



## NEW GARMENT DISPLAY GIVES LIFE TO UPSTAIRS LANDING

By Brandy Hirschlieb

The upstairs landing at Pine Grove has undergone a marvelous transformation. The wall showcases in the Wisner study have come to life with the new displays of wedding gowns and vintage apparel arranged by Clothing Committee chairperson, Pauline Harrison.



Barbara Irwin in her wedding gown in 1954

Highlighting the wedding gown display are a Batenberg lace gown from 1892 and one worn in 1954 by Barbara Irwin of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Additional examples in the display are gowns from 1875 and 1900.

Not all wedding gowns were

necessarily white during the Victorian era. During that period it was tradition that the bride choose her favorite dress to wear, regardless of the color. Wearing a white dress for a single occasion was considered a symbol of wealth.

Directly across from the wedding gown display is another intriguing collection of antique clothing and accessories. Among the blouses and dresses shown, you will find a few other curiosities, one of which is a turkey feather cape that was given to a wife of a Civil War soldier in 1862. Other rarities are an ermine wrap and belt, a collection of ribbon samples that were brought back from England in 1852, and some beaded belt buckles.

## THE FAMILY TREE

By Virginia Clohset

Your roots don't have to be in Oakland County in order to use the resources of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Virginia Clohset, Manuscript Library Chairperson, can help beginners get started on their family trees. Even for the advanced researcher it sometimes helps to ask for another's perspective on a puzzling problem.

Virginia is the registrar and lineage chairperson for several hereditary organizations with a Master of Social Work in the field of mental health from Wayne State University, as well as a Master in Library Science with cognates in archives.

Ms. Clohset has prepared nomination forms for several buildings and initiated their placement on the National Register. Among the structures she has listed are: Birmingham's 1822 John W. Hunter House, the 1826 Charles C. Trowbridge House in Detroit, and Eastern Market as a historic district. Eastern Market was the old Russell Street cemetery vacated in 1869. She was also instrumental in placing Detroit's third City cemetery of the State Registry. Once located near the intersection of I-94 and Connor Road, no vestige of this cemetery remains. According to the State Cemetery Commission, it is only one of two owned by the State of Michigan, the other being the graveyard at Jackson prison.

In addition, Ms. Clohset served on a committee that was instrumental in preparing a nomination form for the 1899 Trowbridge House, probably the earliest known extant example of Albert Kahn's domestic work before he revolutionized the field of industrial architecture.

Virginia says it isn't easy to work our way back in time and we aren't going to find all of our ancestors, but there's much satisfaction in finding "just one more." She will be in the Society's library at 405 Oakland Avenue in Pontiac every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You can call here at (248) 338-6732.



**IN MEMORIAM**



Lillian Paull  
1900 - 1997

Lillian Paull, former Society librarian and board member, died February 14 of heart failure at the North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac. She was 96.

Mrs. Paull began organizing the library here in 1976 by painstakingly cataloging and indexing several thousand items. Three days a week for many years she would arrive by bus at 9:00 a.m. and stay until 3:00 p.m. to assist those researching their roots or seeking some facet of regional history. Many a genealogist and cub reporter fondly remember Mrs. Paull for her tenacity in ferreting out details and kindness in answering their questions. When not laboring over some scrapbook index, Mrs. Paull would amaze visitors with her memory for details drawn from a life that spanned nearly a century: "from the birth of aviation to the space probes," as she would say.

Outside the library, Mrs. Paull was

responsible for decorating the Wisner mansion dining room for the Society's Annual Ice Cream Social and Victorian Christmas Open House. In 1988 she bestowed upon the Society a fine collection of ceramic and glass objects which are now on display.

Mrs. Paull is survived by a daughter Sara (Ed) Schmuck of Keego Harbor; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as a brother Robert Dake of Florida. Her husband, Gordon Paull, and an only son predeceased her. Burial took place at Easton Cemetery in Ionia. Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the Society.

**BEQUESTS**

*For many Society members and those deeply interested in history, the passage of time and wise investments made many years ago have resulted in greatly appreciated assets for their "golden years." When planning your estate and writing a will, please consider a gift to the Society as your legacy for the preservation of Oakland County's past for the enrichment of future generations. Such generous remembrances have been made by the late Grace Hothom, Floydene Brownlee, and Orpha Williams. Their foresight has enabled this organization to carry on its work.*

**New Members from 1996 to Date**

The following names were drawn from the records of the Membership Secretary, LaVon DeLisle, and listed chronologically.

