



THE BUCKEYE BUGLE

Department Encampment sets budget, refines bylaws

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Camp Dennison | 2 |
| Greencastle Cem. | 2 |
| Gallia Co. Honors | 2 |
| Rockland Cem. | 3 |
| Alliance Ceremony | 3 |
| "Lorena" Story | 3 |
| Boys in Blue | 3 |
| Patriotic Instruction | 5 |

Action and decision-making transpired June 11 at the department's 129th Annual Encampment in Columbus. Thirteen camps and 50 brothers participated in discussions and votes.

Commander Chuck Reeves reported he attended 46 camp and department meetings, activities, and events during his term. He praised camp activities ranging from Sherman Camp cleaning up an abandoned cemetery to Fearing Camp's monument dedication in Belpre and Lytle camp's restoration of the Gen. Lytle Monument at Chickamauga. He urged all brothers to

prepare for SUVCW leadership roles through completing the Memorial University course. With sadness, he reported closure of McClellan Camp #66 in northwest Ohio.

A discussion addressed the 2011-12 budget. Certificates of Deposit no longer pay rates sufficient to fund memorial activities. Dues barely cover expenses. No dues increase is sought, but "belt tightening" is needed.

JVC Fred Lynch noted 13 members joined through applications to the national website. Members-at-large secretary Bob Davis noted there are 20 MAL members.

Graves Registration Officer Kent Dorr reported 2,500 new registrations in 2010-11. Ohio's total is now 57,605. Also, search problems on the national database are fixed.

GAR Highway project officer Pete Hritsko continues efforts to have U.S. Route 6 through Ohio properly marked. Eagle Scout Coordinator Brad Tilton reported Ohio camps honored 56 Scouts this year.

A number of Department Bylaws were revised and some suggestions referred for further review. A committee was appointed to determine and recommend a place to store department archives.

New department leaders elected, appointed, installed



Department officers installed at 129th Encampment: Commander Martin center; right SVC Lynch and S-T Howey; left Signals Officer Freshley; others in background

At the department's 129th encampment June 11, new state officers were elected and installed. They are: Commander Don Martin; Sr. Vice Cmdr. Fred Lynch; Jr. Vice. Cmdr. Jonathan Davis; Sec.-Treas. Al Howey; and on the Council of Administration Ray Nagle, Robert Davis, and Don Darby.

The following staff officers were appointed: Chief of Staff Robert Grim; Counselor David V. Medert; Asst. Sec. - Members at Large Bob Davis; Patriotic Instructor Shawn Cox; Graves Registration Officer Kent

Dorr; Eagle Scout Coordinator Brad Tilton; Signals Officer Ken Freshley; Civil War Memorials Officer John Bowling; Newsletter Editor Fred Lynch; Historian Jonathan Davis; Genealogist John Ward; Chaplain Kerry Langdon; Guard Andrew Rose; Guide Grant Bates; Color Guard John Huffman; G.A.R. Records Officer Chuck Reeves; GAR Highway Officer Peter Hritsko; Camp Organizer Don Grant; Buffington Island Representatives James Oiler and Danny Hinton;

Camp Chase Representative Bob Davis; Ohio Veterans Home Jon Silvis; Dept. Encampment Site and Planning Jonathan Davis; Department Monuments and Memorials Funding Comm. Fred Lynch (Chair), John Bowling; Kent Dorr; Robert Grim, and Craig Keller; Dept. Bylaws Committee Fred Lynch (Chair), Robert Grim, Al Howey, and Henry Shaw. And, Archives Storage Committee Fred Lynch (Chair), Jonathan Davis, Brad Tilton, and Jon Silvis.

Lytle Camp ceremony remembers Ohio volunteers

By Br. Kerry Langdon, Lytle Camp

General William H. Lytle Camp #10, Cincinnati, in conjunction with the Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry held a special 150th Civil War Sesquicentennial event June 25-26

commemorating founding of Camp Dennison June 25 -26.

