

CALEDONIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 5

Preserving Caledonia's past for the future

October 2010

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During the September 14th meeting Jennifer Blau showed an example of a plat map that was printed on canvas and laminated. It was decided to continue the project with the other 2 remaining plat maps. The original paper plat maps were showing deterioration from continued handling. Mary Mittlesteadt said that the Caledonia School will have events throughout the school year celebrating it's 50 year anniversary. The town chairmen plaque project is continuing. We are still locating the names of all the town chairmen.

The program for the meeting was about FFA, 4-H, and Fairs. The Caledonia and Neighborhood Cattle Show and Fair was held for 8 years. It started in 1854 and ended on Oct 3, 1862. I had thought the fair probably ended because of the Civil War but I was wrong, it ended because of the 1862 whisky tax making all alcoholic beverages taxable. The fair that has been written about was the 1861 fair held at Thomas "Daddy" Robertson's farm. It was considered the biggest and the best. The Dekorra Home Guard put on a display and they left the next day to return to the war. A fairgoer (Big Billy Wood) took objection to being cheated by a stand keeper who sold fruits and candies. He raised a barrel of apples over his head and threw it, causing the apples to spill and then he pulled out a tent stake causing the tent to fall. By Deb Jensen

The CHS newsletter is now available on the Town of Caledonia web site: www.townofcaledonia.org

Do you know?

What does Caledonia's first town chairman have in common with the present town chairman?

see the answer in the next issue

From the editors: Next year - 2011 - is the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. We will be printing a series of articles for the newsletter about Caledonia residents and the Civil War. Contact the editors if you have any interesting stories to share.

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday November 9** at 7pm at Durward's Glen. The program will be about the Durward Family. 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

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

The 3 men from Caledonia that served in the Wisconsin State Legislature:

- 1) David Owen (1838 - 1893) was the son of John and Margaret Owen. He was elected as a Republican in 1876 to the State Assembly where he served 1 term. He was also a town assessor, supervisor/chairman, and treasurer.
- 2) James Towers (1859 -1926) was the son of John and Marion Towers. He was elected as a Republican in 1908 to the State Assembly where he served 1 term. He was also a county board supervisor, town supervisor/chairman, and served as director of the Merrimack State Bank.
- 3) George Staudenmayer (1857 - 1939) was the son of John and Margaret Staudenmayer. He was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate where he served 3 terms from 1914 to 1926, He was elected in 1914 as a Democrat and re-elected in 1918 as a Republican. This was the first time this had happened in Wisconsin. George had never held any public office until he was elected to the Senate. He went on to serve as town supervisor/chairman and president of the Wisconsin Brotherhood of Thresherman.

Source: Wisconsin Blue Books 1877, 1909, 1925