



**Lithopolis Cemetery Association
Veteran's Walking Tour
2015**

A close-up, artistic rendering of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy, draped manner. The colors are vibrant, with deep blues, bright reds, and crisp whites.

2015 Veterans Recognized:

1. Layton Black, Jr.—*WWII*
2. Earl Walker—*WWII*
3. Thomas Davenport Muncie—*WWII*
4. Thaddeus Scheffler—*Civil War*
5. James Blackwell—*Vietnam*
6. Thane Hecox, Sr. & Jr.—*WWII*
7. Abraham Harris—*Revolutionary War*
8. Noah Foor—*Civil War*
9. Joseph Olds Gregg—*Civil War*
10. William Hite—*War of 1812*
11. William Kramer—*Battle of Little Big Horn*
12. Conrad Seamon—*Napoleonic & Civil Wars*
13. Ralph Hickle—*WWI*

Lithopolis

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

To Lancaster
LITHOPOLIS ROAD
To Lithopolis

FALER'S
FEED
STORE

CEDAR HILL ROAD

Smith
Mausoleum

THIRD ADDITION PART I
SECOND ADDITION PART I
ORIGINAL
FIRST ADDITION
VAULT ADDITION EAST

THIRD ADDITION PART II
OLD MAUSOLEUM
SECOND ADDITION PART II
SECOND ADDITION PART III
VAULT ADDITION WEST

MILLER PART I

MILLER PART II

CHapel
MAUSOLEUM

ETERNITY I
ETERNITY II
VETERANS

OFFICE

WAGNALLS ADDITION

WAGNALLS II

DEVOTION I
DEVOTION II

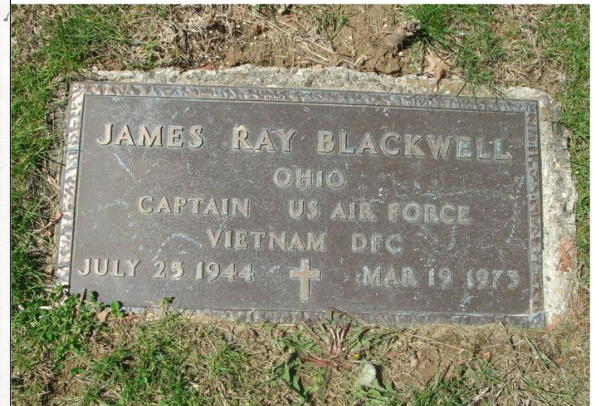


- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. Blackwell | 6. Gregg | 11. Muncie |
| 2. Hickie | 7. Hite | 12. Walker |
| 3. Hecox | 8. Seamon | 13. Black |
| 4. Harris | 9. Kramer | |
| 5. Foer | 10. Schefler | |

4365 Cedar Hill Road
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

(614) 837-4535
FAX (614) 837-1238

lithopoliscemetery@gmail.com
www.lithopoliscemetery.org



Capt. James R. Blackwell

1944-1973

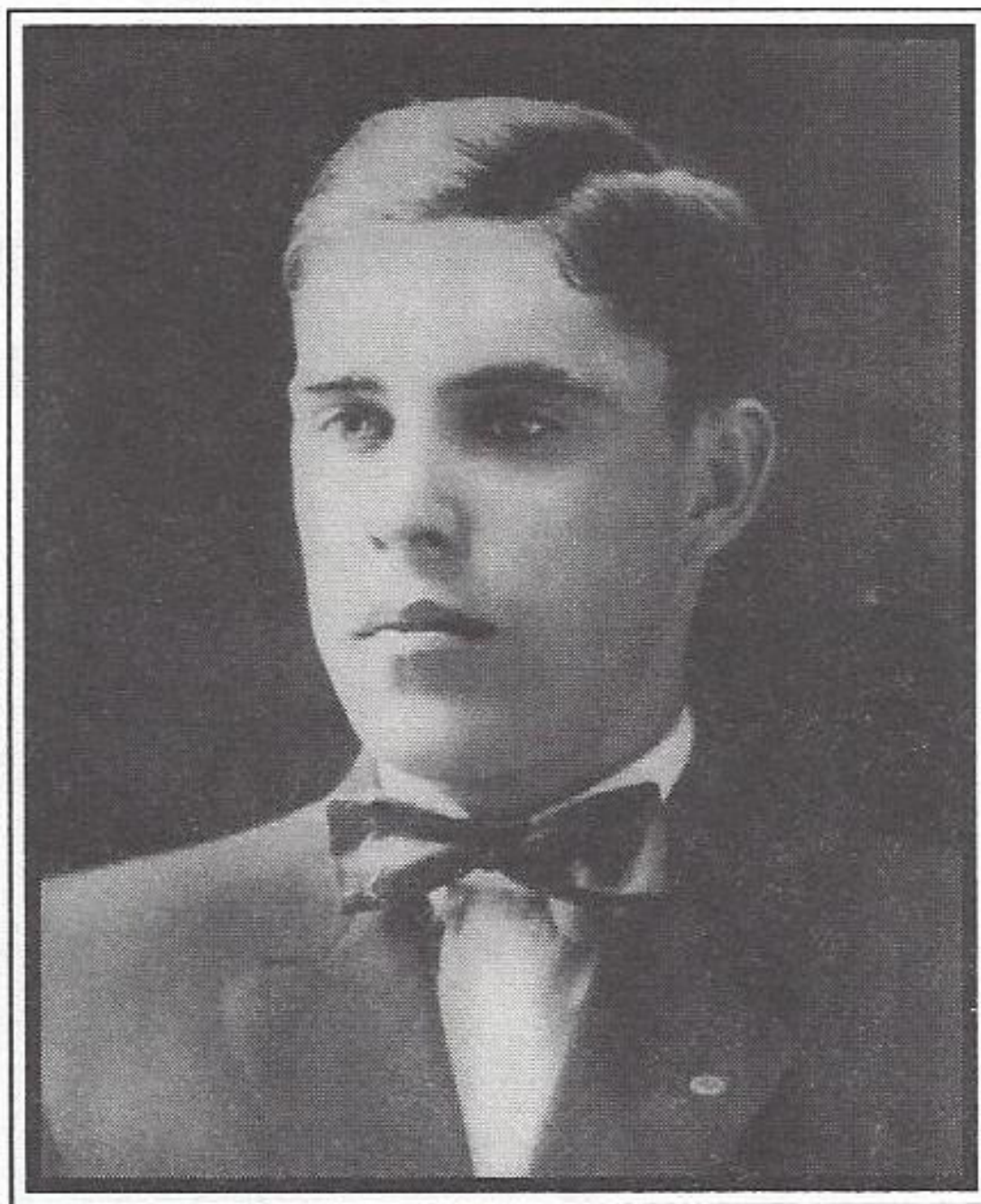
Vietnam, Distinguished Flying Cross, Killed in Service

