth.

Leslie—Whenton Sanders.

Leslie—Loomis Miller.

Leslie—Oliver Elliott.

Mason—John Rayner.

Officers elected **June 10, 1879**: President, Wm. A. Dryer, Lansing; Vice President, J. J. Tuttle, Leslie; Secretary and Treasurer, Peter Lowe, Mason. Executive Committee: Wm. I-I. Clark, Mason; Samuel Skadan, Ingham; S. O. Russell, Leslie.

Samuel L. Kilbourne, of Lansing, gave a very pleasing and interesting address.

June 8, 1880, occurred the eighth annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneers at the court house in Mason.

The following officers were elected: President, Samuel Skadan, Ingham; Vice President, S. O. Russell, Leslie; Secretary and Treasurer, Peter Lowe, Mason. Executive Committee: J. R. Price, Lansing; A. R. L. Covert, Leslie; T. Densmore, Mason.

Those who died during the past year:

Leslie-Solomon Woodworth, T. B. Blake, James Rundell, Mrs. Henry Austin, Manley Walker.

Vevay-Mrs. Susan Clough.

Eulogy by Rev. O. D. Watkins.

Lansing-Mrs. Anna Barnes, Mrs. Ann Cowles, C. C. Darling. Ingham-John C. Haines.

Remarks by Andrew Hunt.

Onondaga-Jos. E. Pierson, Catherine Peek.

Eulogy of Mr. Pierson by J. J. Tuttle.

Alaiedon-John H. Childs.

Bunkerhill-John C. Freeland.

Delhi-Caroline Wait, Dianths Parks.

June 14, 1881, Rayner's Opera House was the place chosen for the ninth annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Society, and a pleasant day and roads 'in good condition' conspired to make the day a banner one in the history of the society. It was more than pleasant to see the old pioneers who felled forests, turned over the virgin soil, struggled with want and privations, wisely and heroically suffering everything to make the new world blossom, drive in, in their comfortable carriages over the smooth roads, past the well-kept, fertile farms and pleasant farm houses, noting the general prosperity the foundation for which was laid by their labors.,,

Every one rejoices that in their declining years these pioneers are, with very few exceptions, surrounded with the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

It is but the just reward for the hardships, and privations which they have bravely and patiently endured. And it is not surprising that in the full splendor of Michigan's prosperity they should turn with tender hearts to the days when, a hardy little band, they began to hew down its unbroken forests.

The following officers were elected: President, Hon. Ferris S. Fitch, Bunkerhill; Vice President, Samuel Skadan, Ingham; Sec-

retary, Geo. W. Bristol, Mason; Treasurer, Peter Lowe, Mason. Executive Committee: Samuel Skadan, Ingham; Robert Hayward, Aurelius; James M. Shearer, Lansing.

Those who have died during the year past:

Vevay-Joseph Butler.

Bunkerhill-Daniel C. Potter.

Mason-Martin A. Sweet.

Vevay-Henry A. Hawley.

Mr. Fitch eulogized the life and character of Mr. Potter, and Maj. L. S. Ives spoke feelingly of the struggles experienced by Mr. Hawley as a pioneer, and his sterling qualities of mind and heart.

Hon. D. L. Case, of Lansing, spoke for three-quarters of an hour, contrasting his pioneer days with the present time, and told much early Michigan history.

Thales Huntoon, of Leslie, wished to know how many people in the room had resided in the county 35 years. Fully 75 arose, and at least 25 more who could have truthfully responded had previously left the room.

D. L. Cady desired all who had lived in the State 50 years to rise, and about a dozen stood.

Two things were suggested which would undoubtedly add to the interest of the reunions. One was to have the speaker selected several months before the meeting, so that he could have ample time to prepare an accurate, interesting and valuable paper. The other was to have papers and historical sketches of the society filed away in some safe place, where they can be preserved for future generations. Soon the last of the old pioneers will be laid away, and unless some record is preserved, the history of their struggles will perish with them.

June 15, 1882, the tenth annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Society was held in Rayner Opera House, and the following officers elected: President, Thaddeus Densmore, Mason; Vice President, Hon. D. L. Case, Lansing; Secretary, Geo. W. Bristol, Mason; Treasurer, P. Lowe, Mason. Executive Committee: Richard Bullen, Aurelius; Wm. H. Horton, Vevay; Thales W. Huntoon, Leslie.

It was unanimously voted that hereafter all members arriving at the age of 75 years be exempt from payment of dues.

The pioneers were invited to the American House and the Clark House, where dinner was served by the citizens of Mason. Over their cups and plates the men and women who battled with the forests of Ingham county and transformed them into fertile fields recalled the memories of the past and grew young again, To the seventy-five guests thus entertained, it was one of the pleasantest features of the day,

Speeches were made by Hon. S. L. Kilbourne, Hon. D. L. Case, and Hon. E. Longyear, all of Lansing, besides others from various townships,

The deaths reported were as follows:

Aurelius-John Wright, Hiram Smith.
Lansing-Chauncey Murphy.
Stockbridge—Samuel C. Proctor.
Mason—Geo. Shafer.
Leslic—Mrs. Nancy Backus.
Ingham—Marshall Hicks.
Meridian—Thomas Giffords,
Bunkerhill—James Birney.

Short memorial talks were given by friends of each deceased member,

Thus ended another of those pleasant annual gatherings of the veterans of Ingham county who, by their toil, industry and self-denial, their intelligence and bravery builded up one of the grandest and wealthiest—yes—the very Capital county of our Peninsular State.

On June 12, 1888, the indications of the weather augured ill for the gathering of the members of the Ingham County Pioneer Society for its eleventh annual meeting, but the old settlers inured to hardships from their youth, flocked in, and possibly out of respect for their courage the threatening clouds withheld their rain, except for a little dash in the morning.

The report of the nominating committee resulted in the election of the following officers: President, Col. Whitney Jones, of Mason; Vice Presidents—Capt. John Price, Lansing; S. O. Russell, Leslie; Samuel Skadan, Ingham; Rudolphus Tyron, Alaiedon; Secretary, Geo. W. Bristol, Mason; Treasurer, Peter Lowe; Mason. Executive Committee: R. J. Bullcn, Aurelius; S. O. Russell, Leslie; I. B. Huntoon, Lansing,

Elijah Woodworth, of Leslie, 92 years old, gave a short talk on "Human Progression," and reviewed his life since he came to this county 46 years ago.

Ex-Judge of Probate Griffin Paddock gave a brief history of this country since it was discovered by Columbus.

Judge Chatterton gave a very pleasing sketch of his early residence in Ingham county, dating back to 1857. In his boyhood there was not a carriage nor a team of horses in Meridian, which was his home. The young beaux took their girls riding with ox teams and lumber wagons. He related incidents connected with the life of the great Indian chief, Okemos, closing with a tribute to the spirit of progress which has characterized the county.

J. M. Williams, of Williamston, spoke feelingly of the rapidity with which the charter members are passing away. He said that in most townships those who were there in 1840 would not exceed four or five.

Capt. John Price, of Lansing, was called for and came forward amid hearty cheers. He spoke of the princely feeling of the pioneer who had got together his hundred dollars to pay for his land as compared with the men of today who lived in mortgaged palaces. He said the old cabins had room for a bed, a table, a fireplace and a cradle. When the women went to bed the men went outdoors to give them a chance to undress. Parlor, sitting room, bedroom, dining room—all were in the one room of the old cabin. There was no talk in those days of the cost of houses, and high yearly expenses. There was more simplicity and more happiness then than now.

The following deaths were reported:

Alaiedon—Jeduthan B. Blake.

Aurelius—Reuben R. Bullen, Mrs. Geo. Webb, Hiram Bristol, Alice Webb.

Bunkerhill—Ferris S. Fitch, Thomas Lawrence.

Delhi—Chas. Holbrook.

Lansing—Mrs. Kelly, Cyrus Hewett.

Leslie—Cornelius Calkins, Mrs. Elizabeth DeLamater, Ogden Edwards, Ezra Wood, Mrs. H. B. Hawley.

Mason—Alex R. Miller, Mrs. Cornelia Smith.

Meridian—Mrs. M. W. 13arnes.

Vevay—Mrs. Enos Northrop, Allen[?] Hathaway, David

Palmer, Moses Jacobs, Wm. H. Horton, Wm. Clinflin, Margaret Hayes.

Wheatfield—Mrs. M. J. Pollock.

Ingham—Mr. Avery.

Friends of the deceased testified to their good qualities in fitting eulogies,

Wm. H. Horton, a charter member, died on the day of the meeting, June 12.

In order to vary the program, the twelfth annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Society was held in the village of Leslie on June 10, 1884.

Music was furnished by the Leslie Ladies Band.

Col. Geo. P. Sanford delivered the annual address. He used the word pioneer in a wider sense than is usually given it, saying it stood for human progress. He argued that all advancement is the work of pioneers, whether in felling the forests or extending the geographical boundaries of civilization, or in leading the world to new ideas in science, philosophy or morals. Luther was as much a pioneer as the first settler of Ingham county.

The following persons in the pioneer list have died during the year:

Leslie-Rascom Harkness, Mrs. Elizabeth Barlow, Joseph Brewer, Maggie Woodland, Mrs. Phelena Hull, Mrs. Davis Hampton, Mrs. Harrison Wyman.

Vevay-James Fuller, E. B. Smith, Mrs. Octavia Hubbard, J. P. Reed.

Aurelius-Hiram Austin,

Delhi-Darius Abbott.

Lansing-Zaccheus Barnes.

Rev. C. W. Allen spoke of Mrs. Elizabeth Barlow and her exemplary life. She came to Onondaga in 1841 and resided there until her tragic death in the cyclone during the summer of 1883.

Jay Calkins paid tribute to Maggie Woodland, and described her rare qualifications which made her one of the most successful teachers in the county.

Rev. Brockway spoke of Mrs. Octavia Hubbard, whose son, I. N. Wolcott, was the first white child born in Vevay township.

The officers elected were: President, Perry Henderson; Sec-

retary, Geo. W. Bristol; Treasurer, Peter Lowe, with a vice president for each township in the county. Executive Committee: J. J. Tuttle, T. Densmore, Wm. Cook.

The following poem was written by Elijah Woodworth, of Leslie, then 92 years of age, and read by Mr. Russell.

THE OLD PIONEERS.

Well, yes, my friends, I guess I'll give a sketch
Of how we used to live in the days of the pioneer,
When we had for neighbors bears, wolves and deer;
The mosquito took an active part,
And the firefly lit up the dismal dark.
Our turnpike then was a cow path made
In a zigzag course where'er they strayed.
Our rapid transit to the nearest mart
Was through the forest with ox and cart;
We wended our way through the lofty trees,
Cut out our road wherever we pleased.
Our dwellings I must tell you about,—
How they were constructed, inside and out:
Our chimneys were not made of bricks,
But mud spread o'er a pile of sticks,
And he was accounted a lucky man
Who had a flat stone for hearth or jamb.
Leathern hinges on windows and doors,
All to match with the siding and floors.
With a box for a table we often did dine,
And this did a bedstead and table combine.
The pantry we had was made from long poles;
Our bedstead four sticks drove into some holes,
And with the slabs on the top the thing was complete,
And our sleep thereon most peaceful and sweet.
Our lamps, with which we subdued the dark,
Were flaming torches of hickory bark,
And he who aspired to more than that
Had a rag for a wick in a dish of fat.
Then no fashions had we to worry our mind,
No horrid pull-backs or long trails behind.

With big fur caps and stout brogans
 A picture you have of the frontier man.
 On the huge backlog of the old fireplace,
 Where the crickets crept out and ran a race;
 Against the log there could sometimes be found
 Our cooking utensils for a background.
 No organ then made the edifice tremble
 In the old school house where we used to assemble;
 But so quiet and meek in garb unpretending,
 To worship on Sabbath our way we went wending.
 The Sabbath day holy was never revealed
 By the church going bell as it solemnly pealed.
 And no difference in days did we ever detect
 By the cowbell that hung on old Brindle's neck.
 The tall oaks were felled by the pioneer's axe,
 While in the rough cabins the matrons spun flax,
 And jogged the rude cradle and sang lullaby,
 While dreaming of plenty to come by and by,
 'Mid toils and privations the band struggled through
 More than any can guess the land to subdue.
 But the harvest at last in plenty doth yield
 For both city and town in the grain laden field.
 Now this beautiful land to our sons we transmit;
 Will they in their turn improve and till it?
 And the next generation, from father to son,
 Show us a pure record for what we have done?

Before adjournment it was voted to hold the next annual meeting in Mason.

June 9, 1885, members of Ingham County Pioneer Society met at Rayner Opera House for its thirteenth annual meeting. The very elements combined to woo the fellers of Ingham's forests from their comfortable homes to attend their annual reunion. The gathering was by far the largest in the history of the society. All the forenoon the streets were filled with groups of gray-haired men greeting each other with the exuberance of boyhood. When the meeting was called to order the house was nearly filled, and the dinner tickets showed that 160 pioneers from outside the city had assembled,

As at all other meetings there was an invocation by some minister of the Gospel and the program was interspersed by appropriate music.

Prof. Marshall Pease, a musician well known throughout the State, was present and sang a solo pleasing to the pioneers.

The following is a list of the deceased members for the year:

Leslie-Hon. Arnold Walker, Dr. Jesse O. Scurl, Nelson O. Norton, David Jones, Mrs. David Blood, Mrs. Anson Stratton, Mrs. Warren Wheaton, James Royston, Mrs. Michael Cady, Mrs. Amos Wortman.

Bunkerhill—Jacob Dubois, Garrett Dubois.

White Oak—Lemuel Woodhouse, Stephen Havens, Mrs. Penelope Smith.

