



# The Coffee Cooler

Vol. 4 No. 5 William T. Sherman Camp 93 Dayton, Ohio December 2009



## Camp tours former GAR building



As part of Dec. 12 meeting activities, Sherman Camp brothers and guests toured the Dayton Veterans Administration Center Historic District building formerly used as the National Soldiers Home – Central Branch’s recreation facility and Grand Army of the Republic meeting hall. Currently used for storage, the building may eventually be available for restoration and use by the American Veterans Heritage Center, Miami Valley Military History Museum, the Sherman Camp, and other community groups. The building once housed billiards and pool tables, a basketball court, and a bowling alley as well as meeting rooms.

## Sherman Camp meets, discusses, acts

Gathering at the Putnam Library, Sherman Camp members met December 12. Ohio Department Commander Robert Davis and department chief of staff Jonathan Davis also attended. Camp Commander Conrad conducted the meeting in accordance with the Ritual of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Department General Order #16 concerning death of Brother Robert Warner of the Corporal Patrick Coyne Camp #1 in Wichita, Kansas, a real son of a Civil War soldier, was read. The camp charter was draped in black crepe. Brother Conrad reported concerning progress underway under auspices of the American Veterans Heritage Center to restore the historic National Soldiers Home Protestant Chapel. He also outlined the preservation status of the Grand Army of the Republic meeting hall, Putnam Library, and original home headquarters building. He noted the Veterans Administration might choose either the GAR or headquarters building to house their national archives.

Brother Lynch shared that members of the L. J. McNeil Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans located in the Middletown-Franklin area want to possibly participate in a few joint social and educational activities with Sherman Camp members. Discussion followed. The SCV camp commander will be invited to the January Camp #93 meeting to discuss ideas. Members approved that 2010 meetings would be held in January, March, May, September, and November with dates to be determined. There would also be special activities associated with Memorial Day and possibly other gatherings. Secretary-Treasurer Al Howey reported the camp is financially sound and the books are in order. Expenditures during 2009 helped acquire uniforms and equipment for camp honor guard members. The annual per capita payment for camp members was paid to national headquarters. One SUVCW Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps medal was purchased and presented. He also sadly noted that Camp #93 founding members Kirby Bauman and Herb Webb mustered into Heaven’s encampment during 2009. Three new members joined the camp in 2009. Camp membership is 21.

## Department Commander Davis praises, informs camp at meeting

Department Commander Robert Davis indicated that he was impressed with the vitality of Camp #93 and was “Glad to see the camp charter on display, and the camp flags, Bible, and ritual used as part of

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### Camp Activities Calendar:

- January 16 – Department Mid-Year Meeting, Columbus Ohio
- January 23 – Meeting in Putnam Library; Sons of Confederate Veterans guests

the camp meeting.” DC Davis added, “I want to be part of your camp activities. Please ensure I am invited to visit.” He also noted that at the Jan. 16 Department Mid-Year Meeting in Columbus, a department bylaws change will be discussed. The change could authorize a Junior Associate classification that would enable adopted and step children under the age of 14 that lack a verifiable War Between the States ancestor to join the SUV. Presently there is no category in Ohio Department bylaws enabling them to do so, although the National bylaws now allow the classification. If approved at the department annual encampment in June 2010, camps will have the option to implement the category or not. Commander Davis invited all brothers to attend the January meeting. Brothers Howey, Bates, and Lynch plan to attend.

## **Camp officers elected, appointed, installed**

Following nominations, elections, and appointment of volunteers Dec. 12, Department Commander Robert Davis installed Sherman Camp officers for 2010.



(L-R) 2010 camp officers Conrad, Bates, Lynch (f), Farnsley, Alex, and Ohio Dept. Commander Davis

### **Elected officers:**

Commander - Fred Lynch  
Senior Vice Commander - Brent Davidson  
Junior Vice Commander - Mark Alex  
Secretary/Treasurer - Al Howey  
Camp Council - Mark Conrad, Michael Farnsley, and Grant Bates

### **Appointed officers:**

Chaplain - Brad Miter  
Patriotic Instructor - Mark Conrad  
Graves Registration Officer - Mark Alex  
Civil War Memorials Officer - Grant Bates  
Historian - Mark Conrad  
Color Bearer - Michael Farnsley  
Newsletter Editor - Fred Lynch

## **SUV supports Dayton Wreaths Across America project**

Sherman Camp’s Honor Guard, colors, and members participated during the noontime “Wreaths Across America” ceremony at the Dayton National Cemetery December 12. Department Commander Robert Davis and Chief of Staff Jonathan Davis were special guests.

Dayton Civil Air Patrol Squadron 282 organized the ceremony. The AMVETS and the Ohio Patriot Riders

were among other organizations joining Dayton-area citizens and community leaders for the ceremony. “Wreaths Across America” ceremonies were

simultaneously held in more than 300 locations in every state, Puerto Rico, and at 24 overseas cemeteries. More than 100,000 wreaths were placed worldwide. The purpose of the program is to honor as an individual every U.S. serviceman and servicewoman who has died in defense of our nation. The ceremony is held every second Saturday of December.