Two Strategic Air Command jet tankers , KC-135 Stratotankers, used for air-borne refueling, were parked side-by-side and had taxied out together at Lockbourne Air Force Base during an alert exercise. The morning was quite foggy according to accounts. The second tanker's right wing sliced through the first tanker under Captain James. R. Blackwell's control. The tankers collided on the ground, burning, killing two crewmen instantly. The planes were traveling about 5 miles an hour, an Air Force spokesman said. The first tanker burst into flames, killing the navigator, Maj. William E. Thomas, 41, of Shuqualak, Miss., and the co-pilot. 1st Lt. Bari W. Stone. 25, of Buies Creek, N.C. After the impact, Captain Blackwell's tanker continued 200 yards before coming to a stop in a muddy, grassy section just off the concrete apron. The planes burned where they stopped. Flames engulfed the tanker from the cockpit to the mid-section and burned two large holes in the aircraft. The \$10 million tanker was considered a total loss.

Captain Blackwell was found lying on the tarmac. He had extensive burns over his body and passed 11 days after the collision. Blackwell, the son of Mrs. Doris Blackwell of Amanda, and wife of Anne V. Blackwell of Lithopolis, died in Brook Medical Hospital, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas. He also left behind a five month old daughter.

Witnesses to the event champion Captain Blackwell as a hero. Why you ask? Because Blackwell managed to divert his tanker from the fuel pits nearby, which if they had exploded, could have created a larger problem due to nuclear material also in the area. The entire base and beyond would have fallen victim.

Captain James Blackwell, with his thick, neatly trimmed mustache, silver bars on his Garrison cap and a quick salute saved Lockbourne AFB. He was a captain in the U.S. Air Force and a graduate of Capital University, Columbus. Prior to his death Captain Blackwell had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his missions over Laos, Vietnam doing reconnaissance in a QU-22 Bravo.



Ralph Hickle

1892 - 1918

Killed in Action, WWI



Ralph Hickle was one of eight children born to Lyman & Marcy Kemp Hickle. He had five sisters and two brothers. Ralph grew up in Marcy and Pickaway County.

Ralph was a farmer when he entered the Army. He was a member of the 319th Infanctry, Co. 1, A.E.F.

By telegram from the War Department, the family received notice on December 1st, 1918, that Ralph had been killed in action on November 1st in the Argonne in France. Meanwhile, reports drifted back to the family that Ralph might still be alive. This prompted his sister, Hazel, of Canal Winchester to write to the Grave Registration Service in Tours, France asking for more information. Hazel received notification from the U.S. Graves Registration Service that he indeed had been killed and was buried in the Commune of Sommerance, Department of Ariennes.

Ralph was killed in the trenches only one month after arriving in France. As the story goes, the men were told to use their gun, put it in their helmet and raise it up to see if there would be any shooting. Instead, he raised up with helmet on and was shot.

Ralph's remains were returned home, escorted by two U.S. Army Honor Guards who stayed at the Hickle house. During viewing, they stood at the head and foot of the casket until at such time the service were held at our cemetery.



Thane C. Hecox, Jr.

1921-1944

Killed in Action, WWII



We are visiting Thane Hecox, Sr.'s grave, but to pay tribute to the Senior Hecox, who was a WWI veteran himself, I think we must tell his son's story.

Thane C. Hecox, Jr. was the son of Thane Sr. & Helen Zurflich Hecox. He graduated from Groveport High School in 1939. Thane Sr. died in January of 1941. One week after the attack on Pearl Harbor in that same year, Thane Jr. applied for Cadet Training in the Air Force. He passed a test required in lieu of two years of college and was sworn in December 1941 and reported for duty in March of 1942.

Thane Jr. graduated, received his pilots wings and commissioned a 2nd Lt. at William Field in Chandler, Arizona in the fall of 1942. His new assignment took him to a newly formed 345th Bomb Group at Columbiana Air Base in South Carolina. He was a co-pilot on a B-25 medium bomber of the 500th Squadron.

In May 1943 he flew as a co-pilot from Columbus to Australia and onto Port Moresby, New Guinea. Several planes and a couple of crews were lost on the mission.

In the summer of 1943 he was promoted to 1st Lt. and 1st Pilot and assigned his own B-25. He is credited with sinking a Japanese Corvette in St. George's Channel near Rabaul, New Britain in October of 1943. He received the Air Medal with one or two oak leaf clusters.

Thane Jr. was on 44 bombing missions and was also credited with sinking at least two Japanese gunboats during raids over Rabaul and Vunapope Harbor.

Thane was reported killed on his 46th mission at Kavieng, New Ireland. His plane took a direct hit on a bombing run at about 100 feet. It was a fiery crash on the ground just beyond the target. Thane and his crew are buried in a common grave at Zachary Tyler National Cemetery near Louisville, Kentucky.

His mother, Helen, received a condolence letter from General Douglas A. MacArthur, the letter signed as an individual member of the armed forces.

An account of the 345th Bomb Group can be found at the Wagnalls Library titled "Warpath Across the Pacific" by Lawrence J. Hickey, with more information on Thane.

Thane Sr. 's cremated remain are buried under his military marker and Helen's lower down on the same grave.

Abraham Harris

1756-1819

Revolutionary War Soldier

in the Township of Upper Merion, located in the County
of Allegheny and has resided there ever since. My
Ance Joseph Thompson who was then a Captain in the
Continental, he was recruiting in Cumberland County Pa.
He also knew Capt. Jonathan Kinney of Belmont also Richard
Hacell a Major in the Regular Army. But this Petitioner
never struck in the regular Army. But his brother John then
thruin during the War. That he has no documentary
evidence. And that he knows of no persons whose testimony
he can procure to corroborate his services. Except perhaps
a Brother Nicholas Harris who is now a good deal of an
and resides in the City of Philadelphia
He hereby relinquish his every claim whatever to a pension
or bounty. Except this present, and declares that his name is
not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State,
Woman to and superseded, the day and year aforesaid.
Henry Harris
J. S. Judge Abraham Harris
Witness And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion that

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-
Land Warrant Application

Taken from “A Commemoration to a Revolutionary Soldier; Abraham Harris”:

Every man and boy able to carry a gun, fought in the Revolutionary War, for their future freedom and ours. One of these boy fighters was Abraham Harris, born in 1756; just 19 years old at the beginning of the War in 1775. To know the details of this lad’s personal experiences during this historical period, would certainly be a cherished and valued biography.