The 600+ acre camp was one of the largest depots for recruiting and training of Union Army volunteer soldiers during the Civil War. On several occasions

there were over 15,000 men on site at Camp Dennison. In excess of 100,000 Union infantry, cavalry, and artillery either mustered in, received training, or mustered out through the camp between 1861-1865.

About 500 visitors enjoyed a faithful depiction of the mustering and training of the Ohio Volunteers that began at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861.

PCC Woody Cook displayed his Civil War weapons collection in the museum.

Lytle Camp members explained artifacts and Camp Dennison history.

Commander Kerry Langdon and the 6th OVI held a candlelight ceremony Saturday evening in honor of Ohio Civil War soldiers. Military-uniformed reenactors marched from their camp into a regimental hollow square formation. Candles were lit to honor the fallen. A group of ladies in Civil War attire along with a crowd of visitors watched.



Br. Langdon leads twilight prayer at Camp Dennison candlelight ceremony

Sherman Camp restores cemetery, GAR section, community pride



Camp #93 families and friends at end of Greencastle Cemetery cleanup day

More than 150 Civil War soldiers are buried in Dayton's abandoned Greencastle Cemetery including Major William Shoemaker, 4th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, an Union Army hero.

Next to its empty, rusted flag pole is a slab where once stood a GAR memorial Civil War cannon. The burial section for deceased veterans of Dayton's Hiram Strong GAR Post # 79 was overgrown and neglected.

Today, thanks to Sherman Camp #93 Brothers, the cemetery is a pleasant resting place for departed comrades and will stay that way.

For decades, Greencastle has been ignored, fallow, and without a care endowment. Last year, TV-22 News Source anchor Don Hammond sought assistance from the SUVCW for Greencastle. Sixteen camp brothers and family members April 23 accomplished a major clean-

up to cut scrub, remove trash, and restore a decent appearance to graves.

"Megs," a neighborhood resident who joined in the effort commented, "It's a shame these graves are neglected. There are soldiers here. Thank you." About 150 graves of Civil War Veterans were added to the SUVCW national database. Brothers Gregg Nartker, Pat McCoy, and Mark Alex are the camp's project coordinators.

POINTS OF FACT: Union Civil War veterans:

- **Constructed the first national cemeteries.**
- **Established network of soldiers' homes that led to establishing the Veterans Administration.**
- **Successfully advocated pensions for veterans, their widows, and their orphans.**

Cadot-Blessing Camp honors CW 150 many ways

Camp #176 set a rapid pace conducting CW 150 activities. First, at camp request, the Gallia County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation commemorating the Civil War as the Sesquicentennial kicked-off in April.

Representing their Civil War ancestors at the signing ceremony were Brothers David Carter, David North, Henry Myers and Camp

Commander Jim Oiler.

In honor of the area's Civil War veterans, camp brothers also organized a "Federal Army Homecoming" living history event April 30 and May 1 at Gallipolis City Park. A highlight was a noontime "bean dinner" reminiscent of those at postwar reunions held by local veterans. Brother Dan Fulks cooked the beans.

On July 9, Cadot-Blessing Camp again hosted the annual

Battle of Buffington Island commemoration. Events included dedicating a new Ohio Historical Society information kiosk concerning the June 19, 1863 battle built in cooperation with the Meigs Co. Historical Society and other groups. Br. Jim Oiler was master of ceremonies. Camp members placed a wreath at the park's commemorative monument and the honor guard fired a rifle salute.

Fearing Camp, Washington County honor CW Vets

More than 4,500 Civil War soldiers are now honored thanks to Fearing Camp #2 Brothers in Marietta. As part of Memorial Day weekend, May 31, a new marker was dedicated honoring Washington County Civil War veterans including the 200 from Belpre Township.

