

HALLMARKS

Newsletter of *The Marion County Historical Society*

169 East Church Street, Marion OH 43302
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Remembering Bill Schertzer

By Carol Robinson



Bill Schertzer speaking at the dedication of the Linn School

The Marion County Historical Society, and Marion County as a whole, recently lost a good friend with the passing of Bill Schertzer on April 1. Bill, a former MCHS Board of Trustees member, was the unrecognized driving force behind numerous historical renovation and construction projects in Marion. Among these projects were the Linn School, the Receiving Vault and World War II Memorial in the Marion Cemetery, and the Log House and Smoke House at the Marion County Fairgrounds.

When Merle and Oliver Hamilton decided to renovate the Linn School, Bill became an instrumental part of the project. He worked

with Quality Masonry Company to locate and refurbish many old school desks and old blackboards from area schools that had recently closed. He procured the wood-burning stove, donated the necessary tools, and also found the paintings of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln that were a part of most one-room schools. He spent many hours working with the Hamilton brothers and QMC to make sure everything was done “just right,” and donated a teacher’s bell which had belonged to his grandmother. The completed project was then accepted to the National Register of Historic Places.

Another major project was the refurbishing, on two different occasions, of the Receiving Vault in the Marion Cemetery. In 1994, Bill assisted his grandson Michael in renovating the vault as part of Michael’s Eagle Scout project. By 2007, repairs were again needed and Bill stepped forward to lead the project including raising donations of over \$12,000 necessary to make the repairs. He was also instrumental in getting the Receiving Vault, the nearby Soldiers Memorial, and Etowah/Central Christian Church accepted to the National Register of Historic Places.

The construction of Marion’s World War II Memorial was another project for which Bill was a catalyst along with his friend Merle Hamilton. He later had the opportunity to take an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials in our nation’s capital. This was a very moving experience for him, and one that he treasured.

Bill was involved with numerous other projects such as the lighting of Veteran’s Park, working with the Boy Scouts, the Genealogy Society, and the American Red Cross where he was a 25 gallon blood donor.

MCHS Board Member Jan Augenstein said of Bill: “He was a nice, quiet guy who didn’t seek personal recognition, but always got the job done.” Mike Schertzer said his father “helped the whole family with everything, big or small. We will miss his know-how, expertise, and work ethic.” We at MCHS, and the Marion community in general, will too.

On July 19, 2014 at 2PM, there will be a rededication ceremony at the Linn School. All are welcome to attend!

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SAVE THESE DATES! WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HERITAGE HALL & BEYOND

Office now open Mon. – Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm
MAY - Museum Open Wed – Sun, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

- June 09 Mon. 2:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- June 17 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- June 19 Thurs. 7:00pm Program Meeting, Rev. Lemuel Drake and Mother Bickerdyke, Heritage Hall Aud.
- June 21, Sat. 8AM-2PM, Workday at the Trella Romine Preserve. Intersection of SR 203 & SR 739
- June 30 –July 5 all Week Marion County Fair
- July 07 Mon. 2:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- July 10,17, 24, 31 Thurs. 9:30am Blast From the Past
- July 15 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting
Board of Directors Meeting Heritage Hall Auditorium
- July 19, Sat. 2PM, Rededication ceremony at the Linn School. All are welcome to attend!
- Aug. 10 Sun. 1:00pm Claridon Prairie Tour begins at Intersection of SR 98 & SR 309
- Aug. 11 Mon. 2:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Aug. 17 Sun. 1:00pm Trella Romine Prairie Preserve Tour, Intersection of SR 203 & SR 739
- Aug. 19 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Sept. 04 Thurs. 12– 6pm Popcorn Festival – Museum Open Extended Hours - Volunteers Needed!
- Sept. 05 Fri. 12– 6pm Popcorn Festival – Museum Open Extended Hours - Volunteers Needed!
- Sept. 06 Sat. 12– 6pm Popcorn Festival – Museum Open Extended Hours - Volunteers Needed!
- Sept. 08 Mon. 2:00pm Executive Committee Meeting, Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Sept. 16 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion Group TRECA Community Room
- Sept. 16 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Sept. 20—Sept. 21, Sat. Sun. 10- 5 and 10-4 Travel Through Time at Sawyer-Ludwig Park
- Oct. 06 Mon. 3:00pm Antique Appraisal
Kingston of Marion
- Oct. 11 Sat. 1:00pm Behind Closed Doors, Various Sites - TBA
- Oct. 13 Mon. 2:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Oct. 16 Thurs. 7:00pm Program Meeting, Topic TBA
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Oct. 21 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion Group TRECA Community Room
- Oct. 21 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Nov. 01 Sat. 5:30pm Dinner with the Presidents
TRECA
- Nov. 10 Mon. 2:00pm Executive Committee Meeting, Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Nov. 18 Tues. 10:00am Marion's History Discussion Group Marion's History Discussion Group
TRECA Community Room
- Nov. 18 Tues. 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting
Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Dec. 06 Sat. 10 am -1230 Annual Meeting w/ Potluck lunch Heritage Hall Auditorium
- Dec. 06 Sat. 1- 4pm Holiday at Heritage Hall – Book Signing; MCHS Members 10% Discount in Gift Shop, Heritage Hall

