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# Ohio Statehouse 12<sup>th</sup> Civil War Encampment

April 24-25, 2009



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## Friday, April 24, 2009

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|---------------------|---|
| 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.    | Encampment open to the public   |
| 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.    | Cannon firing and demonstration on the hour   |
| 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. | Statehouse Museum Shop open inside Statehouse   |
| 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.   | Statehouse tours begin on the hour, inside the Statehouse Map Room on the ground floor. |
| 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.  | <b>Abraham Lincoln speech on Statehouse steps</b>                                       |
| 3 p.m.              | Encampment closed to visitors   |

## Saturday, April 25, 2009

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|------------------------|---|
| 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.       | Encampment open to the public   |
| 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.       | Cannon firing and demonstration on the hour   |
| 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Statehouse Museum Shop open inside Statehouse   |
| 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.      | Statehouse tours begin on the hour, inside the Statehouse Map Room on the ground floor. |
| 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.     | Medical and Surgery presentation on front lawn  |
| 3 p.m.                 | Encampment closed to visitors   |

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Click on Battery A at  
[www.csrab.state.oh.us](http://www.csrab.state.oh.us)  
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[www.ohiostatehouse.org](http://www.ohiostatehouse.org)

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# 1. The Artillery Camp

The Artillery was the branch of the United States Army which employed cannons. It was divided into foot, or heavy, artillery, and field, or light, artillery. Heavy artillery was used in sieges, along the seacoast, and for the protection of established fortifications.

Field artillery (using the types of guns which one can see on the Statehouse lawn) was used to attack and defend the works of temporary fortification; to destroy or demolish material obstacles and means of cover, and thus prepare the way for the success of other arms; to act upon the field of battle; to break an enemy's line or prevent him from forming; to crush his masses; to dismount his batteries; (A battery is a company of artillery consisting of four to six cannon and as many as 150 men and 110 horses) to follow and support in a pursuit, and to cover and protect retreat.

(Hunt, Barry, and French. Field Artillery Tactics. 1864, 2.)

Field artillery used 6, 12, 24, and 32 pound guns, referring to the weight of the projectile. The guns on the Statehouse lawn manned by 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Statehouse Light Artillery, Battery A are two 6 pounders and two 12 pound Napoleons.

## ★ What sound does a 6 pounder make?

# 2. Food of the Civil War

“An army moves on it's belly.”

In the Artillery Camp you will find soldiers preparing supper for Saturday evening for the troops. They are serving chicken stew, good fare if you're a soldier. At times soldiers ate very well. In his January 18, 1862 letter home artillerist A. S. Bloomfield wrote, “We are getting fat and lazy I weigh 145 pounds. This is more than I ever weighed before.” While in campaign in October of that year he wrote, “After hearing their [the new recruits] complaints one of the old boys stepped up to them and told them he knew what soldiering was when he marched thirty miles on half rations and then had nothing but fitch [bacon], coffee and cracker.” A ration was the daily amount of food issued to a soldier.

The primary diet of Civil War soldiers consisted of coffee, and hard bread (called hardtack) and salt pork or beef. Daily rations for a Union soldier were 20 oz. of beef, 18 oz. of flour, 2.56 oz. of dry beans, 1.6 oz. of green coffee, 2.4 oz. of sugar, .64 oz. of salt and smaller amounts of pepper, yeast, soap, candles and vinegar. While campaigning, soldiers seldom obtained their full ration and many had to forage for subsistence.

Foraging, or gathering food from the wild, from the countryside, and from farms, was discouraged early in the war, but by November 24, 1862, Bloomfield wrote, “We get all of our forage out of the country. . . . These things are paid for by the boys sometimes but very seldom. So you see there is no danger of our battery starving, yet it bears a pretty hard name so far as drawing [Bloomfield's term for foraging] is concerned. You may call it stealing but soldiers had found a new name for it and that is drawing.” Soldiers drew rations from the government and forage from the countryside. (The Bloomfield Letters. Unpublished. Archives of the Ohio Historical Society.)

## ★ Talk to the soldiers about what they eat.

Ask what is a mess.

