



# THE BUCKEYE BUGLE

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## Dates to Note:

- **March 31 – Deadline for submissions to the Spring newsletter**
- **May 25 - Memorial Day**
- **May 30 - Decoration Day**
- **June 13, 2020 – 138th Department of Ohio Encampment in Clintonville**
- **August 13-16, 2020 – 139th National S.U.V.C.W. Encampment in Atlanta, Georgia**

## Message From Commander Shane Milburn

Greetings Department of Ohio Brothers,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas with your Families and that you are ready for the New Year. If you journeyed away from home for the holidays, I hope that you made it back safely and were able to avoid the annoyances that accompany travel. No doubt the new year will provide more opportunities to honor our Civil War ancestors and I know that Ohio Brothers will meet the challenge.

On November 9, 2019, I attended the Testimonial Dinner honoring National Auxiliary President Wanda Langdon at the R.S.V.P. Event Center in Loveland, Ohio. Guests in attendance included PC-in-C Freshley, who brought greetings from Commander-in-Chief Ed Norris and PC-in-C Mark Day who attended from Virginia. Ohio Past Department Commanders Jim Houston, Fred Lynch and Kerry Langdon were present as well as Ohio Auxiliary President Becky Black and PNP Ramona Greenwalt. Sister Barbara Lynch served as the Master of Ceremonies.

On November 23, 2019 I had the honor of marching in and carrying the Department Colors in the 63rd Annual Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The weather was near perfect for the events, considering it was the middle of November, and were void of disturbances that have plagued the ceremony in previous years. Earlier in the day, the Sons of Veterans Reserve breakfast held at the Wyndham Hotel. MG Robert Grim, Commanding General of the S.V.R., was the Master of Ceremonies. It was great to have Deputy Commander BG Henry Shaw and S.V.R. Chaplain Jerome Kowalski present and doing well. Both had to deal with medical issues this year. Four Brothers, Cpl. Shawn Cox, Pvt. Jared Robinson, Pvt. Jordan Milburn and I received a Certificates of Commendation for being members of the Color Guard at the National Encampment in Independence.

Installation of Camp Officers are going well. Thus far, 11 out of 17 Camps have been installed. I have really enjoyed traveling around the State and visiting with Brothers, some whom I have never met before. It is a pleasure to inform you that Department Brothers continue to do great work honoring our Civil War Ancestors. Two Camps have scheduled upcoming installations in January, leaving four Camps that still need to set a date. Per Department By-Laws, all Camp election and installation reports shall be filed with the Department Secretary-Treasurer no later than February 1, 2020.

As you will recall on Department Order #7, issued on October 31, 2019, it was ordered that Camps start collecting biographical information on their members and their Civil War Ancestors. As I have traveled the state and talked with Brothers, many have asked what I am looking for. There is no right or wrong way to do this project; honor your Ancestor the way you see fit. If you are a great writer, perhaps you prefer the paragraph form; if you are a “just the facts” person, outline form might be your choosing. If Camps want a uniform way that they want it to appear, that is up to them. My intention is that first and foremost, we honor our Civil War Ancestors; those that you can't go to the local library, pick up a book and learn about. This would include most of us, unless you are related to Generals Grant, Sherman and the other famous leaders of the Civil War. Secondly to keep a record of our Brothers in the Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; past, present and future.

In my travels, many Brothers have asked about the Mid-Winter meeting that the Department used to have. It has been a couple of years since we last had this meeting, and at this point it is too late to schedule one for this year, as we are already at the half-way point of my term. The reasoning behind the discontinuation of the Mid-Winter meeting was that no business could be conducted and that it occurs in the poor travel months of the Winter season. While Brothers from across the State normally only meet one time a year, there is a simple way to spend time with those that we usually would not encounter: attend and participate in other Camps' activities and functions. There are also the National Encampment, Remembrance Day Ceremonies and other events such as those honoring our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. If the Mid-Winter meeting is something that you feel strongly about, discuss it amongst your Camp and have your Camp Commander bring it to the Department level for possible reinstatement in the future.