A suquent record of our young soldier points to a stone grave marker in the cemetery at Lithopolis, Ohio—inscribed “Abraham Harris, died 1819, age 63—wife Susannah, died 1845, age 84”. His meritorious contribution to the freedom we so enjoy today should appear as a light, ablaze with eternal values. Small enough appreciation for his valiant service, that an emblem and a flag of the Revolutionary War decorate his burial place, a silent reminder that the years cannot obliterate the Nation’s respect and undying gratitude to those Colonial soldiers who were determined that “whatsoever, whensoever, and howsoever we shall be called to make our exit, we will die free men”. Thus, these robust personalities launched a new freedom on the stream of time and pointed the direction of America’s destiny.

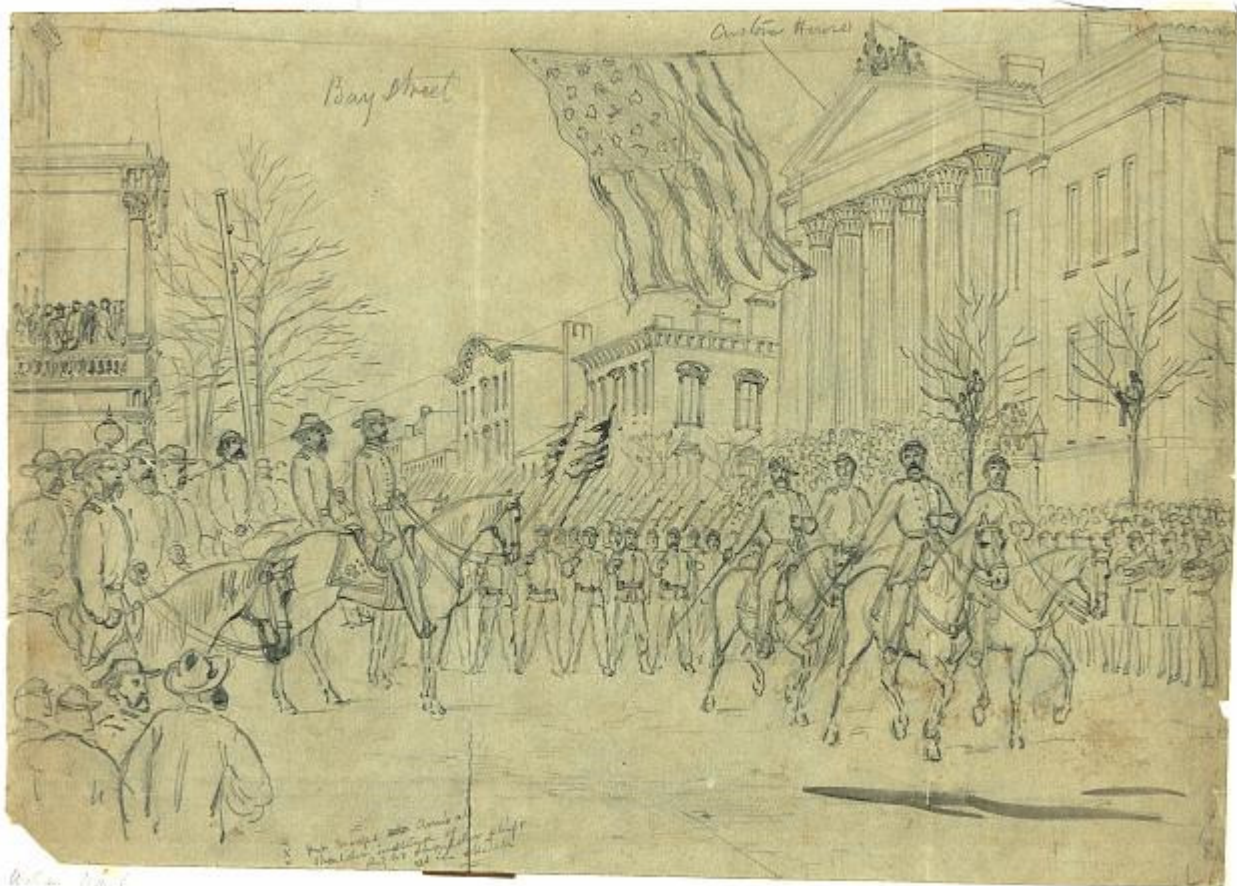
After the war, Congress set aside over 2.5 million acres of land located West and North of the Ohio River, known as U.S. Military Land Grants in Ohio Territory to compensate soldiers and citizens who favored the cause of the Colonists. Abraham Harris applied for a Land Warrant and was given 160 acres which was to be the home of the Harris family for the next four generations. It was virgin country with only a footpath running through the trees that had been made by Indians. The Harris’ lived in a covered wagon until their one-room cabin was built. It was about 20 feet square with a ladder up one side that lead to a sleeping loft.

In “The Village. Memories of Lithopolis.” by John Bartram Kramer, he remembers Abraham Harris as a stockman, who was quite successful with hogs and came to be known for such far and wide. While Abraham did not have much to do with the Village affairs, he did have a son that went to California for the gold rush and returned and purchased a farm near Middletown, or Oregon, just beyond Little Walnut Creek and he married Jane, the daughter of Doc Needels. The Harrises and the Needels were all strong supporters of the Methodist Church.

Noah Foor

1846-1865

Civil War Veteran



This is a sketch in the Library of Congress that shows General Sherman reviewing his army in Savannah before starting on his new campaign.

Noah L. Foor was born in raised in Bloom Township, Ohio. The records of the Glick/Salem (Union)/Brick Church show a Noa Fuhr as the son of Davvy & Ester Fuhr. Cemetery records show Noah as the son of George & Esther Cupp Foor, which we believe to be the same people. Hewas a Private in the 10th Ohio Calvary in the Civil War.

The 10th Ohio Calvary was organized in October, 1862, under Colonel Charles C. Smith, for three years service, since they were not fully equipped with arms and horses until they didn't go to the field until spring of 1863. At Murfeesboro the 10th participated in periodic expeditions, picket and scout duty with the Army of the Cumberland in Tennessee, and participated in the battle of Chickamauga in September. A detachment of the Regiment operated in East Tennessee and captured Governor Vance, of North Carolina, with 100 men. The Regiment lost its horses by starvation in the winter of 1863, and in the spring of 1864 was again re equipped for the field. They were actively engaged in all of Kilpatrick's movements during the Atlanta campaign, charging the Rebels at Resaca, with severe loss. In mid-November 1964 the Tenth Cavalry marched with General Sherman to the sea and was actively engaged with the enemy all the way, fighting gallantly near Macon and Griswoldville, and whipping General Joseph Wheeler's calvary at Waynesboro. The Union military occupied Savannah on December 21, 1864, with the 10th entering camp near the city. In January 1865, the 10th Ohio embarked upon General Sherman Carolinas Campaign. In South Carolina, the regiment, again, participated in several skirmishes with Confederate forces. They moved north through the Carolinas serving as garrison troops and continued in active service until the close of the war. The Regiment was mustered out July 24, 1865, at Lexington, North Carolina.

