

Pathways: Morrow's Past, Today

The Official Newsletter of the Morrow Area Historical Society

Autumn 2014

VOLUME I, ISSUE 4

New Veterans Memorial Park to be Constructed in Morrow

On Tuesday, August 12th, Morrow Council voted to proceed with plans to construct the Morrow Veterans Memorial Park on Pike Street between Bishop Park and Dr. Hahn's Medical Office. The Park will consist of seven flag poles surrounded by 14 posts with temporary flag holders representing the 13 conflicts plus a veteran flag holder.

The American flag will be flown from a 30 foot flag pole, while the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard service flags and the POW/MIA flag will each be flown on 25 foot flag poles. The American flag will be lit at night.

Engraved 4" x 8" brick pavers with veteran's names may be purchased for \$30.00 each. If you are interested in purchasing a brick or making a donation to help with the construction of the Park, please contact the Village of Morrow at (513) 899-2821 for a paver order form or visit <http://www.vil.morrow.oh.us/>.

A scale model of the proposed Veterans Memorial Park and actual brick paver is available for viewing at the Village Administration building located on Pike Street. Please make your check payable to "Morrow VFW Post 8202." Please mail your completed brick form to:

Morrow VFW Post 8202
Post Office Box 115
Morrow, Ohio 45152

If you have any questions concerning the Morrow Veterans Memorial Park, please call Bob Blankenship at 513.678.4410.

World War I Exhibits at Quaker Heritage Center

The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I

Now through December 12

All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914

November 11, 13 & 15

Please visit www.wilmington.edu/qhc for more information on these exhibits and a full calendar of events.

Members & Donors

Thank you to the following donors and new & renewing members!

New Donors

Ruth Justison · Margaret Dare · Mary Beth Burns
Robert Donald Whitacre · Anonymous Donor

New Members

George J. Watkins, MD – Ft. Mitchell, KY
Edwin R. Woods – North East, PA
Joseph Woods – Phoenix, AZ
C. David Woods – Shepherdsville, KY
William & Sylvia (Fulton) Clark – Kingston, TN
Dianna Browning – Clarksville, OH

Renewing Members

Elaine Markesbery · Bob & Jerri Short
Roger Neal & Judy Warman-Neal · Judy Todia
David K. Lay · Agnes McIntosh · Myron Lay
Miranda's Old Time Ice Cream Shop/John & Jan Poe
Paul J. Zorn · Joyce Wirth · Rex L. Parker
James W. & Patricia Schuchter · Gerald Martin
Joyce L. Bowling-Demitt · Lee LaFollette
Bobbie Jo's Dance Studio/Barbara Bloomberg
Howard & Sandy Hale · Robert Donald Whitacre
Ellen Faye VanHouten · Adrian Achterman
Brooks & Marlyn Holtzclaw · Joyce Ann Black
Paul & Mary Beth Burns · Donna R. Straight
Salem Township Public Library · Donna B. Curran
Dale & Betty Rae Berger · Carol Lay Raya

Did you know...?

Who was the graduate of Morrow High School killed in battle in WWII and where did he die?

Answer: Charles D. Corwin, Class of 1940, killed in the Siege on Cherbourg, June 25, 1944. Lt. Corwin was 22, married and had a 10 month old son. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Chalk Dust

A Quarterly Column by Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard Containing History of the Morrow School and its Alumni

For this issue of *Pathways*, a patriotic theme is being used. I thought I might write about the *Graduates of Morrow High School* who were in the service of our country. There were many so I will list only the Spanish American War and the World War I veterans in this issue. Please remember these are only graduates of Morrow High School. I am writing a book on the Veterans of the Morrow area at this time that will name many more.

In the Spanish American War, the Class of 1893 gave us Warren W. Cadwallader. Warren joined the First Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He died at the age of 23, in a Cincinnati Hospital of Typhoid Fever on 13 September 1898.

In World War I, the following men are listed in order of the classes they graduated.

