



# THE BUCKEYE BUGLE

## June Encampment important to camps, vital to leaders

By Brother Charles Reeves, Department of Ohio Commander

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June 11 is the date of our 129<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment and will end my term as your Commander. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of you at your installation meetings, last veteran ceremonies, and other events.

As we start the first year of our Nation's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War this Encampment is very important as we plan our activities for the

coming years.

Last June nine of our Camps were not represented. I visited with eight of you this past winter so I know you are active and participating in SUVCW activities. But, we need your attendance at our annual Encampments. I would hope we could have a 100 percent Camp attendance in 2011 and that all Camps will have many of their Brothers attending. That would be a first in modern Department history. Let's make it work.

At this year's Encampment we will elect new Department Officers for 2011-2012, discuss changes in our Department By-Laws, accept Department Committee Reports, and most importantly greet and meet our Commander in Chief Brad Schall

of California. Yes, of course, we'll also enjoy the opportunity to meet and make friends with Brothers from other Camps. This is your chance to exchange ideas and swap stories.

Camp Commanders have received an email with details regarding the Encampment and been asked to share:

1. Pre-registration dead-line for free parking and the catered luncheon is May 14. No free parking passes after May 14.
2. There is an extra charge of \$5.00 for lunch reservations after May 14. No reservations accepted after June 3.
3. Details and forms for the Encampment are on the Department web site:  
[www.ohiosuv.com/129OHDeptEncampment.htm](http://www.ohiosuv.com/129OHDeptEncampment.htm)

### Special points of interest:

*Ohio's Maj. Gen. Rosecrans:*

- Introduced use of map coordinates in battle planning.
- Had folding portable pontoons developed.
- Established a mobile railroad hospital system.
- Prepared his men for battle through "real life" sorties in small units rather than with parade ground drill.

## Commitments, beliefs, efforts are heart of SUVCW

*Courtesy of Townsend Camp #108's "Sherman's Messenger"*

One of the most important factors in any organization is commitment: **To pledge yourself to a certain purpose or behavior.** It also means you should practice that purpose or behavior consistently. However, there are also fundamental conditions necessary for this commitment to flourish:

☞ *Having a sound set of*

*beliefs.* Does the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War provide you with the necessary objectives and goals to support your belief in the SUVCW?

☞ *Continuous adherence to those beliefs as demonstrated by your behavior.* Demonstrating commitment is never easy. It requires planning ahead and then attendance.

Read your membership card.

Nowhere is the word "honorary" on the card or membership badge.

Unfortunately, some members seem to consider themselves "honorary" and wrongly feel it's unimportant to contribute any time or effort toward their camp's activities or ceremonies. Finally -- consider carefully now -- **How would your Civil War ancestor judge your commitment in his honor to the SUVCW?**

## Lancaster's Sherman cannon soon to boom again

By Brother Dan Starkey, Commander, McKinley Camp #21

The Sherman Cannon is closer to firing its first shot in July with the reuniting of its barrel and carriage. The cannon and carriage had been separated since last May when a \$23,000 restoration program began. They are now together. "The cannon is really a piece of art, really beautiful," said Dan Starkey, a member of the Save the Cannon group and commander of SUVCW William McKinley Camp #21.



L to R: Josh Marks, Ken Sprague (Hamburg Fireworks President), Camp 21 members Bob Martin, Dan Starkey, Don Grant, and Greg Deible

Volunteers surrounded Parks Department employees who used an engine hoist to lift the cannon and set it onto on the carriage.

The cannon is a Parrott 10-pound smooth bore donated by Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman to the Ben Butterfield Post of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1882.

"The cannon actually was in a ditch behind the Sherman House before it was re-discovered and restored the first time," Starkey

said. For many years it sat in a prominent place guarding Veteran's Park at the corner of Main and Broad streets.

The cannon suffered damage through the years and last summer the Save the Cannon group of volunteers joined together to restore it. Kentucky-based Steen Cannon and Ordnance Works assembled the new carriage. Kumler Collision and Automotive in Lancaster repainted the barrel.

