

# CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

April 1, 2012

CASS COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 505  
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## The Civil War Sesquicentennial

**The American Civil War** in our Nation's history. This year the nation will celebrate the Sesquicentennial of that period in our nation's history. The Civil War set the stage for numerous changes in the fundamental structure of American society, influencing basic concepts of human and civil rights and equality. The Minnesota Capitol is decorated and memorialized with Civil War artifacts, paintings and memorials. The Minnesota Historical Society is currently working on preserving its Civil War battle flags. Many events are set throughout the United States to commemorate the battles and historical events from 1861-1865.

The Civil War disrupted the lives of millions of Americans, but left a rich paper trail for family historians. From the 1860s through the 1890s, our citizens settled on inexpensive public land in the Midwest. Homestead and preemption sales generated documents that tell the story of how ancestors got started on Minnesota farm land.

Although Cass County did not exist yet as a county during the war itself, many Civil War veterans chose to eventually settle in Cass County. The following stories will illustrate what happened to some of these veterans upon their settlement in our area.

*Postage Stamps: The first stamps of the four year Civil War sesquicentennial stamps were released by Post Office officials in Charleston, S.C. Stamps will be issued annually in commemoration of the 150-year anniversary of the Civil War.*



Corporal Bernard Garrity, Buried at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hackensack (see back page for accompanying story)

Cass County Historical Society  
Calendar of Events 2012

- April 9, 2012 – Board Meeting, Museum, 6:30 p.m.  
April 17, 2012 - 7:00 pm. - Cass County Museum  
May 15, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. - Cass County Museum  
June 12, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. (Note change to 2nd Tuesday!)  
July 17, 2012 - 7:00 p.m. - Cass County Museum  
July 24, 2012 - 3rd Annual HISTORY WALK  
Aug 14, 2012 - 3rd Annual HISTORY WALK  
Aug 21, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.  
Sept 18, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.  
Oct 16, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

## HISTORY WALKS

The History Walks will take you on a historic tour, complete with characters in costume, down the south side of Minnesota Avenue in Walker.

### Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors

Dan Eikenberry, Pres.  
Lois Orton, V-Pres  
Karen Keener  
Elsie Nelson  
Sue Eikenberry  
Don Beadle  
Martha Winter  
Alexis Hadrava - Treasurer

### Cass County Research Center

The research center is staffed by the Cass County Historical Society at the Cass County Museum in Walker. Through the winter, research help is available by appointment. The research library, obituary indexes, newspaper microfilm, and other archival materials are accessible for a \$10 research fee for non-members.

To make an appointment during the winter hours, contact Renee at 218-652-4377.

With the help of a targeted grant from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the Minnesota Historical Society's Local History Services Office in partnership with Access Philanthropy is providing Minnesota historical organizations the opportunity to receive training and consultation in fundraising, planning, and grants proposal preparation. The Cass County Historical Society will be hosting this workshop on April 23 for the area at the historic Chase Hotel in Walker. Those who complete the program will receive a certificate of achievement that can be used as a boost in preparing grant proposals for the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants program.

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**Daniel Kline**, son of Jacob and Mary Kline, was born in Union County, Pennsylvania on February 10, 1831. He enlisted in Company E, 51 Pennsylvania Volunteers in 1864 and served until the close of the war. He died at home in Pine River on June 29, 1907 at the age of 76. He was married to Miss Catherine Moore on March 2, 1862, and they had children: Mrs. John Huffman of Kansas, Mrs. Samuel Fetterhoff of Wisconsin, Lewis of Nebraska, W.J., John M. and George, all of Pine River. He was survived by three brothers and three sisters in Pennsylvania. How, why, and when he came to Pine River is a mystery to us all. He is buried in Pine Ridge cemetery at Pine River.

**Lorenzo W. Stevenson**, more familiarly known as "Doc" was born in New York state on March 3, 1840. When a boy, he moved to Iowa where he enlisted as a soldier and served in the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Volunteers in the Civil War. He was wounded in battle and was honorably discharged in 1865. He came to Minnesota in 1882 and became a Cass County resident in 1898 when he moved to the Ellis area. He was in the Pine River area by 1900. One adopted son, Otto Stevenson, was the only family left as Lorenzo's wife and six children had preceded him in death a number of years ago. He is buried in Pine Ridge cemetery at Pine River.

