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|  | **HARDSCRABBLE**  Civil War Round Table of the Mid-Ohio Valley Newsletter  June 2022 – Vol 18 |

*Notes from Nancy Arthur*

If I live to be 100, I will never learn as much as I want to know about the Revolutionary or Civil Wars. And the more I learn, the more I want to explore.

Have you heard of the Liberty Trail app ? It is available free of charge through Google Play and the Apple Store and explores 30 stops across the state of South Carolina. On it find historic illustrations and modern pictures, battle maps, 360 degree virtual tours

This app was designed by the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust and the American Battlefield Trust, and is supported by partners across the state.

Look for it at [www.battlefields.org/LibertyTrailApp](http://www.battlefields.org/LibertyTrailApp)

And while you are looking for that, check the [www.battlefields.org/untold](http://www.battlefields.org/untold) to find How We Became America:The Untold History series of short videos. This is a series of 15 stories that feature the Civil War. Find out about the role of women, the use of the camera and how it changed the war when people could see actual images, medical advancements and more.

And most exciting to me is the Commonwealth of Virginia is creating a new state park that will showcase the battles fought around Culpepper, a long time destination that I want to see. The new governor sees the need for this preservation of 1,700 acres where a number of battles, including Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain. Proposed opening of this great addition to the parks of this country is July 1, 2023.

And for those of you who support the American Battlefield Trust, as does our CWRT, the Trust just saved a one acre tract where Union Calvary moved on the Confederates on July 3, 1863. This takes the total to 1,238 acres saved at Gettysburg by the ABT.

*Stories from Bill Teegarden*

**Plans to rebuild replica of Canton's fire-gutted Civil War-era barn rise from the ashes**

[**[](https://www.hometownlife.com/staff/4395744002/ed-wright/)Ed Wright**](https://www.hometownlife.com/staff/4395744002/ed-wright/)

Hometownlife.com

Ten months after the flames that destroyed Canton Township's Civil War-era Cady-Boyer barn were extinguished, plans are rising from the ashes to rebuild a similar structure at Preservation Park, the site of the beloved burned-down gathering place.

"Our tentative plans are to build a more modern structure that has the look and feel of an historic barn," Canton Township Leisure Services Director Greg Hohenberger explained. "We want it to include more modern amenities and we want it to be more ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) accessible.

"The big thing is we want the new structure to honor what was there before so it's not going to look out of place next to the historic buildings that make up Preservation Park."

Canton Township fire officials confirmed June 11, 2021, that [plans to produce a social media post](https://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/local/canton/2021/06/11/canton-smoke-bombs-burning-paper-caused-cady-boyer-barn-fire/7658594002/) were the original cause of the flames that engulfed and destroyed the barn. The post was supposed to capture images of burning cardboard and smoke bombs, officials said in an update sent out to township employees.

Although the precise cost of rebuilding the barn will not be known until a plan has been cemented, Hohenberger said it will probably run in the neighborhood of $500,000 — an expenditure, he estimated, that should be covered by an insurance reimbursement ($350,000) and roughly $150,000 the township expects to receive as part of a Wayne County parks millage grant.

Every year Wayne County gives back about 10% of its parks millage to communities within the county," Hohenberger said. "To be eligible for the funding, municipalities must show the county they are spending it on some sort of parks-related improvement project."

Ironically, the most-recent project Canton paid for with county parks millage money was a Preservation Park pavilion, which sits approximately 50 feet from where the Cady-Boyer barn stood and was completed just days before the tragic fire.

There were some trees damaged by the heat of the fire, but fortunately the pavilion was spared any damage," Hohenberger said. "Our public safety crews were here in a matter of minutes after the fire started."

**More:**[Mans Lumber plans expansion at Michigan Avenue business in Canton](https://www.hometownlife.com/story/money/business/2022/03/17/mans-lumber-look-expand-canton-business/7035390001/)

**More:**[Colorful acrylic panels and native plants, Canton's Ford Road boulevard amenities unveiled](https://www.hometownlife.com/story/news/2022/03/02/ford-road-boulevard-landscaping-design-concepts-canton-revealed/9327108002/)

In the months leading up to the devastating fire, the Cady-Boyer barn was evolving into a popular rental facility for weddings, graduation parties and other community gatherings, Hohenberger said.

"The main amenity it lacked was restrooms, so people who rented it had to rent port-a-johns," Hohenberger said. "The new pavilion includes modern restrooms, but we lost the barn about a week after the pavilion was completed."