Don Grant, a past state commander with William McKinley Camp 21 of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, said seeing the gun put back together was a great experience. "We are losing the cannons that came from that period at an alarming rate across the country," Grant said. "The cannon on this is the original that dates back to the Civil War. It's a great restoration job and a great piece of history," he added.

"We are going to fire the cannon in the spring to make sure everything is in working order," Starkey said. "Then we are going to have it in the Memorial Day and July 4 parades. The first public firing of the cannon will be to start the fireworks display on July 4. It will then be for public display back at the park."



Parks and Recreation worker Josh Marks, Camp 21 members Bob Martin and PDC Don Grant, and sons with the Cannon

Starkey said the group still needs to purchase a trailer that will allow the cannon to be moved and displayed at future parades. "We also need uniforms for an eight-member artillery unit that will go with the cannon for public events," Starkey said. "We have a raffle going for the chance to be the first people to fire the cannon to start the July 4 fireworks, and a brick sale going on to help pay for everything." People can find how to help at

<http://savethecannon.com>

For Greg Deible, who had come out to see the cannon put back together for the first time since the restoration process began, the newly restored cannon looked like a brand new cannon ready to spout flames and smoke. "It's great that we have been able to help preserve this history before it was gone. They did a great job with it," Deible said. "We can't wait to fire it up."

*"It's great that we have been able to help preserve this history before it was gone."*

## Brothers, friends experience Lincoln's farewell "live"

Courtesy of Sherman Camp #93's "The Coffee Cooler"

Sherman Camp brothers joined Lincoln Society of Dayton members and friends as "President-elect Lincoln" visited historic Normandy Church in Centerville Feb. 11. "Wow. I just witnessed Mr. Lincoln giving his farewell speech," exclaimed one of the almost 100 participants.

The gathering replicated a similar event the same day and time 150 years earlier as Abraham Lincoln travelled from Springfield Ill. to his actual inauguration. The Dayton "visit" was part of a nationwide observance the Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield organized to honor and commemorate the event.

Lincoln Society members Robert and Sarah Koogler represented Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln. Brothers Mark Alex, Del Steiner, Jim Converse, Grant Bates and Fred Lynch provided the President-elect's color guard and "Ohio State Militia" escort. Brother Allan Howey performed musical honors including "Hail to the Chief" using a Civil War-era cornet.



L to R: Brothers Alex, Steiner, Converse, Lynch and Bates, Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln reenactors Bob and Sarah Koogler, and Brother Howey.



## Feds reintroduce Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act

In March, Senators Jim Webb and Mary Landrieu reintroduced the American Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act, which aims to ensure suitable commemoration of the Civil War's 150th anniversary.

"As someone with ancestors who fought on both sides of the American Civil War, its 150th Anniversary has personal significance," says Webb. "It is important that all Americans remain aware of the many sacrifices made by soldiers and civilians on both sides, and of the long-term impact

of the Civil War on our country. The intention of this commission is to ensure the proper recognition of the sesquicentennial building upon previous legislative efforts to support education and commemoration of this turning point in American history."

Consisting of 25 members from government, business and academia, the CW150 Commission will work together with state and local governments, as well as various organizations, to develop and assist with commemoration activities

already underway by states, localities and the National Park Service to promote the 150th anniversary of the conflict.

In addition, any funding provided as a result of this legislation would help ensure the sesquicentennial leaves a legacy of lasting educational value through development of new scholarship, academic programs and curriculum, as well as the preservation of key battlefield lands that serve as outdoor classrooms for current and future generations of Americans.

*"The Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act aims to ensure suitable commemoration for the Civil War's 150th anniversary."*

## SUVCW CW 150 initiatives include special medal

*Courtesy of SUVCW national website*

The Sesquicentennial is upon us. Members of the SUVCW and the Allied Orders may now apply to the Sesquicentennial Committee to sponsor Sesquicentennial Signature Events.

The SUVCW will highlight the event on the National website. And, the sponsors can offer (for a donation) the official SUVCW Sesquicentennial Medal to those individuals

who attend a Signature Event. There will be bronze, silver, and gold devices available to signify attendance at five, ten, or fifteen signature events.