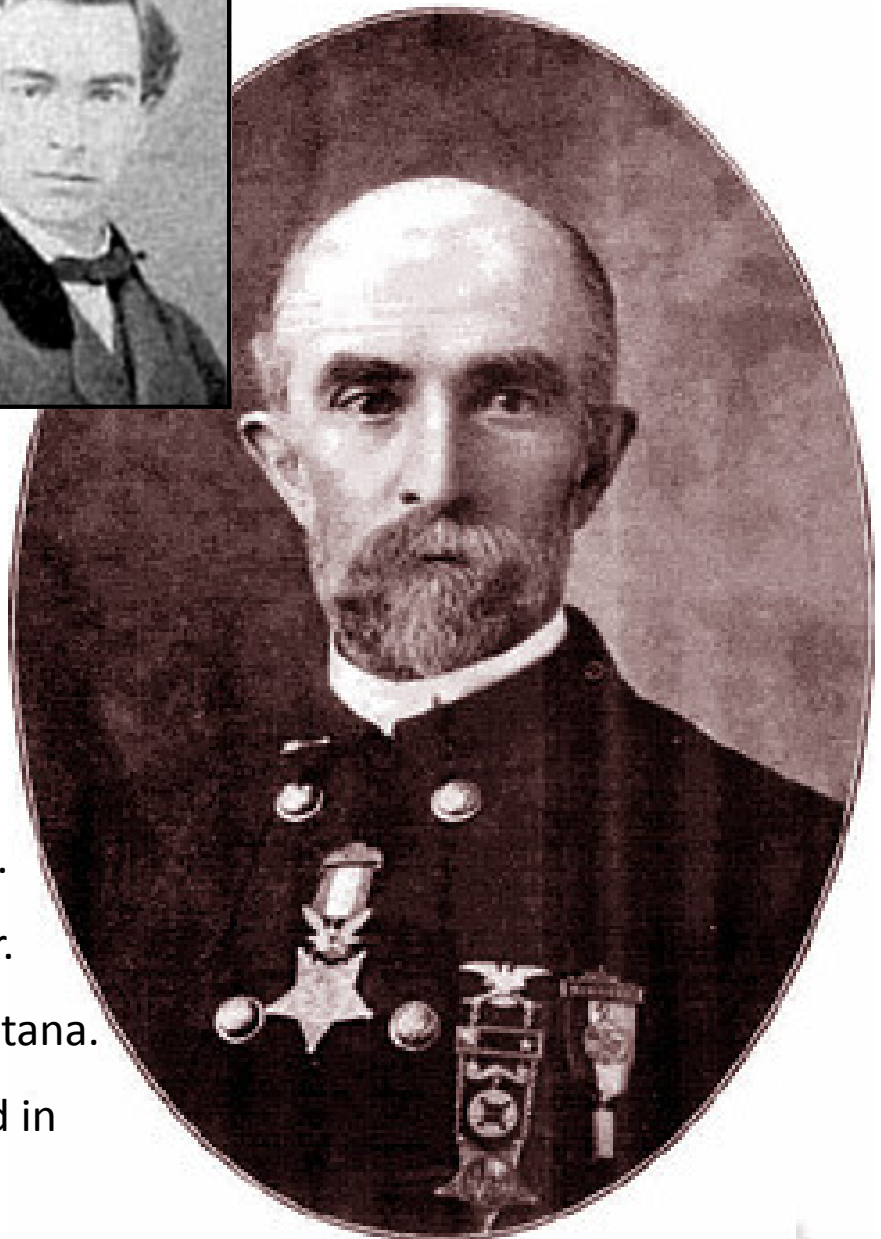
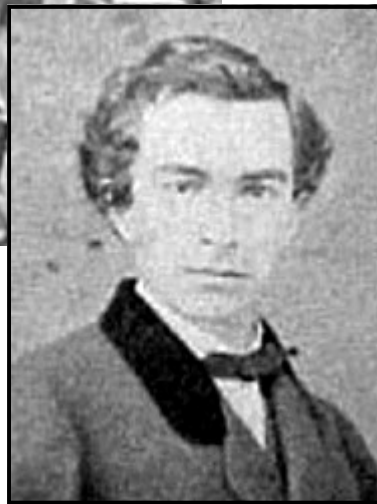
During the 10th Ohio's term of service, forty-two men, including three officers, died from wounds received on the battlefield. An additional 159 men, including one officer, died from disease or accidents. While Noah survived the war, he only lived 2 months after. No records indicate if he was ill or injured upon his return.



Joseph Olds Gregg

1841-1930

Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient



Born in Circleville, OH.

Served in the Civil War.

Moved to Great Falls, Montana.

Struck by a car and killed in

Columbus , Ohio

Joseph Olds Gregg was born on Jan. 5, 1841, in Circleville in central Ohio. As a 20-year-old clerk working in his father's dry goods store, Gregg enlisted in Company I, 28th Ohio Infantry Regiment on Dec. 13, 1861. Promoted to corporal, he received a disability discharge in July 1862. His health returned by May 1864, and he enlisted in Company F, 133rd Ohio Infantry Regiment.

One month later, while his regiment was engaged in combat near the Richmond & Petersburg Railway in Virginia, Gregg volunteered for a dangerous mission to return to a fortification that his outnumbered regiment had been forced to abandon. He was to warn three missing companies that the regiment was falling back.

Gregg crossed an open field under fire, found the enemy already in the breastworks, refused a demand to surrender and returned to his command under a concentrated fire, several bullets passing through his hat and clothing.

Joseph or J. O. Gregg came to Great Falls in 1888 from Fargo, Dakota Territory. For 16 years, Great Falls had a soldier of war and peace known as "Captain Gregg."

On his arrival, he invested in the development of North Great Falls Townsite, north of the Missouri River. Yet, most of his time and energy went into veterans' affairs. He served as commander of the Great Falls Sheridan Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (G. A. R.); department commander of the Montana G. A. R.; a national leader in the G. A. R.; vice commander of the national Congressional Medal of Honor Legion and member of the Army and Navy Legion.

In the early 1890s, Gregg promoted an idea that was later copied by many other cities in America. Thus, Great Falls has the distinction of having the first burial plot in the United States on which a monument was dedicated jointly to both Union and Confederate soldiers. The veterans' plot in Highland Cemetery with its Soldiers Monument is a national memorial.

In April 1899, a letter arrived in Great Falls from the secretary of war notifying Gregg that he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor "for most distinguished gallantry in action, while a member of Company F, 133d regiment, Ohio infantry ... June 16, 1864."

