

The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter



Volume Four

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Fall 2011

Confederate Veteran Buried at Riverside

A pair of tombstones mark the gravesite of Confederate veteran Thomas S. Parker. The weathered original (left) having been complemented about a century after his passing with another (right) that pinpoints his Civil War service role.



There are undoubtedly many great stories that can be written about various people that are buried in local cemeteries, and the Riverside Cemetery in Iola is no exception.

There is one grave at Riverside that is quite unique, as it honors an individual quite different from the other veterans buried there, because this man was a Confederate soldier. The grave I am referring to is that of Pvt. Thomas S. Parker, Company G, 32nd Alabama Regt., Confederate State Volunteers.

Thomas S. Parker was born August 20, 1815, in Franklin County, Mass., in the northwestern part of the state, as near as can be determined. It was in Franklin County's small town of Deerfield

that he met school teacher Miss Harriet Jane Chandler. They were married in 1846, to which union seven children were born, two of whom died in early childhood.

Harriet Jane Chandler was born May 4, 1823, at Hanover Center, New Hampshire, the daughter of Augustus and Polly Slade Chandler. The Chandlers would become numbered among the early pioneers of Waupaca County, settling in the Vaughn Chandler district four miles east of Waupaca. The Chandler name is an old and honored name in the Waupaca and Iola areas.

Thomas S. Parker enlisted in the Confederate Army on March 29, 1862, at Mobile, Alabama. His discharge papers show him as having been discharged from a hospital and

service on June 17, 1863, at Dalton, Georgia, due to chronic diarrhea and old age. According to his muster rolls, he missed much of his service duty time due to his condition.

In September of 1864, the Parker family arrived in Iola, where they made their home thereafter. Mr. Parker passed away here on December 22, 1884, at the age of 69 years, 4 months and 22 days. Harriet Jane Parker passed away on May 15, 1901, and is buried beside her husband. A son, Thomas C. Parker, and his wife are also buried there.

It is very rare to find a Confederate soldier buried as far

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President's Corner

Your president for the past five years, Lyle Mork, a 1957 Iola High School graduate, became involved with the Iola Historical Society shortly after returning to the community in 2003, having spent the intervening years involved in the retail trade and contracting following a stint in the United States Navy, recently found it necessary to resign the position for personal reasons. During his tenure he recorded unprecedented advances in the arrangement and preservation of the organization's archives and historic relics, along with its outreach to the community.

Lyle's talents and commitment are of a magnitude that will not be easily replaced. We would welcome him back to active involvement when his personal situation permits. In the meantime we must, of necessity, change the way we have come to conduct our affairs, generating greater involvement of the membership, along with developing a greater focus and efficiency in conducting the pursuit of our mission. We are quickly learning about the many tasks Lyle quietly dispatched unnoticed by the membership and board.

Thank you, Lyle, for your unrestrained and unprecedented commitment to the Iola Historical Society over the past five years.

At this juncture in the life of the Iola Historical Society, we need to undertake a critical organizational assessment of our objectives and

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Maynard Stromberg Honored As Donor

Maynard Stromberg (center) received a framed certificate emblematic of an honorary lifetime Iola Historical Society membership bestowed upon him by president Lyle Mork (left) with the assistance of board member Clifford Mishler (right) at the April membership meeting. A frequent visitor to Iola and the IHS, the 94 year old Stromberg hails from South Milwaukee and is the son of the late Engebret (Bert) Stromberg, Iola's village constable from the early 1930s to the late 1940s. Bert was also a violin maker, whose materials and tools were preserved by Maynard and presented to the IHS two years ago. A permanent exhibit featuring Bert and his violin making trade is nearing completion at the IHS museum, the cost of which was supported in part by Maynard as well.

CONFEDERATE VETERAN

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north as Wisconsin, so Iola has the distinction of having the only cemetery in this part of the state hosting the burial plot of a Confederate soldier.

As one views the original soft white marble tombstone marking the grave of Thomas S. Parker, you would not guess that he was a veteran, much less a Confederate veteran, except that the word "VETERAN" circled by nine broken chain links is inscribed at the top of the

marker. That marker otherwise reads simply in six lines; "THOMAS S. PARKER / DIED / Dec. 22, 1884 / AGED / 69 yr's 4 mo's / & 22 days." This lettering has been badly worn away by the ravages of time.

