



THE BUCKEYE BUGLE

Department Mid-Winter Meeting enlightening, enjoyable

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Points of fact:

- There were about 2,500,000 soldiers in the Union Army.
- 360,222 Union soldiers died in the Civil War.
- 110,070 Union soldiers died in battle, and 250,152 of disease.
- Of every 1,000 Union soldiers in a battle, about 112 were wounded.
- The 10-day Appomattox campaign that ended with surrender of Lee's army cost the Union about 11,000 soldiers.

Interesting reports, lively discussions, and spirited interaction marked the Jan. 15 Department of Ohio meeting at Veterans Memorial Hall in Columbus. Thirteen camps participated.

Dept. Commander Chuck Reeves reported logging 4,800 miles visiting camps and attending SUV events. Among activities cited, he installed officers for 12 camps and participated in activities including the SUV Buffington Is. ceremony and Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg. Past Dept. Commanders Keller, Grant, Houston, and Davis also installed 2011 camp officers.

Reeves commented that other activities included his attending six Ohio CW 150 committee meetings, with

three more planned. "The serving department commander represents the SUVCW on the state CW 150 Committee," he noted. He added that the CW 150 committee is sponsoring a series of informational articles concerning Ohio and the Civil War plus creating an educational brochure for schools and students.

With disappointment, Cmdr. Reeves confirmed that McPherson Camp #96 in northwest Ohio surrendered its charter in spite of many efforts to prevent it doing so.

Council of Administration Secy. Don Grant reported the COA approved transfer of \$6,000 from the Department Permanent Fund to a one year Certificate of Deposit.



Dept. Commander Reeves

Jr. Vice Cmdr. Fred Lynch reported 9 new members joined through National HQ. Secretary-Treasurer Al Howey reported 6 camps had submitted their Forms 22 "Certification of Election and Installation of Officers." The forms are due by Feb. 1.

February 12 is also Union Defenders Day

During the 1889 Sons of Veterans (SV) 8th National Encampment in Patterson N.J., Commander-in-Chief George B. Abbott directed by General Order #17 that camps conduct on Feb. 12 commemorations honoring martyred President Lincoln's birthday. C-in-C Abbott also recommended the SV celebrate Lincoln's Birthday on Feb. 12 every year. He

then suggested the event be called "Union Defenders Day" and the day observed throughout the SV Order. The National Encampment approved both the event and the name for the annual day. The SV widely observed the day that year and afterwards.

In 1893, Jerome Watrous, a GAR member and newspaper editor, wrote concerning SV

Union Defenders Day: "The Sons of Veterans have inaugurated a service that has already taken a strong hold upon the affections of the whole people. ... among the Sons of Veterans will always be found a large army of as good, loyal, able, progressive American citizens as the nation possesses."

GAR cannons lost are local history, heritage lost

Courtesy Dept. of Wisconsin's Union Defender newsletter

A few collectors and dealers that know the historical and market value of GAR Civil War memorial cannons have been buying them from cash strapped cemeteries, groups, and cities across the country. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is working to stop the improper sale of memorials associated with the Grand Army of the Republic and its memorials to honor Civil War veterans.

According to knowledgeable people, such "collectors," sometimes claiming to represent museums, target aging private cemeteries in both urban and rural areas that have neglected Civil War memorials. Often, these cemeteries are struggling financially. When a buyer offers the cemetery's trustees

money for a cannon, plus a promise to maintain and properly display the gun, the offer is accepted even though it is only for a fraction of the gun's true value. Sometimes a fake cannon is provided to placate public concerns.

Between 1998 and 2005, Civil War cannons were sold by parks and cemeteries in Bellaire, Dayton, Delphos and Montpelier Ohio. Some of the cannons went to collectors in Pennsylvania.

Something that has helped slow improper sale of U.S. Government property loaned to the GAR (and thus in turn to the SUVCW) was passage by Congress of the Veterans Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003. The law makes it a crime

punishable by up to 10 years in prison to destroy a veterans' memorial on public property. The law was enacted in response to vandalism on national battlefield parks.

Fortunately, there have been a few cases in recent years where collectors have been forced to return cannons, often because of a public outcry over the sale.

In one instance, at Groton, N.Y., the cannon was sent back after a congressional aide found proof that the cannon still belonged to the U.S. Navy.