Class of 1886: Dr. Lt. Col. Horace Whitacre, Army, Overseas.

Class of 1890: Dr. Capt. Marion Whitacre, Army.

Class of 1909: 1st Lt. Dr. Ralph Vance, Army.

Class of 1910: Pvt. 1st Class Julius Clarke, Army, Overseas.

Class of 1910: Huron Clement Moore, Navy.

Class of 1910: Pvt. Harley Franklin Winfield, Army, Overseas.

Continued in Next Column

Continued from the Previous Column

Class of 1911: Dr. 1st Lt. James S. Couden, Army.

Class of 1911: Corp. Charles E. Kunker, Army, Overseas.

Class of 1913: Corp. Garnette Leaf, Army, Overseas.

Awarded the French Croix with Bronze Star.

Class of 1913: Pvt. Erle W. Miranda, Army.

Class of 1913: Seaman 2nd Class Howard Malsbary
Templin, Navy.

Class of 1914: Corp. Charles W. Gregg, Army, Overseas.

Class of 1914: Seaman 2nd Class William B. Veidt, Navy.

Class of 1915: Pvt. Ralph Ayers, Army, Overseas.

Class of 1915: Musician 3rd Class Samuel Coddington,
Army, Overseas.

Class of 1915: Pvt. Neil Woodward Mounts, Army.

Class of 1916: Pvt. Harry Ford Anderson, Army.

Class of 1916: Richard Allen DeBold, Navy.

Class of 1916: Robert Beverly Gilmore, Jr., Army.

Class of 1916: Walter H. Parker, Army.

Class of 1917: Lieu Dorain Ertel, Navy.

Class of 1917: Albert McCarty Grapevine, Army.

Class of 1917: Millard Filmore Hendren, Navy.

Class of 1918: Wilard Anderson, Army.

Class of 1918: Oscar Ludlum Coddington, Army.

Class of 1918: Harry Nixon Harper, Army Air Force.

Class of 1918: Pvt. Ralph Willard Sacker, Army.

Class of 1919: Pvt. Karl Franz, Army.

More about the lives of these men can be found in my book, *Graduates of Morrow High School, 1881-1956*.

For more information, please contact Marlene DeBoard at 937.289.3533 or marlene.deboard@yahoo.com.

Look for more *Chalk Dust* in the next *Pathways*.

Did you know...?

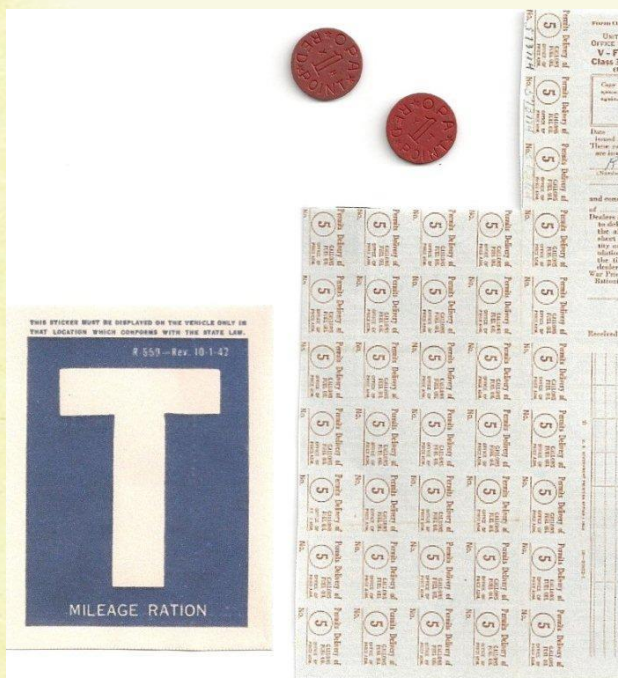
The last soldier killed in action in WW II was Edward O'Dell Mullins from Morrow. He is buried in the Salem Township Cemetery.

