
The Coffee Cooler

Vol 2, No. 1

William T. Sherman Camp #93

January 2007

LAST MEETING. Brothers, we had a very productive meeting on Saturday, 18 November. Many thanks go to Brothers Mark Alex, Mark Conrad, Brad Miter, and Grant Bates for making the effort to join me. I think we accomplished a great deal!

Here is our meeting schedule for 2007:

- Sat, 13 Jan, 10 am – Dept of Ohio Mid-Winter Meeting, Columbus OH; all members invited
- Sat, 10 Feb, 1 pm – Putnam Library at the Dayton VA Medical Center; presentation on Abraham Lincoln by Lincoln impersonator Jim Crabtree
- Fri/Sat/Sun, 25/26/27 May – Memorial Day Events in support of the Third Annual Reliving Veterans History Festival at the Dayton VA Medical Center. We will probably hold a traditional SUVCW Memorial Day Service on Sat or Sun afternoon; to be determined
- Jun – TBD Department Encampment
- Sat, 7 Jul – TBD Family Picnic
- Aug – TBD National Encampment
- Sat, 10 Nov, 1 pm – Putnam Library at the Dayton VA Medical Center; business/elections/installation; full ritual ceremony

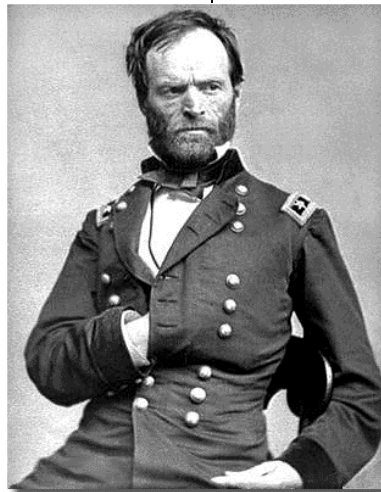
The following is a list of our elected and appointed officers for the coming year:

- Commander – Allan Howey
- Senior Vice Commander – Mark Conrad
- Junior Vice Commander – Grant Bates
- Secretary/Treasurer – Eric Nagle
- Council – Mark Alex, Grant Bates, Brad Miter
- Patriotic Instructor/Historian – Mark Conrad
- Chaplain – Brad Miter

NEXT MEETING. As mentioned above, we will meet at 1 pm on Sat, 10 Feb at the Putnam Library of the Dayton VA Medical Center to hear Jim Crabtree, a Lincoln impersonator, give a presentation on our beloved 16th

president. This meeting, as are all of our meetings, is open to any and all family members and friends. Please bring a guest for this interesting afternoon event. It's a great way to recruit new members!

Take I-35 West and get off on the Gettysburg Exit. At the end of the exit ramp, the VA Center will be right in front of you. Turn left and make an almost immediate right turn onto the VA grounds through the gate. Follow the road to the top of the hill. At the "T" intersection, turn left (the road up the hill is one way only, but after the "T," traffic is two way again). Follow this road as it curves to the right, and at the first intersection (Ohio Street), turn right. The Putnam Library will be the first building on your left. It is a three-story, pale pink building. You can park on Ohio Street or in the parking lot cross the street. If you get lost, contact Mark Conrad on his cell phone (603-3494). For a map of the VA Medical Center, go to the VA website (<http://www.dayton.va.gov/>) or contact me.



Major General William T. Sherman Camp #93
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Ohio
Dayton, Ohio

OHIO DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER MEETING. The mid-winter meeting is scheduled for Sat, 13 Jan in the Veterans Memorial (Room 205) on West Broad

Street in Columbus. The mid-winter meeting at 10:00 am will follow the Department Council meeting scheduled for 9:30 am. No business will be transacted; however, department officers will give reports, make plans, and take suggestions. All brothers are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

NEW CAMP FLAGS. We have received our full stand of camp/national colors from Past Commander-in-Chief Charles Corfman of Ohio's Given Camp #51 in Holmesville. The flags, poles and spear finials are absolutely beautiful and well worth the cost of \$874. Mark Conrad has graciously supplied two parade harnesses, so we can now proudly show our colors at ceremonies.

