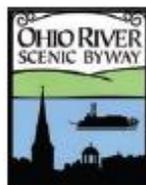


Ohio River Scenic Byway

America's Story ... Your Story





Rhonda's letter



Greetings Byway Friends,

It is with a humble and very grateful heart that we dedicate our current issue of America's Story Your Story to those who truly made our country the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

It is to these fine service men and women that we pause to celebrate and give thanks today and every day. Without their bravery we could not enjoy the freedoms of traveling not only this 188 mile of Scenic Byway along the Ohio River, but the rest of this region, the state, country and the globe.

We also want to acknowledge in prayer and support, our friends and neighbors abroad. We stand together, noting once again that our own U. S. Army Corps of Engineers historically engraved as its motto, "Essayons" meaning "Let Us Try" on the turret of the pump house at Dam 51 on the shore of the Ohio River in Golconda. Resting in the Mounds City National Cemetery are the many who still speak their message, though they sleep, of ultimate sacrifice and effort.

Where would we be if we did not try—perhaps that is a question we can one day ask our forefathers.

May God bless and keep you all along the Ohio River Scenic Byway and beyond. And remember, "I 'm think'n 'bout you on the Ohio".

Rhonda Belford
Ohio River Scenic Byway President

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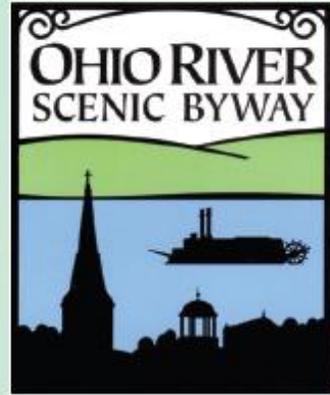
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FROM THE COVER:

Photograph Provided by Steven L.
Boles: Ceramic Discoidal—approximately 5.5 cm across – from the
Orr-Herl Site

When I think about our many service men and women and the freedoms we have because so many gave of themselves, I am indeed grateful. Those of us who benefit from their sacrifice cannot imagine what it was like for them; leaving family behind, going to another state or another country to live, missing out on life at home, and even putting themselves in danger.

I had no idea when my 12 year old blonde-headed little sister, Lillie Laughlin (Martin now) came to live with me, she would one day serve her country with honor. What a spunky kid she was – a tomboy in fact, that could hold her own with anyone that tried to bully her. She was always physical, enjoyed the Harrisburg cross country team and played softball and basketball. She was a survivor, and had determination. These skills would be the ones that would shine in her early adult years, because after high school and a short while at Southeastern Illinois College, she joined the United States Army.

This Hardin County girl served in New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Saudi Arabia, and Germany, as a Military Supply Specialist. She knows how to carry a gun, break it down, meet inspections and support people in her division, among numerous other things. She met people of different nationalities that quickly became her friends, and if there were differences of opinion, she learned to get along.

I remember the day I watched on TV as the Gulf War began, knowing that my sister was going to war. I had no idea what she would experience, or even if she would be back home again. She lived in warehouses and tents, delivered supplies to other soldiers, and was relied upon for guard duty. I could not protect her – all I could do was pray and send packages. Weekly packages were something she looked forward to. Cookies, snacks, hygiene items, and cassette tapes of ‘we miss you’ filled box after box. Neighbors and friends sent boxes too and Lillie shared them with her fellow soldiers. Christmas was difficult that year; knowing that she was in a war zone wearing a mask for protection in case biological weapons would be released.

After serving almost 10 years in the Army she made the decision to serve her family, choosing not to re-enlist. Since her husband, Jefferey was also in the Army, balancing motherhood and Army life was not easy. They lived in Germany for 3 tours before coming back to the states, and Lillie’s support came from other Army wives who understood how it was for your husband to go to training for weeks at a time or be sent into battle. The determination and spunk she had as a young girl is still there today as she raises her children while her husband is away much of the time.

A big thank you to Lillie,(and Jeff), for service to our country, for giving themselves to the United States Army. I will never know or understand what that was like, but Lillie has made me very proud; proud that I am an American and proud to have her as a sister!

The broccoli pie is one of my sister’s favorite dishes. The oatmeal chocolate chunk cookies travel well and remind me of cookies I mailed to her.