Williamston—Mrs. Adelia Farnham.

Lansing—Col. A. R. Burr.

Ingham—Nancy C. Haines.

Leroy—Mrs. James Wygant.

Mason—Dr. Minos McRobert, Chauncey A. Osborne, Dr. Chas. H. Darrow, Geo. Dixon, Mrs. Levant Main.

Vevay—Mrs. Crowl, Chas. Teel, Frederick Gorham, Mrs. Andrew Markham, Mrs. Elizabeth Page.

Hon. O. M. Barnes spoke of his long and intimate acquaintance with Dr. McRobert. He described the inconveniences of travel when he first met Dr. McRobert, exactly 48 years ago. Mason was then a clearing of a few acres, the court house square decorated on its southeast corner by a cat-hole, one house opposite Judge Steele's late residence on North B street, another occupied by a family named Lacey. Mr. Linderman had a farm north of the clearing, and Judge Danforth was building a mill (1837).

Dr. McRobert was elected register of deeds on the organization of the county. Of the county officers elected that year, only Hiram Smith and Richard R. Lowe are now living. In 1840 the doctor married Miss Nancy Abbott, and immediately moved to his farm in Aurelius, but after three years returned to Mason.

His history may be summed up by saying that he practiced medicine for a few years, went into mercantile pursuits, was connected with banks, railroads—with whatever would benefit the community. He was exact, prompt and cautious in business,

just to all, a kind, true man, cordial, a good man in all the relations of life. He is gone, but we shall remember him with affection as long as we shall remember anything.

Judge Chatterton read a sketch of the life of Dr. Darrow. Born in 1830, his father a farmer, he managed a farm for a time, but at an early age graduated from a medical college. With \$500 borrowed from his brother Daniel he went west.

First to Norwalk, Ohio, then to St. Johns, Mich., then to Okemos in 1855. He lived with Elder Bloomer, chopping the firewood and milking the cows for his board. He built up an enviable reputation as a physician and surgeon. Lying for a deer he shot one of Elder Bloomer's cows, but restored her to health by his surgical skill. This was his first experience in treating gunshot wounds. He soon had a practice which kept him riding day and night. He was never *vascillating* in his opinion and always expressed his honest convictions. Dr. S. W. Hammond was his partner for a time. Elected register of deeds in 1866, he built a three-story block in Mason, and purchased and improved 640 acres of land south of the city. He married Caroline Rose of Bath in 1858.

Rev. W. C. Allen spoke of Hon. Arnold Walker. He came from New York to Ingham county in 1844, where he remained until his death. He settled on a farm in Vevay, and left it in charge of his family while he went to California in search of gold. He then moved to Mason and was elected justice of the peace.

He organized the Curtenius Guards and was made their captain. In 1859 he went to California for his health. He represented this district in the Legislature of 1873-4, superintended the construction of the northern extension of the Jackson, Lansing and Saginaw Railroad, was president of the First National Bank of Leslie. He had only \$1.25 when he came to Ingham county, but died a wealthy man. He was industrious and honest. He married Matilda Chandler, with whom he lived more than forty years. Of eleven children only three survive. He met death as courageously as he met the duties of life.

Chauncey A. Osborne, aged 72, who came to Mason at an early day, was eulogized by Hon. G. M. Huntington. Was sheriff from 1850-54, and often the Board of Supervisors increased instead of diminished his fees.

Rev. Jacokes spoke of Garrett Dubois, born in 1806, died 1884.

Born in the State of New York, where he worked as a lumberman when a boy. Married Lucy Chapman in 1832, came in wagons to Michigan and settled in Alnicdon, later moving to Bunkerhill. Set out an orchard, getting the trees at Ypsilanti. Helped build the M. E. church at Bunkerhill, and was a member of that denomination for over 60 years.

Lemuel Woodhouse was a partner of S. O. Russell in building a saw mill at Leslie, was a cabinet maker and pattern maker. Was postmaster at Leslie, and had been treasurer of Ingham county.

Four people present had been in the county 50 years, and 45 had been here 45 years. Hon. D. L. Case and Capt. J. R. Price, of Lansing, gave short talks.

Rev. Augusta Chapin, who was born and grew up at Eden, gave the address of the day, and a part of her address follows:

I have for several years anticipated the pleasure of addressing you upon the occasion of this annual reunion, but each time some unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstance has prevented my presence.

The pleasure I have anticipated has been in the thought of meeting you, taking you by the hand (many of whose names and faces have been familiar to me from childhood) and hearing what you had to say, rather than in anything I thought I could say to interest you. We have met here today to think and speak of the early times, and to do honor to those who tinned the Ingham County of today possible.

I think scarcely any subject has a greater charm for us than that of the beginning of things. The story of how things came to be as they are is certainly next in interest to the question of what the outcome shall be. The future is an untrodden road. All is misty, visionary, uncertain in that direction; we can only know of it by forecasting from our knowledge of existing laws and our experiences.

But we may with comparative ease retrace the course of the past, and whatever pertains to it has the fascination of a fairy tale. Every bit of information about the origin and history of the world and man upon it is seized with avidity; nay, we are all ready to stop and listen with breathless attention even to conjecture on the subject if it comes from an intelligent source.

There are more historians than prophets, for it is easier within certain limits to tell what has **been** than to foretell what shall be.

The antiquarian but returns over the path human feet have already trod, while the prophet, or seer, **must with** clear vision be able to judge from principles established, laws in operation, from **the whole** trend of **nature and** the spirit of the times, what the future shall be.

At first **I** thought, as I said, it would seem vastly easier to find out the past, but however this may be, **no** one who undertakes the study of the past will pursue his researches far without finding that his utmost powers are not **sufficient** for unravelling the mysteries that lie behind us.

Authentic history **takes** us back but a little way toward the beginning of the path down which mankind have been traveling for unknown and **unnumbered ages**. They have left barely enough trace behind **them** to show that they **have** been here. Even what is called authentic history must be accepted with many grains of allowance.

The **greatest** name will perish from human history, the finest monument crumble into dust, and the time will come when our names will be lost and our places know us no more. Yet we shall survive in **the** memories of our friends as long as the remembrance will serve any good purpose, and **then** our work and thought and influence will mingle with the **great** ocean of human achievement, and the sum total of that will be something more, and something different from what it would have been without us.

All this is as it should be, for if longer preserved there could be no **possible** use for it. It has **served** its purpose.

But no wish is **dearer** to our **hearts** than the **perfectly** legitimate one of wishing to keep, after we **have** gone hence, a place in the memories and lives of **those** we leave behind. It is also a sacred task to help preserve from oblivion the names of those who have **gone** before us, and to perpetuate the **influence** of the good they did.

This is one of the chief reasons for the **existence** of this pioneer society, to rescue from oblivion the names and heroic deeds of the early settlers of our county. This society, with others of similar purpose, is helping to make authentic history.

The pioneers are fast passing **away**. Those who can remember

the early days when this fair county was a wilderness are already few. Many interesting and important particulars of those times will be lost if not gathered soon.

Now is the time to correct the records and make them complete so that they may be of use hereafter. This county will not see the like again of this generation that is now passing away. There is no place now within the limits of the United States so wild and inaccessible as Ingham county was fifty years ago. The pioneers have penetrated every forest, their white covered wagons have been seen on every prairie; they have encamped at the foot of every mountain, on the banks of every river and the shores of every lake.

There are those here today, probably, who can remember when the first white settlement was made in this county, and who heard the wolves howl by night (as I myself did when a child). Many here who can remember when there were no roads except such as wound about among the trees avoiding swamps and impassable places.

The times when letter postage was 25 cents, and it cost something to write a letter, or rather to receive one, for the sender seldom paid the postage, and the poor settler often gave his last quarter to get a letter from the office, while sometimes it lay there for days or weeks before he could raise the money.

Those were stern times, and strenuous privations were endured with a heroism and cheerful patience almost incomprehensible to the present generation—the plainest food, homespun clothing, no horses, no carriages, no luxurious carpets and furniture, no fine houses, few books and fewer papers, poor schools, no churches, only occasional Services by an itinerant preacher.

But the pioneers enjoyed their life in the wilderness; and I doubt if they have been happier in the recent years than in those they spent struggling for a livelihood among the privations and hardships of that early day.

There was the charm of novelty about it all. They were young and full of strength and courage. Everything was fresh and new, and the sense of triumph, when a difficulty was overcome, was a keen pleasure, such as will not come at all under easier circumstances. And yet it makes one's heart ache to think what sacrifices they made, how they faced sickness, and hardships, and pri-

vations of every kind, giving up uncomplainingly comforts that are necessities of existence to us, to seek a home in the wilderness, there' to hew out a road by which civilization could enter, and make the present possible.

We are here today to remember those old times and talk them over, to keep them fresh in mind, and to keep green the memory of those who are no longer with us. If any one could or would tell the exact story of what he can remember, and all of it, concerning those old times, we should have a more interesting speech than has ever been made here, or ever will be.

The old farmer could tell us the story of his long, steady warfare with the stumps and swamps; how he kept the wolf from the door, and kept a stout heart through it all, until at last there were smooth fields, good crops, horses and carriages and plenty of everything, and he moved out of the old log house into the spacious one nearby, and sat down to rest after his years of labor.

The merchant could tell us of the days of small things, when money was scarce and he bartered his goods for things the farmer had for sale,

The doctor could tell of his long horseback rides through the almost unbroken forest, carrying a small drug store in his saddle bags; of his numerous patients prostrated with malarial fever—sometimes everyone sick in the house and scarcely a well person in the settlement.

He who was an ambitious young man could tell us how, in the face of appalling difficulties, he worked his way through college; how he supported himself by anything that was honest labor, and persevered with such courage and diligence that the story is told to his honor, and an example to others, in the college town to this day.

The mother and housekeeper could tell how she cooked before the broad fireplace, before there was such a thing as a cook stove in the country; how she spun and wove and made, in large part, the clothing for the family; how her busy knitting needles kept all the feet, both big and little, in warm serviceable stockings; how she made butter, and cheese, too, washed, and scrubbed and brewed, brought water from the spring some distance from the house, and did a thousand things—all in one or two rooms and no

modern conveniences. She never complained about her lot and never was troubled about the latest fashions.

I looked upon those times with the eyes of a very little child, and in trying to recall them I find that the details of everyday life are mostly lost to me, but certain pictures remain as vividly before my mind's eye as though the actual scene was now before me.

Among these is that of one of the pioneers—Cyrus Austin (some of you must remember him). He was a stalwart backwoodsman, and if he was not a mighty hunter it is as such that my imagination has always portrayed him. It was late in the afternoon of the last day but one in December, 1842. My parents had left the old home in New York and had been travelling for weeks toward a new home that we were to make in the wilderness. We had been directed to the then famous "Rolfe Settlement," where the long pilgrimage was to end. We were tired and hungry, We had surely come far enough to reach the settlement, and there was as yet no sign of human habitation near, only unbroken forest before, behind and on every side of us. The snow was deep, and only a half trodden road wound in and out among the great trees of the primeval wilderness.

We had not seen a human being, except those of our own party, for hours. Those who were driving the teams began to think we had lost our way when suddenly, just where the road made a sharp turn to avoid a huge sycamore which stood in our way, there appeared a man who had already stepped out upon the snow to wait for us to pass. He looked as though he himself were a part of the wild scene. An ample cap of raccoon skin almost hid his face, and he wore a great tunic shaped coat of the same material. He carried a gun over one shoulder, and over the other, trailed in the snow behind him, the carcass of a deer he had just shot. He was asked to direct us to the "Rolfe Settlement." His keen eyes at once took in the whole situation. He scanned the worn teams, the battered covers of the heavily loaded sleighs, the anxious faces of the elders of the party and the scared looks of the children. He saw that we were newcomers, with no idea of what life in the backwoods must be, and before he could speak he broke into a loud ringing laugh that echoed and re-echoed through the woods as though twenty men were laughing, and then he caught his breath and said, with a

sweeping gesture toward the woods all around, "the 'Rolfe Settlement?' Why, this is it. It's right here." Sure enough, within a few rods we found shelter in the hospitable home of Ira Rolfe.

Another portrait in the gallery of my memory is that of Uncle Ben Rolfe, grand, good old man that he was, as he stood when he led the singing in the school house services. I always looked upon him at those times with mixed admiration and awe, and listened with delight to his singing of Mear, China, Rockingham Dundee and Old Hundred-tunes that have no equals among the compositions of recent times.

I remember the old Indian Chief Okemos, also, as he sat by the kitchen fire recounting his exploits.

We are here, in addition to all other reasons, gratefully to remember how much we are indebted to the pioneers in every way. They prepared the way for all the improvements that have come to make life prosperous and pleasant for us. They carried forward these improvements regardless of cost in time and strength, labor and money; our villages and cities they helped to build; our railroads also they encouraged with gifts of land and money. They never ceased to foster to the extent of their ability our schools, churches, and all measures for social culture and every public benefit. They planted the orchards the fruit of which we eat, and the shade trees under which we enjoy the leisure they in a large measure earned for us. It is impossible that we should overestimate the importance of their work, or do too much to honor them.

Ingham county has a noble record among the counties of the State. Nowhere within her borders has more rapid progress been made in subduing the wilderness and carrying forward the various progressive movements demanded by our needs, and the spirit of the age. In peace and in war she has done her duty. A host of intelligent, noble and excellent men and women adorn the walks of public and private life among us. Our schools are second to none, and the homes of Ingham county are as prosperous and happy as any in the land. Let the pioneers be thanked for it all.

Let these annual reunions continue as long as a pioneer lives, and then let their children and their children's children meet to

perpetuate the spirit that actuated their fathers and the good institutions they bequeathed.