In closing, I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year. May good health and prosperity find its way into each of your lives and those of your families. Remember those Brothers in distress, those currently in harm's way, and those that have passed. Continue to Honor and spread the memory of the Boys in Blue throughout the coming year.

Until we meet again, I remain yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

Shane L. Milburn, Commander  
Department of Ohio  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## Department Received the A. P. Davis/Conrad Linder Award



**Above: Image of the Augustus P. Davis/Conrad Linder Award presented to the Department of Ohio for the recruiting period of 2018/2019.**

**Below: Brothers from Parrott Camp finish the straightening of a military headstone during September's Grove Cemetery work session.**



On December 17, 2019, a package was delivered to Department Headquarters containing a plaque. This plaque recognizes the Department of Ohio as the Augustus P. Davis/Conrad Linder Award winner. The following message was conveyed from PC-in-C Donald Shaw:

“As the DC, you would have been called forward at the encampment to pick this up on behalf of your Department, so it is being sent to you now. Proudly display it at your Department encampment. Show it off to all the Brothers of that Department who did the work to earn it. The Brothers from Ohio earned this and should be proud of their accomplishment. Please extend my compliments to them.”

The Augustus P. Davis/Conrad Linder Award is presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members during the period from April 1 through March 3.

## Parrott Camp Cemetery Work

During 2019, Brothers from the Jacob Parrott Camp 33 conducted several work sessions in cemeteries throughout Hardin County primarily in Dunkirk, Hueston, and Grove Cemeteries. In addition to resetting nearly three dozen government issued headstones, the Brothers repaired or replaced several damaged medallions, aka flag holders, near the markers. In addition, a list was created noting badly damaged or illegible markers which will need to be replaced in the near future. This complimented a separate list created of Civil War soldiers who for whatever reason never had a headstone placed on their grave. Nearly 30 were identified in Grove Cemetery alone and we are working with Eagle Scout candidates to prepare the paper work to order and install the military markers.

The Camp also decided to experiment with some new techniques and material to see how they might fare over the winter months. Five thermoplastic markers were purchased and placed in cemeteries throughout the county to see how they survive the elements. If this cheaper alternative to metal markers works, the Camp may purchase more to place on unmarked Civil War veteran graves throughout the county. Following a successful attempt by another party a few years ago, the Camp invested in a container of “Wet and Forget” to spray on the markers in an attempt to kill the lichen, moss, and other materials which discolor the markers. If this proves successful and cleans the markers sufficiently without damage, it will be incorporated into future grave straightening projects.

## Townsend Camp to Dedicate Highway Markers



**Above: Road sign near the beginning of St. Rt. 78 in Athens County, just outside Nelsonville. Bottom: Proposed text for the Charles McCabe historical marker at Ohio University in Athens.**

At a recent meeting, the Brothers of John S. Townsend Camp 108 decided on several new projects to keep its momentum going into 2020 after the most successful Memorial Day service in terms of attendance in our history in 2019. Our annual Memorial Day service is held at the historic Centennial Church, north of the hamlet of Frost, where our camp and auxiliary maintain the GAR Hall, former home of H. G. Frost Post 341. This is one of only three GAR Halls still extant in the Buckeye State that are still used for their intended purpose. Two of the most noteworthy projects for 2020 are a Civil War related highway designation and gaining approval from Ohio University for an historical marker commemorating a spot of national significance to all our Union ancestors.

The highway project is the dedication of the markers now in place on St. Route 78 designating that road as the “78th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry Memorial Highway.” These signs were placed in Athens, Morgan, Noble, and Monroe counties through the action of then-State Senator Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) in 2014. The markers were never dedicated with a formal ceremony, and Camp 108 voted at a recent meeting to make dedicating these markers a priority for 2020. We are entering into discussions with Cadot-Blessing Camp 126 and hope that they will be able to join us in this worthy endeavor.