**Samuel D. Reynolds** was born May 14, 1831 in Lawrence County, New York. He enlisted in the Civil War in September, 1861 and was honorably discharged in November of 1864. He died on November 29, 1909. He had been married twice, his second wife died in about 1907 in Oklahoma as the family had lived there before moving to Cass County. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Wadena. His six children survived him. He is buried at Evergreen Cemetery at Backus.

**Jacob A. Gilberg** was born on February 7, 1845 in Middletown, Pennsylvania. At age three, he moved to Ohio where he grew to manhood and joined the Fifth Ohio Cavalry, Company D, at the outbreak of the Civil War and served 4½ years in the army. While taking part in many minor battles, the most conspicuous events during his service were the Battle of Shiloh, which lasted two days and his battalion charged into the face of the enemy and recaptured two guns that had been taken the day before. His company was General John A. Logan's escort during the Atlanta campaign and he marched with Sherman to the sea. He was one of the 300 soldiers that

acted as General Sherman's escort at the surrender of the confederate General Johnson in North Carolina. He was honorably discharged on October 27, 1865, in North Carolina. After the war he worked in the lumber camps throughout Pennsylvania until 1873 when he came west and homesteaded in Poplar Township in 1889 where he lived until 1914, when he moved to Backus. Mr. Gilberg served 11 years with distinction, on school board No. 1, being the chairman when it was dissolved in 1922. J. A. Gilberg, reached his 84<sup>th</sup> milestone on his birthday in 1928. He was feted by a gathering at the Odd Fellows Hall in Backus that evening, where he was made the honored guest by the 75 people that had gathered there. Asa operated a dray line in Pine River for a number of years. He was often referred to as the "Grand Old Man" of Backus. He died January 26, 1930 and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery at Backus.

**Frederick Gunther** was born in New York City on June 30, 1840 just two weeks after his parents had immigrated here from Germany. He was one of eight children and in his early youth was taught the trade of a pattern maker. His ancestors had followed this same trade for several generations before him. Every member of this family, including his father, served throughout the Civil War. Gunther had met personally with President Lincoln, the first time on February 1, 1861 at Philadelphia. Gunther was a member of the Pennsylvania State Militia and answered the first call for volunteers to fight in the Civil War. He was brevetted with the rank of Sergeant of this company that was widely known in military circles as the Ring Gold Rifles. After a 90-day special term, Gunther and other original recruits re-enlisted and formed Company L of the famous Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment. He was married on Christmas Day, 1864, to Anna Maria Mayor. After the Civil War he was employed by the US Government as a pattern maker until he retired. His work took him to every leading naval center on the continent. When retired, he divided his time between the Soldiers home, the Odd Fellows home at Northfield and his children. He came to Walker to make his home with his daughter, Mrs. S.J. O'Connell, about a year before his death. He died on November 27, 1926 and was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery at Walker. His other children were Mrs. Chas. Cook of Hopkins, Fred M. Gunther of California, Henry H. Gunther of Oregon,

Frank Gunther of California, Jessie M. Gunther and Mrs. Ewing of California and George C. Gunther of Minneapolis.

**Daniel L. Bush** was born in Sullivan County of New York state on October 7, 1833. He followed the lumber business to Wisconsin where he became heavily engaged in the lumber business. He married Genevieve Hardwick at Pensaska, Wisconsin in 1857. He was still living in Wisconsin when the Civil War broke out and organized a regiment, the 44<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin where he served as captain for three years. Mr. Bush prospered in the lumber business, but later in life, he suffered reverses and decided to take the residue of his fortune and locate in a quiet place where he and his wife could enjoy the remainder of their lives. The couple moved to Walker in 1896, purchased and began to remodel the former Ely Wright's, Cass County Clerk of Court and Village judge, home and opened the Lake View Hotel in 1903. Daniel L. Bush was known by the children of Walker as "Grandpa" and he was rarely seen on the street without a bevy of little ones clinging to his clothes as they all loved him because he loved them. He died on August 21, 1906. His devoted wife died about a year earlier and he was never the same since.

