



# The Coffee Cooler



**Vol. 5 No 1 William T. Sherman Camp 93 Dayton, Ohio January 2010**

## Reports shared at department mid-winter meeting



**Veterans Memorial Building - Columbus, Ohio**

January 16<sup>th</sup> more than 35 representatives from 15 camps participated in the SUV Mid-Winter meeting at Columbus's Veterans Memorial Building. Attendees included a past national commander, national, state, and camp officers, and members from throughout the state. State officers presented activity reports and listened to ideas and information from attendees.

Department Commander Robert Davis encouraged all brothers to routinely check the state and national websites. The sites communicate guidance, policies, and important information including the SUV Constitution and rules and regulations, plus state and camp bylaws. "All members should be familiar with the information in these documents," Davis noted. Junior Vice Commander Don Martin reported a special award for the camp recruiting most new members each year was available. Secretary-Treasurer Al Howey reported membership dues must be collected by March 1. Graves Registration Officer Kent Dorr reported, "1,063 Ohio Civil War soldier graves were documented and added to the [SUV National Graves Registration Database](#)." As of 2009, 55,841 Ohio soldiers are in the database and 480,000 veterans listed overall at present. Signals Officer Ken Freshley reported the department has its own web server and camps may use the server to host and maintain their websites. Assistant GAR Memorial Highway Officer Pete Hritsko reported Ohio officials still show little support for designating State Route 6 as "Grand Army of the Republic Highway" with signs. He, with support of several other history groups, is hoping to motivate Ohio Department of Transportation officials and state legislators to support the project and is working to do so.

## Department ratifies "Junior Associate" category

A Special Meeting Jan. 16 to ratify or reject a proposed department bylaws change was held following the mid-winter meeting. A vote to amend state bylaws to include a "Junior Associate" membership category was taken. The amendment was approved by voice vote of voting members present. Camps may decide whether or not to add the category to their bylaws.

## Camp meets, welcomes guests and new members

Brothers gathered Jan. 23 for this year's first meeting. Eight members and nine guests attended. Camp Commander Rod Eversole and Adjutant Mark Wells of the Lt. L.J. McNeil Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, informed Camp 93 concerning their year-old organization serving the Dayton-Waynesville area. Their camp is active sharing history, honoring War Between the States ancestors, and identifying burial sites of Confederate veterans in the area. They are interested in participating with Sherman Camp in activities ranging from a social gathering to the Patriot Freedom Festival. Brother Grant Bates advised all concerning the importance of moving forward in camp efforts to identify and document Civil War monuments and memorials in the area. Highly desired is identifying Civil War soldier graves in a Montgomery County cemetery for which we could conduct a clean-up day and honors ceremony. Brother Mark Alex noted the camp would be vigorously working the Graves Registration program during 2010. Secretary-Treasurer Al Howey reminded dues were due, and collected some. Commander Fred Lynch announced the Department of Ohio had assigned

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## Camp Activities Calendar:

- **March 13 - Next meeting; Bldg. 120 - Putnam Library, Dayton VA Center, 1 P.M.**
- **May 29-30 - American Veterans Heritage Center Patriot Freedom Festival, Dayton**
- **May 30 - Greene Co. CW Memorial Dedication, Xenia, 11 A.M. (time tentative)**

Camp 93 responsibility for administering SUV honors for “Last Soldier” burial sites in Montgomery, Greene, Miami, and Shelby Counties. Montgomery County’s “Last Soldier” is buried in Dayton National Cemetery. Approval was given to purchase two cases to protect camp flags. The 2010 Patriot Freedom Festival plus other Memorial Day weekend, and Memorial Day, activities were discussed. Decision was made to provide educational displays and a graves registration information table May 29-30 at the Patriot Freedom Festival. The camp will also contribute honors during the dedication ceremony for Greene County’s new Civil War memorial May 30. And, planning is in motion for Sherman Camp to provide Memorial Day honors at both Dayton National Cemetery and Woodland Cemetery May 31. Among other new business, Camp approved purchase of member medals for 2010. Discussion was held concerning a possible camp social gathering during the year, and possible tours of Civil War graves in Dayton’s Woodland Cemetery and Cincinnati’s Spring Grove Cemetery. Secretary Al Howey advised all that his workload as Ohio Department and Members-at-Large Secretary-Treasurer necessitated his resignation as camp secretary-treasurer. Brother Grant Bates volunteered to serve as secretary-treasurer for the remainder of the term. To do so, he resigned his position on the camp council. Brother Howey volunteered to serve as a member of the camp council.

