

THE BUFFINGTON BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFINGTON ISLAND BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION FOUNDATION



BUFFINGTON ISLAND
BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION FOUNDATION



Destroyed battlefield ground

FROM THE CHAIR

by Donny Jones

"Guten Tag, Alle!" (Good day, everyone!) Many of you already know me from my social media presence as "The Uniformed Historian" but for the very first time I am writing to you as interim Chairman of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation. I'd like to take a moment to thank my predecessor, Jordan Pickens, for his incredible performance as Chairman and acknowledge I have large shoes to fill.

Too often we find ourselves trapped into thinking how long ago the Civil War was fought. 160 years ago seems like a long time when you say it like that. Thinking of Abraham Lincoln as the 16th President and we are currently at President number forty-six also makes it seem longer ago. The numbers show one story, but don't be fooled - we still have a surviving "true son" of a Union Veteran living in Missouri. I met my great grandmother who knew my family's Civil War ancestor. In many ways we can literally reach out and touch those tangible connections to the conflict. Just watch the news, you'll see countless ways we are STILL fighting the war amongst ourselves.

During a time when it has become popular to remove historic items from public display, we owe it to our friends and family to serve as an example by preserving and protecting the Battlefield at Buffington Island. As the interim Chairman, my goals are simple. (I didn't say easy!) I aim to oversee the purchase of land at risk of being developed, land where the 14th Illinois Cavalry fought and captured many Confederate prisoners. I also would like to see an informational marker installed about Germans (and other immigrants) who participated at the Battle of Buffington Island.

I am both honored and humbled by the trust the board has demonstrated by allowing me the privilege to serve as interim chairman. I plan to make the most of my stint, however long or short it may be. Thank you and I will look forward to speaking with you again in the next issue.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.



EVENTS

April 16th – American Battlefield Trust Park Day – Buffington Island State Memorial

May 7th – Civil War Symposium sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans and BIBPF – Bossard Library in Gallipolis (see article on Page 3)

May 21st & 22nd – A Living History Weekend with the 13th West Virginia Infantry – Buffington Island State Memorial (see article on Page 4)

July 16th – Buffington Island Memorial Service – Buffington Island State Memorial

NEWS

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR OUR MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Simply put, 2021 got away from us. Many of us on the board work full time, so having the opportunity to send out membership renewal notices was something that was pushed to the back burner. To that end, we have simply made 2021 a "free year" of membership. We also have a need for a membership person, someone that can email reminders to our members, track new memberships – basically keeping the membership records updated. If you have an hour or so each month, please contact us at buffingtonisland@gmail.com. In the meantime, please renew your membership online at buffingtonbattlefieldfoundation.org/membership

UPDATED FOUNDATION LOGO!

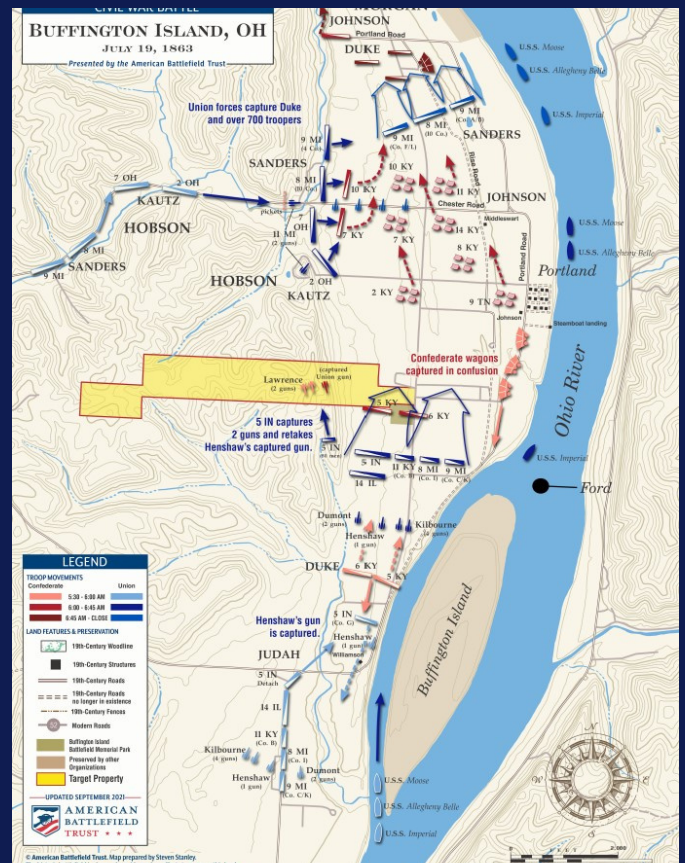
Check it out on page one...we have streamlined our logo. Thanks to Bev Kirk (Bev did the illustrations for the John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail interpretive panels) for creating our original logo and updating it! You can purchase BIBPF apparel with the new logo at <https://buffington-island-battlefield.creator-spring.com/>

SAVE BUFFINGTON ISLAND!

