Welcome to Camp Cleveland

By Chris Roy

Camp Cleveland was not "hallowed ground." But it nonetheless played a vital role in the Civil War. From 1862 to 1865, more than 15,000 northeast Ohio soldiers gathered and trained there. And from this little corner of what is now Tremont, they traveled south to meet the enemy and, far too often, their maker. This is the story of Camp Cleveland.

In 1860, Cleveland was a hardy village—stoked by the Industrial Revolution and primed by the Ohio and Erie Canal. By 1870, Cleveland was a big city. What happened in between was the Civil War.

Within months of the attack on Fort Sumter in April, 1861, Cleveland's Otis & Company was supplying railroad iron for military use. Cleveland Agricultural Works produced caissons and gun carriages. Peck, Kirby & Masters built marine patrol vessels. The Cleveland Powder Company made blasting and gun powder.[1]

Cleveland also benefited from the curtailment of shipments from the south. The city's first tobacco factory, T. Maxfield & Company, opened in 1862—filling a void created by the stoppage of tobacco shipments. The German Woolen Factory—poised to benefit from cotton's unavailability—opened its doors in 1862. On the retail side, H. Hattersly sold revolvers and cavalry carbines. Drugstores offered bottles of Porter's Cure of Pain to rid soldiers of stomach ailments. The Cleveland Worsted Mill Co. sold soldiers' socks. Over the course of the war, the number of Cleveland leather dealers nearly doubled, due in no small part to government orders for military items.

But the Cleveland area's greatest contribution during the war years wasn't its commodities, its tools or its weapons. In great quantities, Cleveland contributed *people*: soldiers primarily, but also doctors; nurses; sanitary and aid workers; and food production and service personnel. Local military training camps—Brown, Taylor, Tod, Wade, Wood and (later) Camp Cleveland—employed maintenance personnel, washerwomen, cooks and physicians.[2]

Altogether, Cleveland's population grew from 43,417 in 1860 to 92,829 in 1870. At a staggering cost in life and limb, Cleveland had entered the industrial age.

War Begins

The fall of Fort Sumter created great excitement in Cleveland. People gathered in meeting halls and on street corners to discuss the news. Scores of young men crowded into Grays armory, responding to President Lincoln's call for 70,000 volunteers.[3] Recruiting officers organized and attended "war meetings" and prodded men to enlist on the spot. Dignitaries gave patriotic speeches. Bands played. Citizens donated funds for bounty awards. Led by Lieutenant Levi T. Schofield, 30 recruits marched into the Standard Oil offices in Cleveland. John D. Rockefeller took a bag of money from his safe and handed each recruit $10 for enlisting.[4]

The Cleveland Grays were among the area's first volunteers (Figure 1). Mustered into service as "Company E, First Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI)" on April 18, 1861, they left two days later for Washington, D.C.[5] A crowd of 15,000 people assembled to bid them farewell while Leland's Band played "Yankee Doodle" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me."[6] Some Cleveland firms offered to continue the salaries of employees who enlisted in the Grays.[7]

Figure 1: The Cleveland Grays were the first military unit of Clevelanders to leave for the War. They were organized in 1837 as an independent volunteer militia company. According to congressman Albert G. Riddle, an eyewitness, the Grays were the first on the field and the last to leave in the battle of Bull Run.[8]

Throughout Ohio and across the country, people rushed to create military enlistment and training facilities. Columbus, OH, was particularly overwhelmed with hordes of eager volunteers, for which the state had not even quarters or food, much less arms and equipment.[9] In short order, Camp Jackson was established and the city's boarding houses accommodated recruits until better provisions could be provided. Camp Dennison (named for the Ohio Governor) also was established as a Cincinnati-area training camp, as well as a means of defense for an area vulnerable to attack should Kentucky secede (Figure 2). Other camps also were built, including Columbus' Camp Chase (named for a former Ohio Governor). Camp Chase and Camp Dennison became primary launch points for troops mustered into federal service.[10]

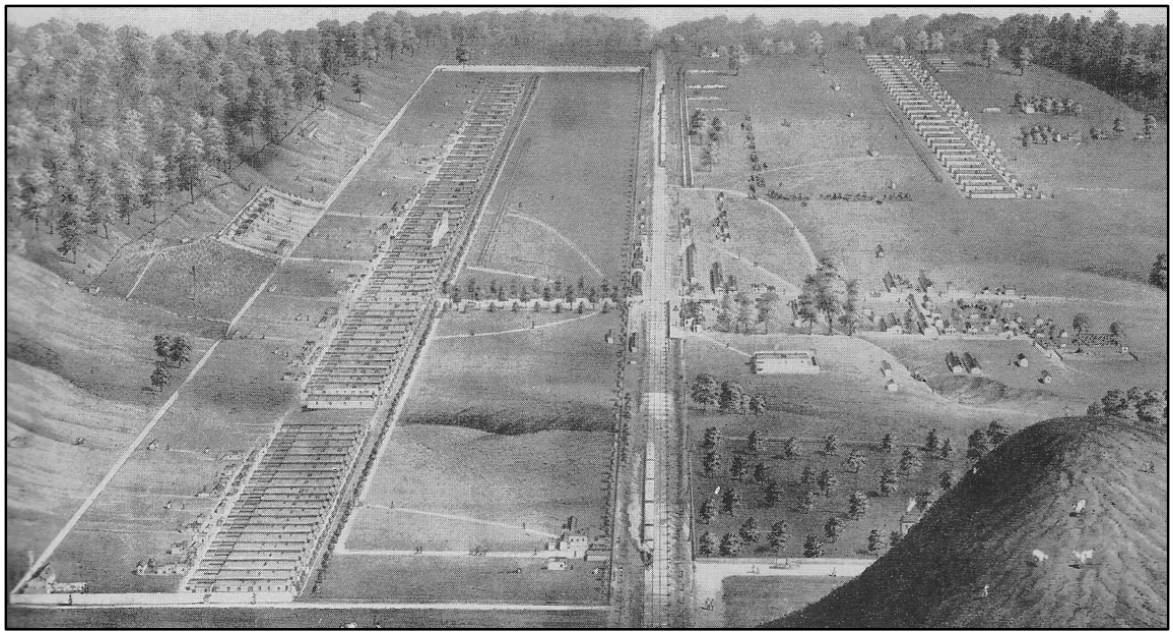


Figure 2: Camp Dennison near Cincinnati.[11]

In Cleveland, five army camps were established in 1861. All closed within a year. These were:

- *Camp Taylor at what is now East 30th Street and Woodlawn Avenue.* It had been the site of fairgrounds of the Cuyahoga County Agricultural Society and now is the location of Cuyahoga Community College. Camp Taylor opened in April, 1861, and closed in October of that year.
- *Camp Wood at what is now East 37th Street and Woodland Avenue.* The site is now a mix of residences and restaurant supply buildings. Camp Wood opened in August, 1861, and closed in November.
- *Camp Tod, located along Woodland Avenue, although the exact location has not been determined.* Home of the 45th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, its opening date is not known but it closed in December, 1861.
- *Camp Brown, located at what is now East 46th Street and Euclid Avenue.* Home of one of Ohio's "German Units"—the 37th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry—Camp Brown opened in August, 1861, and closed the next month.
- *Camp Wade, established in the northeast corner of what is now known as Tremont (then University Heights).* Camp Wade's borders were West 7th Street on the west (then known as University Street), West 5th Street on the east (then Herschal Street), Literary Road on the north and Jefferson Street (then known as Franklin Street) on the south.[a] This is part of the site that, in 1862, became Camp Cleveland. Like most of the Cleveland-area facilities, Camp Wade was little more than a collection of tents and temporary buildings. It opened in August of 1861 and closed that October. Silas Stone, a real estate dealer, leased the property to the State of Ohio for the sum of one dollar.[12]

From December, 1861, to July, 1862, there were no training camps in or around Cleveland. However, things changed as 1862 unfolded. By that time, initial war fervor had begun to cool and the difficulties of maintaining high recruitment levels became more stark. The Union's horrible losses at Shiloh in April, 1862 (2,000 casualties from Ohio alone), and incursions toward Washington DC by General Stonewall Jackson in May, 1862, dampened Ohioans' interest in enlisting.

Clearly, the war was not going to end as quickly as many predicted, and on August 4, President Lincoln called for 300,000 more troops under the Militia Act of 1862. If enough men didn't volunteer, conscription would follow. Incentives were sizeable: Three-year volunteers would receive an enlistment bonus, called a bounty, of $100. Nine-month volunteers would get $25. In an economy where a typical working man earned a yearly salary of $300, these were enticing sums.[13] Drafted men would receive no bounties or enlistment bonuses.[b] After enlistment, privates would be paid $13 per month. Over the entire course of the war, the federal government paid out more than $300 million in bounties.

From Lincoln's call, some 36,000 troops were slated to come from Ohio. The strongest volunteer responses came from Ohio's southern-most regions. The northern parts of Ohio—including the Western Reserve—lagged significantly. Ironically, support of the war in terms of enlistments

[a] Many alternative spellings of "Herschal" have been noted in historical documentation, including "Hershel," "Herschell" and "Hershal." A short alley-like street connecting West 5th and West 7th Streets south of Literary Road is now called Herschel Court. The name Jefferson Street replaced Franklin Street after the war. Previously, Jefferson was an extension of Franklin when the former reached the Flats running north.

