



# OTTER CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**DURAND IL**

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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2011 is fast coming to an end. Where does all the time go? I hope you have enjoyed the excursions and programs we planned for you. I guess we will have to start planning for the year 2012 soon; any suggestions? I was also thinking that this is the start of the 150<sup>th</sup> observance of the beginning of the American Civil War, or War of Rebellion, if you prefer. I don't think anniversary is a proper term for something so horrendous. Perhaps observance would be a better word. If one studies the Civil War, it truly was a war that pitted brother against brother, father against son, and literally split families and communities.

Even Abraham Lincoln's in-laws were pro south.

Over three and a half million men served in the war.

Of those, 620 thousand died. Two thirds perished from diseases.

The high casualties on the battlefield were a result of Napoleonic Linear Tactics. Our state of Illinois contributed 256,247 men to the Union cause. Only New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio contributed more. One hundred men from our state were awarded the Medal of Honor. One hundred and fifty infantry regiments were formed in Illinois. There were two light artillery batteries and seventeen cavalry regiments. Camp Butler in Springfield and Camp Douglas in Chicago served as the major training camps. They also served as POW compounds for Confederate prisoners. There was also a POW camp in Rock Island. Although no major battles were fought on Illinois soil, Cairo served as a major embarkation and supply base for the Union armies and navies of the west.

The Illinois infantry regiments were numbered 7 through 156.

One through six were not used to honor the six regiments from Illinois that fought in the Mexican War of 1846-48.

Men from Durand and Loana Townships served in many regiments, but those listed on the memorial on the square in Durand are the 11<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment Co. D, the 55<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment Co C, the 74<sup>th</sup> Illinois regiment Co. H, I, and

F and 153<sup>rd</sup> Infantry regiment Company G. Also, the second Illinois Light Artillery Battery G. There are some names listed as cavalry, but no units named. The 11<sup>th</sup> was mustered in on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1861 in Springfield for a period of three months. Col William H. L. Wallace was the commanding officer. Ten men died of disease. Regiments numbered 7 thru 12 were enrolled for 2 to 3 months, but later were enrolled for three years. The 55<sup>th</sup> regiment was formed on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1861 and disbanded on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1865. Col. David Stuart was commanding officer until he was promoted to general. Col. Oscar Marlborg then took command.

Incidentally, Stuart's promotion was not ratified by congress. The 55<sup>th</sup> battle record includes Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Chickasaw Bayou, Fort Hindeman, Champion Hill, Collierville, 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Chattanooga, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, Ezra Church, Jonesborough, Altoona Pass, Atlanta, the march to the sea, Ft. McAllister, Bedntonville NC.

The 74<sup>th</sup> regiment was formed in Rockford on August 14<sup>th</sup> 1862 and mustered out June 10<sup>th</sup> 1865.

It's battle record includes Perryville KY, Stones River, Siege of Chattanooga Tenn, Kennesaw Mountain, Jonesboro, Franklin and Nashville Tennessee. The regiment suffered 5 officers and 78 enlisted killed in action. 119 died of diseases. Col Jason Marsh commanded the 74<sup>th</sup> until his resignation in August of 1864.

Thomas J Bryan, Lt Col. then took over command until the end of the war. The 153<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment was mustered in on February 27<sup>th</sup> 1865 until August 15<sup>th</sup> 1865 in Chicago IL.

Men from our area were assigned to Co G. Col. Stephen Bronson was the commanding officer. The regiment was assigned to guard the Nashville-Chattanooga Railroad and later garrisoned the city of Memphis Tennessee. Thirty seven men died of diseases.

Battery G of the Second Light Artillery was formed in Cairo on February 28<sup>th</sup> 1862 and was disbanded on July 24<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Captain Arthur O'Leary was the first commander. The battery's record includes engagements at Island #10, the siege of

(continued)

Corinth, Mississippi and the 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Corinth. There truly is a lot of history on that memorial located in our small community. Our boys did a large part to preserve this country we live in. We should not forget the sacrifices they made for this country. They didn't have to serve. Of the 250 some thousand who served only 3538 were drafted. Only 55 from Illinois paid the \$300 exception fee. Those names on our memorial are more than just names. They represent individuals who went to many places and traveled far from their homes to preserve this country as we know it today.

Ben

### THINK POSITIVE

A car's windshield is so large and the rear view mirror is so small because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

#### BIRTHDAYS

Carol & Duane Kinney...December

Sue Boomer...December

Bev Matteson...December

Shari Willer...October

Karen Wassell,,,December

Lucille Hayes...December

### COMING UP

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>...Cedarville Historical Museum...Luncheon Tammy Jo In Orangeville. Car pool at village square 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>...10:00 a.m. Durand State Bank...Several veterans who took part in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, will speak about their experiences.

