

CALEDONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 6

Preserving Caledonia's past for the future

December 2010

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The November 9th meeting was held at Durwards Glen. Jennifer said that the plat maps are done. she will contact the town board about putting them up. There was a discussion about moving the old Post Office located in a flood plane at Sengers. The program was about the personal life of the Durward family. There were pictures and other memorabilia on display.

The year 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War in 1861. The newsletter will do a series of stories about Caledonia and the Civil War.

Caledonia and the Civil War - The Draft

After the initial surge of volunteers started to fall off, official steps were taken to start a draft. Each state was told how many men were needed for military duty. This trickled down to quotas for every county. Each town and township were given a quota as well to meet that number. Columbia County had a quota of 1342 and 1599 had volunteered. Caledonia had a quota of 40 men with 34 volunteering.

In June of 1863 enrolling officers were to take the names of all eligible men between the ages of 18 and 40. J Charles Mohr was the enrolling officer for Caledonia. The enrollment for Caledonia was 80 of 1st class and 58 of 2nd class.

A notice of the draft was sent out on November 11, 1863 with an increase in the quotas. Caledonia had 12 added to their quota. The draft was finally held on September 21, 1864 in Janesville. For Caledonia there were 112 names enrolled for the draft and 16 names were drawn. The men whose names were drawn did not have to serve as Caledonia had met it's quota but the information hadn't been reported by the day of the draft. Here are the names of the men drafted (names are spelled as they appeared in the paper):

John Agar, John Berreau, Robert Hutchinson, Evan Jones, Antoine Jorreson, Alexander McAllister, John McCredie, John Neill, Robert Pugh, Orson Perry, James Robertson, Robert Semple, John Shanks, Hiram Sopper, Jno G Staudenmayer, and Calvin Stoner

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday January 11, 2011** at 7pm at the Caledonia Town Hall N5479 Beich Road. It will be a business meeting to set the agenda for 2011. 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

Caledonia History Corner [also the answer to the Do you know question from the last newsletter]

The first town chairman was John Pate and he served in 1851 and 1852. The current town chairman is his great-great-grandson, Steve Pate. Steve was elected in 2007. John's son and Steve's great-great-uncle William Pate also served as town chairman in 1894 and 1895.

John Pate was one of the founding pioneer families of Caledonia, arriving in July 1842. John was born in Scotland on February 17, 1802 and died in Caledonia on December 19, 1879. He was married to Agnes Stewart and the father of 5 sons and 1 daughter. In addition to being town chairman he held many other town and county offices.