

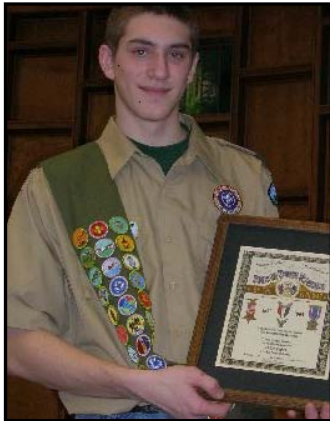


# The Coffee Cooler



**Vol. 5 No. 2 William T. Sherman Camp #93 Dayton, Ohio March 2010**

## **Brother Nartker achieves Eagle Scout, SUV honors**



Brother Travis Nartker received the Boy Scouts of America's Eagle Scout rank Feb. 21 during a Troop 75 Court of Honor in Centerville. Camp Commander Lynch awarded him SUVCW's Eagle Scout certificate. During the presentation, Lynch noted, "Travis is a descendant of a Civil War veteran, and a member of the SUVCW. It is my honor, as a representative of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic to commend him for demonstrated good citizenship, outstanding leadership, great initiative, and exemplary perseverance achieving Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout." Travis' Civil War ancestor is Private Ignatius Nartker, Co. F, 37<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Travis earned 36 Boy Scouts of America merit badges. He also organized, supervised, and raised funds for a service project building a drainage system to eliminate hazardous pooling of rain and snow melt water in the St. Francis Church parking lot. As part of his project, Brother Nartker and Scout troop associates dug trenches and installed 300 feet of "French drain" plus 85 feet of walkway. The project required more than 200 service hours to complete. Brother Nartker is son of Brother Gregg and Kim Nartker, and brother to Sherman Camp Junior Members Trevor and Trenton Nartker.

## **Camp meets, shares, acts March 13**

Thirteen Sherman Camp brothers and one guest attended our second 2010 meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Howey reported 22 camp members renewed, but three did not. Non-renewing members will be dropped from the camp roster. Br. Howey transferred secretary-treasurer responsibilities to Br. Bates. Graves Registration Officer Alex outlined an action plan for camp registration efforts. Brothers McCoy and G. Nartker will assist documenting Civil War soldiers buried in Montgomery County cemeteries. Historian Conrad reported he is researching and writing the camp history. The roof of the National Soldiers Home Protestant Chapel is restored to its original appearance. Commander Lynch announced tours of Civil War burial sites in Woodland and Spring Grove cemeteries are being scheduled. Brother Conrad volunteered to be project officer for the 2010 Montgomery Co. Last Soldier ceremony. Brother McCoy volunteered to be camp liaison with Real Son Delbert Bradford. Brothers Bates and Alex were elected camp delegates to the Ohio Department encampment June 12. Past commander's Howey and Conrad plus commander Lynch are also delegates. Brother Lynch is a candidate for department junior vice commander. Camp #93 will contribute an extensive CW display and SUVCW information table during May's Patriot Freedom Festival to include artifacts and possibly Civil War-style drill and rifle-musket training. The camp will honor outstanding Stebbins and Springboro H.S. Junior ROTC cadets with SUVCW medals. Action is underway to establish a Sherman Camp website. New recruiting flyers were shown; copies will be sent members by email. Camp will nominate 1867-1885 National Soldiers Home Chaplain William Earnshaw, a past G.A.R. C-in-C, for enshrinement on the Dayton Walk of Fame. Approval was voted for a summer picnic and a winter evening dinner with speaker.

## **Sherman Camp views Civil War treasures**

Dayton-area history enthusiast Jason Roller awed members at the March meeting with a fascinating hands-on presentation of Civil War treasures. His artifacts are legacies from two Civil War ancestors. One served in the 66th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the other in the 1st New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry. Items included rank insignia, a "housewife" sewing kit, a cap box with original musket caps, and GAR medals. A diary, letters, and an array of "official military paperwork" including discharge papers and muster rolls were part of the "show and tell". Mr. Roller offered to show some of the items as part of Camp #93's displays during the May Patriot Freedom Festival.