In the words of his regimental adjutant, "We saw (Private Gregg) mount the breastworks ... then run along the crest about 100 feet to the left and suddenly spring from the embankment over which a large number of men in gray could be seen leaping in an effort to head off his retreat, while many others were firing at close range at their active young foe, who, dodging with zig-zag rushes to avoid the blows aimed at his head ... successfully made his escape to our lines, all the while under a concentrated fire, several balls having passed through his cap and clothing, but without injury to his person ... We considered it a truly remarkable exhibition of daring. Alone, surrounded by hundreds of Pickett's best marksmen ... and ordered to surrender, Gregg's quick decision and prompt, bold action, together with his skill ... enabled him to escape with life and limb, when to us who were watching his struggle there did not seem to be a chance in his favor."

Gregg's colonel greeted him by saying, "That was bravely done; you must have been under special protection of Providence."

The old soldier and valued citizen left Great Falls early in 1904 to stump Ohio for President Teddy Roosevelt's presidential campaign. While in his home state, Gregg married a wealthy cousin of Sen. Mark Hanna and settled there.

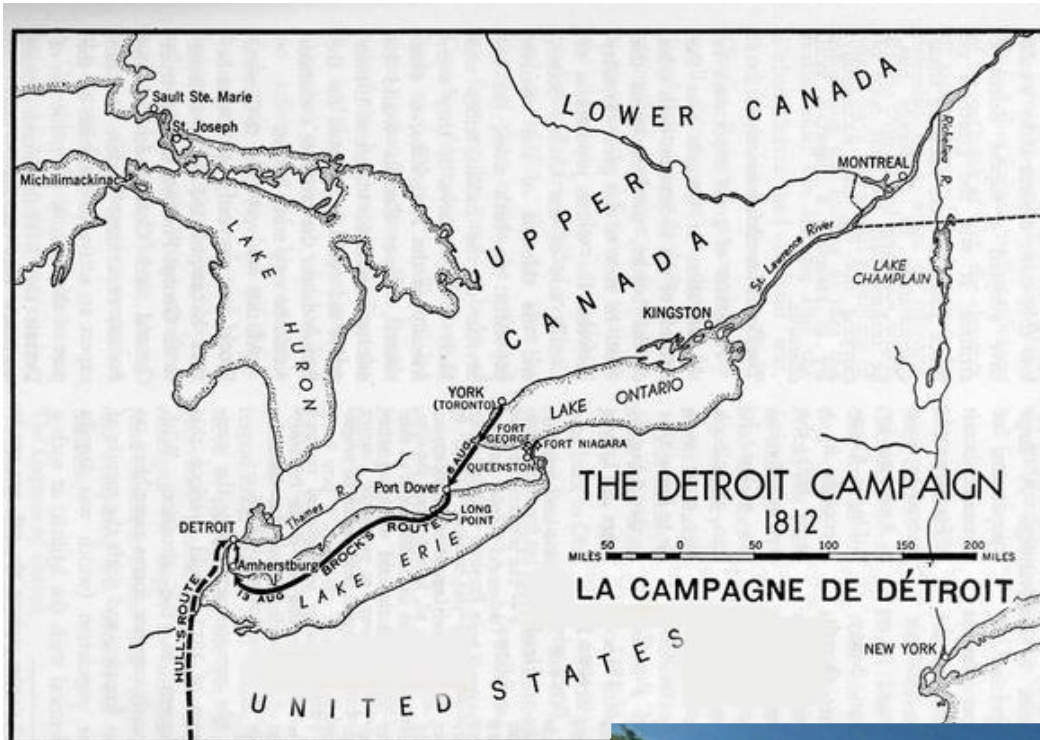
In March 1930, at age 90, Gregg was struck and killed instantly by an automobile in Columbus, Ohio. With the death of Gregg, Montana and Ohio lost a good man and a shared Medal of Honor winner.

Taken from: Great Falls Tribune. Written by Ken Robinson, a Great Falls historian and author.

Colonel William Hite

1782-1857

War of 1812



William Hite settled in Lithopolis and ran the local hostelry, or hotel. According to "The Village. Memories of Lithopolis" by John Bartram Kramer, he acquired his title in the War of 1812 in the campaign against Detroit.

During the War of 1812, American General William Hull surrenders Fort Detroit and his army to the British without a fight. Hull, a 59-year-old veteran of the American Revolution, had lost hope of defending the settlement after seeing the large English and Indian force gathering outside Detroit's walls. The general was also preoccupied with the presence of his daughter and grandchildren inside the fort.

Of Hull's 2,000-man army, most were militiamen, and British General Isaac Brock allowed them to return to their homes on the frontier. The regular U.S. Army troops were taken as prisoners to Canada. With the capture of Fort Detroit, Michigan Territory was declared a part of Great Britain and Shawnee chief Tecumseh was able to increase his raids against American positions in the frontier area. Hull's surrender was a severe blow to American morale. In September 1813, U.S. General William Henry Harrison, the future president, recaptured Detroit.

In 1814, William Hull was court-martialed for cowardice and neglect of duty in surrendering the fort, and sentenced to die. Because of his service in the revolution, however, President James Madison remitted the sentence.

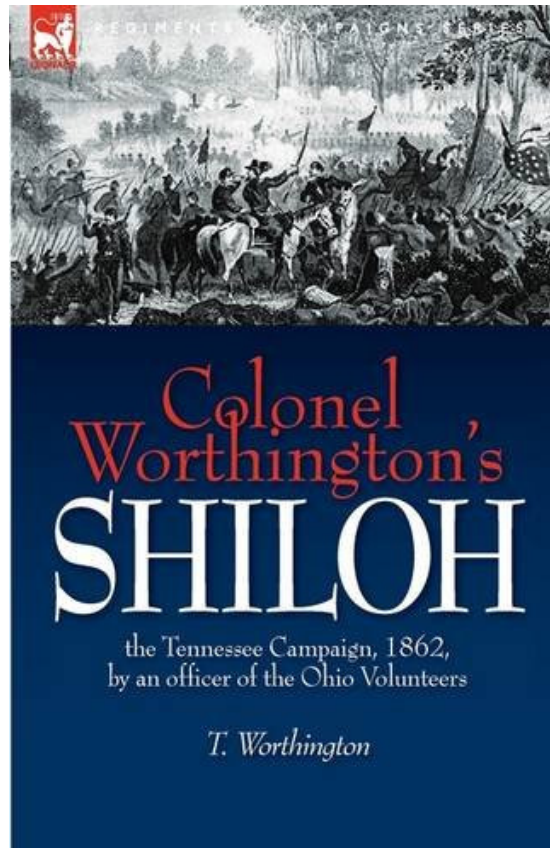
William Hite was full of war stories according to locals and he regaled locals and visitors to his hotel with them. President William Henry Harrison stayed at the hotel in 1840 and in 1856 Presidential Candidate James Buchanan slept there. Local legend also suggests that Abraham Lincoln stayed at the hotel, but there is no proof to substantiate this. The hotel Colonel Hite ran is believed to be the old Stagecoach stop at the Elkhorn on the corner of Delaware and Columbus Street in Lithopolis.