It is quite fitting that each of the counties that this winding road passes through supplied men to the 78th Regiment. The highway goes near but not through Muskingum County, which also had a number of its men serve in the 78th. Since Civil War veterans were still alive at the time state highways were given numbers it seems possible that the designation of this highway as State Route 78 might not have been a total coincidence.

The project involving Ohio University would place a historical marker in front of the location of the childhood home of Charles McCabe, the man that Julia Ward Howe credited with being the primary popularizer of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” This house stood in what is now the footprint of the university’s Tupper Hall. Commander Carl J. Denbow, working with Allyn Reilly, professor emeritus of music, Brian Schoen, associate professor of history, and Andrew Trachsel, former director of bands, have submitted text to university officials for approval.

### BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

On 11 October 1836 in a house near this spot, Charles C. McCabe was born. A Methodist minister, McCabe served as chaplain of the 122nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the War of the Rebellion (1861-65). While a prisoner of war at Libby Prison in Richmond, Va., he started a “glee club” and began singing Julia Ward Howe’s poem, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” written to the tune of “John Brown’s Body.” After being released from Libby, he resigned his Army commission and began work with the United States Christian Commission (USCC), which furnished supplies, medical services, and religious literature to Union troops. He sang the “Battle Hymn” everywhere he went. During one meeting of the USCC in the U.S. Capitol it is reported that President Abraham Lincoln was moved so much by McCabe’s rendition of the song that he stood up, with a tear in his eyes, and loudly proclaimed, “Sing it Again!” Contemporary sources refer to him as the man who popularized “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” He was appointed a bishop in the Methodist Church in 1896 and died in New York City in 1906.

## Cadot-Blessing Camp Projects

The Cadot-Blessing Camp 126 has been actively involved in promoting the SUVCW in the local communities and supporting the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation (BIBPF) in developing and preserving Ohio's only major Civil War battlefield in Portland, Ohio.

The Camp, along with the General Benjamin D. Fearing Camp 2, conducted the annual ceremony at Buffington Island in July, and has joined with the BIBPF in creating strategies to get local and state support for developing the Buffington Island Battlefield as a major tourist attraction in Ohio.

The Camp participated in a number of activities that included the Meigs County Bicentennial Celebration attended by Governor Mike DeWine; the Gallipolis, Ohio Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and *Gallipolis in Lights* celebrations; the Vinton County and Rio Grande Bean Dinners; and the Bob Evans Farm Festival in Rio Grande in October. Brothers in the Camp started a quarterly Civil War Book Club that meets at the Samuel Bossard Memorial Library in Gallipolis.



**Above – Members of Cadot-Blessing Camp attend the annual Buffington Island Ceremony in July.**

## Bellefontaine G.A.R. Furniture

On a recent visit to Bellefontaine one of the Brothers from Governor William Dennison Camp 1 had the opportunity to tour the Logan County History Center at 521 E. Columbus Avenue. After visiting the site, he wrote the following brief review of the museum's collections and posted it on the Camp's Facebook page.

"There I found an excellent museum with a room dedicated to the county's Civil War participants. An interesting piece of furniture was located down the hall. The seats created for the officers of their G.A.R. post along with pictures of some of their members was located there. Also of interest is the Logan County Veteran's Services building known as Memorial Hall, 121 S. Opera Street which was built in 1910."

The William Riddle Post 63 was organized in Bellefontaine on April 28, 1881 and just three years later the Eugene Reynolds Post 441 was organized in Bellefontaine on May 13, 1884. There were at least eleven G.A.R. Posts established in Logan County.



**Above – Picture taken by our Brother from Dennison Camp showing the G.A.R. furniture and photographs of local Civil War veterans and G.A.R. members.**

## Oak Knoll Cemetery Cannon History

The General William T. Sherman Camp 93 shared this interesting Facebook post from the Victory Oak Knoll Memorial page and I am repeating it nearly unaltered.

In 1942, President Roosevelt ordered state and federal departments to scrap all monuments, cannons and other ornamental metal that was not absolutely indispensable. On September 28, 1942, the National Military Home in Dayton announced that twenty-two tons of cannon and field pieces were going to be scrapped. These relics of past wars, some of them dating back to the Civil War, included a two and a half-ton cannon.

