The Historical Society of Greenfield Ohio, formed in 1949, is non-profit and exists to further historical preservation and education in Greenfield, Ohio, and the surrounding area. To this end it will collect, preserve and interpret archival materials and artifacts indigenous to the Greenfield area; encourage historical research; sponsor programs, displays and special events; be concerned with the preservation of historical buildings and cooperate with other organizations interested.

This booklet and walking tour is one example of how we are supporting our mission. Visit our website to learn more about us and to find previous year’s “Cemetery Stroll” booklets.

On our website you can also find links to burials in the Greenfield Cemeteries:

GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.org/ghs-Cemeteries.html
Welcome

The Greenfield Cemetery is approximately 30 acres in size and was begun in 1868 when about 23 acres were purchased from John Anderson, Isaac Claypool and J. & R. Smith for $3,875. The cemetery was laid out in 1868 by Leopold Weltz, a landscape gardener and florist of Wilmington, Ohio. As it was then, it is still “a thing of beauty to behold”.

During this year’s “Cemetery Stroll”, we highlight many of the Civil War veterans buried in the Greenfield Cemetery as our nation recognizes the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

Information about our Civil War veterans can be rather challenging to obtain and in many instances difficult the read hand-written information. We sincerely hope that we have not missed or incorrectly reported any information about the individuals featured in this booklet. If you have more accurate or additional information about a family member who had been in the Civil War, please advise us so we can update our information.

We ask that you be respectful of the burials and the property in general at the Greenfield Cemetery. Our thanks to the Village of Greenfield and the maintenance team for their continued support and dedication to maintaining the Greenfield Cemetery.

The Women’s Relief Corp—W.R.C.

The W.R.C. is a national organization founded in 1883 at the request of the national G.A.R. Originally membership was limited to wives, daughters, mothers, sisters, nieces and grandmothers of Union Civil War veterans. Later, any woman who believed in the principles of the W.R.C. was invited to join. The purpose of the group was to aid the G.A.R. in their programs.

The first mention of the Greenfield W.R.C. is in the minutes of the Gibson Post on Jan. 13, 1896. The women hosted a dinner for the G.A.R. and under the leadership of WRC president, Mrs. Boggess, both groups discussed what each organization could do to help the other. In late 1896 a joint installation of officers for both groups was held.

The G.A.R. met on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and the W.R.C. met on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. Around 1900 the two groups began to hold their meetings in the GAR Hall upstairs in the Dunlap Block on the corner of S. Washington and Mirabeau Streets. Today the Paint Creek Vet Clinic occupies the lower portion of this building.

Over the years the following women served as officers for the WRC: Mrs. Nellie Boyd, Miss Mary Love, Mrs. Nancy Devoss, Miss Hortense Freshour, Miss Lou Jones, Mrs. Alice Hamilton, and Mrs. Minerva Orr.

In 1918 the WRC cooked in local church kitchens and served on the Public Square the Armistice Day dinner to celebrate the ending of the War to End All Wars (World War I).

The WRC is still in existence today. It was incorporated by Public Act of the 87th Congress in 1962. One of the largest and most active groups is located in northeast Ohio.

In the first 3 months of the war a star was added to the US Flag when Kansas joined the Union in 1861. It remained our flag for the next two years. President Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865) was the only President to serve under this flag as the Civil War raged. Each gravesite featured in this booklet is marked with a small 34-star flag.
O

Henry Garrett

1822 — 5/21/1890

At the age of 42, Henry Garrett of Twin Twp, Ross County went to Chillicothe to enlist in the Union Army for 3 years. President Lincoln had just signed the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1864 and Henry enlisted on Feb. 26, 1864. Lt. Charles Beery was the recruiting officer for the 27th U.S.C.T.

Henry was born in Bracken County, Virginia and was listed as “laborer”. He marked his recruitment certificate with an “X” as he was unable to write. Rarely were early U.S.C.T. troops placed in combat positions; most units were in support services. Henry served as a cook and mustered out on Sept. 21, 1865, in Smithville, N.C.

The 1880 Census shows Henry living in South Salem with his wife, Elizabeth Watkins Garrett, and their two young children, daughter Dora aged 4 and son Charles aged 1. That same year, Henry applied for a pension. He died in 1890 and on June 6th his wife applied for a widow’s pension.