Conrad Seamon

1803-1889

Napoleonic & Civil War

DEAD				
NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Seamon, Conrad</i>				
SERVICE: <i>Late rank, Co D, 46 Reg't Ohio Inf.</i>				
TERM OF SERVICE: <i>Enlisted</i> , 1 <i>Discharged</i> , 1				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	LAW.	CERTIFICATE NO.
<i>1863 Dec. 10</i>	<i>Invalid,</i>	<i>37,208</i>		<i>95,525</i>
	<i>Widow,</i>	<i>393,752</i>		<i>267,473</i>
	<i>Minor,</i>			
ADDITIONAL SERVICES:				
REMARKS:				
<i>M.D.</i> <i>59</i> <i>Died</i> <i>Mar. 24, 1889, at Lathropolis Ohio</i>				



Born in Prussia in 1803, Conrad Seamon came to the United States prior to 1845 when his first child was born in Ohio. He married Wallberga Winerhalter and they had 12 children.

Conrad claimed to have been in both the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) and the US Civil War (1861-1865). While proof of his participation in the Napoleonic Wars can not be substantiated, He did muster in in Worthington, Ohio for the Ohio Infantry, Regiment 46, Company F on October 19, 1861 at age 58. The Regiment was organized in October, 1861, under Colonel Worthington, April of the following year found them on the bloody field of Shiloh, where they lost 285 killed and wounded. The Regiment also found themselves embattled in the Siege of Corinth, Mississippi toward the end of April 1862. Conrad was given a Surgeon's certificate of discharge in Columbus on August 21, 1862. Which could have been from either of these battles as his company didn't see battle again until the next summer.

In "THE VILLAGE. MEMORIES OF LITHOPOLIS", John Bartram Kramer, August 1936", the following is found about Conrad. "Next to the Dudgeon home was that of an old German gunsmith, who continued his business of gun making and gun repairing in the front of the building. His name was Conrad Seamon, but he spelled it Koonrod, and he claimed to have had a part in the wars against Napoleon. He had several sons and daughters. John and Conrad Jr. were the sons. The former made his home in Columbus, when grown, and the latter removed to Grass Valley in Nevada. I now recollect another son, Henry, more nearly my own age, who lost his life in a hotel fire in Cleveland, where he was a transient guest. The daughters were older and married William Oyler, the son of John Oyler, of the buggy manufacturing firm of Hunter, Oyler and Sheffler, and the grandson of Grandpa Jungkurth. These two lived in the Village many years, he operating a carriage factory and she a millinery store. Jefferson and Benjamin were the sons of this marriage. Then, when the children were grown, like so many others this family removed to Columbus.

"An incident in connection with the elder Seamon is fresh in my memory. The village council undertook to curtail what they considered to be the nuisance of the village children playing on the streets at night. An ordinance was passed making it a misdemeanor for a child to be on the streets without a parent after a curfew bell was rung at nine o'clock. Conrad Seamon was then the Village Marshal, and this ordinance surely cut out extra work for him. One man had little chance of controlling fifty or more boys who took great pleasure in circumventing him. When there was an uproar at one end of the Village, to that part Conrad hastened. At once the turmoil was at the other end. Hastening then to that part, he found everything peaceful. Becoming desperate, one night he fired a gun he had with him at the fleeing boys. The next day he was accused, rightly or jestingly, by the father of one of the boys of shooting the heel from his boy's shoe. 'No can be', the old German exclaimed. 'There was no bully in the gun'".



William Kramer

1846-1876

Died under command of
Gen. George Custer at Little Bighorn

7th Cavalry on the way to the Little
Big Horn. William Kramer was
Custer's trumpeteer. He is probably
somewhere in this picture.



William Kramer was the son of Michael & Ann Kramer buried at Lithopolis Cemetery in First Addition Lot 120.

Kramer enlisted into the US Army on October 7, 1875, at Cincinnati OH. He was described as 5-5, gray eyes, brown hair with a ruddy complexion. His civilian occupation was listed as painter.

William Kramer survived the Civil War. He re-enlisted in the regular army after discharge from the volunteers and was stationed at the U. S. Fort on Dry Tortugas Islands south of Florida when Dr. Mudd was incarcerated there for his share in the escape of Booth after his murder of President Lincoln.

His term of enlistment expired and he returned to Lithopolis. After a few years of civil life, he again enlisted, just in time to meet his fate with General Custer, in the so-called massacre, or battle of the Little Big Horn.

On October 21, 1875, he was assigned to Company C, 7th US Cavalry at Ft Lincoln, Dakota Territory. Company C was commanded by LTC George Custer's brother, Tom Custer. Kramer's daily duties were listed as bugler.

Kramer was killed at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. After the battle most of Company C was found in the area of Battle Ridge and Calhoun Ridge. Kramer's remains were never identified.

Soldiers killed at the battle were first buried where they had been found. In 1881, all battlefield burials were moved to a mass grave on top of Last Stand Hills.

He was survived by his wife, Elnora, & a son, Orren. They were awarded a pension on February 21, 1879.

William Kramer's remains were never recovered. Here you will find his parents' graves and a child who died in infancy named Willie Kramer, but not the William of this narrative. Many in Lithopolis thought this soldier to be at Lithopolis Cemetery, but in our research, we could not confirm this.



