

# CALEDONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 7

*Preserving Caledonia's past for the future*

February 2011

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**Searching for information:** On the Thomas "Daddy" Robertson farm - also known as the "Potter Farm". Matt and Kara Paske are interested in any information or photos pertaining to the property and the families that have lived on the farm. You can contact them at mattkarapaske@gmail.com or phone 697-4360.

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## Caledonia and the Civil War

The regiment with the most Caledonia volunteers was the 23rd Wisconsin Infantry. They were members of companies C, F, and H. The 23rd was organized in Madison on August 30, 1952 and mustered out on July 4, 1865. The regiment was involved in the "Western Front" fighting predominately in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. They fought in 17 engagements with the most notable battle at Vicksburg Mississippi. The 23rd had a total roster of 1,117 men but they also had the 5th highest death rate of the 69 Wisconsin Regiments. The death rate was 28 % of which 83 % of the deaths were from disease. Malaria from the Yazoo swamps around Vicksburg took a heavy toll.

## Volunteers from Caledonia:

**Edward Owen** enlisted at the age of 21 on August 15, 1862 to the 23rd regiment, company C. He was promoted to Corporal in March of 1863. On June 7, 1863 at the Battle of Youngs Point in Louisiana he was severely wounded. This was one of the battles of the Vicksburg Campaign. He was taken to the Union hospital at Memphis Tennessee. His brother Owen J. Owen went to get him in the early part of July. Edward was discharged due to disability on July 24, 1863. On the trip back to Caledonia up the Mississippi River, Owen became sick with typhoid fever. They both made it back to their father's farm around August 3rd but both died within the week. Edward died at the age of 23 on August 8th and Owen J died at the age of 34 on August 9th. They were the sons of John and Margaret Owen, who were the first Welsh family to settle in Caledonia in September of 1846. Owen was born in Wales in 1829 and Edward was born in Wales in 1839.

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday March 8** at 7pm at the Caledonia town Hall N5479 Beich Road. The meeting will be about ongoing projects. For more information contact Jennifer Blau at 608-697-0279 or jenablau@hotmail.com

President: Jennifer Blau

Secretary: Susan Jensen

Treasure: Al Hamele

Program Secretary: Mary Mittlesteadt

The newsletter can be found on the Town of Caledonia web site: [www.townofcaledonia.org](http://www.townofcaledonia.org)

Caledonia School will be presenting a program about the 50th anniversary of the school on Monday March 7th.

## Meeting News

The annual business meeting was held on January 11th at the Town Hall. Meeting dates were set for the upcoming year: March 8, May 10, July 12, Sept 13, and Nov 8th. The meeting dates will be posted on the town of Caledonia web site as well. Program topics were discussed but will have to wait until they are confirmed. Among those discussed were Esther Staudenmayer to talk about early Caledonia, a slide show about Caledonia by Rita Zamzow, and a tour of Bill and Rita Zamzow's museum in Princeton. It was decided to hold a History Day on Saturday September 10 to feature the Historical Library. Details will follow. Jennifer Blau hung up the 3 completed laminated plat maps of Caledonia. The plaque for the Town chairmen is progressing. It has been difficult to locate some of the names. We are looking into getting a sign made for the Historical library.