Fourteenth annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Society was held in Mason June 8, 1886, at Rayner's Opera House.

President Perry Henderson called the meeting to order, and after the year's reports were given, 150 pioneers went to the M. E. church to a dinner furnished by the citizens of Mason.

The death of 45 pioneers was reported, and short addresses were made in their memory. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, D. L. Case; Secretary, L. H. Ives; Treasurer, W. M. Webb. Executive Committee: Hon. Geo. M. Huntington, T. W. Huntoon, Gardner Fletcher.

It was decided to hold a pioneer social during the winter at Mason.

Hon. S. L. Kilbourne, of Lansing, was the orator of the day, and reviewed the history of the county for the past fifty years in all its various phases.

Fifteenth annual meeting at the court house in Mason, June 18, 1887. At the business session the old officers were re-elected. A canvas of those present showed 31 who had been in Ingham county for 50 years or over. President Case urged upon the members of the society the importance of preparing the history of their localities for preservation, and then called on the secretary for a report of the deaths of the year. There were found to be 45, among them some who had been very active in the work of the society, particularly Smith Tooker, of Lansing, who helped clear the land where the Capitol now stands. J. M. Williams, of Williamston, who settled in Ingham county in 1638, and for whom Williamston was named, Mrs. Peter Lowe, well known in the county, and Mrs. Lavina Coatsworth, of Vevay, and Mason. Mrs. John Bullen, a pioneer worker of Aurelius. Elijah Woodworth, aged 96 years, who was the first man to cross Grand river into Ingham county.

Manning K. North-he is one of a large family of brothers who helped clear the forest from Mason to Lansing. His father gave Lansing its name, in place of "Michigamme," as it was formerly called. He told of one time when his father's cows wandered from Lansing to Mason and then west to Geo. Webb's where they were found on the marsh by him and his brother. He thought

the pasture pretty large. He had seen eight members of his father's family shaking with ague at the same time.

L. B. Huntoon sang a song popular in Ingham county 45 years ago, called Michiganin, which called out much applause and laughter,

President Case alluded to his early residence in Mason, and said no other place on earth seemed so much like home, Peter Lowe is the only person now living who was a voter in Mason when Mr. Case came here.

Mrs. Forster and North urged each member of the society to write a sketch of his life to be preserved by the society, and the idea was received favorably, but no action taken.

The attendance was large and much interest manifested. A good dinner and pleasing music were furnished by Mason citizens, adding greatly to the enjoyment of the day.

The following poem by J. T. Bullen was read and enthusiastically received,

HEROISM.

Each nation has its heroes,
The noble and the brave,
Whom they hold in high esteem
Because they fought to save.
And every cause its martyrs,
Who scorn and death perchance
Most cruelly have suffered
At the hand of ignorance.

The warrior who in battle
Drives back a nation's foe,
Writes his name in history
While ages come and go.
And in the fight with evil,
The same is justly true,
The names of moral heroes
Are handed down to you.

But heroism proper
May not alone be found
Upon the field of battle
Where blood has stained the ground.
And, in the moral conflict,
Where truth and error meet,
Though there are many heroes,
The list is incomplete.

But there are other heroes
That stir our tenderest thought,
Of whom we fear the valor
Too soon may be forgot.
Their service for their country
On every hand appears,
Grand heroes of the forest—
We call them pioneers.

Here on this spot for ages,
In native grandeur stood
A tall unbroken forest,
A brush entangled wood.
Entrenched like some vast army,
Behind these hills to stay.
While in the swamps in ambush
The dread miasmas lay.

The howling wolf at nightfall
Engaged his vocal powers,
To make the night more hideous
All through the evening hours.
The ever waving treetops
Seemed beckoning to say,
This is the home of red men,
Away! away! away!

To thus invade and conquer
A land so fortified
Caused great and grievous hardships,
And many heroes died.

Here where they met and conquered,
 We meet again and say
 The leaders in that struggle
 Are the heroes of today.

To leave in early manhood
 The scenes of youth behind,
 To break those cords asunder
 That friends to kindred bind,
 To penetrate the forest
 And battle with the trees,
 Compelling them to open
 To the sunshine and the breeze.

Breathing in the poison
 Of undrained swamps and swales,
 Then shaking with the ague
 And next day splitting rails,
 Then ditching off the water
 From out those filthy pools;
 Starting on the hillsides
 The pleasant country schools.

Building up the country
 In all that makes it great,
 Pioneers of Michigan
 Are heroes of the State.

A poem, like a story,
 Would seem quite obsolete,
 And this, our chosen subject,
 Left very incomplete
 Without those noble heroines,
 The girls of former years,
 Who left their homes and kindred
 As wives of pioneers.

A sweet goodbye to father,
 A kiss on mother's cheek;
 A long farewell to other friends,
 Perhaps no more to meet.

A muffled sob of sorrow,
 Perhaps a falling tear,
 And then a noble heroine
 Commences her career.

A long and tedious journey
 To a cabin in the woods,
 A fire place to cook by,
 A dearth of household goods.
 And on each noble housewife
 The triple burden laid,
 Was that of being mother,
 And nurse and kitchen maid.

And when these urgent duties
 In proper time were done,
 And LO the arms of Morpheus
 The family had all gone,
 Such ambition born of love
 As only mothers feel,
 Prompted them before they slept,
 To ply the spinning wheel.

Making clothes and blankets
 To keep their loved ones warm,
 Moulding thoughts and actions
 By love's sweet gentle charm;
 Thus rearing sons and daughters
 To guide the ship of state,
 Those pioneer mothers
 Have made this nation great.

Were I to write in history
 A page for coming years,
 I'd write among the heroes
 The names of pioneers.
 And on the page beside them,
 Inscribed with filial pride,
 Those heroines, our mothers,
 The pioneer's bride.

At this 1887 meeting John A. Barnes gave the following paper:

Fifty years ago I was sporting in a boyish way over the grounds whereon the greater part of the business portion of this city stands.

My playmates at that time were William, Chester, George and Bartley Blaine, and my brother Charles, next younger than myself.

I came into the State with my parents, leaving Cayuga county, N. Y., on the 7th day of May, 1837, father having been here in '36 and purchased his land, so we had a fixed point in view. We embarked on board a line boat on the Erie canal at Weedsport, thence to Buffalo, and by steamer to Detroit, and by teams from Detroit to this place, which we reached on May 26 just at sunset, having made the journey in sixteen days.

We had no difficulty in deciding what hotel to go to, for there was but one, and the whole town consisted of one private log house, two frame houses unfurnished, one saw mill, and the hotel I spoke of, which was a small log house situated on the east side of Main street, two blocks north from here, and occupied by James Blaine and family, who at once welcomed us to all the comforts the house could afford. The inhabitants of the town were Mr. Blaine and family, Lacy and family, E. B. Danforth and some mill hands, and on the following day Dr. McRoberts came.

Quarters having been secured for our family at the hotel for a few weeks, father and my brothers Zaccheus and O. M. at once set at work to cut a road over the "Hog's Back" and through the woods to the Fifield place, now known as the Child's farm. From there a road had been opened through the Rolfe settlement to within one and one-half miles of our land, thus making three miles of road that had to be cut before we could reach our land.

A log house was raised by the aid of the neighbors, and the family took possession about the 27th of June. All the inhabitants on the route, a distance of seven miles, were Henry Fifield, Jasper Wolcott, Nathan and Benjamin Rolfe and Joseph Robinson. I think at the present day a house in such an unfurnished condition would hardly be considered tenable. The ground floor was partly down, the roof about half on, and I well recollect on awakening the first morning and looking out through the unfinished roof and seeing the treetops almost meet over the house. But pioneers were necessarily mechanics and in due time the house was made comfortable.

We were surrounded on all sides by a dense forest, and knew of no neighbors to the north or west of us, but a mile and a half east was Joseph Robinson, and the same distance to the south was Ransom Hazelton.

We were often treated with the singing of birds, the hooting of owls, the buzzing of mosquitos and gnats, and on one occasion particularly, just at evening, we were treated with very exciting music by a band, which broke out with such hilarious strains that the very hairs on our heads seemed to stand up, and the general exclamation from us younger members of the family was, "What is that?" and perhaps you will ask me, "What band could you have to serenade you in that wild country?" Ah! it was a band of wolves that had scented a calf we had purchased and had come to hold high carnival over his body; but, to their great disappointment, we had put the calf in a safe place, and they, being thus foiled of their prey, set up a hideous howl, which was soon silenced by a shrill blast from a tin dinner horn, which was a tune new to them.

Our nearest neighbors were one and one-half miles away, and that through a dense wood, and it was only at intervals far between that we met each other, yet the people thus situated were not disposed to be deprived of the privilege of coming together on the Sabbath day to worship, and a prayer meeting was appointed at the residence of Benj. Rolfe, each to notify all they met. Well do I remember being present at that meeting, which occurred in the summer of 1837, where a dozen or more of the sturdy pioneers had come together from their rude homes to recognize the command of God, to "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." And, by doing this, they implanted a principle in the community that has kept pace with the improvement of the country, and today the names of those old pioneers carry with them a redeeming influence that time cannot wipe out.

Our principal food was bread and potatoes and occasionally some wild meats. Our nearest mill was at Jackson, at times we would get short of bread material and have to resort to something to supply its place. We then pounded corn for hominy, and to accomplish this a place was hollowed out in a large log, with a spring pole and pestle with which to pound the corn. Thus you see that instead of going to the grocer and purchasing

hominy, as at present, we had the genuine article "home-spun," and it was our principle in those days to patronize home industries.

Time passed on and brought new neighbors and **improvements**, and a school was organized in a log shanty on the grounds where the **Rolfe school house** in Vevay now stands, and was taught by Miss **Eliza Butler** in the summer of 1888. **The first school house built in the present town of Aurelius was situated on the south line of section 25, where school was taught by Miss Lois Ann Murdoff in 1839.**

Our friends at a distance, who kept up a correspondence with us, were **necessarily** very dear to us, for two reasons, first, we were glad to hear from them, and second, every letter we received cost us a quarter of a dollar, and a trip of from five to eight miles to get it.

Our houses were plain, yet quite comfortable as far as warmth was concerned, being usually warmed by a fireplace that occupied about one-third of the space in one end of the room, with lug poles and trammels on which to hang the kettles for cooking purposes; potatoes were roasted in the ashes, and **Johnny** cake baked before the fire. We had no carpets on our floors, and our partitions were generally curtains or sheets hung up. But **amid** all this we **enjoyed** the days as they passed.

Our neighbors, though few and scattering, were friendly and it was not an infrequent occurrence to take the ox team and drive from two to eight miles to visit a neighbor, and at that visit **style** was not discussed or thought of, but they conversed upon the topics of the day, like this, "Mrs. B., how are you getting along with your flax spinning?" or, "Mrs. M., how much wool are you working up this year, and how soon will your girls have their, new woolen dresses done?" The topics discussed by the men would be such as, "How do cattle get along on browse?" and, "Have you got mink skins and ashes enough saved to get your tax money?"

I have worn out garments of flax that were raised, dressed, spun, woven, made up, and I well nigh said, worn out, without going off the farm, but I think perhaps they did sometimes leave the farm while I was wearing them.

The business of making and saving ashes was in those days quite a source of profit to the pioneer, as it served to clear the land of

timber, and the ashes would bring cash, or, if we saw fit, as was frequently the case, we could make them into **black salts**, and by so doing would realize more money for our labor. **Perhaps** an incident that occurred in connection **with** the making of black salts would be in harmony with my subject.

My brother, O. M. Barnes, had made arrangements to go back to the State of New York to attend school, and to raise the money for that purpose a quantity of black salts had been made up, and they, together with his grip sack, boots, etc., were loaded up and we started for Jackson. One of the young ladies of our neighborhood was **also** on board with us. On our way as I was driving over what **was** known as Marrell's mill dam the road running along on the top of the dam, the oxen made a dive for the water, and it was only by the greatest effort we were able to get out of the wagon before it went over, black salts and all, to the bottom of the mill pond. The wagon uncoupled, and the oxen swam out with the forward wheels. The mill pond was drawn down and the balance of the wagon secured, but the salts had gone down the river. This was a sad blow to O. M., and he had to turn around and come back home with me. He charged me with having been paying attention to the young lady and not to the oxen. Although I did not plead guilty, yet I wouldn't wonder if that was the case. I have not set up any defense, and **I** know this much was true, that it took the earnest efforts of us both to save her and us from going into the water.

As time passed on we young people began to want some sort of amusement, so we used to take the ox team, take on a full load and drive from three to five miles to an evening **party**. And today I behold faces **in** the audience of both teacher and scholars whom I have taken on board the ox sled and driven to Leslie to attend a spelling school, or to Mason to attend a singing school.

But pioneer days, together with the greater part of the **pioneers**, have passed away, but occasionally we meet a genuine pioneer, and here and there we find relics that take us back with the speed of thought to the days of long ago. Recently while at the old home I stood near where the old house was built, and found, yet standing, a huge oak stump, whose massive trunk after centuries of growth, was laid low by the ax of my father over fifty years ago.