[b] The federal bounty system took effect in May, 1861. A $100 sum was awarded to volunteers and recruits who enlisted for three years. In October, 1863, it rose to $300 for new recruits. By July, 1864, it dropped back to $100. Eligible men could avoid service by paying $300 or by hiring a substitute. The draft was primarily designed to get men to volunteer because being drafted was considered unpatriotic. A relatively small percentage of soldiers actually were produced through conscription.

was strongest in that part of Ohio where abolition had the weakest hold.[14] Thus, Ohio's northern regions were subject to particularly aggressive recruiting efforts (Figure 3).


COME AND JOIN ANOTHER
COMPANY OF
CLEVELAND GRAYS,

G. W. TIBBITS, one of the oldest members of the Grays, is recruiting a Company for the 103d Regiment.

$50 Bounty is offered by the City, $25 by the Government, one months pay ($13) and $2 premium, making $90 in advance. Let us be the First and Best Company in the Regiment.

Recruiting Office in Atheneum Building.
CAPT. GEO. W. TIBBITS,
1ST LIEUT. CHAS. E. SARGEANT,
2D " LEVI T. SCOFIELD,
Recruiting Officers.

jy23

Figure 3: Early recruitment ad, Cleveland **Plain Dealer**, *August 8, 1862. Note the amusingly appropriate name of the 1st lieutenant. In addition to downtown locations, Camp Cleveland recruiting also was done in a barn on Auburn Avenue in Tremont.*[15]

Camp Cleveland Rises

Camp Cleveland thus was established in July, 1862, as the point of rendezvous and preliminary instruction for the "11th Military District" of Ohio. The Camp's footprint mirrored that of Camp Wade, although the new facility extended Camp Wade's borders north from what is now Literary Road to Railway Street (incorrectly labelled "University Street" along the left border of Figure 4), and south from Jefferson (Franklin) Street to what is now Marquardt Avenue. That same month, George B. Senter, mayor of Cleveland in 1859-1860, was selected by Ohio Governor Tod to serve as commandant. Senter had been assistant commissary general of Camp Taylor in the Spring of 1861. For the remainder of the war, Camp Cleveland was the only military camp in northeast Ohio.

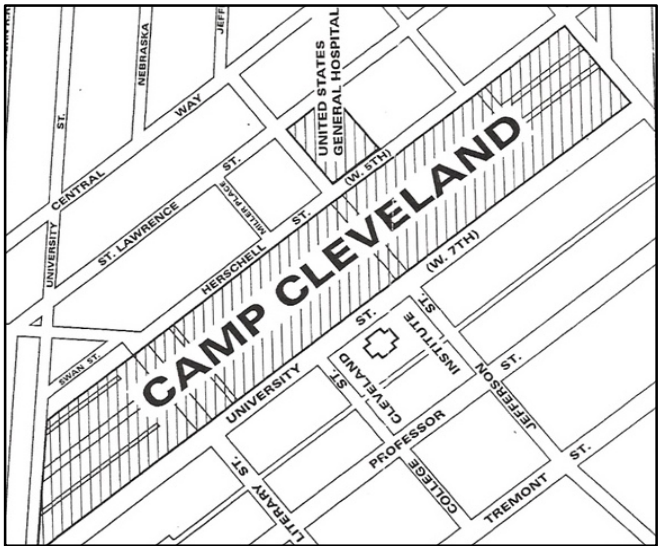


Figure 4: Camp Cleveland sat on 35.5 acres, bordering what are now University Road on the north, West 5th Street on the east, Marquardt Avenue on the south and West 7th Street on the west. This map does not include a small salient southwest of University and Jefferson (Franklin) Streets that housed the camp's headquarters and quartermaster stores. This segment is shown on the map illustrated in Figure 6.

Camp Cleveland recruits/trainees were mustered (formally organized and inducted) at a variety of times and locations. This often depended on the availability of a mustering officer to conduct the ceremony. Some soldiers were mustered in at a downtown recruitment station such as the one at Superior and Bank (West 6th) Streets. Others might not be mustered in until they left Camp Cleveland for additional training or even active duty.

Many regiments were mustered into federal service at Camp Cleveland. The ceremony would be conducted by a colonel and mustering officer. The entire regiment was drawn up in formation on the parade ground in front of the flag pole. A check was made to ensure that those present correlated with names on the enlistment roles. The mustering officer then ordered all men to remove their headgear and raise their right hands. They repeated the oath of service after the mustering officer (Figure 5). The regimental adjutant then handed the volunteer colonel orders, officially placing the colonel in command of the regiment and assigning field, staff and company grade officers to their respective commands. Thus the regiment was transferred from state to federal control. The financing of the regiment was henceforth the responsibility of the Federal government and soldiers could begin drawing pay.[16]

Mustering Oath Taken by Incoming Soldiers at Camp Cleveland

"I _____, do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies, whomsoever, that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States, and of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War, so help me God."[c]

Figure 5: Mustering oath.

By early August, 1862, Camp Cleveland's barracks were under construction, built primarily by civilian carpenters. Within days, some 20 structures had been completed, although some recruits were still charged with building their own temporary domiciles. A headquarters area west of University Street contained buildings for the camp staff: two for the commandant, three for quartermaster's stores and a stable. An arsenal was located in the center of the camp. Other structures included a guardhouse and a chapel. Natural springs and a well supplied the camp's drinking water (Figure 6).

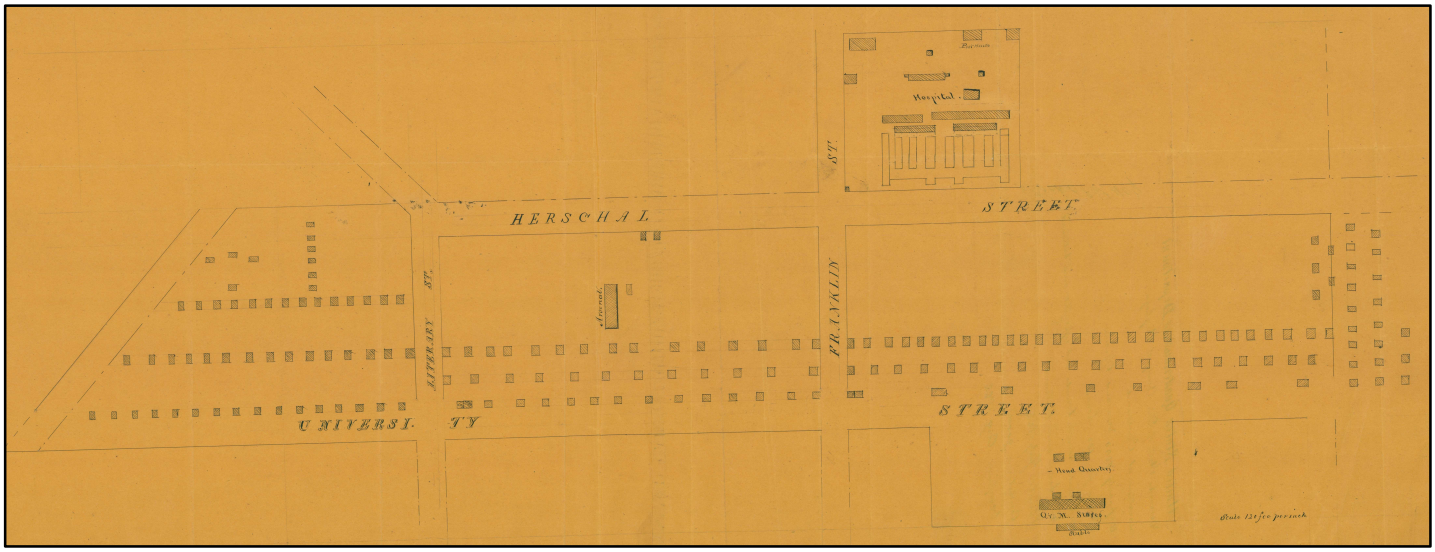


Figure 6: Hand-drawn plan for Camp Cleveland, 1862.[17]

[c] Author's note: It is notable that, at this period of American history, soldiers (as well as virtually all regular citizens) would refer to the United States as a plural entity, i.e., that "we will serve them (the United States) honestly and faithfully . . ." After the war, such an oath would likely refer to the United States as "it" rather than "them."

One person wrote that Camp Cleveland consisted of "a dozen or two long, low buildings, a guard line and a flag staff" (Figure 7).[18] *The Daily Herald* noted that the camp presented "a busy appearance . . . It was organized into streets with substantial rows of barracks . . . Structures were well built [and] sanitary arrangements excellent, with everything being systematic, orderly and clean . . ."[19]

Figure 7: Barracks buildings at Camp Cleveland, most likely viewed from the intersection of what is now West 7th Street and Marquardt Avenue looking north. Note Cleveland Institute (erected in the 1850s as part of the short-lived Cleveland University) at far left.

