



# The Coffee Cooler

Vol. 4 No. 2 - William T. Sherman Camp #93 Dayton, Ohio - October 2009



## Camp meets, ideas shared, decisions made

September 12 at the Putnam Library, Sherman Camp members gathered. Commander Mark Conrad reported federal stimulus funds were forthcoming for several projects to help restore the National Military Home Chapel. He also indicated the American Veterans Heritage Center might be eligible for grants. Senior Vice Commander Grant Bates confirmed final plans were in motion to dedicate the City of Xenia Civil War Monument Memorial Day 2010. SUV members will participate in the ceremony. During general discussion, member suggestions for camp activities were presented. Among them was a recommendation that members actively seek out and identify community events appropriate for SUV camp participation. Information concerning appropriate activities could then be shared with members. And, in turn, SUV brothers could participate as camp representatives. Participation during events would expand opportunities to recruit new members and inform and educate the public in support of SUV goals and objectives. Attendees agreed recruiting new members should be a primary Camp objective. Members agreed Camp 93 should help actively lead and fully support Dayton-Montgomery County efforts associated with the American Civil War Sesquicentennial 2011-15. Brother Fred Lynch reported that National Soldiers Home Chaplain Earnshaw was not selected for the 2009 Dayton Walk of Fame but will again be nominated in 2010. A suggestion to publish a camp newsletter was approved. Brother Mark Alex volunteered to be Graves Registration Officer and Fred Lynch to be Coffee Cooler newsletter editor.

## SUV camp to attend Nov. 7 Soldiers Home Open House

Sherman Camp members are invited - - and strongly encouraged - - to attend and support an "Open House for Historians" Saturday Nov. 7. The event, hosted by the American Veterans Heritage Center, takes place 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Purpose is to familiarize history enthusiasts throughout Montgomery County with the Soldiers Home Historic District and the Miami Valley Military History Museum [www.mvmhm.com](http://www.mvmhm.com) located inside the Putnam Library, building 120. Food and beverages will be provided attendees along with guided tours of the historic district.

## Camp commander seeks event participation ideas

Let Commander Conrad at [mvmhm@yahoo.com](mailto:mvmhm@yahoo.com) know of activities in the Greater Dayton area appropriate for Camp 93 participation. Ideas could lead to participation by individuals or by the whole camp in ways such as a representation, recruiting and information table, or color guard. Suggestions made at the Sept. 12 meeting included the SUV participating with the Riverside Historical Society and at area Civil War reenactments. Sponsors will be contacted.

## Sherman brothers share knowledge, render honors Memorial Day

Camp members in uniform rendered distinguished service Memorial Day weekend through a spectrum of activities May 23-26. Brothers Fred Lynch, Al Howey, Mark Conrad, Mark Alex, Mike Farnsley along with Barbara Lynch and Emily Alex staffed a SUV educational display of Civil War uniforms, military equipment, and 19<sup>th</sup> century lifestyle items as part of the American Veterans Heritage Center Patriot Freedom Festival. Two hundred people visited the displays. Monday May 26 at 10 a.m. Camp 93's Color Guard and members participated in the honors ceremony at the Dayton National Cemetery. At 2 p.m. Monday, the Color Guard rendered flag honors at the Grand Army of the Republic section of Woodland Cemetery in Dayton. Fred Lynch read General Logan's General Order 11 concerning Memorial Day and Al Howey sounded Taps as part of the ceremony. About 100 people attended this new activity of the camp.

## Ohio launches CW150 commemoration, website

The Ohio Civil War 150 website communicates information concerning the five-year celebration and Ohio's role during the American Civil War: [www.ohiocivilwar150.org](http://www.ohiocivilwar150.org). According to Governor Ted Strickland the 150th anniversary "provides a fresh opportunity for a new generation to rediscover the many ways Ohioans contributed to success of the Civil War, as well as how the war changed life in Ohio." Of the 345,000 Ohioans who served in the war, 35,000 lost their lives. President Abraham Lincoln had two Ohioans in his cabinet. His generals included U.S. Grant and W. T. Sherman.