Today I had the pleasure of showing you the rifle purchased by my father in Auburn, N. Y., in April, 1837, which figured largely in furnishing the meat for our family,

The scenes have changed. The forest that' then covered this entire land has gradually receded and disappeared at the ever-persistent and irresistible hand of the pioneer. Today in place thereof we behold the fertile fields waving with a rich harvest, or **bedotted** with herds of high bred stock: the orchards laden with luscious fruits are to be seen upon every hill top and valley; the spacious farm houses with a fine array of outbuildings, school houses and country **churches** meet our gaze at every glance, and, in fact, we find the whole country dotted over with thriving cities and villages, with their various improvements, such as street cars, water works, electric lights, and a network of railroads throughout the entire State. Everything seems to take on an air of disgust at the slow-coach way in which **business** was done half a **century** ago; this is not confined alone to business and travel, but the farmer of today instead of taking the sickle to reap down **his** harvest, as did the **pioneer**, gets upon his self **binder**, and goes forth doing the work in one day that would have required **fifteen** or twenty days of the pioneer. In making up your laurels for the ones who are responsible for the many advantages and **improvements** that have come to us during the years, let care be taken that the pioneer is not forgotten, for the great strength of muscle and **unspeakable** courage coupled with the deprivations necessary to reap down a mighty forest and make thereof a fertile field, with a score or more of inconveniences incident to pioneer life, are fully equal in merit to the strength of brain necessarily sacrificed by the inventor, **and** again it is the pioneer who led the advance and paved the way that the others could follow."

On June 21, 1888, the Ingham County Pioneer Society met at Rayner's Opera House for its annual meeting,

The names of 60 genuine pioneers,, who had died during the year, were read, among them that of Gilbert Drew, who was over 90 years of age.

Mason citizens served the dinner at the Baptist church, with plates for 171.

Officers elected: **President**, Thaddeus Densmore; Secretary, J. A. Barnes; Treasurer, Perry Henderson. About a score of

those present either eulogized the dead or told some pioneer incident, after which Hon. D. S. **Crossman** gave a review of the great pioneers of the world, from the time of Columbus to the present time, together with some of the laws governing each epoch, closing with the words: "Let us then thank God daily that the pioneers of Michigan knew how to build on the substantial basis of. education and Christianity, and pray often, that we the **de-secendents** may build a superstructure worthy of the foundations they laid, Let us venerate and honor the few, who remain with us and hold in grateful memory the names of those who have departed, ever hoping and striving to live lives worthy the approval of that Supreme Being who was the God of the Pioneers."

June 4, 1889, the Ingham County Pioneers met in Mason for their annual meeting. After the opening exercises the secretary read the names of 87 who had "passed on" during the last year. The quartette sang "**Somewhere**," in memory of the departed ones. Twenty-four new members were added to the society. The old officers were again elected.

Gov. **Luce** was the speaker of the day, and took for his subject "**Then and Now**," and compared Michigan of early days to the Michigan of today. Job **T. Campbell** spoke on "What **Extremity** Did," and told how as one in a family of fourteen children he lived in what he termed a white oak box, twenty-eight by thirty feet, where the stars shone through the roof at night, and often the snows sifted through. He told that extremity browsed the cattle, gathered herbs for medicine, put leather hmges on the doors, furnished only Johnny cake for breakfast, dinner and supper, and drove you to bed at night behind curtains or up a rickety ladder. Extremity trained the hand of every man to honest labor; taught him value and resources; made him economical and careful, generous and sympathetic. All learned in the matchless school of experience, the only capital being brain and muscle."

"Lessons Learned From the Pioneers" was the subject given Hon. M. D. Chatterton, of Lansing, and after he had discussed this he told several amusing stories of his early life. He remembered when there was but one horse in the vicinity of Okemos, and the owner was so stingy and so afraid someone would want to ride with him that he never had a seat on his buckboard, but rode on a saddle which he placed on it. He believed in honest

labor with hands or brain. It is what makes men, He paid a pleasing tribute to the pioneer, not neglecting to eulogize the pioneer women.

II, H. Smith, of Jackson, was the first treasurer of Ingham county and received \$14 for his services. He came into the county in 1836. There were 35 present who had been in the county over 50 years, and one of those came here in 1834. Again it was voted that the president and secretary should secure such assistance as was needed in obtaining the historical events of each township, compiling them and securing their publication.

At the annual meeting of the Ingham County Pioneer Society for 1890 the list of deceased members was the largest ever reported, the number being 106. The matter of collecting material for a county history and having it published was again brought up, but as no funds had been provided for that work the committee in charge had done nothing toward it. It was then voted that a fund be created for that purpose, and that each member of the society write a history of his family to add to the records.

Officers elected: President, John A. Barnes; Secretary, O. F. Miller; Treasurer, Perry Henderson,

Hon. S. L. Kilbourne gave a pleasing address, in which he said, "It was the men who rowed, not those who drifted, who made Ingham county."

Mrs. Silas Bement, of Leroy township, read the following paper:

Another year has rolled around and again some of the pioneers of Ingham county have met to commemorate their days of anxiety, toil, care and privation. Of those pioneers, only for the benefit of the present generation, it would be needless to rehearse the things said and done, for in the minds of those who participated they are written as with indelible ink, never to be effaced while life lasts. How well I remember those log houses, those new rail fences and the well trodden path through the woods from house to house; for we used to look after each other in those times, and if there was a neighbor two or three miles away that had not been heard from for several days someone was sent to see if any of the family were sick or if some accident had befallen them.

If this proved to be the case we would all take turns in giving assistance and relief. Those were days of hallowed contentment. We were all striving to make homes. There was no envy, each

one was pleased with his neighbor's prosperity, and if one met with reverses each added his mite to help repair the loss. Well I remember when we would hear through the forest the rumbling sound of a wagon, soon we would hear the men calling to their teams, and then we would hear the sound of the axe as they chopped down the trees to make a road, and we would begin preparations for entertaining the strangers.

If it was in the spring there were leeks to be gathered, and the brush piles to be searched for eggs. If it was later in the season we sampled the growing corn and potatoes, and if any of the neighbors had the good luck to kill a deer some one would go after a piece of venison so that we could make as good an impression as possible, and induce all to come that would.

Then by the time the men and wagons emerged from the woods into our little opening all things would be in readiness. Mother would have our faces washed and hair combed, and some of the rents in our clothes sewed up, and the table spread in as good shape as the times would permit.

If the meal consisted only of roasted potatoes and salt, with what relish it was received. Often this was the case. I well remember one instance in particular: A man quite well dressed came along looking land. It was nearly noon and as he started to go on father asked him to stay for dinner. Well, I can see just how mother looked; but she prepared the dinner. It was in harvest time and we could get no flour until some one went to Pinckney or somewhere else to mill. We had new potatoes, butter, salt and crust coffee. It was the same with all the neighbors, no chance to borrow.

Now there are but few of those who experienced the events of those days left. They made the beginnings on some of the beautiful homes we see scattered over Ingham county, and a few of their children are left to tell, in a broken way, what we remember of their hardships and with what courage they met every emergency. As we meet year after year it is good for us to remember and tell what brave, energetic people they were. Could we find young men now who would take their family, a team of oxen, a wagon and an ax and go into such a wilderness as this county was and try to make a home?

Let us raise our sons to be independent through labor, to pursue

some **business** for themselves and upon their own account, to be self-reliant, to act upon their own responsibility and take the consequences like men; teach them above **all** things to be good, true, faithful husbands, winners of love **and** builders of homes.

A letter from Peter Lowe, the first secretary of the society, was read at this **time**, in which he said: "I should be very glad to meet with you all once more at your yearly meeting, but must forego the pleasure, I have lived in your county over 50 years of my **life**. Early in **1835**, taking **pattern** from our **neighbors**, the Indians, **my** fnthcr and I built a **wigwam** and lived in it **while** we erected a log **house**. I **enjoyed** my **pioneer life** about as well as **any** part of it. We soon had while neighbors settle near us, but those associates have nearly all passed away." (Mr. Lowe died during the following year.)

At **the** annual meeting for 1891 there were 88 pioneers reported to have crossed to **the** other side. As usual, the **Mason** people furnished excellent music and also a free dinner to the crowd of "old-timers" gathered at this reunion. **Marshall Pease**, the first white child born within the **present** limits of Lansing city, was present and sang "Ivy Green," with Mrs. **W. H. Clark** at the organ. **Hon. Rowland Connor**, of Saginaw, was **introduced** by President Barnes, and he gave a cultured address that was well received. He predicted great changes through cultivation in both the vegetable **and** animal worlds, particularly those which would be seen in the human **race** in the next **few** generations.

Col. **L. H. Ives** acted as toastmaster, when the following toasts were given and responded to:

THE OLD FOLKS, Mrs. **E. M. G. Hawley** (later Mrs. **L. H. Ives**) responded to in verse:

"Write us a **song** of the old folks,
Weave it with memories old,
Thrill it with ripples of laughter
From lips long since grown cold;
Scar it with **flames** of trial,
Bedew it with tears of grief,
Gild it with **hope** and courage,
And a love beyond belief;

Make it a song of labor,
Make it a hymn of **praise**,—
And through it must run the story
Of the **early** frontier days.

"Gladly **would** I for the Old folks
Fashion a stirring strain
That should sound a resurrection
To their precious past again,
But can I write for the old folks,
I, who still am young,
Whose rhyme of life runs smoothly
As dropped from a poet's tongue?
I know not the strength of effort,
The struggle of hopes and fears
That brought but a scanty harvest
To the **early** pioneers.

"What do I know of trial,
Since those we greet today
Hewed paths for this generation
And rolled the stones from the way?
They builded my happy hearth-fire,
With plenty hedged it about,
And I hold as my rightful dower
What they bravely did without,
On a broad and firm foundation
The common wealth they laid;
Our stately domes of freedom
Are their memorials made.

"So I cannot sing for the old folks
Toil-song nor hymn of **praise**,
For my car knows not the music
Of the anthems of yesterdays;
But I bring you the grateful homage
Due to the kings of toil
Whose axes created our peerage
And made us lords of the soil.

Then loudly shall swell the pean
 Wrought with a loving art
 From the true appreciation
 Of many a loyal heart.

“And sweeter to such tribute
 Than a statelier epic read,
 For love shall strengthen the living
 As honor hallows the dead.”

The next sentiment:

“Our first trip from civilization to the wilds of Michigan”—
T. W. Huntton: Made the trip 52 years ago. Started one Saturday afternoon from Clarendon, N. Y., joined my brothers and drove a team as far as Buffalo. Took the steamboat Rochester and reached Detroit in three days. Took the cars for Ann Arbor, and walked from there to Jackson and Leslie. We didn't know when we had reached Leslie, but a man on a log told us we were then in the village. Many a time I laid down by the side of a log and had it out with the ague. Bears were thick. At a funeral one day we conveyed the corpse to the burying ground on a sled drawn by an ox team, in the summer.

“Which were the happier days, now or then? “—**Hiram Rix, Jr. :** I did not enjoy the solitudes, snakes or mosquitos. Did not enjoy waiting for the fruit to grow on the apple trees we brought with us. The causeways were not sources of happiness. But then we did not worry about dress. We enjoyed a geniality and common feeling that were good.

“Recollections of the days of pot hooks and bake ovens.”—
Reuben Tryon: This is my first toast in my long life, but I lived in the days of pot hooks, and back logs and Dutch fireplaces. I always enjoyed the dinner pot when it was boiling the dinner. I peddled ovens, but to secure a purchaser always had to wait for bread to rise and then bake it for customers, who were very incredulous.

“U. S. Mail regulations in the forties.”—**J. A. Barnes:** In 1637 mail came from Dexter, winding through the woods to Mason, carried by a man on foot or horseback. There were few offices

and mail was dear. Frequently before we could get a letter out of the post office we had to pay 25 cents postage, and it bothered us to raise the money as it represented half a day's work. We followed trails through woods for miles to get our mail, and then paid dear for it. But take me back to pioneer days, for they were full of enjoyment.

“Recollections of early town meetings.”—**H. J. Dana:** Never made a speech, but am a good chopper and can make good hand spikes and rails. Have dug out a good home. Our first town meeting was held in Ingham for Leroy., Four townships then held a meeting, My father was elected supervisor by one majority. They made torches and brought the vote to Mason, through the woods at night, and canvassed it next morning.

“Some of the saddest and some of the pleasantest memories of days ago.”—**Rowland Connor:** Recently made a trip through parts of Kentucky where scenes were like 100 years ago. They do not progress, but are ignorant of the blessings of civilization. Did not see a book in my travels among them.

“Our early justice courts and their incidents.”—**11. L. Henderson :** Had my first acquaintance with justice courts 20 years after the State was in operation, and for 10 years was closely associated with them. Those who then held justice court were often unremunerated but they were able and true to their convictions, and superior to many who now hold the office for the money they can get out of it. Had a case before Justice J. A. Barnes, who called in two other justices to sit with him. It was a little supreme court. O. M. Barnes, H. A. Shaw and J. M. French were the attorneys on the other side of the case. We all boarded at a country hotel until the sheriff discovered a frisky pig in the act of mixing the biscuits, when some of us moved and boarded with a farmer during the rest of the trial. It was a long and important case. Justices now should not be compelled to make money out of their courts. The justices are the important ones.

“Home-made clothing; hats and caps. How we got them.”—
Oramal Rolfe: Came here in 1836. Told of gathering and preparing flax, straw, wool, and the way they were used in making clothing.

“Remembrances of pioneer births, deaths and marriages.”—
J. J. Tuttle and Hiram Rix, Sr.: Mr. Rix said deaths were few

in early days, because all were young and robust. Mr. Tuttle said he had lived in the woods for 53 years and was not cultured to make speeches, but would like 50 years more of pioneer life. When you leave your little wife to the mercy of the wolves and go after your cows you will appreciate her if you find her all right when you get back. Have lived through this and gnined my expectations, and wish all could be put through such a crucible. 'Twould make them vigorous. Bringing in my cow one night I had to hang to her tail to avoid losing her in the darkness, and she snatched me over the "saugers" to my home all right.

