

CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

July 1, 2012

CASS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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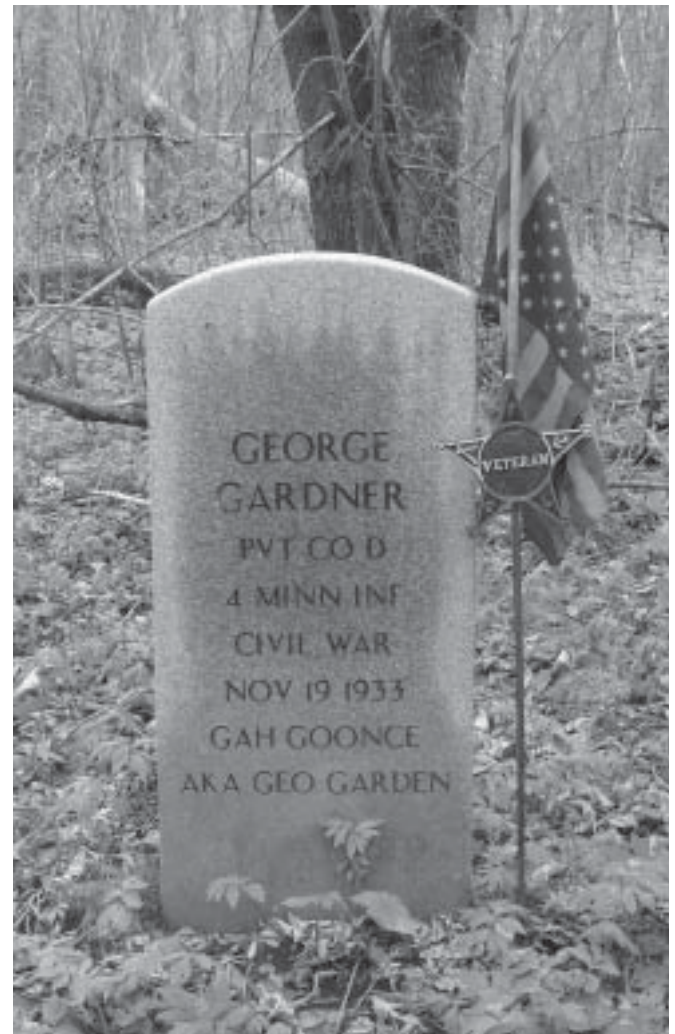
The Civil War Sesquicentennial

Civil War Substitutes

When the Civil War first started, many young men were quick to enlist. They had visions of glory and thought it would be exciting to serve their country. They expected a quick and easy win over the South. As the war dragged on and casualties mounted, the government decided it needed to institute a draft in order to get enough recruits for the Union Army.

When the draft laws -- known as the Enrollment Act -- were first placed on the books in 1863, they allowed for two methods of avoiding the draft -- *substitution* or *commutation*. A man who found his name called in the draft lotteries for mandatory service could either pay a commutation fee of \$300 or provide a substitute. The \$300 fee exempted him from service during the current draft lottery, but not necessarily for future draft lotteries. If he could provide a substitute, this would give him an exemption from service for the duration of the war.

With this Enrollment Act, the Civil War began to be known as "a rich man's war but a poor man's fight." The \$300 commutation fee was an enormous sum of money for most city laborers or rural farmers, and the cost of hiring a substitute was even higher, sometimes reaching as much as \$1000.



Private George Gardner, Buried at Battle Point Cemetery

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Cass County Historical Society
Calendar of Events 2012

July 24, 2012 - 3rd Annual HISTORY WALK - 7 p.m. The History Walks will take you on an historic tour, complete with characters in costume, down the south side of Minnesota Avenue in Walker.

Aug 14, 2012 - 3rd Annual HISTORY WALK - 7 p.m.
Repeat of the same walk as on July 24.

Oct 16, 2012 -- Annual Meeting

Upcoming Programs

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

August 21, 2012 -- **Remer Firsts**
Soo Line 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 Brochures and Historic Maps of Cass County have been distributed throughout the county and are available at many tourist information sites.

Free Fridays

An exciting feature this year at the Museum is "Free Fridays." Many area businesses and organizations have sponsored Fridays whereby admission to the Cass County Museum is free. Our sponsors so far are: Gramma Jo's House, June 1; Walker American Legion, June 8; VFW, June 15; Moondance Events, June 22; Orton Oil Co., June 29; First National Bank of Walker, July 6; May Creek Lodge July 13; the Otto Ringle family, July 20; and the Walker Rotary Club, July 27; Acorn Hill Resort, Aug 3; Anderson Family Resorts, Aug 10; The Beehive, August 17. Anyone still wishing to sponsor another Free Friday at the Cass County Museum should contact Sue Eikenberry at (218) 675-6183 or e-mail tenmile@tds.net.

