



Front Porch Command

Fall 2018

JOIN US ON THE FRONT PORCH

CLOSING NOV. 25 FOR THE SEASON

Once-in-A-Lifetime Armistice Day Commemoration

November 11, 2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War, now known as WWI. Renamed Veterans Day in 1954, we still stop and remember the significance of “the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month” in 1918.

A very special commemoration of this anniversary will be a part of the Veterans Day program held at the Charters of Freedom Monument on Saturday, November 10, at noon.

The Fort Thomas Military Reservation was an active recruitment center during WWI, and quite a few area boys and men volunteered for service. The Museum has received three years of letters from Sydney G. Wilshire spanning 1916-1919. We also have three years of letters from a

young man from Indiana who served here at Fort Thomas for several months before transfer to the Signal Corps. We have half a dozen letters from two brothers who served as orderlies during the Spanish flu pandemic in October, 1918, shortly before the war ended. And we have one letter from Robert D. Johnson, as well as copies of the telegrams to his family following his death.



These valuable documents give us a hint of what life was like during WWI. In collaboration with history and drama students at Highlands High School, the Museum staff has created a dramatic reading of excerpts from the letters. Narrator Madison Burnett will connect the larger

history to the words of men who lived or served here. Grant Sower will portray Sydney Wilshire, Braxton Broering will read Clarence Cornish, Carter Bechtol will portray the Beck brothers, and Liam Pergrem will read both Robert and Claude Johnson’s messages.

This same program will be presented at HHS on Friday, November 9, as part of the school’s annual Veterans Day commemoration with Peter Laskey reading the Johnson excerpts. None of us will ever see a centennial commemoration of the Great War again. Please join us as we thank our current veterans and remember those from earlier times.



Worker Bees Responded

Wow! We have had quite the response to the need for worker bees. We still need folks who don't mind a little grunt work in packing and storing artifacts, but my faith in volunteers has been renewed.

In preparing for our Veterans Day program using letters from local soldiers, we discovered that most students today cannot read cursive! Fortunately, one set of letters had already been transcribed, but we still had three years of letters to be done. When a call for help went out on our Facebook page, we had 17 volunteers within 24 hours!!! Our goal was to have all the transcriptions finished within 30 days, but our wonderful volunteers finished those letters within 10 days! A heartfelt thanks to all who helped. Some complained they didn't get to do enough. Never fear; during our hiatus over the winter, I hope to create templates to use so we can transcribe those thousand or so pages of Post and Station Hospital records from 1890-1916!

Call Director Deanna Beineke if interested: 513-658-4112. Email at beineke@isoc.net or fortthosasmuseum@gmail.com.

Taking the Museum on the Road

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.

We have already made presentations to two groups here in town and received very warm receptions. We have another one scheduled at the Fort Thomas branch of the Campbell County on Thursday, November 15, at 7 PM.

Fourth Graders Visit the Museum

The Museum hosted the annual visit from the Fort Thomas Independent Schools' fourth grade classes from Johnson, Moyer and Woodfill Schools on Friday, September 14th.

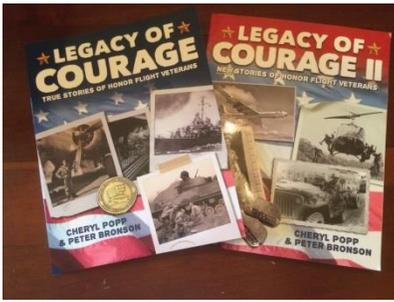
This is one of our favorite events each year, and the docents always look forward to these eager young students and their chaperones. We added a scavenger hunt this year, and it was a hit. It provided a nice focus for the students and they seemed to really enjoy finding and learning about some of our hidden treasures.

Woodfill Fifth Graders celebrate Samuel Woodfill's Medal of Honor

On the 100th anniversary of Samuel Woodfill earning his Medal of Honor by clearing out three machine gun nests in one day, the fifth grade students from Woodfill Elementary visited the museum to learn a little more about their hero. They were preparing for a visit from a relative of Samuel Woodfill later in the month, and they were full of excellent questions. We certainly enjoyed their visit with us.

Walking Tour of Historic Buildings during the Great Outdoor Weekend

Forty adults and children joined Museum Director Deanna Beineke and Recreation Staff member Katie Spicer for a walking tour of several of the historic buildings on the grounds of Tower Park during Greater Cincinnati's Great Outdoor Weekend. The crowd was pretty evenly divided between local residents and visitors from Ohio, and they seemed to enjoy hearing about how the buildings were constructed, how they were used over 100 years ago, and how these buildings are preserved and utilized today. The tour ended at the museum, and the children had an opportunity to create a simple bird feeder, while several adult visitors toured the museum.



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.

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

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