"The debt we owe the pioneers."—J. T. Campbell: They stood by us in our infancy; we should stand by them in their age, and always stand together. We can only pay them with grateful recollection, and remember that here a pioneer father struck the first blow for civilization, or here a mother reared a young brood. The younger pioneers associate the old log house with their first experience as the mothers sang "Hush, my babe, lie still and slumber." We must give to the pioneers devotion for their devotion, industry for their industry and faith for their faith.

"How we spent our winter evenings in days away back."—Thaddeus Densmore: Which evening, Sunday or weekday? In those days a man was measured by how much wood he could cut, or how many rails he could split. A pair of boots bothered me evenings, I earned them by hard work and they carried me bodily into White Oak to a school house, and held me evenings until I captured the schoolma'am. Will not tell how mother reproved those boots when I returned,

"A few recollections of our first home in the wilderness."—R. W. Whipple: Had an ox team poorly matched, one slow, the other fast. Found a neighbor in the same fix. Traded. My new ox ran away and thrust horns both sides of a tree and was fast. Made us sweat to loose him. Came to Michigan in 1837 and located land, then went back to New York and worked for her father for Rachel. Her father wanted to boss me and I didn't enjoy it. We packed up and came to Michigan where I have cleared up 320 acres and have a good home. It is pleasant surroundings that makes good homes.

"Religious privileges of the pioneer days and how we enjoyed them."—J. R. Price: We didn't have to worship in finery, and

we worshipped together. Choirs were not hired, but were led by voices trained in other countries. We all made noise and enjoyed it. Our first church was 16x20, and all our noise couldn't burst it. Young gentlemen with horses took ladies on horseback to church. Let us continue the religious element planted here 60 or 70 years ago.

The officers of last year were re-elected, and Mason set as the place for the next meeting.

The memorial list con tined the following names:

Aurelius—Barney C. Davis, Mrs. Betsey Webb, Mrs. Nancy Carrier, Mrs. Elizabeth Tanner, Mrs. Winslow Turner, Mrs. Amanda Young, Mrs. Sarah Cook, Mrs. Mary Bullen, Joseph Howe.

Alaiedon—J. C. Ingraham, Mrs. Mary Beardsley, Jacob Dubois, Mrs. William Manning, Mrs. Sarah Felton.

Bunkerhill—Mrs. Phebe Clark, Isaac Magoon, Mrs. Lovina Fuller.

Delhi—William Hancock, Mrs. Casper Lott, Mr. and Mrs. William Mayer.

Ingham—James Thompson, Jesse Sherwood, Charles Robison, I. Simons.

Leslie—Mrs. E. K. Grout, Amos Wilson, Jotham Morse, Mrs. Benjamin A. Davis, Mrs. Henry Tallmage, Mrs. Horace Wing, Mrs. Henry Stitt, Mrs. Jane Ttice.

Locke—Mrs. Nancy Tuttle.

Leroy—Mrs. Eva Grover, Mrs. Caroline Fellows, Mrs. M. A. Havens, Mrs. Eunice Johnson, Seth Benjmiu.

Lansing—L. M. Turner, Julian Case, Mrs. Dr. W. Miller, Thomas Hibhard, Judge J. E. Tenney, Mrs. Lutie Lonsbury, Isaac North, James Northrup, Mrs. Ann Powell, John Whiteley, Chas. G. Nash, Henry Morehouse, Robert Foster.

Meridian—Noah Phelps, Robert Burdick.

Onondaga—Mrs. Harriet Slaght, Jeduthan Fry, Corge Taylor.

Stockbridge—Robert McKenzie, Mrs. James Reeves, William Barrett, Mrs. Eliza Graham, Joseph Hawley, William M. Stevens.

Vevay-Allen Rowe, L. B. Royston, Chauncey Shattuck, Mrs. T. F. Bentley, Robert Darrow, J. C. Obear.

Mason-Lucien Reed, John C. Cannon, Mrs. Mary Butler, Peter Lowe, Mrs. D. W. Halstead, Asheal Baldwin, Mrs. Thomas Bush, Mrs. Caroline Linderman, R. B. Patterson, Mrs. Oliver Brailey.

Williamston—William Spaulding, Mrs. Viola Meade.

Wheatfield—Stephen Curtis, Mrs. Gardner Fletcher, Chas. Cummings.

White Oak-Mary Cndy, Asahell Munson, Mrs. Osborne, Daniel Dutcher.

Frank T. J. Frazell and Miss Maud Mehan, with clarinet and organ, furnished the music. When J. A. Barnes, the president, called to order he spoke of some being present whom he met on the same spot 54 years earlier in the county's history. A pathetic feature of the meeting was the reading of a letter from the first secretary of the society, Peter Lowe, who since writing it had passed into the Great Beyond.

The following verses, written by Mrs. E. M. G. Hawley, to be sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne," were adopted as the banquet song of the Pioneer Society:

"A SONG FOR OLD TIMES."

"O mny the spell of memory
Be o'er our spirits cast
As we today together hold
Communion with the past!
Let mutual joys and mutual cares
Which filled that busy time
Be sweet to us as we recall
The days of Auld Lang Ayne.

"Life's sunset gilds life's afternoon,
The evening shades appear,
Yet histories of the morning's toil
Engage the pioneer,

And while again those thrilling scenes
In vivid language shine,
Let loyal children's children own
Their debt to Auld Lang Syne.

"SO shall we round a happy day
With friendly clasp and strong,
While quavering voices join once more
The well remembered song;
And thankfully our hearts we lift
In praise to Love Divine
Who grants another social feast
To friends of Auld Lang Syne."

June 12, 1892, proved to be too cool for an outdoor meeting, so instead of holding the meeting on the court house lawn it was held at the Baptist church. President John A. Barnes called the meeting to order, and after a song by the choir Rev. Joseph A. Barnes led the devotional exercises.

The secretary reported 88 deaths among the pioneers during the year, as follows:

Aurelius-William Potter, Mrs. R. Nelson, Burt Rogers, Mrs. Jane Scutt, Mrs. Polly Bailey, David Potter, Alfred Parker, Ransom Hazelton, Mrs. Erastus Ranney.

Alaiedon-Geo. W. Strickland.

Bunkerhill—Mrs. Tinker.

Delhi—Caleb Thompson, Mrs. Haligan, John Lott, John Thompson, Mattbew King.

Ingham—Geo. Lathrop, M. Lowell, Thomas Cullen, Dorastus Miller, Charles Royce, Mrs. John Densmore, Prank Cook, G. L. Wolverton, Mrs. Bowen Hicks.

Leslie-Thomas Ainger, Charles DeCamp, Mrs. Joseph Sitts, Henry Freeman, John I. Eckler, George Huntton, A. V. Pugsley, Mrs. W. W. Annin, Mrs. S. Sitts.

Locke-C. G. Dunckel, Alonson Hill,

Lansing-J. I. Cowles, Robert Foster, Garret Lansing, Mrs. Phebe Post, Mrs. Eliza Larned, Almond Harrington, Isaac Howe, Whitney Jones, Mrs. Julia VanEtten, B. J. William.

Leroy—G. L. Gorton, G. H. Galusha, Richard Lowe,
Meridian—H. G. Bigelow, Mrs. Joseph Kilbourne, Mrs.
Narmore, Mrs. M. A. Edgclar, Mrs. Rosetta Ireland.

Onondaga—Mrs. Joshua Bump, William Hill, Mrs. Wolcott,
Rev. William Jones, Mrs. N. M. Childs, Mrs. Hiram Godfrey,
Miss A. Saunders,

Stockbridge—Charles A. Nims, H. N. Forbes, Benj. Peet,
Mrs. David Rodgers, Chas. Cool.

Vevay and Mason—Jacob Willett, Louisa Miller, Walter
Colton, Mrs. John Dunsback, W. D. Landfair, L. F. Olds, Mrs.
Belle Harrington, G. G. Mead, Mrs. Andrew Tubbs, Mrs. Ed-
ward Swift, Mrs. I. J. Teall, Mrs. Batchelor, Mrs. A. B.
Rose, Mrs. Nancy Sweet, Alfred Shultz.

Williamston—John B. Dakin, Mrs. N. Cook, Thomas Lawler.

Wheatfield—Silas Butler, Mrs. James Frost.

White Oak—Isaac Davis, Mrs. Munson; Allen Wolverton,
Abram Hayner,

President Barnes welcomed the pioneers, then introduced Hon
D. L. Case, of Lansing, as speaker of the day. He is 80 years old,
and because of his failing voice the audience gathered closely
around him to hear his words.

He came to Mason 49 years ago. He said that people were more
inclined to worship the rising than the setting sun, and generally
preferred to hear young rather than old men, and are also inclined
to greet the young more pleasantly than the old. He could not
ride a bicycle, but started out on foot to visit some old associates
and prepare for this speech. He gave a list of those who lived in
Mason 49 years ago, and only a few of them are left. He made a
careful distinction between the pioneer and the boy of today,
who rides a bicycle and wears patent leather boots. In pioneer
days we had not the deteriorating influence of the saloon, which
produces tramps, and we never failed to recognize the brotherhood
of man if not the fatherhood of God.

After this address the pioneers partook of a picnic dinner and
then reassembled in the church for the afternoon program.

It was found that among those present were Gardner Fletcher,
T. Densmore, H. I. Northrop, Sidney Parker, Mrs. James Turner,
Alvin Rolfe, Oliver Edwards, Edwin Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel
Skadan, Mrs. Betsey Webber, Mrs. U. C. Post, Orman Rolfe,

Lorenzo Bartlett and J. A. Barnes, who came to Ingham county
prior to 1840; while those who came between 1840-45 were J. H.
Shepard, C. A. Holden, Mrs. G. W. Mallory, Mrs. D. Abbott,
Baldwin Sitts, Mr. Young, D. L. Case, Hiram Rix, Sr., James Sitts,
Helen Case Adams, O. B. Laycock, Mrs. E. Post, Harlow B. Tall-
man, Mrs. Alvin Rolfe, Perry Henderson, and Micaiah Vaughn.

The banquet song of last year was then sung. Rev. W. J. May-
bee offered prayer. The officers for the coming year were elected
as follows: Perry Henderson, President; Geo. W. Bristol, Sec-
retary; J. T. Campbell, Treasurer, with a vice president for each
township and city; Alaiedon, Rudolphus Tryon; Aurclius, J. W.
Freeman; Bunker Hill, Elliott H. Angell; Delhi, Geo. W. Mallory;
I&am, Samuel Skadan; Leroy, Hiram Rix, Sr.; Locke, James
Sullivan; Lansing, H. Everett; Lansing City, Chas. F. Ham-
mond; Leslie, Oliver Edwards; Meridian, John Ferguson; Onon-
daga, Chas. Brown; Stockbridge, N. Rogers; Vevay, E. J. Fuller;
White Oak, Geo. H. Proctor; Wheatfield, Alonzo Doune; Williams-
ton, C. N. Branch; Mason, T. Densmore.

It is the business of these vice presidents to keep alive the in-
ter& in Ingham county pioneers and pioneer history, and espe-
cially to make lists of pioneers who pass away within their re-
spective districts and report the same to the secretary.

With Col. L. H. Ives as toastmaster, the following toasts and
responses were given:

The Early Settlers' Guests; how he entertained them—always
room for more—Helen Case Adams.

The Pioneer Baby, Cradle, Trundle-bed and Cab.—R. J. Bullen.

The Old Log School House and the Teacher "boardin' round."—
Mrs. James Turner.

Some of the Early Annoyances and How We Overcame Them.—
J. A. Barnes.

The Pioneer Preacher and the "Meetin' House."—Nathan C.
Branch.

Singing by the choir.

How and Where We Got the Mail.—

"Take care, my post boy, not so fast,
For if your steed should fail,
Upon the road you'd find at last
You needs must leave the mail."

J. J. Tuttle.

The Dignity of Justice Courts in the Forties.—Hon. D. L. Case.
Our First Pasture Lot, unenclosed by fence or section line,
when we listened for the music of the "Cow Bell's tinkling
sound."—Hiram Rix, Sr.

Old Time Door Yard "Posies."—Mrs. E. M. G. Hawley,

The Doctor and His Saddlebags.—

Physic and blister, powders and pills,

And nothing sure but the doctor bills.

Andrew Hunt.

Our Indian Neighbors, their social qualities, and how we used
to trade with them.—Hiram Rix, Jr.

The Village Grocery; what was to be found there and how we
paid for what we got.—M. Vaughn.

The Village Blacksmith, and some of the jobs he had to do.—
D. B. Jennings.

Our Glorious Commonwealth; all we are and all we hope to be
we owe to its founders. They laid the foundations broad, wide
and deep; they builded better than they knew.—Alva M. Cummins.

The Energetic, Loyal, Christian Pioneer; what do his children
say of him? Response by one of the children.—J. T. Campbell.

Mrs. Hawley's response was the only one in manuscript, and was
as follows:

PIONEER POSIES.

Because with his oaks God has planted his roses,
His ferns 'mid the ranks of his towering pines,
And draped the bare boulders with blossoming vines,
I bring you this handful of Pioneer Posies,

When the settlers slowly journeyed through
The trackless wilds of a homestead new;
Among the goods for the household needs
Were treasured packets of flower seeds.
So, when the cabin was firmly reared,
And a garden patch from the forest cleared,
By the rough log walls the seeds were sown,
And when to blossoming beauty grown,
The settler's wife stirred the forest loam
About their roots, and sang of home.

