



1st Ohio  
Light Artillery,  
Battery A

1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A is an educational organization that participates in Civil War reenactments and commemorations at the Ohio Statehouse and at other sites. Battery A also helps teach history by bringing the experience of “living history” to all Ohioans.

The organization, modelled after a Civil War-era Union Army artillery unit, was commissioned by the State of Ohio. The Battery focuses on the Civil War because the Statehouse was completed in 1861, and the Battery’s living history efforts complement the recently restored capitol.

The soldiers of Battery A are not only trained to demonstrate the Statehouse’s restored, Civil War-era guns, but also to talk about the everyday life of a soldier, including work, clothing, diet, medical care, battle and recreation.

Battery A was officially commissioned by the State of Ohio in August 1996. After years of partnership with the Ohio Historical Society and the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, the group officially became a 501c3 non-profit organization in 2009.

For more information on Battery A, please visit our Web site, [www.csrab.state.oh.us](http://www.csrab.state.oh.us) (click on “Battery A”). Interested in re-enacting or joining? Contact Joe Patchen at 614/406-6561 or [jpatchen@cpmlaw.com](mailto:jpatchen@cpmlaw.com).

## GUN TERMINOLOGY



**Barrel:** cannon tube.

**Carriage:** Two-wheeled, wooden support stem for the tube.

**Elevating screw:** Used to raise and lower the tube when sighting and determining the range of a projectile.

**Limber:** Two-wheeled vehicle attached to the carriage when transporting the gun. The limber also carried the limber box, or ammunition chest. The limber was the means of hauling the tar bucket, water buckets, and a large tarpaulin.

**Limber box (ammunition chest):** Contained the rounds and projectiles, as well friction primers (matches) and fuses. The box could contain up to 50 rounds for a 6-pounder, 32 rounds for a 12-pounder, or various quantities of ammunition depending on the cannons in the battery.

**Prolonge:** 26-foot, 7-inch general purpose hemp rope, carried on two hooks on the carriage tail when not in use; used in some movements of the gun.

**Sponge (rammer):** Woolen bag covering a wooden cylinder, which is attached to a pole. In battle, the sponge was attached to the opposite end of the rammer. A water-soaked sponge is used to extinguish sparks left after the discharge and to remove black powder residue.

**Vent:** Small hole in the rear of the gun used to ignite the charge with either a friction primer or fuse.

## The Real Battery A in the Civil War

Battery A, one of 12 batteries in Ohio’s 1st Regiment of light artillery, was organized as state militia in 1860; the unit mustered into federal service at Camp Chase near Columbus in Sept. 1861.

Battery A took part in many important campaigns. The unit fought at Shiloh in Mississippi (April 1862), Stone’s River in Tennessee (Dec. 1862), and Chickamauga in Georgia (Sept. 1863). During its nearly five years of service, Battery A served mostly under Gen. Don Carlos Buell in the Army of the Cumberland.

The battery also served under Ohio’s Gen. Wm. Tecumseh Sherman in the Atlanta campaign and Sherman’s “March to the Sea” (May-September 1864). During that campaign, the unit fought in Georgia at Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek, among other places, and took part in the siege of Atlanta. The Battery also advanced against Nashville, Tennessee, in late 1864.

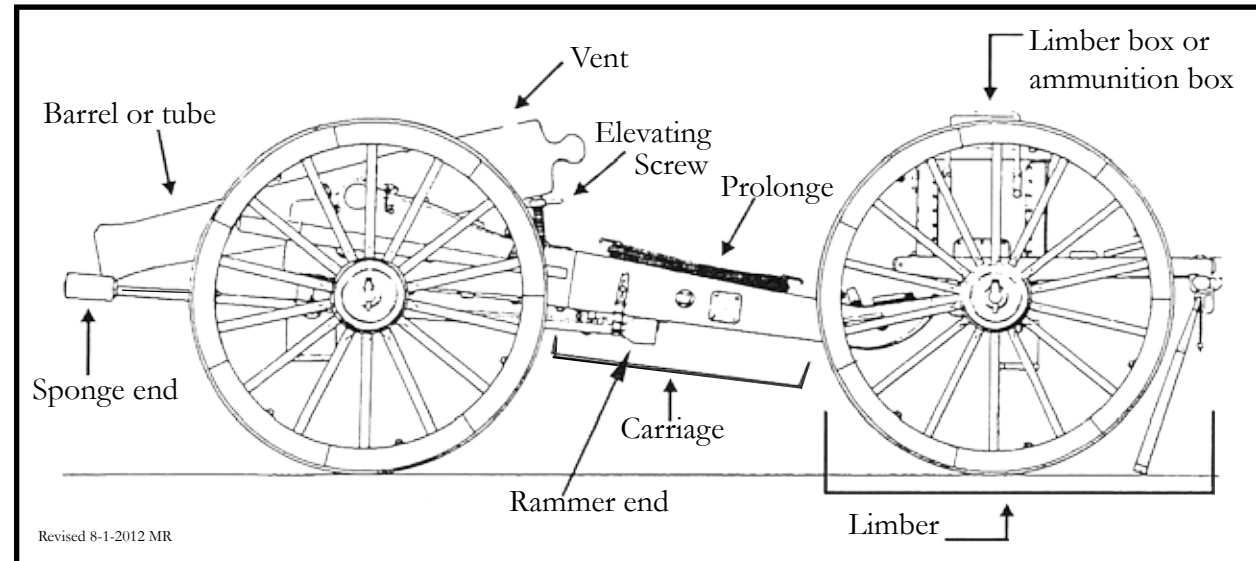
By the end of the war, the battery had lost 15 men killed in action and 33 to disease. The unit was mustered out of service in July 1865.