MARCH 31st DEADLINE

We are frantically working with the American Battlefield Trust to preserve over 100 acres of battlefield ground. Confederates from Kentucky Cavalry Regiment and Federals Illinois and Indiana fought across this property, which lies between the current state memorial park and the Portland Community Center. We have been unable to secure any regional grants, and need to come up with a large sum of money by the end of March to secure the purchase. To facilitate the donation process, we have created a Go Fund Me page at gofundme.com/f/save-ohio-battlefield-land.

Any amount you can donate to help reach the \$50,000 goal is greatly appreciated. We do not want to lose out on this potentially once in a lifetime opportunity – our first true chance to save a portion of Ohio's only significant Civil War battlefield.



The property for potential purchase is marked in yellow and connects the state memorial park with the Portland Community Center.

CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

By Samuel J. Wilson

The Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation along with the Cadot-Blessing Camp #126 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Dr. Samuel Bossard Memorial Library are proud to sponsor a Civil War Symposium on Saturday, 7 May 2022 at the Bossard Library in Gallipolis, Ohio. This one-day event will feature Civil War music, historians, and enthusiasts discussing various aspects of this pivotal period in American history, with an emphasis on the role of Ohio in this conflict.

The lineup includes musician Steve Ball from Columbus, Ohio, who specializes in Civil War music, and the music and life of Stephen Foster. Steve has done programs for the Ohio Statehouse, the National Civil War Museum, the American Civil War Museum of Ohio, and countless historical societies, genealogical societies, libraries, museums, Civil War Round Tables and other historical venues such as re-enactments or living history programs.

In addition, there are five dynamic speakers discussing Cincinnati and Ohio in the Civil War, one of John H. Morgan's raids, the role of women in the conflict, and the story of U.S. Colored troops. Anthony Gibbs of the Ohio History Connection will present, **"Freedom, Citizenship, and Equality: The Story of the U.S.C.T."** Gibbs discusses events significant to these men that led up to the Civil War, and what made these men different from the other thousands who fought and died in the War Between the States.

The event features two BIBPF board members. David Mowery will present the **"Civil War in Cincinnati."** Mowery's recent book, *Cincinnati in the Civil War: The Union's Queen City*, discusses the crucial role the city played in preserving the Union. Board member Darryl Smith will present, **"Rise of a Rebel Raider - John H. Morgan's First Kentucky Raid."** Darryl is the owner of Walking with History, where he gives tours and talks on Civil War battlefields. He has also written articles for the American Battlefield Trust.

The symposium will have presentations from two Ohio Humanities scholars from the Ohio History Connection, Professor Kelly D. Mezurek and Mark Holbrook. Ms. Mezurek is a professor of history at Walsh University, where she teaches United States history. Her book, *For their Own Cause: The 27th United States Colored Troops* is a 2017 Ohioana Book Award Finalist in nonfiction. Dr. Mezurek's topic, *"Ohio Women and the Civil War Home Front,"* will discuss the vital contribution made by the state's female population.

This presentation demonstrates the importance of Ohio's women by exploring their wartime activities on the home front, focusing largely on the Soldiers Aid Societies and the Sanitary Fairs in Cleveland and Cincinnati. Mr. Holbrook, currently the executive director for the Marion Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and editor of *The Buckeye Vanguard* about the 49th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, will present, *"Ohio in the Civil War."* He will discuss how the war changed Ohio and its people as well as the contributions of its people during the conflict.

This event is free and open to the public. Advanced registration is required. For more information, please contact Ms. Lynn Pauley, Adult Programming Associate for the Bossard Library at LPauley@bossardlibrary.org. The Bossard Library is located at 7 Spruce Street, Gallipolis, OH 45631

SOMETHING WARM

By Donny Jones

During these bitter cold, winter months I thought I'd share an artifact to help keep us all warm. When not on the move, soldiers found any number of ways to keep themselves busy and entertained. Among them was the consumption of alcohol. When it wasn't readily available on campaign, men would develop their own recipes and gave them creative names like "Oh Be Joyful," "Knock 'em stiff" and "Blue Ruin." However when men were in stationary camps (such as winter quarters) they had more access to items such as professionally brewed beer.

This bottle is typical of a glass beer bottle of the era. It was excavated at Harrisons Landing, Virginia, and was likely consumed by a soldier under General McClellan during the Peninsula Campaign, based on other artifacts located in the general vicinity.



May 21 & 22, 2022

BUFFINGTON ISLAND BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Presents

A Living History Weekend with the 13th West Virginia Infantry
at Buffington Island Battlefield State Park in Portland, Ohio

Experience the daily life of a Civil War soldier!

Activities will include:

Weapons/Firing demonstrations

Period-correct camp cooking

Authentic military drills

Original artifacts on display

...and much more!

ADMISSION IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC - Camps are open Dusk to Dark

*Donations are greatly appreciated - All
proceeds go toward purchasing battleground
at risk of being developed!*