Thus did they bring to the wilderness
The old home's culture and tenderness.
What were the flowers whose brilliant dyes
Gladdened the vision of homesick eyes?
There were hollyhocks and purple phlox
And the kitchen flowers of the four-o'clocks,
And johnny-jump-up hid his face
By the door-stone set in a shady place;
The larkspur lifted a gallant lance
Guarding the poppies from all mischance,
While bachelor-buttons pink and blue
By the gorgeous tiger-lilies grew,
There were live-forever and southwood,
And lady-slippers beside them stood;
And the wooing breeze of the woodland kissed
Gay sweet-williams and love-in-a-mist.
The sentinel sunflower stood his ground
Though coquet marigolds ringed him round.
Lavender, thyme and rosemary,
And Bergamot, and honesty
Wove together their fragrant spells
To the chime of the Canterbury bells.
Bright scarlet runners and dipper gourds
Wreathed the low stoop's rough hewn boards,
While daily matins for mercies new
The morning glory's trumpet blew.
Of all the new fangled plants of ours
What so sweet as Grandma's flowers?
And who knew better than Grandma knew
How toil, through beauty, lighter grew?
While Grandma carefully pulled the weeds,
Of a steadfast hope she sowed the seeds,
And love and patience and cheerfulness
Bloomed her lowly home to bless;
And human buds of childhood there
Blossomed sweet in that kindly air.
O soul-blooms, child-blooms and garden flowers,
Of a different season and soil than ours,
Truly yours was the better part,

Blossoming close to nature's heart;
 Undefined by pride or passion,
 Left to grow in nature's fashion!
 'Tis meet that we in the mid-June glory
 Search the records of old time story;
 In memory's garden seek the spot
 Where blooms love's loyal forget-me-not.

Then, friends, with life's oaks let us plant life's sweet roses,
 Forget not life's ferns mid life's towering pines,
 The boulders of labor make fair with love's vines,
 And grow for new eras new Pioneer Posies,

All of the responses were very entertaining, some of them reaching the highest notch of humorous anecdote, and it is to be regretted that they, couldn't have been given in form for preservation, Mirth and interest ran high;

The choir, with L. W. Mills as leader and Mrs. C. W. Browne as organist, furnished pleasing music for the day, The meeting closed with the benediction by Rev. T. N. Smith.

June 6, 1893, saw many of the hoary-headed settlers of the county in attendance at the annual meeting of the County Pioneer Society, held in Rayner Opera House. Meeting called to order by President Henderson, with invocation by Rev. Jay Clizbe. Mayor Hnrper Reed being absent the president welcomed the pioneers, and among other things that he said was this: "Am sorry there is not a better history of the county, but we are no better off in that respect than, we were twenty years ago when this society was organized,"

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Longycar, Rev. Napoleon Smith and Miss Mnrinn Rogers furnished the music for the day, with Miss Minnie Huxley as pianist.

Dinner was served at the American House, 160 pnrtaking

Exercises opened in the afternoon' by prayer by Rev. W. H. Powell. Mrs. Mary McLeod Maybee recited "The Foreclosure of the Mortgage" in North Ireland dialect, bringing down the house.

There were 17 present who had lived in the county 50 years 21 who had been here more than 45 years, and 25 who came over 40 years ago.

Officers elected : J. R. Price, Lansing, President; Geo. W. Bristol, Mason, Secretary; J. T. Campbell, Mason, Treasurer. Meeting to be held in Mason.

Only one change in the list of vice presidents elected, and that was M. J. Pollok for Wheatfield in place of Alonzo Doane.

In the hour for reminiscences John R. Price led with his usual enthusiasm and valuable deductions.

Judge A. E. Cowles was called to the platform, and said he was a pioneer without a speech, but proceeded to make a good one. Half a century ago he was brought by his parents to this county, coming from Ohio. He and his mother nnd several others mnde one load in n single buggy, jolting over the "macadamixed road" of the Black Swamp nnd fording the Maumeee river. The household goods were in a wagon hauled by oxen. They located at Jefferson, three nnd one-half miles north of Mason. It was intended and thought at that time that Jefferson would be the county scat. Cowles, Sr., erected a saw mill, and the speaker early learned to drive oxen in the highest style of the art. He described the first Fourth of July celebration he ever attended, nnd amused the audience by describing the procession which wns as much ns eight or ten rods long, and told the prominent part he had in it. He first attended school in a log school house on the bank of Mud Creek at Jefferson, There were lots of Indians, who sold berries, maple sugar and baskets, and he was well acquainted with Chief Okemos and his sons Johnny and Jimmy. Deer and wolves were plenty. The family moved to Lansing in 1848, where the father helped cut off the timber from the old Capitol grounds. Judge Cowles revived old memories by naming many of the old settlers of Mason and vicinity who have passed on to their reward.

John J. Tuttle, the prince of pioneers, with a humor peculiarly his own, kept the audience in a convulsion of lughter relating his experiences. He said he wns not a speaker, everything was too mixed up, but he was bound to try and do as well as the old lady who spoke in church and apologized for herself by saying that her mind wandered and all the Scripture she could think of at the moment was that familiar passage, "Goosey, goosey. gander, where shall I wander? "

He said he had been in the woods of this county for 55 years. He enrly got him a wife in New York, and she was nn excellent

one, yet he had always had to do something towards his own support. They arrived in Michigan with \$3, some pork, vinegar and peach brandy. One spring he made 1,100 pounds of maple sugar, yoked up a pair of steers and drove to Albion and sold it, peddling it along the way. Once started for the Black Hawk war, got as far as Chicago, and there began butchering beef and pork for the Indians.

Fed 1,500 of them, but didn't like the business and drifted back to Michigan and this old county of Ingham. He told of trading maple sugar for nine jack-knives, and had never been out of knives since. A letter from his father laid in the post office three weeks because he didn't have the two shillings necessary to pay the postage. Wanted to live to be 100 years old and keep pace with the pioneers.

Alvin Rolfe, now of Lansing, had written a sketch of his early experiences which was read by J. T. Campbell in Mr. Rolfe's absence. He said:

In the spring of 1833 I came with my parents from Thetford, Orange county, Vt., to Genesee county, N. Y. The winter before was noted for the falling of stars, which alarmed many. They thought the day of judgment had come. Some got down on their knees and prayed, others got out their Bibles to read thinking that might save them. We stayed in Genesee county until 1836, then came to Michigan. We started from Buffalo on the steamer "Thomas Jefferson," and got to Detroit the next Sunday. It was a very rough passage which made most all of the passengers seasick. Detroit was then a complete mud hole. We came from there to Jacksonburg, as Jackson was then called, and stopped there until we could find government land to settle on. We found some in the dense forest of Ingham county. The next Monday we started with our axes and provision on our backs to hew us out a new home in Ingham county. We had to cut our road for four and one-half miles through woods from S. O. Russell's and James Royston's, they having moved in the week before. We had to ford the Grand river. It took us until night to cut the road, so we had to camp out that night. The next morning we went and cut logs to build a shanty with. We split basswood logs to make the floor and bark, to make the roof. Got it done Saturday night. By that time our provisions were pretty low.

Sunday morning we had one roasted potato apiece, then started for Jackson. We thought when we got to Elijah Woodworth's we would get something to eat, but he had not a mouthful of anything for us. You may judge that we were pretty hungry when we got to Jackson.

The next morning we packed our goods and started for our new home in Ingham county. When we got there the women went to work and got dinner. They had to cook over a Dutch fireplace with a stick chimney, for we had no stove. When they got dinner ready there came up a thunder shower. The ram came down through the shrunken bark roof as it would through a sieve, so you can see we were in a pickle.

We went to work chopping and clearing, but it was so late we could not raise anything the first year, so we had to buy all our provisions. We had to pay \$20 a barrel for flour, \$24 a hundred for pork, 50 cents a pound for butter, and everything else in proportion. Wildcat money was what we had to buy with. Good money was hard to get hold of. We had to let our letters lay in the post-office for weeks at a time for lack of 25 cents to pay the postage. That was the price in those days.

The family of Benjamin Rolfe settled in Vevay township. There were nine of us, now all dead but Orimel and myself. The first to go was my sister Fannie. She was taken sick on the road while moving. As there was no lumber, in this section, we had to go back to Jackson and get black walnut lumber to make a coffin for her. She died the 7th day of April, 1837, and was the first white person who died in Ingham county. She was 19 years of age.

In 1830 my wife's father, Joab Page, moved from Fairfield, Franklin county, Vt., to Medina, N. Y. In 1832 they came to Jackson, Mich. They came with an ox team and were 22 days on the road, a distance that can be traveled now in as many hours. They traveled one day on Lake Erie on the ice because of an ice storm which made it dangerous to travel on the land.

In 1844 Mr. Page put up the first sawmill in Jackson county. he, with his son Chauncey, his three sons-in-law, Whitney Smith, Alvin Rolfe and George Pease, moved to Lansing where he took the job of repairing the dam and putting up a sawmill for Mr. Seymour after John W. Burchard was drowned. It took us two

days to go from Vevay to Lansing. We tipped over one load of goods and broke an ox yoke, and had to stop and make a new one. Got to George Phillip's at dark, and stayed there that night. The next day got to Lansing just before sundown. Found the log house that Mr. **Burchard** had built. It had been used for a stable, and we had to clean it before we could move in. We forgot to take any bread with us, so had to milk the cow, sour the milk with vinegar and make **biscuits before** we could have anything to eat. We **repaired** the dam, put up the mill and run it until the Capital was located, in 1847,

We would take a load of white wood and black walnut, **clear** stuff, take it to Jackson with the ox team, it took about a week for the trip, and get \$7 per thousand for the white wood and \$6 for the walnut. We would have about money enough to get home with. Our nearest neighbor lived one and one-half miles down the river; his name was **Justus Gilkey**; the nearest neighbor on the east was two and one-half miles, and one on the south four and one-half miles, and none on the west. But when the Capital was **located** they came by the scores, and continued to come. We were the first actual settlers in the city of Lansing. I helped build the first frame building in the city. It was a boarding house for Father Page.

My sister, Mrs. Emily F. **McKibbin**, was born in Vermont, Came to Michigan in 1836; was married to Joseph E. North in 1838 by Peter Linderman, justice of the peace. Came to Lansing the same year on horseback. She was the first white woman to settle in Lansing. She died March, 1893.

I hope the old pioneers may live long to enjoy the fruits of their labor. I bid them Godspeed and hope their last days may be their best days, and may we all meet in heaven."

Mr. Campbell also read a paper written by John H. Lee, of Leroy, as follows:

My Michigan pioneer life **began** in 1837, in the month of October, when this State was but a Territory, Starting from Plymouth, Wayne county, we came to what is now Leroy, then known as a part of Jackson county. The first night we stayed at Hamburg, a little country store on the Huron river. Here was the first Indian I ever saw, It was Chief Okemos, with his wife and four quite grown men and women, I remember well his showing

the scars on his forehead, which he said the white man had made. I must say I did not like the looks of any of the crowd.

Our next night was at Mr. Daniel Dutcher's in what is now White Oak townliip. He had just moved there, From there in a distance **of** 13 miles there were but two 'houses, one Mr. Howard's and the other James Rosecrance's. The last was near father's farm. There we stnyed the third night, and went to our place the next morning. In going my uncle David **Meech** got **hurt**. **He** was thrown off the wagon and one **wheel** passed over his shoulder. **He** was badly hurt and fainted. My father got out his jack knife and bled him, and got him to the house. ^{This} consisted of a log body with a long shape roof, no door, no window, no floor, no chimney. The nearest doctor was at Pinckney, a distance of 35 miles, as we traveled at that time. There were but two families in the township, Mr. Rosecrance's and my father's.

Mr. Orrin Dann and Mr. Edmond **Allechin** came in December, 1837, both on the same **day**. Our settlement was long and not wide. No school for some time; meetings once a month or more in summer, but rare in winter.

Mr. Ephraim Meech was called the father of our settlement. Not that he was the first, for others were there as soon as he, but he was ever looking after the wants of the settlement. ^{Now} came on the settlers, and among them the Williams brothers, who began throwing obstructions in the river in the way of a dam.

The settlement needed a saw mill and a grist mill, and soon we had both-not a circular saw mill, nor a roller process grist mill, but a pioneer mill, up today and down tomorrow. Soon after this Perry Henderson, from Syracuse, N. Y., moved onto section **21**, Leroy, and began teaching singing school. Then Elder Kinne and his son were preaching every Sunday in the log school houses of that section.

Now, as life is not made up of all roses, neither is it all thorns. But of the many hardships I shall not attempt to write. ^{You will} readily see it was no boy's play. It needed men made of the very best steel, and with a will like the men and women that landed on Plymouth Rock. Men that were not to be scared out by the wolves. I have seen wolves a great **many** times in brond daylight near our house and at night near our sheep yard. ^{Grand} river

road was built. It gave us an outlet, and we had a great many comforts.

Now, in conclusion, I am sorry, in a way, to have to say I was a pioneer; I would rather have lived where I could have gone to school and where there were good roads, as we now have in Leroy. Fifty-six years has made a great change in the looks of the woods and families that were here when I came. Of the families of the first ten years only a few are living. There are just two who were present at the chopping and clearing of the **Meech** cemetery.

Capt. Alonzo Cheney showed a Gazetteer of Michigan published in 1838, which had been handed down to him from his father. The county was not assessed a dollar in 1836.

C. N. Branch, of Williamston, told of a schoolboy fight in which one of them prayed for strength to lick the other.

June 5, 1894. The day proved too cold for the pioneers to sit in the opera house without any fire, so the crowd moved over to the Baptist church to hold the twenty-second annual meeting of the county society.

President J. R. Price called the meeting to order. Col. L. H. Ives had the music in charge, and Rev. H. W. Powell, of Mason, and Rev. Edmonds, of Leslie, were asked to lead the devotionals. The treasurer's books showed \$19.63 on hand, the largest fund ever carried over by the society,

Pot-luck dinner was served in the basement of the church. The afternoon session began with the election of officers as follows: President, J. J. Tuttle, of Leslie; Secretary, Geo. W. Bristol; Treasurer, J. T. Campbell, both of Mason,

The memorial list contains the names of many familiar to those who have followed the history of Ingham county from the time it was organized. They are as follows:

Alaiedon-Bradley Baker, Mrs. O. Rathbone, Mrs. Phebe Wilkins, Mrs. Martin **Laycock**, Mrs. Fritz, Mrs. Kay, Mrs. Jonathan Stratton, Mrs. **Tobias Holden**, Truman Rolfe.