CIVIL WAR PROGRAM MEETING

Our June 19 program meeting at 7PM in the Heritage Hall auditorium will be on the Reverend Lemuel Drake and Mary Ann “Mother” Bickerdyke and their roles in the Civil War with the program provided by Devon Hardwick and Gale Martin, MCHS Director.

The Reverend Lemuel Ford Drake volunteered his services as an army chaplain when the Civil War began. He was assigned to the 31st Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1861 and later to the Ohio 121st O.V.I. which was raised primarily from Marion County.

Mary Ann Bickerdyke established over 300 field hospitals during the war, as well as several cooking and laundry stations. She became one of the best known, and most resourceful, Civil War nurses. Her knowledge of botanical medicine influenced her simple and effective methods of caring for wounded and sick soldiers, and it was this knowledge that allowed her to save more lives than the inept physicians of the time.

This event is a must for anyone interested in local and national history! After the program, the Civil War exhibit in the Heritage Hall Atrium will be available for guests to view. The Heritage Hall Museum is located at 169 E. Church St., Marion OH 43302. Anyone desiring to obtain more information should call 740-387-4255.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: *by Gale E. Martin, Executive Director*

Please help MCHS by signing up for Kroger Community Rewards!

Kroger has asked that every year, those who wish to donate to the Marion County Historical Society sign up for Kroger Community Rewards again in April or May! If you had already signed up last year, please see the section at the bottom of the page.

If you have never participated in the KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM and wish to begin to support MCHS, you will need to register your current Kroger Plus card with Kroger online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com before you can link your card to donate to the historical society.

Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy when you get online to sign up.

- Click on **“Sign up today”** to the right, then enter your zip code and click **“search.”**
- Click on the arrow to display the list of stores in your zip code and highlight your favorite store.
- Enter your email address and create a password then click **“next.”**
- Key in your Kroger Plus card number (if it says this card has already been used, please call the number on the back of your card).
- Enter the security code, enter in your contact information, then click **“next.”**
- Verify that your account information is correct. Check box for agreement of the terms and conditions and click **“complete information.”**
- Kroger will send a message to the email address that you entered earlier in the process (this can take up to 15 minutes).
- Check your email inbox, open the email from Kroger and click the link or copy it and paste it into your browser.
- Sign in; click on the **“click here”** button and then type in your email address and password.
- Under Kroger Community Rewards section at right, click **“edit Kroger community rewards information.”**
- Find MCHS by typing in the organization number. Ours is **80167**. Click **“search.”**
- Please make sure that you click on the circle to the left of the organization name so that it becomes highlighted. Click the **“select your organization.”**
- Click **“save changes”** and scroll over the pages to make sure your information is correct.

If you were already signed up last year, you still need to re-register after April 1, 2014. Registrations must be done at krogercommunityrewards.com and all participants must have a valid online account at Kroger.com to participate.

If you were already enrolled online before the end of April 2014, go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com, click on **“Columbus”** and click on **“re-enroll”** and follow these steps:

- Put in your email address.
- Put in your password (if you forgot the password, go through the forgot your password step) Click **“sign in.”**
- Find MCHS by typing in the organization number. Ours is **80167**. Click **“search.”**
- Please make sure that you click on the circle to the left of the organization name so that it becomes highlighted. Click **“select your organization.”**
- Click **“save changes.”**

Thank you for your support!

Blast from the Past

Returning for its fourteenth summer, “Blast from the Past” will give kids ages 8-12 an opportunity to learn more about a wide variety of topics all tied to Marion history. Beginning on July 10 and continuing on each Thursday in July, a group of MCHS volunteers will make Heritage Hall and other area venues come alive with fun activities with an educational focus as we “Travel Through Yesteryear.”