This Garrett family plot contains two stones. The tall obelisk is for Henry and his wife and some of their children. The small rounded headstone is for Henry and carries the inscription “U.S.C.T.” to show Henry’s Civil War military record. That simple inscription was the only thing that alerted GHS to the burial here of this African American Civil War veteran. We thank Hardy Memorials for their work in repair and cleaning of this stone.

Christopher Nelson in his definitive biography The C.R. Patterson and Sons Company remarks that the Pattersons and other African Americans are buried in the middle of the new cemetery in a prominent location. The Bird family, Henry Garrett and family, Harriet Outz West, 2nd wife of Augustus West (see historical maker at the memorial Chapel) are all buried in the Patterson sphere. It is thought that others are buried in this area but their headstones have been lost and that accounts for the open space.


Grand Army of the Republic

The G.A.R. was a national fraternal organization begun soon after the end of the Civil War. Membership was open to all Union veterans. The primary purpose of the G.A.R. was to honor the memory of those who sacrificed so much in The War of Rebellion. Founded in 1866, the organization lasted until it disbanded in 1956 upon the death of its last member.

There is little known about the first G.A.R. post, #278, that was started in Greenfield in 1868. Only after it reorganized into the James Gibson Post #180 in 1881 do we have records. The Gibson Post lasted until 1938 when Luther DePoy, its last surviving member, died.

The Greenfield Historical Society has the minutes of Post #180 meetings from 1881 until 1906. Most of what we know about the Civil War and the soldiers of Greenfield has come down to us through these minutes and diaries that soldiers kept. There were 24 charter members. The minutes often record that time after the meeting was spent remembering the war and the recounting of experiences. However, the minutes do not record the details of what was discussed.

Nationally, the G.A.R. was a strong political force thru the 1890’s. It championed the voting rights of black veterans and lobbied Congress to establish veteran pensions. U.S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes and James Garfield were all Union veterans supported in their political careers by the G.A.R. At the state level, the organization helped establish homes for orphans of veterans and for the disabled veteran. In Greenfield, the Post helped veterans in need of money, paid for nursing care and took care of widows and orphans. They conducted services at funerals and spearheaded the celebration of Decoration Day, now called Memorial Day.

As veterans aged a national organization called the Sons of Veterans was formed to aid the G.A.R. members. Membership was open to sons, grandson, or nephews. Greenfield had a strong S.O.V group.
Decoration Day in Greenfield, 1882

What we now celebrate as Memorial Day began as "Decoration Day" in the immediate aftermath of the American Civil War. It was a tradition initiated by General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans. Logan was an American soldier and political leader. He was a general in the Union Army in the American Civil War. He also served the state of Illinois as a state senator, congressman and senator and was an unsuccessful candidate for Vice President in the election of 1884. As the 3rd Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, he is regarded as the most important figure in the movement to recognize Memorial Day as an official holiday.

On May 30th, 1882, under the direction of Gibson Post, No. 180, G.A.R., a Memorial Service was held in Greenfield. After a moving oration and the band's playing of "Hail Columbia", a list of over 40 people who helped with the decorations was then read. "The line of march was taken up—South on Washington to Church Street, East to the First Street Cemetery, where the graves of the fallen heroes therein interred were strewn with Nature's most beautiful gifts". The names of veterans of the War of 1812 and the Civil War were read. "While the graves were being decorated the band played appropriate music near the centre of the grounds."

Afterwards, the line was re-formed, marching North on First to Main Street, then West to Washington Street then North to New Cemetery where a similar ceremony was performed to honor those veterans buried "in this beautiful place".

At the close of this ceremony the crowd assembled at the monument erected to the memory of Wm. M. Adams [left—Sec. 2/Lot 75], to listen to an address from Adj't H.N. DePoy, in memory of those who "slumber in unknown graves".

Section 2, Lot 123

John W. Bird

5/14/1842—8/5/1916

John W. Bird was born in Ross County, Ohio, to parents who were born in Virginia. The 1860 census lists the family of Thomas Jefferson Bird and wife Eliza and son John W. in Buckskin Twp. Father and son gave their occupations as farm laborers.

