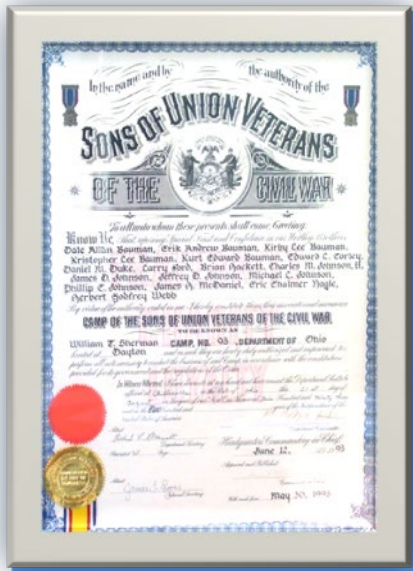


"Poor is the nation that has no heroes . . . shameful is the one having them that forgets."

A Short History of MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM T. SHERMAN CAMP #93 Dayton, Ohio



Dayton Civil War veterans organized eight local Grand Army of the Republic posts. The largest were Colonel Edward A. King - Old Guard Post #23 and Col. Hiram Strong Post #79. GAR Veterans Post #5 at the National Soldiers Home in Dayton served disabled veterans living there and provided military honors for burials at the Dayton National Cemetery. The GAR was instrumental in creating and funding both the Civil War Veterans Monument located in downtown Dayton and the soldier statue now located at the Dayton Veterans Administration Hospital. They also established GAR memorial burial sections in three of Dayton's oldest cemeteries: Woodland, Calvary, and Greencastle. Each of the GAR sections is identifiable by memorials displaying Civil War cannons.

Before the death of its last member, the GAR designated the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as its successor and heir to its remaining property.

Dayton's Sons of Veterans organization was Earnshaw Camp #89 chartered in 1886. Reverend William Earnshaw, a Civil War veteran, was chaplain at the National Soldiers Home-Central Branch 1867-1885 and Commander in Chief of the GAR 1879-80. The SV group served as a local militia unit, the Earnshaw Rifles, and had a drum and bugle corps and a baseball team. Among the camp's contributions to the city are large monuments honoring Civil War veterans located at Woodland and Calvary Cemeteries. The camp ceased active operations sometime after World War II. As part of their legacy, they successfully prevented eight GAR Veterans Memorial Civil War artillery pieces located in Dayton cemeteries and public places from being melted down during World War II scrap drives.

Dayton's Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Major General William T. Sherman Camp #93 was established June 12, 1993 with 17 members. Their original meeting place was the Soldiers and Sailors Orphans Home in Xenia established by the GAR in 1869. The Camp Charter was ceremoniously presented by SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Alan Moore, Department Commander David R. Medert, and Sons of Veterans Reserve Commander Brig. General Charles Corfman, assisted by Brothers from Henry Casey Camp #92, Washington Court House. While meetings were held at the Soldiers and Sailors Orphans Home and afterwards, Sherman Camp brothers assisted with maintenance of the historic home's property.



On Memorial Day 2010, Sherman Camp Brothers and citizens of Xenia dedicated a memorial in front of the Greene County courthouse honoring the county's Civil War veterans - - and the community's past role in support of the GAR and orphaned children of Union soldiers.



After the Orphans Home closed in 1997, Sherman Camp moved their meeting location to the National Soldiers Home's Putnam Library building in the historic section of the Dayton Veterans Administration Center complex. Until the COVID pandemic of 2020, they conducted camp business meetings there six times a year in a room used from 1891 to 2000 by veterans living at the Soldiers Home or staying at the VA Hospital. The building also houses the American Veterans Heritage Center and the Miami Valley Military History Museum.

In 2011 and 2012, Sherman Camp hosted "Hear the Silent Speak," a SUVCW Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event, at Woodland Cemetery. In addition to talking with camp Brothers and viewing a living history campsite, visitors received a guided tour to gravesites of Civil War veterans including: Major General "Battling Bob" Schenck who gallantly commanded the Union Rear Guard at First Bull Run; National Soldiers Home Chaplain and 1880 GAR Commander-in-Chief William Earnshaw; Hero of the 1864 Battle of Decatur, Ga. 1st. Lieut. Howard Forrer; two regimental commanders; and Private George Washington Fair who was model for the statue featured on Dayton's Civil War monument.