### 3. Medical Practice & Hospitals

People always talk about the good old days before pesticides and pollution. But in the good old day of Europe and the United States, people lived in filth, with human and animal fecal matter all around. The rivers were filthy. Clothing was infested with vermin. Disease ran rampant.

(Stuller, Jay. "Cleanliness has only recently become a virtue,"  
Smithsonian, February 1991, 132-3.)

According to Stuller, cleanliness was actually more important to American health than pasteurization and vaccines, which really did not come along until after the nation's mortality rates had already started to fall due to a new appreciation for cleanliness. He goes on to point out that "nearly forty diseases are transmitted by feces and urine and other secretions on contaminated hands or other objects. The greatest cause of fatal infant diarrhea came from mothers who went to the toilet, didn't wash their hands and passed along intestinal bacterial to their babies." (Stuller, 133.)

It is not surprising then to hear that twice as many soldiers died from disease and infection than from enemy bullets. Diarrhea and dysentery alone took the lives of 44,558 Union soldiers. Living in close quarters, in unsanitary conditions and without access to clean water disease spread like wildfire through the camps. Pvt. A. B. Bloomfield of Battery A, 1st Ohio reports in his letters home to his family that once nearly everyone in the camp was ill. Colds were quite common, and Bloomfield reports cases of colic, diarrhea, and several fatal cases of typhoid fever.

The Medical Department section of The Revised Regulations for the Army of the United States 1861 dealt extensively on record keeping and paper work and in 76 articles only twice mentioned cleanliness. It was common for Civil War surgeons to move from one surgery to another without disinfecting their instruments or washing their hands.

In fact, one was probably safer in a Confederate hospital during the war since the Surgeon General of the Confederate States of America required surgeons to wash their hands between patients.

While unsanitary conditions were a source of disease for soldiers and civilians alike, reforms in personal and domestic hygiene beginning mid-nineteenth century brought about a more healthy nation. One agency of reform, the United State Sanitary Commission, was a Civil War era civilian organization formed in 1861 and forerunner of the Red Cross. It provided general assistance and relief to the soldiers of the US Army. One of its major functions was to ensure sanitary conditions and a healthy diet for the soldier in camp and in the field. They inspected camps, shared their results, set up healthy kitchens, and made suggestions to the officers. They also persuaded highly respected doctors to write pamphlets on sanitation and hygiene. These were widely circulated among both medical and line officers. Although often erroneous, these pamphlets presented the best thought of that pre-bacteriological era and did some good where surgeons could persuade their colonels to take the advice.

- ★ **Ask about "medicine" and other medical practices during the war.**
- Find out how serious wound infections were treated.**
- Find out what the Sanitary Commission did to help.**

## 4. Ladies Aid Society & Civilian Camp

On Monday morning April 22, 1861 (ten days after the start of the American Civil War), the women of Columbus met and organized a Ladies Soldiers Aid Society in the First Presbyterian Church. Their purpose was to solicit contributions of money, flannel, blankets, woolen socks, and other necessities for the men in the field.

More than 10,000, volunteer run, Soldiers Aid Societies sprang up in the North, and, in June 1861, the federal government established the United States Sanitary Commission (USSC) to coordinate their efforts. The Columbus Ladies Aid Society became a part of the United States Sanitary Commission during the summer of 1861. Men gained control of the Columbus organization because it was deemed that men had the needed political skills to deal with the government and the military. William M. Awl became the president of the local society. However, the women of the local societies thirty-six auxiliaries did most of the work.

On April 9, 1862, two days after the Battle of Shiloh, Mr. Francis C. Sessions, Columbus branch representative, left for the battle site with fifteen boxes of hospital supplies from the Ladies Aid Society of Columbus. A number of sick and wounded were brought back to Columbus, and, on April 22, 1862 the Ladies Aid Society established a Soldiers Home in a room in the railroad depot to accommodate incoming patients. Throughout the war, the Society held picnics, sanitary fairs or bazaars, and Tableaux Vivant shows to raise money.

