

Patricia Ann Jacobson, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Patricia is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Great-Granddaughter of

## Private Simon Geiger

### 18<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, Company I

Simon Geiger was born on June 26, 1824, in Ginkkofen, Straubing-Bogen, Bavaria, Germany to Johann and Barbara (Greil) Geiger. Simon married Elizabeth Schuh in the Catholic Diocese of Regensburg on December 11, 1848. At the time of their marriage, Simon was a soldier in the Bavarian Army. Simon and Elizabeth, along with their three living children, immigrated to America aboard the Bark General Jacoby arriving in New York City on September 12, 1854. They traveled directly to Wisconsin and the next summer, purchased 200 acres of land in Maple Grove Township, Manitowoc County where Simon engaged in farming.

Having been a soldier during the Bavarian Revolution, Simon once again answered the call to serve by joining the Union Army in the American Civil War at the age of 40. Leaving his wife and family of seven children, ages 2-16, to care for the farm in his absence, he enlisted on September 29, 1864, to serve in Company I of the 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers. During the time he served, the regiment participated in many campaigns including Sherman's March to the Sea, Siege of Savannah, Campaign of the Carolinas, Battle of Bentonville, advance and occupation of Raleigh, Bennett's House where General Johnston and General Sherman met to sign the surrender papers for Confederate forces in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. The regiment then marched to Washington, D.C. via Richmond, Virginia for the Grand Review of the Armies on May 24, 1865, marking the end of the Civil War and the triumph of the Union forces. Simon's discharge papers read in part, "*Simon Geiger, Private, of Captain Peter McIntyre's Co. I of the 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers...is hereby discharged from service of the United States this second day of June, 1865 at Washington, D.C. by reason of expiration of terms of service...*"

Following his military discharge, Simon returned home to his family in Maple Grove Township and resumed farming; two years later their last child was born. At the age of 54, Simon passed away on December 26, 1878, and was laid to rest next to his beloved wife, Elizabeth, who had died four years earlier. They, along with several family members, are buried in a small cemetery located on a portion of land Simon donated for the Holy Trinity Parish Cemetery, Maple Grove Township, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

