



Front Porch Command

Spring 2019

JOIN US ON THE FRONT PORCH

OPENING DAY MARCH 30

**2019 Season Begins
12 noon Saturday
March 30**

The winter hiatus is over and your Museum volunteers are hard at work cataloging new items loaned and donated to our collections during our break. The month of March will find us tweaking our exhibits, storing a few things and adding new items; we really can't wait for you to see them!

We will open for the season at noon on Saturday, March 30, and will be open from then until Thanksgiving weekend on Fridays and Saturdays from noon until 4 and on Sundays from 1 until 5. We will also be available from special tours by appointment – call 859-572-1225 or contact us to make arrangements by email at fortthomasmuseum@gmail.com. We may also open for special city occasions; watch our Facebook page for announcements: [facebook.com/fortthomasmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/fortthomasmuseum).

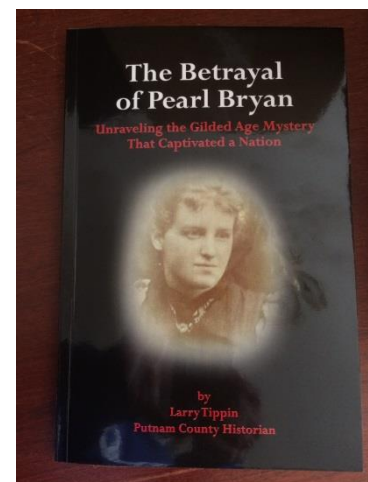
**Pearl Bryan Author
At Mess Hall on May 9**

The Museum, The Campbell County Historical Society, and the Campbell County Public Library have come together to create a program about the tragic death of Pearl Bryan. She was murdered nearly 125 years ago, and her story continues to fascinate and horrify everyone who knows of it.

Larry Tippin has thoroughly researched the story of Pearl's life and tragic death and has written a new book, *The Betrayal of Pearl Bryan*, documenting the details of what was called The Crime of the Century in 1896.

Mr. Tippin will speak about his book and the research that went into its development on Thursday evening, May 9, at the Fort Thomas Mess Hall. The doors will open at 6 PM and the meeting will begin promptly at 7 PM.

Following the business portion of the meeting, each sponsoring organization will explain its mission and then Mr. Tippin will present his program. There will be time for questions following his presentation and he will be available to sign copies of his book, available that evening for purchase. The Museum has a few copies available for purchase prior to the event. The book is \$29.95, payable by cash or check.



**Cordelia Elizabeth Cook,
Fort Thomas Resident,
World War II Hero**

While we all are familiar with the overall military history of Fort Thomas, most of us do not know many of the thousands who passed through here, especially during WWII. Our own Debbie Buckley recently discovered a Fort Thomas woman who was a bona fide WWII hero. Cordelia Elizabeth “Betty” Cook, daughter of our first police chief, Louis Cook, was the first female recipient of both a Purple Heart *and* a Bronze Star as a result of her work as an Army nurse in Italy in 1943!



Margaret Bourke-White, the first female photo-journalist, wrote a book titled *They Called It Purple Heart Valley* and featured Betty in a chapter all her own. The museum has ordered a copy of this book and will add it to our library. Our staff is preparing an exhibit featuring Betty and her amazing

family on the second floor of the museum using photos, artifacts and letters on loan from her family during our 2019 season and possibly beyond. Her husband and brothers also served. Stop by and learn about these heroes from our hometown.

**Fort Thomas
Woman’s Club Exhibit
in the Museum**

After more than 100 years of service to the city, the Fort Thomas Woman’s Club has closed its doors and has generously donated its records and many photos and artifacts to the Museum. We are currently poring over the materials and will create an exhibit in the first floor Community Room showcasing its rich history of contributions to life here in town. This organization has enriched the lives of so many and we are honored to be entrusted with sharing their legacy.



**Kentucky Monthly shines
a spotlight on us in May
issue**

Our World War I McClellan saddle takes center stage in the May issue of *Kentucky Monthly* magazine. *Oddities at the Museum* highlights rare or little-known artifacts from different Kentucky museums.



We had several items in our collection that we thought were worthy of inclusion, and the magazine staff selected the saddle. The issue will have information and a picture of the saddle as well as general information about the museum. We appreciate the recognition. We know we have a treasure in Tower Park; it is nice to let others come see us as well.

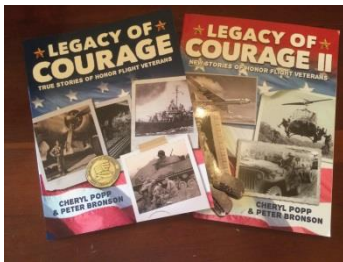
**Fort Thomas
Museum to host
Museums and
Historic Sites of
Greater Cincinnati**

We are opening our season by hosting a membership meeting of the Museums and Historic Sites of Greater Cincinnati. This is an organization made up of small museums, historical societies, libraries, sites, and monuments who all share similar missions and many common goals.

The Fort Thomas Museum joined MHS, as it is known, in 2018, in order to learn from others who have some of the same challenges we have, and have found it to be enlightening and educational. Representatives will meet at the Mess Hall on Monday, April 8 from 10-12, and then take a tour of our Museum. We are proud to be able to showcase our city and its history.

The Museum Gift Shop is open any time the Museum is open. Each item available for sale has been selected by our staff and all proceeds are used directly to benefit the mission of the museum.

You can enrich your library with any of our books for sale. 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.



Retired Museum Director Gloria Sisk created two books focusing on the pivotal year 1898. Titled *A Moment in Time: 1898*, one of the books creates a portrait of the District of the Highlands including maps and pictures, a copy of the postal directory and a copy of the business directory. The other book in the series tells the story of the fort and includes pictures and Sixth Infantry company rosters. Each book is \$15, but the set can be purchased for \$25.

We have copies of the Bill Thomas books about Fort Thomas.

The Then and Now book contains images of homes and businesses in the past and how they have changed or not over the years. The Images book gives an excellent overview of the development of the city throughout its history, telling the story in pictures. These books are \$20.00 each.

We have a limited number of copies of Larry Tippin's book, *The Betrayal of Pearl Bryan*, described on page one of this newsletter.

The most popular items in the Gift Shop are our exclusive Fort Thomas ornaments. These 3-D polished pewter ornaments portraying the Mess Hall and the Tower are available both at the Museum and at the city building during business hours. Each ornament comes individually boxed. They are \$20 each and make wonderful gifts.



We have available beautiful hand-colored notecards created by Donna Gouedy Baxter. After taking her own photo of our iconic tower, Donna 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 Friday-Saturday Noon until 4:00 PM
Sunday 1 until 5 PM
Or by Appointment

March 30 through November 30, 2019
Closed December-March

(859)572-1225

fortthomasmuseum@gmail.com

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