Thaddeus A. Schefler

1829-1882

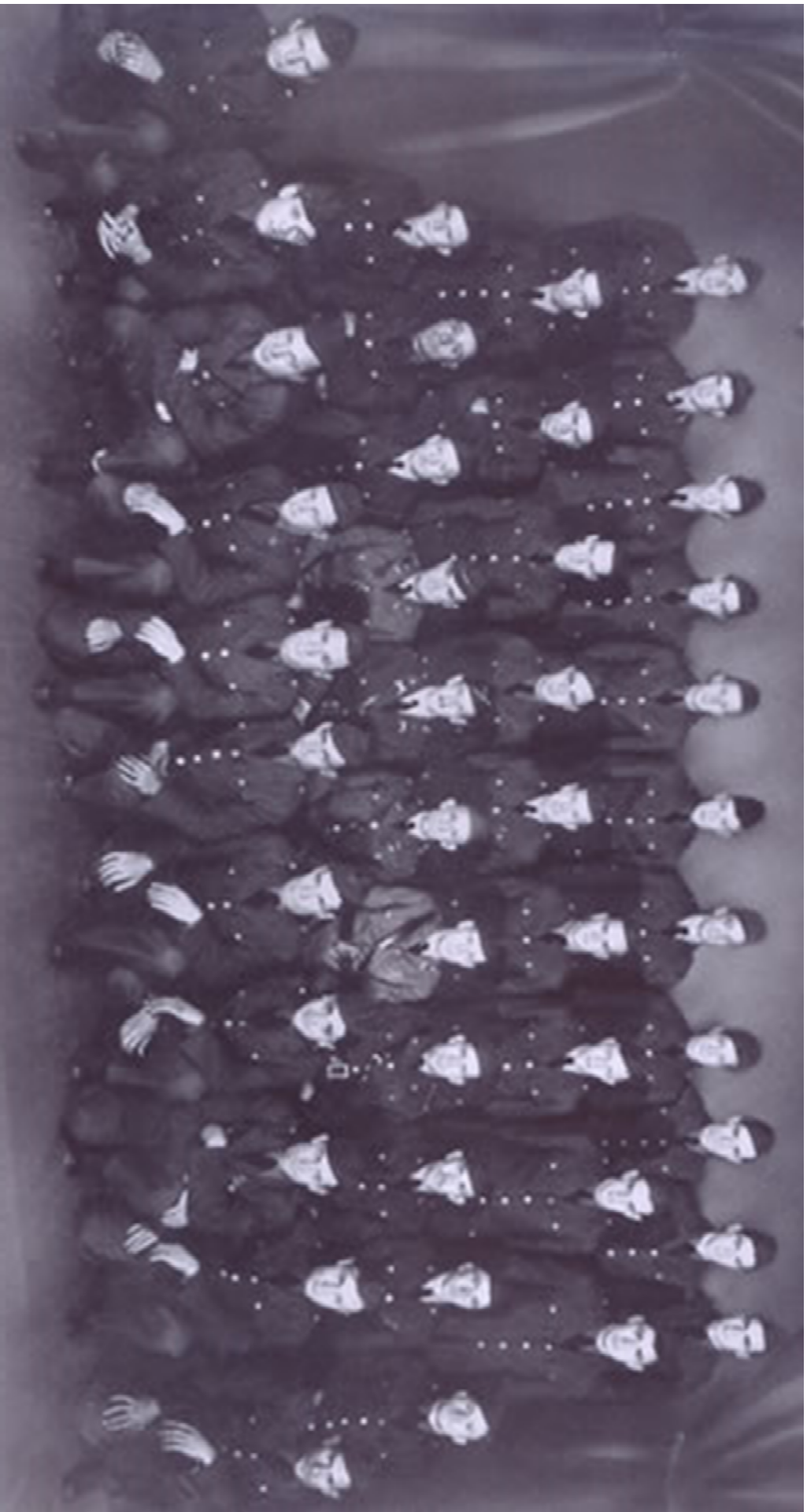
Civil War Soldier

Thaddeus Augustine Schefler enlisted in the Union Army on the 9th day of September 1864. According to his Civil War records, he enlisted for one year at Columbus, Ohio at the age of 36. Thaddeus mustered in at Camp Chase as a Private in Company B, 178th Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry. During his time in the Civil War, he marched all over Tennessee and North Carolina going through "the most God forsaken country I ever seen, nearly all leader trees and nothing but stone no soil on top of them ...we passed a small village on Sunday called Chappel Hill." Four months later on 23 Jan, 1865, Thaddeus was appointed to Full Corporal by order of Colonel Joab A. Stafford, the Commander of the 178th Regiment. On June 19, 1965 he mustered out in Columbus, Ohio.

According to the Examining Surgeon's Certificate dated 5 Apr 1871, Thaddeus was granted a temporary disability pension. The pension amounted to \$6 per month but he had to be reexamined regularly in order to keep the pension. In this document, Thaddeus was described as 5 ft. 8 in. tall and weighed 132 pounds. His complexion was listed as pale. His examinations for 1873, 1875, and 1877 listed similar remarks. The 1877 examination mentioned that "He had chronic diarrhea ever since his discharge from the service. Is weak and emaciated. Cannot do any hard work or indulge in active exercises."

The Record of Deaths in Fairfield County, Ohio indicates that Thaddeus died on 4 Mar 1882 at 53 years, 1 month and 13 days. The cause of death is listed as "Cancer of Stomache."

Thaddeus kept a remarkable diary accounting of his time in service and the years thereafter in the Lithopolis area where he was a carriage maker. Lithopolis Cemetery is lucky to have this in our records currently along with the original picture of he and his son Joseph Leonard Schefler. Scanned copies are available on our website www.lithopoliscemetery.org.



Company C, 192nd Tank Battalion ; Port Clinton, Ohio

First Row (front) Edward E. Grogg, Silas B. LeGrow*, John L. Short*, Virgil C. James*, Harold R. Beggs*, Wade Chio*, Chester S. DeCant, John J. Morine, John Mikko, Edsel E. Kirk, George H. Smith. **Second Row** Elmer N. Smith, George S. Carr, Andrew Milgala, Raymond H. Conley, Robert S. Sorensen, Joseph M. Braddock, Harold W. Collins, Arthur V. Burholt, Carl H. Meighan, Virgil M. Gordon, John R. Andrews.

Third Row Olen C. Elwell, Joseph J. Wierzechon, Henry M. Wierzba, Steve M. Eliyas, Joseph J. Hrupcho*, Joseph W. Beard, Alton M. Dodway, Kenneth E. Thompson*, Howard M. Wodrich. **Fourth Row (back)** Joseph Zam, John Kovach, John D. Minier*, Jacob A. Schmidt, Rollie C. Hanger, James W. O'Brien, Russell D. Simon, John G. Kolesar, Charles R. Boeshart*, Charles P. Chaffin*, John F. Reed.

** Survived the Bataan Death March and 3½ years as a Prisoner of War.*

Inducted into federal service on November 25, 1940, as Company C, 192nd Tank Battalion forty-two men from the Port Clinton area departed four days later for training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where more men were added to the unit. After training and maneuvers at Fort Knox and Fort Polk, Louisiana, the unit left San Francisco on October 24, 1941 for Fort Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands. Arriving November 20, 1941, Company C was just settling in when the Japanese bombed Clark Field on December 8.

The unit first saw ground combat December 22, 1941 as the enemy landed in force at Lingayen Gulf against outnumbered Filipino-American defenders. Company C supported the allied retreat into Bataan Peninsula while continually facing larger enemy forces and suffering the effects of tropical disease, lack of food, ammunition and communications. After moving into Bataan, the unit was cited for its participation during the coastal defense and front line direct support phases, the critical "Battle of the Points" and their decisive role in the "Battle of the Pockets."



