

President's Note: ARMISTICE DAY OR VETERANS DAY

by Jim Jackson, President

While researching in Washington, D.C. I took a break to tour Arlington National Cemetery. I usually spend a few moments at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I'm sure everyone is familiar with this monument, but there are also other Tombs of the Unknowns in the United States: Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier in Washington Square, Philadelphia; Civil War Unknowns Monument, Arlington National Cemetery; and Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier at Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi. Here a few facts regarding the soldiers who guard the most visited Tomb.

The Tomb has been guarded by a Sentinel continuously (every minute, day and night) since 1937, including during terrorist attacks and hurricanes. They must pass a series of tests. After serving 9 months as a Sentinel at the Tomb, he, or she (there have been three female Sentinels) receive the Tomb Guard Identification Badge, the second rarest award currently issued in the United States Army; only the Army Astronaut Badge is rarer. Since the first award in 1958, only about 600 soldiers have completed training and been awarded this Badge.

A Guard takes six to eight hours to prepare his uniform – heavy wool, regardless of the time of year – for the next day's work. His gloves are moistened to improve his grip on the rifle.

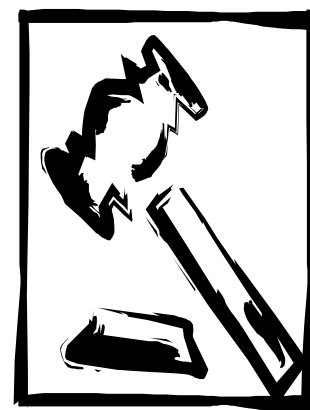
The Guard takes 21 steps across the mat. This alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary. He stops on the 21st step, then turns and faces the Tomb for 21 seconds. Then he turns to face back down the mat, changes his weapon to the outside shoulder, counts 21 seconds, and then steps off for another 21 step walk down the mat. He faces the Tomb at each end of the 21 step walk for 21 seconds. The

Sentinel then repeats this over and over until he is relieved at the Guard Change.

The mat is replaced twice each year: before Memorial Day and before Veterans Day. This is required because of the wear on the rubber mat by the special shoes worn by Tomb Guards. On the ground not covered by the mat, a wear pattern in the tile can be seen that corresponds to the precise steps taken during the changing of the guard.

The Guard is changed every thirty minutes during the summer (April 1 to Sep 30) and every hour during the winter (Oct 1 to Mar 31). During the hours the cemetery is closed, the guard is changed every 2 hours.

The guard wears no rank insignia, so as not to outrank the Unknowns, whatever their ranks may have been. The duties of the sentinels are not purely ceremonial. The sentinels will confront people who cross the barriers at the tomb, or are disrespectful or loud.



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Calhoun County Genealogical Society

The purposes of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS) are:

- To gather and preserve information of genealogical value.
- To encourage the deposit of such information in suitable depositories.
- To aid genealogists in the study of family history through the exchange of knowledge.
- To publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.



CCGS is a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Individuals, libraries or societies may join. Annual dues for the year, beginning September 1, are \$18 for members choosing to receive **Generations** through postal mail or \$15 for members electing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after May 1 will pay for the following year's membership. Members receive **Generations** newsletter six times per year. All are invited to submit articles to the **Generations** editor. Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of pages from back issues of **Generations** are available for \$1.00 for the first page and \$.50 for each additional page. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the LDS Marshall Branch Church 16036 Old US -27, Marshall, *unless otherwise specified*. No meetings are held in July, August or December. Programs are free and open to the public.

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Calhoun County Genealogical Society

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Become a CCGS fan on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CalhounCountyGenealogicalSociety>

CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to calhouncountygss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Organizational Member of **National Genealogical Society • Michigan Genealogical Council • Federation of Genealogical Societies**

Obituaries published in CA newspapers

BEGG, William James 19 Feb 08

Jim began his career as an actor in New York before moving west to Los Angeles where he became a successful actor and producer. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and family and fondly remembered for his devotion to them and for his famous sense of humor. *Los Angeles Times*

In lieu of flowers, please consider a remembrance in Jim's name to The Motion Picture & Television Fund or Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles & the Inland Empire.