The Earnshaw Camp of the Sons of the Union Veterans, voted on whether their eight cannons should join the growing stack of scrap for the war effort. Members voted unanimously not to remove the cannons from where they sat on Patterson Boulevard, the old Court House and various cemeteries, "until the country is invaded" as one spokesman for the organization said. Although pressured, the organization considered the cannons memorials and therefore too sacred to turn into scrap.

Not so lucky was a large German cannon, belonging to the Battery D of the 134th Field Artillery of the 37th Division, who presented the cannon to the scrap drive on October 18, 1942. The 7,800-pound German cannon, captured in the First World War, left the spot where it had stood at the east end of the Ridge Avenue bridge near Triangle Park.

By October 20, 1942 the face of Dayton had changed by the removal of 100 ornamental iron fences around the city. Even the bronze lion at the former Steele high school was considered for the smelter. The Oak Knoll Memorial association approved the donation of the cannon at the Oak Knoll Community Country club about the same time, as was the cannon in Riverside park, donated to the drive by Dayton Post 5 of the American Legion. If you would like to visit the Victory Oak Knoll, it is on the Western edge of the Community Golf Course in Kettering, Ohio.



**Above: Image of the Oak Knoll Cemetery cannon shared with the article on their Facebook page.**

**Bottom: Article from the Upper Sandusky Daily Chief Union featuring a version of Roosevelt's Proclamation.**





### Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Ohio

*The Buckeye Bugle* is the unofficial newsletter published quarterly to inform and educate members of the SUVCW Department of Ohio.

Articles for possible publication should be sent by email to the Editor at: [curator@wyandohistory.org](mailto:curator@wyandohistory.org)

Ronald I. Marvin, Jr.  
Editor



## Wayne County Civil War Roundtable

The October 15th meeting of the Wayne County Civil War Roundtable was held at the Wooster Branch of the Wayne County Public Library. Steve and Lisa Ball presented a program about "The Women of the Civil War" completely built on songs written about, or by, women during this period of history.

Steve Ball is a musician from Columbus specializing in the music of the American Civil War and the music and life of Stephen Foster. He has released two CDs of the music of the Civil War and is currently working on a CD of Stephen Foster tunes. He provides the music for the annual Springfield Ohio Civil War Symposium as well as narrating the 73rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Civil War Brass Band performances. Ball is a fellow Brother of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust. He has performed during the Department of Ohio Annual Encampment and participated in the annual Windham New York Civil War Music Gathering plus the Gettysburg Music Muster at the Gettysburg Military Park visitor center.



*Brothers Larry Collins and Jim Houston of Lytle Camp 10 man the SUVCW information table at the Cincinnati Public Library's annual "A Day with Genealogy Experts" on October 5, 2019.*

## WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION!!

In order to share the great work our Camps are doing and to promote their upcoming events we need your assistance. Please send your program information with dates to Brother Brian Brown who is serving as the Department Signals Officer. The programs will be listed on a calendar on our Department website and be forwarded to Brother Ronald Marvin, Jr. to be included in the next newsletter. Brother Brown can be contacted by email at [webmaster@OhioSUV.com](mailto:webmaster@OhioSUV.com). Thank you in advance for your assistance. We can only highlight or promote what we know about.

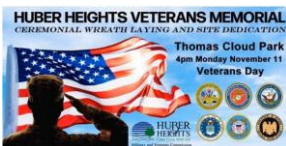
## Camps Participate in Veterans Day Programs



*Above: Lytle Camp holds their program in Cincinnati's GAR Hall.*

*Middle: Flyer for Huber Heights celebration attended by the Sherman Camp.*

*Below: Brother Marvin from Parrott Camp speaks to local schoolchildren.*



Heeding a call by the National Commander-in-Chief, several Camps from the Department of Ohio participated in local Veterans Day programs or hosted their own event. Cadot-Blessing Camp 126 participated in the Gallipolis Veterans Day celebration and led the annual Veterans Day parade. William T. Sherman Camp 93 was recognized as one of the contributing Community Service Organizations during the Huber Heights Veterans Memorial wreath laying and site dedication ceremony on November 11 at Thomas Cloud Park, where the Huber Heights Veterans Memorial is being completed.

