


Newsletter

TUSCOLA COUNTY DECEASED VETERANS MEMORIAL-PROJECT



5140 English Rd., Clifford, MI 48727

March 23, 2007

Dear Friends,

The Project continues to grow with over 800 new records added during the past year. The website is attracting more visits and the project has gained additional support from the Caro Historical Commission. We focused our effort this year on the Reese area with the help of American Legion Post 139 canvassing Denmark Twp., Blumfield Twp., Gilford Twp., St. Elizabeth, and Trinity Lutheran cemeteries. The Display this year will be at the Unity District Library in Reese, MI during the month of May.

As you know from past newsletters the heart of the Project is the database. Maintaining the database content is a weekly task, adding new records as information comes in, correcting errors, verification of facts, and making certain new deaths of veterans are properly recorded. For instance last year (2006) 45 Tuscola County deceased veterans met the inclusion requirements. And over 110 new Civil War and WW I veterans records were found. Cemetery canvassing still is the prime source of new information however. But canvassing is not the only source. Committee member Rita Easlick finds obituaries a frequent source of new information, especially since her work at the Caro Area District Library entails historical research. And individuals frequently submit corrections, as their website browsing identify omissions and inaccuracies. All in all I am pleased with the progress. It is my goal to have the County completely covered in the next three years.

The website has attracted over 2,200 visits since its inception in November 2005, impressive for such a specialized site. If you think about it, it really comes down to remembering, because one of our most basic human instincts is to know our lives have met something. The sacrifice of veterans for a period of time or in too many cases death in a military conflict for our County should be remembered forever. There is one conflict in our Nation's history that I have not yet confirmed as being supported by men or women from Tuscola County, e.g. the American Revolution (1775-1783). Recently we found anecdotal evidence that Ezra May, a soldier in the Continental Army, lived in Tuscola County area or visited the area. The evidence is a letter written by him June 29, 1777 to his wife, discovered in a safe in the Tuscola County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. If the evidence proves out, Tuscola County will have contributed to every conflict in our Nation's History.

One of our primary concerns going forward is the survivability of this work. Recently the Caro Historical Commission has agreed to adopt and support this project. Gail Lesoski Chairman introduced a resolution at their September 27, 2006 meeting stating in part to "assist them in any way, as long as is needed." Eventually the yearly Display may become a permanent part of the Caro Roadhouse Museum.

The Ceremony this year will be at the Unity District Library, 2065 Gates St., Reese, MI 48757 May 8 at 11:00 AM. The Display will be shown from that date thru May 25th. You are invited to attend the May 8th Ceremony.

Yours truly,

TCDVML Project Committee

Ed Jagosz, Don Lotter, Arlene Robinson. John Engels, Rita Easlick, Brian Moore