Born to Lewis and Agnes Rambo Jan. 2, 1922 in Battle Creek, Michigan. Went home to the Lord on Jan. 8, 2008. Bill was surrounded by his loving family. Survived by Susan, his wife of 41 years; children, Mindy, Jeff, Brad and Matt; step children, Elyse, Jeff and Eric; and eleven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the Presbyterian Church of the Master on January 17th at 4 p.m.

payable to Pet Project Foundation. Los Angeles Times

Robert, 92, passed away of natural causes on February 18, 2008. Born in Battle Creek, Michigan, Robert lived most of his life in Pasadena, CA, where he was a school teacher for over 30 years. An avid reader of history and Sierra Club member, Robert used to spend most of his free time hiking in the Southern California mountains. A graduate of Stanford and UCLA, Robert loved education. He was still going to school in his 80's. 24 FEB 08

There will be a public viewing on February 29, from 4-6 p.m. at Cabot and Sons Mortuary, 27 Chestnut Street, Pasadena. All family and friends are invited.

(88), of Louisville, KY, passed away Thursday, September 13, 2007 at Jewish Hospital.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Vene Darby. She is survived by her daughters, Diana Lynne Darby (Ben Wadler), of Louisville, and Deborah Ann Darby, of Madison, Wisconsin; and her grandchildren, Hannah and Clay Darby-Wadler of Louisville. Elizabeth Tichenor of Orlando, Florida. Jan Tichenor of Madison.

the Pacific Ocean.
In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may go to P.E.O. Sisterhood P.C.E. Grant, c/o Laurinda Stokes, 208 Alcott Rd. Louisville, KY 40207.

_____ KY, 40207.

of Fountain Valley, CA, passed away on January 4, 2012 at the age of 62, surrounded by her family, after a courageous battle with Systemic Lupus for over 30 years. Janice was born in Battle Creek, MI, daughter of William J. and Donna M. Axel. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to all that knew her. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Robert L. Travis; her son, Robert E. Travis, his wife Kerri Wilkerson and twin children, Ethan and Madeline; her daughter, Rebecca A. DeGree, her husband Donald DeGree and three children, James, Patrick and Kevin. She is also survived by her two brothers, William J. Axel II, his wife Kay and three children, Christine, William IV and Kyle; and Thomas C. Axel and his wife Carla. Services will be Monday afternoon, January 16th at the Heritage-Dilday Funeral Home at 17911 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach, CA. Visitation from 2:30 to 3:30 with the service from 3:30 to 4:30. Interment will be the following day, January 17 at 2:00 at the Miramar National Cemetery, La Jolla, CA. The family requests that donations be made to the National Lupus Foundation in lieu of flowers.

Visit register.com/obits to express

These obituaries were published in the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register. Eleanor Borkenhagen from the Orange County CA Genealogical Society provided these to us in case they would be of interest. If any of these are of interest to you please contact the newsletter editor to get the original.



THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A MICHIGAN CANNONEER

DIARY OF
THOMAS ALBERT DAVIS
BATTERY B
1ST MICHIGAN LT. ARTILLERY

Transcribed and edited by
Chris Czopek

This is an excerpt from
the Diary of Thomas
Albert Davis.

THOMAS "ALBERT" DAVIS, b/ 1845 Oct 1; Civil War Service, died in Rome, GA, 1 June 1864
SON OF ISAAC DIXSON DAVIS AND SOPHIA REED

4

draw it by hand and kept with the horses and the other [pieces?]
I must stop for I have written this sheet all up.

1864 June 1, Tuesday @ Rome, GA from RHUFUS & HUBBELL, Batt B, 1st Mich Light Art, 3 Brigade, 2 Div, 16
[?] Corp to friend, Mr. Davis {father Isaac Dixon Davis}

I thought I would write you a few lines seeing that I had the opportunity to let you know how we are getting along. We have been marching for the last 25 days of May and have finally stopped to rest. I [?] to have not very good news to impart to you. ALBERT was taken down sick when we stopped. He now lies in the hospital. [RAUFUS?] & myself was down to see him last Sunday and he seemed to feel better. We went and washed his clothes for him. Went down this morning, which is Tuesday, to see him and he was worse. He had been out of his head for the last hour. We are in hopes he will not be sick long for we would like to come home as we went away. We will do all that we possibly can for him. The doctor seems to think that he is a little better just now. WILLIAM is not very tough but I guess he will stick it through. [RAULFUS?] and myself never enjoyed better health in the world. It is mighty warm down here but we do not have anything to do so we get in the shade as much as possible. I am in hopes that ALBERT will be all right in a little while. If you should happen to see our folks, tell them that we are all well. No more time but we will write and let you know if he gets any worse. This from [RHUFUS] & HUBBELL. Write soon as you get this.