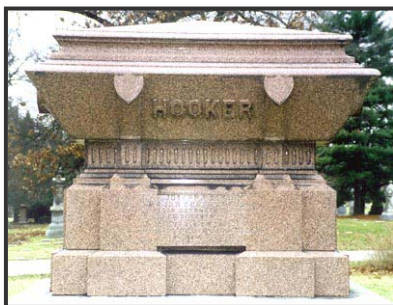
Brothers Mark Alex, Michael Farnsley, Grant Bates, Fred Lynch, and Mark Conrad participated in the ceremony. Evergreen wreaths in honor of all U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action veterans were placed in front of the Dayton Civil War Veterans Monument and its inscription: “In memory of fallen comrades.”



Community presenters Dec. 12 at Dayton National Cemetery Civil War veterans monument

## **Civil War students, brothers, families tour Spring Grove Cemetery**

Brothers Fred Lynch and Mark Alex plus wives Barbara Lynch and Norma Alex were among 18 guests Nov. 7 of historian and cemetery guide Rufus Guy for a tour of Civil War-related sites in Cincinnati's historic Spring Grove Cemetery. Spring Grove includes a Union soldiers section in which more than 1,300 casualties of the war rest in honored glory guarded by a siege cannon donated by the Grand Army of the Republic. Many soldiers died of battle wounds, injuries, and disease in Cincinnati-area military hospitals during the war. Some, including nine Confederate soldiers, were re-interred at Spring Grove from the hospital and prisoner of war cemeteries formerly at Camp Dennison, a Civil War military training center outside Cincinnati.



**Gen. "Fighting Joe" Hooker's  
Spring Grove grave marker**

There are 41 Union Army generals entombed at Spring Grove. Joseph Hooker, Jacob Cox, William Lytle, and Kenner Garrard are among them. Also buried there are President Lincoln's wartime Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, and five Civil War Medal of Honor recipients. The monument to soldiers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry is there.

The tour held special interest for Barbara Lynch who visited the burial site of Corporal Jacob Hill, an 1861-65 soldier of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry and one of her seven Civil War ancestors.

## **Brother Howey appointed to Ohio Department staff**

On Nov. 9 Sherman Camp secretary-treasurer Al Howey was selected by Department Commander Robert Davis to serve as secretary-treasurer for the Department of Ohio. The purpose of the office of secretary is to keep the minutes of meetings and to carry on necessary correspondence for the camp or department. The purpose of the office of treasurer is to serve as custodian of department or camp monies and property, to keep accurate financial records, and to prepare financial reports.

## **Department Commander serves on Sesquicentennial Advisory Group**

To facilitate plans and programs commemorating the 2011-15 sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Ohio, the Ohio Historical Society appointed 15 Ohioans to their Civil War 150 Advisory Committee. Composed of individuals from around the state, the committee provides guidance to the historical society concerning programs and activities important for a successful commemoration at both the state and local levels. Meetings will be held quarterly, and members will serve through 2015.

Among appointees is Robert Davis, Commander of the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Noted the OHS, "This patriotic and educational organization (SUVCW) seeks to preserve the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and to care for GAR memorials and to identify the location of union veterans' gravesites." Davis lives in Canal Winchester in Fairfield County.

## **Memorial University program trains SUV leaders**

The Memorial University program includes an officer-training course for members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The curriculum consists of 12 lessons and 12 tests. On-line study materials are available through the general index section of SUV's national website: [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org). Sherman Camp commander Fred Lynch was the 25<sup>th</sup> brother to complete the program. Brother Mark Alex is currently enrolled. Information concerning the program is available at the: [SUV Memorial University website](http://SUV Memorial University website).

## **Patriotic Instructor Page**

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** National Patriotic Instructor Donald L. Martin provides articles to inform and educate SUV members concerning the American Civil War and the contributions of our soldier ancestors. These articles, and others, will appear periodically in the Coffee Cooler. Brothers are encouraged to read the information and share it with others.*

### **LINCOLN'S BUGLER**

Based on an article by Trudy R. Yates

The Seventh Independent Company, Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, also known as The Union Light Guard, was formed in 1863 by Governor Tod of Ohio. Hiram Cook was a member of that unit. Following the Civil War he returned to his home in Circleville, Ohio and opened a bookstore. Mr. E. O. Crites was his business partner until 1910. Mr. Cook related to Crites many of his Civil War experiences and in 1940 Mrs. Crites wrote a feature article for the *Columbus Citizen* in which she brought color and life to a fascinating story which might well have been forgotten.