General William H. Lytle Camp 10 once again presented a Veterans Day program at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall in Cincinnati. The Camp hosted retired U.S. Navy Commander and U. S. Military Academy Assistant Professor James L. Centner, Jr., who spoke on the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. Brother Woody Cook displayed his military collection. To top it all off, First Lieutenant Ted Mayer of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division and U.S. Army ROTC Cadet from the University of Cincinnati John Mayer were initiated into the SUVCW by Past Camp Commander Todd Mayer through their GGG Grandfather John Landis Jefferies, of the 115th Pennsylvania Infantry. This was the first initiation at Memorial Hall since the last one conducted by the G.A.R. over 80 years ago.

Jacob Parrott Camp 33 Patriotic Instruction Officer Ronald Marvin, Jr. spoke to over seventy fourth grade Upper Sandusky Elementary School students on November 11 about his experiences as a U.S. Army soldier including his time during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Following this program, Brother Marvin attended the Wyandot County Museum's Veterans Day program where he met and spoke with visitors. The site had a temporary display of Civil War artifacts on display in addition to their permanent Civil War displays in the Early Military Room. Prior to Veterans Day, Brother Marvin's multi-year project to identify and properly mark veteran graves in Kenton, Grove Cemetery was recognized via a front page article in the local newspaper.

## McLaughlin Camp Hosts Lincoln Day Dinner

The McLaughlin Camp 12 invites their fellow Brothers and guests to join them at their annual Lincoln Day Dinner celebrating the 211th anniversary of the birth of our beloved 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, who was born on February 12, 1809 in Hodgenville, Kentucky.

The observance will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at The Grotto Hall, 747 South Main Street, Mansfield, Ohio. Please plan to arrive after 1:00 PM. The dinner will begin at 1:30 PM. The cost will be \$16.00 per person. The buffet choices are Pork or Chicken. You may pay when you arrive, but we must ask you to make reservations. Please be sure to RSVP to Brad Tilton at batilton@oh.net or P.O. Box 7224, Mansfield, Ohio 44905 or call 419-589-3140 by February 2.

The guest speaker will be Patrick Maloney. He is the Deputy Director of the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University. Maloney will speak on Abraham Lincoln and his connections to Mansfield and Ohio. This program is open to the public. If you cannot attend the dinner you may still come to hear the speaker at no charge.

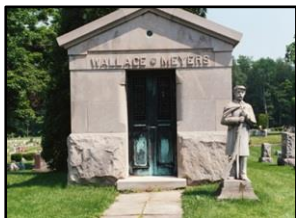
## Spotlight on Civil War Memorials & Monuments



***Above*** - The 1897 Soldier at Parade Rest statue near the entrance of the Hope Cemetery in Salem.

***Below*** - The duplicate statue standing in front of the Wallace Myers Mausoleum.

***Bottom*** - One of the two Civil War era cannons located near the cemetery entrance.



The Hope Cemetery in Salem in Columbiana County features two Civil War statues. Near the entrance of the cemetery is a group of ten monuments honoring veterans of all American conflicts from the American Revolution through Operation Desert Storm. Of interest to us is the Soldier at Parade Rest statue. This one of two virtually identical statues erected in the cemetery. The one that welcomes visitors was erected by the Trescott Women's Relief Corps No. 34 at a cost of \$1,000 in 1897. It is inscribed: "In memory of our soldiers of Salem Erected by W.R.C. No. 34, 1861-1865." The granite soldier is five foot tall and sits on a five foot tall granite base. The Hope Cemetery Association donated the plot for the monument. A duplicate version of the Soldier at Parade Rest statue, without an inscription, sits on a smaller two foot tall base in front of the Wallace Meyers Mausoleum.