After being influenced by the speakers at his church, John enlisted in the 127th Reg. O.C. Infantry at Greenfield on June 24, 1863. His father was irate as he had brought his family out of the slave state of Virginia and did not want his son to return to the South.

This unit would later become part of the 5th Regiment, U.S.C.T. His enlistment record showed he was 20 years old, with black eyes, brown hair and was classified as a mulatto. He was then sent to Camp Delaware, one of the training centers for the U.S.C.T., in Delaware, Ohio. His unit became part of the 18th Army Corp and the Army of the James. He was involved in battles in Virginia and North Carolina.

John was wounded twice and suffered from gangrene in his hand. From September 1864—April 1865 he was hospitalized at Fort Monroe. After his recovery he was on detached duty at the Batchellors Cell near New Bern, N.C. On Sept. 20, 1865, he was mustered out at Carolina City, N.C. It was not recorded what his job was in Co. E. Several pay records have the cryptic comment “Free 19 April 1861” in the remarks section.

After the War he resided in the South Salem area with relatives and worked as a laborer. In 1876 he married Mary H. Low. The 1910 census reveals they had 10 children, 7 who were living at the time of the census. Two of their children, Fannie E. 1888-1896 and John H. 1892, were buried in the Old Burying Ground, originally known as the First St. Cemetery.

On Nov. 7, 1887, John filed for an invalid pension. Upon his death in 1916 Mary filed for a widow’s benefit.

This information was provided by Constance Ford, great-granddaughter of John W. Bird.

Co. E, 5th Regiment U.S.Col’d Infantry

(originally the 127th Regiment O.C. Infantry)
William H. Sellers

3/25/1841—12/22/1927

The Historical Society has an 1895 newspaper clipping of a birthday party for William. Attending were several veterans he had served with and they began reminiscing about their War experiences. Joining him were Sam Plyley and Joseph Irons. This is one of the few first-hand accounts we have of battles and what it was actually like.

The 11th Ohio Cavalry served in the West, based in Ft. Laramie, Colorado. Their job was to control marauding Indians and to assure the settlers in the West that the federal government had not forgotten them. [Sometimes we forget that other things were happening besides the Civil War from 1860-1865.]

In Feb. 1863, a blizzard stranded the unit away from Ft. Laramie. Under the command of Col. William Collins of Hillsboro, the unit struggled back to the fort. Several men froze upright in their saddles. Many lost toes or feet from frostbite. Almost the entire unit was discharged because of physical disabilities. According to the newspaper reporter, William survived “but the effects of his service grow worse every year.”

The monument was made by the Hughes Granite Co. of Clyde Ohio. They also made Civil War monuments at Shiloh, Vicksburg, the Andersonville Prison grounds, and Antietam. The bronze face medallion embedded in the shaft of the monument is that of James H. Freshour. In his will James named a committee of E.H. Miller, J.N. Beatty, J.T Collier, Wm. Martin, T.R. Willis and C.F. Wilson to oversee the creation of the monument.
Henry DePoy enlisted as soon as President Lincoln made the first call for volunteers in 1861. In April 1862 he was wounded at the battle of Shiloh, receiving burns on his face and around his eyes. This injury would affect him the rest of his life. There was a long recovery and it wasn’t until early 1864 that he was mustered out on a surgeon’s certificate of disability.

In 1864 as the War was slowly grinding to an end, his military experience was needed and he became part of a National Guard Unit that was called up to patrol in Kentucky and to protect the rail line from sabotage by the Confederate sympathizers. He was promoted to captain in Co. H of the newly reorganized 168th Regiment. He took along his 15 year old brother Luther, after swearing Luther was 18. If you are captain of the regiment and your younger brother wants to go, you can allow him to enlist in the regiment.

After the war, Henry married Margaret Caldwell and they had 4 sons. In the later years he was a hardware merchant in a store with his father-in-law. He was a charter member of the G.A.R. Gibson Post #180 and served as Post Adjutant (secretary) for many years.

Henry DePoy kept a diary of his Civil War experiences from 1861-1862. The Greenfield Historical Society has the original and it has been transcribed for easier reading and handling. One lengthy entry describes “a bounteous feast” enjoyed by his unit. He goes to great lengths to list and then describe the dishes served and how grateful everyone is. He remarks how this is NOT how the troops normally eat.