THOMAS ALBERT DAVIS died on 1 June 1864, the day his friend wrote of his illness.

ENTRY FROM DIARY OF ADELE DAVIS MURRAY, 1874 June 1 -

I desire to say a few words to you tonight, my Journal. This is the tenth anniversary of my dear brother Albert's death, the companion of my childhood, the one upon who I was wont to look as my surest stay and support. The cruel war called him to a southern grave. I sometimes think he might have felt that I did not sorrow for his going. I was so anxious not to give him unnecessary pain. But we had no sooner left him than I let my tears have way.

Note:

The letters are on file at the Bentley Historical Library, U of M, Ann Arbor, MI
also have a diary kept by Thomas which is very difficult to decipher. Will add later.....

MAY 21, 1864

Received an order for 20 days rations.

Also, to be ready to march May 23.

MAY 22

"Boots & Saddles" the first thing this morning, about daylight.

Marched for Rome. Arrived & encamped 4 miles from _____

MAY 23 - ROME, GA.

Stayed in camp hospital all day. No incidents of interest.

Don't feel very well, nor have for some time.

MAY 24 - ROME, GA.

Took our guns to a fort. Named it "Fort Ernst" in honor of our Lieut.

[2nd Lieut. William F. Ernst]

Feel no better today.

May 25 - ROME, GA.

Stayed up around camp. The drivers are down town in a livery with their horses.

The other section has their guns in an

These are the last words written in the diary.

Thomas Albert Davis died June 1 of Typhoid fever in Rome, GA.

He is buried in the National Cemetery at Marietta, GA

You can visit his grave in Section 6, #1686

This information was provided by Ruth Kaiser. Chris Czo-peck provided CCGS his transcription booklet of the Babcock Cemetery and it is on file at Calhoun Libraries.

MAY 23

Stayed in camp hs [=hospital?]

All day / no incidents

Of interest - don't feel

Very well nor have

For some time

MAY 24

Took our guns up

In a fort / named it

Fort Ernst in honor

Of our Lieut.

[2nd Lieut. William F. Ernst]

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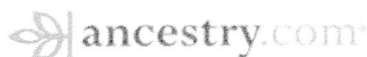
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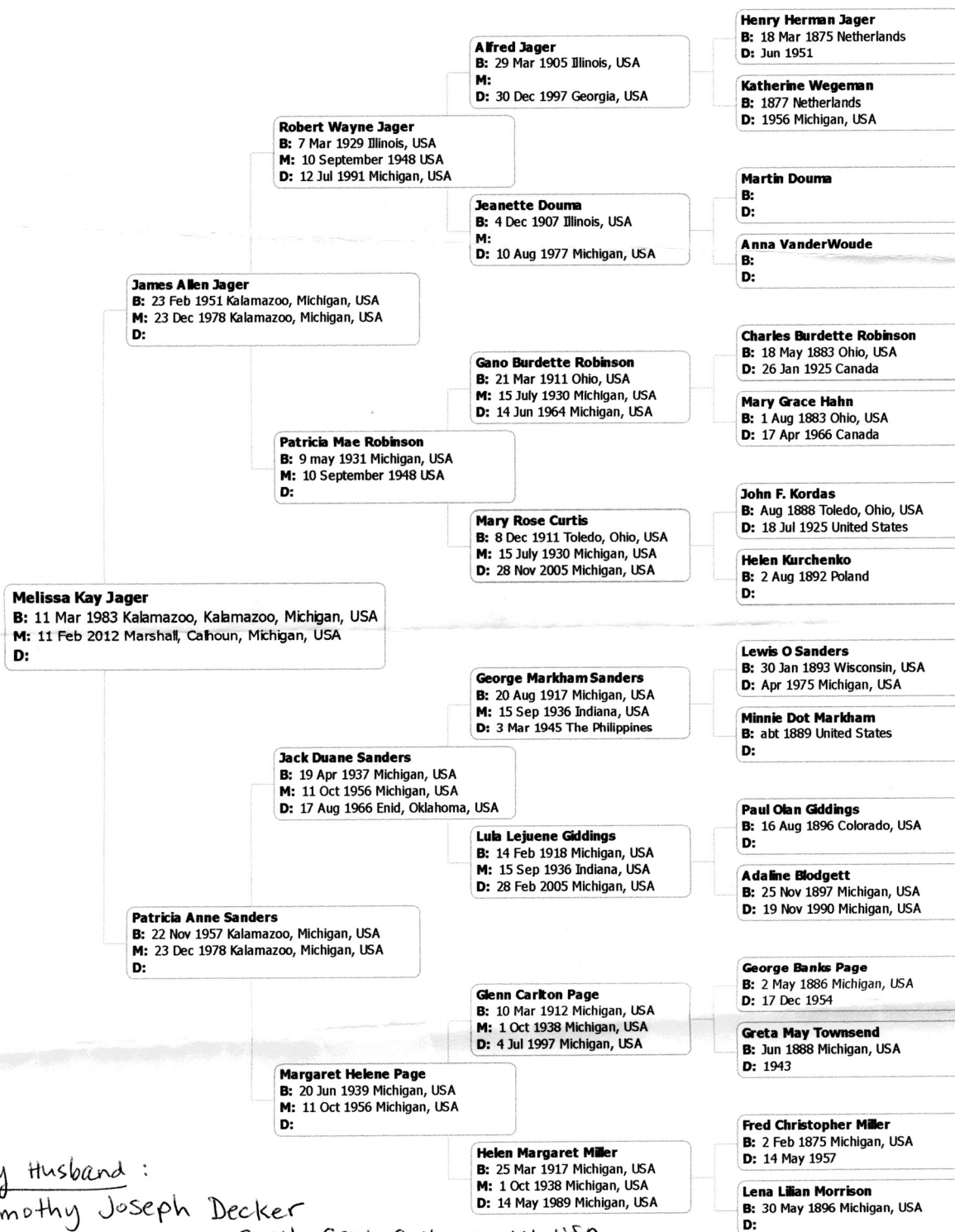
Thomas Albert Davis died June 1 of Typhoid fever in Rome, GA.