To be accredited, Signature Events must educate the public concerning the legacy of the valiant work done by all United States military forces between 1861 and 1865; have direct connection with the Civil War Sesqui-

centennial; be of national or state significance; and, honor the United States and its military forces in a positive manner.

Information and a form are available on the national website to apply for recognition and to check requirements to earn the SUVCW medal. For more information go to: [www.suvcw.org/CWSesquicentennial/CWSEQ.htm](http://www.suvcw.org/CWSesquicentennial/CWSEQ.htm)



## Library of Congress posts 700 free Civil War photos

*Courtesy of the Library of Congress*

The Library of Congress recently posted upon their Internet site 700 portraits of Americans that were taken during the Civil War. The pictures are a gift from the Liljenquist Family.

Most of the people depicted are unidentified. The Library hopes the collective knowledge of the

people who view the pictures will help to identify those in the images.

The photographs reflect the impact of the war and how it involved many young men.

Many of the photos include items associated with soldier life including horses, drums, muskets, rifles, revolvers, hats and caps, canteens, and

even a guitar.

Among the rarest images are African Americans in uniform, sailors, a Lincoln campaign button, and portraits with families, women, and girls and boys

To view the pictures, go to:

[www.flickr.com/photos/library\\_of\\_congress/sets/72157625520211184/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_congress/sets/72157625520211184/)



Unidentified Union soldier



### Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Department of Ohio

The Buckeye Bugle is an unofficial newsletter published periodically on behalf of members of the SUVCW Department of Ohio.

Photos in this issue courtesy of Dennis Brown, Barbara Lynch, Dan Starkey, Library of Congress, SUVCW, and private collections.

Items for possible publication should be sent by email to: [SUVOhioEditor@gmail.com](mailto:SUVOhioEditor@gmail.com)

Fred Lynch, Editor

## OHS provides backstage tours of Civil War artifacts

The Ohio Historical Society history museum plans to offer rare looks at its Civil War flags, weapons, military accessories and clothing. The OHS says one Thursday evening each in April, May and June, it will give official behind-the-

scenes tours of its Civil War collections. Small groups of up to a dozen people will glimpse many objects never before seen by visitors.

Each tour begins at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. OHS officials say the two-hour experience will

include opportunities for participants to taste traditional soldier food and hold real military equipment.

The cost will be \$150 per person. For more information go to the Ohio History Society website: <http://www.ohiohistory.org>

## OHS, Americorps help save family CW heirlooms

Have family heirlooms from the Civil War era such as tintypes, letters and personal records to preserve and share? As a CW 150 initiative, the Ohio Historical Society and AmeriCorps are interested in safeguarding such items for posterity -- No cost to the owner through July 30. Corps members are at regional locations around the

state including the Wood County Historical Center in Bowling Green, Youngstown State University, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Southeast Regional Library System in Wellston, and the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus.

Items must be authentic, pertain to Ohio's Civil War

era history, and be owned by the participant. There is a limit of five items to be scanned for each person.

In exchange for support of the program, contributors will receive a high-quality copy of their scanned items. For more information go to: [www.ohiomemory.org/community](http://www.ohiomemory.org/community)

## About Our Organization ... Brothers research, save, preserve GAR history

The SUVCW National Charter states "to assist in every way in preserving and making available for research documents and records pertaining to the GAR and its members". In June 2005, then Department Commander Ray Nagel appointed Brother Chuck Reeves of Lytle Camp in Cincinnati the Department's first GAR Post Records Officer, a post he holds today.

The initial search started at the Ohio Historical Society web site which disclosed 29 Post records. An additional search of their archival files disclosed the existence of the Ohio Department GAR records which were originally given to the Ohio Adjutant General when the Ohio GAR Department closed its office. These files were later donated to the Ohio Historical Society. The records contain the original applications for the establishment of an Ohio Post plus various records of Posts that ceased to exist. These files cover an additional 709 Posts.

As part of his efforts, Reeves then contacted numerous Ohio historical and genealogical societies to obtain information needed to continue to build a data base of GAR Post record locations. A written communication was sent to each county society explaining the department purpose building the data base. The effort was successful in identifying GAR Post records located at many local county historical and genealogical societies. Additional records were located by searching the web sites of all the major Ohio city libraries and the libraries of all Ohio colleges and universities.