**John W. Patterson** was born in Maghera, County of Londonderry, in North Ireland on May 1, 1832. When he was twenty years of age he set sail for America and settled at Hartford, New York where he farmed for twelve years. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. E, 123<sup>rd</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He fought in the famous battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Dallas and many others. At the close of the war he returned to Hartford, NY where on January 10, 1871 he married Dell Martin. They had one child, Mrs. Jay P. Brewer. John and his family came to Pine River in September of 1909. In Pine River, he was familiarly known as Grandpa Patterson. He died February 11, 1920 from past complications which were made worse by a bad cold. He lost consciousness and passed quietly away Wednesday morning. He is buried in Dodge Center, Minnesota.

**H.M. Hazelton** was born October 3, 1845 in Highland, Michigan. He served in Co. A, 7<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry. He was married to Elizabeth Church at Ridgeway, Minnesota on June 17, 1866. They had eight children. He had lived in the Pine River area since 1900 and was very active in G.A.R. activities and the gatherings of the old settlers. He was always at home with the boys and enjoyed their sports. He died on March 11, 1924 and was buried at Ridgeway next to his wife.

**Asa Rounds** was born in 1841 in Pennsylvania. He enlisted as a Private on August 26, 1861 at the age of 20. He joined Co. K of the 49<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry and fought many battles during the war. He received a disability discharge on Jan 9, 1863 in White Oak Church, Virginia. After the war was over, he took up residence in Pennsylvania. He emigrated from Pennsylvania to Fort Ripley where he married Sarah Johanna Hallenbeck in 1903. They then arrived in Pine River in 1903 with their two grandsons, Clarence and Charles, whom they raised. Sarah had several children from a former marriage. One son was W.A. Vaneps. Asa and Sarah had a daughter, Mrs. Ovid Lavois. Charles (1894) was a ball player and wrestler and eventually was in the bulk oil business at Pine River. He married Vera Farnum and they raised their four children at Pine River. Asa died Sept 9, 1926 in Pine River and is buried at Pine Ridge Cemetery.

**Lafayette Hill** was born in Laurence County, New York on October 31, 1835 and came to Minnesota in 1856, settling in the southern part of the state. In 1867 he married Louisa Brown. They had seven children: Harry, Frank, Warren and Mrs. Gearey all of Pine River and Merton, Mrs. Etnair and Mrs. Wilson of Chatfield. He died in September of 1920. He and Louisa are buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Olmstead county, Mn.

**Reuben R. Rearick** died at the Soldier's Home in Minneapolis Thursday morning on September 20, 1917 where he had been living the last couple of months. He was born in Ohio on March 17, 1840. He married Pauline Maxwell at Fort Wayne, Indiana. They had six sons and five daughters. He moved to Cass County from Kandiyohi County in the fall of 1889 and settled on a homestead 7 miles north of Pillager. He lived there for several years before moving into the village of Pillager where he became a member of the village council and Justice of the Peace for several years. He was one of the earliest pioneer citizens in Cass County. He was closely identified with the county's development in early days. During the Civil War, he served with the 152<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Volunteers.

**James Lewzader** was born in White County, Indiana on March 18, 1844. He moved to Iowa, married, and raised 5 children. In 1904 he married again and emigrated to Minnesota and located for a number of years at Mankato. They came and stayed at Cass County for 1 year and then went back to Mankato. In about 1908 he returned to Walker and in 1918 purchased a small farm in Shingobee Township. Mr. Lewzader was mustered out with an honorable discharge and it was believed he received special mention for valor. He enlisted with Company G, Indiana 146<sup>th</sup> Infantry on October 24, 1861. During the war he lost two brothers and for his lifetime, carried bullets in his body as mementos of this bloody conflict. He celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 18, 1924. He died April 2, 1924 and is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Walker.