Barracks were made of unfinished pine wood and were 20 feet wide and 60 feet long, held 32 men and had a stove for heating. Soldiers slept on un-planed wooden bunks, using straw for mattresses and knapsacks for pillows. When government supplies arrived, each soldier received a grey wool blanket. Meals were brought into the barracks and dished out to each man. A typical evening meal consisted of meat, vegetables, soup and bread. Coffee was drawn by dipping cups into a large kettle. Milk, butter and sugar were rarely available.[20] Troops had to stand while eating due to a lack of barracks furniture. Shelves were used as tables.[21]

> ***"Lieutenant William Dustin, a lieutenant in the 19th Ohio Volunteer Artillery, wrote following the war: "The camp was a table land above the city and admirably suited to the use of a camp of instruction. It was as level as a floor and carpeted with grass. A row of six pine barracks fitted up with bunks accommodated the men, and a single one at the rear was used for head quarters. The barracks were high enough for two rows of berths. There were over 150 barracks in total. There was a fine fresh water spring in a deep and shady ravine at the lower end of the camp and it furnished the men with an abundance of excellent water."[22]***

Property owner Silas Stone spent his own money to improve the Camp Cleveland grounds. Approaches were graded to accommodate the omnibuses which ran to and from the camp, bringing soldiers' families and friends, as well as interested citizens.[23]

Recruits (average age: 26) started arriving at Camp Cleveland in mid-August. Enlisted men's attire—from farm overalls to tailored business suits—were soon traded for trousers of blue wool (light or dark) and dark blue frock coats (with and without piping). Regimental numbers would be displayed on the top and front of dark-blue kepi caps.[d] Staff and field officers usually wore dark blue trousers and frock coat. Men of all ranks wore a type of shoe that extended an inch or two above the ankle, tied with a single lace. These were called "boots" or "booties." Shirts were

[d] A kepi is generally defined as "a French military cap with a flat top and horizontal brim."

made of a cotton/wool combination called "domet flannel." Winter overcoats for enlisted men and non-commissioned officers were made of sky blue kersey wool with a burlap lining.

> ***"Uniforms arrived in due time. They consisted of light blue pants, dark blue coats with shoulder scoles [metal epaulets], black felt hats, and stocks [neckwear], which were seldom worn except as a joke. It was not always possible to fit individuals correctly, so a well-dressed company was not a common sight."*** [24]

By early December, 1862, Camp Cleveland housed almost 4,200 soldiers. This number was the highest of the war. For the next few years, the Camp's population would fluctuate wildly as companies departed and new recruits arrived.

Soldiers' typical daily routine—prior to being sent south—would be:

Reveille..... 6:00 AM
Roll Call..... 6:20 AM
Breakfast ..... 7:00 AM
Policing Quarters ..... 7:30 AM
Guard Mounting ..... 8:00 AM
Sick Call..... 9:00 AM
Company Drill..... 9:30 AM
Recall ..... 12:00 PM
Officers' Call for Recitation..... 1:00 PM
Dress Parade and Roll Call..... 4:15 PM
Supper..... 5:00 PM
Tattoo and Roll Call..... 8:30 PM
Taps..... 8:30 PM[25]

Figure 8: Clevelanders provided a solid nucleus of the First Ohio Light Artillery Regiment, which absorbed the militia known as the Cleveland Light Artillery. Batteries from this regiment served in both eastern and western theaters of the Civil War. It sustained a total of nearly 5,000 casualties.[26] Captured in Western Virginia in July, 1861, by the Cleveland Light Artillary Brigade, the "Secesh Canon" shown in the photo was fired off to salute departing troops and Union victories.[27] This photo was taken at Camp Cleveland, perhaps from Herschal Street (now West 5th Street) looking south. The canon is on display at Grays Armory on Bolivar Road in Cleveland.

Cannon and rifle squads were soon organized (Figure 9). The regular two-a-day drills could be frustrating because (due to limited availability) few soldiers were issued rifles. Most used no firearms whatsoever, while a handful used old Prussian muskets. Ancient flintlocks and heavy Austrian rifles were used for guard duty only. The role of guards was multifaceted:

peacekeeper, sentinel and even jailer for those imprisoned in the guard house for crimes ranging from misuse of passes and disobeying orders to drunkenness, theft and desertion.[28]

Figure 9: Soldiers drill on the Camp Cleveland Parade Grounds. At the rear, soldiers play "base-ball."

In their leisure time, soldiers received visitors, wrote letters, attended worship services, held picnics, listened to music and ventured into Cleveland to frequent the city's many taverns, see the sights or have photographs taken.[29] Bands often came to Camp Cleveland to entertain the troops. Street vendors sold souvenirs and photographers set up shop to take pictures of soldiers in their new uniforms. "Base-ball" games were played on the parade grounds.[30]

> ***"Theodore Tracie was also in the 19th OVA and in 1874 he wrote a book about the unit and below is the way he described the camp: 'Barracks-life at Camp Cleveland was like a long-continued gala day and picnic. No day passed that did not bring lady relatives and friends of the members. The camp was the favorite resort of the people of Cleveland, and bore a dreadfully unmilitary appearance.'" [31]***

Ain't Misbehaving

Boys will be (and surely were) boys. Since only a limited number of passes were issued at any one time, soldiers frequently devised ploys to get out of camp. Some might make excuses such as saying they needed to visit a sick relative. Others might appear at the guard house claiming to have permission to bathe in the Cuyahoga River. Another scheme involved carrying out a "sick" comrade in a makeshift stretcher fashioned from a large wooden breadbox. When challenged by the sentries, the bearers would drop the stretcher and run back into camp chased by the guard, thus leaving the [supposedly] sick soldier [to make his getaway]."[32]

Off-duty soldiers did what off-duty soldiers often do: In November, 1862, nearly 250 arrests were made by camp and patrol guards roaming Cleveland's streets. Drunkenness and failing to possess a pass were the two most common infringements. Violators often were subject to incarceration in the Camp Cleveland prison, although this was hardly a horrible fate: Prisoners were exempt from guard duty and often were allowed visitation. Guests regularly brought treats and beer to soothe their friends' "misery."

"Even if they were caught, a bribe of liquor or money usually allowed [soldiers without a pass] to re-enter the camp. Extra guard duty was issued for those who were caught. If men were too intoxicated or caught too often they were often put in the Guard House. Due to the number of absences, the guard house was seldom unoccupied. Many might think being put in the guard house would be a punishment but these men took it with good cheer. Feeling they didn't have to perform guard duty or drills and being given beer and other luxuries through a window, some felt it was a nice break from the routine."[33]

Because there was usually more than one unit in the camp, rivalries frequently developed. Soldiers raided each others' barracks, took pistols and emptied flasks. Produce was periodically stolen from farms abutting University Heights. Perhaps the most serious incident occurred on December 3, 1862, when (as he was being escorted to the guardhouse) a drunken recruit shot and seriously wounded a sergeant.[34]

Stabbing Affair at Camp Cleveland.

Twenty-five soldiers and paroled prisioners, confined in the Camp Cleveland Guard House, attempted to break out of the latter, on Saturday evening last. They removed a board from one end of their prison, and one of them succeeded in getting outside when a sentinel, who happened to be near, hurried promptly to the spot. The man who had got out, was bayoneted through the cheek, and the second one was treated to the butt end of the brave sentinel's musket, which made a frightful gash. After "playing it alone" thus far, the sentry called the relief guard, and the whole party were quickly secured. The soldier who was stabbed belonged to the 10th Cavalry.

Figure 10: News item from the Cleveland **Plain Dealer**, *December 29, 1862.*

A Girl in Uniform.

A damsel of attractive appearance was arrested at Camp Cleveland on Saturday, while attired in Uncle SAM's uniform. She had been tempted to the act from a desire to follow her "soger boy," who was in the camp. She belongs to Aurora, Portage county, and is of a respectable family. She will be returned to her home to-morrow.

Figure 11: Article from the Cleveland **Plain Dealer**, *March 28, 1864. "Soger" is Scottish slang for "soldier."*

The Hospital

In November, 1862, construction began on a hospital complex at the southeast corner of Herschal and Franklin Streets (now West 5th and Jefferson). Unaffiliated with Camp Cleveland, but solely extant to serve Union soldiers, it was called the United States General Hospital Cleveland (USGHC). With 320 beds, USGHC was one of 204 such facilities erected nationwide during the Civil War—a total of 136,984 beds.[35]

The 3.76-acre complex consisted of a main building (300 feet long, oriented north to south along Herschal Street), a half dozen wards and myriad detached buildings (Figures 4, 6, 12 and 17). The main building fronted Herschal. At the crest of the ridge overlooking the Flats was Ward I: the Pest-House (contagious disease ward). Close by was the morgue. Other structures included an office and forage house; a stable and stable sheds; and a mess house.