Alongside to the right of that original marker, another placed in more recent years, displaying a wreath within a shield at the top, bears following seven lines of engraved vital data; "PVT / THOMAS S PARKER / CO G / 32 ALA INF / CSA / AUG 20 1815 / DEC 22 1884."

It would only be speculation as to why a man born in Massachusetts would join the Confederate States Army, without conducting more extensive research, but this very thing did happen during the Civil war, which found brother fighting brother, and cousin fighting cousin.

The grave of Pvt. Thomas S. Parker should be decorated each Memorial Day with both Old Glory and the Stars and Bars of the South.

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The Iola Historical Society
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Officers:

Clifford Mishler, Acting President
Stella Strand, Vice-President
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Board of Directors

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Area Civil War Veterans

This is the third and final installment of a series recognizing and honoring Civil War veterans buried in the cemeteries of Iola and the surrounding area. In this issue we are identifying those interred at the Scandinavia Lutheran cemetery.

Upon visiting the Scandinavia Lutheran cemetery, located between Iola and Scandinavia on County Road G, you will find many Civil War veterans buried there. According to the cemetery records here at the Iola Historical Society approximately 65 veterans are buried there. This is the largest assemblage of Civil War veterans in any of the area cemeteries. These names were obtained from the cemetery records and an enlistment listing.

Hans C. Anderson was born on April 30, 1838, entered the Army on October 29, 1864, with the 44th Regiment Infantry, Company C, mustered out on August 28, 1865, and passed away on April 10, 1928. **Nels (Niels) Anderson** – born March 17, 1828, enlisted on October 16, 1861, with the 16th Regiment Infantry, Company H. In Company I when he was discharged, but with no date listed, he died on February 22, 1887.

Knut Erickson (Tvetan) – born May 14, 1824, entered the war on October 29, 1864, with the 64th Regiment Infantry, Company C, and mustered out on August 28, 1865, he returned home and passed away on December 21, 1888.

Gilbert Gilson – born 1835, entered the service on December 3, 1963, and was assigned to the 3rd Regiment Infantry, Company C. Mustered out from Company D, 21st Wisconsin Infantry, he died on June 17, 1916. **P. Julius Ingebretson** – born in 1838, he enlisted in the 15th Regiment

Infantry, Company I, on October 20, 1861, and mustered out in July of 1864 with a disability.

Louis Louison – born on June 24, 1838, and joined the military on October 31, 1861, with the Light Artillery, 8th Battalion. He was mustered out on August 10, 1865, and died on April 29, 1917.

Ole Oleson – birth date is not given, but he entered the army on December 5, 1861, and served in the Light Artillery, 8th Battalion. He was mustered out of the army on August 10, 1865, and died on October 6, 1919. **Orin Olson** – born August 12, 1837, enlisted in the Light Artillery, 8th Battalion on December 21, 1861, he was released on August 10, 1865, and died on March 30, 1892.

The following are shown in the cemetery records as serving in the Civil War, but no other information is provided except the dates of their birth and death.

Gudmund Amundson Kjos - born 1842 and died January 1, 1922; **Henry Ahl Anderson** – born August 3, 1829, died April 10, 1897; **Salve Anderson** – born in 1819, died in 1891; **Arne C. Arkose** – born August 12, 1837, and died June 30, 1892; **Torbjorn** – born May 3, 1831, and died November 22, 1907.

Gilbert Engebretson – born January 4, 1825, and died September 21, 1901; **Christian Evenson** – born in 1839 and died on January 1, 1911. **Nels Evenson** – born May 23, 1833, and died on December 10, 1924; **Christian Fleck** – born in 1837 and died in 1889;

Erland Gunderson – born in 1821, died in 1904; **Charles Gustavus** – born in 1824, died in 1888. **Lars Hansen** – born May 25, 1835, and died October 15, 1888; **Hans N. Hansen** – born May 25, 1835, and died October 15, 1888; **Hans N. Hanson** – date of birth unknown, died March 7, 1892; **Lars L. Hasler** born in 1837, died May 13, 1837; **Herman Hermanson** – born August 2, 1819, died November 14, 1892; **Soren Hermanson** – born 1838, died 1885; **Hans Howell** – born 1828, died 1921.

Andrew Jacobson – born 1827, died 1875; **Erick Jacobson** – born in 1824 or 1825 (both years are listed) and died on October 31, 1900; **Erick Jensen** – born 1826, died 1895; **Morten Jensen** – born on December 26, 1836, died October 18, 1920; **Ole Johnson** – only information is that he died in 1862; **Gjert Jorgenson** – born in 1826, died in March of 1875.