## THE OHIO STATEHOUSE CANNONS

The Ohio Statehouse has four cannons on display: two 6-pounders and two 12-pound Napoleons. These smooth-bore cannons were cast from bronze and, along with their carriages, weigh almost one ton each. Six horse teams were used to haul each cannon with its limber box (a container for ammunition and supplies). Smoothbore cannon could fire solid shot or explosive shells approximately one mile.

The cannons were cast at the Miles Greenwood Foundry in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1864. The guns stood guard over Cincinnati during the last year of the Civil War. The 12-pounder has been termed the “work-horse” of Civil War artillery. The 6-pounder was a Mexican War era design and was considered an obsolete design by 1863 and had been mostly replaced by 12-pounders throughout the Union Army by this time.

The guns have been on the Statehouse grounds for many years and were restored by Cannon Ltd., in Coolville, Ohio in 1995. The cannons have been operated by Battery A since that time.



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## Ohio in the Civil War

### Your Part in Living History

The past comes to life at Civil War re-enactments. You are invited to join in the excitement. Many upcoming events are listed on our Web site, [www.csrab.state.oh.us](http://www.csrab.state.oh.us) (Click on Battery A.) The group takes part in living history all over the country.

Your support is essential. Donations to the Battery may be tax deductible. As an educational 501c3 organization, the group can issue receipts for donations or sponsorships. Please mail your contribution with this form to:

1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215-4210

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EIN 26-3648665

**Make all checks payable to:  
1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A**

- I am interested in sponsoring Battery A.
- Contact me about becoming a re-enactor.

Ohio played a significant role in the Civil War. In fact, the Buckeye State's citizenry, industry, and agriculture made major contributions to the Union cause.

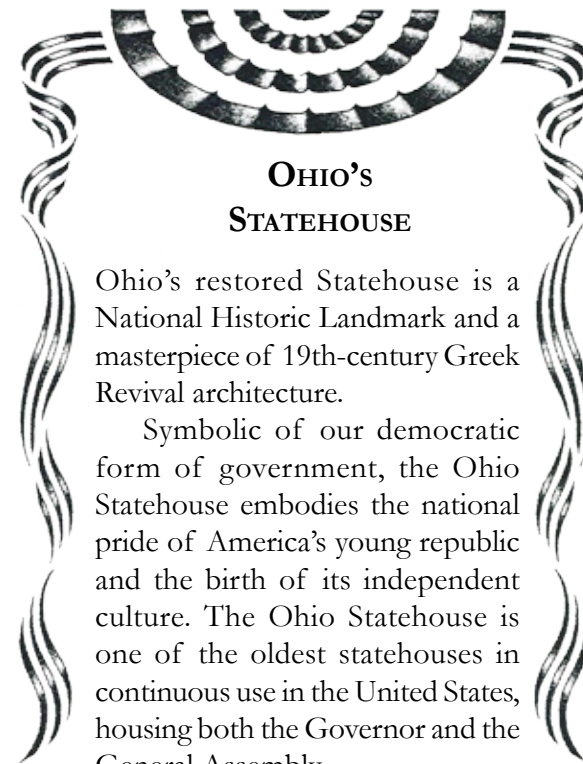
Buckeyes answered the call to arms in great numbers. Ohio was first among Northern states in the percentage of population it gave to the armies of the Union. Its nearly 350,000 troops in federal service was third behind New York and Pennsylvania in terms of raw numbers. About 5,000 Ohio soldiers were African Americans. Of all the Ohio troops, almost 35,000 died. Army generals Ulysses S. Grant, Philip Sheridan, and William Tecumseh Sherman are among Ohio's prominent Civil War soldiers.

Ohio was not totally unified, however: seven Confederate generals and an unknown number of Southern troops came from Ohio. Opponents of the war, called "copperheads," also were vocal in Ohio politics.

On the home front, many Ohioans served as civilian leaders for the war effort, including women in health care and men in politics and banking. Mary Bickerdyke contributed much as a nurse, Salmon Chase was Secretary of the Treasury, and banker Jay Cooke helped finance the Union.

Ohio contributed much of what the Union needed during the war. The state was a major producer of food and supplies, including corn, wheat, armaments, uniforms and equipment, farm machinery, coal, leather goods, and countless other things. The state's industrial production soared more than 120 percent during the 1860s, spurred by wartime demands.

Overall, Ohio proved indispensable to the Union. Its people, products and resources contributed significantly to Northern victory and the preservation of the federal union of states.



### OHIO'S STATEHOUSE

Ohio's restored Statehouse is a National Historic Landmark and a masterpiece of 19th-century Greek Revival architecture.

Symbolic of our democratic form of government, the Ohio Statehouse embodies the national pride of America's young republic and the birth of its independent culture. The Ohio Statehouse is one of the oldest statehouses in continuous use in the United States, housing both the Governor and the General Assembly.

Built between 1839 and 1861, the Ohio Statehouse is well known for its simple and elegant design. At the time of its completion, Ohio's Capitol was the most admired statehouse in the nation. Even Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America's most notable architects, praised the building. Now restored to its original elegance, the Ohio Statehouse continues to serve as a source of pride, an educational tool and the seat of State government well into the 21st century.

Free guided tours are available daily. Tours are offered Monday through Friday at 10 A.M., 11 A.M., 12 P.M., 1 P.M., 2 P.M. & 3 P.M., and Saturday and Sunday at 12 P.M., 1 P.M., 2 P.M. & 3 P.M.

Groups of 10 or more should schedule at least two weeks in advance by calling **1-888-OHIO-123.**

[www.ohiostatehouse.org](http://www.ohiostatehouse.org)



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