The department data base continues to grow as smaller historical societies and town and village libraries learn of the SUV's worthy objective. The last major source of GAR Post records are those in private collections. We should continue to encourage people holding such records to allow us to disclose their existence.

All SUVCW members are encouraged to explore the GAR Post data base and help continue Department efforts to locate GAR records wherever located. Currently the data base lists location of 812 GAR Post records in 44 locations in the State of Ohio. The Ohio Department GAR Post records data base can be located on the Ohio SUVCW web site in the "Come on In" area. There are two listings, one by Post number and the other by the location of the Records: [www.ohiosuv.com/GARProject/OhioGARPosts.htm](http://www.ohiosuv.com/GARProject/OhioGARPosts.htm)



## Patriotic Instructor's message

*Contributed by Brother Donald L Martin, National Patriotic Instructor*

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### Fighting Chaplain of the 32nd Ohio

*By W.L. Curry; Transcribed by Larry Stevens*

Russell B. Bennett, Chaplain of the Thirty-second, was known in the Seventeenth Army Corps as the "fighting Chaplain." He enlisted in the regiment as a private, and was a good and brave soldier in the ranks. When Chaplain Nickerson resigned and left the service, Bennett was promoted to chaplaincy of the regiment.

He not only believed in the efficacy of prayer, but also believed in the efficacy of shot and shell. Instead of remaining in the rear during an engagement, he was always up in the front line, not only to minister to the wounded and dying, but, with gun in hand, took his place in the ranks and encouraged the soldiers by his coolness and bravery.

Of the many instances in which he rendered good services during a battle, we give one as related by the boys of the regiment.

On the day the brave and gallant McPherson fell, Atlanta, July 22, 1864, the Seventeenth Corps was hotly engaged. The Thirty-second Regiment was flanked on all sides, and was compelled to change front several times, not knowing in what direction to look for the enemy.

At one time, during a few moments' lull in the battle, the Thirty-second was lying down in the edge of a corn-field waiting for the next attack, the Chaplain, cautioning the boys to lie very still, and protect themselves the best they could, advanced into the corn-field to make a reconnaissance, and, mounting a stump some forty or fifty yards in front of the line, discovered the battle line of the enemy rapidly advancing, and moving back to his regiment, passed the word along the line that the enemy were close upon them; then, taking the musket of William B. Mitchell, of Company B - brother to John and James Mitchell, of Marysville - he fired on the advancing line, Mitchell, lying on the ground, would rapidly re-load the gun, and again Bennett would fire, and all the time exhorting the boys to "lie-low" until the enemy were close upon them, then to "fire-low."

All this time he stood erect, not seeming to have any thought of his own safety, but only solicitous for the soldiers of the regiment, whom he loved dearly. Mitchell was killed as he lay on the ground, and, his body falling into the hands of the enemy, was never recovered. Bennett was universally respected and loved by all of the officers and soldiers of the regiment, and to-day the boys all have a good word for Chaplain Bennett.



### Don't Complain!: John Nance, 34th Mississippi Infantry C.S.A.

The soldiers wore belts to carry their ammunition in. John Morgan Nance's belt was very heavy and made him tired to carry. In his mind, he decided that he was going to trade it for a lighter one. But, that very day he was hit with a bullet; it hit on the heavy belt and did not injure him. He decided then and there that he would wear that heavy belt for protection and he never complained about it again.

John Morgan was captured with a group of men and was sent to prison in Rock Island, Illinois. It was a very cold winter and they almost starved there. The men were all in one large room with one pot-bellied stove in the middle. To keep any men from hogging the stove, they drew a circle around the heater big enough that all the men were the same distance from the heater.

They had to do their own cooking. One man and a helper were chosen to cook. When several of the men complained that the food was not good (use your imagination) they passed a rule that whoever complained would automatically become cook. One cook had been cooking for several days and was ready to pass his job on, so he put a lot of salt in the big pot of food. Time to eat came and everyone got their share. The soup was very salty, but nobody dared to say a word.

Finally, one man let it slip, "The soup is sure salty - - but it's very good!" It was too late! He was the new cook.

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