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>...10:00 a.m. Durand State Bank. Maggie Davison to do a program on and demonstrate the dulcimer.



*What little girl wouldn't love to have this wonderful American Girl doll to call her own!!  
Kit comes with a beautiful hand-made table and chairs set. Be sure to get your tickets for a chance to make some little lady extra happy this Christmas. Tickets available at many area businesses. Raffle to be held at Durand State Bank November 19<sup>th</sup>. You can see the entire package on display at Durand State Bank. Drop in..*

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## CHEESY POTATOES

One package frozen hash browns, cubed

8 oz sour cream                      1 can cream of chicken soup

2 cups cheddar cheese              1 stick melted butter

Half of an onion, chopped (optional)

Spread hash browns on bottom of 9x13 pan. Combine in a large bowl rest of ingredients. Spread cheese mix on top of hash browns. Spread crisp rice cereal on top of cheese mix.

Use about half a box to cover. Melt another stick of butter and drizzle on top of crisp rice. Cook 90 minutes at 350F.

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## CONTACTS

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(The following, written July 28<sup>th</sup> 1862, is taken word for word from Changing Ways, including the errors. Apparently, it was copied from an actual letter sent home during the Civil War.)

Dear Father,

Yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst was just rec'd. I was glad to hear from you. I am as you are aware down in the woods at Corinth again. The last place in the universe where a man would desire to stay according to my notion. How long we will remain here is a question I am unable to answer. My opinion is that we will be obliged to fight or leave before a great while. The enemy are making demonstrations along our line. I suppose from what we can gather our boys are having a fight at Bolivar today. We have just sent over reinforcements. It is about 25 miles from here. The weather for the last few days has been a little cooler than usual so that we get along very well. Our soldiers are getting very tired of laying around here guarding Secesh property and taking care of their niggers and we are very anxious to have a change in the programme I think it working around. There is no use in trying to develop Union sentiment in this country except by horrors of war. The fact is there are no Union people here. They are all Secesh. I rec'd a letter from Louis last night. All are well. My health is about as when I saw you not very good. I am limping about a great deal like a frozen footed hen. I am getting rather discouraged about this war coming to a very speedy close. It looks as though we had got to go to work and exterminate the whole race. I hope to see a sterner policy inauguarated soon. Gen Halleck has left and Gen Grant is in command of the forces but only nominally so. As we can do nothing until it is decided who is to permanently to command the department.

Write often  
Yours & C  
WR Rowley

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OTTER CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00

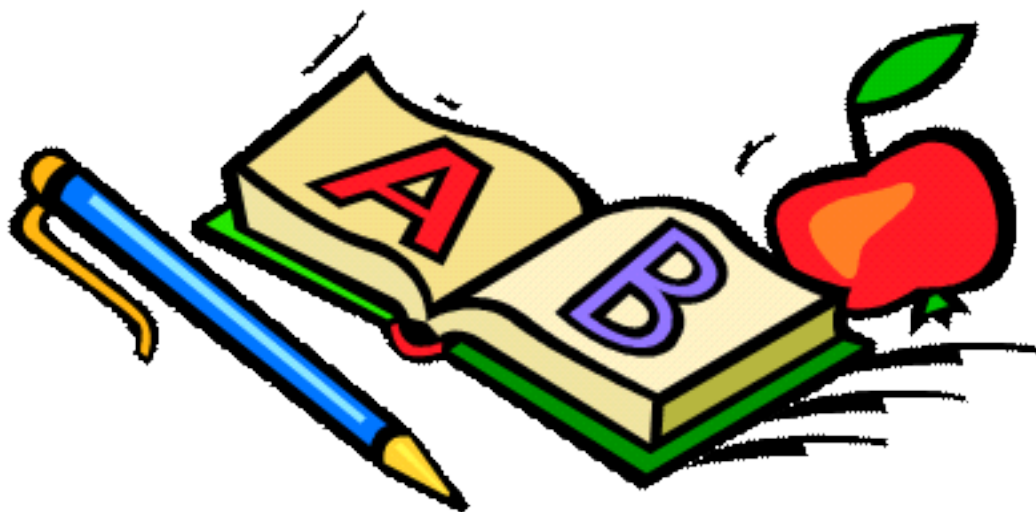
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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SCHOOL DAYS ARE HAPPY DAYS. GOOD WISHES  
TO ALL STUDENTS FOR ANOTHER FINE YEAR