DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

OUR HEROES

As stated in “Growing a Village” during April 1861, the news of the firing on Fort Sumter had aroused the people of Harrisville. A war meeting was held in the Congregational Church. A few days later, a half a dozen local men enlisted in the Eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In September, fifteen more left to fight for the union. In all, Harrisville furnished about 100 men in the armies of the North.

Remember several Harrisville people were active in the anti-slavery movements of the North during the twenty years preceding the Civil War.

Henry W. Geissinger (1818-8/5/1879) lived in the Lodi/ West Salem area. Henry enlisted in the Union Army on 9/17/1862 and discharged on 3/22/1863 as a private. He served the 120th Ohio Infantry, Company E. It is documented his tombstone was provided and ordered through the U.S. government. But I cannot find his stone at this time.

 I could not find his first wife but they had five children, John, James, Ezra, Hiram and Stella. Hiram and Stella died young and buried in Old Lodi Cemetery. From what I found, son John died in the Civil War at Lookout Point, Tenn. John enlisted in 11/21/1861 and died 12/18/1964. I do not know where John is buried. His son James served In the 72 regiment, Co. A as a Private. In 1913 after his death, his widow Henrietta received his pension.

Henry second wife was Rebecca Reid who was 17 years younger than Henry. They had one daughter, Amy (1877-1932). Both Rebecca and daughter Amy are buried in Kent, Ohio.

Welton Fitts (3/9/1834-6/17/1862) was born in Harrisville to Jonathan and Martha Fitts (1794-1839). Welton would have a stepmother later, Nancy De Witt Fitts. He had three brothers, Rolin, Harvey and Virgil. At one point Nancy’s mother, Silence Dewitt would live with the family. Silence DeWitt was the aunt of Lt. Col. Dewitt who I have wrote about and the Civil War uniform we have on display.

At the age of 27 in Michigan, Welton enlisted in the Union army, Co. B U.S, Volunteer 2nd Sharp Shooters Regiment on October 4, 1861. Discharged on June 11, 1862 at Fredericksburg, Va., Welton died from wounds or sickness on June 16, 1862. He fought in the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Reminder: Unless you are a lifetime member, memberships/newsletters are good from January-January. You can find a membership form and info on our web site lodiharrisvillehistoricalsociety.org. Or just call me at 330-635-7294. ASAP