



# Front Porch Command

August 2018

JOIN US ON THE FRONT PORCH

SUMMER EDITION

## Altamont Springs Hotel to be featured at Campbell County Historical Society August Meeting

The Campbell County Historical Society monthly meeting in August will be held at the Fort Thomas Mess Hall Community Center. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 9 at 7 p.m. and will feature a presentation by Mr. Erik Geiman on the Altamont Springs Hotel. The meeting is free of charge and is open to the public.



The Altamont Springs Hotel was designed by the architectural firm of Samuel Hannaford and opened

in 1905 in the vicinity of Crown Point with grand views of the Ohio River. The hotel boasted 150 rooms; most with private baths. As the United States became embroiled in World War I, wounded soldiers were being sent to the Fort Thomas Military Hospital, which was quickly overwhelmed. The Altamont stepped in to help ease the overcrowding in the hospital. The business and building of the Altamont were sold at public auction in 1920.

Mr. Geiman will tell us many of the stories of the events that occurred in that short 15 year time span. He has conducted considerable research on the subject and will tell us of several of the artifacts he has discovered while digging through the rubble of the old hotel. Please join us for an informative and educational presentation.



A sampling of the artifacts that will be displayed at the program.

## Worker Bees Needed

Have an interest in history? Curiosity about the early days in Fort Thomas? Enjoy digging for treasure? We are taking a few hours each week going through the items stored downstairs at the Museum – and finding all kinds of things. How would you like to be the first in years to see an item like a pack of German cigarettes from WWII? Or discover a touching love poem written to a soldier overseas? How would you like to sort and pack away uniforms and

clothing in tissue so they will be preserved for conservation and future display? Call Director Deanna Beineke if interested:

513-658-4112. Email at [beineke@isoc.net](mailto:beineke@isoc.net) or [fortthomasmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:fortthomasmuseum@gmail.com).

## Need a Program for your Organization?

If you are looking for a program for your club, group, or organization, The Fort Thomas Military and Community Museum is developing a series of programs about Fort Thomas and our rich history. The first *Fort Thomas Road Show* will focus on the first 50 years of the area and our development from rural farms and orchards to a full-fledged city. We will bring photographs, as well as a few artifacts, and we can tailor the program to your organization's interests. Whether you are a life-long resident or a newcomer to the area, we are fairly confident you will learn something new.

## Generous Loans and Donations Enhance World War I Display

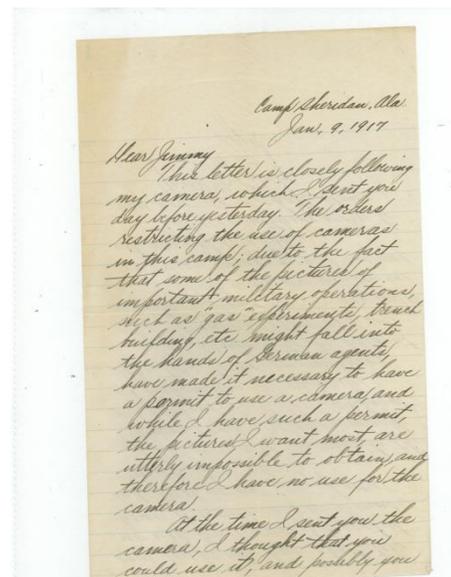
As we sort and inventory our entire collection, we have been taking a hiatus on accepting new items for the museum. However, once in a while, an offer is made that simply cannot be refused. As the result of a casual conversation at a birthday party on a Saturday evening, the Museum has received a 12" McClellan saddle from

WWI, complete with stirrups, girth, blanket and tack!

The very next day, a resident here in Fort Thomas stopped by the Museum with his wife and began talking about his father's service during WWI, first in the Field Artillery and then as a Forward Observer in France. All of this service is documented in **3 years of letters and photographs** and he offered to make a long-term loan to the Museum so we could share them! Needless to say, both offers were accepted with deep gratitude.



The saddle itself is absolutely beautiful, but the tack needs a bit of work; all of it is currently on display. The Museum has asked an expert for advice and will likely be investing in quantities of neatsfoot oil in the near future. The letters and photographs are being carefully scanned and will be available for perusal at the Museum once we have them permanently preserved in digital format.



These are the real deal. Stop by and visit us.

## Coming Up At the Mess Hall September 12

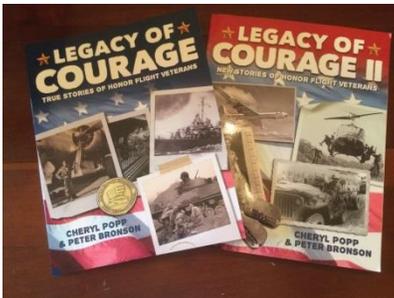
The World's Biggest USO Tour, a worldwide webcast, will take place at the Mess Hall on Wednesday evening, September 12. This event will originate in Washington, DC and will feature a full-length concert by Florida Georgia Line and will be emceed by Adam Devine. A live concert at 7:15 PM will precede the webcast. The event is free and open to the public. More details will be coming soon. Check our FB page for more details as we receive them.

**Find Unique Gifts  
And  
Support your Museum!**

**Looking for a gift you can't find just anywhere? We have several that are pretty exclusive.**



Our ornaments, of course, are beautiful polished pewter and the current selection consists of the Tower and the Mess Hall. Perfect for your Christmas tree next winter. The Mess Hall has become a popular gift for wedding participants who choose the Mess Hall as a venue. They are also perfect to send to friends or family who grew up in Fort Thomas and later moved away. Ornaments are \$20 each, with an additional \$5 charge for shipping/handling to out-of-town destinations. Available only at the Museum or City Building.



If Dad is a veteran, he might enjoy a copy of *Legacy of Courage* or *Legacy of Courage II*. Co-authored by retired *Cincinnati*

*Enquirer* columnist and Honor Flight Tri-State Director Cheryl Popp, these books tell the story of Honor Flight and share the stories of veterans willing to tell their military stories – from amusing to harrowing. \$25 each; available at the Museum and Blue Marble.



My poor photo skills do not do justice to these beautiful notecards created by Donna Gouedy Baxter. After taking her own photo of our iconic tower, Donna then created this hand-colored card and put basic information about the tower on the back. Blank inside, they make wonderful thank you cards or invitations. \$15 for a set of 8 cards and envelopes. Available only at the Museum.



You really need to see this print in person to appreciate the detail. Dated circa 1902, this nearly panoramic photo of South Fort Thomas Avenue at the tower is positively stunning. The first Fort Thomas Post Office stands next to the tower, and the city's first real concrete sidewalks border the streetcar tracks as a streetcar approaches in the background. Only available at the Museum,

11"x17" unframed prints are \$10. A simple black frame turns the print into a beautiful piece of art.

Stop by and browse.

**Coming Up This  
Summer at  
Tower Park**

**Farmer's Market across from  
the Armory, Wed. 3-7**

**Summer Concert Series:  
June 7, June 19, August 21,  
September 4, September 11**

# **Fort Thomas Military & Community Museum**

**940 Cochran Avenue Fort Thomas KY 41075**

**Open Thursday-Saturday    Noon until 4:00 PM**

**Sunday                            1 until 5 PM**

**Or by Appointment**

**April 5 through November 25, 2018**

**Closed December-March**

**(859)572-1225**

**[fortthomas@gmail.com](mailto:fortthomas@gmail.com)**

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