The granite monument is located in Rockland Cemetery as are the graves of 162 Union Army soldiers who served 1861-65. Fearing

Camp facilitated fundraising efforts for the monument among civic groups and local residents. The Department of Ohio Monuments and Memorials Fund contributed to the project.

Rockland is the second largest cemetery in Washington Co. containing remains of Civil War veterans, officials said. Among Civil War veterans buried there is Thomas Jefferson Wilcoxon, the

county's last surviving Civil War veteran who passed away July 12, 1940.

Members of Fearing Camp, led by Commander Dan Hinton, fired several musket volleys to honor the fallen. "Our goal is to see to it that all Civil War veterans and their graves are marked," remarked Hinton. Washington County Commissioner Tim Irvine noted the marker is a "great addition to the community."



Washington Co. Civil War monument

McClellan Camp, Alliance honor GAR, veterans

Contributed by Br. Andy Rose, McClellan Camp



PCC David Rose

Alliance honored the Grand Army of the Republic and the town's veterans Memorial Day. The GAR was instrumental establishing Memorial Day as a national day of honor in 1868.

Appropriately, McClellan Camp Brothers keynoted local efforts. Brother David Rose was main speaker for the special service held in Alliance City Cemetery. "In this cemetery, 428 Civil War

veterans are buried, he noted.

During the four-year American Civil War, more than 2.2 million Union soldiers served - - with about 330,000 of them Ohioans.

"You look around at the stores and schools. The reason we have these freedoms of choice is because of our veterans," added Rose, past camp commander of McClellan Camp #91.

"Gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime." . . . Gen. John Logan, G.A.R. CinC 1868."

"Lorena" a real true blue Yankee love song from Ohio

By Br. Steve Ball, Governor Dennison Camp

The tune "Lorena" is often thought to be of Southern origin, probably because of the fact it is Spanish for the English name "Lorraine." The name, however was not popular in the United States until after the song became popular.

The story of Lorena starts in 1850, in Zanesville, Ohio. A young lady by the name of Martha Ellen Blocksom, known simply as "Ella," moved in with her sister and brother in law,

the Landys, and into their fine house on the east side of the Muskingum river valley. It was a very fine home, as Martha's sister and brother in law were very affluent people at this time.

The house had a commanding view of the Muskingum river valley. Just a short distance down the hill, a new Universalist church was built. With it came a new minister by the name of H.D. Webster. It wasn't long before Martha (Ella) was dating the new minister. H. D. promised Ella

when his congregation was large enough, he would have the income necessary for raising a family. After a year or so had passed, the congregation hadn't grown, and the minister's income was minimal. Martha's sister and brother in law told her that the lifestyle this penniless preacher would give her was unacceptable for a woman of her social standing. Martha promptly broke off the relationship, emotionally devastating the



Musician Brother Steve Ball and his 1864 guitar

(Cont'd p. 4)

"Lorena" cont'd from p. 3
the young minister.

Four years later, the broken hearted minister, still not over his lost love, sat down and wrote a beautiful six verse poem about her. It was published in the church newsletter. To try to hide his feelings, instead of titling the poem "Ella" or "Martha," he decided to use the name "Bertha." Although the name was a bit off beat, the poem was well received.

Enter composer J.P. Webster, no relation to the



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,
Wanda Langdon, and private
collections.

Items for possible publication
should be sent by email to:
SUVOhioEditor@gmail.com



Ohio GAR Comrade E. L.
Monfort, Cincinnati

minister. He saw the poem, and decided it would make a beautiful love ballad. He asked permission from the minister, who gave it on one condition: He could not use the names "Martha" or "Ella" anywhere in the tune. J.P. Webster knew that "Bertha" would not fit musical meter, so legend has it that he simply took letters from each of Martha's names, and came up with the word "Lorena," and one of the most popular tunes of the era was born. First published in 1858, the song slowly became popular. By the time the Civil War had begun, the tune had spread throughout the entire country and as the armies of both sides grew the song was

popular both North and South, easily becoming the most popular love song of the war.