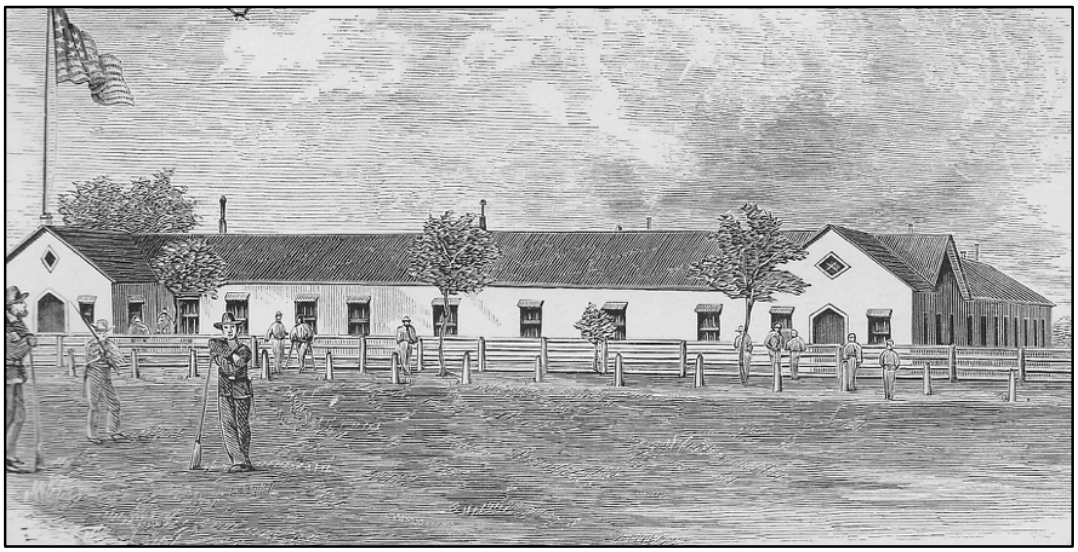


Figure 12: Camp Cleveland hospital, southeast corner of what are now Jefferson Street and West 5th Street.[36]

The hospital's campus-type layout was based on the (somewhat revolutionary) belief that an open-air design would accelerate healing and recovery by discouraging the concentration of "effluvia" (unhealthy concentrates) in the air. This may explain why so many individual buildings (as opposed to one large structure) were erected. In the main building, long wings were connected to a central section. Different types of medical cases were kept in different wings. To maximize air flow, ridge vents were installed along the ceilings of many hospital buildings.

Wards comprised double rows of iron beds with a central passage (Figure 14). Small tables were located between each bed. Each ward was heated with large stoves and lit by hanging lamps. Plank walkways were laid between each ward.[37]

The hospital opened in December, 1862. By Christmas, 106 soldiers were housed at USGHC. A chaplain served as morale officer, librarian, cemetery supervisor and mail distributor. Male nurses and cooks were usually convalescing soldiers. Women served as nurses, light-diet cooks, washer women and kitchen help. Wards were cared for by convalescing soldiers. "Food was prepared by colored cooks."[38] The US Government allocated 14.5 cents per day for each soldier's hospital rations.

Wounded Soldiers Expected.

Two or three hundred wounded soldiers from the field of battle at Murfreesboro, are expected to arrive in town in a few days. They will be quartered in the Camp Cleveland Hospital, and it is hoped that a sufficient number of carriages will be in readiness to convey the poor fellows thither from the train. The time of their arrival will be given as soon as it is known to a certainty.

Figure 13: Incoming wounded (Cleveland* Plain Dealer *January 13, 1863).

Figure 14: United States General Hospital Cleveland (interior).

A hospital reading room was open from 8:30 AM to tattoo. On the wall was a sign declaring . . .

- No card playing, loud talk or disorderly conduct.
- Smoking is permitted but spitting on the floor is forbidden.
- No whittling on tables or benches.
- No papers or books may be taken out of the room without special permission of the chaplain.

To break up their monotony, two USGHC patients placed the following ad in the* Daily Cleveland Herald *of August 16, 1864: "Wanted—Correspondence by two of Uncle Sam's wounded nephews with an unlimited number of our fair cousins. Object: fun, love and the consequences. So ladies, don't be backward, but send us a line in this our hour of affliction. Address J.P or C.A., Ward 1, U.S. General Hospital Cleveland, Ohio."

Most incoming recruits and volunteers received medical exams at the hospital. They also received smallpox (also known then as "variola") vaccinations. Recruits were vaccinated and veterans revaccinated. Inoculation against smallpox had been known for about 70 years. However, there was enough neglect in the revaccination of troops to create an annual average smallpox incidence of about five cases per thousand men. During the entire course of the war, only one Camp Cleveland resident died from the disease.[39]

Ill and wounded soldiers headed for the Camp Cleveland hospital would generally arrive by train at Cleveland's Union Depot (Figure 15), where they would be transported by various means—private citizens, omnibus hacks (carriages), volunteers from the Ladies' Aid Society—to the USGHC. Some may already have spent months in hospitals down south. All told, 3,028 soldiers received care for gunshot wounds, illnesses and diseases before the facility closed in late summer of 1865. Roughly 90 patients died at USGHC. Most deaths were due to disease, primarily malaria, typhoid, diarrhea and measles. One man died of liquor poisoning and another slit his throat rather

than undergo an amputation without anesthesia.[40] Only six died from wounds received in battle. This was typical: Throughout the war, roughly two thirds of Union soldiers died from disease rather than war wounds. Even surgeries, including amputations, were rare at USGHC. The only commissioned officer to die at the hospital during the war was Lieutenant George W. Miliken of the 6th Volunteer Cavalry, who succumbed to a head injury after falling off a horse. Many soldiers who passed on at the hospital are now buried in federally owned plots at Woodland Cemetery.[e]

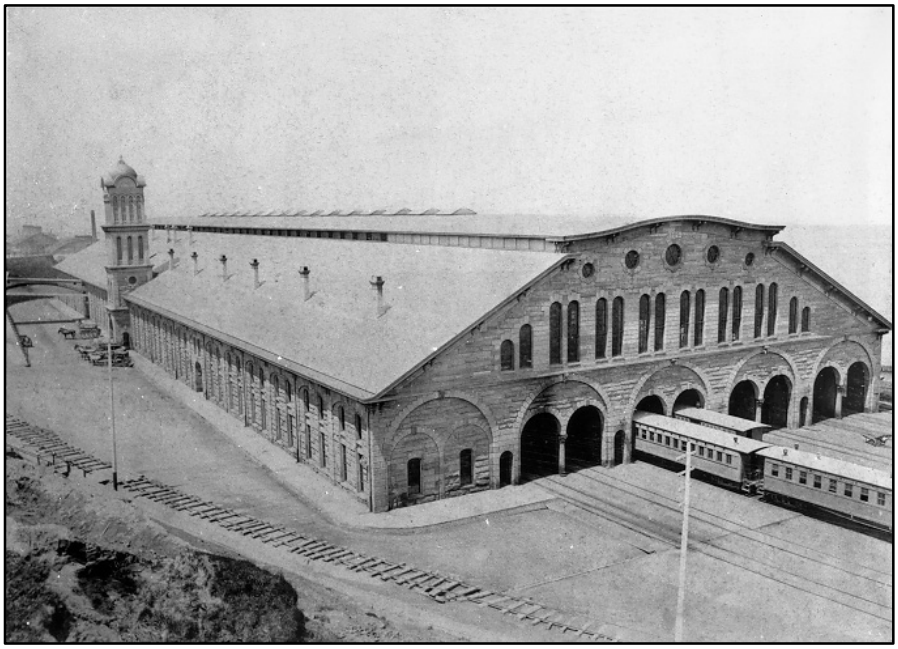
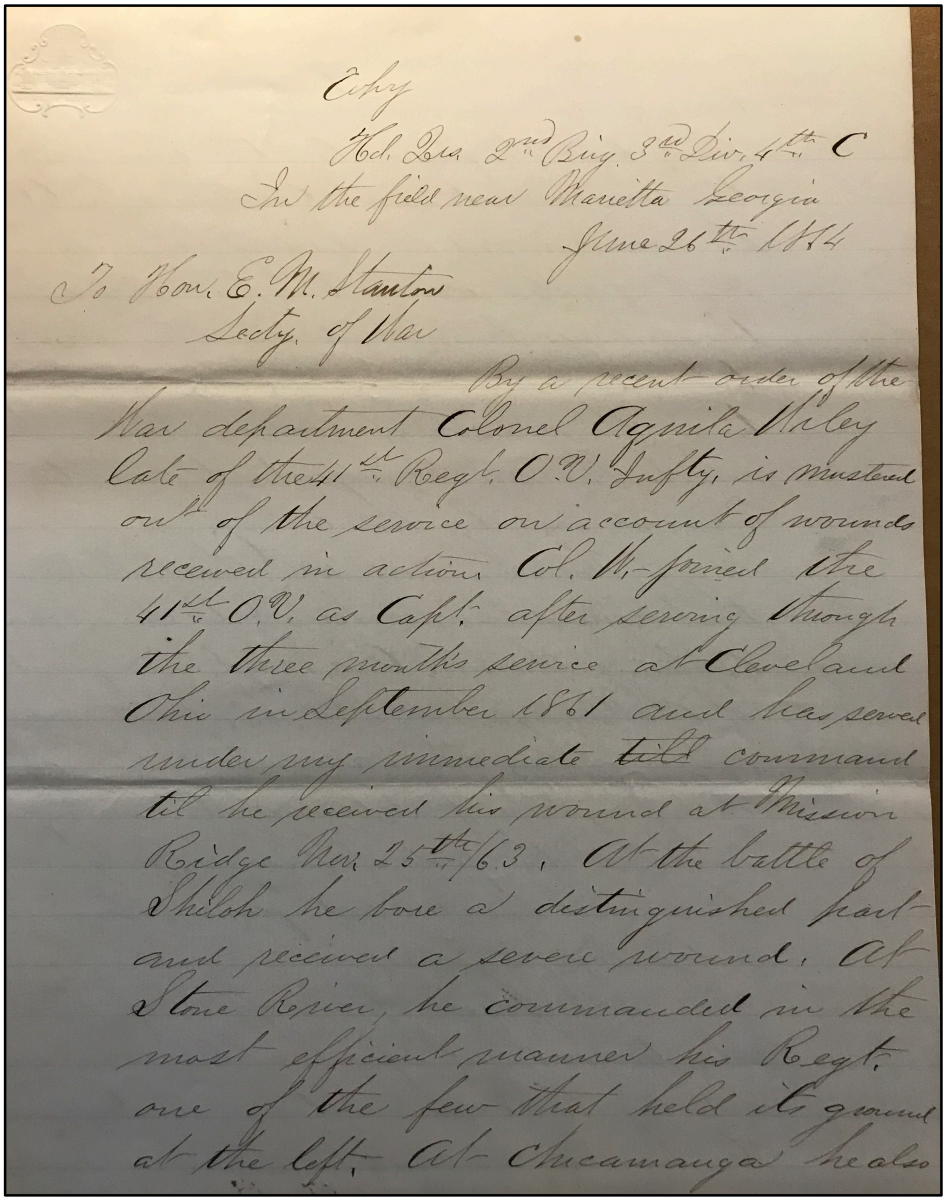