The Union Light Guard was the brainchild of Ohio's Governor Tod. On a visit to Washington he noticed the unguarded situation of the Capitol, and the President. He began to recruit his "Guard" by taking one man from each of Ohio's counties. Mr. Cook heard that the Governor had offered the President a bodyguard of 100 men all to be mounted on black horses. He was obsessed with the idea of being a part of this group. He traveled by stagecoach to Columbus and presented himself at the recruiting office. He was disheartened to learn that there was to be a representative from each county and that one had not been picked from his home county, but yet the total unit quota had been filled. It became evident that two recruits had been taken from several counties with larger populations. He argued eloquently for his home county, to no avail, until the officer told him that he needed a bugler. Cook convinced the officer he could play the bugle and was on his way to Washington with the unit on December 22, 1863.

The unit reported to the Secretary of War and was assigned duty in and around the city. A strong detail was placed near the President's house, the Treasury Building, War Office and other public buildings. Mr. Cook, as the bugler, rode near the head of the troop and was always near the President's carriage when it was being escorted by the Cavalrymen. He recalled several amusing incidents which occurred during his service as bodyguard, one of which Mrs. Crites included in her article:

"It was his custom to visit the different departments of the government each day. We always accompanied him on these rounds. One evening the President and Mrs. Lincoln was invited to dinner at the home of some friends. On this day he had failed to go to the War Department, so on their way he ordered the carriage stopped to make this official call. Mr. Lincoln went into the building. Mrs. Lincoln and Tad remained in the carriage. He stayed so long that his wife became impatient and irritated. She ordered the carriage on. Some of the guard went with her, while some of us waited for the President. Finally he came out. As he approached he asked where Mrs. Lincoln was. We told him she would not wait longer and had gone on. It was the only time I ever seen President Lincoln thoroughly provoked. He said sharply, 'Well get me something to ride. I can't walk.' A couple of the men quickly produced a very small horse. He mounted and urged the horse into a gallop. He wore a stovepipe hat. His feet almost touched the ground. A white handkerchief carelessly thrust into his pocket hung half way out, flapping as he rode. Such a sight! I can see him to this day!"

The evening of April 14, 1865, was warm and spring-like. Mr. Cook and his fellow bugler were strolling in front of the barracks when his friend suggested they go to Ford's Theater that evening. He had heard that the President and Mrs. Lincoln were planning to attend the production of "Our

American Cousin” starring Laura Keene. Cook felt that it would be unwise for them both to leave and so he urged his friend to go, sounded tattoo and went upstairs to his sleeping quarters.

The rest of this story is in Mr. Cook's own words as set down for us by Mrs. Crites:

"At the sound of taps all went to bed except me. Somehow, I cannot tell why, I had a feeling of impending peril. I did not undress, but sat on my cot, in the stillness and darkness, with my head in my hands. Presently, I heard someone running on the brick walk leading to the front door. A man shouted up the stairs, 'Call out the guards! Seward has been attacked.' I jumped to my feet and sounded 'Boots and Saddles.' In just seven minutes we were mounted and on our way to Seward's residence. Our horses galloped so fast over the cobble stones that the sparks from their shoes seemed to light our way. When we were running at full speed, a man rushed from the sidewalk into the street and flagged us with his white-sleeved arms. 'For God's sake, go to Ford's Theater. President Lincoln has been shot!' We wheeled our horses so suddenly that some of them fell on the rough street and riders were injured. The rest of us hurried to Ford's Theater. As we neared the scene of the tragedy, the surging excited mob gave way before us. Then we checked our horses and we saw by the dim theater lights, men carrying the limp figure of President Lincoln from the building.

“The awed silence of the people was broken by the anxious query, ‘where shall we take him?’ At that moment a young man came forward and said, ‘Carry him to my room.’ He pointed to a brick house on the opposite side of the street. They followed him across the street as he led the way and carried their burden up the high steps. As the door closed behind them the crowd that had watched silently while the President was borne away became an angry, excited mob. With difficulty we cleared the street and stood guard until 7 o'clock in the morning when the President died. Two hours later the body, wrapped in an American flag was taken through hushed streets to an upper room in the private apartment in the White House.

“On Tuesday morning it was placed on a magnificent bier in the center of the great East room. Steadily, all day long, a silent line of men, women and children filed past the casket and at night when the gates were closed, Lafayette Park and the adjoining streets were still packed with people waiting admission.

“Wednesday was the day of the funeral. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the booming of cannons and tolling of bells announced the close of the service, after which the casket was taken to the Capitol where it was placed in the rotunda. On Thursday the doors were opened and in spite of a steady rain the scenes of Tuesday were repeated. Thousands of people ascended the long flight of stairs leading to the East entrance and passed through the large circular room to take a last look at the body of their beloved President. During all this time the members of our company were on guard. At 6 o'clock the following morning, members of the cabinet, and a number of other dignitaries followed the coffin to the railway station where the funeral train waited to carry the body from Washington to Springfield.



A great crowd of people had gathered for the last scene of the tragedy. They stood in absolute silence with uncovered heads, while I raised my bugle to my lips and sounded taps over the body of Abraham Lincoln.”