Unfortunately, there are no federal statutes to protect cannons located in private cemeteries. And, there is no state law in Ohio to do so.



A fake cannon stands today where once was located "The Dictator," a Dayton, Ohio GAR Post's 13-inch seacoast mortar with cairn of shells. The mortar was loaned in 1898 to the GAR Post by the U.S. Navy for use as a Civil War veterans memorial. In 1998 it was sold by the cemetery to a collector's private Civil War artillery museum in Pennsylvania.

SUV building national database of Civil War veterans' graves

by Brother Kent Dorr, Dept. Graves Registration Officer

As we approach the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, it is important to remember the thousands of American veterans who served during perhaps the greatest conflict in American history. Some 340,000 men from Ohio answered their nation's call to bear arms to put down the rebellion. Statistics show the cost: 6,536 killed in battle, 4,674 mortally wounded and 13,310 died of disease in service. Those who survived returned home to resume their lives or moved elsewhere to make new starts. In any case, one fact is absolute...all are gone now.

Cemeteries across America are the final resting places

for most of our Civil War veterans and our Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War organization is building a free on-line, searchable database to preserve the burial locations of as many CW veterans as can be researched and located.

In 1995, the National SUVCW adopted a resolution forming the National Graves Registration Project to help create and maintain a national database of the burial sites of the CW veterans. The efforts of this project have resulted in the on-going collection of gravesite information

from across the nation.

In Ohio, members of local SUVCW Camps as well as historical researchers and genealogical volunteers have spent countless hours transcribing veterans records and searching in cemeteries large and small to verify the graves and record their proper recognition and condition.

In 2005 the National SUVCW Graves Database was brought on-line and the available records in the system are being accessed every day by family historians and historical researchers. Much has been done and much remains.

In Ohio, work is progressing in varying degrees in most of the state's 88 counties. As of this writing, over 55,000 burials within Ohio have been identified, verified and entered in the National SUVCW database. A number of counties are essentially complete with as many known veterans accounted for and cemetery fieldwork finished. Other counties are in various stages of progress and a significant number of counties still await caring volunteers to undertake the processes.

... Continued on page 4

CW150 feature: John Brown's Body keeps marching on

by Brother Steve Ball, Governor William Dennison Camp #1

The Union tune "John Brown's Body," made popular by the troops of the Army of the Potomac in 1861, has many stories behind it. This tune, of which by the end of the Civil War had four different versions, is often believed to be about John Brown, the abolitionist.

This tune started out in the late 1840's as a gospel tune, written by William Steffe, a preacher in his own right, and it was originally titled "Canaan's Happy Shores".

Steffe is the author of one of the most famous refrains in American music, the "Glory Glory Hallelujah" chorus. Canaan's Happy Shores was a repetitive tune: "Say brothers will you meet us on Canaan's happy shores" sung three times in the verse, as "John Brown's body lies a mouldrin in the grave" is sung three times in the first verse of "John Brown's Body":

*John Brown's body lies
a'mouldrin in the grave*

*John Brown's body lies
a'mouldrin in the grave
John Brown's body lies
a'mouldrin in the grave
His soul is marching on*

*Glory, glory hallelujah,
glory, glory hallelujah
glory, glory hallelujah
His soul is marchin on*

This tune, however, is not about the famous abolitionist who raided the Federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia on October 16, 1859. The tune was made up about a young private in the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, who after receiving a pass to go into town on a Saturday evening, had too much to drink, and on the way back to camp with his comrades, fell off of the wagon they were riding on. He went under the wheels, and was killed as a result.

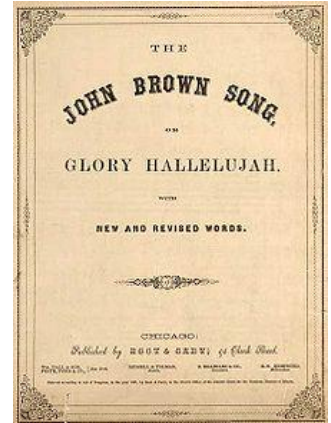
His comrades then took the melody of "Canaan's Happy Shores," made up their own verses, using the famous "Glory Glory" chorus, and the rest, as they say, is history.