- Mary Wessels (West Bloomfield)
- Garrick B. Landsberg** (Pontiac)
- Matthew Dinan** (Pontiac)
- Don & Isabel Stark** (Holly)
- Katherine J. Morton** (Rochester)
- Barbara Young** (Milford)
- William W. Pike** (Swartz Creek)
- Judy Crick** (Waterford)
- Mrs. Frank Frances Erminia Sias** (Waterford)
- Mr. & Mrs. David Lee** (Waterford)
- Diane Olson** (Mt. Prospect, Illinois)
- Jim Bowie**
- Clarkston Community Historical Society**
- Allen County Public Library** (Fort Wayne, Indiana)
- Velda Payne** (Pontiac)
- Bruce & Natalie McIntrye** (City of Orchard Lake Village)
- Kevin F. Lyons** (Pontiac)
- Priscilla Parr** (Morgan Hill, California)
- Charles Galloway** (Clinton, Indiana)
- Beth Richards** (Drayton Plains)
- Diane Brown** (Oxford)
- Mary Joan Fries** (Waterford)
- Robert & Francile Anderson** (Waterford)
- Duane & Cecilia Pomes Fueslein** (Rosedale Park, Detroit)
- Cindy Stegman** (West Bloomfield)
- Franklin Historical Society**
- Kathleen A. Erwin** (Bloomfield Hills)
- Michael J. McCleer** (Detroit)

**OFFICERS, 1997**

- President ..... Kathryn Daggy
- 1st V.P. .... Mike Willis
- 2nd V.P. .... Clarke Kimball
- Secretary ..... Connie Scafe
- Treasurer ..... Dan Carmichael
- Resident Agent ..... Ed Adler

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor ..... Charles H. Martinez  
Associate Editor ..... Ross Callaway

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL PLANNED FOR AUGUST 10TH

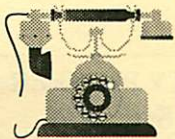


This year's Annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, August 10 at Pine Grove between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Arrangements for various activities are currently being made by Ruth Priestley, Rosamond Haeberle, and Charlie Martinez. Such popular sales features as the White Elephant, used book, and craft shop will be offered again. Connie Scafe and Elsie Patterson, co-chairing the White Elephant sale, remind members and their friends that contributions to that booth should be clean, workable, gently used articles of character and good taste. No clothes please. Acceptable items are to be delivered to Pine Grove after July 28.

## TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Please be advised the Society's Telephone Area Code will change this year to 248. The following dates will mark this transition in Oakland County, Michigan.

OPTIONAL usage  
begins May 10, 1997  
MANDATORY usage  
begins September 13,  
1997



Mark your calendars now. ✓

## THE CALLOW FAMILY

By David Irwin

### Ballakiel, Isle of Man

The surname, Callow, is of Norse-Manx origin. It is derived from MacOlaf i.e., son of Olaf.

The family of which I am writing made their home, known as "Ballakiel," on the northern shore of the Isle of Man. The island is located in the center of the Irish Sea, half way between Ireland and England. It was here that John Callow, a weaver, his wife Elizabeth, their two daughters and a son, resided.

John Callow married Elizabeth Joughin on September 22, 1726 which is the first recorded date for this family. Of their early history we know little except that John and Elizabeth died within a few days of one another in 1774. Their grandson John Callow was also born at "Ballakiel" in 1763. He wed Catherine Cormode (b. 1773) on August 17, 1793 in the presence of John Crellin, the pastor of the Kirk Bride Anglican church in the village of Bride. They had a total of ten children, including Charles Callow, my great-great grandfather. John passed away on February 9, 1833 while his wife lived another 21 years. Their gravestone still stands in the Kirk Bride church cemetery.

### Charles Callow, Early Pontiac Pioneer

Charles Callow was born at the ancestral home on June 4, 1808 and was baptized nearly two years later in the parish church. He received a limited education and learned the blacksmith trade at home. During the 1820s, the Isle of Man suffered many agricultural failures, prompting a



Charles Callow

migration to the United States. A total of 30,000 Manx left for America and settled near Cleveland, Ohio in the village of Newburgh. The Cleveland area soon became known as the "Manx capital of North America."