Hohenberger said a realistic timeline for the completion of the new structure is late-2023, considering architectural design work has yet to start and the presence of supply-chain issues that are plaguing the construction industry.

Canton's Leisure Services Department staff have been compiling a wish list of amenities it thinks the community will want to see in the rebuilt structure.

"When the new building is designed, we'll go down the list of amenities until the dollars run out and we have to stop," he said.

The Cady-Boyer barn's replacement will be a revenue-generator for the township thanks to the rental fees.

"When people drive by the park, we want them to see a building that fits in with the historic nature of this property," Hohenberger said.

Hohenberger said a bronze plaque found in the rubble of the charred barn and a couple original beams will be displayed in some capacity in the new building.

"We're working with our historic commission and stakeholders to collect their ideas," he said.

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**This diet fueled both sides during the American Civil War**

[**Ruddy Cano**](https://www.wearethemighty.com/author/ruddycano1/)

The hype directed toward peanuts today resulted from the sudden fame they gained during the Civil War. While modern society [enjoys peanuts in various forms](https://charlestoncitypaper.com/a-brief-history-of-the-boiled-peanut/), before and during the war, they were mostly consumed in boiled form. Several reports indicate that the practice of boiling peanuts started after federal soldiers were faced with hunger and had no other food to depend on. They would dig up raw peanuts and then boil them with salted water. Like other African-based crops such as black-eyed peas, peanuts were made a staple in the US due to unavoidable circumstances.

Unlike today, most foods during wartime were highly perishable, making it hard to fulfill the needs of hundreds of soldiers. This was especially more challenging when combat lasted longer than anticipated. During the Civil War, the South had a greater advantage because of their powerful military forces. On the other hand, the North had better resources in terms of industrial strength. This means they had the necessary means to manufacture and transport food to their armed forces even during the war. Since the South had large armies and poor infrastructure, transporting food to their soldiers was challenging, especially because of the poor railway system. Similarly, enemy blockages could sometimes delay food supply, forcing the soldiers to survive without much food.

Food shortages were not only a problem to the military but also civilians due to inflation. This means that even the rich suffered from the shortages and had to find alternatives. At that moment, peanuts became the most consumed food by everyone regardless of their social class. Before the inflation and emergence of the civil war, peanuts were considered a meal consumed by the poor and their domestic animals. African-Americans mostly cultivated them for use in soups and stews. It is believed that peanuts were introduced in the South by Africans brought in as slaves from the West.

As other foods became exiguous, [peanuts were still available](https://www.nationalpeanutboard.org/peanut-info/history-boiled-peanuts-from-necessity-to-southern-delicacy.htm#:~:text=Letters%20and%20memoirs%20from%20the,added%20salt%20as%20a%20preservative.), so people came up with different ways of preparing them. They would mostly be boiled, roasted, added to desserts or eaten raw. The Northerners had little knowledge about peanuts and barely consumed them. But after they discovered its nutritional benefits and other uses, they embraced it. Most Southerners consumed peanuts in their boiled state because it was the quickest, easiest, and cheapest way. The same was with the armed forces throughout the civil war. Regardless of how they were prepared, their nutrition value was constant.

When everyone saw how beneficial peanuts were, more farmers began their cultivation in the US. As opposed to how they [consumed peanuts before the Civil war](https://heritagepeanuts.com/history), more ways and uses were discovered. It was used to substitute unavailable items such as coffee. For soldiers, consuming peanuts was an easy way of acquiring proteins and preventing malnutrition. To date, peanuts are still used to fight malnutrition in regions where drought is persistent. Even today, MREs issued to troops sometimes contain peanuts in an individual package.

The military used peanut oil on locomotives to reduce friction as a substitute for whale oil. This was also used by armed forces from the South and the North. It was a cheaper and easily accessible means of lubrication. As a result, peanuts gained more value and fame, becoming the most profitable crop at the time. Most of the peanuts, however, were consumed by the military. Even after the combat came to an end, Southerners and Northerners still drank [peanut beverages](https://www.nationalpeanutboard.org/peanut-info/history-peanuts-peanut-butter.htm) and made salads to satisfy their nutritional needs. The inflation did not go down until several years later after the war.