On July 10, participants will “Travel Down to the Store” as they visit the Guthery Store at Heritage Hall to learn why the general store was the center of the community, barter for a souvenir, and try to guess some old-time “whatsits.”

“Traveling the Rails” means more than riding on a train. On July 17, we will explore Marion’s rail heritage as well as the interurban and streetcar systems while visiting the Union Station.

July 24 will find students learning about the history of Marion’s fire and police departments as part of “Traveling Safely.” We will tour the historic Fire Station #1, learn about old-time and modern firefighting methods, and get some “hands-on” experience with items used in law enforcement both now and in our past.

“Traveling Close to Home” will wrap up the summer program as we learn how backyards have changed over the years, including different kinds and uses of plants, games and other activities, and enjoy some old-fashioned backyard goodies.

Each session features a craft activity and a snack related to the topic of the day. In addition, this year’s participants will make an album filled with postcards, photographs, letters, and other neat items to become part of their personal “Travel Through Time.”

Morning sessions will be held from 9:30-11:30 and afternoon sessions from 1:00-3:00. All programs are free, but pre-registration is required. For more information, or to register, call Heritage Hall at 740-387-4255.

Wish List

- A dressmaker’s dummy is needed for use in archives.
- MCHS can always use copy paper, 65lb white cardstock, foam board for displays, plain white envelopes, 6x9 inch heavy duty brown envelopes, post-it notes, and scrapbooking (archival, acid free) tape.
- Docents, tour guides and gift shop volunteers are always needed. We also need help with special projects and events. Volunteers who wish to assist in costumed re-enactments at events throughout the year are encouraged to contact us and talk about any special skills they may have to offer. If you have been thinking about becoming more active with MCHS, please do so.
- Volunteers are needed to assist in maintenance at the Claridon Prairie and Trella Romine Preserves this summer. Our first workday will be June 21st from 8AM to 2 PM, meet at the Trella Romine Preserve. Intersection of SR 203 & SR 739

For more info on any of these needs call the MCHS office at 740-387-4255 or email Teal or Meredith, MCHS Administrative Assistants at adminasst@marionhistory.com.

Blue Star Museums

This year the Marion County Historical Society will be participating in a program entitled Blue Star Museums. Blue Star Museums is a partnership among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,800 museums in all 50 states that offer free admission to active military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We look forward to a wonderful summer of Blue Star Museums!

New MCHS Editor

This issue of *Hallmarks* was edited by volunteer Jennifer Trawinski. She graduated from Ohio Northern University in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in professional writing.

What's new in the MCHS collections?

Accessioned between 3/22/13 – 5/20/13

William P. Murphy: B&W photograph of Louise Kling at about one year of age; Baby book of Louise Kling; B&W photographs of Prospect c. 1900 including city hall, CD&M car, several flood views; Clock w/ pendulum and key from Central Junior High

Harry Dowler: Color photograph of Lt. Harry Dowler, Jr. at Webb Air Force Base in 1955; Color Photograph of Jack Peak; CD interview with Harry Dowler, Jr. on aviation history of Marion County; CD interview with Jack Peak on aviation history of Marion County; CD with info on Mayor Harry Dowler, Sr. on aviation history of Marion County

Jeremy & Michelle Roberts: B&W photographs of Cedarcrest (1681 Richland Pike); Program, map, newspaper clipping, & ticket for Marion Heritage Tour of Homes 1977 which included Cedarcrest; Genealogy of William, Thomas & Frank Renzenberger

David Jackson: Several pieces of ephemera & correspondence from family that started and operated Acme Dry Cleaning in the 1950s

Anna K. Lamb: Two homemade wooden rolling pins; homemade square wooden spoon; two homemade wooden clips to attach to cooking pots to rest cooking spoons

Fred Hazen: Several photographs and other documents relating to Marion Power Shovel and its role in the building of the Hoover Dam 1931-35

Jim Saiter Collection: Assorted clothing & accessories including 3 carpetbags, boots, 13 vests, 9 hats, red underwear, false beard, false mustache, 3 shirts, 21 pairs of jeans, 5 pairs of suspenders, 2 canes, silver dollar tie clip; CSA pin, 3 watch fobs, tomahawk necklace, men's gloves; Reproduction Confederate currency