**Louis E. Quint** was born at West Gardner, Maine on November 28, 1847. He enlisted at the age of 16 from Canton, Massachusetts on September 20, 1863 as a private in the 10<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Battalion, L.A. and mustered out of service from Boston Harbor on June 9, 1865. He went through the War Campaign under General U.S. Grant. On April 9, 1865, as a youthful gunner, he witnessed the surrender of General Lee to General Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse. Louis joined the Grand Army of the Republic in Maine and upon coming to Minnesota was affiliated with the Geo. N. Morgan Post No. 4 of Minneapolis in February 22, 1889. When that disbanded he then transferred to the John W. Cochran Post No. 164 in Buffalo. He became Department Commander of the Minnesota Grand Army of the Republic and also held other offices from 1942-44. He was a Mason beginning in January 29, 1969 and in 1944 was the oldest Mason in point of membership in the United States. He was also a charter member of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association which was organized in 1911. Louis and his wife Sarah Isabelle (d.1/24/1860) lived at Benedict in their later years. They had sons, James and Harry. Louis died on October 4, 1944 at the Minnesota Soldier's home in Minneapolis and his remains were brought to Walker for a funeral service taken over by the Spencer-Ross American Legion Post No. 134 under the command of Claude B. Starr, Post commander and he was buried at Evergreen Cemetery at Walker.

**Merrill Stearns** served four years in the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Company E, Illinois Volunteers. He enlisted as a private on August 20, 1861 and enlisted again on September 18, 1861 and received a disability discharge on April 18, 1862 from the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Company E, Illinois Volunteers. For many years his grave lay hidden in the brush along the Old Grade from Whipholt in Pine Lake Township to Longville in Kego Township. After the Cass County Historical Society brought this grave to their attention, the Veterans group from Longville cleaned up the grave site and replaced a wooden cross with a stone in the 1980s and for many years maintained the site. More recently, Lamont Emery, a Pine Lake township resident, cleaned the grave site and put a new fence around it. Grandpa Stearns, as he was known by his friends, died April 12, 1910. He was married to Jennie E. as stated on her application for a widow's pension in July of 1910.

**Capt Albion K. P. Knowles** joined Co. D of the 24<sup>th</sup> Maine Infantry where he was a Captain. After the war he settled at Pillager where he raised a family. He was a member of the Pap Thomas GAR Post of Brainerd since 1890. He died March 28, 1896 and his daughter Mrs. S.H. Hamilton of Todd County buried her father at the cemetery in Pillager beside a sister who had passed on years before.

**Robert Hatfield** was an old soldier and one of the earliest settlers of Cass County. He served three and ½ years in the army in the 21<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry. He was wounded in one battle and lay on the field for 24 hours before being picked up. He died at Walker on August 19, 1910. He had been a resident of Hackensack and of Cass County since 1892. He is buried at Hillcrest, Hackensack or Evergreen, Walker.

**J.V. Maxfield**, enlisted in January 1862 and was discharged in 1866 at Nashville, Tennessee. He told the *Cass County Pioneer* editor that there was not much comparison in the last Great War and the Civil War. The boys that enlisted then had the same things to face undoubtedly but in quite a different way. It was mostly a hand to hand struggle that they had to face and none of the modern destructive machinery existed for taking the lives of those that went to the front, but they also had fewer facilities for taking care of the wounded.

## Obituaries and Cemeteries

Thanks to Bev Sheldon and Leona O'Neal, we have updated our obituary file once again and placed the updated list on the website. Bev brought in her work and we continue to use her design for our print outs and website. Julie Johnson donated copies of the *Remer Star* from 1947-1960. Leona O'Neal is reading the original copies of the *Remer Star* and supplementing our database with obituaries from that newspaper. We continue to add information to [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). 4,685,000 have been added since our January newsletter -- that's right -- over four million!!

Spring is a great time to get out and walk a cemetery and update one of the transcriptions. If you are interested, please contact the museum to pick up a copy of what has been done in the past and add to it.

## Upcoming Programs

April 17, 2012 -- **Historical Women of Walker and Greater Cass County** --  
Cass County Museum 7:00 p.m.

May 15, 2012 -- **Cass County Civil War Veterans**  
Cass County Museum 7:00 p.m.

June 12, 2012 -- **Leech Lake Trail**  
Cass County Museum 7:00 p.m.

July 17, 2012 -- Barry Babcock - **George Bonga**  
Tentatively at Pine River Depot, 7:00 p.m.