## **Future Activities Schedule:**

- **May 29-30 – American Veterans Heritage Center Patriot Freedom Festival, V.A. Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**
- **May 30 – Greene Co. Civil War Memorial Dedication, Xenia, 11 a.m.**
- **May 31 – Memorial Day Ceremony at Dayton National Cemetery, 10 a.m.**
- **May 31 – Memorial Day Ceremony at Woodland Cemetery GAR section, 2 p.m.**

## Graves registration database grows, updates underway

Department Graves Registration Officer Kent Dorr recently advised Sherman Camp GRO Mark Allex: “The over 55,000 Ohio burials entered in the database are not only Ohio veterans. The number represents a total of 55,000 plus recorded burials in Ohio that include veterans who served in others states’ units. The total of recorded Ohio veterans buried in Ohio and elsewhere is over 67,000 currently.” Sherman Camp Brothers are working to register local Union soldier graves not in the national register, and to document information concerning those graves.

## Brief history of the Grand Army of the Republic

*Courtesy of G.A.R. Museum and Library in Philadelphia, <http://garmuslib.org/>*

After the Civil War had ended and soldiers who survived the war had gone home, some of these veterans began to miss the friendships and camaraderie that they had shared during the war. Veterans’ clubs began to spring up all around the country. Many were local and most did not last very long, but a few went on to become nationwide organizations. One of these was the Grand Army of the Republic.



**GAR Museum building**



**G.A.R. Medal**

The Grand Army of the Republic, often referred to as the G.A.R., was founded at Decatur, Ill. on April 6, 1866. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson founded the organization on the three cardinal principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty and these principles guided the G.A.R. throughout its existence. To become a member of the Grand Army a man must have served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service (today’s United States Coast Guard) between April 9, 1861 and April 12, 1865. He must have been honorably discharged from the service and never taken up arms against the United States of America. Local organizations were called Posts and it was to a Post that a man applied for membership in the G.A.R. The Comrades or members of the Post would vote to accept or reject each applicant and if a man was rejected from one Post he was banned from joining the organization. Posts from a state or region joined together to form Departments and the Departments formed the National Organization. At each level the three primary offices were Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Commander. For the

National Organization the term “in-Chief” was added to each of these titles. Departments and the National Organization held conventions called Encampments each year. Encampments were the ruling bodies of the G.A.R. and delegates would decide the business of the organization at these meetings.

What started as a veterans and fraternal organization evolved into a potent political force. The process started when Gen. John A. Logan was elected Commander-in-Chief in 1867. Gen. Logan is best remembered as the man who established May 30 as Memorial Day. His General Order Number 11, which created Memorial Day, is still read every year during many communities’ Memorial Day services.

The Grand Army’s political power grew during the latter part of the Nineteenth Century and it helped elect several United States Presidents beginning with Ulysses S. Grant and ending with William McKinley. In all six (6) post-war presidents were members of the Grand Army. By 1890 when the G.A.R. was reaching its peak years the membership of the organization reached almost 500,000 veterans.



**Albert Woolson**

As the veterans of the Civil War began to pass on, the membership of the Grand Army slowly dwindled away. Col. Samuel P. Town the last original member of Post #2, Philadelphia, the antecedent organization of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library, passed away in 1937. The G.A.R. held its last National Encampment at Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949. Six surviving Comrades attended that Encampment. The last member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Albert Woolson, who died in 1956, was 107 years old.

The traditions of the Grand Army did not die with Comrade Woolson. Five Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic were founded in the Nineteenth Century to carry on the work and traditions of the G.A.R. These organizations still actively carry on traditions of the old Comrades of the Grand Army. The five Allied Orders are Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Woman’s Relief Corps, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

## Ohio Civil War 150 Advisory Committee meets Jan. 28

Courtesy Jackie Barton, Ohio Historical Society CW 150 coordinator



In response to Governor Strickland's directive to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Ohio (2011-2015), the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) appointed 15 Ohioans to the Civil War 150 Advisory Committee. The advisory committee's first meeting began with introductions from OHS Executive Director Burt Logan. Jackie Barton, Coordinator for the Ohio Civil War 150 program, followed with an explanation of the statewide initiative. The committee was asked to share their perspectives and suggestions for the program. The following are notes from the meeting discussion.