Figure 15: Cleveland's Union Depot, was located along the Lake Erie shore at the foot of what are now West 6th and West 9th Streets (then Bank and Water Streets). This photo was taken in 1866, one year after the building was rebuilt following a fire. The structure is similar to the building used during the war (the one that was destroyed). Source: Encyclopedia of Cleveland History.[41]

One of the more notable men affiliated with the hospital was Dr. George Miller Sternberg. He is considered by some to be the Father of American Bacteriology. Sternberg was in the U.S. Army and served in the Battles of Bull Run, Gaines Mill and Malvern Hill. He was assigned to the hospital in May, 1864, and remained until the hospital closed. In later years he documented the causes of yellow fever and malaria and confirmed the roles of bacilli in tuberculosis and typhoid fever. In 1886 he was instrumental in establishing the Army Medical School known today as the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.[42]

Another distinguished hospital personage was Camp Cleveland's own commandant, Aquila Wiley. Wiley had trained at Camp Wood in Cleveland in 1861, was seriously wounded in the left leg at Shiloh in April, 1862, and again in the same leg at Missionary Ridge in November, 1863, this time necessitating amputation above the knee. He replaced commandant Senter in the spring of 1864; however, Dr. Steinberg pronounced Wiley unfit for active duty. He was discharged on June 7, 1864, after only two months as commandant (Figure 16). Wiley was briefly reinstated as commandant near the end of the war to supervise the de-mustering of returning soldiers.[43] After the war, he became a politician, running unsuccessfully for secretary of state in 1872 and congress (against William McKinley) in 1878.

[e] Many of the dead from the U.S. General Hospital were first buried in Section F of the West Side Cemetery, now known as Monroe Cemetery, about a mile west of Camp Cleveland. They were removed after the war and interred mostly in one of two U.S. Government plots at Woodland Cemetery.



Copy

Hd. Qrs. 2nd Brig. 3rd Div. 4th C
In the field near Marietta Georgia
June 26th 1864

To Hon. E. M. Stanton
Secty. of War

By a recent order of the War department Colonel Aquila Wiley late of the 41st Regt. O.V. Infty. is mustered out of the service on account of wounds received in action. Col. W. joined the 41st O.V. as Capt. after serving through the three months service at Cleveland Ohio in September 1861 and has served under my immediate ~~till~~ command til he received his wound at Mission Ridge Nov. 25th/63. At the battle of Shiloh he bore a distinguished part and received a severe wound. At Stone River, he commanded in the most efficient manner his Regt. one of the few that held its ground at the left. At Chicamauga he also

Figure 16: First page of a letter to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton pronouncing Camp Cleveland commandant Aquila Wiley unfit for duty due to "wounds received in action."[44]

Two confederate soldiers also spent time at the hospital. They were part of a group who had been prisoners at Camp Douglas near Chicago and had opted to join the Union Navy, thus renouncing any allegiance to the Confederate States.[45]

In addition to the Camp Cleveland Hospital, two requisitioned houses on the corner of Auburn Ave. and West 11th St. (then called Merchant Street) may have been used to treat sick and wounded soldiers.[46]

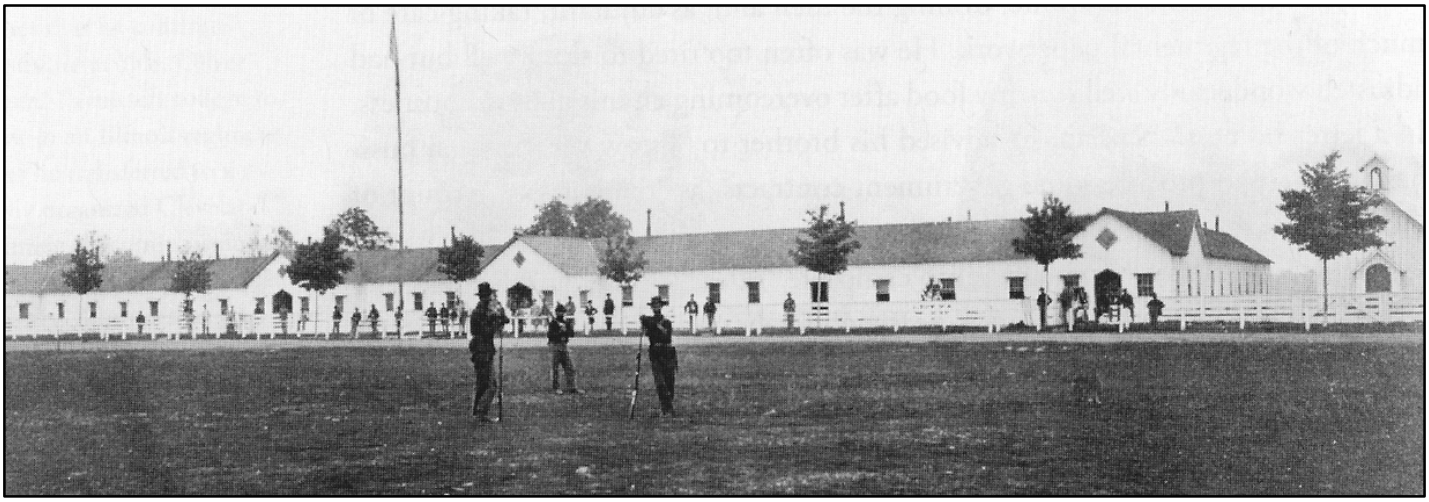


Figure 17: Soldiers gather in front of the United States General Hospital Cleveland. This view may have been from what is now West 5th Street, just south of Jefferson Street.

Everyone Helps

Cleveland citizens filled myriad gaps for which the government was not prepared. A fund was started to supply food and clothing for soldiers' families. Churches organized aid groups to sew and roll bandages, care for widows and orphans of servicemen, and boost morale among parishioners. Soldiers at the camps received Bibles, books and magazines. People donated food for soldiers' holiday dinners. Private citizens transported wounded and sick soldiers in wagons and buggies from Union Depot to the Camp Cleveland hospital.[f]

> ***"Thanks to the generosity of the ladies of this city, the impromptu [Christmas 1862] dinner at the hospital was a perfect success . . . 'Early on Christmas morning abundant gifts were loaded into a large furniture van and, with a dray-load of apples and vegetables and a barrel of cider, were sent to the hospital by direction of the committee . . . The surgeons of the hospital welcomed the ladies heartily and introduced them into the wards . . . At twelve o'clock, each sick man received a bowl of nourishing chicken soup or oyster broth, a delicate bit of chicken (if allowed to eat it), a roasted apple, a fresh biscuit spread with jelly or canned peaches, and a glass of custard by way of dessert . . . The erysipelas [bacterial skin infection] ward and even the small-pox hospital, set apart on the slope of the hill, were visited by the ladies, who braved the danger of infection in their zeal for the Christmas pleasures of the sick men.'"*** [47]

Many of the area's most notable contributions came from the Cleveland Branch of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. The U.S. Sanitary Commission, whose mission was to centralize relief work throughout the North, was the predecessor of today's Red Cross. Formed on April 20, 1861, as the Ladies' Aid Society (the organization was established and operated entirely by women) and then the Soldiers' Aid Society, the Cleveland Branch was the first such organization in the country. By the summer of 1862, with other Cleveland camps closed, the Cleveland Branch's efforts focused almost exclusively on assisting soldiers billeted at Camp Cleveland.[48] The organization's headquarters were located at 95 Bank Street, now West 6th Street (Figure 18).

[f] The first Union Depot was built in 1853 where Bank (now West 6th) and Water (now West 9th) streets met the lakeshore. That structure burned in 1864 and was replaced by a second depot on roughly the same site. At the time of its construction, the new depot, measuring 603 by 180 feet, was the largest building under one roof in the country. Source: Encyclopedia of Cleveland History (http://case.edu/ech/articles/u/union-depot/).

The Cleveland Branch vastly improved military camp hygiene and soldiers' diets; inaugurated a field hospital medical-inspection program; helped care for sick and wounded soldiers and their dependents; provided ambulance and hospital service; organized and replenished the library of Camp Cleveland hospital; and fed, clothed, lodged, and obtained transportation for soldiers and disabled veterans.[49] It helped compile a directory of the sick and wounded to help families and the Military locate missing and wounded soldiers."[50] Through the Cleveland Branch, the populace contributed nearly $1 million in bedding, clothing, hospital furniture, medical supplies, foodstuffs, cots, mattresses, pails and brooms.[51] With the help of the Cleveland Branch, Cleveland became the western depot for the collection and distribution of all manner of Union aid materiel across the country.