## **New members welcomed, installed**

Camp 93 welcomed four new members Jan. 23: Brothers Gregg and Travis plus Junior Members Trenton and Trevor Nartker. The new members were installed in accordance with the ritual of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Current camp membership is 25.

## **Active interest, effort ongoing for Civil War graves registration**

Where are Ohio’s Civil War veterans buried? Sherman Camp Brother Mark Alex is spearheading local efforts supporting the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War [Graves Registration Project](#) in Montgomery County. He and other members are in contact with local cemetery and historical society officials seeking burial sites and information with regard to Civil War veterans. They are building upon graves identification and registration efforts initiated by deceased Brother Kirby Bauman that began in the 1980s.



The SUVVCW is endeavoring to locate, record and properly mark the final resting places of Union Army Civil War veterans. The Ohio Department website provides information concerning more than 50,000 known grave locations of Ohio Civil War veterans. However, the state contributed more than 345,000 soldiers to the war effort 1861-65. The state website includes an Ohio map with county division. Colors are used to indicate project activity (or the lack of it) in the several counties. Researchers can click on a county to identify the appropriate SUV Graves Registration officer to contact with information concerning an unlisted burial site. Camp members are encouraged to contact Brother Alex with information, questions, and offers to assist.

## **“Real son” lives in Moraine, to be invited to join Camp 93**

The son of Civil War veteran Thomas T. Bradford lives in Moraine, south of Dayton. Sherman Camp is inviting Delbert Bradford, 92 years of age, to affiliate with our group and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVVCW). Delbert’s father, Thomas Taylor Bradford, was born in 1846 by some accounts, managing to live a long life, dying in 1938. Thomas had two children by his first wife, Martha, and six more by his second wife, Eliza. Delbert, born in 1917, was last born of that second family and he’s the lone survivor. Thomas, the stories go, was very young when he followed his brother, Jack, into the Civil War. Bradford, who lived in Putnam County, Tenn., joined the 8th Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment (U.S.).

Delbert was just 21 when his father died. But Delbert remembers his father telling him about being directed to pick up apples from a farm and the lady there telling him “the Confederates are right over the hill.” Delbert said his father actually talked little about the war. “I wish I had asked him more questions,” Delbert said, “but I didn’t.” Delbert served in the military during World War II as a medic in North Africa and Italy. He was employed by NCR for many years. His son, Randy Bradford, also lives in Moraine. The SUV Constitution states, “First generation Sons of Union Veterans are entitled to be a Life Member without payment of any fee.” As approved by the membership Jan. 23, both the Bradfords will be invited to affiliate with Sherman Camp.

## Who and what are we SUV?



Unidentified SUV Camp - 1889

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a patriotic and educational organization similar to the Grand Army of the Republic. The SUVCW was founded November 12, 1881 and incorporated by Act of Congress August 20, 1954. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are the legal heir to, and representative of, the Grand Army of the Republic.

Cincinnati's William Lytle Camp #10 provides a more eloquent summary as to who and what SUV brothers are: "We are the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We are the descendants of the men who fought to save the Union. Their blood runs in our veins. We are not about 'representing' Civil War soldiers, we as descendants and

legal heirs to the G.A.R. are a direct link to these men. We honor our ancestors by keeping alive the memory of their service and sacrifice in a way that no other organization can. We are not a re-enactment unit or a living history organization. We are as close as you can get to a Civil War soldier. When we wear the uniform we are not 'representing' or 'portraying'. We are remembering. The blood of our ancestors cries out to us from the grave. We must not, we cannot forget. Because we remember, some part of them lives in us. Because we remember, their sacrifice was not in vain. Because we remember, the nation that they fought to save endures and thrives, and they can rest contented in their graves - - Because We Remember."