The entrance statue is flanked by Civil War cannons to left and right. One cannon features a plaque inscribed: "The first Memorial Day services took place in Hope Cemetery May 30, 1868." There are also three stone tablets near the Civil War monuments which honor the soldiers of all wars and were dedicated on June 14, 2008. This area includes a flat stone listing the names of all the soldiers from Salem which participated in these conflicts surrounded by four benches.

It is possible that these were early statues created by the W.H. Mullins Company which was founded in Salem about 1894 or inspired the company to produce them. The company produced memorials for communities in both the North and the South. The Soldier at Parade Rest later became a specialty of the company, although it produced several different versions of Civil War monuments. The company is still in business in Salem producing modern monuments and statues.

## Lima Eagle Scout Project Honors MOH Recipient

### MEMORIAL DEDICATED AT RESERVOIR

Eagle Scout candidate Jon Frueh spearheaded effort to honor Medal of Honor recipient

By Sam Shriver for *The Lima News* (Lima, Ohio) November 10, 2019

A ceremony was held Saturday at Metzger Reservoir for the dedication of a new memorial for Medal of Honor recipient 2nd Lt. William E. Metzger Jr. Jon Frueh Jr., an Elida High School student began work on his Eagle Scout project in February “I was approached by Randy Kohli who is the head park ranger for the City of Lima and we went around and looked at some different ideas. When we came here to look at the Metzger monument, I decided that this was what I wanted to do,” said Frueh.

Kohli knew this project was destined for Frueh. “I wanted to find the special kid, the kid that I knew that had leadership abilities to make it all work and I saw that in Jon, that he’s going to be a future leader in the Lima-Allen County area,” said Kohli. “He came up with the design, mimicking it after the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. He put three wings on the side of the memorial because if you look at it from the top of the reservoir, it looks like a propeller.”

A large crowd gathered on the north side of the reservoir, where the new memorial was built. Several people spoke, including Kohli; Mike Caprella, utilities director for the City of Lima; David Berger, mayor of Lima; Bob Cupp, state representative; Marc Kogan with the Black Swamp Council; and Larry Huffman who talked about the history of 2nd Lt. Metzger and what he did to earn the Medal of Honor. Saturday was the 75th anniversary of the day Metzger died while fighting for our country.

Frueh was pleased with how the monument turned out. “I did not expect this memorial would be what it is today, but with the help of so many great people — Randy Kohli, Larry Huffman, my parents — this project has just been so great, so fantastic and it’s just amazing,” said Frueh.

The project is just an example of what scouting is all about. “This has a tremendous impact on the community and for an Eagle project,” said Kogan. “It truly shows what Eagle projects are about. It’s about giving service back to your community. It’s not about giving service to scouting, but showing leadership for a community service project and that’s what I love about but the Eagle project is it helps put our kids out there and it teaches them and teaches other Scouts how important it is to make an impact on helping other people at all times.”



Sam Shriver | The Lima News

A large crowd gathered Saturday for the dedication of a memorial honoring Medal of Honor recipient William E. Metzger Jr.

## Lincoln Statue at the Dayton VA Medical Center

William T. Sherman Camp 93 is one of the major veterans groups helping fund a monument to honor President Abraham Lincoln and his efforts to care for Civil War Union Army and later all U. S. Armed Forces veterans. The American Veterans Heritage Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Dayton Veterans Administration Medical Center, plans to install a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln in front of the headquarters building. The statue and surrounding park known as “The Abraham Lincoln Place of Caring and Healing” are being designed to commemorate Lincoln’s role in establishing the Dayton VAMC as one of the first soldier’s homes in the nation. Over \$150,000 of the \$379,000 it needed for the park and statue has been raised by veterans groups in partnership with the Lincoln Society of Dayton. In August 2019, the group was awarded a \$25,000 grant from The Dayton Foundation to help fund the cost of the permanent memorial.

