

Lewis Library Corner Stone Ceremony

September 28, 1866

FROM HOWARD COUNTY.

Laying of the Corner Stone of the Lewis Library and Institute at Glasgow—Masonic Ceremonies—Addresses by Messrs. Shackelford, Herndon and Gen. Fisk—Sketch of the Enterprise—Centenary of American Methodism.

GLASGOW, Mo., Sept. 28, 1866.

Editors Missouri Democrat:

The corner stone of the LEWIS LIBRARY BUILDING, in this city, was laid yesterday. The day was delightful, and the ceremonies were solemn and imposing.

Prompted by a genuine affection for the founder of the enterprise, our late lamented fellow citizen Colonel B. W. Lewis, and a recognition of the generous benefactions made by him and his family to the cause of Christian education, a large number of the citizens of the counties of Howard and Chariton participated in the exercises, of which the following is the

PROGRAMME.

1. A brief address by Rev. D. A. McCready, Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose admirable arrangement of the exercises contributed much to the harmony and success of the day.

2. Singing the hymn—

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land by every tongue.

3. Prayer by Rev. C. W. Pritchett.

4. Reading Scriptures by Rev. G. T. Weaver.

5. Singing the hymn—

How blest the children of the Lord,
Who, walking in his sight,
Make all the precepts of his word
Their study and delight.

That precious wealth shall be their dower
Which cannot know decay,
Which moth or rust shall ne'er devour,
Or spoiler take away.

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6. Rev. D. A. McCready read the list of articles deposited in the corner stone, as follows:

Copy of Holy Bible.

Copy of Hymn Book. M. E. Church.

Copy of Discipline, M. E. Church.

Copy of Minutes of Missouri and Arkansas Annual Conference, M. E. Church, containing action of Conference on the bequest of Col. Lewis.

Copy of Central Christian Advocate, containing memoir of Col. Lewis.

Copy of Daily Missouri Democrat.

Copy of Glasgow Weekly Times.

Copy of Bancroft's oration on the life and character of Abraham Lincoln.

Business cards of the Messrs. Lewis, tobacco-nists, from 1838 to 1866.

Silver coins contributed by Messrs. Thompson & Dunnica, Birch, Erickson & Co. and Judge M. C. Hunt.

Various coins and mementoes deposited by the Lewis family.

Extract from the will of Col. Lewis.

Photographs and autographs of the founders; a United States flag which during the late war had been suspended in the parlor of Col. Lewis.

7. Laying of the corner stone by the Masonic fraternity.

8. Prayer by Rev. J. O. Swinney, pastor M. E. Church, South.

9. Address by Thos. Shackelford, Esq., of Glasgow.

10. Address by A. J. Herndon, Esq., of Fayette, Howard county.

11. Address by General Clinton B. Fisk, of St. Louis.

12. Singing—Doxology.

13. Benediction—Rev. D. A. McCready.

The Masonic ceremonies were conducted in an impressive manner. The addresses were appropriate and felicitous, and the occasion promotive of harmony and goodly fellowship.

Col. B. W. Lewis by will bequeathed the sum of ten thousand dollars for the establishment in this city of the Lewis Library, under the direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The widow of Col. Lewis, a large-hearted Christian woman, Maj. James W. Lewis, our esteemed fellow citizen, brother of Col. Lewis and many years his business partner, and the Colonel's son, Benjamin W. Lewis, Jr., an enterprising and successful young merchant in St. Louis, contributed equally to the erection of a beautiful and substantial brick structure for the accommodation of the Lewis Library and Institute. The building will be thirty-two feet in breadth by sixty-six feet in depth and two stories in height. It will be completed at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars, which, with the gift of ten thousand dollars by Col. Lewis, constitutes a thank-offering by the generous donors to the centenary of American Methodism.