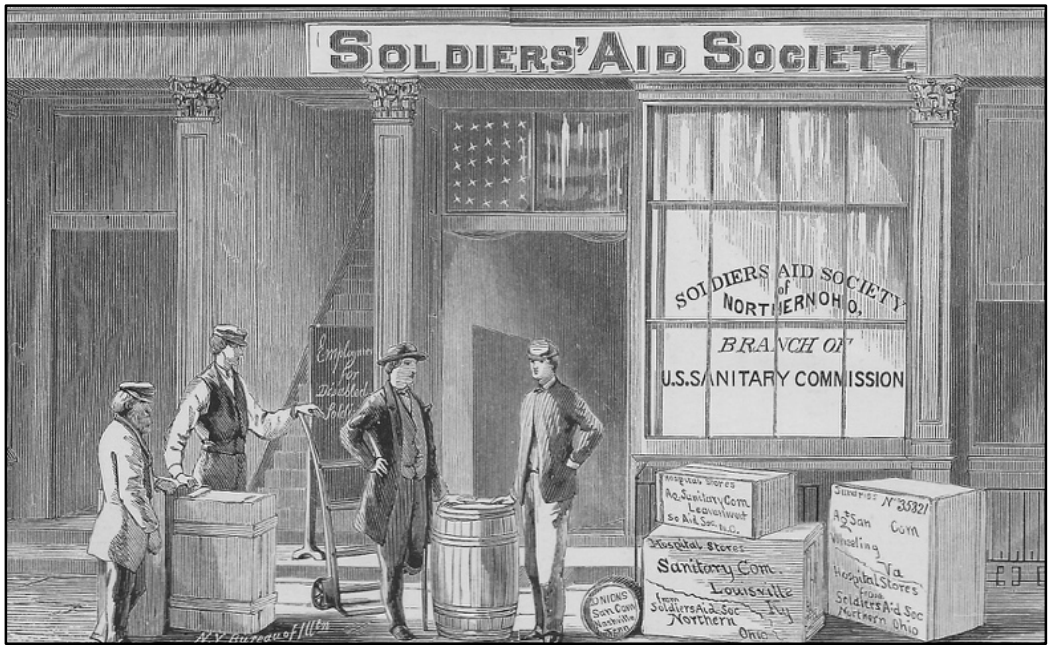


Figure 18: Soldiers' Aid Society, Cleveland Aid Rooms, 95 Bank Street (now West 6th Street).[52] "Convalescents allowed to spend the morning in town would always drop in at the Soldiers' Aid Society, sure of a welcome, a peep at the morning papers, a pleasant book, a sheet of letter-paper, a needle and thread for repairs, a clean towel and piece of sweet-scented soap, a pocket comb, a new spring-crutch, a fresh handkerchief or—best of all—a plug of tobacco."[53]

In 1863 the Cleveland Branch helped establish a Soldiers' Home at Cleveland Union Station to house, feed and care for furloughed and discharged soldiers, plus those awaiting pensions (Figure 19)[54]. The long, barracks-type building was 200 feet long and 22 feet wide and included a dining hall with two rows of tables (Figure 20). In a separate ward, 25 "well-fitted-out" beds were ready to receive wounded soldiers. Free utilities were pledged by local gas and water companies and a local doctor provided the beds.[55]

The Cleveland Branch also helped build a hospital (the "Depot Hospital") just west of Union Station on a long pier extending into Lake Erie. Personnel at the Depot Hospital cared for soldiers who came to Cleveland by train but were too infirmed to be moved to other facilities in the city.

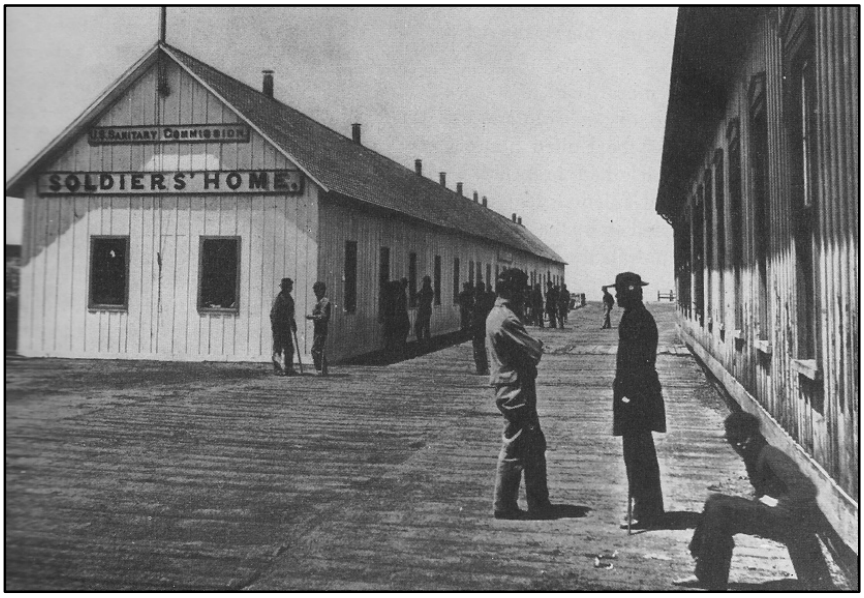


Figure 19: A major undertaking of the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio was the construction of a Soldiers' Home near Cleveland's Union Depot. The narrow wooden building was divided into a dining hall and a ward where Union troops might be lodged and fed as they passed through the city on their way home or back to the front. Wounded soldiers also received medical attention in the infirmary.[56]

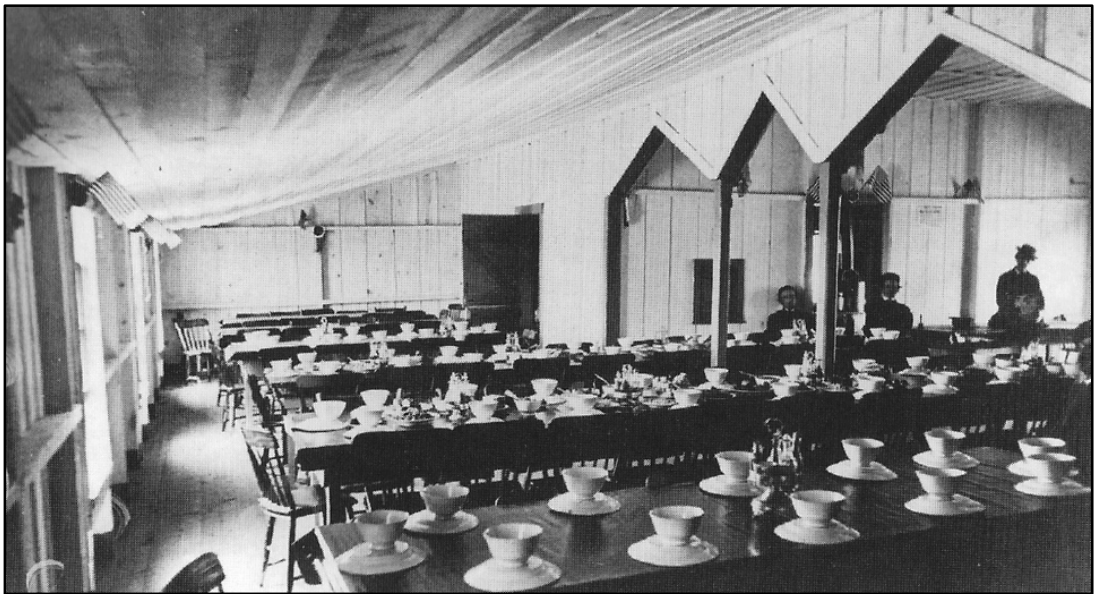


Figure 20: With tables constantly set in readiness for incoming trains, the dining hall in the Soldiers' Home provided more than 100,000 meals for Northern troops passing through Cleveland. Service was almost nonstop for homeward-bound veterans at the close of the war.[57]

Much of the Sanitary Commission's funding came from "Sanitary Fairs" at which historical items, artifacts and war mementos were displayed and sold. The Northern Ohio Sanitary Fair—held on Cleveland's Public Square (then known as Cleveland Square) on February, 22, 1864—raised more than $100,000 in two weeks.[58] Housed in a specially constructed building in the shape of a Greek cross, the building also featured floral and other artistic exhibits (Figure 21).[59] Similar fairs were held across the Union during the war, raising millions of dollars.