It wasn't long before the men found their self-composed ditty was an excellent tune to march and drill to, and when Abraham Lincoln issued the first call for seventy-five thousand volunteers, many of these men answered the call, taking their marching tune with them.

As these men became part of what was to be the Army of the Potomac, the song spread throughout the camps, and became one of the most popular tunes of the war for the Union soldiers.

It of course, inspired Julia Ward Howe to write the famous "Battle Hymn of the Republic." United States Colored Troops also had their own tune, with the same melody and chorus, entitled "The Marching Song of the First Arkansas Colored Regiment."

The John Brown raid of 1859 was one of the most historic news sensations of the 19th century. It brought some notables of the Civil War together, as Colonel



Robert E. Lee was in charge of the United States Marines that captured Brown; Jeb Stuart was Lee's cavalry commander for this action.

At Brown's execution on December 2, 1859, the Virginia Military Institute sent their cadet corps to help cordon off the area. A young man who lied to get into VMI just to attend Brown's execution was John Wilkes Booth.

In another ironic touch, Julia Ward Howe's husband was one of the "Secret Six" who financed Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.

Civil War Sesquicentennial coins debut



A new penny is circulating. The "tails" shield symbolizes President Abraham Lincoln's preservation of the United States as a single and united country. The "heads" side continues to bear the familiar likeness of President Lincoln by Victor D. Brunner that has appeared on the coin since 1909.

The new "America the Beautiful" series Gettysburg National Military Park quarter depicts the 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry Monument located on the battle line of the Union Army at Cemetery Ridge. The coin was designed by Joel Iskowitz and sculpted by Phebe Hemphill.





Grave of Capt. John Costin Co. F 82nd OVI killed at Gettysburg July 1, 1863. His body was brought back to Mansfield for burial in Mansfield Cemetery.



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.

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Items for possible publication should be sent by email to:
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Fred Lynch, Editor

Building veterans' graves database *continued* . . .

Anyone wishing to help, from transcribing veterans burial information to walking cemeteries in search of tombstones, is welcome to assist. Even information on one veteran adds to the database.

How to start

Picking a cemetery and looking for Civil War military service or GAR flag holders can yield some results, but over time many graves have lost their markers or perhaps never were properly marked. Most cemetery records, if available, do not contain much information on military service. The task to gain a more complete record of a cemetery's Civil War veterans buried there requires a plan to systematically do the necessary fieldwork.

Our job in doing proper graves registration work is to first locate veterans' burial sites, record the available information including condition of the tombstone, and finally to verify the veteran's service from rosters. All of this information entered into the national database, ensures that the veteran's final resting place is known, recorded, and verified.

The most valuable tool to utilize in beginning the process is the WPA veterans burial card files. During the Depression, the WPA put people to work building a card file record of as many veterans buried within a county as could be found.

The workers checked cemetery records, military and veterans records and walked the tombstones township by township, cemetery by cemetery to create these files. In many cases, the card files are still in use and maintained in the courthouse by the county recorder. In some counties, the cards have been turned over to historical and genealogical societies for preservation and research use. This is where to begin.

Usually the files are arranged by cemetery and each card can contain useful information about a veteran from birth and death information to service data such as rank, unit, enlistment and discharge dates and locations. Specific burial information such as plot, section and grave number can also be found.

It should be noted that many of the cards have only incomplete and sometimes incorrect information. And, the files themselves do not always have cards for every veteran. Researchers have

located veterans in cemeteries who were not recorded by the initial researchers years ago.

Once a working list or database of veteran burials has been prepared (and it can be by cemetery, township or county) the next step is to verify the information gathered.

This can be done by a variety of sources including the 1890 Veterans Census, the 12 volume *Roster of Ohio Soldiers 1861-1866*, county histories, cemetery records, GAR Post records and many family genealogical records.

How to finish

The last step is do the field work in the cemeteries themselves to verify and correct burial records, note condition of the tombstones, and then do any updating or additions to the files.

Future columns will explore in greater detail the tools outlined above to "dig in" as a Grave Registration Officer for your local camp.

For further information contact: Kent Dorr, SUVCW Ohio Dept. Graves Registration Officer at: Dorr64ovi@aol.com or 619 Highland Ave., Mansfield OH 44903.

About our SUVCW organization . . .

In addition to fraternity, charity, and loyalty, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War perpetuates the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and the men who saved the Union 1861-1865.