### Roles of the Advisory Committee

- The committee will provide guidance to the Ohio Historical Society.
- They will assist in planning the statewide initiative.
- They will share ideas and bring feedback from communities to the committee meetings.
- They can establish work groups (subcommittees) in order to meet the needs of Ohio communities and the CW150 program; subcommittees can include members who are not on the Advisory Committee.
- They will assist OHS in soliciting financial and marketing support.

### Past Commemorations: Civil War Centennial and Ohio Bicentennial

- The committee discussed the lessons we have learned from past large-scale commemorations.
- Civil War Centennial did not encourage alternate stories and perspectives to be told; role of African-Americans and women in the Civil War were largely ignored, and pre- and post-Civil War America was not discussed.
- The Ohio Bicentennial was successful in bringing people out to celebrate, and it inspired state pride in Ohioans; unfortunately, the investments in bells and painted barns did not generate lasting value for communities.
- The Ohio Civil War 150 program seeks to provide lasting value; the program can be used as a framework for change in how we view and learn history, especially through commemorations.

### Community Events and Programs

- Many communities are looking for help to create events and programs.
- The initiative should encourage communities to use the themes of the interpretive framework.
- The initiative should encourage communities to create balanced events that are informative about topics that have been ignored in the past.
- Ohio Civil War 150 Speakers Bureau is needed; this could be accomplished through collaboration with the Ohio Humanities Council.
- The program should provide communities with a list of reenactors; this can be accomplished through the creation of a discussion forum on <http://www.ohiocivilwar150.org>.
- Some groups in Ohio are nervous that the CW150 program is an attempt to "consolidate" commemoration events. The program is not consolidating; it is a resource for communities to utilize in putting together their commemoration events and programs. The program was created in part to provide a statewide program to facilitate, support, and communicate about community-based events.
- Ohio Humanities Council's Chautauqua is focused on the Civil War for 2011. With limited time and resources, it can't be all over the state, and other ways to bring the story into focus are needed.

### Education

- An education subcommittee, focused on in-classroom activities, is needed.
- This program needs to focus on teaching Civil War history to children. The Civil War is covered only through the 8th grade. We should encourage high schools to include Civil War-related courses and programs.
- Could we create a statewide youth program?

### Marketing

- The committee discussed the importance of boiling down their objective to express a clear goal to the public.
- A public relations subcommittee is needed in order to utilize social media, create relationships with travel writers and help increase tourism.
- We should allow organizations to use the CW150 logo; this could be accomplished by creating an application process. Applications will allow us to assist organizations with needed resources and to keep a record of commemoration events for CW150 reporting during and after the commemoration.

## **Interpretive Framework**

- Communities may be concerned that few specific Ohio Civil War sites were mentioned in the document. Specific sites were not mentioned in order to ensure that none were given preferential treatment.
- Some historians may dispute the number of Ohio enlistments that we included in the framework. Enlistments may refer in some cases to the same recruit signing up for a second or third time.
- How do we encourage communities to utilize the framework themes? We could include a description of the themes on the application for use of the CW150 logo and encourage (not require) communities to create programs and events that shed light on these themes.

## **CW150 Commitment to Diversity**

- Advisory Committee members were asked to submit their recommendations to fill the three open seats on the Advisory Committee. OHS is committed to increasing diversity on the committee, so recommendations of African Americans and women in particular are sought.
- If women and African Americans continue to be underrepresented on the committee, it will be detrimental to the CW150 program goal to increase awareness of these groups' involvement in the initiative.

## **In Progress**

- OHS, the Western Reserve Historical Society, and other history organizations are developing a collaborative NEH grant to digitize Civil War collections in Ohio.
- OHS is in talks with the Ohio Community Service Council to collaborate during the anniversary by utilizing Americorps to provide program support around the state and to provide service and learning opportunities in the field of public history for Americorps members.
- OHS is developing a way to incorporate Civil War themes into History Day by encourage students to choose Civil War topics for their projects. Funds are being sought for contest prizes.

