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DWIGHT'S CENTENARIAN

Many Friends and Relatives Visit Mrs. Potter on Her Hundredth Birthday and She Received Many Flowers, Messages and Gifts

On Monday afternoon and evening of this week, Mrs. Mary Ann Potter, Dwight's oldest resident, celebrated her one hundredth birthday. Although the day was a very cold, stormy one, over one hundred Dwight residents called to pay their respects, extend best wishes and congratulate Mrs. Potter on attaining the century mark of life.

Dozens of roses, carnations and violets were sent by her many friends, besides congratulatory telegrams, nearly two hundred post cards and a num-

ber of gifts, and a large number of birthday cakes.

A short program was given Monday afternoon, music being furnished by Mrs. T. J. Hayes, Mrs. Chas. Flomerfelt, and Messrs. Naffziger and McClung. Ice cream and cake was served to all guests.

A large number of relatives from away also were present to do honor at this important event in the life of their kinswoman, one being a brother 92 years old, Mr. R. W. Kilmer, of Joliet.

Mrs. Potter before her marriage was Miss Mary Ann Kilmer and was born Feb. 23, 1814, in Essex, N. Y. In 1834 she was married to Mr. Stephen Potter, and together they moved near Cleveland, Ohio, where they lived for ten years. They then moved to Illinois settling first near Joliet, but in 1855 moved to Round Grove, and purchased a farm 7 1/2 miles east of Dwight. This was government land and the farm is still owned by Mrs. Potter, and is noted as being the only farm around Dwight which has never changed hands since its purchase, Mrs. Potter still holding the government deed for the same.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Potter, but only three are now living, Miss Margaret, of Dwight; Mr. George Potter, of Joliet, and Mr. Albert Potter, of Peru, Ind., all of whom were present at this birthday celebration. In 1889 Mr. Potter died and shortly after Mrs. Potter and her daughter, Miss Margaret, moved to Joliet, living there two years. They then returned to Dwight and have lived here for the past twenty-two years.

Mrs. Potter retains all her faculties, and tells many interesting reminiscences of the early history of Dwight, in fact she well remembers the time when Dwight was nothing much more than a name, and when the land was first surveyed for the Chicago & Alton Railroad, and has watched the growth of the town from its infancy until it

has become a pretty, prosperous and flourishing little village.

Baring a few sicknesses Mrs. Potter has been in good health, and at the present time is well and enjoying life.

Among the relatives present from away were the following, Messrs. George and Albert Potter who are mentioned, being her sons:

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Potter and son, of Peru, Ind.; Miss Farrar, (granddaughter), Peru, Ind.; L. J. Eldred (grandson), Provo, Utah; Mrs. C. Shepherd (niece), Montana; Mrs. E.



MRS. MARY ANN POTTER, 100 YEARS OLD. (Photo by L. Dierks)

T. Potter (daughter-in-law), Comstock, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. George Potter, son and daughter, of Joliet; R. W. Kilmer (brother), Joliet; Mrs. Tony Kern (niece), Henry, Ill.; Mrs. Alderman, Mr. and Mrs. Distrup, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Alderman, all of Lamont; Mrs. Phelps and daughter, Lockport; Mr. and Mrs. Stock and two sons; Mr. S. Mather, Mr. A. E. Potter, wife and daughter; Messrs. Irvin and Stephen Potter, Geo. Walton and daughter, Mrs. Eucher, Mrs. Tourtelotte, and Mr. Goodyear, all of Joliet; Dr. and Mrs. S. G. Smith, Reddick.

The following poem was composed in honor of Mrs. Potter's birthday:

To Our Beloved Centenarian.
Good old friend! What shall I say?
I've told it over and over again
What a dear one we hold you.
But then, it has been made plain.

Time has been very kind to us
To spare you to us so long,
So we thank God at break of day
And again at even song.

Oh, for words to tell the story
Tell it as it should be told,
Place it on a page of glory,
Print it in lines of shining gold.

And tell it so that generations
Shall revere you as they ought
And write it so that all your loved ones
Will learn the lessons you have taught.

Faithful wife and loving mother,
True and wise, but quiet friend,
With your smile so kind and friendly
That would always courage lend.

Hands extended quick in trouble
Words of sympathy in pain,
Smiles of gladness for the dear ones
When the shadows pass again.

All the years that God has spared you,
No matter what the seasons were,
Cheerful words and smiles of gladness
Her life's sunshine, quick to spare.

May the rest of your life's journey
Be as free from pain and care
As your entrance into Heaven
When you meet your loved ones there.
—Mrs. O. Campbell.

FIREMEN'S BALL.
Annual Ball of the Fire Laddies Brings Out Large Crowd.

The Dwight Fire Department gave their annual dance Friday evening of last week in Mazon Hall. It was the largest attended dance ever given in this city. Over two hundred and fifty tickets were sold and the greater majority of them were in attendance.

The Firemen cleared about one hundred and fifty dollars and the dance was declared by them to have been the greatest success financially of any ball they have ever given.

Prof. Gualano's eight-piece orchestra, of Ottawa, was the principal attraction during the evening and the music they furnished for the occasion was most excellent. The dance con-

tinued throughout the evening and into the early hours of the morning. A number of out of town guests were present.

Parent-Teacher Club.
Next Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, the Parent-Teacher Club will meet. We have a program which should be of interest to every father and mother in the district. We would like to have everyone present, whether a member of the Club or not.

Following is the program:
Song—H. S. Girls Glee Club.
Paper—Mrs. T. E. Barry.
The Bad Boy—Discussion—Rev. F. F. Farrington, Mrs. W. A. Chester, Mr. L. L. Harrison.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Armstrong and children, of Pontiac, visited here Sunday.

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