WHAT'S COOKING

Mary McSparin

Broccoli Pie



1 lb. hamburger
2 cans crescent rolls

½ package onion soup mix
2 10 oz. packages frozen broccoli
8 oz. cream cheese
8 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

Line nine-inch pie pan with one can of crescent rolls. Brown hamburger and soup mix together. Drain. While that is cooking, boil broccoli until done; drain. Add cream cheese to hamburger mixture. Mix well, then add drained broccoli. Pour all into pie crust. Top with grated cheese and last can of crescent rolls. Bake at 350 degrees approximately thirty minutes till top is brown.

Oatmeal Chocolate Chunk Cookies



Cream together:
2 cups sugar
2 cups brown sugar
1 cup butter, softened

Add:
4 eggs
2 tsp vanilla

In another LARGE bowl mix together:
3 ½ cups flour
2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
2 tsp salt
½ tsp cinnamon
5 cups oats – blend them in a blender
3 cups chopped nuts
4 cups chocolate chips
8 oz. milk chocolate grated or chunked

Add dry ingredients in small amounts, mixing each time until all is mixed. Roll into balls and bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Do not overcook! This makes a lot of cookies – about dozen or more – like a double batch of chocolate chip cookies. If you want a smaller amount – cut recipe in half.



Mary (Willie) McSparin spent most of her growing up years in Hardin County, attending grade school in Rosiclare and graduating from Cave-In-Rock High School. As a fourth grade student, her interest in cooking began when she attended 4-H meetings held at the homes of leaders Ruth Lamar and Catherine Hurford. Mary's love for cooking has grown over the years and she is happiest when she is cooking a meal for somebody else! Mary recently wrote her first book: *Taste & See: A Devotional Cookbook*. She works full time in Harrisburg, and she and her husband, Tom, live in Eldorado. Mary is the mother of two adult sons.

Team Red, White, & Blue Starts a New Chapter in the Ohio River Scenic Byway Region

"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause." – Abraham Lincoln

A soldier is brave, strong, heroic, and selfless. He or she is willing to sacrifice their life for their country. They leave their family and home to fight for what we all too often take for granted, Freedom. After they serve their time, rather it be one year or 20 years, they return home to a new world. It will never be the same as when they left. Many soldiers struggle to adjust to their new life. The men and women they served with and grew to think of as brothers and sisters are no longer part of their everyday lives.

There are many great organizations that work with veterans to help with these transitions. I recently learned about one that has a local chapter in the Ohio River Scenic Byway area, *Team Red, White & Blue*. It's a worldwide non-profit organization founded in 2010 with over 75 Chapters. Their mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity.

The Harrisburg, IL chapter started in August of 2014 by Chapter Captain John Okerson. First Sergeant John Okerson is a veteran of the Army, serving 20 years and retiring in 2013. He joined Team RWB Fort Bragg Chapter in North Carolina before moving his family to Harrisburg. He then became involved in the Carbondale Chapter where he was the social director and athletic director. 1st Sergeant Okerson quickly saw the need for another Chapter in Southern Illinois and started the Team RWB Harrisburg Chapter. "I had been in the military for 20 years and it was hard knowing I was going to be leaving. I joined the Fort Bragg Chapter and it changed my life. These were people I had never met before and they treated me like a long lost relative," he says.

The Harrisburg Chapter has 110 members of all ages and include veterans of all branches of the military and civilians. "Our chapter covers everyone east of I-57 and South of I-64. Anyone who wants to be involved in something that is bigger than themselves and help veterans is welcome to join. There are no dues and we try to make events free or very affordable," 1st Sergeant Okerson says. He uses social media to invite members to events such as a local race where they carry the American flag or a night at the bowling alley. Everyone wears their call of arms red Team RWB shirt, which gives them a chance to tell others about what they do. They use team building skills and genuine fellowship between each other to build support. "It's all about quality interaction and quality engagement, not quantity. We have a lot of 1 on 1 conversations and try to be a shoulder to lean on for whatever veterans need. If we know someone who is struggling, we work together to get them what they need," he explains. They don't just run races, though many are avid runners. Physical activity is only one of the many ways they connect with each other.



The Harrisburg Chapter is also involved in the local communities. Last year Harrisburg Mayor Dale Fowler found himself facing the Fourth of July holiday without the annual fireworks display. Mayor Fowler met with 1st Sergeant Okerson and decided that having a celebration of Independence Day was not something they were willing to give up. Together, they made a plea to the community and local businesses asking to help save the Harrisburg fireworks display. In two weeks they raised over \$10,000 and are already beginning to plan this year's display. "Team RWB & John Okerson's involvement has been pretty amazing. I can't stress enough how important it is to have citizens who are passionate and proactively perusing opportunities for the citizens and community," says Mayor Fowler.

