

Fire Escape . . . . Bessie Granger.  
Violin Solo . . . . . Rev Rogers.  
Reading . . . . . Iva Hawkins.  
Mrs. Vera Ambrose Gregg was called on for remarks.

Refreshments consisting of ice cream and cake, and punch were served.

Much credit for the success of the meeting is due the various committees, the Decorating committee, Mabel Sprague, Chairman; The Program committee, Ava Tubbs Chairman and the Refreshments committee, Mary Grant, Chairman.

Many of the classes this year were not represented at roll call but the following responded

- 1889—Edson Fuller.
- 1890—Jessie Bowman.
- 1891—Una Moss.
- 1892—Ida Miles.
- 1892—Fred Jordan.
- 1896—Myrna Strait.
- 1897—Anna Tubbs.
- 1901—Vera Gregg, Edith Biggs.
- 1903—Iva Hill.
- 1904—Bessie Granger.
- 1907—Gladys Garlinger.
- 1908—Ora Hallenbeck.
- 1909—Ethyl Collier, Michael Mahar, Mabel Sprague.
- 1911—Ala Myers, Dr. Cecil Mull, Donald Carey.
- 1912—Nell Mason, Hazel Eckhart, Bethel Mull.
- 1914—Frances Kroger.
- 1915—Laura Frith, Ilo Ferris.
- 1916—Doris Flint.
- 1917—Fred Kroger, Clyde Sprague, Thela Cysz, Mildred Carey, Laura Schantz.

(262)

1918—Lois Gaut.  
1919—Zella Sprague, Leland Dickerson, Marion Vincent.

1920—Della Eitel, Bernice Gaut, Manta Rawson, Freida Surine, Ethyl Sprague, Ava Tubbs, Leola Vincent.

1921—Mary Grant, Altie Boyles, Velma Whitmore.

1922—Merna Hawes, Iva Hawkins, Evelyn Benedict, Jesse Hawkins, Earl Shetenhelm, Ward Parker.

1923—Earl Gehman, Eliza Gehman, Neoba Wright, Lauren Dean, Alta Crook, Irene Zemke, Rhinehart, Zemke, Albert King, Gladys Sher-rad, Beulah Cronk.

1924—Edna Gehman, Ralph Hawkins, Blanche Steward, Mary Todd, Paul Tubbs, Gertrude Warner.

#### Edith Martin Biggs

Friends of Vermontville High School Alumni Association.

Another year of human history has been left behind since last we gathered here for our annual reunion with its festivities and renewal of old ties which bind us to those we have worked and played with through the period of our school days.

It is 35 years since the first graduating class were given their diplomas in a formal manner and our written record began but the names of those who completed the course laid out for them in our school prior to the class of 1889 are many and their influence in the sphere of activity which they chose can never be traced by human minds.

My father, Mr. Henry Martin, now nearly 88 years old was a member of

the first graduating class in the Academy and gave the valedictory. The class numbered four and it is an interesting fact that they are all now living the others being Mr. James McCotter, Mrs. Martha Browning Griswold and Mrs. Anna Benedict Marsh. These first exercises were held in March 1857 in the upper room of what is now the chapel, then used for both church and school. The program was simple-recitation and essay and the audience was a small company of relatives and friends but no doubt the occasion meant as much of honorable achievement as the more elaborate program of our own day. These four graduates after 67 years of activity could give us many interesting reminiscences of pioneer school days, if they were here tonight.

The affectionate words of a goodly company bear testimony to the fact that Vermontville atmosphere and ideals have seemed to be a thing unique to the usual small town and the names of those who have gone out from our school and risen to positions of distinction and great usefulness are many.

We might mention a few graduates through the years giving honor where honor is due. One of the first was Hon. Edward W. Barber for years connected in various offices with state and national government, a clerk in the House of Representatives and calling the roll when the bill abolishing slavery was passed, later for many years a journalist of note as editor of the Jackson Patriot.

Mr. Edward P. Church, a distinguished educator in this country and Hawaii and for some years head of our state school for the blind at Lansing.

Dr. Joseph B. Griswold for many years eminent in Michigan medical schools as a prominent physician in Grand Rapids.

Mr. Frank Davis an expert civil engineer who helped survey the line of the Northern Pacific over the Rockies, also the Panama R. R. and a route over the Aukes in S. America.

Mr. Henry Martin a musical critic and writer whose acquaintance with great artists through many years is attested by many personal letters and autographed photos.

Coming down to more recent years I would speak of Curtis Grimes who has spent many years as a Missionary to China.

Anna Gunn Herring a municipal nurse of Grand Rapids, well known in that profession.

Dr. Clare Sprague who is a recognized authority on Marine law.

Zella Allen for some years head of the Seattle Parental Home for girls and who has been recognized in that city as a wonderful power for good.

Pearl Hawkins, Mildred Cossar Wilde and Agnes Ambrose Evans—musicians of exceptional ability.

L. Vern Slout whose dramatic work for the various Chautauqua and Lyceum bureaus is considered by critics to have attained a high grade of merit.

And others who in quieter ways, both men and women, have done signal service to their fellow men.