- ★ **Find out how to roll a bandage.**
- Why did ladies collect lint?**
- In a hoopskirt, what are the hoops made out of?**

## 5. Children's Games and Crafts

Popular pastimes in the middle of the 19th Century included games such as tug-of-war, hoops and graces, marbles, croquet and baseball. Children of the time also enjoyed making things and learning to sew.

- ★ **What is Hoops and Graces?**

## 6. Happy 200th Birthday, Abraham Lincoln!

You only turn 200 once! So, on Friday, April 24, our 16th president will make a special appearance at his birthday celebration here at the Ohio Statehouse! Pete Raymond, from Wooster, Ohio, will be dressed and acting as Honest Abe, so make sure to stop by to hear his story and get a picture with him!

- ★ **Sign the birthday card on the Statehouse steps.**
- Listen to Lincon's speech at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. on Friday.**

## 7. Soldier's Life and Marching Drill

The Infantry [foot soldiers], comprising more than ninety percent of all enlisted men, was the main force of the United States Army. An Artillery Camp looks different in arrangement from an Infantry camp. One reason for the more open arrangement of tents in the Artillery camp is that artillerists needed space for the horses which pulled their guns. The horses were frequently tied in front the artillerists tents. Poke around and see how these men (and the horses in some cases) lived.

### **Rub a dub dub . . . .**

Today many of us take daily showers with soap and warm water for granted, but this was not always the case.

“In an age before indoor plumbing and hot-water heaters most . . . Americans managed to wash their face and hands once a day in cold water and without soap. Soap was often reserved for laundering clothes. . . . [By] the time of the Civil War performing one’s “toilet,” that is, washing one’s face and hands and brushing or combing one’s hair coupled with an occasional full-body bath at a washstand with or without soap had become generally accepted as a societal practice.” (Robert A. Bram, “Notes on Personal Hygiene of Civil War Soldiers,” 1.) However, soldiers in the field rarely had the opportunity even for these modest attempts at cleanliness. For the soldier in the field “dirt was an every day fact of life.” (Bram, 1.) In 1864, Union soldier, Sgt. Rice C. Bull wrote,

One of the hardest conditions we had to face in the service, when in the field, was the lack of an opportunity to keep clean. When near a small stream we could not bathe or wash in it as the troops along its banks were using the water for drinking and cooking. To wash our face and hands a comrade poured it for us from a canteen. When we could get it we carried a piece of soap but none was issued to us when in active field service. Usually in the field there was little chance to wash or clean our clothes. ( Soldering: The Civil War Diary of Rice C. Bull, 123<sup>rd</sup> New York Volunteers Infantry, 108.)

A Confederate soldier explained the situation in a like manner,

To do duty in the ranks, especially in the infantry, it was simply impossible for us to be all together free from dirt and vermin, . . . there were thousands who were without a change of garments, and remember that we constantly marched through dust and mud, or were transported in dirty [railroad] cars, and slept almost constantly on the ground, the utter futility of their undertaking to be free from dirt and vermin, in any effectual sense is but too obvious. (Confederate Echoes, 161-2.)

★ **Ask a soldier if he likes to march.**

**Ask to see a piece of hardtack. Bloomfield said that it whitened teeth as well as charcoal.**

## 8. Meet a Character from History

### Friday and Saturday:

#### **Meet Brigadier General Rosecrans and his family** (Tom Paul and family)

William Starke Rosecrans, a Union brigadier general during the American Civil War, was born September 6, 1819, in Delaware County, Ohio. Not only was he a military officer, but also an inventor, diplomat, politician, topographer and a coal-oil company executive. He is most known for his battles at Stones River, Iuka, Rich Mountain, the Western Theater and Chickamauga.

#### **Meet U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase** (Stan Kronenberg)

Salmon Portland Chase was born in New Hampshire and grew up in Worthington, Ohio. He served as an Ohio governor, senator from Ohio, and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under President Abraham Lincoln. He ended his career as the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

#### **Meet a regular soldier, Private Jeremiah Hamilton** (Neil Hamilton)

The infantry soldier will show all the items that were in his pack on his gum blanket.