Charles, while yet a boy, and his brothers sailed for this country, first settling at Buffalo, New York about 1825. Shortly after he removed to Newburgh and then to Elyria, near Cleveland. Here Charles carried on the blacksmith trade for four years. In the spring of 1830, he left for Detroit. Upon his arrival he heard of the tiny village of Pontiac, and so set out on foot up the Saginaw Trail (now Woodward Avenue) with everything he owned on his back.

In 1830, Oakland County was still in a state of "wilderness" with only 4,910 settlers living in isolated communities. The county was a virgin hardwood forest full of game, and the Saginaw Trail merely a rough path hacked out of the woods by the military. The Chippewa Indians from the Saginaw area made overnight camps near white settlements here as they moved down the trail to Detroit and over the river to Canada to pick

up treaty payments. Pontiac was then a small village at the juncture of the Saginaw Trail and the Clinton River. Some of the wild animals that inhabited the forests then were wolves, elk, cougars, and black bears. Early Pontiac residents, who first lived in the present downtown area, could recall wolves howling at night.

When Charles first arrived in Pontiac, he went to work for Mr. Howard who ran a blacksmith shop. In a short time he opened his own smithy near the intersection of the Clinton River and the Saginaw Trail close to the Pontiac Knitting Works. Shortly thereafter he opened a second shop on South Saginaw street not far from the Wilson Shoe store. On one of his jobs Charles hammered out the rails for the first railroad from Detroit to Pontiac.

About 1836 Elizabeth de la Mothe and her sister arrived in Pontiac from England. Her father was a Colonel in the French Royalist army and had a home in the south of France, possibly the Basque region. As the tide turned against the Royalists during the Revolution, he fled France for the south of England. There he settled on a farm in Sherborn, near Basingstoke, and married an English woman. From that union were born two daughters and a son who became a court musician.

Elizabeth was born on August 18, 1813. Her parents died when she was quite young and the children were left in the care of an uncle. Apparently the people who managed the estate seized control of the property forcing Elizabeth and her sister to sail for America on a "bride's boat." This is how she



Elizabeth DelaMothe (*Eliza Moth*)

came to Pontiac. Under such an arrangement her passage was paid by an American who signed up to accept a bride.

The young ladies arrived at the Hodges House in Pontiac in the care of a Mr. Windiate. Upon learning of their presence Charles went to the hotel and picked out his bride. They were wed on April 26, 1838 in the First Baptist Church.

Charles Callow cast his first presidential ballot for General Andrew Jackson. In 1834 he was initiated into the Masonic Order, Pontiac Lodge No. 21 F.&A.M. His membership in this Order ultimately brought about his departure from the ranks of the Baptists and into those of the Episcopal Church.

Charles and Elizabeth had nine children of whom one was Robert Callow, my great grandfather, who was born on April 30, 1848. All but three of the children died in infancy of black diptheria. About 1849 Charles bought 80 acres of virgin timber on Auburn Avenue, the

parcel stretching all the way back to the Clinton River. Across the street from his home was a temporary campsite used by the Chippewa Indians. Charles cleared timber from the property at the same time he carried on his blacksmithing and farming pursuits. He eventually erected a good house and barn, and furnished his farm with numerous outbuildings. Great grandfather Robert helped clear the land with a pair of oxen. His brother Charles went off to fight in the Civil War. Sometime after that conflict was over, Charles was found dead along the riverbank by Robert.

Charles Callow Sr. was quite a country gentleman who wore a top hat and was well-known on the streets of Pontiac. He later gave his top hat to a Black preacher. His wife Elizabeth felt pioneer life was too harsh. A popular family story relates that she was on her way back to Pontiac from visiting her sister at Mahopac, now Lake Orion, when she was chased by a black bear! The last bear in Oakland County was shot in 1842. By that time all the wolves, elk, and cougars had also been wiped out.