Legend has it the Confederacy banned it being played in camps in 1864 because of homesick feelings it could cause a soldier thinking of his love.

H.D. Webster eventually married and had four children. He served as a medic in the Union Army during the war. He died in the 1890's. J.P. Webster was always a sickly man, and helped with recruiting in the state of Wisconsin. Before his death in the 1870's, he penned the popular tunes "In the Sweet By and By" and "The Wildwood Flower"

made popular by the Carter Family fifty years after his death.

Martha Ellen Blocksom moved on and married Ohio Supreme Court Justice William Johnson. They lived a very affluent life and had two children. William Johnson died in 1889.

Martha lived until 1917, passing away at the age of 89. She was dubbed "The sweet-heart of the Civil War" by the musical community that continued to play "Lorena" at GAR conventions, however, as the person responsible for the heartache in the tune it's said she did not care for the song or want to hear it.

She is buried in Woodland Cemetery in Ironton, Ohio.

Remembering the Boys in Blue ...

A letter to men of the 74th Ohio at their 48th Reunion Sept. 28, 1917 at the dawn of U.S. entry into WW I

A beautiful letter was read from the poetess and writer, Miss Julia R. Galloway, now an attaché on the editorial staff of the Western Christian Advocate. Her father was an officer in the 74th. The letter is full of tender sentiment, patriotism and appreciation.

Dear Friend, It is a very great disappointment to me not to be able to attend the reunion of my father's regiment this year, as I had hoped to do, but my duties in the office are such that I cannot leave.

I want to thank you for your kind invitation. It is a great thing to me to know that father's comrades still hold his children in friendly regard even though he has gone to the camp on the other side of the river and there he and mother are awaiting us. In my weak way I have been trying to do my bit for the soldier boys of today because I know if he were living his whole heart and soul would go out in sympathy for them. And I know something of the heart ache it has caused you men of the Sixties not to be able to shoulder your guns and march away with them in support of the flag which you all hold dearer than life itself.

I had a very vivid illustration of this feeling not long since. I was hurrying down Fourth Street when suddenly I saw across the street an old Grand Army man in full uniform, spick and span as he could be, leaning heavily on his wife's arm, with a cane in one hand.

The dear old lady was also dressed very neatly but they both looked hopelessly puzzled and confused. The sight of them arm in arm, in that Grand Army uniform, and she with her Women's Relief Corps Badge on her breast, brought so forcibly to mind the sight of father and mother going off to some Grand Army affair that I just stood and shook, unable to keep back the tears. Finally I got hold of myself and crossed the street to them and held out my hand.

"Comrade," I said, "my blessed father wore the bronze badge and the blue uniform. What can I do for you?" Then the dear old lady with the bronze badge said:

"Why, he was a drummer boy in the war and he wants to buy a drum to help recruiting and he can't seem to find the place where he used to buy his drums, and nobody seems to know. He can't go himself, but he thought maybe he could help drum up recruits if he just had a drum!"

They had come from some little town way down in Kentucky just for that purpose. I sent them happily on their way, but I think the whole surge of what you men must feel in this crisis came over me, and I realized more fully than ever before the mighty urge of patriotism that led you in the past, as it is leading our boys of today, to offer up your lives in defense of a great humanitarian principle.

God bless you, each and every one, "The Old Boys," the dear wives and mothers, sons and daughters. I hope you have a happy, happy, sunshiny day, and that some other time I may be privileged to be with you, my friends, my father's comrades.

With great respect,

Julia C. Galloway

Patriotic Instructor's message

Contributed by Br. Donald L Martin, National Patriotic Instructor

Independence Day – July 4 first observed on July 4, 1777

July 4, 1776 is the momentous American date when John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. This declaration of sovereignty was a result of many preceding incidences including the Boston Massacre, Townshend Acts, Boston Tea Party, and Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill between the British and the independent minded Americans.