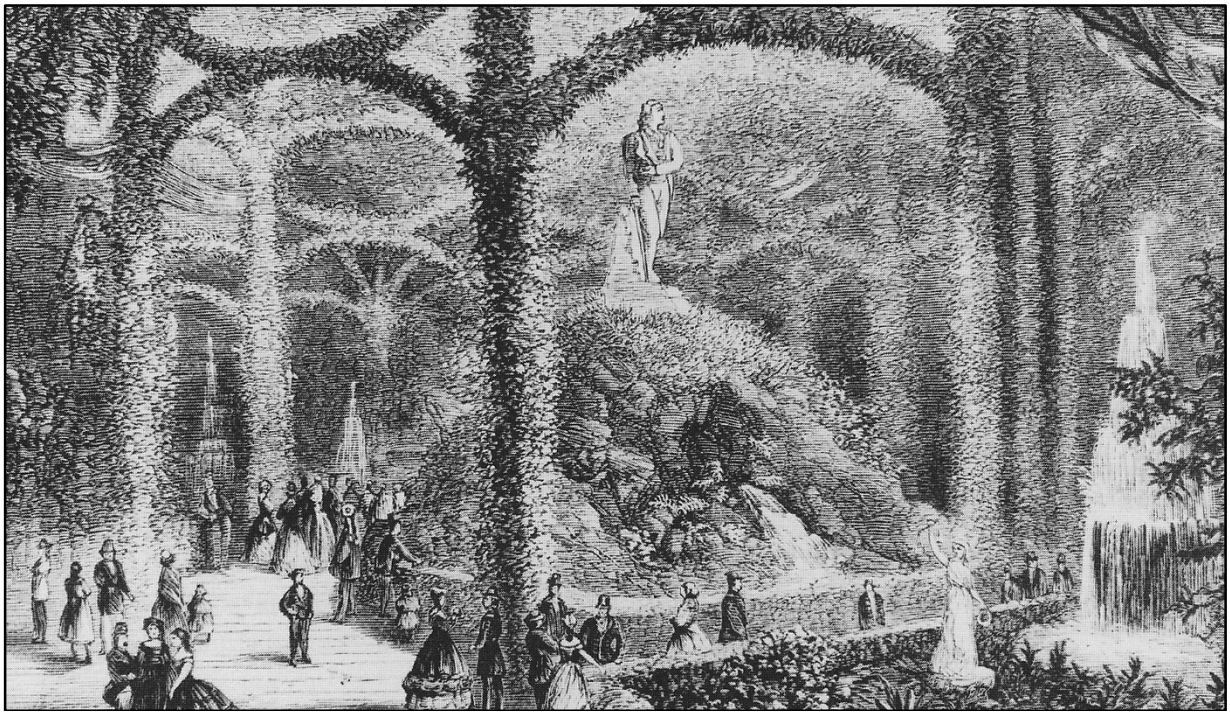


Figure 21: Rendering of the Ohio Sanitary Fair, Floral Hall, Cleveland Ohio, February 22, 1864. Rather than move the recently dedicated Perry Monument, sponsors raised the domed roof 65 feet over the commodore's head and surrounded his head with greenery.[60]

Party's Over

Sooner, rather than later, Union soldiers had to trade their relatively comfortable existence at Camp Cleveland for a long and arduous trek south. As a company or division's departure time approached, more visitors came to see them. Soldiers wrote letters, sewed garments and made other preparations.

When the day arrived, a last roll call was made, absentees were noted, knapsacks were strapped on, the Secesh Cannon boomed, and the first of many marches began. Often accompanied by local military organizations, soldiers trekked approximately two miles through the Flats and up Superior Street to Union Depot. Throngs of citizens lined the route with hands outstretched, flags flying, drums beating and bands playing. At the depot, families and friends saw the troops off.[61]

> ***"I saw an enthusiastic maiden lady of forty summers, glorious in spectacles and side-curls, clasp the hands of one of our modest boys, and after bidding him 'good-bye!' and 'I pray that you will return home' suddenly kiss (sic) the youth with the most enthusiastic earnestness. I leaned forward and innocently remarked to the favored youth, 'sweetheart, of your[s], my boy? Never mind; you can trust her while you're away' and was shocked when he replied: 'No, blame you; I never saw the girl before in my life.'"***[62]

At the Depot, men were usually put on trains to Cincinnati, where they would receive additional training at Camp Dennison. The trip lasted about 12 hours, with the trains stopping every 30 minutes for water. The first stop was Berea; the second, Grafton. This routine was repeated many times between 1862 and 1864, given that upwards of 20 units were organized or reorganized at Camp Cleveland.

The contrast between the relative calm of Camp Cleveland and the frightful chaos below the Mason Dixon Line could hardly have been more severe. Battles large and small were fought. Tens of thousands died in battle. Even more died of disease. Sick and wounded soldiers who could

safely be transported endured long treks back north, many to hospitals at Union Station and Camp Cleveland. Fortunate souls—those spared crippling wounds or debilitating illnesses—also came north for periods of leave or discharge following their term of enlistment. By the thousands, they too arrived first at Union Depot and then marched or were transported to Camp Cleveland.

The End of the War—and Camp Cleveland

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. Five days later, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in Washington, D.C. The war was over, but relief was suppressed by the loss of the President. Cleveland businesses were closed on April 15. At Camp Cleveland, the General Hospital was draped in mourning for 30 days; eulogies were given in the hospital chapel and at a meeting in nearby Pelton [now Lincoln] Park.[63] On April 28 Lincoln's body, on its way from Washington, D.C., to Springfield, IL, lay in state at Cleveland (now "Public") Square. Some 90,000 people came out to view the slain president (Figures 22 and 23).

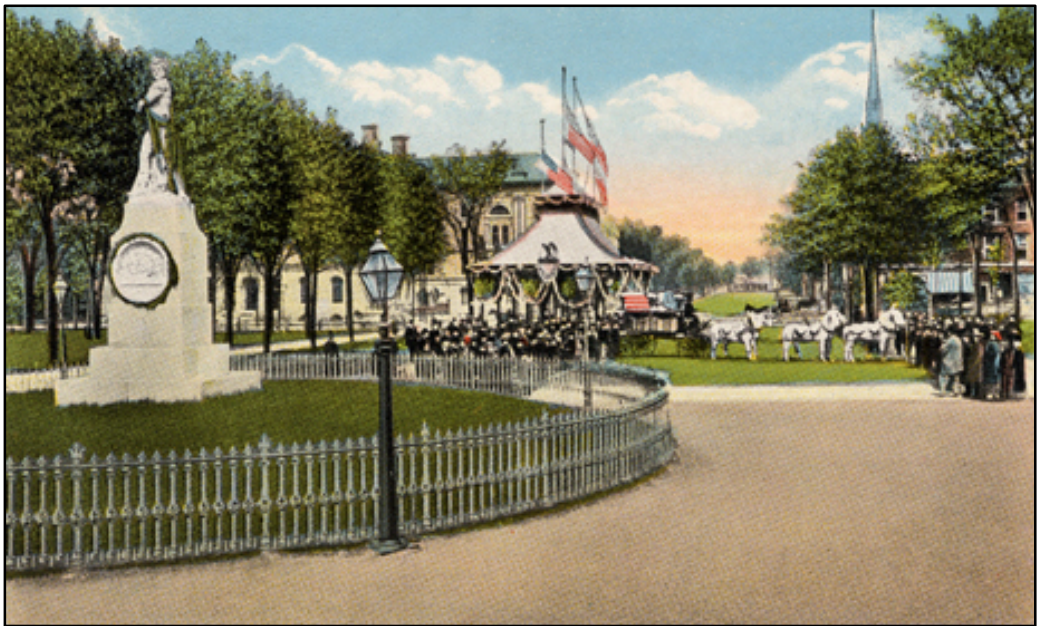


Figure 22: Remains of President Lincoln lie in state on Cleveland (Public) Square. The funeral train arrived on the Canadian Pacific train at 7:20 AM; more than 90,000 people passed the Pavilion (catafalque) between the hours of 9:40 AM and 10:10 PM.[64] Photo courtesy of Cleveland State University, Cleveland Memory Collection.

Shouldering the weight of war and the loss of their president, soldiers began coming home. Those returning to northeast Ohio traveled mostly by rail, arriving first at Union Depot near the lake. Troops then marched through downtown—receiving accolades from gathering crowds and enjoying meals provided by the city. They then continued on to Camp Cleveland where they received their pay and relinquished regimental colors, flags and arms. Other public property was turned over to a supply officer. They then received furloughs, along with orders to return at a specified date for "de-mustering." Between June and August 1865, some 11,000 returning soldiers were mustered out through Camp Cleveland.

