



Dedication of Mansfield Block House.

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The Dedicatory Exercises at the Old Block House on the Court House Lawn.

IN MEMORY OF THE PIONEERS.

Interesting Exercises in Connection with a Local Event that is Commemorative of the Days of the Early Residents, the Dangers and Hardships That Were Theirs, the Indians and the War of 1812—The Programme of the Afternoon.

Thursday afternoon marked the formal dedication of the old block house, which was recently reconstructed on the south court house lawn and which will be one of the attractions at the Mansfield Centennial Celebration in 1908.

Much interest has been manifested in this relic of the early days of Richland County and there was a good sized crowd present when the dedicatory exercises were started. After a brief programme, which was carried out on the court house lawn, the crowd adjourned to the Memorial Opera House, where a more extended programme of music and addresses was given.

The introductory address at the block house was delivered by Gen. R. Brinkerhoff, president of the Richland County Historical Society.

Gen. Brinkerhoff spoke in an interesting manner of the early history of the county, its first white settlers, the first settler of Mansfield and the laying out of the city. He told of the erection of the two block houses on the public square of Mansfield as a protection against the Indians and how one of these later became the court house, the upper floor for the court and the lower as a jail. Bids were received for the alterations necessary in converting the block house into a court house and the bid on which the contract was awarded was \$46, with an addition of \$2 for a handrail for the outside stairway. Later requirements demanded a more commodious court house and the old block house was sold at public auction and removed to