Local artist Mike Major created a clay model sculpture of Abraham Lincoln at his studio in Urbana. The statue as designed by Major depicts a seated Lincoln with a pen in his hand presiding over legislation he has just signed establishing the National Soldier’s and Sailor’s Asylum to care for veterans. It is planned to be installed and dedicated on the grounds of the Dayton Veterans Administration Hospital near the Dayton Soldiers Home Historic Area during the 2020 Memorial Day weekend. “The park and statue will honor Lincoln’s legacy, serving as an educational focal point and a therapeutic, reflective and healing haven for veterans and their families who come from far and wide seeking treatment at the Dayton VAMC,” said Glenn Costie, former medical director of the Dayton VA Medical Center.



On December 4, 2020, John S. Townsend Camp 108 held a meeting during which new officers were selected – by election and appointment – and then sworn in by State Commander Shane Milburn. The newly elected officers are as follows: Carl J. Denbow, Commander; Martin W. Lowery Jr., Sr. Vice CDR; Cameron Lowery, Jr. Vice CDR; James H. Lochary, secretary/treasurer; Douglas Pettit, camp council; Jeff Slattery, camp council; and Donald R. Young, camp council. Appointed officers are: Donald Grant Sr., patriotic instructor; Jeff Slattery, chaplain; Tom Suddes, signals officer; Martin W. Lowery Jr., historian; Andrew Chiki, graves registration officer and memorials officer; Martin W. Lowery Jr., color bearer; and Cameron J. Lowery, eagle scout coordinator.

## SEVERAL BUCKEYES PARTICIPATED IN GETTYSBURG REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Major General Robert E. Grim, Sons of Veterans Reserve

Ohio Department Commander Shane Milburn and about two dozen other Buckeyes spent November 23, 2019 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania enjoying the 63rd annual Remembrance Day programs sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR).

President Abraham Lincoln was invited to give a few brief remarks during the November 19, 1863 ceremony in Gettysburg dedicating a new cemetery for the soldiers who died a few months earlier during the July Battle of Gettysburg. Lincoln's brief remarks are now known as the Gettysburg Address and Remembrance Day commemorates that historic event.

The day started with an SVR breakfast at which time SVR awards were presented by the commanding officer of the SVR, Major General Robert E. Grim. Ohio Department Commander Shane L. Milburn, who holds the rank of captain in the SVR and serves as Commander of Co., C, 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and is the adjutant of the 3rd Military District received an SVR Certificate of Commendation.

At 11:00 a.m. the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was honored with a ceremony on the battlefield at the Albert Woolson memorial. The memorial is a statue of Albert Woolson who was the last surviving Civil War Union soldier and member of the GAR. The memorial was erected in 1956 by the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Woolson died that year at the age of 109.

At 1:00 p.m. thousands of spectators lined the streets of Gettysburg to watch the Remembrance Day Parade organized and sponsored by the SVR which is the military department of the SUVCW. Ohio Department Commander Shane Milburn and his son Jordan Milburn, a junior member of the SVR and Henry Casey Camp 92 marched in the parade and carried the Ohio Department Flag.

The day ended with the SVR sponsored military Ball at the Wyndham Hotel. The funds raised from this Ball will be donated next year, during the Woolson Memorial ceremony, to the National Park Service for monument and memorial preservation. Almost \$90,000 have been donated to date.



## Last Surviving Civil War Soldier of Brown County, Indiana Discovered Buried in Kenton, Ohio

A couple of months ago, the Jacob Parrott Camp 33 Patriotic Instruction Officer and Graves Registration Officer Ronald Marvin, Jr. was contacted by one of his fellow Brothers from the Camp who had a question regarding an article/obituary he found online. It referred to the last surviving Civil War veteran of Brown County who was reportedly buried in Grove Cemetery in Kenton, Ohio but was undated. He had a birth year of 1845 and an estimated death date of 1937. This did not correspond to Ohio's records as William Pittenger was the last soldier in Brown County in 1945.

The soldier in question was named William Devers. According to article his mother died young and he was raised by relatives in Kenton, Ohio. This explains why he may have been buried here. More research was conducted. It was confirmed that Devers was buried in Grove Cemetery with full military honors and a GAR service was conducted by a boyhood friend and fellow veteran John M. Smick, who ironically would eventually be Hardin County's Last Surviving Civil War Soldier.

