

## THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War is a great landmark in the history of the nation and Douglas County and marked the turning of a new page in history. In those years of national trials, there was scarcely a family in the county that was not called upon to do and suffer for the common cause and many a sorrow or the foundation of a prosperous fortune dates back to those fateful days.

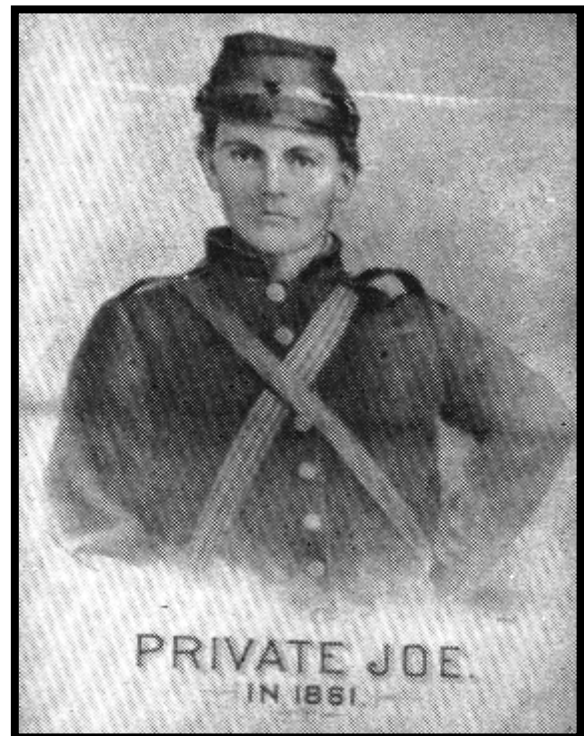
April 13, 1861, Fort Sumter surrendered. The news spread over the country and Douglas County responded to the call for troops with a patriotic enthusiasm. Tuscola was not yet a city during the Civil War. The area was referred to as Tuscola Precinct in Tuscola Township. Those who served from this area were counted as enlistments from Douglas County. These recruits served in the infantry units as well as cavalry units. For the war, the enlistments credit for Douglas County was 1,177. Records indicate that Douglas County residents met the quota set for them during the war. Recruits from the county served in such battles as Chickamauga, Knob Gap, Murfreesboro, Lexington, Mission Ridge, Stone Ridge and Vicksburg just to name a few.

It was not until the second year of the war that the county took official action to aid enlistments and their families. In July 1862, the County Court passed an order "for the purpose of aiding in enlistment of volunteers for the United States service to be raised in the county of Douglas; for the support of the families of those who have heretofore enlisted from Douglas County." By this order, the sum of \$2,000 was appropriated, or as much necessary for the purpose. At the same time, to carry out the intention of this appropriation, it was ordered that the Justice of the Peace of the county carry out the intention of the court. They were to report to the clerk the names of all enlistments who were residents of the county showing separately the names of those leaving wives and families or other dependants relying on them for livelihood or support. They were then to contact the merchants and grocery men of the county to furnish the neediest of these families with supplies. A regular tax was then levied for this purpose and in December, 1864 Gilbert Summe was appointed agent to carryout these duties. The method for disbursement was changed to pay each wife or

mother of volunteers \$1.00 per week, and 50 cents per week for each child under the age of ten.

When the war ended with the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox on April 12, 1865, the soldiers remaining in the war from Douglas County were mustered out to return home. These men came back changed. They paid with their blood and received in exchange a greater awareness, self-confidence and assertion. For the next half century, they shaped the course of a growing America. Of the men who joined the conflict from Douglas County, approximately 120 men were killed and countless more were wounded.

A soldiers' reunion was held September 19, 1878 on the courthouse grounds. Henry Niles organized the event with the help of S. Paddleford, Dr. J. L. Reat, W. H. Lamb, H. J. Ingraham, R. B. Macpherson and a host of others. At least 12,000 persons traveled to Tuscola to participate in the festivities.



**Joe Fifer is pictured here, in an early print, as a typical Union soldier of the Civil War. The picture hangs in the GAR room at the court house.**

## FRANK REED POST NO. 409 G.A.R.

Frank Reed Post No. 409 Grand Army of the Republic was organized February 19, 1884 in Tuscola. It was named for Capt. Benjamin Franklin Reed, who was mortally wounded in the heat of battle at the Battle of Chickamauga, on the last day of battle, September 20, 1863. He died in the hospital at Chickamauga, September 23, 1863. Many of the charter members of the Post were comrades of Captain Reed and the Veterans honored his memory by naming the Post for him.

Fifty-two veterans of the Civil War were present at the organization meeting in 1884, and the enrollment sounds like a list of pioneer Tuscolians, which it is in fact, in part. The officers of the new Post were: Lieutenant Westford Taggart, Major Archibald Van Deren, Thomas W. Tyler, First Lieutenant Alfred Thayer, First Lieutenant H. C. Bassett, First Lieutenant William H. Lamb, Major Daniel Conover, Sergeant William T. Johnson, Corporal John R. Cantrall and Richard W. Hollison.

### CHARTER MEMBERS

David Smith  
Sec. Lt. John M. Outcelt  
David Webb  
Silas R. Williams  
James P. Seaney  
Owen Squires  
A. P. Moorehead  
George N. Hodge  
Anson Greenman  
J. R. Quinn  
Dr. James L. Reat  
T. B. Foster  
Edwin Drake  
Joshua Cutler

Harrison Entler  
S. G. Rose  
William P. Miller  
J. G. Burggraf  
Thomas McIlvaine  
Capt. George D. Barnett  
William Scott  
Capt. Oliver P. Hunt  
Sergt. Henry Ingram  
F. Rideout  
Capt. Lines Parker  
William Ashwill  
Capt. McHenry Brooks  
Alonzo Ray

John Carney  
Martin V. Draggett  
T. E. Bradley  
Stewart Auld  
William Wilson  
J. C. Walker  
William R. Brown  
Wilson Murphy  
J. M. Armstrong  
Samuel Bierfeldt  
James M. Cox  
James B. Townsell  
Charles S. Smith

As the years slipped by the numbers in the ranks of the G.A.R. decreased as the soldiers died. Corporal John R. Cantrall, last living member of the Frank Reed Post #409 was killed in 1937 when he was struck by a train. In Douglas County, this closed a chapter in the history of the ‘most unique’ war ever fought. One hundred-ninety two Union soldiers are buried in Tuscola Cemetery.



**“No more they’ll hear the reveille,  
Their glorious work is done.  
They sleep beneath the Flag they loved,  
The men of ‘61”**

This photo taken in 1929, was on the occasion of one of the last GAR meetings in Tuscola. Not all the names are known.  
Top row: J. R. Cantrall, Thomas Grathwell, Joshua S. Cambridge and W. L. Langley  
Bottom row: Charles Dragoo, Charles S. Smith, and Stephen Dukeman