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**Knox County farmer was a "100 Days Man" during the Civil War**

* By Kyle Nappi, the Ohio History Connection

* May 4, 2022

Editor's Note

*This story was originally published on June 25, 2021 by the Ohio History Connection.* *Richland Source has entered into a collaborative agreement with the*[***Ohio History Connection***](https://www.ohiohistory.org/)*to share content across our sites*.

**During the American Civil War, Ohio devised a strategy to recruit short-term soldiers, known as Hundred Days Men, in an attempt to alleviate the non-combat duties of frontline troops. Kyle Nappi is the great-great-great-great grandson of one of these men, John LeVoy Higbie. He has joined us on the blog to write about this family story.**

By the Spring of 1864, the United States had suffered considerable strain in its effort to preserve the union and defeat the Confederacy.

“There was scarcely a family in the North who did not suffer sorrow that cannot be described,” one Yankee veteran recalled in his twilight years. “Hardly a fireside that did not mourn for a husband or lover, brother or friend, who went forth with pride, never to return.”

Ohio had already sent 10 percent of its total population off to war. Nonetheless, Buckeye Governor John Brough drafted a bold proposal to encourage the recruitment of short-term soldiers from the Midwestern states in attempt to mount additional pressure upon the Confederacy.

On April 21, 1864, Governor Brough submitted the ambitious gambit to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and President Abraham Lincoln.

“The term of service to be one hundred days, reckoning from the date of muster into the service of the United States.”

“The foregoing proposition,” the President promptly replied, “is accepted … the Secretary of War is directed to carry it into execution.”

Thus, the Hundred Days Men were born. Ohio would furnish 30,000 new recruits, Indiana and Illinois would enlist 20,000 apiece, Iowa 10,000, and Wisconsin 5,000.

“The call was intended as a herald to the last great Union thrust that would topple the Confederacy like a sudden wind against a weakened tree.”

In the span of two weeks, the Buckeye state recruited 35,982 volunteers and organized them into 41 regiments.

“This prompt and energetic action,” Secretary Stanton relayed to Governor Brough, “exhibit an unmatched effort of devoted patriotism and stern determination to spare no sacrifice to maintain the National Government and overthrow the rebellion.”

Among the Buckeyes to answer this call to arms was John LeVoy Higbie, a married father of four and farmer in Knox County, Ohio.

On May 2, 1864, nearly two months shy of his 44th birthday, John mustered into Company A of the 142nd Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI) at the rank of Private.

Undoubtedly, most enlistees joined to contribute indirect non-combat aid to the war effort, as outlined by Ohio’s Adjutant-General in his state-wide call for volunteers.

“The citizen soldiery will share the glory of the crowning victories … by relieving our veteran regiments from post and garrison-duty …”

However, to the great surprise and anger of some, 10 regiments of Ohio Hundred Days Men (including the 142nd OVI) were ordered to the frontlines of Virginia in June 1864.

“It is too late or not the proper time to question whether we have been wronged or not,” a Private in 142nd OVI penned to his parents. “It would be outrageous to send such troops as ours – unacquainted with battalion drill – directly into the front with old veterans.”

Despite the understandable trepidation of these volunteers, Secretary Stanton underscored the sense of urgency to Governor Brough.

“We want every man now,” he telegraphed. “They may decide the war.”

Higbie and his fellow bluejackets were dispatched to Bermuda Hundred, a neck of land between the James and Appomattox rivers.

Since May 1864, Union commanders had leveraged Bermuda Hundred as a staging area from where their armies sought to sever the rail lines between the nearby dixie cities of Petersburg and Richmond, the Confederate capitol.

At Bermuda Hundred, Hundred Days Men like Higbie performed fatigue duties (labor tasks), picket duties (forward observers of enemy activity), and, on occasion, fought off Confederate attacks. However, some Union commanders questioned the utility of these hastily summoned Ohioans on the frontlines.

“They have scarcely had a musket three weeks, and many are reported to me who do not even know how to load,” lamented one Brigadier General.

On June 13, 1864, the 142nd OVI reached the Point of Rocks area of Bermuda Hundred. Assigned to the Tenth Corps of the Army of the James, these Buckeyes promptly marched to the extreme right of the Union’s fortified frontline.

“All troops of this command will be immediately assigned and take position in the breast-works, ready to repel any assault made by the enemy,” instructed General Orders No. 12 of the Tenth Corps. “Brigade and battery commanders will see that the troops are properly distributed … and will take every precaution to prevent surprise.”