In the beginning of 1776, Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet entitled *Common Sense* encouraging the independence movement. On April 12, North Carolina became the first state to instruct its delegates to move towards independence. Other colonies followed suit helped by the strong encouragement of patriots like James Madison and Patrick Henry. In June, Richard Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to dissolve the political connection with Great Britain but it faced opposition still. Nevertheless, the Continental Congress selected a committee to draft a declaration of independence to support Lee's resolution. The committee consisted of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. Jefferson was appointed as author.

When the Continental Congress resumed sessions on July 1st, the Declaration of Independence was complete and a test vote was taken. Nine colonies were in favor of the resolution. On July 2, the official Independence vote was taken and twelve colonies supported the notion with New York abstaining. The Declaration of Independence, as written by Jefferson, was approved by Congress on July 4th, 1777. On that same day, it was printed and signed by John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, secretary. A few days later, New York cast it's vote in favor of the resolution thus making the independence movement unanimous among the thirteen colonies.

On August 2, the Declaration of Independence was signed by Congress with all but seven delegates signing the document. The remaining seven delegates did eventually sign the document as well.

Franklin Thompson - female Civil War master spy

One of the most effective Union spies during the Civil War was named Franklin Thompson. Thompson was an expert at disguise. In fact, even Franklin Thompson was a disguise. For "he" was actually a "she!"

Sarah Emma Edmonds, originally from Canada, had moved to the United States before the Civil War. When the war began she disguised herself as a man. Adopting the name Franklin Thompson she enlisted as a male nurse in the 2nd Michigan Volunteers in the Spring of 1861. The regiment soon joined what became the Army of the Potomac at Washington D.C. In the late Winter of 1862, the army asked for volunteers to serve as spies. "Thompson" studied everything available about the geography of northern Virginia and the military situation and then volunteered. Allan Pinkerton found Private Thompson highly qualified, and hired "him" immediately (As Pinkerton was a devotee of phrenology, perhaps the bumps on the young soldier's head were the clinching argument).

On her first mission Edmonds disguised herself as a young black man named "Cuff," darkening her skin with silver nitrate and wearing a wig. For a couple of days she helped build Confederate fortifications and later served as a cook in the , Va. area. Then she escaped back to Union lines, bringing valuable information. Even when she was interviewed by General McClellan she concealed the fact that she was really a woman. A short time later she undertook another mission, suitably padded to pass as a fat Irish lady peddler. Edmonds was able to sell some of her goods in a Confederate camp while gathering information. To escape, she stole a horse, getting away in a hail of bullets one of which wounded her in the arm.

Over the next year Edmonds - - whom everyone still believed was a man - - undertook several more missions behind Confederate lines in northern Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, and Kentucky. She sometimes disguised herself as "Cuff," at others as a young white man or an old black woman. In Louisville, Ky. she reportedly masqueraded as an rich pro-Southern young man in order to spy on the activities of people secretly supporting the Confederacy. Altogether she undertook 11 spy missions.

Between missions, Edmonds continued to work as a nurse. By the Spring of 1863 she was serving as a nurse with Union forces at Vicksburg, Mississippi. A problem arose when she contracted malaria. If she entered a hospital, her true identity would be discovered. So Edmonds deserted. Resuming woman's attire, she entered a civilian hospital. When she recovered, she could no longer return to the army, since Franklin Thompson was listed as a deserter so she enlisted under her real name in the new woman nursing service working for the rest of the war in Washington D.C.

After the Civil War she wrote two volumes of memoirs, *Unsexed, or the Female Soldier and Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*, in which she tended to inflate some of her adventures, painting the lily as it were, so that it is sometimes difficult to tell whether some of her adventures were quite as spectacular as others. Edmonds later married and bore three children. In 1884 Congress awarded her a military pension, which continued until her death in 1900.