## Ohio battle flag preservation budget cut victim



Regimental battle flag of  
Dayton Ohio's 93<sup>rd</sup> OVI

Dayton's 93<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment's Civil War battle flag may not survive due to state budget cuts. Many of the 434 Civil War infantry, cavalry, and artillery battle flags in the Ohio Historical Society's (OHS) custody are at risk of self-destruction. Funds allocated to preserve banners carried by 177 Ohio regiments annually for the past decade have been eliminated by state budget planners focused upon paying for education programs, human services, and road and bridge repairs.

Flag preservation and display could become interest areas during statewide efforts to promote the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. "This isn't the time to be cutting this (flag preservation). It's the time to be increasing it because it will bring in tourism dollars," said Ed Norris of Lancaster, Mass.,

head of the battle flag preservation committee for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Battle flags, especially those still showing battle damage and sometimes blood, are among the most venerable and identifiable artifacts to survive the war. Flags were used to show where a regiment was fighting on the battlefield and were symbols of regimental pride. Most of the banners were provided to volunteer regiments by the State of Ohio. When regiments "mustered out" at war's end, their flags were returned to the state for preservation and display. The regimental flag of the Dayton and Springfield-recruited 93<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry is among the OHS's deteriorating flags in need of conservation.

The flags were gathered in the late nineteenth century at the Ohio Statehouse and exhibited there, first in the Flag Room, then in the Rotunda. In the mid-1960s, most of the flags were conserved under the direction of a Flag Preservation Committee and the National Guard. The technology used did not prove ideal as years passed. The Ohio Historical Society exhibited the hanging and furled flags for public viewing until 1988. Due to concern for their condition, the flags were removed to the Society's storage facility where they are protected from dust, light and handling while they await new conservation treatment.

Cost to repair and preserve a banner, according to the OHS, is usually between \$6,000 and \$30,000. Information concerning Ohio's battle flag collection, including photographs of the flags, is available at the OHS [Fight for the Colors website](#). Individuals and groups wanting to help save the Ohio Battle Flag Collection can contribute donations to the [Battle Flag General Conservation Fund](#) or adopt an individual flag.

## **Ohio state historian shares value of history**

Ohio Historical Society Executive Director Burt Logan commented in the Jan/Feb issue of the Ohio Historical Society *Echoes* newsletter: “Our daily lives and everything around us have been shaped by decisions, events and people that preceded us. History enables us to understand the impact those forces have had on the past, as well as today. The more we know about the past, the more fully we can appreciate our situation today, which in turn equips us to make better decisions for ourselves and for the future. The greatest challenge confronting the history profession today is to encourage people to make personal and meaningful connections with the past. Regrettably, many people think that history is boring and irrelevant.” Historians must work to change attitudes.

## **Federal Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Bill Introduced**

*Courtesy of Jackie Barton, Ohio Historical Society CW 150 project coordinator*

Last November Senators Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Jim Webb (D-Va.) introduced the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act of 2009 (S.1838) to establish a commission to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War 2011-2015. The legislation also requests \$3.5 million to enable the National Endowment for the Humanities to award grants for activities relating to the sesquicentennial.

The commission will consist of 25 members from government, business and academia tasked with encouraging interdisciplinary examination of the Civil War, coordinating and facilitating the public distribution of scholarly research publications and interpretations of the Civil War, and providing technical assistance to states, localities and non-profits to assist in their commemorations. In awarding grants, the NEH is directed to consider established university, museum or academic programs with national scope that sponsor multidisciplinary projects, including those that concentrate on African Americans in the Civil War.

## **Congress approves \$9 million to preserve endangered battlefields**

The U.S. House and Senate have approved the largest ever single-year allocation for the federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program in the 2010 Interior Appropriations Act Conference Report. The conference report includes \$9 million for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, a mechanism that utilizes government matching grants and private funds to permanently protect historic Civil War battlefields throughout the nation.

Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President James Lighthizer noted, “Each day 30 acres of hallowed Civil War battlefield ground are paved over and lost forever. This money will allow us to preserve historic land that would otherwise be lost to development and urban sprawl.” The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program targets priority unprotected Civil War sites outside National Park Service boundaries. The program’s matching grants formula encourages state and private sector investment in historic land preservation. Since its creation in 1999, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program has been used to protect more than 15,000 acres of hallowed ground at 60 battlefields in 14 states. Among the sites saved as a result of this program are historic properties at Antietam and South Mountain, Md.; Champion Hill, Miss.; Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Manassas, Va.; Chattanooga and Fort Donelson, Tenn.; and Harpers Ferry, W.Va. The program is funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. CWPT information is available at: [CWPT Mission](#).

## **Critter mascots render Civil War service**

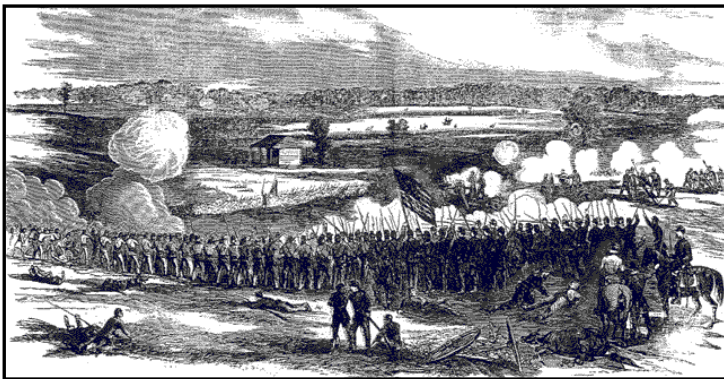
Soldiers serving on both sides during the Civil War chose wild creatures as symbols of their fighting spirit. The same soldiers even sometimes enjoyed the companionship of their fierce pets once the fighting ended for the day. One example is the hawk that accompanied members of the 1st Massachusetts Infantry during the Battle of Malvern Hill. Co. E, 12th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry chose a young bear that marched alongside the troops for its mascot. Gamecocks accompanied the 49th Illinois Infantry. A wildcat accompanied an Arkansas regiment of Rebels into the battle of Shiloh. Cows, goats, stuffed and live badgers, and raccoons also served as regimental critters. The most famous and best-known unit mascot was an American eagle named “Old Abe,” adopted by the Eighth Wisconsin Vol. Infantry Regiment. Abe was tethered on a long wooden pole and was carried into battle. After the war Abe became Wisconsin’s special ambassador and attended war veteran reunions and fundraisers to assist Civil War widows and orphans.

## **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.*

### **BATTLES AND LOSSES**

In 1960 as the United States prepared to observe the centennial of the Civil War, a special Civil War Centennial Commission was established to help educate Americans about the war. After reading some of the information assembled by the commission, President Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote, "An examination of these hard facts of the Civil War provides us at once with a realization of the magnitude of the tragedy which it represented to our country."



Approximately 6,000 battles, skirmishes, and engagements were fought during the Civil War. There were over 2,000 lads 14 years old or younger in Union ranks. Three hundred were 13 years or less; about 200,000 were no older than 16 years of age.

During the Civil War, one small section of Virginia became America's bloodiest battleground. In three neighboring counties, embracing Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold

Harbor, more than half a million men fought in deadly combat. Here, more men were killed and wounded during the Civil War than were killed and wounded in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the War with Mexico and all of the Indian Wars combined. No fewer than 19 generals -- 10 Union and nine Confederate -- met death here.

Some authorities accredit the 26th North Carolina Regiment with having incurred the greatest loss in a single battle in the Civil War. At the Battle of Gettysburg, it lost 708 of its men, or approximately 85 per cent of its total strength. In one company of 84 men, every man and officer was hit. The orderly sergeant who made out the report had a bullet wound through both legs. The 1st Maine Heavy Artillery in the assault on Petersburg, June 1864, lost 604 men killed and wounded in less than 20 minutes. This organization did not see action until 1864. In less than one year it lost in killed and wounded 1,283 men out of 2,202.