After bivouacking in rifle pits and trenches for a week, the men of the 142nd OVI received orders to destroy a cluster of recently seized Confederate earthworks along the Howlett Line, which spanned some three miles between the James and Appomattox rivers.

“While engaged in this duty they were resisted by the Rebels … with the aid of other troops on the line, (the 142nd OVI) not only effectually completed the destruction, but drove the Rebels from the field.”

“Hardly a day passed without the (142nd OVI) or detachments from it being detailed for picket or fatigue duty.”

While Higbie did not keep a journal or diary throughout his soldiering, the wartime writings of other Hundred Days Men offer glimpses of life at Bermuda Hundred.

A fellow bluejacket in the 142nd OVI wrote, “from a point near our headquarters, on a clear day, we can see the smoke arising from the city of Richmond, the chief city of Rebeldom.”

Meanwhile, a solider in the 143rd OVI described, “our pickets and (the Confederate pickets) are in talking distance – about 30 feet apart – and drink from the same spring.”

Likewise, a solider in the 138th OVI penned to his wife, “I write this letter from my post on picket duty where I can see six or eight rebels … Towards Petersburg there has been continual firing of artillery … I fear the war will not be over in the next hundred days.”

At some point during his service at Bermuda Hundred, Higbie became ill and was treated in a nearby field hospital. There, he was mistakenly reported dead after a soldier died in a nearby bed. Amazingly, the erroneous news of Higbie’s death reached his family in Knox County.

Indeed, many Hundred Days Men contended with exposure, sickness, and disease which collectively took a more damning toll than Confederate bullets.

“I took 17 sick soldiers to the hospital for quinine,” one soldier in the 132nd OVI chronicled on Independence Day. “About half the regiment is unfit for duty.”

Seeking relief for his Buckeyes, which included the 142nd OVI, one Union Colonel penned an urgent appeal directly to President Lincoln.

“The unusual nature of our fatigue duties has born so heavily upon our unseasoned men together with the climate that, unless we are relieved, I have reason to fear our numbers will be so reduced by disease and death as not even to leave skeleton regiments to take home the middle of August.”

The bold request, however well intended, ultimately failed.

On Aug. 19, 1864, as the end of their term of service neared, the soldiers of the 142nd OVI departed Bermuda Hundred and began their journey back to Ohio.

On Sept. 2, 1864, exactly 100 days since their enlistment, the men of the 142nd OVI mustered out of service at Camp Chase in Columbus. While the regiment suffered zero battlefield deaths, disease, on the other hand, claimed 43 men and undoubtedly comprised countless others.

Higbie’s post-war pension application indicated the ailments incurred in the field permanently impaired his health in later years.

Ultimately, the troop surge of Hundred Days Men did not defeat the Confederacy. Fighting continued unabated until the southerners finally surrendered in the spring of 1865. Notwithstanding, the contributions of Higbie and his Buckeyes were notable.

“The Ohio National Guard in 1864 did far more than was expected of it,” reflected Ohio’s Adjutant General. “I have never doubted … that the services of the Hundred Days Men of Ohio in 1864 shortened the war.”

On Sept. 10, 1864, President Lincoln issued an acknowledgment of appreciation to all such soldiers.

“The term of service of their enlistment was short, but distinguished … the National Guard of Ohio performed with alacrity the duty of patriotic volunteers, for which they are entitled to and are hereby tendered, through the Governor of their State, the National thanks.”

*Author Kyle Nappi is the great-great-great-great grandson of John LeVoy Higbie. An alumnus of The Ohio State University, Kyle serves as a national security policy specialist in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. He is also an independent researcher and writer of military history (chiefly the World Wars), having interviewed ~4,500 elder military combatants across nearly two-dozen countries.*

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*Books by Bill Teegarden*

A Missing Piece of Civil War History:

<https://wgthebook.com/?msclkid=46cdc569d05a11eca3846c932475ac10>

A Civil War Hunt At Sea:

<https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.wsj.com/articles/to-the-uttermost-ends-of-the-earth-book-review-history-alabama-a-civil-war-hunt-at-sea-11650033550%3Fmod%3Dopinion_major_pos10&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoRNTgyMjQ1NjgzOTI5Njk0MDcyGmJhZmFjYmMyMWE4OWJlYmU6Y29tOmVuOlVT&usg=AOvVaw3k-SxOtzuohrISQ7XaC7LZ>

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