His grave can be found in the National Cemetery at Marietta, GA, Section 6, grave #1686]

Melissa Jeger Genealogy Project.



Melissa's Genealogy Project



My Husband:

Timothy Joseph Decker

B. 2 Jan 1985 Battle Creek, Calhoun, MI, USA

M. 11 Feb 2012 Marshall, Calhoun, MI, USA

If you have any information to share with Melissa you can contact the Newsletter editor.

CCGS Welcomes New Vice President

Alex VanZanten

I was born in Battle Creek in 1947. I graduated from Lakeview High School in 1965. I have always been interested in my family history. After high school I enlisted in the Marine Corp and was stationed in California, where I lived for eleven years. While in California I joined the LDS Church and started working on my family genealogy. I started working for the LDS Church and moved to Utah in 1986. After retiring from retail (Fred Myer) I married my high school sweetheart and returned to Michigan.

My mother's parents moved from England to Battle Creek in 1909. My grandfather was Adamson Bell. My grandmother was a Flemming. My father's ancestors came from the Netherlands in 1847 with the Dutch that settled in the Holland, Michigan area.

I have been the Family History Consultant for the LDS Church and volunteer in the LDS Genealogy Library in Battle Creek. When Sandi Hartnell indicated that the CCGS needed a new place to meet I volunteered the LDS Church building in Marshall. Since I have the keys they made me the vice-president! I look forward to helping people who are as interested in genealogy as I am.

Annual Membership List :

The Board of Directors and some members have become concerned about our annual publication of the members names and addresses in the newsletter. Due to some privacy concerns, we have decided to not include the list in the newsletter which is also distributed to some libraries. We will create the membership list and distribute it to members only as a separate document with the January newsletter. If any of the members do not wish to have their contact information included in this list please contact Marcie Telfer (see contact information on page 2)

Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
PO Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

Last Meeting of
the year: Nov 27

Calhoun County Genealogical Society *Calendar of Events*

CCGS monthly meetings are typically held the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, August and December, and are free and open to the public. Unless noted, meetings are held at 7 p.m. at LDS Marshall Branch Church at 16036 Old US-27 N, Marshall MI.

November 27 Howard Streeter, member of Sons of Union Veterans and a re-enactor will speak on "Civil War Medicine and bring some of his extensive collection of Civil War era medical equipment to display.

December—No Meeting

January 28th, Annual "Show and Tell"

February 22nd FRIDAY Annual "Library Lock in" at the Helen Warner Branch, Willard Library. 36 Minges Creek Place, Battle Creek, MI

Have ideas for future programs? Please contact President Alex VanZanten, whose contact information is on page 2.