

Pugh-Manley.

Pitt Pugh and Miss Clara Manley went to Woodbury Thursday to accompany Miss Dora Willett back to her school work there and surprised their friends by being married at Woodbury that afternoon.

Mrs. Pugh has made her home here for several years with her sister, Mrs. Edith Willett, and has a host of friends. Since leaving school she has

been at the Citizens Telephone Exchange where she was a capable and courteous operator and thus added to her wide circle of friends. Mr. Pugh was for a year in Allen & Andrews crockery and grocery store and made many friends.

Thursday evening a number of their friends honored them with a miscellaneous shower at the home of Mrs. Willett. The evening was spent in games and a pot luck supper was served. Considerable amusement was caused by blind folding the bride and compelling her to tell to what use she would put each article given her without knowing what it was. The young people spent a delightful evening and left the bride and groom many substantial reminders of their love and esteem.

The happy couple left Friday morning for Riley, where the groom has accepted a position in a general store. They take with them the best wishes and congratulations of THE ECHO and their many friends.

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**OLDEST MALE RESIDENT
IN THE TOWNSHIP**

Brief Sketch of the Life of the Venerable Asa Benedict.

Hale and hearty at the age of 93 years, in full possession of all his faculties and at the present time enjoying excellent health, Deacon Asa Benedict, the subject of this narrative, is an interesting and remarkable gentleman, and a brief synopsis of his life will no doubt prove interesting to a great many of our readers.

Mr. Benedict is at present residing with his daughter, Mrs. Frank Hay, west of town, and is well known and highly respected throughout the county, having been in the earlier days a prosperous farmer in this vicinity, and as he has just passed the 93rd milestone in life's journey enjoys the distinction of being the oldest male resident of the township. Mr. Benedict was born in Scipio, New York State, Sept. 14, 1816, and continued his residence there until 1855, when he decided to strike out for different climes, and in July of that year with his wife and two children proceeded to Buffalo, from which place they came by boat to Detroit. Leaving the latter city they drove to Vermontville in an old-fashioned two seated democrat wagon with a cover over the front seat which was at that time one of the first of its kind to ever travel through this territory. The country in those days was little less than a veritable wilderness and in order to reach their destination they found it necessary to travel

through the woods along roadways that had been made by cutting down trees along the route. Vermontville at that time boasted of only three frame houses, and some idea of the existing conditions can be gained from the fact that deer roamed the forests freely, while wild turkey and other smaller game were plentiful. After enduring many hardships and privations, Mr. Benedict succeeded in clearing a tract of land 3 miles west of Vermontville, and after four very tiresome trips to Marshall finally installed his household goods in an old log house that stood on the premises. In the absence of building materials such as are used during the present modern times, clay and other substances were used in the crevices between the logs to keep out wind and rain. Later as times got better and money more plentiful he was enabled to seal the inside of the cabin and thus provide greater comforts for his humble home. On this property he took up farming, remaining there until 1886, and was the first person in the neighborhood to purchase a mowing machine and reaper.

As a means of livelihood farming was about the only indulgence at that time, although yarn-spinning occupied quite a prominent place in many of the homes. The nearest markets in the neighborhood were located at Bellevue and Battle Creek and as railroads were not thought of then great difficulties were encountered in driving these distances to market goods. In order to secure iron with which to build a wagon Mr. Benedict had to drive to

go to India in order to secure shingles with which to finish a barn he had erected. Salt at that time was secured in Battle Creek at the exorbitant price of \$3.00 a barrel.

In politics Mr. Benedict is a staunch Republican and has voted that ticket since 1837. He has cast his ballot 18 times for president and looks back with much pride to the fact that in 1840 he voted for William Henry Harrison for the office of chief executive of the United States. For a number of years he acted as school inspector here and was justice of the peace for 12 years.

In 1844, the year previous to his removal here, Mr. Benedict came to visit his brother, W. U. Benedict, and during his stay at that time attended the first meeting ever held in the Congregational church chapel. He has always led a devout christian life, being a member of the Presbyterian church while a resident of New York State, but after deciding to settle here he received his letter from that church and was transferred to the Congregational church here. Services were then held in the chapel, but in 1864 the present building was erected and Mr. Benedict has been a valued member and earnest worker ever since.

The ripe old age he has reached and his present enjoyment of good health is no doubt in a measure due to the exemplary life he led in his younger days. He never used intoxicating liquors and always abstained from the use of tobacco in any form. This, together with other good habits, has served to make him a remarkably well

while it was necessary to