

FOUNDERS' DAY WAS OBSERVED AT O. U.

WARD ALUMNI CHAPTER PROVIDED A PROGRAM OF GREAT INTEREST.

DR. WARD ADDRESSED CROWD

MANY OF OLD TIMERS RECOUNTED THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Speech by Dr. Ward Was Greeted With Great Enthusiasm—Many Interesting Talks—Life of Taub Jones Reviewed.

In spite of the rainy weather a big crowd of Ottawa University students and townspeople joined in the celebration in the fifty-eighth anniversary of Ottawa University, last Friday night in the college chapel.

The chief features of the program were reminiscences given by early settlers and descendants of Ottawa pioneers. Interspersed with the recounting of names and dates were anecdotes and humorous situations that heightened the interest of the audience. The program was prepared by a committee headed by Mrs. C. A. Neighbors, representing Ward chapter, resident alumni and former students. Marion Hume, president of Ward chapter, presided.

Students of the present occupied seats in the gallery of the chapel, the townspeople and students of the past being given seats on the main floor. Mr. M. L. Ward, "Grand Old Man" of O. U., who was here in the sixties and has been connected with the Baptist college since, occupied a seat on the platform with other speakers. Though in his 94th year and recently recovered from a serious illness, Dr. Ward was able to hear the speakers and nobody present enjoyed more than he the stories of the early days of the O. U. that started as an Indian school.

The Ottawa University orchestra gave special music. Guy Wimmer led in the singing of college songs. Dr. Warren P. Behan of the faculty, led in prayer.

A. P. Elder, postmaster, was the first speaker. The family of the late Lieutenant Governor P. P. Elder, his father, came to Ottawa in 1858, the head of the family preceding the rest. A. P. Elder was four years old. He told of the ten days' round trip by ox team from Westport, Mo., where his father met his family and accompanied them to Ottawa; of their stopping in a log cabin north of the site of the present Santa Fe station, and of how the family located seven miles south. Later, the Elder family often stopped at the Taub Jones farm, northeast of Ottawa, now the old Woodlief place. The present Elder home at 504 Elm street, was built in 1866 by the late Governor Elder. Mr. Elder recalled the departure of the Ottawa Indians in 1870 and the genuine Indian dance they gave on the college campus.

Harold B. Woodlief, whose grandfather purchased the Taub Jones farm, gave something of the life of John Tecumseh Jones, who was born in Canada in 1800, went to Michigan at the age of 16, was educated in a Baptist mission and later at Hamilton, N. Y., taught school in Kentucky, and was hired by the federal government in 1837 to come to Kansas territory as an interpreter. The Ottawa mission was established. He reviewed the historical flood of 1844 which caused the mission to be moved to higher ground. He said Meeker interested Jones in religion. Meeker had the first printing press in Kansas. In 1845 Jones married a missionary. He purchased 1,040 acres from the Indians for \$1,000. The story of how border ruffians burned the old house, and of the escape of Jones and his wife, the latter carrying the family money, and of the present Woodlief house being built, was narrated as his grandparents had told the facts to him. He said that fourteen years were required to complete the present old Jones house. Native stone was used with cut stone from Fort Scott. An oxen yoke used by Jones is still in the Woodlief family and has been promised to the O. U. museum. The Jones house cost \$17,000, it was said. The woodwork is in walnut.

Mrs. Laura Penny read a graphic tribute to Mrs. Taub Jones, written by her father, the late H. F. Sheldon, on the departure of Mrs. Jones with her niece to the east in 1879.

County Clerk D. K. Emerson next spoke. His father came here in 1866 from Leavenworth, where he and his family had arrived the year before. The senior Mr. Emerson worked on old science hall which was started in the middle sixties and completed prior to 1870. Young Dean, who said he was "the first Dean of O. U.," carried water for the workmen. He helped to plant hedge about the campus. The venerable Dr. Ward, standing erect and unmindful of his 94 years, his face fired with enthusiasm, recounted his arrival here from New

(Continued on page 4.)

OBSERVE FOUNDERS DAY

(Continued from page 1)

York in 1869. He said the founding of the Baptist school had been heralded far and wide. His first year there were with two other teachers, Miss Hatch and Miss Byron. There were a dozen in school, the enrollment growing to 50 or 60 that year. He spoke of going to Manhattan to Blue-mont college, the nucleus of the present K. S. A. C. in the seventies, and of later returning to O. U. He made a stirring appeal for preservation of old science hall, the campaign for which is now in progress.

Elmer D. Manley was next on the program. He came here with his mother from Augusta in 1882. His uncle, C. J. Manley, was financial secretary of O. U. then. His mother opened a boarding school. He was then 6 years of age. During an epidemic of measles, which kept him out of the public schools, he was the youngest student in O. U. At the age of 9 years he joined the Olympian literary society, one of the two societies in the college today.

Dr. F. O. Hetrick reached Ottawa two years before Dr. Ward, in 1867. His talk was about early day literary societies, the Calliopean, the Olympian and Philalethian, and was given in his usual breezy and humorous style.

Dr. S. E. Price, president of the institution today, closed the program with greetings from the present. He said demands on the present were no less insistent and called for no less devotion than those of the early days. He said he was interested in securing clippings from early day newspapers about O. U.

—Courtesy Ottawa Herald