

CORNERSTONE LAID.

Appropriate Ceremonies Attended the Commencement of the Restoration of the Old Blockhouse.

The cornerstone of the old block house which is being restored on the Court House grounds was laid this morning at 10 o'clock with quite a number of people present. President Huntington Brown and Secretary A. J. Baughman, of the Mansfield Centennial Commission, were in charge of the exercises. A squad from Co. M, in charge of Sergeant William V. Hartman, quartermaster of Co. M, Eighth regiment O. N. G., was in attendance and stood at "present arms" when the cornerstone was laid by President Brown, who, in a very neat speech reviewed the history of the old block house, which back in 1812, stood in what is now Central park, how it was first a fort, then the first Court House and jail, and in conclusion mentioned something of the purpose of the Mansfield Centennial Commission, what it hopes to accomplish, perpetuating the memory of the early settlers, and preserving the historical landmarks of Mansfield and Richland County. These old landmarks will be appreciated more in years to come than they are now.

The old logs of the block house are in a splendid state of preservation as are also the logs from the Capt. James Cunningham cabin which are being used in the restoration. After the block house is finished there is no reason why it should not stand for a great many years connecting the past and the present of Mansfield.

E. J. Potter took a picture of the cornerstone laying and these pictures which have been taken and which will be taken will form a valuable collection of photographs. After the block house is finished which will be within the next month it is the intention to have formal dedicatory services and on this occasion it is expected that some very prominent people of the state will be present. It is the intention to make it quite an occasion of historic interest.