



Front Porch Command

May 2018

JOIN US ON THE FRONT PORCH

MEMORIAL DAY EDITION

TV Visits the Museum For Memorial Day

As you prepare for your Memorial Day gathering on Monday, May 28, tune in to Channel 9 in Cincinnati at 10 AM. The Museum will be featured on the new program *Cincy Lifestyle*. Debbie Buckley and Deanna Beineke talk about Fort Thomas' rich military history, its significance in the development of the city, and the importance of remembering those who sacrificed their lives in service to our nation.



Bikin' and Pickin'



The Seersucker Bike Ride was a hit. Beginning and ending in the Museum parking lot, families toured Fort Thomas on a designated route to HHS and back. At 3:30, the Bluegrass Comet All-Stars played great bluegrass music to an appreciative audience.



They declared that the Museum had a fine pickin' porch, a high honor for us. They are welcome to play on our porch anytime.

New Addition to our Library

Patrick O'Donnell, a military historian, has released a new book, [*The Unknowns: The Untold Story of America's Unknown Soldier and WWI's Most Decorated Heroes Who Brought Him Home*](#). He states that the book "follows eight American heroes who accomplished extraordinary feats in the war's

most important battles. As a result of their amazing bravery, these eight men were selected to serve as Body Bearers at the ceremony where the Unknown Soldier was laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery.” One of those men was Samuel Woodfill, and his story is told here. We have purchased this new release and now have it in our Sisk Research Library.

Successful Opening

To Our 2018 Season

While we are still finalizing an exhibit in one second-floor room, but our new exhibits are receiving some excellent reviews. Being open on both Saturday and Sunday seems to be drawing more visitors, and we have already hosted one group tour. Girl Scouts were on the ball with the first tour of the season, and they were beta-testers for a new scavenger hunt designed for upper elementary and middle school students and pronounced it a keeper. (A couple of the docents tried it as well – they said it was too much work.)

One of the benefits of working at the museum is learning just what life was like here 100 or 120 or 130 years ago. One of the hazards of working here is finding just a tidbit of information and then getting caught up in searching for more. Part of the excitement of working here is actually finding that “more” and being able to share it with our visitors.

Our Military Room showcases the early days of the fort, focusing on the Spanish-American War and World War I. In putting the exhibit together, we have discovered some “forgotten” information about the 8th

Volunteer Infantry and how they came to be here.

We also discovered a cache of letters from two young men who served as orderlies here at the original hospital during the flu pandemic of 1918.

The Community Room is shaping up nicely as well. We have spread out the Altamont artifacts in a larger case so they can be studied a bit more easily. We are still finding more history about our community and are preparing it for display. The Midway was actually the first business district in the city and had restaurants, a barber, grocery store, taverns and even a brothel or two. Fire as a result of “an incendiary device” destroyed at least 6 of the buildings in 1895. Looks like a bit more research is required.



Our second floor has undergone a major transformation as well. The two rotating exhibit rooms are now photo galleries. The front room has photos of locations in Fort Thomas from 50 or more years ago placed with photos of those same locations today. It is amazing how some of the locations have changed. It is even more amazing how many locations are very much the same as they were generations ago. We also took advantage of this opportunity to show off a couple of the fashions from 60-70 years ago. They are as beautiful today as in the 1950’s.



Step down into the back gallery and view more than 40 photos from the early days of the fort. We have an 1889 photo of some of the construction engineers posing in front of one of the Alexander Circle homes and photos of troops shipping out overseas in 1898 and 1918. Plan on spending some time in these rooms.

Volunteers Needed

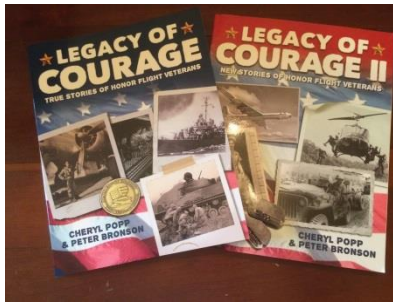
We have picked up a few new volunteers, but we need more. No special skills are needed for most of the jobs. We could use some help in photographing and labeling individual items, then storing them in our new archival boxes. Please call Acting Director Deanna Beineke if interested: 513-658-4112. Email at beineke@isoc.net or fortthosasmuseum@gmail.com.

**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.

Other items are available in our Gift Shop as well: Bill Thomas' books about Fort Thomas, Gloria Sisk's books about 1898, a pivotal year for both the fort and the city, and we are currently replenishing our inventory with the Pearl Bryan story and a history of the fort itself.

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

July 4th
Parade at 10:30 AM,
Celebration noon- 10:30 PM
Fireworks 10:30 PM

Museum Book Sale
July 4-8

**Remember Those
Who Made the
Ultimate Sacrifice**



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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