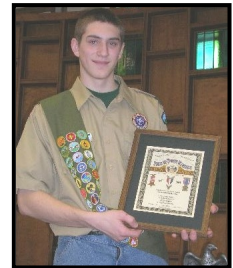
Among ongoing community outreach projects, Sherman Camp annually participates in Memorial Day ceremonies at the Dayton National Cemetery and conducts them at the Civil War Section of Historic Woodland Cemetery. More than 500 Union Army veterans are buried at Woodland. The Civil War Section and activities held there were key elements in Woodland Cemetery being listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. On Memorial Day 2012, Sherman Camp Brothers dedicated the new flagpole and U.S. flag donated by the camp in support of Woodland's efforts revitalizing the Civil War Section. The Camp also restored the GAR flag pole at Old Greencastle Cemetery and donated a new U.S. flag. For the first time in 30 years the 190 Civil War veterans buried there, including Union Cavalry hero and one-time Dayton police chief Major William W. Shoemaker and 1890 and 1892 Dayton Mayor James Ward, were again properly honored. The camp places American flags and GAR markers upon the graves of Union Army veterans at both cemeteries.

Camp members are community partners in projects with the Lincoln Society of Dayton and local historical societies. They donated a Swamp White Oak tree in memory of Soldiers Home Chaplain William Earnshaw for the 2014 Grotto Spring garden restoration project in the Dayton VA Center historic section. In association with Dayton History, they help maintain two Civil War veterans' memorial cannons in front of Dayton's Memorial Hall.



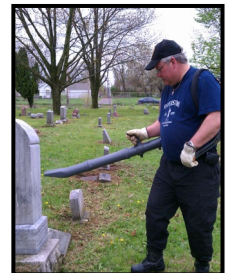
Each year Sherman Camp members present awards to outstanding Army, Navy, and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets at Dayton's two universities plus 15 area high schools.

Local Scouts who achieve Eagle Scout rank are also honored with SUVCW certificates presented by Sherman Camp.



Camp members promote the SUVCW and achieve goals of the Order through Civil War information displays during community events. Activities in recent years include Dayton's annual Patriot Freedom Festival, Randolph Township's Civil War Day, the Centerville Americana Festival, and Ohio's "Reflection of Time" CW150 event in Wilmington.

The camp helped maintain the grounds and Civil War veterans' graves at Dayton's historic but abandoned Old Greencastle Cemetery, until new owners reclaimed it in 2025. They conduct a Remembrance Day ceremony there annually, in addition to Woodland Cemetery in Dayton.



Camp #93 Brothers actively contribute information to the national SUVCW program documenting burial sites of Union Civil War veterans and compiling them in an Internet information database accessible to the public at no charge. As a benefit, the Camp often helps descendants throughout the nation locate graves of their Civil War veteran ancestors buried in the Dayton area.



Sherman Camp's Color Guard is often called upon to render honors during Dayton-area events.

Camp members also conduct living history programs, participate in parades and community events, and speak to area groups to inform people concerning contributions of the United States soldiers, sailors, and Marines who saved the Union during the War of the Rebellion 1861-65.

★★★ **Sherman Camp 93's Namesake** ★★★

The camp is named in honor of Ohio-born soldier, businessman, educator, and author William Tecumseh Sherman. General Sherman led Union Army soldiers, including those serving in many Ohio regiments, during battles at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, the March to the Sea, and Columbia, S.C. He accepted the surrender of the last organized Rebel forces, the army commanded by Confederate General Joe Johnston, April 26, 1865. After the war he campaigned for rapid and fair reconciliation with the South. In 1869 he became Commanding General of the United States Army, a post he held until he retired in 1883. On several occasions he declined offers to run for President of the United States.



Among Gen. Sherman's notable quotes is, "I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, for vengeance, for desolation. War is hell."

Past Commanders of Sherman Camp #93

Commander	Years Served
Herbert G. Webb	1993-1997
Jerry Wildenhaus	1997-1998
Paxton Mendelssohn	1998-2000
Larry L. Ford	2000-2006
Allan W. Howey	2006-2008
T. Mark Conrad	2009
Fredric C. Lynch	2010-2011
Delmar L. Steiner III	2012-2014
Fredric C. Lynch	2015
Michael Spaulding	2016-2018
Dennis L. Carter	2019-2022
Alex Villalva	2023
John Edelmann	2024-Present