The Rest of the Story

In response to the outbreak of WWI, Peters began manufacturing ammunition again, expanding their plant north across Grandin Rd. In 1916, the plant had been rebuilt with reinforced concrete and brick, much of which still stands strong to this day. In 1934, Remington bought Peters Cartridge Co., continuing to output ammunition for the WWI efforts. They did so until 1944, which was the last year that the factory was used in the production of ammunition.

In my efforts to find local residents that used the railroad during war times, I was told of many people that rode to and from work at the powder plant on the train. I also learned of buses that shuttled workers from Morrow on all 3 shifts.

If you have a memory or know a story about Morrow, please share it with us...



WWII Era Fuel Rationing from 1943

Morrow Area Historical Society Member Spotlight: George Joseph Watkins, MD by Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard

George is the son of Christopher Watkins, Class of 1900, and Callie Goodin Watkins, who was a teacher at Morrow Elementary when I was a school secretary. George was born 17 Mar 1922 in Lebanon, Ohio, but after age one lived on Anderson Road in Morrow on the old Watkins homestead. He served in the U. S. Navy from 1944-1946. While in the Navy, he went to Electronics Technician School for over a year at Michigan City, Indiana; College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas; and Navy Pier in Chicago, then served in Guam for several months at the end of World War II. At one point before going to Guam he was a cook. He said, "It was very hot, so the cooks sat back and smoked while I labored at the stove."

After the war, he graduated from Miami University in Oxford in 1947 and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1951. George interned at General Hospital in Cincinnati from 1951-1953. He was in general practice from 1953 until his retirement in 2004. George worked with Dr. S. C. Rousey in Bond Hill and Lockland from 1952-1955 and then had his own solo family practice in Milford until he retired.

He married Rita Smith in Glendale in 1957. They lived in Milford for over a year and then moved to Terrace Park. They have three children. One son is an Assistant Prosecutor in Warren County; one is a salesman for the McKesson Company; and a daughter who is a physician in northern Kentucky.

George is a member of the Clermont County Medical Society, Ohio State Medical Association, the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, and the Morrow Area Historical Society. Since retiring, George devotes much of his time to his hobbies of gardening and fishing.

The information was taken from my book, Graduates of Morrow High School, 1881-1956. For more information, please contact Marlene DeBoard at 937.289.3533 or marlene.deboard@yahoo.com.

Did you know...?

Did you know that an American Revolution veteran, buried in Baker Cemetery in 1824, owned 211 acres west of the present Morrow and east of the Mounts family overlooking the Little Miami River? Who was this man? Answer: Darby Shawhan died in 1824, his estate of 211 acres was divided by court appointed Andrew Whitacre, Thomas Ireland and Mahlon Roach.

Twilight Valley Memories

A Quarterly Column by John Poe

This column is a brief history of the Morrow connection between the war and the Little Miami Railroad. I am inviting you to send us a history of loved ones, friends and family members that travelled the railroad during war times. In my research for this column, I found most of the history occurred 6 miles south of Morrow on the Little Miami Railroad, namely Peters Cartridge Company & Kings Powder in Kings Mills.

If you take a bike ride south out of Morrow, you will find yourself travelling through a quiet river valley. One must use your imagination to break this peaceful spell and travel back a century to the Powder Factory located in Kings Mills. There is a sharp contrast to the peace and quiet of today, and activity of the Powder Plant of the past.

King Powder Company

Joseph Warren King was the founder of the parent company, The King Powder Company. The King Family built the factory on the Kings Mills side in Deerfield Township in Warren County. The dates for this vary from source to source. Most local accounts of the date is sometime during the Civil War. I have found reports that say the King Family purchased leftover black powder to resale to mining operations, mainly coal mining operations, being the first customers of Kings Powder. I also found that the King Powder Company purchased unused cannon balls and melted them to use in shotgun shells.