Charles Sr. was a member of the Pontiac Common Council serving as Alderman of the Third Ward for many years. At the time of his death on Feb. 3, 1895 he was the oldest living consecutive charter Mason in eastern Michigan. His wife died on April 3, 1891.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Founded 1874

405 Oakland Avenue

Pontiac, Michigan 48342

## On the Cutting Edge

by Charles H. Martinez

*While not the oldest weapon, the sword is certainly the longest employed implement in the history of warfare. Archaeologists believe this sidearm was introduced simultaneously in Minoan Crete and Celtic Britain circa 1500 BC. By the time of our Civil War the sword had obtained a largely ceremonial status. This is not to suggest that men were not killed outright or died of wounds inflicted by swords in the Civil War, but that such casualties were rare compared to other causes. This series will discuss the Society's examples of edged weapons from that conflict, their role, and the Michigan soldiers who wore them. Part 1.*

Occupying a shelf in the Pine Grove office bookcase is a Civil War officer's sword once proudly carried by a quiet, unassuming hero from Oakland County. The sword was donated to the Society in 1994 by John Hackett of Pontiac, a descendant of A.S. Mathews, who obtained the rank of captain with the 22nd Michigan Infantry Regiment. Although that man's valor is unquestioned, the circumstances surrounding his obtaining the weapon remain a mystery.

Almeron S. Mathews, the oldest of four brothers, was born in a log cabin in section 17 of Troy Township on September 20, 1824. His parents were Solomon (aka Salmon) and Susan (Whitney) Mathews, both native of Auburn, Cayuga County, New York.<sup>①</sup>

Almeron labored on the family farm until he was 21 years of age. Then, deciding an agricultural life was not for him, he set his sights on becoming a carpenter and joiner. While good at his new trade the allure of California gold was too

strong to resist and Almeron went west in 1854. Once in the gold fields, however, the thrill of striking it rich was soon replaced by the cold realization of the long odds involved. The young man subsequently returned home where a family friend, Clark Beardsley, offered him a job in 1857 as Under Sheriff. Almeron acquitted himself creditably minding the County jail, but after two years joined the firm of D.I. Prall, carpenter and builder. Prall's establishment was two doors south of the County Courthouse on Saginaw Street. There he had gained an enviable reputation for the construction of substantial private and public buildings in Pontiac and Detroit. As a result Mathews



Adjutant Mathews stationed in Kentucky in 1862.

shuttled back and forth between the two cities as foreman keeping his employer's work crews on schedule.<sup>②</sup>

The Confederate attack on Fort Sumter produced a burst of patriotic fervor that swept up Mathews and

many of his buddies into the enlisted ranks of the Union Army. His decision to join Company H of the 7th Michigan Infantry Regiment was probably due to that company's concentration of volunteers from Oakland County. The other nine units under the banner of the 7th were composed of enlistees from scattered communities across the southern Lower Peninsula. Mathews' maturity – he was now 36 years old – and his law enforcement background with Sheriff Beardsley doubtlessly helped in his appointment as First Lieutenant of Company H on June 24, 1861. In addition, he may have had the friendship of Joshua Sutton, Captain of Company H, who joined the 7th on the same day Mathews did.<sup>③</sup>

Lack of a well formulated Union strategy and incompetent generals badly used the Michigan 7th at first. A month after arriving at the front, the untested unit together with other Federal troops, were the victims of a costly and disorderly defeat at Ball's Bluff, Virginia on October 21, 1861. A public outcry followed which was directed primarily at General Charles Stone, field commander, and unfortunately not against General George McClelland, who as commander-in-chief, was responsible for the overall operation. As a result numerous regimental officers resigned their commissions and sought reassignment. Among them was Almeron Mathews.

While on detached status and recovering from the shock of initial combat, Mathews returned to Pontiac where he eventually heard that another regiment might be formed in that very city. It would be led by a man with a reputation for

honesty and integrity – former Governor Moses Wisner. Ultimately this unit became the 22nd Michigan Infantry whose creation was tied to Governor Blair's call for six regiments that would represent each of Michigan's six Congressional districts. The Fifth Congressional district encompassed Oakland and five other counties. Oakland would supply about one-third of the enlistees, including First Lieutenant Mathews who received his new commission to the 22nd on July 31, 1862. The regiment trained at the old fairgrounds in downtown Pontiac near the intersection of North Saginaw and Fairgrove streets.

In mid-July Mathews and Townsend C. Beardsley were authorized by Governor Blair to raise a company for the 22nd. They named the company the "Richardson Cadets" after local war hero, Brigadier General Isreal Bush Richardson. Their recruiting post was the vacant law office of Judge Thomas J. Drake in Pontiac's National Block.⑥ Drake had been appointed associate justice for the U.S. Supreme Court in the Utah Territory early in February by President Lincoln. Enlistments came in at a record pace and the companies quickly filled up. On September 4, 1862 the regiment left for Kentucky by way of Cleveland and Cincinnati.