Aurelius-Theodore- Stratton, Robert Bell; (Civil War veteran), Mrs. O. H. Ranney, Mrs. **Irons**, Mrs. Timothy Strong, Alonzo **Meacham**, Mrs. Eliza Claflin, Wilson Davis, Mrs. **Evarts**, Mrs. Marie Hazelton, **Erastus** Ranney.

Bunkerhill-Charles Earl, Arrabella Brown, Geo. E. Wood.

Delhi-Mrs. Caroline Hancock, Mrs. William Frier, Mrs. Mary Ferguson, Mrs. Henry Weigman, Henry **Dorris**, Jeanette Olmstead, Henry **Kurtz**, Gotlieb Widman, Mary Driscoll, John Crane, Mrs. **Fettie** North.

Ingham-Patrick Sweeney, Samuel Halliday, Mrs. Mary A. Hicks, John **Bullen**, Mrs. James S. **Heald**, James Colwell, Mary Hunt, Mrs. Warner.

Lansing-Mrs. Elizabeth Whitely, Mrs. Sarah A. West, Steven Downer, Miss Vina Straub, William Sullivan, Mrs. **Lida** Rolfe, Jacob Seager, Alfred Wise, Philip G. Spang, Thomas Saier, William **Burlingame**, Charles E. Spencer, Mrs. Flora Wright, Geo. P. Sanford (early printer), Mrs. J. M. **Shearer**, James M. Shearer, Mrs. John P. Miller, William Barnett, Mrs. Geo. S. Williams, **Artemus** Knight, Mrs. Valentine, Mrs. Thos. Shipp, O. S. Pritchard.

Leroy-John S. **Hustin**.

Leslie-Henry Grove, Abram **Housel**, Jay VanHorn, Joseph Sitts, Ephraim Haynes, Benj. **Ingalls**, Mrs. II. Smith, David May.

Locke-George Gage, Rev. Harvey Hodskiss.

Meridian-Oscar Terrill, J. Hewett, Mrs. **Sturgis**, Mrs. Almira Bigelow, Mrs. Mary Joy.

Onondaga-Lester Francis, James Carpenter, Miss Mary Jane Peek, Hiram Gibbs.

Stockbridge-Gustavus **Adolphus** Smith, who took active part in the Black Hawk war in 1833, John Coatsworth, Uriah **Coulson**, Francis Greenman.

Vevay-Mrs. C. C. Royston, Mrs. Mary Bignal, Herschel Sanders, J. B. Decker, William Kirby (**Canadian** soldier), Mrs. Emeline Bishop, Mrs. Phebe Holcomb, Mrs. Jane quarry.

Mason-Mrs. Mary **Kittridge**, William VanFrankin, Mrs. **Orcelia** Pease, Mrs. Phebe Dunham, Mrs. D. L. Cady, Elisha Bennett, John B. Dwinell, Neil Somerville, Patrick Kerns, Henry J. Donnelly, Mrs. Deborah Shafer, Mrs. Mary **Odell**, Mrs. Mary Strobe, Mrs. G. D. Lee.,

Wheatfield-Mrs. Geo. **Rehle**, Mrs. Dorcas Blanchard, Truman Carr.

White Oak—Francis **McMahon**, Warren Harvey.

Williamston-Joseph **Decter**.

Hon. John N. Bush, of Lansing, was introduced as speaker of the day. The trend of his thought was the fact that the period covered by the lives of the pioneers before him had been the most eventful in growth and development of any in the 'world's history. Its advancement and inventions had been proverbial and most incredible. In twenty years from 1850 to 1870 the world had produced as much as in all the years from the time of Christ to the close of the eighteenth century. He had been in Ingham county nearly 47 years. He stopped at Mason and Lansing when the people were living in huts and slab houses, and traveling roads almost impassable. He was present at the assembling of the first Legislature that ever met in Lansing and has been present at every such assembly since. He urged that pioneers are still wanted; the perplexing questions are still before us and their solution will require efforts as loyal and as persistent as any that ever felled forests and endured privations. He asked for the uplifted hands of all who were residents of Michigan in 1826, but no hands went up; he then explained that he was such a resident and was old enough when he came to the State to remember the appearance of the boat on which he came with his parents from Buffalo, N. Y., to Detroit. Many interesting incidents of his 'early life in Detroit were related in which he proved himself more of a pioneer than any who had visited the society in many years. He had accompanied a French boy who dipped water from Detroit river into a cask and then peddled it about the streets as people wanted to use it. A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered the speaker.

Hon. S. G. Ives, who was in the audience, was then called upon, and he, too, proved to be a pioneer of best title from whom we had not heard in years. He said he had been in Michigan "all the time," that is since it became a State. He was on the site of Mason when there was but one house there, and the Indians had a camp where the city now stands. The Indians made sugar and he was after some of it. In 1835 he came from Tompkins county, N. Y. He had traded a running horse for 80 acres of land three miles east of Stockbridge and he came to find it, as he had never seen it. He started on foot, but got a ride on a schooner from Cleveland to Detroit for \$3.00. On two schooners that made the trip side by side there was a company of twenty or thirty young men whom the captain said made the hardest crowd he

ever had on board. They were jolly and the slow progress of the boat which had to wait for the wind gave them lots of opportunity for fun. After they reached the Detroit river the wind failed and they footed it for four miles along the Canada side to the city. From there he began to search for his land, and his narration of his experiences in finding it were very amusing. He spent many days in the woods and tramped many miles before it was located. He lost faith in the compass but finally found the "80" as good as any there was in the State of Michigan. It became his home, and not long since when he left Unadilla he had 600 acres there.

Judge E. A. Cowles spoke for a few minutes of the so-called improvements in farming, but which in his opinion had destroyed the poetry of the work. It was graceful and poetic when a row of cradlers cut their way through a field of grain. The swing of the cradle was poetry; but now any man can hump himself upon a self-binder, and they are all prosy. No particular skill is needed. The machine does it.

J. J. Tuttle, in his usual humorous way, told of early days, and told how he came with his goods drawn on an ox cart about the same distance as Mr. Ives had traveled to find his land. He suggested a change in the program for the pioneer meetings, and thought it would be better to let the pioneers talk first before the speakers present their cultured addresses.

Wm. C. Nichols, of Stockbridge, said he had lived in this county 58 years, so considered himself a pioneer.

Came when a babe with his parents, and had lived on the same place ever since, had been scared by Indians, seen deer plenty, and other wild animals right at the door.

Edy Baker, an early day sheriff of this county, said he had been here since 1845. Was in Lansing when he had to twist his team about among the stumps and logs on Washington Avenue. He asked how many present had plowed with wooden moldboards? How many had raised flax and woven it? How many had carded wool by hand? How many had mowed with a scythe? etc.? To all of which questions there were those who responded that they had done all those things. Such laid the foundations

of the county, and their times were good times. These old acquaintances are dropping away rapidly, and strangers are taking their places.

Geo. W. Parks, of Lansing, had been in the county but 40 years, and looked upon himself as a "tenderfoot." He had given his special attention to horticulture, and in that had witnessed great improvements. Orchards have been grown rapidly. When he came they were mostly natural fruit., The first shipments from this country were in 1873, but now large quantities are sent out every year. Fruit interests are growing.

Perry Henderson spoke urgently for a deeper interest by the young people in these meetings, and wanted some records made so that pioneers can see what has been done. The meeting was voted a success in every way.

June 4, 1805. The builders of our county were with us again in force on the above date, Again Dame Nature gave a cold reception to the pioneers, but as in olden times they passed undaunted over all obstacles, so they did now, for the attendance was good and the pioneer spirit prevailed.

The meeting was held at the M. E. church, and the music was furnished by members of that church, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Watts, Mr. Zada Ives and L. H. Ives, Rev. Jay Clizbe acting as chaplain. Homer Warren, of Detroit, was found to be present and as his fame as a soloist had preceded him he was invited to come forward and favor the pioneers with a song, which he did.

The list of deaths was larger than ever before, and contains some of the county's most rugged and honorable founders, as follows :

Alaiedon-Rudolphus Tryon, Mrs. Harriet Potter, Mrs. M. C. Loomis, Mrs. Gavin Fellows, John Lindsey, Mary Powelson,

Aurelius—Oramel Rolfe, David Thompson, Mrs. Charlotte Rolfe, Mrs. Maranda Isham, J. E. Hunt, David Wilson, Jacob Parish, D. E. Haines, Mrs. James Smith, Horahe May, Peter' Rorabeck, Mrs. R. Brott, Mrs. Julia Ann Rogers.

Bunkerhill—Arabella Brown, Lydia Dubois, Adelia Ewers, Lucy Dubois, Mrs. Rose Farrell, Margaret McCann, P. F. Laberteaux.

Delhi-Spencer Markham, Mrs. Lucy Hines, Agnes Tomey, Samuel Dunn, Mrs. Harriet Dillon.

Ingham—L. K. Strong, Horace Rogers, D. D. Fox, Michael Dakin, Mrs. Deborah Camp, Elias Clark, Cornelius Garrison, Jacob Wolcott.

Lansing—Henry J. Lewis, Henry Farle, R. E. Chittenden, John W. Edmund, I. W. Hopkins, Mrs. M. A. Emmett, Mrs. M. C. Fuller, Edward Adams, S. M. Edgerly, Mrs. Sarah Townsend, Mrs. Alfred Beamer, Mrs. Joseph Hedges, Mrs. Polly Lovejoy, Abraham Springer, Rev. I. E. Weed, I. F. Brown, A. Rouse, F. G. Drumm, Benjamin Williams, Mrs. Henry Gibbs, John Glott, Martin Price, D. D. Jennings, Mrs. Laura Stoughton, Mary E. Hubbard, Mrs. Mary Kilpatrick, Thomas Kannyaly, Mrs. Walter Raleigh, Mrs. Jane M. Franklin, Mrs. Nancy Poxson, Cyrus Aldorf.

Leroy—Edward Allechin, Hiram J. Dana, Mrs. Daniel '1b rick, Mrs. Nathaniel Pament, Calvin Goodspeed, Warren Haskell, Silas Bement.

Leslie—Frank Ingalls, S. O. Russell, Dudley Robinson, Samuel Lawrence* Benj. Ingalls, James Carpenter, Mrs. N. Reeves, Mrs. M. Belcher, Mrs. E. G. Eaton, N. M. Vaughn, John Armstrong, Wm. Hart.

Locke—Rev. John C. Martin, James Moyer, Joseph Speers, James Sullivan, Mrs. M. Goit, Mrs. Lafe Johnson, Michael Goit, Geo. Tuttle, Mrs. H. Hodskiss, Mrs. Albert Avery, Mrs. Alonzo Hill, Mrs. Spencer, Orlando Mixter.

Meridian—Mrs. John Ferguson, Wm. Moore, Freeman Bray, Mrs. Esther Phelps, Mrs. Piper, Peter Bennett, Amos T. Gunn, Mrs. Caroline Hulett, Mrs. S. C. Hulett, Samuel Moshier, Mrs. Thos. Bateman.

Onondaga—James Baker, Rue Perine, S. R. Sanders, Thos. P. Baldwin, Jacob Mandaville, Richard Kitchen, Mrs. Geo. Wooley, Mrs. Abram VanBuskirk, Mrs. Mary J. Peek, Marshall Campbell, Mrs. Luther Stone, Mrs. A. Standish, Mrs. Jane Dunn.

Stockbridge—H. N. Forbes, Melvin J. Titus, Henry S. Lewis, Mrs. Rhoda A. Bevier, Joseph Worden, Perry Barrett, Dayton E. Reeves, James Green, Joseph E. Worden, Philander Hopkins, Mrs. Polly Forbes, Fred Bolt.

Vevay—Mrs. Ira Hubbard, Mrs. Mary A. Corey, Aaron Gar-

rison, Edward Cochran, Mrs. Jennie Whiteley, Mrs. Susan Wright.

Mason-T. Densmore, Mrs. Gordon Sayre, Mrs. Samuel Shaw, Alvin Wheeler, Byron Wheeler, Mrs. A. Baldwin.

Wheatfield-Myron J. Pollok, Mrs. Simeon Kent, Chas. A. Kent, Wm. Bleekman, Mrs. Linderer.

White Oak—Mrs. Jane Kyes, Wm. West, Jacob Fortman.

Williamston-J. H. Forester, Mrs. J. H. Forester, Nathan Winslow, Geo. Walker, Miss M. Hanlon.

Hon. J. M. Turner was speaker of the day, and his address was full of patriotic ardor as he eulogized the pioneers and dwelt on the great work they have done for mankind.

In his talk he referred to Judge Danforth, and this led J. J. Tuttle to give a reminiscence of Judge Danforth's life in Mason, where he had a mill in which he ground corn. He said "it had a stone as about as big as a grindstone and 'cracked three kernels into one' from which we made hominy." He also spoke of the early prominence of D. L. Case as prosecuting attorney when he had to prosecute a boy for stealing socks, but the court held him not guilty for the reason that the poor boy needed the socks.

D. L. Case was called on for a talk, but said that was imposing a task that few could realize. He daily felt that his end was near at hand. He loved to return to this spot, but feared he might never come again. Not one is here today who was his associate in the early experiences in the county.