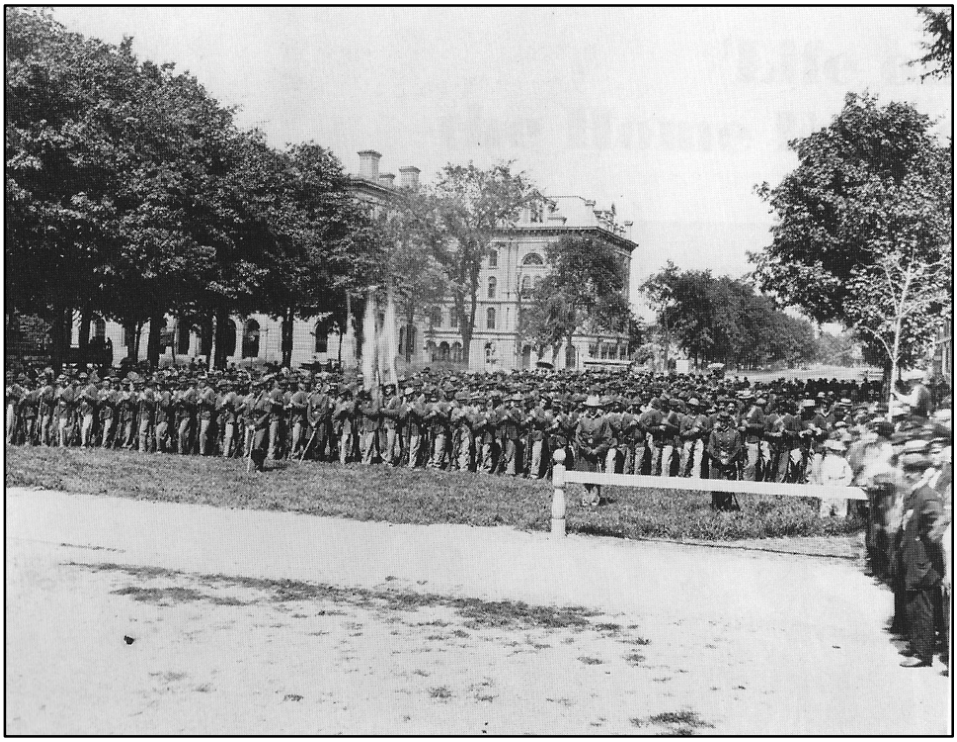


Figure 23: Among the fortunate veterans to come marching home were these survivors of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, shown here on Cleveland (Public) Square prior to being mustered out at Camp Cleveland. They had fought at the Battle of Antietam, pursued the Confederates in Morgan's Raid, and participated in Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley campaign. The 23rd's ranks produced five Civil War generals and two US presidents: Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley.[65]

In July, 1865, Camp Cleveland was closed and disassembled, with the property returned to its lessor, Silas Stone, who sold it to a group of investors. The land subsequently was surveyed and divided into building lots (Figure 24). Many of the barracks were sold to private individuals and, although it has never been researched, several likely ended up as tool sheds or chicken coops on properties scattered around the city.[66] Camp equipment and government property were sold at public auction between July 1 and September 6. The hospital closed in late summer, with remaining patients sent to Camp Dennison General Hospital near Cincinnati.[67] By October, the Camp Cleveland barracks, hospital and prison had been razed.[68]

In November, 1865, an auction was held on the Camp Cleveland site and the *Cleveland Leader* advertised such items as "spades, rakes, garden tools of all kinds, horses, working harnesses, boots, shoes, and leather good of all types, roles of telegraph wire, cook stoves, wash boilers, frying pans and kitchen supplies of various types."

Altogether, Ohio had provided more than 310,000 troops to the Federal forces, a total exceeded only by New York and Pennsylvania. More than 20 of Ohio's 230 regiments came from Cleveland and the surrounding area. Roughly 10,000 service men (4,600 from the city itself) hailed from Cuyahoga County—some 64 percent of the county's available manpower. Among this group, about 1,700 died on the battlefield or in prison, while another 2,000 were crippled or disabled. In sum, casualties among Northern soldiers from Cuyahoga County topped 37 percent.

Figure 24: Camp Cleveland site following its closure and division into building lots. Source: D. J. Lake, "Atlas of Cuyahoga County." Philadelphia: Titus, Simmons & Titus, 1874.

For a large percentage of northeast Ohio soldiers, Camp Cleveland had been the point of rendezvous, preliminary instruction, regimental furloughs and de-mustering between 1862 and 1865. More than 15,000 officers and men from Camp Cleveland served enlistments lasting from 90 days to three years on battlefields and in camps and garrisons throughout the country.[g] For these men, the war experience began in Cleveland. If they were lucky, the trauma of war ended here as well.

In 1896 (Cleveland's centennial) Pelton park was renamed Lincoln Park to honor both the president and the memory of Camp Cleveland. Since that time, Civil War reenactments have periodically been held to commemorate Camp Cleveland.[69] On October 11, 2003, the State of Ohio installed a historical marker near the site of Camp Cleveland (Figure 25). The 19th OVA Reenactment Battery and the Cleveland Grays Color Guard participated in the ceremony.[70]

[g] The Veteran Volunteer Act of 1864 stipulated that any soldier who reenlisted would receive free transportation home for a month's furlough and a $400 bounty.

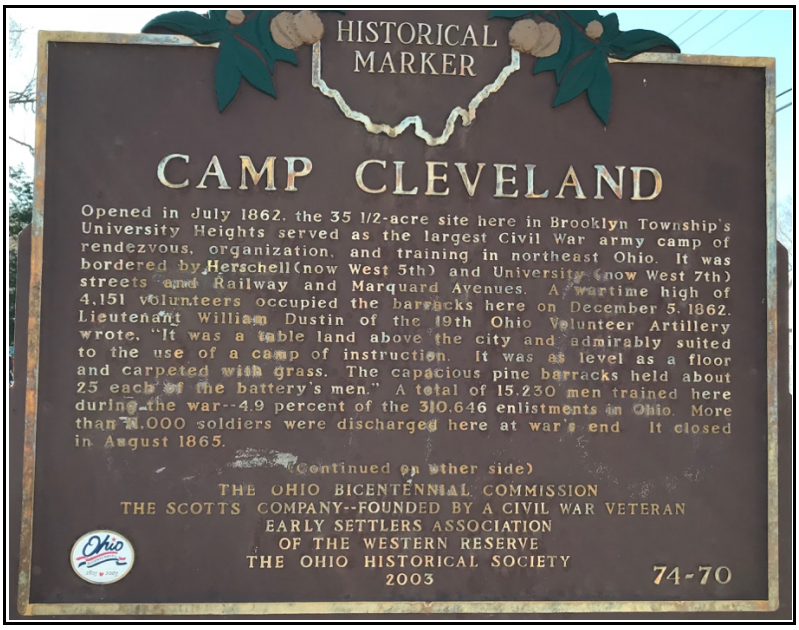


Figure 25: On October 11, 2003, the State of Ohio installed a historical marker at the northwest corner of the site of Camp Cleveland.

By the turn of the century Tremont, (or South Side as it was known by that time) was almost completely built out. The neighborhood's population peaked at 36,686 in 1920 and then began a long, slow decline as immigration slowed, urban decay expanded, suburban migration accelerated and several expressways carved the area into isolated segments. By the 1980s, the area (now officially known as Tremont) reached its lowest population and economic point. Within ten years, however, a remarkable turnaround began as people began to rediscover the city. In the area that 130 years earlier had been known as Camp Cleveland, scores of old homes were razed or renovated, and new residences erected (Figure 28).

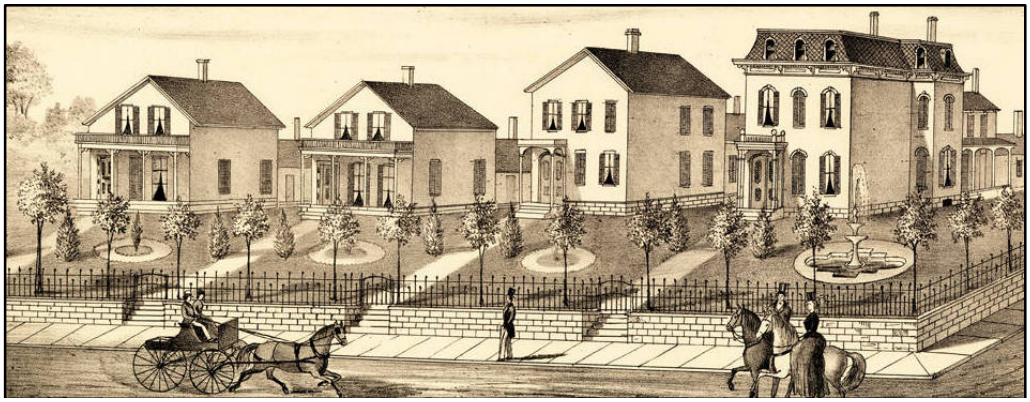


Figure 26: Rendering of University (now West 7th) Street in 1874.[71]

Figure 27: Looking southeast down West 7th Street (formally University Street) in 1950. Photo was taken from the corner where a historical marker commemorating Camp Cleveland now stands (where West 7th and 10th Streets and University Road intersect). Photo courtesy of Cleveland State University, Cleveland Memory Collection.

Figure 28: Looking southeast down West 7th Street (formally University Street) in 2018. Perspective is identical to the scene shown in Figure 27. Photo by the author.

Within the Camp Cleveland footprint, 80 to 90 percent of current residences were built after 1990. Yet it's likely that only a fraction of the area's residents are aware of the rich heritage that lies beneath their homes and feet. Perhaps those who are aware can visualize a bustling neighborhood of fresh-faced recruits and enthusiastic volunteers, as well as a ceaseless cacophony of scenes, sounds and smells. Perhaps they'll also envision a typical summer day in 1865 on the same Tremont ridge that still overlooks the river and the city. Hot and muggy, with birds singing and insects buzzing. Every hour, hundreds of soldiers—exhausted and frequently compromised in mind or body—tromping doggedly through University Heights to homes south and west, or perhaps through the Flats to Cleveland and points north and east. Clevelanders

who hadn't seen their families in years. Clevelanders who lost friends, limbs and lives at Atlanta, Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Chickamauga, Gettysburg, Kennesaw Mountain, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Nashville, Shiloh, Petersburg and Vicksburg. Clevelanders who watched tired and proud as Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. Clevelanders who helped win the war. This is the legacy of Camp Cleveland.

"So pervasive was a strong Civil War spirit in Cleveland that there was not a regiment mustered in the state which did not contain men from the banks of the Cuyahoga."[72]

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