## Camp future activities calendar:

- **November 7, 2009** – History Open House at Putnam Library (Bldg. 120)
- **December (TBD)** – W. T. Sherman Camp Meeting and Elections
- **May 2010** – Patriot Freedom Festival, Dayton VA Center
- **May** – Memorial Day Ceremony – Dayton National Cemetery
- **May** – Memorial Day Ceremony – Woodland Cemetery GAR plot (Tentative)
- **May** – Civil War Memorial Dedication -Xenia

## Ohio Department Announcements

I'm making an appeal for brothers who have uniforms, rifle, powder and caps to respond to the Atwater, Ohio, October 10 Ceremony to Pvt. Grate, The Last Union Veteran of Ohio.

- Parade at Atwater forms 10:00 A.M.
  - Step off 10:30 a.m.
  - S.U.V.C.W. Color Guard
  - " " Raise Colors at Ceremony
  - " " Rifle Firing Detail
  - " " Bugle Taps

Commander-in-Chief Leo Kennedy will also be in the parade. Atwater is on US 224 East of Akron, Ohio. If you can fall in please contact me. . . . **Bob Davis, Commander, Department of Ohio**

## Civil War marker smashed March 6, 2009

A nearly 60-year-old memorial dedicated in honor of Ohio's Civil War veterans was destroyed by a vehicle that went off the road. The memorial, located at the Atwater Cemetery on S.R. 183, was dedicated in June 1950 to the memory of Atwater resident John Grate, the last surviving Civil War veteran in Ohio. Grate died in Atwater on June 7, 1949, at the age of 104. The memorial was dedicated a little more than one year later by the Ohio Department of the Sons of the Union Veterans. It honored Grate and his 40,010 Ohio comrades who served in the war.

## Legislature votes no funds for CW150

The Ohio Historical Society launched an initiative to commemorate the Civil War 150th anniversary in Ohio early in 2009. With an approach that emphasizes programs and activities that provide lasting value for Ohio's communities and history organizations, the effort has already generated an immense amount of interest and support. Sadly, no funding was provided by the legislature due to shortfalls in the state budget. The Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> program would provide coordination, traveling exhibits, Civil War collections care, and technical assistance on various topics. If shut down it would leave Ohio unrepresented in an important national effort to deliver community-based history programs. Please contact your Ohio Senator and tell them that this is unacceptable. Here is a link to the OHS Legislative Update website providing information to communicate with Senators, the Governor and state representatives: <http://capwiz.com/ohiohistory/home>.

. . . *Information from Jackie Barton, Coordinator, Ohio CW 150, Ohio Historical Society*

## Opinion piece concerning Ohio not funding CW150 activities . . .

I wish I could say that I'm surprised by this, but unfortunately, I can't. The morons in Ohio's legislature, who have no appreciation of history, always look to the Ohio Historical Society budget as the first place to cut. At this point, there's really nothing left to cut, so the idiots have now slashed the funding for any attempt to recognize the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. This, of course, is the same legislature that refused to consider an eminent domain action to preserve Ohio's only Civil War battlefield, and is also the same legislature that believes that the OHS should operate on a wing and a prayer. It's also the same legislature that has been operating in contempt of the Ohio Supreme Court for years by refusing to legislate a new school funding system that is not unconstitutional, even though the Court has ordered it to do so more than once. I appreciate the critical budgetary situation in this state, and having lived here for 22 years, I likewise understand and appreciate the fact that the recession has hit Ohio harder than the vast majority of states. I get it that most states are having budget crises. So am I. At the same time, this sort of thing will bring tourist dollars into Ohio, which, in turn, will generate tax revenue. It seems to me that some tax revenue being generated would be a good thing, and that Ohio should be proud of its contributions to the Union victory in the Civil War. Sadly, I am obviously wrong about this. Instead, the morons we elect—my particular idiot is named State Sen. David Goodman, who, unfortunately keeps getting himself re-elected by using sleazy, slimy campaign tactics—would rather fund their own pay raises. Never mind that Ohio gave more men per capita than any other state in the Union. Never mind that three of the four Union generals considered the greatest of the war—Grant, Sherman and Sheridan—were all Ohioans. Never mind that Confederate prisoners of war died at Johnson's Island and at Camp Chase here in Columbus. Never mind that Salmon P. Chase and Edwin M. Stanton were Ohioans. All of this is apparently irrelevant to our legislative geniuses. For shame, Ohio State Senate. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. While the rest of the 35 states that made up the Union from 1861-1865 celebrate the sesquicentennial, we Ohioans will be on the sidelines, wondering why.

. . . *Printed with permission of Eric Wittenberg, author, Columbus, September 4, 2009*