After the April 9, 1942, U.S. surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on the main Philippine island of Luzon to the Japanese during World War II (1939-45), the approximately 75,000 Filipino and American troops on Bataan were forced to make an arduous 65-mile march to prison camps, taking about 5 days. The marchers made the trek in intense heat and were subjected to harsh treatment by Japanese guards. Thousands perished in what became known as the Bataan Death March.

32 of the 42 men who left Port Clinton in November 1940 were with the unit on the Bataan Peninsula. On April 9, 1942 they were captured. Only 10 of the 32 local men survived the Bataan Death March and three and a half years as prisoners of war.

Forced to march some 65 miles from Mariveles, on the southern end of the Bataan Peninsula, to San Fernando, the men were divided into groups of approximately 100. The exact figures are unknown, but it is believed that thousands of troops died because of the brutality of their captors, who starved and beat the marchers, and bayoneted those too weak to walk. Survivors were taken by rail from San Fernando to prisoner-of-war camps, where thousands more died from disease, mistreatment and starvation.

America avenged its defeat in the Philippines with the invasion of the island of Leyte in October 1944. General [Douglas MacArthur](#) (1880-1964), who in 1942 had famously promised to return to the Philippines, made good on his word. In February 1945, U.S.-Filipino forces recaptured the Bataan Peninsula, and Manila was liberated in early March.

After the war, an American military tribunal tried Lieutenant General Homma Masaharu, commander of the Japanese invasion forces in the Philippines. He was held responsible for the death march, a war crime, and was executed by firing squad on April 3, 1946.

Thomas Davenport may have been one of the ten POWs executed after another POW escaped from the POW sleeping area at the sawmill they were working at. The sawmill provided lumber to the bridge building detail. His army record indicates that he was "Killed in Action," which may indicate he was executed. Often, captors would punish an attempted escape by killing soldiers alphabetically next to the escapees. In Addition, the Japanese would often make the American doctors give a phony cause of death if a POW was executed.



Earl F. Walker

1914-1944

Killed in Action, WWII

Earl Walker was one of five sons of Mr. & Mrs. John Walker. He and brothers Woodrow and John served in the Army while brother Albert served in the US Navy. He attended Groveport High School and was employed by Jeffrey Manufacturing before entering the service.

Earl was married to Martha Margaret Boyer on June 25, 1941.

On October 27, 1942 he reported to the United States Army at Lancaster and then to Camp Atterbury in Indiana. He was a member of the Eleventh Core, 83rd, Thunderbolt 331st Infantry, Company D.

He left camp Camp Atterbury in September of 1943 for preparation for overseas duty in March of 1944. Earl went into battle at the Normandy Beachhead as a Machine Gunner in the 83rd Infantry Division in June 1944. He was declared Missing in Action on July 8, 1944, at St. Lo, France and the confirmation was sent to wife Martha on September 21, 1944.

Earl was reburied in Lithopolis Cemetery on July 22, 1948, after being returned from France with services held at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Earl Walker is one of three individuals whom the Lithopolis Legion Post is named after.



Layton Black, Jr.

1922-1993

Bronze Star Recipient

*Screaming Eagle paratrooper with the
101st Airborne Division in WWII.*



*Black receiving his Bronze Star in Auxerre, France from Major C. R.
Fitzgerald, Commander, First Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry,
101st Airborne Division.*

Layton Black, Jr., wrote a book called "The Last First Sergeant" which retells his time in World War II from the days before his paratrooper jump at Normandy on D-Day to the Allied Occupation after the war. This book can be found at the Wagnalls Memorial Library or excerpts are available to read online at www.lastfirstsergeant.net.

Taken from the Foreword of The Last First Sergeant:

Excerpt from Chapter 3: Normandy!:

We race down the runway. At the last second we are airborne. We climb and climb and climb. Then we bank into huge turns. At last we circle into "V" formations. We meet up with other C-47 planes, and then other planes meet up with us. The sky is full of planes. I look out the open door. We are still over England, and all I can say is, "What a sight! What a sight!" It has been said that we flew nine planes abreast and that we reached back for two hundred miles. We are told that four hundred ninety C-47 planes carried six thousand, six hundred paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division alone. Besides our division, the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division and the British 6th Airborne Division were in the air that night. The total number of paratroopers to come down from the sky over Normandy some five hours before the start of D-day will be eighteen thousand, three hundred. The ships under us in the English channel were five thousand strong. Then there were fighter and bomber planes above us. It was a sight that man will never see again. To live to tell about it is a marvelous thing. . .

Nothing was said or done by any of the men in the plane on that flight to Normandy. Once I sat back in my seat after looking out the door, I did not get up again. I did not sleep as some men did-or appeared to do. I did not talk to anyone, nor did anyone else talk. No one got sick, either. It was an uneventful flight. I remember saying a prayer to my God and asking Him to bless all of my people. I asked God to forgive me for what I was about to do to the Germans. And I was gracious enough to ask Him to have mercy on them, for I felt the average German did not know what he had done . . .

Behind the lines

.. . As for my rapid descent, it ended with a bang. For the first time in eleven jumps I landed right on my ass. I fell on my back and lay there as my green camouflage parachute settled around me. It did not cover me, so I was able to see all around. "Man, I sure hit the ground hard," I thought to myself. "That was a fast trip to the ground!"

My first moves were reflex actions based on many hours of hard training. Self-preservation is the key word in the first minutes of a combat jump. I reached down to my right jump boot for my dagger-like trench knife, just in case I would have to fight from here, on my back, even before I could get out of my harness. Then I got ready to use my weapon. Mine was around my neck and stashed under my reserve chute, across my chest . . .

My weapon was not going to be usable quickly enough to suit me. My next best tool was a hand grenade. I found one on me someplace and held onto it with one hand. I put my trench knife between my teeth, I guess to hold it so I could get to it if I needed it. I was still not out of my chute, nor was I ready to get up off my back.

I could hear small-arms fire coming from all directions. I thought I'd better see if anybody was nearby. Without standing up, I moved my head from side to side. Nothing came into view, but I could not see behind me because I didn't want to make undue movements that might give away my position until I was out of my harness and had my weapon to fight with. Seeing no one moving toward me, I laid my hand grenade on my chest and unsnapped my leg harness, then both chest snaps. All of these were difficult and seemed to take too much time. Free from my harness at last, I felt safe. Because of this feeling and because the opportunity presented itself, I took a foolish chance.

Call it young stupidity, youthful boldness or whatever. I decided I needed a personal souvenir from this jump. My paratrooper friend from back home, Junior Dreisbach, who was also making this same D-day jump but with the 507th Parachute Regiment, told me not to forget to bring back my rip cord from my reserve chute. It was a metal ring-like gadget with a cord tied to it. When pulled off the chute, it ripped the cord away, and the chute would spill open. Thus the name "rip cord" . . .