August 21, 2012 -- **Remer Firsts** - Tentatively at Remer Depot, Remer, Mn.

Sept 18, 2012 - **Care of the Poor of the County 1896-1936**  
Cass County Museum 7:00 p.m.

October 9, 2012 -- ANNUAL MEETING  
Program: **Prohibition**  
Cass County Museum 7:00 p.m.

## Cass County Historical Society is Awarded Legacy Grant

CCHS is very pleased to announce the approval of our grant request to begin digitizing our photo collections. The funds are from the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants program administration by the Minnesota Historical Society. Our primary goal in digitizing our photos, slides, and negatives is to make the images more accessible to the public through our Research Center. Our first step is to order the hardware and software for our computer that will allow us to enter the data and save it. Then we will begin scanning and putting the images into the software program for easy access. We hope to be done by the end of the year. Look for updates in the newspaper and upcoming newsletters and emails.

Current membership as of March 2012. If you haven't renewed your membership, please use the form on the back of the newsletter. Your support enables us to provide special programs to schools and the public, improve exhibits, and collect historical data and photos for future generations.

## Membership - 2012

**Sponsors \$250-\$999**

**First National Bank**

**Businesses \$50+**

Acorn Hill Resort

Bank Forward

May Creek Senior Living Campus

Hummingbird Press

**Individuals - \$10**

Karin Arsan

Vi Blackburn

Barb Frederick

Karen Keener

Karen Kezele

Elsie Nelson

Robert Redfield

Otto Ringle

Erma Schantle

Arthur Shenk

**Family \$15**

Bob & Dodie Burdick

Robert & Florence Crow

Leland & Dorothy Delger

Glen & Pat Mechelke

Pat & Diane Pitzen

**Benefactor \$20-\$99**

Audrey Chelberg

Richard & Joan Downham

Mike & Karla Elsenpeter

Dick & Donna Evenson

Neal & Kathy Gaalswyk

Jerry & Renee Geving

Bob & Shirley Jewell

Robert & Betty Kangas

Cecelia McKeig

Kelly & Jeanne Nelson

James & Leona O'Neal

Chris & Dorothy Opheim

Dana & Bev Sheldon

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Jim & Shirley Dowson

Dan & Sue Eikenberry

John & Thelma Grimley

Gramma Jo's House

Richard & Carlyne Raymond

**Township Support**

Blind Lake Township

Gould Township

Turtle Lake Township

Fairview Township

Salem Township

Shingobee Township

Smoky Hollow Twp

**4 Free Admission Fridays**

**May Creek Senior Living Campus**

Orton Oil Company

First National Bank

7 Anonymous Donor

## Bernard Garrity (1847-1927)

Taps sounded for the last Hackensack survivor of the Civil for Bernard Garrity, a resident of Hackensack for twenty-one years when he was buried with military honors in January 1927. He was a pioneer of this section, as he had witnessed the transformation of the wilderness into farms and villages.

Bernard Garrity was born at Milwaukee on Nov 3, 1847. The family lived at Yaukon in Ontagomie County. On November 9, 1867, he was married to Mary O'Connor. After making their home at various places in Wisconsin, they moved to Cass County in 1905.

During the Civil War, Mr. Garrity was too young to enlist, but that did not interfere with his intrepid spirit. He rather let the enlisting officer believe he was older than his years, and on March 30, 1864, he was enrolled in Company G, Third Regiment, Wisconsin Cavalry. The enrollment was for three years. The cavalry troop was assigned to Western Kansas, where daily skirmishes with the Indians were the usual run of the day. Each member of the troop saw to it that in some way he and his horse lived on the land they passed over.

Equipment was not the best. Night attacks were frequent. Twice the company was ordered toward the southern front but later was recalled. They saw much of warfare on the plains, but little of the conflict between the north and the south. Mr. Garrity was mustered out of the service on October 27, 1865, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



The Museum depends on your membership and donations to keep it going.  
If you haven't done so yet, please renew for 2012.

### Membership

Single (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactor (\$20-99) \_\_\_\_\_

Business (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_

Friends (\$100-\$249) \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsors (\$250-\$999) \_\_\_\_\_ Patrons (\$1000)

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