Bob Turner: CD – “History of Marion, Ohio Police Department”

Julien Devereux Weeks: Copies of pages from Stroup family Bible

Gaile A. Baker Jr.: Copy of “Marion, Ohio's Movie Theaters – Life from a Former Usher's Point of View”

Sally O'Conner: March 2013 newspaper magazine – “Marion City Schools

Mary Gross: Assorted Marion Star newspapers c. February, March & April 2013

Marjorie Hite: Book - 100 Years of Growth and Development with a City We're Proud to Serve - The Marion County Bank - Marion, Ohio; Collection of 35 pencils from area schools & businesses

Carolyn Ulsh: Book - The Art of Cooking and Serving - With 549 Tested Crisco Recipes c. 1934; Booklet – “Tombstone Inscriptions Of The Caledonia and Claridon Cemetery - Claridon Township, Marion County, Ohio” c. 1985; B&W photograph of Carolyn w/ bicycle & teddy bear; c. 1900 teddy bear; Hand-pieced and appliqued quilt c. 1900; Child's oak chair; Counted cross-stitch picture; 2 Frank Brothers suit boxes; Phil-Maid underwear box; Herringbone suitcase; 2 capes; Handmade child's sweater; Belgian wall tapestry; 3 chair back covers; 4 handmade placemats; Handmade crocheted table runner; Woman's snuggie; Crib quilt; Twin-size quilt; Crochet loom and knitting wool; Small embroidery hoop; Packet of tapestry needles; Needle threaders; Crochet hooks; WWII era instructions on how to knit sweaters; Quilt pieces; Hand crocheted “granny squares”; Several crocheted & knitted items; Eight-day German clock; Lux clock; Kodak Brownie camera; Ansco V.P. No. 2 bellows camera & accessories; Assorted camera accessories; 48-star flag used at funeral of Chester A. Ulsh in 1956; Dritz tapestry yarn label; Large assortment of crocheting items including patterns, needles, hooks, yarn, instructions, cutting diagrams, etc.

Brenda & Rich Timmons: 2 sun bonnets; 2 nightcaps; Drinking glass from LK Restaurants; Pleasant Township fireman's jacket

Tom Bowman: Marion County Public Schools monthly report card; Framed certificate from Erie Railroad for retirement of Glenn E. Allen

Kensel Clutter: 2 railroad spikes, railroad bolt & nut c. 1850-1900 found in Romine Prairie near Green Camp

Ralph & Ruth Carhart: 2 cabinet cards and 1 charm; Cabinet card with black woman and children with information on to whom they belonged

Betty McClaren: Marion Independent Newspaper scrapbooks c. 1884, c. 1871-1886; Humorous card c. 1800

Lucian Arnett: Boston Gazette and County Journal newspaper - March 12, 1770; 1843 Bill of Sale for tobacco; 1834 newspaper

Marie Baker Moore: Several Marion Star newspapers c. 1940s

Mary Gross and Sally O'Conner: “Oxley for Congress” hand fan; Two “Romney & Ryan” Thunder Stix; Booklet “The New Economic Patriotism” by Barack Obama; Three tickets to political rally for Mitt Romney & Paul Ryan held at Marion Coliseum; Two Romney/Ryan political posters

David Roberts Collection: Assorted Marion County Common Pleas Court Appearance & Execution Docket documents

Michael Wilson: Outside light from the depot on Route 309

Gerald A. Davis: Books including an author autographed copy of Jim Thorpe and the Oorang Indians –The NFL's Most Colorful Franchise; by Robert Whitman History - Biography - Autobiography by Geo. W. King - The Marion Steam Shovel Company Family by George W. King; Day Before Yesterday by Trella Romine

Lewis Cunningham: B&W photograph of Erie Locomotive 727 with Governor Robert Taft in cab – Also shows Roundhouse Diesel Shop employees

Josh Birdsong: Large Holy Bible that belonged to Mr. & Mrs. August Sauer of Marion – Included certificates of matrimony, birth and death records, greetings cards, newspaper clippings, photographs, etc.