## **Guest Editorial**

### **We need to show them!**

*Contributed by Andy Turner,  
Editor and publisher, The Gettysburg Magazine*

This past November I was fortunate enough to be in Gettysburg for Remembrance Day weekend. While there, I saw hundreds and hundreds of re-enactors. When I left town, I was both worried and encouraged. One of the reenactors I talked with was Dick Simpson. In the interview he talked about lectures he gives to Civil War groups and the usual lack of young people in attendance. He also mentioned how in his own SUV group they struggle with bringing in young people.



**SUCW marchers  
Remembrance Day 2009**

It sometimes seems like it's a bleak situation where over time the numbers of people interested in the Civil War will continue to diminish until only a few die-hards will be left. Maybe that is too harsh a view of things, but interest in the Civil War has definitely decreased since the early nineties.

I did say earlier, though, I was also encouraged by Remembrance Day weekend. That is because in watching the parade and in walking around town, I saw numerous re-enactors and parents who were with children. I also saw many viewers who were in their twenties and thirties. Among the crowd, there were kids wearing gift shop kепis and carrying wooden muskets and swords. Some were also carrying books and souvenirs that will hopefully not be forgotten once the trip is over and they get back home to their video games.

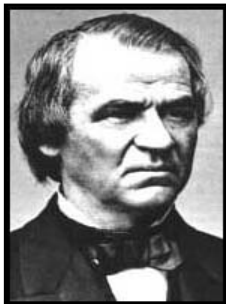
Maybe things aren't as bleak as they can sometimes seem. But, fostering interest in 19th century people and events is something we all need to play a part in. We need to encourage the younger generations to take an interest in what we find fascinating and important - - the American Civil War and the men who served during it. We need to show them why The War Between the States is so important in the history of our nation and why American Civil War people and events must never be forgotten. I have two young sons. I will never force them to be interested in the Civil War. But, if they grow up and decide they aren't interested, it won't be from a lack of exposure to knowledge and the opportunity to learn concerning history, facts, and what citizens and soldiers 1861-65 did.

## Patriotic Instructor Page

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** SUCVW 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. Brothers are encouraged to read the information and share it with others.*

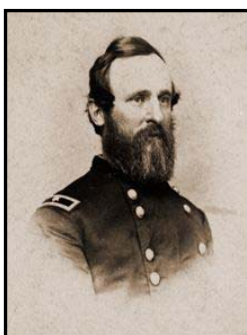
### Civil War Presidents

Generally when we think of Civil War presidents we think only of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. But, the Civil War helped propel several other men into the White House. Seven Civil War veterans became president of the United States; six of them were army generals.



Abraham Lincoln's tragic death allowed his vice president **Andrew Johnson** to become the 17th President of the United States. Johnson was a Democrat serving in the United States Senate from Tennessee when the war started. Tennessee left the Union and joined the Confederate States of America, but Johnson remained loyal and stayed in Washington. When Tennessee was conquered in 1862 Lincoln appointed Johnson military governor of his home state with the rank of brigadier general. In 1864 he was nominated to run as vice president with Lincoln on the National Union Party ticket.

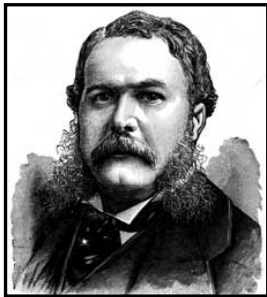
The 18th President of the United States was Union Army hero **Ulysses Grant**. Grant who graduated from West Point had served in the Mexican War, but when the Civil War started he was a civilian living in Illinois. Governor Yates commissioned him as colonel of the 21st Illinois Infantry Regiment. Eight months later he was a major general of volunteers and following his victory at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863 he was commissioned a major general in the regular Army. On March 9, 1864 he was given the rank of lieutenant general and at the end of the Civil War on July 25, 1866, Congress gave him the rank of General of the Army; a title given only to George Washington before the Civil War. General Grant, a man who had never held an elective office before the Civil War, was elected President of the United States twice.



