

Thurston County, held in Olympia on February 23, General Hazard Stevens, son of the first Governor of Washington Territory, was elected president by acclamation.

The programme on the occasion included the annual address, "The Trail Blazers," by Hon. C. D. King; "The Old Settler," sung by the audience led by W. R. James; "The Good Old Pioneer Days," an original poem by Mrs. W. S. Shaser.

Allen Weir was continued as Secretary and Curator of the Society.

Death of Four Friends of History

On Tuesday evening, March 30, death took heavy toll from the friends of history in the State of Washington. An automobile, returning from a meeting of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, plunged off the bridge into the Duwamish River at Allentown. The result was fatal to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Prosch, Miss Margaret Lenora Denny, and Mrs. Harriet Foster Beecher. The only survivors were Mrs. M. J. Carkeek, owner of the car, and the Japanese chauffeur. The fortunate escape of Mrs. Carkeek is explainable only by the fact that she occupied the seat by the chauffeur, while her guests were held by the tightly fastened curtains that had been sheltering them from the rain.

The whole State was painfully shocked by the accident. All four of the victims were prominent and well beloved.

Margaret Lenora Denny was but a small child when she landed at Alki Point on November 13, 1851, with her father's family. Her father was Arthur A. Denny, who has been counted the leader of that famous little colony from which has grown the City of Seattle. Miss Denny had thus witnessed the entire evolution of a log-cabin colony into a great metropolis. She shared her father's love of accurate historical records and gave generously of time, talent and money to that cause. It was she who paid the bills for the historical monument at Alki Point. She gave the University of Washington an enlarged portrait of one of its first presidents. She was a constant supporter of the Washington Historical Quarterly. In 1911, at the celebration of the semi-centennial of the University of Washington, she unveiled the bronze tablet commemorating the event. Miss Denny was one of the most charitable women in Seattle, though in this, as in all her work, she was modest and unassuming. No one person, nor any one group of persons, can measure the loss that will be felt by her death.

The greater part of Mrs. Beecher's life was spent in Port Townsend. Her talent as an artist made her well known, however, throughout the Northwest. During the last few years her home has been in Seattle, where she has been busy painting portraits of pioneers. One of the last of these

was a beautiful portrait of Miss Denny, with whom she was so suddenly ushered into the Great Beyond.

Mrs. Virginia McCarver Prosch was born on the McCarver Donation Claim in Oregon and with the family of her father, General Morton M. McCarver, was one of the founders of the City of Tacoma. Her sunny smile and cheerful greetings were always welcome at gatherings of pioneers.

Thomas W. Prosch is well known to readers of this Quarterly. He has been one of the Board of Editors from the first and scarcely an issue has been published without one or more articles signed or unsigned from his pen. He was one of the pioneer journalists of Puget Sound. He started to work for himself when a young boy and retired while still in the prime of life. His last years were devoted almost wholly to literature. He was the author of four or five books on pioneer history, as well as of innumerable magazine and newspaper articles of real and lasting merit. He was a tireless worker in such organizations as the Seattle Chamber of Commerce (Judge Thomas Burke now survives him as the last continuous member since the organization of that body), the Pioneers of Washington, Sons of the American Revolution, and the historical societies of Oregon and Washington. As the days roll on there will be many persons and many places that will miss the earnest, willing helpfulness of Thomas W. Prosch.

The daily press recorded the outpouring of sympathy for the surviving families and of respect for the departed at the funerals.

Many organizations have adopted resolutions giving expression to these sentiments. The action most appropriate for reproduction in this Quarterly is that by the Pioneers of Washington. President Samuel L. Crawford appointed the following committee: Major W. V. Rinehart, Judge C. H. Hanford, Edgar Bryan, Clarence B. Bagley, William M. Calhoun and Edmond S. Meany. The committee prepared for the association the following:

"The people of the City of Seattle and the State of Washington have been shocked by the announcement of the sudden tragedy that has overtaken a group of honored and respected pioneers. While in pursuit of their earnest efforts to preserve the pioneer records of their loved Commonwealth for the benefit of generations to follow them, they were called from earth in a moment by an unfortunate accident.

"Thomas Wickham Prosch and his wife, Virginia McCarver Prosch; Miss Margaret Lenora Denny, Mrs. Harriet Foster Beecher, all were loved and respected as pioneers of Seattle and the Puget Sound country during the greater part of their lives. Miss Denny came to Seattle as a small child when her father's family constituted a part of that colony which founded this city. The others came later, but all had witnessed

the city's growth from a village in the wilderness to the metropolis of the present day.

"Words are inadequate to express the feeling of sorrow engendered by this tragedy. All that can now be done is to express our sympathy with the stricken families and to give voice to our appreciation of the noble lives whose untimely end we mourn.

"The Pioneers of Washington, through a committee appointed for the purpose, speak for the pioneers of the State in thus attempting to offer this tribute of their appreciation and their sorrow, as well as of sincere sympathy for the bereaved families."