Allison Paige Hurdle: Book The Marion Steam Shovel Company Family by George W. King autographed by author to Miss Abigail Victoria Harding

Jon Eager: Padlock & key made by Wilson Bohannon Company for Kodak Company

Dennis Fabian: Metal sign for “Probst Brothers, Plumbers;” 4 Morral School “Captain” yearbooks c. 1950s; Brass historic car collector banks from Bank One; Metal toothbrush holder; Wood & metal toilet paper holder

Please Note: Some of the recent accessions may have been in storage before being added to our collections. While we do our best to be prompt, our volunteer archival staff often work on other projects as well. If you have recently donated an item and do NOT see it on this list, the item has not yet been accessioned. If you would like to volunteer to help in Archives, call 740-387-4255.

Historically Speaking: THE WAR DOG

By Fred Malone, MCHS Board President



Throughout history animals have played an important part in many wars. Dogs, cats, birds, mice and even chickens have been adopted by soldiers defending our country on foreign shores and within the United States. Today, dogs play an important role in protecting our troops by searching out explosives in Afghanistan. Wherever, or whenever, we humans have always had the need for those furry or feathered companions.



Image/www.loyaltyofdogs.wordpress.com

The exhibit this year at Heritage Hall is once again centered on the Civil War and Marion's participation in that great conflict. I want to share a story about the most famous canine of the War Between The States. Human females rarely fought openly during the Civil War, but Sallie Ann Jarrett, a dog, became famous for doing so.

Sallie served with distinction in the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment from 1861 until her death at Hatcher's Run, Virginia, just two months shy of the war's end. It was said she hated three things: civilians, Democrats, and women.

She was a handsome brindled Bull Terrier, possibly a Staffordshire, often referred to today as a Pit Bull. Despite their fearsome reputation, pit bulls tend to be loving and nurturing animals. In fact, the Staffordshire Terrier is often referred to as "The Nanny Dog" in Great Britain. Sallie herself was fiercely loyal, brave in battle, and well-loved by her comrades, who wrote stories, poems and articles about her for many years after the war ended. She was a true heroine and when the 11th Pennsylvania Regimental

Monument was erected in Gettysburg in 1890, her boys included a memorial to her, twenty-five years after her death. The monument, dedicated to the "heroic dead" stands on Oak Ridge on the Gettysburg Battlefield. The monument features a soldier preparing to fire. On the front of the base is a small bronze sculpture of Sallie, amidst the wounded, the dying and the dead, maintaining a silent vigil over her friends.

The 11th Pennsylvania Infantry was organized at Camp Curtin, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on April 26, 1861. Sallie was mustered into service by the men of the regiment in May, 1861 when she was barely four weeks old. She grew up surrounded by the bustle and strain of wartime service, and never knew another kind of life. An unknown civilian brought the young pup, in a small market basket, to the quarters of Captain William Terry of Company 1 to be used as a company mascot. Sallie was named in honor of a favorite young lady of West Chester and Phaon Jarrett, the regiment's first Colonel. Life in camp was easy for Sallie, as a bed was made for her under the bunk of Captain Terry, and she spent her days sleeping and eating plenty of fresh milk and soft bread. As she grew, she never lacked attention from the men as they were willing to spend their free time playing with her. Popularity never spoiled Sallie, in fact, she never touched anyone's rations unless they were offered to her. She was truly a disciplined soldier ready to serve her beloved 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

The 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry saw its first action in the battle of Falling Waters, West Virginia, also known as Hoke's Run, on July 2, 1861. Sallie was on the front lines traveling first-class in the arms of a soldier, in a haversack, or rolled up in a blanket. Sometimes she rode on the baggage wagon. At other times she was transported in the saddlebags of Dr. James Anawalt, the assistant regimental surgeon. She was also known to ride on the back of Lieutenant Colonel Richard Coulter's saddle.

The Pennsylvanians acquitted themselves well and, though casualties were light on both sides, the first Pennsylvanian to die in the war was one of their own. They also suffered 10 men wounded. Sallie was there to administer comfort to the wounded by staying at their sides until they were transported to a field hospital.

Sallie soon became famous as a "soldier's soldier." With her regiment she learned the activities of soldiering. She knew the drum and bugle calls, was the first one up at reveille, and usually attended morning roll call. At squad or company drill, she tended to pick a soldier and follow him patiently until drill was over. For regimental and brigade drill, Sallie took the lead and escorted Colonel Counter's horse to the drill ground and remained in front of the horse until the troops were dismissed.

During dress parade, she sought out the color sergeant and, during parade rest, laid down in the shade of the regimental colors. Sallie's respect for the colors at parade rest was sure to have been greatly admired by any Civil War soldier. In addition, Sallie always led the regiment into battle whenever they were called upon to fight.

