

APRIL 2021

Discover 419



TIFFIN'S CIVIL WAR MUSEUM OPENS FOR 10TH SEASON

By VICKI JOHNSON



TIFFIN — Among the 33 states that existed when war broke out between the North and the South on April 12, 1861, Ohio played a major role. The state's relatively small population at that time provided the third-highest number of men to fight the war and suffered the second-highest number of casualties.

These facts and many more details of the War Between the States can be found at the

American Civil War Museum of Ohio, located at 217 S. Washington St. in downtown Tiffin.

The nonprofit museum, which opened for its 10th season in March, is focused on educating people about the war's impact on the United States then and now. No special events have been scheduled yet due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but volunteers hope to host events later this year.

Executive Director Gary Dundore said the Civil War was the first "modern war" because technology such as rifled gun barrels, railroads and the telegraph made travel and communication different from all earlier wars. He explained that President Abraham Lincoln played a hands-on roll by using the telegraph to message leaders in the field, and railroads in the North and South were used to transport troops.

Volunteer Jan Dundore, who provides guided tours, said the museum tries to provide an overall look at the war from both sides. It also aims to show how both soldiers and civilians of the era lived.

Exhibits feature information, artifacts and

memorabilia about the country and the reasons for the war, which started just 58 years after Ohio

became a state. The 10th anniversary of the museum coincides with the 160th year since the war began.

One of the exhibits, "The Road to War," outlines the factors that led to the war, including political, monetary and moral issues such as slavery. The next section relates how a Confederate attack on Fort Sumter began the war between the Confederate States of America and the United States of America.

"The attack led President Lincoln to call for 75,000 volunteers to serve for 90 days to suppress the Southern rebellion," says a description on the museum's website. "This 90 days led to more than four years of bloodshed."

Other exhibits highlight the soldiers' less-than-healthy living conditions, the medical knowledge of the era, prison camps on both sides, and the lives of civilians left at home

Continued on page 3



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to suffer hardships. Some exhibits identify people who stood out as leaders during the war, including Andrew's Raiders and officers who would later become political leaders and presidents.

In addition, the museum features a video room which shows a 20-minute documentary, "Ohio's Role in the Civil War," produced by museum volunteers; and a research library, which offers "hundreds" of Civil War-themed books being reorganized by volunteer Lora Cahill.

The museum is actively seeking volunteers to help with operations, and to reenact soldiers and civilians during tours and special events. College and high school students seeking public service hours or internships are welcome, as are individuals willing to help with clerical work, data entry and cleaning.

While not of the 1800s, the museum building was constructed in 1915 and opened in 1916 as Tiffin's post office. It later served other purposes, including as a school annex, and was remodeled for use by the late Congressman Paul Gillmor as a local office. After Gillmor's

unexpected death, the building was donated to the museum.

The Dundores said the 10,000-square-foot museum has 3,000-4,000 visitors each year. Large groups are encouraged to call in advance.

"We are very proud of the large number of people who visit Tiffin just to come to the museum," Jan said. One couple said they saw the museum online and made it a point to visit during their trip to the United States.

People have toured from "every single state — all 50," Gary said, as well as "35 or so" countries.

The museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, March through December. It is closed on all major holidays. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students. ACWMO members and children 5 and younger get in free. Discounts are available for active-duty military and their immediate

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18th President



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19th President



Major General James Abram Garfield
20th President



Bvt. Brig. General Benjamin Harrison
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Bvt. Major William McKinley
25th President

family. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$30 for families.

For more information about tours, volunteering or making a donation, call 419-455-9551 or email info@acwmo.org.



The American Civil War Museum of Ohio in downtown Tiffin



Gary and Jan Dundore pose with a mannequin soldier and an original Civil War-era flag at the American Civil War Museum of Ohio in downtown Tiffin.

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SEXUAL ASSAULT BY THE NUMBERS

Local Statistic

- In 2020, Open Arms served 193 individuals in our Rape Crisis Program through emergency room advocacy, individual support, crisis calls and prevention presentations.

National Statistics

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have experienced sexual violence in their lives.
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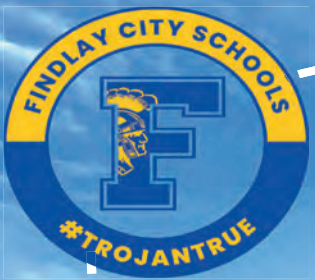


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The Hancock County Veterans Service Officers will also provide a brief overview of services available locally and advocate for you during the interaction with the VA team members.

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The Zoom link will be emailed to you on May 7th.



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Thomas "Tom" Trout

Dave Morrow is a 63 year old peacetime veteran of the USAF and Utah Army National Guard. He was an educator and an EMT. Dave is currently a documentary photographer and writer. He created the website <https://dogtagsandcombatboots.org/> to share the stories of our Veterans. The site is dedicated to the stories of Vietnam Veterans and to the veteran Women Warriors of Ohio. **It is hoped to be a place for healing.**

Thomas "Tom" Trout passed away from cancer directly linked to his exposure to Agent Orange in August, 2019.