Cass County Historical Society Board of Directors

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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.

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In small towns where the potential loss of the entire population of able-bodied men was a possibility, taxes and other means were used in order to pay the commutation fees. When this practice was outlawed, the towns proceeded to raise the money needed for substitutes. These “bounties,” as the fees were called, would pay substitutes in place of local young men.

The practice of hiring substitutes took hold more quickly in the North than in the South. There was a larger pool of men to draw from. Immigrants who came into the ports during 1864-1865 provided a large number of men who saw this as an opportunity to get a nest egg for settlement after the war. As the war continued on, African-American men, who had only been accepted reluctantly as viable soldiers, became the target of recruitment posters and towns recruited them as substitutes.

Although the hiring of substitutes seems mercenary, and in some cases, resulted in the desertion of the substitute, many who went to war as hired men went because they were unable to enlist through regular channels. They either believed in the war or saw it as an opportunity to improve their lot. This included Native Americans as well.

One of our Cass County men, **George Gardner**, was a mixed-blood Ojibwe. At the age of 22, he enlisted as a Substitute on Aug 18, 1864 and served in the Minnesota 4th Regiment, Company D, Infantry. He participated in the campaign at Altoona, Georgia on Oct 5, 1864 and served until he was discharged on July 19, 1865.

George Gardner eventually settled in the Sugar Point area. Very late in life, he married Mrs. Judy (Annie) King Chase, widow of Hartley F. Chase. When his health failed, he was cared for by Jennie Chase White, who also served as a midwife for many residents of the Federal Dam/Sugar Point area. George died on Feb 19, 1933 in Federal Dam and is buried at Battle Point Cemetery at Sugar Point.

Additional Civil War Veterans in Cass County

Amos Chambers was born in 1834 in Michigan. He was drafted for a term of three years on May 26, 1864 at Moore’s Prairie by QDM. He served in Company E, of the 2nd Regiment, Minnesota Infantry as a Private for the Union Army. He married Clara Mooers in 1880 in Wright County; they had 13 children. He applied for an invalid pension on Feb 7, 1889. Amos and Clara moved to Remer in 1910, and four of their children settled in Remer: John, Frank, Sherd and Etta (Mrs. Julius Langseth). Amos Chambers died on Nov 16, 1913 in Slater Township and is buried in Fairview Cemetery. Clara Augusta Chambers lived in Remer until her death on Feb 8, 1928 at the age of 86.

Henry East was born in Monroe, Indiana on Jan 16, 1838 and enlisted at the outbreak of the Civil War. He first served in the infantry and later was transferred to the cavalry. His honorable discharge stated that he was a member of Company K, 13th Cavalry, 131st Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. He served to the end of the war, becoming a 1st Sergeant. He took part in many of the great battles of the war including Shiloh and the siege of Vicksburg. After leaving the army he entered the lumber business and followed this for several years. He then re-enlisted as 1st Sergeant in the 5th Cavalry, U.S. Regulars, and was stationed at Fort Washakie, Wyoming, and was there at the time of the Sioux War which resulted in the massacre of General Custer’s command in 1876. His regiment took an active part in the subjugation of the Indians, and Mr. East was personally acquainted with W. F. Cody, known as Buffalo Bill, who served as a scout in the same company. He was present when Chief Yellowhand was killed and scalped by Colonel Cody. Mr. East was mustered out with the rank of First Lieutenant about a year after the close of this war and moved to

Oklahoma where he resided for about 25 years. During this time, he taught school for several years and later became a farmer. When Buffalo Bill was taking his show company through Oklahoma, he met up again with Mr. East and gave him a life pass to his shows. Mr. East moved to Trelipe Township with the J. C. McVay family in 1911. In 1912, he took up a homestead nearby which he still owned at the time of his death. He was always given a place of honor on the platform on Decoration Day ceremonies in Remer. He died at his granddaughter Lillie McVay's home in Trelipe Township on Feb 19, 1926. Pallbearers were his neighbors: George Rouse, Charles Bluhm, Tom Musick, Peter Zumbrunnen, Ben Clark, and Charles Sanford. He was buried with full military honors conducted by members of Eugene Wilson post of the American Legion. Fred Wittwer, Julian Wilson, Leo Renn, Fred Sjoblom, Milo Olmstead, Bill Brown, Ed Brown, and Sigurd Bertel, under the command of I. H. Swanson, made up the firing squad. A. T. Gilbertson was color sergeant. H. W. Swenson, bugler; J. E. Trombley and I. J. Payne served as color guards.

