

NEWSLETTER

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Support Group - Stories and Sagas

May 30, 2008

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Welcome to our Summer Issue!

We have lots of excitement to share with you including news about the pending renovation; our fundraising efforts; reports on recent events; publicity for the Monument; planning the Showcase; the growing Civil War collection at the Rhodes House; our calendar of events and an update on the membership campaign. Most likely you read this newsletter because you support our work. **As always, thanks for your membership and support.** Without you, we could not achieve any of our goals for the Monument.

Reports

Renovation

Plans for the renovation are being finalized. Our meetings with **Berj Shakarian** (Architect with Cuyahoga County, and Head Architect of the renovation of the Monument) and staff from Westlake, Reed, Leskosky are both interesting and fruitful. It is exciting to see the drawings that illustrate what the Monument will look like upon completion of the renovation. The planning of this project has required incredible attention to detail and a huge amount of homework, to ensure that the best methods and best products are being used so that the result will be historically accurate.

This planning and research revealed that many of the original decorating techniques used in the Monument when it was first constructed, are no longer in use, and, in some instances, required re-discovery. As you can imagine, this caused delays, but we are intent that this renovation be the very best. We can live with the delays – we hope you can too! Today the Monument looks each of its 114 years! – old, grey, faded... “Tomorrow” it will look brand new! We look forward to it! We are very fortunate to have Berj Shakarian, Head Architect, directing and executing this vital project. Berj says, *“The world,” as Abraham Lincoln said in Gettysburg, “can never forget what they did here ... we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.”* Berj continues, *“The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is our resolve.” WE must bring back this National Treasure. At this time we are almost ready to “rock and roll” and to solicit the bids. It has been a long time (114 years) coming to preserve the memory of those who saved the Union. God Bless America!!*

Fundraising for Renovation

Funds raised or pledged to date are **\$1,236,392.78**. Thank you VERY much! Wait, we are not done yet!! We still need to raise \$186,607.22.

If you have not yet made a donation and wish to play a part in this historic renovation,

please make **out a check payable to Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Support Group and mail it to Neil K. Evans, 200 Public Square, Suite 3300, Cleveland, Ohio 44114.** This renovation will enhance and preserve the memory of those 9000 Soldiers and Sailors from Cuyahoga County who served in the American Civil War. Let us hope that we never see the likes of such a war again



Tunnel Tours at the Monument April 12th

We had an incredible turnout for these tours, with at least **700** people who stood in line and listened to stories from **Timothy Daley and Mary Louise Daley**, about the structure of the Monument and history relating to the Civil War. Our guests were from every background and age.

It was terrific to see so many families bring their children to share an important piece of Cuyahoga County history with them. Inside the Monument, staff and volunteers took care of our welcomed visitors, offering piping hot coffee and tasty cookies, and were happy to answer questions.

We are very grateful to our volunteers who made this event possible, **Timothy & Mary Louise Daley** and **Jon and Bob Silvis** from the Sons of Union Veterans. Our staff, **Bill Tyler and Timothy Leslie**, clearly performed admirably because our guests departed with smiles and positive comments. All worked from dawn to dusk without complaint!

Lunch time Lemonade & Cookies

Because of the wonderful response to our Tunnel Tours, we are now conducting **Summertime Lunchtime Tours every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 noon and 1pm sharp for the lunch crowd.** WE wish to extend to extend invitations to specific companies - the first invitation went to the staff at businesses located at 200 Public Square. The invitation was nicely received. A number of reservations were made, and we

opened the invitation to others having lunch at our site!

Due to the impending closure, we now want to give everyone an opportunity to see the Monument before the renovations officially start around mid-August. **Reservations are a must** for these "Behind-The-Scenes-Outside-Inside Tours", so please call the Monument at **(216) 621-3710** to have your company and friends participate!

Publicity

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is receiving publicity locally and nationally:

The Plain Dealer

Did you see the recent articles in *The Plain Dealer* about the Monument? We made the front page in the Metro section on Sunday April 13th with a great picture of Timothy Leslie leading a tour.

Stan Donaldson reports "... *the tourists seemed fascinated by what they saw under the structure. They ducked as they walked through sections of the dimly lit and wet tunnel. Some touched parts of the sandstone foundation. Others pointed at the walls where moisture and salt have formed bead-like patterns.*" **Roger Ray**, an Army Veteran said, "*It was interesting to look at the history of the people of the monument and how people put it together.*"

On a national level, millions of viewers saw night time pictures of the Monument on ABC and TNT which used the illuminated exterior for a "cover" or "billboard" shot while setting the scene for telecasts of the Cavaliers' home games during the NBA playoffs.

Footsteps to the Past

Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society

The June issue of the above newsletter included a lengthy article about the Monument, penned by individuals who recently paid us a visit. One of these visitors was **Mary Kay Wisnieski**, whose grandfather was **Prof. Frank H. Hruby**.