Capt. Henry Newton DePoy
10/18/1837—10/9/1892

Capt. James C. Gibson
1822—5/2/1865

The Gibson Post #180 of the G.A. R. was named in honor of James C. Gibson. Naming the post was the first order of business at the first G.A.R. meeting held on Dec. 19, 1881. The minutes record it was named Gibson Post #180 “in honor of our much esteemed and gallant comrade Capt. James Gibson, deceased.” Local legend says he was chosen as he was the last Greenfield soldier to die in the War. However, GHS is not able to verify this.

James was originally from Greene County Ohio. He practiced law upon settling in Greenfield. At the time of his enlistment he was married. He and his wife Anna had 2 young boys, George and Horace, and a toddler daughter. In his first year of service his young daughter died. Capt. Gibson died May 1865. His wife Anna filed for a widow’s pension in Aug. 1865. She listed his death as sunstroke.

Their son, George H. helped the Gibson Post in the planning and implementation of the first Decoration Day in 1882. Their other son Horace moved to Mexico to work as a R.R. agent. George died in 1883 and Ann died in 1907. She lived her remaining years in Greenfield.

The Gibsons were members of the Presbyterian Church.
Joseph enlisted on July 9, 1861, and fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. He was at Bull Run, Antietam, Chickamauga, the Siege of Atlanta and participated Sherman’s March to the Sea. He was captured near Carthage, Tennessee but was paroled (exchanged) quickly and escaped the horror of Southern prison camps.

He marched in the Grand Review of Troops in Washington D.C. and was discharged in Louisville, Kentucky on July 20, 1865.

After the War, Joseph resumed working in the family house painting business, eventually taking it over. In 1867 he married Emealla Maddos and they had 5 children. He was a city councilman for 8 years and served on the waterworks and electric lighting boards. When the new City Building was constructed his company received the bid for painting and glazing.

Joseph was also a dedicated member of Gibson Post #180, G.A.R.

William, born in Ross County, Ohio, came from an old, established family: think Pricer’s Ridge. He was farming with his father when the War broke out. He enlisted in the 27th Regiment in August 1861.

William was injured in the battle at Corinth, Mississippi. He was hospitalized for two weeks and then sent home for a 30 day recovery period. But after 18 days at home he felt well enough to return to his unit.

He was with General Sherman on his March to the Sea campaign and at the end of the War William and his unit marched in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the War’s end. He mustered out of the service as a corporal.

After returning to Ross County, William married Sarah McCann in 1868. They had 7 children. In 1872, he applied for a veteran’s pension. After farming in Ross and Fayette counties, William moved to Greenfield in 1887 and became the overseer of the Greenfield Cemetery. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the G.A.R.
Capt. James Collier Crawford
1829—2/20/1893

James Crawford, a descendant of Noble Crawford, kept a diary of his war experiences from 1863-1864. His first campaign was with the Army of the Mississippi and later with Sherman and his March to the Sea.

He records in his diary the death of a young relative, Mitchel Collier, in camp at Corinth, Mississippi. Mitchel was seriously ill with measles and his father had been informed. But before William could get there, Mitchel died. James sat with Mitchel to the end and supervised his funeral. William then sent James Murray of Murray Funeral Home (the modern name) to Corinth to bring Mitchel back to be re-interned at home.

Capt. Crawford survived the war to marry Mary Lavinia Scroggs on May 23, 1867, in Jefferson County, Missouri. In 1884 he filed for a pension.

Tragically, on Feb. 20, 1893, James and his son William were killed when their vehicle was struck by a D.T. & I. train on the tracks near Fruitdale.

Co. C, 81st Regiment, O.V.I.
Section 1, Lot 31

Luther Dickey, Stewart Baxter & James DePoy
7/7/1848—5/13/1938

After the War ended, Luther kept his ties with the National Guard. He never married and lived with his two sisters Irene and Alice at 547 Mirabeau St. Their house is still in use today. He worked for the D.T. & I. Railroad as a bridge foreman. He was the last surviving member of the Gibson Post #180. Upon Luther’s death in 1938 the post disbanded. Greenfield Historical Society has the minutes of the post from 1881-1906. If anyone knows of memorabilia from the post that GHS could take photos of or copy we would appreciate you contacting us.