Isaac J. Payne was born at Middletown, Wisconsin on April 27, 1843. He enlisted in Company B, 37th Wisconsin volunteers, and served until the close of the Civil War. He and Mary Ann Hayes married and moved to Bradley, South Dakota. In his early years, he was a bricklayer and then took up farming. They moved to Remer in October 1924 where he was a familiar figure upon the streets, known and respected by everyone. His blue-clad figure was a familiar sight at the Memorial Day services where he was present in a place of honor for many years. He died April 12, 1933 and was accorded full military honors by the American Legion.

William Fairbanks was an Indian trader at Winnie Dam and died there on June 16, 1913. He was born about 1837 and enlisted on August 16, 1862. William applied for an invalid's pension on Sept 16, 1899. His widow Margaret DeJordan (Jourdain) Fairbanks applied on Apr 16, 1917 for a widow's pension. He had nine children. He is buried at the Fairbanks Cemetery near Ball Club, Minnesota.

Capt. Albion K. P. Knowles was born in Maine on December 18, 1827. He married Angeline C. Hamilton on June 25, 1848. In 1849 he assisted in laying track on the York and Erie railroad. When the job was over he went back to farming and lumbering until the rebellion broke out. On May 27, 1861, he was the first man to enlist in Co. G, 2nd Maine Regt. Infantry. This was the first regiment to leave the state for the seat of the war. He served with this regiment in the first Bull Run fight. He was left for dead after the battle of White House Landing, but was finally picked up and confirming that he was still alive, he was taken to a nearby hospital. He returned to his family in Maine when he was well enough to leave the hospital. He re-enlisted in September of 1862 and joined Co. D of the 24th Maine Infantry where he became a Captain and went to New Orleans. He mustered out August 25, 1863 and returned to Maine. In March of 1865, he was headed for Rochester, Minnesota, eventually arriving in Brainerd in 1878 and from there he moved to Pillager. He finally went to live at Gull River with J. H. Knowles in 1894. He had a series of strokes from 1894 to 1896. He passed away with sons William H. and J. H. Knowles and grandson, Elmer Knowles, present. 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 buried her father at the cemetery in Pillager beside his daughter Hattie who had passed on years before. His son-in-law Sam Hamilton writes in his diary that he bought a silver-trimmed casket for Capt. Knowles that had a glass window over the face area. He paid the undertaker \$27 for this fancy casket. A copy of this diary is here at the museum and is in our reading library for your use.

Seth Phillips, Civil War veteran, died from complications of influenza at his home at Gull River on Oct 1, 1929. Mr. Phillips saw service in the Civil War during the years 1861-1865 as a private. He enlisted first with the 52nd Illinois Infantry and later with the 17th Illinois Cavalry and was wounded twice in skirmishes in the second battle of Corinth. He was a member of the Brainerd Post of the G.A.R. Mr. Phillips was born at Oswego, New York in 1845 and married at Taopi, Minn. He moved to Brainerd in 1877 and was employed

as an edger in the old Howe's Mill. On Dec 21, 1878 he was married to Miss Ada Flint. In 1928, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. He purchased the farm at Gull River about 1881 and lived there until his death. He was survived by his widow and three children.

Hamilton Pierce Wilson was born in Posey County, Indiana on Jan 15, 1835. In 1840, the family moved to Grant County, Wisconsin. At the age of 14, Hamilton Wilson left home and went to work with Francis Brown, an old time lumberman. Hamilton went to La Crosse which was the center of immense lumbering operations in 1854. In 1860, he married Miss Mary Brantner of Onalaska, Wisconsin; they had five children. Hamilton served in Company G of the 44th Wisconsin Infantry and was mustered out of the service with the regiment at Paducah, Kentucky on Aug 28, 1865. He married the second time in 1877 to Martha Arabella Burns of La Crosse, Wisconsin. From the close of the war until 1880, Mr. Wilson was engaged as a foreman with the Black River Improvement Company with headquarters at White Oak Springs. In 1880 he moved to City Point, Wisconsin and for the succeeding twenty years was engaged as foreman for loggers. In 1900 he retired from the life of a logging foreman and moved to Cass Lake, where he lived until his death in 1910. He was engaged for the most part during the summer months in looking after the boats and dock on the lake. He was a member of the Akeley Post No. 189. He passed away on Oct 8, 1910. He and wife Arabella are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery in Cass Lake.