Peters Cartridge Company

Gershom Moore Peters, a Baptist minister, married King's daughter and invented the cartridge-loading machine. Peters and his brother, O.E. Peters, helped organize the Peters Cartridge Co. in 1887. They built a massive shot tower at the factory complex in 1895. During World War I, a new one replaced it. It is still there. Fancy letter Ps can still be seen on the sides of the tower and the huge smokestack.

The Great Explosion

A few minutes before 4 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, July 15, 1890, an explosion of great magnitude rocked the area of King's Mills, which was felt in many directions of Warren County. The explosion was considered the scene of the

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worst disaster in the history of the county up to that time. Lebanon residents were affected by a dull shock, which resembled an earthquake or a tremendous explosion. Immediately, dense clouds of black smoke began to rise in the direction of King's Mills and all knew that a terrific blast had taken place. Smaller explosions were soon infiltrated into the scene. It was impossible for Lebanon residents to gain word from the area because the telegraph lines were destroyed. Consequently, a long string of buggies and hacks were seen leaving the Lebanon area and heading toward the mill. The station stood across the Little Miami River on the railroad side. It was the office of the powder company and consisted of a large two-story house, which housed the loaded shells. Surrounding the station were a dozen little houses where employees and the workers lived with their families. In an instant, all these houses were diminished to a smoking and blazing mass of ruins. The immediate area of the explosion was the railroad track, which ran close to these buildings. Two cars, which were loaded and ready for shipment with one thousand kegs of powder, were being coupled up to a local freight train. William Franey, a young man from Corwin, who had only been railroading for a few days, was doing the coupling. The grade of the track was unusually steep and it was assumed that the brakes of the engine did not work as well as had been expected. The freight coupled into the powder cars with excessive speed and caused a powder keg to explode. A tremendous explosion followed and both cars blew up simultaneously with great force. Powder cans in the cartridge house just a short distance away began to explode and the building collapsed with a great crash.

Eleven men were killed instantly and many others died in the hospital. The explosion completely destroyed a majority of the original factory, which was mostly made from wood at the time. Countless urban myths and ghost stories have emerged because of this event; claims have surfaced that the ghosts of the men who died in the explosion still haunt the factory to this day.

Continued on Next Page

Did you know...?

Do you know when the Morrow VFW Post 8202 was founded? Who was the first Commander?

Answer:

What Do You Know About Rationing?

by Marlene Schwartz-DeBoard

The following information will give you something to think about as well as information about what your parents or grandparents went through during WWII.

A wide variety of commodities were rationed during World War II in the United States. Rationed items included tires, cars, bicycles, typewriters, gasoline, fuel oil, kerosene, solid fuels, stoves, rubber footwear, shoes, sugar, coffee, processed foods, meats, canned fish, cheese, canned milk, and fats. The rationing period was from January 1942 to December 1945. Some rationing ended when supplies were sufficient to meet demand. Tires were the first item to be rationed by the Office of Price Administration, which ordered the temporary end of sales on 11 Dec 1941 while it created 7,500 unpaid, volunteer three-person tire ration boards around the county. By 5 January 1942, the boards were ready. Each received a monthly allotment of tires based on the number of local vehicle registrations, and allocated them to applicants based on OPA rules. The War Production Board (WPB) ordered the temporary end of all civilian automobile sales on 1 Jan 1942, leaving dealers with one half million unsold cars. Ration boards grew in size as they began evaluating automobile sales in February (only certain professions, such as doctors and clergyman, qualified to purchase new autos.) Auto factories stopped manufacturing civilian models by early February 1942 and converted to producing tanks, aircraft, weapons, and other military products, with the US government as the only customer. Civilians first received ration books on 4 May 1942, through more than 100,000 school teachers, PTA groups, and other volunteers. Later that month volunteers again helped distribute gasoline cards. To get a classification and rationing stamps, one had to appear before a local War Price and Rationing Board which reported to the OPA. Each person in a household received a ration book, including babies and small children who qualified for canned milk not available to others. An A sticker on a car was the lowest priority of gasoline rationing. It entitled the car owner to 4 gallons per week. A B sticker was issued to workers in the military industry, 8 gallon per week. C stickers were granted to persons deemed very essential to the war effort, such as doctors. T rations were available for truckers.