Ole Kjendalen – born in 1820 and died in 1904; **Ole Knudson** – no dates are given, only his name and Civil War veteran. **D. Larson** – born 1822, died 1898; **Hans Larson** – born in 1830 and died in 1914; **Samuel Morris** – born on June 17, 1817, and died on August 31, 1895; **Ole A. Myhre** – born August 29, 1826, and died on June 2, 1913; **Peter A. Myhre** – date of birth not given, he died on March 18, 1889; **Jorgen J. Nordby** – born November 28, 1827, died November 2, 1904; **Hans Nowell** – born February 9, 1828, died March 14, 1921.

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Benedict Olson – born September 4, 1832, died April 17, 1902; **Knud Lia Olson** – born sometime in 1827 and died in 1900; **Nels Omit** – only information listed is fought in Civil War and died in 1873; **Ole Omit** – born October 25, 1834, and died August 3, 1912; **John Paulson** – born September 1, 1819, died October 4, 1865; **Erick Pederson** – born December 22, 1835, died December 24, 1873; **Peter Pederson** – born January 28, 1820, died November 27, 1899; **Charles Peterson** – no date of birth or death given; **John Peterson** – born in 1827, died December 14, 1909; **Peter Peterson** – died in 1866, no other dates shown.

Ole N. Rasmussen – born April 24, 1840, died December 1, 1909; **Ole Solum** – born 1844 and died on September 11, 1925; **Chris C. Thoe** – born June 14, 1836, died October 26, 1888; **Thorsten Thorstenson** – born October 14, 1828, died October 28, 1880; **Bjorn Tollofson** – born October 28, 1823, died April 12, 1911; **Sven Torgerson** – born October 31, 1842, died December 23, 1928; **Ole Tubaas** – no date of birth given, died April 2, 1865; **Hans Twetan** – born April 11, 1825, died November 27, 1900.

Amund Wasrud – born July 16, 1835, died May 26, 1867; **John Wasrud** – born August 22, 1838, died April 21, 1867; **Amon Peterson Wesley** – born April 13, 1847, died March 17, 1912; the last Civil War Veteran listed in the Scandinavia cemetery records is **Ole O. Wrolstad**, who was born in 1841 and died on March 17, 1912.

Among the names listed as serving in the Civil War is **Mari Engebretson**, who was born on June 6, 1822, and died June 30, 1915, but with a question mark placed where Army service is indicated and is listed as serving in the Civil War. She is probably incorrectly listed as being a Civil War veteran. Another female listed as a Civil War veteran is **Ragnhilde Huun**, who was born in 1846 and died in 1886, but with a question mark

where “Army” is normally listed.

Lars Olson Lia, who was born sometime in 1850 and died in 1875, but with no actual dates given in the cemetery records. It states he was a Civil War veteran, but he would have been only eleven years old at the start of the war and fifteen when the war ended. This is another situation where the information could not be verified.

Emelie P. Torgerson – born September 2, 1819, and died on May 18, 1897. This appears to be a female name, but it is not known with certainty. Again it has not been verified that this individual was a Civil War veteran.

Important: On the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum website there is a substantial amount of additional data for this last group of Civil War veterans. You can access this detailed information at: <http://vesterheim.org/CivilWar/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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capabilities. As we are a volunteer driven organization focused on recapturing, preserving and perpetuating the history of the local community and surrounding area, there are limits to our abilities and capabilities. Thus, going forward we are compelled to maximize our efforts through the discreet, but generous application of our assets, both fiscal and physical.

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Let's move on, forging and forgetting the ugly past, living in harmony with our neighbors.

This article is an abridged and edited presentation authored by Wayne Guyant as originally published in the July 9, 1981, edition of the Waupaca County Post.

Events Schedule

Monday, October 31

6:00 pm IHS Board Meeting
6:30 pm IHS General Meeting
Annual Election of Board & Officers
Organizational Assessment Exercise

Monday, December 5

Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.
5:30 pm at the Millstone.

Monday, January 30

6:00 pm IHS Board Meeting
6:30 pm IHS General Meeting

We need to identify, assess and commit to approaches that will fulfill our needs as the body divines them to be. Thus, I invite and encourage every member interested in the future welfare of the Iola Historical Society to attend a meeting for the conduct of an organizational assessment exercise on October 31, 2012, arriving with thoughts and ideas to be shared. I'll bring the treats.

Clifford Mishler
Acting President

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July - August - September

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