General Grant was followed in office by **Rutherford B. Hayes** who was elected the 19th President of the United States. Hayes was appointed a major in the 23rd Ohio Infantry in June, 1861. He was severely wounded in the left arm at the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862 causing him to miss the Battle of Antietam. In October, 1862 he was promoted to colonel and named commander of the 23rd O.V. I. In July, 1863 he engaged Morgan's Raiders in the Battle of Buffington Island along the Ohio River. In October, 1864 he wrenched his ankle as his horse was shot out from under him during the Battle of Cedar Creek. He was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers and in March, 1865 was brevetted major general of volunteers. He took part in over 50 engagements. He was wounded several times, and had his horse shot out from under him four times.

General Hayes was followed by **James A. Garfield**, who was elected the 20th President of the United States in November 1880. In August 1861 Garfield was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In November of that year he was promoted to colonel. As Commander of the 18th Brigade he defeated Confederates at the Battle of Middle Creek in eastern Kentucky in January 1862 and was promoted to brigadier general. At the Battle of Shiloh he contracted camp fever and went home to Hiram, Ohio for two months to convalesce. He served as chief of staff for Major General William S. Rosecrans, Commander of the Army of the Cumberland. At the Battle of Chickamauga, under heavy enemy fire, he conveyed vital information from flank to flank. His horse was wounded. He was promoted to major general. He resigned from the army in December 1863 to accept a seat in the United States House of Representatives. He was elected in September 1862. He took office as President of the United States on March 4, 1881. He was shot by an assassin four months later on July 2, 1881, and died from his wounds on September 19, 1881.





Garfield's vice president, **Chester A. Arthur** finished his term becoming the 21st President of the United States. In 1857 before the Civil War started he was appointed judge advocate of the Second Brigade, New York State Militia. In 1860 he was appointed engineer-in-chief on the staff of Governor Morgan with the rank of brigadier general, New York State Militia. In July 1862 he was named quartermaster general with the rank of brigadier general. Arthur finished Garfield's presidential term but was unable to get the Republican Party to nominate him in 1884.

Grover Cleveland who paid a substitute to take his place in the Civil War was elected in 1884 as the 22nd President, but he was defeated in 1888 by Civil War **General Benjamin Harrison**. The 23rd President of the United States was born in North Bend, Ohio and graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, but lived in Indianapolis when the Civil War started and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant of Indiana Volunteers in July, 1862. He formed Company A, of the 70th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was made captain. At the organization of the regiment he was commissioned colonel and went with the regiment to Kentucky and served until June 1865. The unit distinguished themselves in the Atlanta campaign and at Nashville. By the end of the war, Harrison had been appointed Brigadier General.



The last Civil War veteran to serve as President of the United States was **Major William McKinley** who was elected 25th President of the United States in 1896 and took office March 4, 1897. On June 11, 1861 he enlisted as a private in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment. This unit was led by Rutherford B. Hayes who served as our 19th President. In April, 1862 he was promoted to commissary sergeant. His action in keeping hot coffee and food at the front during the Battle of Antietam resulted in his being commissioned a second lieutenant. A monument in his honor has also been erected on the Antietam battlefield. In Feb., 1863 he was promoted to first lieutenant. In July 1863 he was promoted to captain during the campaign in southern Ohio to capture confederate General John Morgan. March 13, 1865 he was brevetted major of volunteers for gallant and meritorious services at the battles of Opequan, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. He was re-elected President in 1900 starting his second term March 4, 1901 but was shot by an assassin September 6, 1901 and died from his wounds a few days later on September 14, 1901.



## ***Policy Guidance: Honoring the U.S. Flag - 2008 and 2009 updates***

### **Conduct during playing of the national anthem**

The flag is flown during the national anthem. Everyone present should stand to show respect to our flag by placing their right hand over their heart. Men not in uniform must remove their hats with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform will give a military salute from the first note to the end.

### **Pledge of Allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform, men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute. *The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2009 authorized members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform to render the military salute during the Pledge of Allegiance.*

### **Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag.**

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.