Continued in Next Column

Continued from the Previous Column

Lastly, X stickers on cars entitled the holder to unlimited supplies and were the highest priority in the system. Ministers, police, firemen and civil defense workers were in this category. A scandal erupted when 200 Congressmen received these X stickers. As of 1 March 1942, dog food could no longer be sold in tin cans, and manufacturers switched to dehydrated versions. As of 1 April 1942, anyone wishing to purchase a new toothpaste tube, then made from metal, had to turn in an empty one. Sugar was rationed in April 1942 with a ratio of .5 pounds per person per week, half of normal consumption. To enable making change for ration stamps, the government issued "red point" tokens to be given in change for red stamps and "blue point" tokens in change for blue stamps.

Much more information is available on this subject and your Historical Society has some ration books and tokens.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ★ ★ ★ OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION	
MILEAGE RATION IDENTIFICATION FOLDER E-R	
B	C
COMPLETE ADDRESS <i>White 3</i>	
VEHICLE LICENSE NO. <i>85-250</i>	
STATE OF REGISTRATION <i>Illinois</i>	
YEAR, MODEL AND MAKE <i>1940 - Ford</i>	
VALID FROM DATE BELOW <i>7-1-44</i>	EARLIEST RENEWAL DATE <i>4-30-44</i>
FLEET IDENTIFICATION OR CERTIFICATE OF WAR NECESSITY NUMBER (IF ANY) <i>343032</i>	
SERIAL NUMBERS OF COUPONS ISSUED FROM: <i>3129542</i> TO: <i>568</i> INCLUSIVE	
COUPONS MUST BE KEPT WITH THIS FOLDER AT ALL TIMES	
★ GPO 16-37784-1	

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS—1. This ration cannot be used for any purpose other than that which it was applied for and issued.
2. The type and serial numbers of coupons in this folder must be the same as those shown on the front cover.
3. Within five days after discontinuance of the use for which this ration was issued, this folder and all unused coupons must be returned to the War Price and Rationing Board.
4. "B," "C," or "T" coupons can be used only for gasoline transferred into the fuel tank of the vehicle, or a vehicle of the fleet, described on the front cover unless proper approval by a War Price and Rationing Board for bulk transfer is shown.
5. "B," "C," "E," or "R" rations must be returned to the War Price and Rationing Board within five days after any renewal of the ration becomes valid.
6. "T" rations must be returned to your District ODT Office within five days after the expiration date shown on the folder.
7. "E" and "R" coupons can be used only for obtaining gasoline for non-highway equipment and uses, and not for registered or commercial vehicles.
8. "B," "C," and "T" ration holders. You must surrender this folder and all unused coupons to your War Price and Rationing Board before selling your vehicle. The purchaser will not be issued a gasoline ration unless he presents the receipt which you receive at time of surrender.
16-37784-1

WWII Era Rationing Identification Card from 1944

Did you know...?

During WWII many men spent months and years away from family and friends. What Graduate of Morrow High School spent 33 months in the South Pacific away from home?

Answer: William "Bill" Dare, Class of 1940. He served in the Army Air Force.

Autumn 2014

Volunteers Wanted!

We are looking for members to serve on our three newly established committees: Finance, Social & Publicity, and Collections. The Finance Committee will help manage income and expenses, including preparation for a permanent museum building. The Social & Publicity Committee will plan events and communications, including the Newsletter. The Collections Committee will work with our growing number of donations. Please contact us at 513.899.2821 if you're interested. We would love your help!

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Please visit us on the web at
www.MorrowHistory.org

Morrow Area Historical Society
c/o Morrow Municipal Building
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Morrow, Ohio 45152