George Barclay was just turning 18 years old, was 125 pounds and 5' 4" tall. He enlisted in the Quartermaster Corps during the Civil War. He served as a wagoner and was responsible for driving a wagon and maintaining it, feeding and caring for the mule team that pulled it, ensured that it was loaded properly and saw that its cargo reached its destination safely. The wagon was drawn by six mules and carried 3000 pounds, which was equal to the food of a full regiment for one day. The cargo was anything that the army needed: food, medicines, weapons, ammunition, clothing, tents, tools, knapsacks, luggage and whatever else. George wrote, "In May 1865, in Alabama, I was riding a mule and he fell over into a ditch and across my legs." He applied for a Civil War pension in 1891. George Barclay came to Cass County, settled in Pine River in 1877 and operated a trading post located on the banks of the Pine River near the present day Pine Ridge Cemetery. After a year of doing business there, he put up a log building on the Leech Lake tote road which connected the Leech Lake Indian Agency with the Crow Wing Agency and moved his business into what would become the village of Pine River. He and his wife Ammarilla also operated the Hotel Barclay in the village. George soon turned the hotel operation to his wife while he ran the store and trading post. George Barclay was shot to death in his own hotel in 1898, as he sat down to enjoy a cigar near a large glass window. This is the first recorded murder in Cass County and it remains an unsolved crime. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Brainerd as he didn't live long enough to develop a cemetery for Pine River. George certainly should get the credit for founding Pine River, but his wife Ammarilla is credited with developing this rough clearing in the timber into a village which remains today. *Murder and Mayhem*, on sale at the museum, covers this famous case as well as many other crimes in Cass County during the early days from 1890 to 1930.

Henry Knudson, summer resident of Walker for many years and owner and developer of Shingobee Island in Leech Lake, came to Cass County soon after 1900. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and a Norwegian by birth, having been born in Norway on Sept 26, 1843. He immigrated to this country with his parents while still a youth. Mr. Knudson invested in property in the village of Walker and later purchased Shingobee Island, which he developed after the advent of the highway bridges connecting it with the mainland. He had a wide acquaintance in Cass County, and enjoyed a splendid reputation for his honesty and ability. In Jackson County, he had held several positions of trust, having been sheriff, county treasurer and probate judge. He died on December 26, 1928 in his old home town of Heron Lake in Jackson County.



President James Madison paid a visit to May Creek Lodge on the afternoon of May 14th to discuss the Founders' visions for the new nation. For all of the participants, it was **May 14, 1812**. The historical reenactment was co-hosted by May Creek and the Cass County Historical Society and arranged for by Dan and Sue Eikenberry.



The Civil War was called the “Boys’ War” by some. No one knows exactly how many boys managed to join the army. Record-keeping was very lax. An army statistician did a study of several battalions, and he estimated that anywhere from 250,000 to 420,000 boys may have fought in this war. By far, the easiest way for an underage boy to slip into the Army was as a drummer or bugler. The Union Army needed over 40,000 of these musicians. When you look at the size of this **uniform** at our museum, you may think, “My, that sure was a small sized man.” Indeed, it may really have been for a boy, and we need to think of a 14-year-old boy in this uniform. The youngest wounded soldier was William Black, and he was only 12 years old when his left hand and arm were shattered by an exploding shell.



The **carpet bag** and **Confederate money** at the left were part of the artifacts shown at the program on May 15th at the Museum on the Civil War.

Membership - 2012

Current membership as of June 1, 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.

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City of Walker

Cass County

Did You Know?

The Homestead Act of 1862 gave preference to Civil War veterans, Union and Confederate soldiers alike. They broke sod west of the Continental Divide. The first farm under this Homestead Act was settled in Nebraska.

Each applicant got 160 acres of public land for a small fee for the promise to reside there for five years. In 1872 Veterans could deduct the length of their service from the five-year residency requirements. Some 93 million Americans are descended from these original homesteaders.

Did You Know?

President Abraham Lincoln authorized Congress in 1862 to create national cemeteries. Fourteen cemeteries were established, some of which are located at Washington, DC, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Keokuk, Iowa, Annapolis, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for many who fought for the Confederacy and Union during the War Between the States. The cemetery is located near the Custis-Lee Mansion that was home to General Robert E. Lee and family until 1861. This cemetery is on the Virginia side of the Potomac River and Washington, D.C. is across the river. In 1864, Union soldiers were first buried here and by the end of the war the number was up to 16,000. About 1900, the USA also honored the men who fought for the Confederacy.

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

Membership

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