BY-LAWS & RECRUITING BROCHURE. I have developed by-laws and a recruiting brochure that have been emailed to all members who have Internet connections. Please review them and send your comments, corrections and suggestions to me by the end of January. Once we finalize the brochure, we'll spend

around \$100 to print as many color copies as we can to hand out to prospective members at meetings and especially at the Reliving Veterans History Festival in May. We'll also run some ads in the *Civil War News*, local newspapers and radio stations. As for the by-laws, once I incorporate your suggestions, I'll bring the final draft to the February meeting for the camp's ratification. If approved, we will forward the document for department authorization.

MEMBER BADGE. I highly encourage all members to purchase membership badges. They cost \$20 each and all members should wear them to department and national encampments and camp rituals and ceremonies. You may order on line or download an order form from the National SUVCW website. In addition, I've included an order form with this newsletter. Send your order forms with payment to National Quartermaster Danny L. Wheeler, PCinC; 501 Willow Avenue; Ithaca, NY 14850-3554.



NEW SHERMAN BOOK. A good friend of our camp and a strong admirer of General Sherman has just published a work of historical fiction that focuses upon our camp's namesake. Sandee C. Gylanders of London, England, has written a fictional account of Sherman's activities at Shiloh, Corinth and Vicksburg entitled *The Better Angels of Our Nature* (Random House, 2006; ISBN 10: 1-4000-6514-3 or ISBN 13: 978-1-4000-6514-1; \$25.95).

Here's a short summary of the book jacket: "On the eve of Shiloh, a mysterious visitor appears at General William Tecumseh Sherman's camp. Without family or home, with only a uniform and the name of Jesse, this prepossessing stranger in an intriguing mix of naïveté and wisdom, ignorant of the most basic conventions of warfare yet uncannily familiar with even the most intimate details of Sherman's personal life and career. Jesse, in turn, has only one desire: to remain by Sherman's side – for reasons only Jesse knows and isn't revealing."

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Gylanders' book. It kept my attention, flowed nicely and very capably described Civil War camp life and the confused conditions of the battlefield. Gylanders has a very accurate brush when it comes to the portrait she paints of our favorite general.

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Despite a few minor errors concerning weapons and accoutrements, even the most nit-picky historian or reenactor will find this a satisfying read. I highly recommend it ... and the two or three subsequent volumes that will appear in the next few years!

SHERMAN LETTER ON EVE OF CIVIL WAR. In 1859, Sherman accepted a job as the first superintendent of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy (now LSU!). On hearing of South Carolina's secession, Sherman wrote to a close friend, Professor David Boyd of Virginia:

"You people of the South don't know what you are doing. This country will be drenched in blood, and God only knows how it will end. It is all folly, madness, a crime against civilization! You people speak so lightly of war; you don't know what you're talking about. War is a terrible thing!

You mistake, too, the people of the North. They are a peaceable people but an earnest people, and they will fight, too. They are not going to let this country be destroyed without a mighty effort to save it ...

Besides, where are your men and appliances of war to contend against them? The North can make a steam engine, locomotive, or railway car; hardly a yard of cloth or pair of shoes can you make. You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical, and determined people on Earth—right at your doors.

You are bound to fail. Only in your spirit and determination are you prepared for war. In all else you are totally unprepared, with a bad cause to start with. At first you will make headway, but as your limited resources begin to fail, shut out from the markets of Europe as you will be, your cause will begin to wane. If your people will but stop and think, they must see in the end that you will surely fail."

CLOSING. Thank you for supporting the William T. Sherman Camp and giving a voice to our departed heroes in blue! See you in February!

Warmest regards in F, C, & L,

ALLAN W. HOWEY

Camp Commander

Attachments:
Quartermaster Form

Col Al Howey/Dayton OH/937-885-7781/1 Jan 2007

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