Stewart DePoy served the last year of the War in the reorganized 73rd O.V.I. It was not uncommon for various companies to regroup and combine as fatalities thinned their ranks. Stewart was part of Ohioan Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman’s Siege of Atlanta and the infamous March to the Sea, where Sherman cut a 60 mile wide swath of destruction through the South to Savannah, earning the lifelong hatred of the civilian population of the Confederacy. Stewart mustered out in July 1865 and in 1868 he married Carrie Ashford McArthur. They had two children: Minnie and Frank. Frank played the clarinet and was a member of Price’s Band, worked as a harness maker and then for the railroad. In 1900 the Greenfield City Directory listed his residence as 204 Lafayette St.

After the War James left Ohio and emigrated to California. Recently his great-great grandson moved to Greenfield and became involved in the Greenfield Historical Society and cemetery restoration. James A. DePoy was the oldest of the four brothers, that he served in the 73rd from the very beginning to the very end of the war, was wounded at Gettysburg but did not leave the unit, and was with Sherman on the March to the Sea.

Co. H., 168th Regiment, O.N.G.—73rd O.V.I.
Section 3A, Lot 59
Frank Dwyer was a farmer who enlisted in the 81st on Aug. 30, 1861, and mustered out a corporal on Sept. 26, 1864. He served with Henry DePoy. In his diary, Henry told of a practical joke the camp played on Frank. Frank was called out in the middle of the night under the impression he was in trouble. As he hurried across the dark campground he stumbled into the camp slop pit, or garbage dump, which was 3 feet deep and ¾ full. All had a good laugh, recounts Henry, including Frank.

Soldiers’ diaries often shunned descriptions of the war or battles and instead included anecdotes that the people back home might read at some later time. It was felt that relatives would not understand the horror of war and should be protected from the worst. Letters home to the relatives of a dead soldier often said “the soldier died a good death and asked me to write these last words to you, his mother and father.” It took Matthew Brady’s staffs’ photographs of the aftermath of a battle with decaying bodies and massed uncovered graves to destroy the dignity of the “good death”. These photos were exhibited in Brady’s studio in New York City.

Frank Dwyer returned to Greenfield and in 1867 married Rebecca E. Jones. By the 1870 census they had 2 young children. In the 1900 census Franks listed his profession as “capitalist”.

William Logan was mentioned more than any other Greenfield man in Henry DePoy’s Civil War dairy. We can assume they knew each other well. William enlisted in Co. C as a corporal and mustered out as a sergeant.

In 1860 William was a farmer living on McWilliams Rd. in Madison Twp. with his parents. His wife, Janie (Eliza Jane) Dunlap, had just died and his young daughter Elizabeth (1857-1904) is living with other relatives. He enlists in the first wave of volunteers.

After the War, William continues on the family farm until he remarries in 1877 to Catherine Roads, who died in 1894. They had 2 daughters, Eva C. (1878-1887) and Mary, born in 1882. Catherine and Eva are buried in the Rainsboro Cemetery.

In 1883 he applied for a pension but did not list his disabilities. He died at the U.S. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Dayton, Ohio. Records show his body was shipped back to Greenfield for burial. The stone you see here is for William and his daughter by his first wife.
Reverend John Henry Middleton

5/7/1829—11/14/1900

John H. Middleton was born in New York but came to Ross County Ohio as a child. He was educated in Greenfield. In 1856 he was ordained as a Methodist Episcopal minister and rode the Williamsburg, Ohio, circuit.

In 1861 when Lincoln called for troops Rev. Middleton felt so strongly about the War he left the ministry and enlisted in 81st Regiment. The company was used primarily for scouting duty but did participate in several battles. In one he was wounded so severely that he was crippled and did not completely recover. He was forced to use a crutch to walk for the rest of his life.

He returned to Greenfield after the War and married Mary Ann Wright on July 2, 1865. He resumed the ministry and settled in the Lynchburg area. After his retirement he and his wife moved to Greenfield and lived with her mother. He died suddenly in 1900.