When the 11th Pennsylvania was ordered to Washington, DC on April 9, 1862 to receive new uniforms, Sallie got to meet President Lincoln when they were guests of the President at the Executive Mansion. The President loved dogs and admired Sallie's loyalty to the 11th Pennsylvania and her battle record. Sallie and the 11th Pennsylvania served in many battles in 1861 and 1862. Then came the horrors of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Antietam was the bloodiest day of the entire Civil War, and some of the blood spilled belonged to the 11th Pennsylvania. Sallie, for her part, pushed forward into the cornfield with her soldiers, who tried to push her back fearing she would be killed, but she refused to leave their sides even after being hit by a minie ball. The bullet grazed her side, literally "parting her hair," but she did not fall back until the rest of the regiment did--an exhausting four hours later. A total of 27 men of the regiment were killed, with 89 more wounded and two captured. Sallie showed great sympathy for the wounded. One of the soldiers said that "Sallie came and licked their wounds." Her role that day had been not only to fight, but to comfort and make a dog's attempt to heal.

Sallie continued to distinguish herself for the remainder of the war. On the night of February 5, 1865 the regiment camped near Hatcher's Run, Virginia. Sallie was restless throughout the night walking and mournfully crying going from tent to tent. Since this was not her normal behavior, she may have had a premonition of what was to come. The next day Sallie led her regiment into battle, as usual, but it was for the last time. They engaged the Confederates at 2:00 P.M. and when the smoke cleared after the first volley, Sallie and the two men she had shared a tent with the night before lay dead.

One of the soldiers, in a letter dated "Camp near Hatcher's Run, Va. February 11, 1865," wrote: "Poor Sallie fell in the front line at the Run, a bullet pierced her brain. She was buried where she fell by some of the boys, even whilst under a murderous fire." For the boys to have buried a dog while under heavy fire, their love for that dog must have been equal to that for any of their fallen human comrades. Sallie was memorialized as a Civil War heroine, a representative of all other canine soldiers who gave their lives for their countrymen.

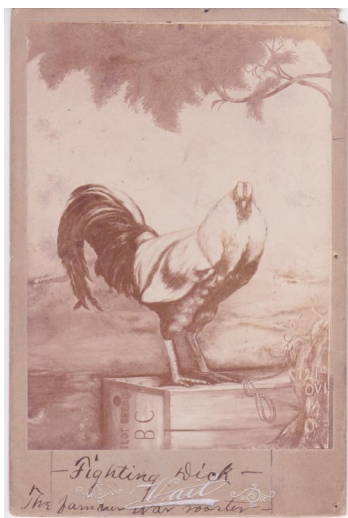


Image/www.keystoneparanormal.com

FIGHTING DICK

The 121st Ohio Infantry had no mascot when it marched off to war in September of 1862. Despite this, the 121st became known as the "Rooster Regiment."

Fighting Dick, the rooster, began his journey with the unit during Major General William T. Sherman's famous March to the Sea. During the campaign, the unit camped on the plantation of Howell Cobb, an influential Georgia statesman who had served as a U.S. Senator and Secretary of War before the war and was now a Confederate major general. As had become customary upon making camp on this march, the men went to foraging from the plantation. Private Abner Berry of Company E was able to snag one of the plantation's roosters. Before the men would set it to stew, they decided to have a little warped fun with the creature. The boys of Company E put the rooster into the pit against other company and nearby regiment found roosters. Berry's bird proved himself to be quite the fighter. It was decided to keep the fighting fowl with them, instead of turning him into a stew. Dick was trained to ride on the back of a mule during the march. The rooster was also trained to help with foraging. When the unit raided a chicken coop, they sent in Dick to deal with the local rooster, and after he was dispatched, the hens were chased into the waiting and hungry arms of the soldiers. He was perched on the back of his mule, riding along with the troops in the Grand Review of the Armies on May 25, 1865, crowing as he passed President Andrew Johnson on the reviewing stand. Learn more about Fighting Dick at the Heritage Hall Museum's Civil War exhibit which runs through December.



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Marion, Ohio 43302

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OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF
THESE RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS:
NORMA MAUK, WILLIAM E. PAYETTE,
DOROTHY D. SIMMONS, DON F. LOUDENSLAGER,
WILLIAM SCHERTZER, BRIAN ATLEE, MARY L. RIMBACH
CAROL BASH, DELLA MAUTZ