A bitter winter in Kentucky along with a lack of proper sanitation sickened many of the 22nd. In November Moses Wisner, who never spared himself working with the rank and file, fell ill with typhoid fever. His adjutant, Edgar Weeks, who was handling a mountain of paperwork, was scheduled for promotion. A replacement was sorely needed and found in the person of Almeron Mathews who took up the duties of adjutant on November 27, 1862. A week later

Wisner died and regimental command passed to Heber Le Favour, formerly a Lieutenant Colonel.

Although the 22nd had skirmished with the enemy in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1863, it hadn't experienced a major engagement until that fateful September 20 when the regiment made a valiant rearguard stand at the Battle of Chickamauga in northwest Georgia. As a result the unit lost 387 of the 584 men it had at the start of the day. Mathews was wounded in the hip and taken prisoner. For the next 18 months he was, according to one source, confined in 13 different rebel prisons. During this period on three occasions he suffered additional injuries at the hands of his guards.⑥

Mathews was finally paroled in March of 1865. After a 30 day leave to visit family and friends, he had to rejoin his outfit in Tennessee. He mustered out at Nashville on June 26, 1865 with the rank of Captain of Company H, a promotion he received while a prisoner of war.

Once back in Oakland County, Mathews accepted the post of deputy collector of internal revenue. The adjustment to civilian life was difficult however, and after 10 months he accepted a commission of Second Lieutenant in the 14th U.S. Infantry and was stationed at Camp McDowell in the Arizona Territory. The demands of serving on a frontier post soon proved too much for his weakened physical condition and he was forced to resign from the regular army on December 3, 1867.⑥



Type of sword to which Mathews was entitled by rank.

Home again in Pontiac, Mathews went into the book and stationery business, and even sold insurance for a while. He was eventually coaxed back into law enforcement work as Deputy U.S. Marshal for the eastern district of Michigan. He retired from the Marshal's office in 1886, having filled that position for nine years. Unfortunately the pain of his war wounds crippled Mathews so badly toward the end of his life that he was unable to leave his home at 39 Clark Street in Pontiac. There he died with his wife Helen and daughter Ella in attendance on January 31, 1901.⑦

The mystery of Mathew's sword begins with the implement itself. This side arm is an excellent example of a standard weapon adopted by the U.S. Army on April 9, 1850 for all staff and field officers commanding infantry, artillery, and riflemen. Its single-edged blade, although appearing straight at first glance, actually has a slight curve. The blade sides are etched with floral designs as well as military and patriotic devices. The blade measures 32 inches in length. The sword's overall length is 38 inches.

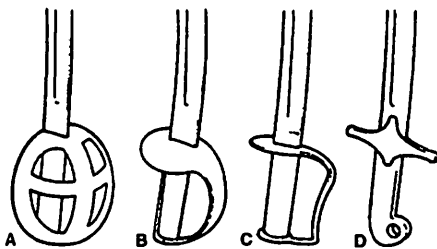
Near the hilt on one side of the blade is the maker's mark: "Ames Mfg Co./ Chicopee, Mass." This firm, which dates to 1791, served the Union cause extremely well in the Civil War. From its foundries and shops came enormous quantities of swords, bronze cannon, projectiles and an array of machinery for the manufacture of small arms. After that conflict was over and the demand for weapons declined, Ames



Type of sword eventually presented to Mathews and now owned by Society.

turned its attention to the production of society, militia, and ornamental swords. The firm also acquired a reputation for the manufacture of quality presentation swords. Ironically, Ames' first commission for such items came from the State of Virginia in 1840. What was to become the capital of the Confederacy was then seeking to honor the heroes of its Commonwealth. The company also won side renown for casting large statues of historic figures that still grace many city parks and squares.⑩

The most distinguishing part of the 1850 staff and field officers' sword was its hilt. And here lies the crux of the mystery. To separate it from the one carried by lesser ranks, this sword was designed with an



TYPES OF HILT  
 A - Full-Basket Hilt / B - Half-Basket Hilt  
 C - Stirrup Hilt / D - Mameluke Hilt

extra branch on its half-basket guard and the letters "US" incorporated thereon. In essence this type of sword was to be worn by officers with the rank of major and above. As a commissioned First Lieutenant, Mathews wasn't eligible to carry this sword but rather one designated for foot officers up to the rank of Captain.⑪ The latter was identical except for the telltale guard configuration.