### Friday only:

#### **Meet Governor Dennison** (Bob Davis)

Ohio Governor William Dennison Jr. was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on November 23, 1815. After receiving his education from Miami University, he was admitted into the Ohio bar and began his practice in Columbus. As a member of the newly formed Republican Party, Dennison then ran for Governor in 1859 and served until 1861.

#### **Music by Steve Ball**

Mr. Steve Ball will play music popular during the Civil War, using a period instrument, a 1860 Martin Guitar.

## 9. U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers

Imagine given the task of moving the population of a small city (40,000 people and possessions) a distance of 20 miles (1 day's march) without any maps. The task of the Corps of Topographical Engineers was to quickly produce accurate maps for the movement of entire armies. Between 1861 and 1865 over 150,000 maps of the interior of the United States were produced for military purposes.

While maps of states and counties were commercially available, the information contained thereon was limited to land ownership and roads. In many instances accuracy of the maps were of poor quality or conflicting information with adjacent maps. Topography such as elevations, road gradients, road surfaces, road widths, bridge conditions, forests, stream depths, etc. was extremely limited or simply did not exist.

The Topographical Engineers Campsite at the Statehouse represents a typical static camp of the Civil War (1861) through end of Indian Wars (1890) with original and reproduction surveying and mapping equipment.

# 10. The Enlistment Station

Within three months of the beginning of the Civil War, enlistment stations were established to recruit men for existing units in the field and for new units.

A recruiting party will consist generally of one lieutenant, one non-commissioned officer, two privates, and a drummer and fifer. The parties will be sent from the principal depots, and none but suitable men selected

They [recruiting officers] will not allow any man to be deceived or inveighed into the service by false representations, but will in person explain the nature of the service, the length of the term, the pay, clothing, rations, and other allowances to which a soldier is entitled by law, to every man before he signs the enlistment.

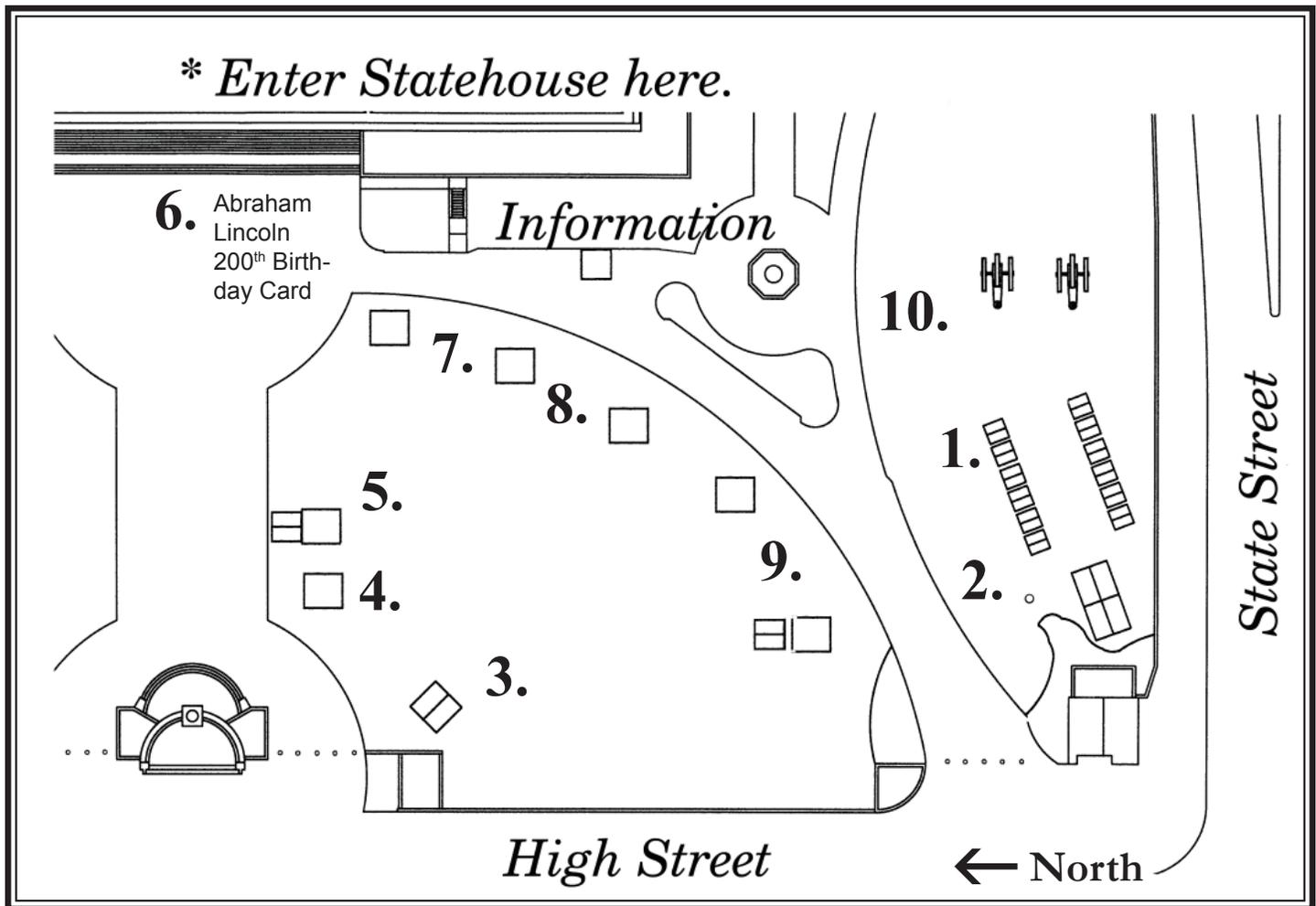
Any free white male person above the age of eighteen and under thirty-five years, being at least five feet three inches high, effective, able-bodied, sober, free from disease, of good character and habits, and with a competent knowledge of the English language, may be enlisted . . . .

