



Spring Speakers Series 2017

Camp Sherman & World War I

at the Ross County Heritage Center

45 West Fifth St., Chillicothe, Ohio

Free & Open to the Public



The Doughboys of Camp Sherman: Soldiers & Military Units at Camp Sherman

Featuring collector and historian Larry Strayer, Dayton.

Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

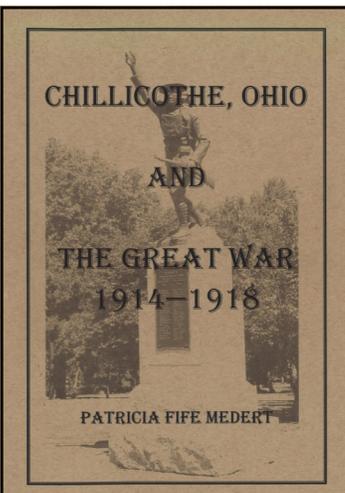
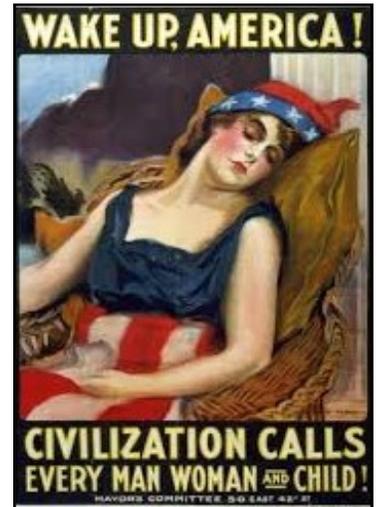
Larry Strayer returns to our Spring Speakers Series with a talk about the role of Camp Sherman's 83rd Division during World War I. As a national army division of draftees, the 83rd was slated to serve as replacements for regular army and national guard divisions already in France. Yet about half of its subunits ended up serving with their original organizations left intact including the entire field artillery brigade, the 308th Engineers, and the 332nd Infantry (which was the only American combat unit that served in Italy). Larry will also explore the wartime career of Chillicothe's Company H, 4th Ohio National Guard which was among the earliest groups to go overseas in 1917. Reassigned as the 166th Infantry of the legendary Rainbow Division, these men served for over 18 months in five major operations and in the Army of Occupation before returning home to be demobilized at Camp Sherman. Two other divisions that briefly occupied Camp Sherman—the 84th & 95th—will be covered.

World War I on the Ohio Home Front: "Your Country Calls!"

Featuring Susan Talbot-Stanaway, retired director of the Zanesville Museum of Art, Zanesville.

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.

From 1917 through 1919, thousands of Ohioans engaged in the battles of the "Great War." At home, they were exposed to new roles, beliefs, and new sense of national unity. People were urged to support the families of soldiers, purchase war bonds, plant Victory Gardens, undergo the hardships of rationing, and report spies. Women entered the workplace for the first time, supported wartime charities, and joined organizations like the Women's Land Army. Ohio manufacturers shifted to producing munitions, dramatically increased their work forces and recruited African Americans from the South to operate assembly lines. Susan Talbot-Stanaway will explore how Ohioans participated in the Great War and how that participation shaped important social and political changes.



Chillicothe During the Great War, 1914-18

Featuring Pat Medert, historian, writer and Ross County Historical Society archivist, Chillicothe.

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.

Pat Medert, author of *Chillicothe, Ohio and the Great War, 1914-18*, will speak about the Conscription Act of 1917 and how it led to the construction of Camp Sherman on the outskirts of Chillicothe for the training of drafted men. The presence of 40,000 soldiers near a town of 16,000 people had a profound effect on the community. City leaders were overwhelmed with problems arising from insufficient housing, hotel rooms, and restaurants; inadequate public transportation; and a limited number of police officers. The programs developed by the War Department, designed to ensure parents and wives that the young men forced to become soldiers would remain spiritually, morally, and socially the same as when they left home, required the cooperation of "army towns." Pat will explain how the people in the town and county directed most of their activities to make the soldiers welcome and to accommodate visitors on weekends.