How did Mathews come by this above grade sword? On the top mounting of the companion scabbard is this inscription:

Presented to / Lieut. A.S. Mathews /  
 by members of / Co. D /  
 22nd Michigan Infantry / Pontiac /  
 Sept. 4, 1862.

As mentioned earlier, this date

marked the regiment's departure for the front. It was a major event for the city as thousands of cheering residents from across the country and beyond gathered at the railroad depot in Pontiac to bid the boys adieu. Ever since the formation of the 22nd the town had talked of little else. Now farewell speeches, blaring bands, and the presentation of the colors captured the limelight.

Area newspapers also carried interesting sidebar stories of other ceremonies. One spoke of the fine sword and belt bestowed on Lieutenant Colonel Le Favour by the regiment's Quartermaster.⑫ Another told its readers that Captain Ezra C. Hatton of company A, 22nd Michigan, while stationed at the fairgrounds in Pontiac,⑬ "received a sword, sash, belt and revolver from the ladies of Farmington and West Bloomfield." In another instance, although details were not given, the same source noted that Captain Beardsley together with Lieutenants Boughton and Albertson, all of the 22nd, received their swords in appropriate fashion on August 28, 1862.⑭

Occasionally it was a governmental unit that granted a sword to a worthy officer. For example early in 1862 certain Oakland County officials and its board of supervisors gave a sword to Lieutenant B.B. Redfield of the 10th Michigan Infantry. Supervisor S.W. Rowe of Highland purchased the weapon in Detroit and C.V. Babcock, chairman of the board, made the presentation. The expenditure was \$25.00.⑮

The price of a sword had a considerable range depending on a number of variables such as the rank of the one wearing it, his branch of service, etc. Some officer's swords were valued as low as six to eight dollars each, while ornate presentation examples for field and

line officers could easily exceed one hundred dollars. Often the degree of admiration for the recipient effected the price. The non-commissioned officers of the 2nd Michigan had such a high regard for Colonel Orlando Poe they presented him with a "handsome sword" from Tiffany's in New York.⑯

To place such purchases in economic perspective, eggs were averaging seven cents a dozen and potatoes 15 to 25 cents a bushel at Pontiac markets, while a shave and a haircut cost 15 cents at the time.

The presentation ceremony for the Civil War sword most likely originated in the rituals surrounding a knight's investiture during the Middle Ages. In those feudal days a candidate for knighthood was one who had obtained the rank of squire and for some seven years had faithfully served his lord. Finally after receiving his arms and armor he would be struck lightly on the shoulder with the flat side of a sword by his ruler who would intone the words, "I dub you knight." Gradually the power of the Roman Catholic Church infused the proceedings with a religious tone in the form of fasting, confessing, and vigil keeping. In this uneasy alliance between temporal traditions and church power the sword emerged as a protection against sin and a weapon to be used on the enemies of Christ. Even the shape of the sword's hilt was said to represent the cross, a symbol of redemption. However, the collapse of feudalism along with the advent of the Reformation and changing technology in warfare modified the ceremony to represent a more secular one. Today its remnant is found in the honorary orders of knighthood still conveyed by Great Britain, and to a lesser extent, by France, Denmark, Sweden and others.

By the time of the Civil War the sword presentation ritual had be-

come a bonding mechanism between the soldier, his unit, and the home front. An example of the sentiments expressed in this ceremony are found in the remarks made by Lieutenant Colonel C.J. Dickerson of the 10th Michigan in bestowing a sword on Adjutant S.D. Cowles of Pontiac, and the junior officer's reply. The event took place at Camp Thompson in Flint on March 5, 1862 with the regiment drawn up in a hollow square and a number of civilians present. Here are two brief excerpts from that exchange:

(Lieut. Col. Dickerson) And you Sir, who have the honor of being the Adjutant of this Regiment, I am confident you will not fail to honor this sword, which I now have the pleasure of presenting to you. Take it; it is a fit token of our regard and esteem. It will hereafter in your hands be an emblem of honor.

(Adj. S.D. Cowles) Fellow Soldiers: The duty of a soldier is to be prompt to the duties he is called upon to perform. And, I for one, will pledge my word, should my life be spared to go forth to the field of battle, that this sword shall never be sheathed in dishonor 15

Adjutant Cowles' life was not spared. Less than three months after speaking these words, he was killed on picket duty at Farmington, Mississippi.

