

Nelson Garfield Camp # 3
Sons of Union Veterans Newsletter
September 2007

Item One: On Saturday, September 8, 2007 at the Ramage Civil War Museum, Bernie O' Bryan presented his one man performance based on the life and works of General Lew Wallace, considered the savior of Cincinnati during the critical period of the Civil War in 1862 when Cincinnati and northern Kentucky were possible targets of invasion by Confederate forces. But Bernie's performance covered far more than that brief few weeks in General Wallace's life. His early childhood growing up in Indiana in a prominent family, his career as a painter and lawyer before joining the army and participating in the Mexican War were also explored. Also his career as "Father of the American novel" and prominent author of many books such as Ben-Hur was examined in the period of his life after the Civil War. Bernie's intricate knowledge of General Wallace's life and significance and his feel for what make him tick as a man, a soldier, and a writer were all on display in a performance well worth seeing. The Ramage Museum and the site of Battert Hooper, one of the several defensive batteries established around the perimeter of northern Kentucky during Lew Wallace's command during 1862 provided a perfect backdrop for this performance.

Item Two: A brief meeting of the Nelson Garfield Camp was convened at the museum after Bernie's performance as General Lew Wallace. The development of a tri-fold recruiting brochure for our camp was once again discussed and Bernie agreed to see if he could pull all of the elements needed together and finally produce such a brochure. It was mentioned that text information such as brief camp history and a mission statement had been drafted and had been available for some time. It was decided that Bernie would try to track the text information down if possible. If it could not be found, Jeff agreed to write the text necessary and get it to Bernie ASAP.

Also discussed was the design and purchase of a Camp flag. Steve reported approximately \$250.00 as available for the purchase of a flag and members have agreed to contribute additional funds to this project. A discussion of the type of cloth best suited for a great deal of outdoor use and the relative cost of different materials was also discussed.

Bernie suggested that the Nelson Garfield Camp also work toward producing a plaque to be placed at the site of the Ramage Museum commemorating Lew Wallace's historic defense of northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. He suggested that the plaque contain a quote from General Wallace's proclamation after the successful defense of the area.

We have several worthwhile projects to pursue as a camp and we have had many notable successes. The cemetery tour managed by our camp members at Highland Cemetery is such a success. However, many projects we have been pursuing over several months, even years, such as the development and production of a recruiting brochure are doable and we should strive to finally complete them.

Item Three: Our calendar for the remaining months of 2007 is as follows:
Saturday October 13, 2007: Ramage Museum Antique Road Show to be held at the church next to the Museum; this would be a tabling event for our camp.
November 15, 2007: Camp meeting at Ramage Museum. Jim Kiger's presentation on Sons of Spanish American War Veterans. Jim has also attended the SUV National Encampment and will hopefully inform us of events there.
Thursday December 6, 2007 Election of officers and developing a calendar of 2008 events at 7:00pm.