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THE CLINTON REPUBLICAN, ST. JOHNS, MICH., DECE

Pioneers' Column

Devoted to Clinton's Early History

Note—In this column The Republican hopes to publish articles of historical value relative to Clinton county, believing that the opportunity to secure such information should be improved. To this end The Republican cordially invites those knowing historical facts of interest to send same to this paper for publication.

Why not start a scrap book, devoted exclusively to Clinton county, and in a few years you will possess a volume of much local historical value.

DEWITT THE FIRST PLACE OF SETTLEMENT IN CLINTON CO.

At the last annual meeting of the Clinton County Pioneer Society a resolution was adopted with reference to placing a boulder on the site where the first settlement was made in Clinton county, the boulder to have the following words on a bronze tablet: "This boulder marks the location of the first permanent settlement in Clinton county, Michigan, Captain David Scott, the first settler, located here 1833.—Erected by the Clinton County Pioneer Society, 1913."

George W. Scott and Jerome Dills of Dewitt and Fred W. Howe of Eagle were appointed as a committee to look after the work.

It was an honor to Mr. Scott to be placed upon that committee and an honor to the committee that he be made its chairman as he is the oldest pioneer in the place, having been a resident since 1834. Mr. Scott became deeply interested in the project at once and began search for the boulder.

One was finally located in the township of Watertown which we believed to be a good one and I want to assure you that we were not long making it a

resident of the village of Dewitt.

Friday, Nov. 4, being an ideal day, we placed it upon end on a cement foundation and around it a box 32 inches square and one foot high with a cove up the corners and around the top edge and filled the same with the best of concrete which forms the base.

The stone is 15x20 inches square and 4½ feet long with three perfect corners, one being somewhat deficient. It stands 4½ feet higher than the cross-walk and 3½ feet above the base.

It is located on the south side of main street close to the sidewalk and in front of the post office building, and is also in front of where the log hotel was built in 1833 by David Scott, or Captain Scott, as he was commonly called, and who was grandfather of the chairman of your committee.

In behalf of the committee I desire to thank one and all who lent a helping hand in the erection of the marker, and especially Mr. Otis Smith, who donated the rock and Mr. Chas. W. Webb, postmaster, who consented to its being erected in front of his place of business. Mr. Webb is a great-great-grandson of Captain Scott.

Jerome Dills.