If minors present themselves, they are to be treated with great candor; the names and residences of their parents or guardians, if they have any, must be ascertained, and these will be informed of the minor's wish to enlist, that they may make their objections or give their consent. Revised Regulations, 1861, Article XL, 913, 926, 927, 929 .

**As we lay there and the shells were flying over us . . . I thought what a foolish boy I was to run away and get into such a mess as I was in. I would have been glad to have seen my father coming after me.**

Elisha Stockwell, a foolish 15-year-old soldier in the Union Army, jotted these words in his diary. Historians estimate that 10 to 20 percent of all Civil War soldiers were boys, between the ages of 11 and 18. Anywhere from 250,000 to 420,000 boys may have fought in the Civil War. Elisha Stockwell, along with thousands of other boys on both sides, wanted to protect their homes or teach the other side a lesson. Some boys even thought they were fighting to protect their constitutional rights to freedom, democracy, and self government. But, most of these boys fought for the simple reason to be a part of a grand and glorious adventure and to escape from the boring routine of farm life. Instead, they found some of the most savage fighting ever encountered by American soldiers. Six hundred and twenty thousand men died during the conflict, more than the combined total of deaths in all the other American Wars before or since.

★ **Ask the recruiters how it is possible that so many boys enlisted. Also ask why soldiers stood in close lines firing at the enemy and did not take cover or attempt to run away.**



Using the map above and the text within, it is our hope that you will be able to navigate the encampment, read more about the Civil War, and engage these living historians with your questions and comments.

1. Artillery Camp
2. Food of the Civil War
3. Medical Hospital
4. Ladies Aid Society
5. Games and Crafts
6. Lincoln Birthday Card
7. Infantry Soldiers
8. Historical Characters 
9. U.S. Corps of Engineers
10. Recruiting Station

### Historical Characters

#### Friday only:

Music by Steve Ball  
 Meet Governor Dennison  
**Meet President Lincoln**

#### Friday and Saturday:

Meet General Rosecrans  
 Meet U.S. Secretary of the  
 Treasury Salmon Chase

*In case of rain, the Encampment will take place inside the Statehouse.*