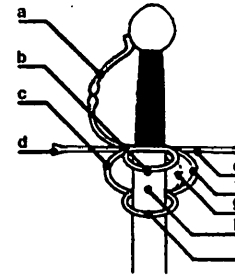
If Mathews participated in such a presentation ceremony it apparently went unreported in area newspapers. By the same token he was entitled to a sword when he enlisted as First Lieutenant in the 7th Michigan. Did he receive such a side arm then and if so what happened to it? If that sword did survive is it the same one later presented to Mathews with a dedicatory inscription?

Two other interesting objects accompanied the sword at the time of its donation which shed some light on this problem. 16 The first is a photograph (carte-de-visite) of First Lieutenant Mathews wearing a Burnside pattern felt hat and standard single-breasted frock coat

but lacking sword and sword belt. An indentation at the coat's waist emphasized the absence of a belt. The reverse of the photo bears Mathews' name, rank as Adjutant, and regimental designation written in ink. A printed cartouche identifies the photographer as "W. R. Phipps... Lexington, Ky." The 22nd was stationed in Lexington at Camp Ella Bishop from October 26, 1862 to February 21, 1863. Mathews was commissioned Adjutant on November 27, 1862. It seems unusual then that this officer chose to pose for posterity without his prized sword less than three months after it was presented to him.

The second object is even more informative. It is a letter dated April 15, 1891 and addressed to Mathews from "Frank Philips, circuit court clerk, Jackson County, Florida." The contents are a reply to a Mathew's letter in which our subject had earlier asserted that he had surrendered his sword to an Adjutant of the 54th Virginia at the Battle of Chickamauga. Philips, a Confederate, answers that he accepted a mounted officer's sword from an Adjutant and later had the initial "U" on the knuckle guard altered to a "C" for "Confederate States." He also suggests that Mathews may have surrendered to another regiment in the confusion and darkness that marked the end of the battle.

It is now obvious that as late as 1891 Mathews was searching for his original sword. If that captured weapon bore the presentation inscription which identifies the sword the Society now possesses, then any Confederate would have known whose side arm he had received. While Philips might have been lying about the ownership of the weapon he had taken, the suffering and deprivation shared by Civil War Veterans – even those on



THE PARTS OF THE HILT

- a - Knuckle-guard or knuckle-guard
- b, i - Side-rings
- c, f - Arms of the hilt or pas d'ane
- d, e - Quillons
- g - Counter-guard
- h - Ricasso

opposing sides – makes such deceit unlikely. A more plausible scenario has a crippled hero vainly searching for this missing memento of comradeship in the final years of his life. Aware of his plight members of the 22nd Michigan take up a collection, acquire a handsome replacement – albeit above Mathew's rank – and make a special presentation of their love and esteem. This is most likely the sword the Society now owns.

**NOTES**

1. Our subject's name has been spelled frequently with two "t"s.
2. Prall was the very contractor sought by Mrs. Angeolina Wisner to help repair Pine Grove's roof damaged by a fallen chimney during a violent windstorm near mid-November of 1862. OCPHS Manuscript Collection: Wisner Family coll., Box 1-13.
3. Michigan Adjutant General's Office, *Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War 1861-1865*, V.7 (Kalamazoo: Ihling Bros. & Everard, 1905), 100.
4. Pontiac Weekly Gazette, 18 July 1862, p. 3, col. 2.
5. OCPHS Scrapbook "Historical Clippings 1872-1930," 139.
6. Michigan Adjutant General's Office, V.22, 100.
7. OCPHS Scrapbook, 139.
8. Rutledge Books, *Asher & Adams Pictorial Album of American Industry 1876* (New York, 1976), 187.
9. Michigan Civil War Centennial Observance Commission, *Small Arms Used by Michigan Troops in the Civil War* (Lansing, 1966), 122. Although not proper many "non-regulation" side arms were acquired by military personnel early in the Civil War when standard equipment was in short supply.
10. *Detroit Advertiser and Tribune*, 6 Sept. 1862, p.2, col. 3.
11. *Pontiac Weekly Gazette*, 5 Sept. 1862, p.2, col. 3.
12. *Ibid.*, 5 Sept. 1862, p.3, col. 2.
13. *Ibid.*, 17 Jan. 1862, p. 3, col. 1.
14. *Ibid.*, 7 Feb. 1862, p. 2, col. 4.
15. *Ibid.*, 28 March 1862, p. 1, col. 5.
16. OCPHS Small Collections "Mathews, Almeron – Civil War."