Richard Davis asked how many were present who lived in the county in 1835. Only six arose. He related many events and stated that it was his belief that Rev. E. H. Pilcher was the founder of the M. E. church in Mason.

Lawrence Meech asked how many were present who lived in Lansing in 1840. None responded. He said that in 1843 there were 18 votes cast in what is now Delhi and Lansing townships. An election was called to be held "at a white wood stump, 40 feet north of a certain stump." On the first day 18 votes were cast, and on the second day one vote was registered. He and some companions once employed some Indians to make them a canoe, which they dug from a log; it was 44 feet long and 3 feet and 2 inches inside. They paid the Indians 20 gallons of whiskey, and

cheated them some by watering it, just as men would do today. With the canoe they went to Eaton Rapids and brought back 100 'brick, two barrels of flour and other things too numerous to mention. He was at the Toledo War, and was acquainted with the boy governor, Stevens T. Mason. Was also in the "Patriot War," and told good stories of the bravery of the men, whom he said a company of squaws would have frightened out of their wits.

Hiram Rix, Sr., is more than 80 years old, yet he gets out and hoes in the garden before breakfast, partially to prepare for the time when some Legislature like the last one shall require that by statute. His home was first in the White Mountains and he is the last of four brothers. He was in this county in 1842 and believes there was less complaint then about the roads than there is now.

Perry Henderson said he had been here but 50 years and when he came it was an old country—some woods of course. He is the only one left who helped organize this society, and he wished some accurate history could be written.

Randolph Whipple said he came here in 1837 and soon after was elected pathmaster. His road district was one-third of the town of Ingham and there was but one man on his warrant. His name was Amasa Clough, and it took an entire day to warn him out.

Gardner Fletcher came to Ingham county in the fall of 1839, and has been here ever since. He came to Michigan in 1835.

R. J. Bullen said he came to this county in 1840, but could claim no credit for that. He remembered a solid wilderness for six miles west of Mason, and also remembered having his shoes made by old Father Griffin, the pioneer shoemaker.

L. Meech and J. J. Tuttle were called out again, and Mr. Meech said he could assess non-resident land so high that he was elected supervisor of Lansing by 18 out of 20 votes cast. Tuttle told how maple sugar sold so well that it took all the money and nine jack knives out of one village, and later those jack knives paid nine men for a day's logging.

The officers elected were: D. L. Case, President; L. H. Ives, Secretary; W. M. Webb, Treasurer. The pioneers were invited to hold the next meeting in Leslie, but it was voted that the county seat was the most logical place, and that it should be held there.

The vice presidents elected were as follows:

Alaiedon, Lawrence Meech; Bunkerhill, **E. H. Angell**; Delhi, **L. W. Baker**; Aurelius, **R. J. Bullen**; Ingham, R. P. Whipple; Leroy, **H. Rix, Sr.**; Locke, William Robinson; Lansing, **W. A. Dryer**; Leslie, J. J. Tuttle; Meridian, John Ferguson; Onondaga, **P. VanRiper**; Stockbridge, W. V. Nichols; White Oak, Geo. H. Proctor; Wheatfield, Gardner Fletcher; Williamston, **D. C. Branch**; Vevay, E. 3. Puller; second vice president for Lansing, Alvin Rolfe,

As usual the concensus of opinion was that this was the best meeting ever held.

June 2, 1896, the meeting was again held at the M. E. church in Mason, and the duy being fine there was a goodly attendance of the pioneer fathers and mothers.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Hon. D. L. Case, of Lansing. Music by the M. E. choir. Rev. **H. W. Powell** leading the devotional exercises.

Hon. **O. M. Barnes**, a Mason pioneer, now of Lansing, gave the annual address. He spoke of the comradeship of early settlers and reviewed the 50 years he had been in the county, mentioned the names of some of the firstcomers who held office, and caused his hearers to live over again in memory the events of early days. Both sad and pleasant memories were revived.

A call was made for those who had lived longest in the county to arise, and it was found that Lawrence Meech, of Meridian, had lived here 66 years, D. L. Case 67 years, W. M. Webb and R. M. Davis both 59 years.

The officers elected were: President, **R. H. Davis**; Secretary, L. H. Ives; Treasurer, W. M. Webb, and they were duly installed.

The memorial list contained 130 names, but these were not preserved in the records, neither were the pioneer stories and reminiscences given that day put on record.

June 8, 1897. A large number of the forest fellers gathered at the Baptist church, and the meeting was called to order by the president, R. H. Davis, of Leslie.

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Watts had charge of the music, and Rev. E. H. Broekway acted as chaplain. Address of welcome was made by Hon. J. T. Campbell.

Secretary Ives read the names of 136 who had died during the year, after which Will Carleton's poem entitled "Sleep, Old Pioneer," was read.

Col. L. H. Ives took the floor and urged the building of a home for the pioneers of the county. His idea was the construction of an old-fashioned log house where the pioneers might meet, and where they could take old-time relics and furnish a good and cheerful home with the equipments and furnishings of "Auld Lang Syne." He moved the appointment of a committee to consider the project, and the following were appointed: Col. L. H. Ives, W. H. Rayner, Lawrence Meech, J. J. Tuttle, and Mortimer Cowles.

Questioning brought out the interesting fact that there were present 50 people who had lived in Michigan over 50 years, 25 who had lived here 60 years, and 20 who came when Michigan was still a territory.

Mr. Meech had been in Michigan 67 years, but Rev. Brockway went him one better as he had been here 68 years. Mr. Tuttle had been in the State ever since the Black Hawk war.

"Nooning" was an hour of joy, and the basement of the church rang with laughter and merry jests, as these pioneers exchanged stories.

Dr. W. H. Haze, of Lansing, a pioneer physician and Methodist preacher, was introduced as speaker of the day. He was nearly blind and very hard of hearing, but his voice was strong for a man well along in the eighties.

He said he was pleased to meet so many who had long been travelers with him. He came to Mason 59 years ago and took the city as the Irishman did the army "by surrounding it." He left Oakland county June 1, 1838, afoot and alone, with a knapsack made by his mother. The day he struck Ingham county he walked 27 miles without seeing a human being. Traveled along Indian trails that were plow-share deep. It cost him the "girl he left behind him" to come to Michigan, for her parents thought she might better go to her grave than to Michigan. The girl was willing to come, but he declined to bring her against the will of her parents. His experiences in hunting a home through the northwestern part of the county were serious as well as amusing.

He made the best of them. Forty years ago he settled in Lan-

sing. The county has changed wonderfully, but something has changed still more—the physical features of its people.

We should be proud of Ingham county. He had visited the Acadia as immortalized by Longfellow, but old Ingham appeared well beside it or any other land on the earth. Stand by Ingham. When in the Legislature 40 years ago he fought hard to keep the Agricultural College from being removed to Ann Arbor, and was victorious by 85 majority. For that fight Ingham county may be thankful, It preserved to her advantages which she has enjoyed. Education is necessary to successful farming. "Those who claim that it isn't couldn't successfully pile a brush heap." He had tried Kansas experience but from there returned to Ingham county loving it more than ever. "Even the old maids looked good to me," he said. He early practiced medicine in Livingston county and used to meet Dr. **McRoberts** and Dr. Phelps, of Mason.

His talk was highly enjoyed with its mingling of pleasantry and pathos,

The following officers were elected: President, Lawrence **Meech**; Secretary, J. A. Barnes; Treasurer, W. M. Webb, and upon motion of **L. H. Ives** these officers were made members ex-officio of the. log cabin committee.

Then came reminiscences. It was stated that John Mullett, of Meridian, had been in the State and Territory 72 years. His father was surveyor here in 1837.

S. R. King exhibited a small horseshoe that had been in the King family for 66 years, and as an heirloom was to be passed on to the coming generations.

Miss Hattie Rix, of Leroy, read a paper on "Rattlesnakes," and being a pioneer she knew whereof she spoke. There were surely snakes in those days.

Enoch Howe, of Aurelius, told of his experiences. The president added that about 59 years ago a neighbor discovered Mr. Howe's cows were in his corn and stopped and told him. Mr. Howe said, "They are my cows, it is my corn and my business." **J. J. Tuttle** said it was a good while since he erected his cabin in the county, 60 years in fact. He helped to locate the county seat, and he believed it was for Lansing's interest to leave it where it is. He didn't believe the Agricultural College made farmers.

He said if the farmers with improved farms who now complain of hard times could step into the woods and get a living they would have better sense, Let them leave out the cigars, liquor and extravagant equipment.

Mrs. Hannah May, of Mason, a pioneer school teacher, said she and her brother carried the mail to and from **LaGrange** in a bag about the size of a work pocket. One was 11 years old and the other less.

Rev. **Brockway** spoke of early days and mud in **Detroit**. His father moved to Ann Arbor and it took him three days to make 40 miles.

Mrs. **E. Stanton** read an original, poem of merit on early life as she remembered it. T. W. Huntoon, W. W. Raymond and H. V. Tallman told interesting experiences that were not placed on record.

Frank Ives and Miss Rose Cranston sang a duet, very pleasing to all.

The president had been doing research work during the year and added some valuable information for future use.

When the west half of the county was all included in and called Aurelius; a town meeting was held April 24, 1837, at the house of Elijah Woodworth, with the following results: E. T. Critchet presided, and Amos E. Steele was secretary pro tern; Peter Cranston, Benj. Davis and S. O. Russell were inspectors of election; supervisor, Benj. Davis; clerk, E. T. Critchet; Peter Cranston, Henry Meeker, Peter Linderman and James Royston, justices of the peace; A. E. Steele, Benjamin Rolfe, James Royston and Stephen Tuttle, assessors; S. O. Russell; Otis Cranston, and Hiram Austin, highway commissioners; A. E. Steele, Nathan Rolfe and James Royston, inspectors of common schools; Benjamin Meeker, Peter Cranston and Peter Linderman, inspectors of the poor; Jeduthan Fry, collector, and Jeduthan Frye, Jacob Armstrong and Fin Rolfe, constables. One resolution provided that the justices of the peace should appoint a roadmaster, and he should also be fence viewer; another provided for the payment of \$7.56 per head for wolves killed by actual settlers. He also learned that the first birth in Aurelius was that of Jane A. Gardner, February 1, 1837. The Gardner family settled there in October, 1836.

The record book which had been missing for several years was at this meeting discovered in the basement of the church and rescued by the secretary.

Past officers of the society since its organization in 1876:

PRESIDENTS..

Minos McRobert, Mason-1872,
 Rev. E. K. Grout, Leslie-1873.
 J. M. Williams, Williamston-1874.
Wm. A. Dryer, Lansing-1875-1876,
 Almon **M. Chapin**, Vevay-1877.
 Wm. H. Clark, Mason-1878.
 Wm. A. Dryer, Lansing-1879.
 Samuel Skadan, Ingham-1880.
 Hon. Ferris S. **Fitch**, Bunkerhill-1881.
 Thaddeus Densmore, Mason-1882,
 Col. Whitney Jones, Mason-1883.
 Perry Henderson, Mason-1884-1885.
 Hon. D. L. Case, Lansing-1886-1887.
 Thaddeus De&more, Mason-1888.
 John A. Barnes, Mason-1889-1890-1891.
 Perry Henderson, Mason-1892.
 Capt. J. R. Price, Lansing-1893.
 John J. Tuttle, Leslie-1894.
 Hon. **D. L. Case**, Lansing-1895.
R. H. Davis-1896.
 Lawrence **Meech**, Mason-1897-1898,
 Perry Henderson, **Mason—1899**.
 L. **H. Ives**, Mason-1900-1901-1902-1903.
Rev. E. H. Brockway, **Mason—1904**.
 Robert Hayward-1905.
 John N. Bush, Lansing-1906.
 Hon. L. T. **Hemans**, **Mason—1907**.
 Richard J. **Bullen**, Aurelius-1908-1909-1910-1911.
 L. H. Ives, **Mason—1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-**
 1920.

SECRETARIES.

Peter Lowe, Mason-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878.
Peter Lowe, Mason, secretary and treasurer—1870-1880.
 George W. Bristol, Mason, secretary—1881-1882-1883-1884-
 1885.
 L. H. Ives, Mason-1886-1887.
J. A. Barnes, Mason-1888-1889.
 O. F. Miller, Mason-1890-1891,
 G. W. Bristol, Mason-1892-1893-1894.
 L. H. Ives, Mason-1895-1896,
 J. A. Barnes, Mason-1897,
 J. T. Campbell, Mason-1898.
 Mrs. Mary Stillman, **Mason—1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-**
1905-1906.
 L. H. Ives, Mason-1907-1908-1909-1910,
 Mrs. Edna M. **Gunnison Ives**, Mason-1911.
 Mrs. Carrie **Chapin, Vevay—1912-1913-1914.**
 Mrs. Franc L. Adams, Mason-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920.

TREASURERS.

Samuel Skadan, Ingham—1872-1873-1874-1875-1876.
 Dr. Minos **McRobert**, Mason-1877.
 J. A. Barnes, Mason-1878.
 Peter Lowe, Mason-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885.
 Wm. M. Webb, Aurelius 1886-1887.
 Perry Henderson, Mason-1888-1889-1890-1891.
 J. T. Campbell, Mason-1892-1893-1894.
 Wm. M. Webb, Aurelius—1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-
1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-
1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920.
 Hon. **Lawton T. Hemans** was Historian in 1906.

The first vice president was **Uriah Coulson**, of Stockbridge, who served two years; he was succeeded by H. A. Hawley, of **Vevay**, who served three years; then came H. H. North, of Delhi, for one year; W. A. Dryer, of Lansing, one year; J. J. Tuttle, of Leslie, one year; Sidney O. Russell, of Leslie, one year; Samuel Skadan; of Ingham, one year; D. L. Case, of Lansing, one year.