Prof. Hruby directed the Great Western Band on July 4, 1894, during the dedication of the Monument. The article reads, *“The year is now 2008. As we step into this same structure, we take a moment to reflect on the over 9,000 men named here who gave their everything to the cause of freedom and equality. As we walked the tunnels....and imagined the men who laid the stone foundation and built the walls and the building, we can feel their pride in a job well done. Let us NEVER FORGET!”*



Monument included in Cuyahoga County Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit

As **Cuyahoga County celebrates its' 200th birthday**, a traveling exhibit illustrating the history of the County is on the move throughout the County to several sites – it stopped at the Monument in April! Included in this exhibit are two photographs and references to the **Monument**. Judith Cetina, Ph.D., Archivist for Cuyahoga County, who serves on the Bicentennial Steering Committee, says, *“As Cuyahoga County celebrates its Bicentennial the Soldiers and Sailors Monument serves as a visible reflection of its history and of the sacrifices made by citizens to preserve the Union during the Civil War. The success of the tunnel tours serves as testimony to the keen interest of the County's contemporary residents in learning about the past and honoring the legacy bequeathed us by our predecessors”*.

Much of this history rests on the shelves at the County Archives, which is open to the public. The County Archives is located at 2905 Franklin Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Call 216-443-7250. Open Monday, Wednesday through Friday 8:30AM-3PM.

Soldiers' & Sailors' Showcase

We are lucky to have such good friends! For starters, **The Harbor Group Management Company** donated space to us at 200 Public Square, right across the street from the Monument, just east of Tower City. We've named it the Soldiers' and Sailors' Showcase.

The plan is to showcase the Monument and all it represents in this great location. Here, while the Monument is closed during the renovation, we will update you on this great work, by sharing the drawings and plans with you. We will have an informational table dedicated to topics surrounding the Monument and the Civil War. As always, we are trying to work as efficiently as possible. On that score, we are delighted to share with you the news that **Liggett Stashower** has agreed to create and donate a panel to the Showcase! This panel will tell the story of the Monument. We are very grateful to **Marilyn Chase** and the team at Liggett Stashower for their generosity.

Calendar of Events 2008

June 8, 2008:

The Irish in the Civil War –

A Presentation by Dr. Callahan

The Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland has invited **Dr. Kenneth R. Callahan, a Monument Trustee**, to give a brief overview, with a power point presentation, of the 8th OVI - The Hibernian Guards - from Cleveland and their role in the Civil War, at its' annual afternoon tea. This event will take place at **Hyland Software located in Westlake**. It is open to the public. For details call **216-210-3055**.

July 2, 2008

Independence Day

Celebrate **Independence Day** twice! On July 2nd, please join us on Public Square between 4:00 and 8:45 PM, claim your seat early, tour the outside and inside of the Monument with a guide and then hear the annual **Cleveland Orchestra Concert which starts at 9:00 PM, and see the spectacular fireworks afterwards**. While listening to what is sure to be a wonderful concert, you can sit at the Monument amidst the bronze statuary and the old sandstone pedestals and admire the Monument details: stars, eagles, and army knapsacks and cartridge boxes. Call in advance for details: 216-621-3710. Then Celebrate again with your family and friends on July 4th! This time you can guide them!!!

September 13, 2008

Descendant's Day

Every year, on this day, we invite all those who have ancestor(s) listed in the Monument, along with the Soldiers' and Sailor's Monument Commission and members of our Support Group, to attend our Annual General Meeting. This event also gives us an opportunity to honor these Descendants and to share family stories. It will take place at the **103rd OVI Campground in Sheffield Lake**. Meetings begin at **10AM**. Invitations will be issued shortly.

Note:

We are planning additional events, including a **Flag Design Competition**, the winning flag to be unfurled at the forthcoming Rededication of the Monument. Details will be in the next newsletter. Also in the works is a program for the **Sesquicentennial** of the Civil War 2011....

Membership Campaign

Current membership for 2008 stands at a total of 108. Please share this newsletter with your friends and family and help us "grow" our friends and dollars for our beloved Monument. We need 200 new members by June 30, 2008. Please ask 4 families to join. If we all succeed with securing 2, we will meet our goal. The Support Group is an IRC 501(c)3 charity; donations are all tax deductible. Membership benefits include receipt of our quarterly newsletter, free one-on-one tours of the Monument (on an appointment basis); invitations to our AGM and other events. As a bonus, those who secure 4 new members will receive a free Monument T- shirt.

Out and About

We were invited to attend and participate in the **Cuyahoga County Bicentennial Committee** opening event to celebrate the Birthday of Cuyahoga County. This great affair took place in February, at the Old Courthouse, where we had a table with

literature and photographs, telling the story of the Monument.

Positively Cleveland has shown great interest in our work, and Tami Brown, VP of Marketing, has extended a hand of friendship and support which is both welcome and appreciated. Our flyers are in their building, just across the street from the Monument, and we have been invited to post events and happenings on their website. In addition, they extend invitations to us to attend the Cleveland Culture and Arts meetings.

In April, we visited **Gray's Armory** and met participants in National History Day and availed of a wonderful tour.

A few weeks ago, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens hosted the regional meeting of the **Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums**. It was a great opportunity to meet with likeminded organizations and to learn about other ways of achieving similar goals.

Timothy Leslie was the Keynote Speaker at **Woodland Cemetery** on Memorial Day. The event paid tribute to James Franklin Gayle, a World War II Veteran (U.S. Navy) and a renowned photographer – one of the first black photographers to be hired by *The Plain Dealer*.

Condolences

We were very saddened by the news of the passing away of our good friend, **John Whipple**. John was an ardent supporter of the Monument and had an avid interest in Civil War history. John contributed enormously to our work. We miss him.

George P. Carmer, a member of the Sons of Union Veterans, Camp 142, and the Support Group, left us last December. Another very good man, gone.