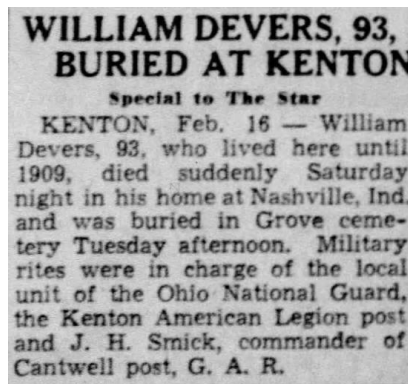
The obituary said he died in Nashville, so Tennessee was checked and the county did not match. A search of other Brown Counties in the United States revealed a Brown County, Indiana among others. There was a small town named Nashville in Brown County so this seemed to match. A quick check of the Indiana Last Surviving Civil War Soldier database revealed no listing for Brown County. Brother Marvin then contacted Department of Indiana Commander Tim Beckman with the obituary and several other newspaper articles related to Devers. Brothers from the two Departments emailed back and forth sharing information. Brother Beckman was still looking for the last soldier actually buried in Brown County and was supplied a picture from the *Indianapolis Star* (July 4, 1926) showing the last five Civil War soldiers of Brown County which may help the Benjamin Harrison Camp 356 narrow down their search.

The following is some basic information found about Private William Devers:

Birth: 2 MAY 1845 in Baltimore, Maryland  
 Death: 12 FEB 1938 in Nashville, Indiana  
 Burial: Grove Cemetery in Kenton, Ohio {Location Not Confirmed Yet}  
 Enlisted on 30 JUL 1861 at the reported age of 18 although he was actually 16; Served as a Private with Company D, 34th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Transferred to Company D, 36th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry on 26 FEB 1865; He was mustered out with the company on 27 JUL 1865 (Listed as a Veteran Volunteer in the Official Roster of Ohio Soldiers)

Wife 1: Rebecca Lee married 9 DEC 1869 in Hardin County, Ohio  
 Wife 2: Julia Curry Parker married 18 MAR 1909 in Brown County, Indiana  
 Wife 3: Matilda Ogle married 24 NOV 1924 in Brown County, Indiana  
 Wife 4: Flora Elstrode married 4 FEB 1935 in Brown County, Indiana

Unfortunately, despite numerous references, including funeral home records, proving that William Devers was indeed buried in Grove Cemetery, no grave location or headstone has been located for him yet. It is believed he may be buried in Section B near his first wife Rebecca. The original handwritten cemetery burial records that have not been digitized yet are still to be consulted. Once his grave is located, Brothers from the Jacob Parrott Camp 33, Department of Ohio will work with Brothers from Benjamin Harrison Camp 356, Department of Indiana to ensure that his grave is properly marked and rededicated with proper ceremonies. This is a great example of Camps and Departments working together to honor the Boys in Blue and provide a last measure of respect and dignity to a fallen comrade.



NAME OF SOLDIER	Devers, William		
SERVICE	Late rank, O. A. Elstrode Chief		
TERM OF SERVICE	Enlisted July 30, 1861	Discharged July 27, 1865	
DATE OF FILING	1877-1878	CLASSIFICATION NO.	521264
REMARKS	D. 36 Chief		
REMARKS	Died		



## Department of Ohio 2020 Camp Officers Installations



**Brooks Grant Camp #7  
(Middleport)**



**Cadot-Blessing Camp #126  
(Gallipolis)**



**Governor William Dennison  
Camp #1 (Columbus)**



**General Benjamin D. Fearing  
Camp #2 (Marietta)**



**James A. Garfield Camp #142  
(Cleveland)**



**General William H. Lytle Camp  
#10 (Cincinnati)**



**General William McLaughlin  
Camp #12 (Mansfield)**



**Jacob Parrott Camp #33  
(Kenton)**



**General William T. Sherman  
Camp #93 (Dayton)**



**James S. Townsend Camp #108  
(Frost)**