Of the 364,000 on the Union side who lost their lives, a third were killed or died of wounds and two-thirds died of disease. There were 6,000,000 cases of disease in the Federal armies, which meant that, on an average, every man was sick at least twice. The chance of surviving a wound in Civil War days was 7 to 1, in the Korean War 50 to 1. About 15 per cent of the wounded died in the Civil War; about 8 per cent in World War I; about 4 per cent in World War II; about 2 per cent in the Korean War.

At the Battle of First Bull Run or Manassas, between 8,000 and 10,000 bullets were fired for every man killed or wounded. At the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, there were 23,700 Union and Confederate casualties. During the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862, "Stonewall" Jackson marched his force of 16,000 men over 600 miles in 39 days, fighting five major battles and defeating four separate armies totaling 63,000.

In the Vicksburg campaign in 1863, Grant won five battles within a period of 18 days, captured 67 field guns, and inflicted casualties of approximately 5,200 on the enemy. He captured 31,600 prisoners, 172 cannon and 60,000 small arms when Vicksburg fell -- the greatest military haul ever made in the western hemisphere. During the Battle of Stone's River, the Union artillery fired 20,307 rounds and the infantry exhausted over 2,000,000 rounds. The total weight of the projectiles fired was in excess of 375,000 pounds.

At Fredericksburg in 1862, the Confederate trenches stretched for a distance of 7 miles. The troop density was 11,000 per mile, or 6 men to the yard. The greatest cavalry battle ever fought in the Western hemisphere was at Brandy Station, Virginia, on June 9, 1863. Nearly 20,000 cavalymen were engaged on a relatively confined terrain for more than 12 hours. General Grant's losses from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor in 1864, a period of 29 days, totaled 54,900.

The U.S.S. *Kearsarge* sank the C.S.S. *Alabama* off the coast of Cherbourg France in a fierce engagement. Frenchmen gathered along the beach to witness the engagement. Famous French artist Edouard Manet captured the scene in a painting now on display in the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

*Right - Manet's first known seascape is an imaginative depiction of an American Civil War naval battle fought off the coast of France, near Cherbourg on June 19, 1864. In the distance, the CSS Alabama, a scourge of Union shipping, sinks by her stern while clouds of smoke arise from a direct hit to her engines by the USS Kearsarge. A French pilot boat races to rescue survivors.*



The C.S.S. *Alabama* in 11 months captured 69 Northern prizes valued at \$6,500,000. The Confederate cruiser *Shenandoah* sailed completely around the world, raiding Union whalers and commerce vessels. The ship and its crew surrendered to English authorities in Liverpool more than 6 months after Lee's April 9, 1865 surrender at Appomattox.



## **Policy Guidance**

### **Wearing Sons of Union Veterans and other medals**

According to SUVCW Constitution and Regulations ARTICLE III - Badges and Decorations, Section 1:

“Officers, Members, Associates, Juniors, Junior Associates and Honorary Members of the Order, while in Camp, Department or National Encampment, on parade or while performing other duties of the Order (other than while performing tasks involving manual labor), shall be identified by the wearing of a Badge of the Order upon the left breast. Brothers should take care to ensure their dress is appropriate to the occasion, such as business attire. Should the individual desire, he may also wear badges, awards and decorations awarded to him by U. S. Government and military officials, patriotic and hereditary societies and foreign governments. The order of precedence of the awards shall be:

- First: Awards of the United States Government, to include military decorations and medals of the Armed Services in order of precedence set by the U.S. Government and Armed Forces.
- Second: Foreign decorations in the order which they were received.
- Third: State awards in order of precedence recommended by the state.
- Fourth: Medals and Badges of this Order, along with other military, veterans, hereditary and patriotic societies, in the order of the founding of each.”

### **Wearing U.S. Armed Forces medals, awards, and decorations**

It is permissible for veterans and retirees to wear military awards on civilian clothes for gatherings of a military theme. On significant holidays like Veterans Day and Memorial Day, veterans and retirees are encouraged to wear their awards and medals. The choice of either full-size medal or miniature is an individual one. More information is at [Wearing military medals](#) .