Benjamin, Major Louis and Mary Love


The Love family moved to Greenfield in the mid 1850s after living in New York while their father John worked on the Erie Canal. We are not sure when John Love died or where he is buried.

Benjamin enlisted in 1861 and died on March 16, 1862. He was in camp at Clarksburg, Va. (now W.V.). He never saw battle but succumbed to one of the deadly infectious diseases that went through the camps.

Louis [sometimes Lewis] after the War lived with his mother and sisters, Anna and Mary. In the 1880 census he listed his profession as a carriage maker. Sometime between 1880 and 1885 he moved to Montrose County, Colorado, and lived there until his death in 1917. He never married and resided in a boarding house while in Colorado.

Mary Love stayed and devoted the rest of her life to the children of Greenfield and the memory of the War of the Rebellion. She never married and resided with her widowed mother. She served in the Women’s Relief Corps from its inception in Greenfield until 1914 (the last written record of her doing something with the WRC). She played a role in the Decoration Day festivities for many years. She was a founding member of the Coterie Club in 1895. She was a teacher with the Union Schools from 1870 through 1895.
James Henry Wickersham

4/19/1844—2/15/1915

James enlisted in the 2\(^{nd}\) Ohio Volunteer Heavy Artillery in 1863. He saw fighting in Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee. He mustered out of the army on Sept. 1, 1865.

He returned to Greenfield and the family woolen mills. He soon branched out into the fuel, grain, and feed business as the wool side of the business began to decline. He had a large warehouse on N. Second St.

In 1867 he married Mary V. Russell and they had 8 children. In the 1890 Census of Veterans in Highland County James is described as “suffering from the effects of the disease of respiratory organs and scurvy.”

He would go on to serve as a Madison Twp. Trustee and a member of the board of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a long time member of the Gibson Post #180 of the G.A.R., serving for 8 years as officer of the day and post commander in 1914.

Section 3B, Lot 206

Co. F, 2\(^{nd}\) O.V.H.A.

Thomas M. Elliott

9/1/1832—4/28/1911

Thomas Elliott was born in Ross County and came to Greenfield in 1842 to attend the Blair and McFarland Academy. He went into the furniture making business but left it in Aug. 1861 to enlist in the 27\(^{th}\) O.V.I.

His unit became part of the Army of the Mississippi. It was in the second battle of Corinth and also the battle of New Madrid, Missouri. After reorganization the troops were assigned to Sherman and the Siege of Atlanta and Sherman’s March to the Sea. He started as a private and rose to the rank of captain in 1863. He was mustered out in Natchez in 1865.

He returned home and married Jennie Irwin and they had one child, a daughter Mary Irwin Elliott. He owned a lumber and milling business for 20 years and then retired. He came out of retirement to buy and operate Greenfield’s steam laundry. He was on the board of the Presbyterian Church and the first commander of the Gibson Post of the G.A.R. He was instrumental in the early success of recruiting 46 members to the Post. The Elliott name still is in Greenfield with the Hotel Elliott on the corner of S. Washington and Mirabeau.

Co. 2, 27th Regiment, O.V.I.

Section 4A, Lot 63
Map Legend
The numbered areas denote the various Sections within the cemetery and the other letters correspond to the sites described in this booklet.

Some Definitions
GAR—Grand Army of the Republic; Union fraternal organization from the Civil War created in 1866; Began the tradition of Decoration Day on May 30th; lobbied for pensions and soldiers’ homes.
O.V.H.A.—Ohio Volunteer Heavy Artillery
O.N.G.—Ohio National Guardsmen—Over 35,000 ONG troops were federalized and organized into regiments for 100 days service in May 1864.
O.V.I.—Ohio Volunteer Infantry first fought in the U.S.-Mexican War. They also participated in the American Civil War and the Spanish-American War.
U.S.C.T.—The United States Colored Troops were regiments in the United States Army composed of African-American [colored] soldiers; they were first recruited during the Civil War.
W.R.C.—Woman's Relief Corps; this was the auxiliary to the Union Army's GAR. Membership was made up originally of mothers, wives, widows and daughters of Union Civil War veterans. The organization was founded in 1883 and still exists.