(Dave Morrow's note: Over 80% of the amazing veterans I have spoken with are suffering debilitating ailments directly linked to exposure to the defoliate Agent Orange. This story is about one of those courageous soldiers written in his own words.)

I grew up in Findlay and graduated from Findlay High School in 1966. I attended a small college in North Carolina, and it did not work out. I was not a student and partied in excess. I returned to Findlay, lived at home, worked in my grandfather's furniture store, and continued to party until I was drafted in October 1967.

Three days into the US Army, two of us were given the option of becoming military police out of 150 recruits. We were both tall and skinny and the interviewing officer claimed we could fit into honor guard uniforms around the world. The other recruit decided he wanted to have a dog, but that seemed a bit much to me. We were told we would be assigned to state side duty upon completion of MP school, but first we had to get through basic training.

It all worked out well for me. I attended MP leadership training after basic and was assigned to be a squad leader, responsible for 10-11 men. We all became MPs. Ninety-five percent of the new MPs went to Vietnam, however I went to Los Angeles and sat on top of a mountain for six months guarding missiles and nuclear warheads. I continued in a leadership position, posting guards and dog handlers and frankly experiencing boredom for the first time. However, there were days off allowing me to explore the southern California beaches and

music scene for the next six months.

After receiving orders for Vietnam, I arrived at my unit located in a base at Bien Hoa called the "Plantation". Slept on a board in a perimeter bunker for two weeks and filled sandbags with old Vietnamese women during the day. My jobs for a year included being a gate guard, patrolling off base in a Jeep with Vietnamese policemen and setting up check points, accident investigation, Serious Incident Investigation and traffic control. Most days I had eye contact with over one hundred Vietnamese citizens.

(Tom stated that the area he was assigned to was constantly drenched with Agent Orange to keep the perimeter clear.)

After eight months I was assigned to the MP desk as a radio operator and typist. I was then promoted to desk sergeant (E-5) for my final three months in Vietnam.

I returned to Findlay in October of 1969 and worked at cleaning carpet and then at Dow Chemical until I moved to Bowling Green and enrolled college in January 1970. I became a year-round student and finished up my 183 hours in May 1972 in American Studies with a literature concentration. My first job after college was building concrete silos all over the Midwest. In 1974 I moved to where I now live

in western North Carolina. In 1975 I married my college girlfriend Brenda. We have been together for 44 years now.

I planted trees for the state of North Carolina and used what was left of my GI Bill to attend a local tech school to learn how to lay brick. I worked with a stone mason and built our house. I also worked with an enlightened plant grower doing landscaping, where we dug and planted thousands of trees and plants over the next few years.

Finally settled on my life work as a bricklayer/mason. My company, vestamasonry.com, was incorporated in 1983 and since then I have built over five hundred fireplaces and masonry stoves along with being the community mason building houses and chimneys and retaining walls.

I have two wonderful children: my son Gus is an artisan bread baker and my daughter Zoe is married and works for Habitat for Humanity. Happily, I see them both often.

I retired when aggressive, prostate cancer, stage four, was discovered during my annual VA checkup in 2013. The VA assumed responsibility as it was linked to Agent Orange exposure and classified me as fully disabled. After surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation, I continue to plant trees on my forest properties and enjoy relaxing in my hammock.

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The Easter bunny is a tradition that has been passed down for centuries. Symbolizing fertility and wealth, the Easter bunny became a holiday standard in Germany during the 16th century.

The custom of chocolate eggs came along centuries after the Easter bunny, originating in the 19th century in France and Germany. As Easter celebrations evolved, chocolate eggs were not the only delicacy; chocolate Easter bunnies also were shared and enjoyed.

While there are scores of mass-produced chocolate bunnies available for purchase, families may want to try making their own chocolate Easter bunnies. This can be a family-friendly activity that favors togetherness with the promise of a sweet reward.

1. The first step to creating chocolate Easter bunnies is to select the type of chocolate you prefer. Bunnies can be made from white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or even a combination for a marbled effect. Chocolate melts, chips or chocolate couverture are widely available at specialty chocolate and food shops or craft supply stores. This simplifies the bunny-making process.



2. Purchase an Easter bunny mold from a local store. There are solid chocolate bunnies or hollow varieties available. Choose molds in the desired size, as bunny molds may be large or small.

3. Follow directions to melt chocolate successfully. Some chocolates can be slowly melted in the microwave. A double-boiler method, in which the chocolate is melted in a bowl placed above a pan with boiling water, can help the chocolate melt consistently and prevent it from burning.

4. Pour the chocolate into the mold and gently tap the mold so that it displaces air bubbles and helps the chocolate settle evenly into the design. Allow

the chocolate to set up in the refrigerator. If your mold is hollow, you can seal the two halves of the bunny with a little melted chocolate on the seam.

Creativity can be unleashed when making homemade chocolate bunnies. Experiment with adding a few drops of peppermint oil or orange liqueur to customize the flavor. Before sealing hollow bunnies, place peanut butter or raspberry jam inside for a tasty surprise. Use colored candy melts to add colorful eyes or cheeks or to tint the inside of the bunny ears. For an even more festive effect, seal a lollipop stick in a chocolate bunny and use it to secure the Easter bunny to the top of a cake.



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