I hope you can see how important it is to have organizations like this. The veterans can learn how to adjust to life with civilians, civilians can learn more about the struggles a veteran has, and a community will become more understanding. Please visit their website teamrwb.org to find out more about TEAM RWB and to give a donation. Over \$.90 to the dollar goes to help veterans. If you would rather donate locally, you can give gift certificates, offer to pay for race entry fees, or contact 1st Sergeant John Okerson through the website to learn more about the Team Red, White & Blue Harrisburg Chapter. Be a hero yourself and make a difference in someone's life.

Written by: Jennifer McIntosh

REMEMBRANCE OF OUR MILITARY PAST AND PRESENT

1928 DAR Place Memorial to Revolutionary War Veterans in Harrisburg



Most of us living in America come from a long line of old and some new Americans who have served this county during times of peace and times of war. Many of those survived the wars and some did not. Respect and traditions prevail that our military be honored after death usually with a memorial service or graveside burial and ceremonial events.

Memorial services are held to celebrate the accomplishments achieved during the life of a loved one. The mission of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Placing a plaque or tablet is one form of recognition. This is what the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution does to help keep the memories and accomplishments alive of the soldiers and patriots of the Revolutionary War.

One such memorial was set into motion in 1928 by the Michael Hillegas Chapter NSDAR, Revolutionary Soldiers' Graves Committee. The Michael Hillegas Chapter, located in Harrisburg, Illinois was organized on March 25, 1927. Mrs. Margaret Elder Taylor was the organizing Regent. The chapters meeting minutes book reveals the process through which their tribute came to fruition. The memorial was meant to publicly honor those men who had served in the Revolutionary War that eventually died and were buried in the state of Illinois. Saline County was formed from Gallatin County in 1847.

I am honored to be a member of the Michael Hillegas Chapter NSDAR and pleased to have been asked to write this article about the Memorial Tablet placed 85 years ago in their honor. It is important to remember our past military personnel but even more important to recognize and help our current military personnel. There are many ways to let them know we care from sending care packages to active military, visiting those in hospitals and giving to organizations that help the veterans re-assimilate back into our ever changing society. Our military heroes are more than just names on a bronze or gold tablet and they should be treated as such. It doesn't have to be a scheduled holiday to thank a veteran, every day is a good day for that. The following is a list of the five Patriots buried in southern Illinois, who fought and sacrificed more than we will ever know for the freedoms we have today.

Reuben Bramlette/Bramlet, born March 15, 1757 Prince William Co., Virginia, died September 11, 1844 Gallatin Co., Illinois. He was the son of Henry Bramlett Jr. and Margaret Howell. His service state was Virginia. He served as a Private under Captains Samuel Blackwell, William Berry, William Triplett and Major Colonel Francis Triplett. Also Colonels Armistead Churchill, James Williamson and under General George Washington in South Carolina where he and others were captured by Tories and later released. He was honorably discharged just a few weeks before Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. He was married to Elizabeth Brown and is buried in Wolf Creek Cemetery, Eldorado, Saline Co., IL.

Written by: Christy Short



Revolutionary War Memorial site at Sunset Lawn Cemetery in Harrisburg

Malachi Hofford/Hereford, born March 6, 1756 Craven Co., North Carolina, died between 1841 and 1843, Gallatin Co., Illinois. His service state was North Carolina. He served as a Private under Captains James Pierce, Hardy Gatlin, Lewis Jones, Charles Roach, William Winum, and Aaron Arnold. Also General Caswell, and Colonel Johnson. He was married to Mary Pierce and is buried in Dodd Cemetery, Eldorado, Saline Co., IL.

Thomas Hamilton Jr., born December 24, 1762 Sussex Co., New Jersey and removed to Guilford Co., North Carolina as an infant by his parents, died February 14, 1841 Gallatin Co., Illinois. His service state was North Carolina. He served as a Private under Captains Forbes/Forbus, James Wilson and David Gillespie. He served as a spy under Col. William Washington. Also Colonels John Paisley, William R. Davie, and Edward Gwin. He was married to Elizabeth "Betsy" Gwin and is buried in Wolf Creek Cemetery, Eldorado, Saline Co., IL.

Lewis R. W. Howell, born March 27, 1755 Westmoreland Co., Virginia, died April 27, 1833 Gallatin Co., Illinois. He was the son of William Howell Jr. and Letitia Lewis. His service state was Virginia. He served as a Private under Captains Stephen Ashby, Abraham Tipton and William Cherry. Also Colonels James Wood, Joseph Crockett and General Woodford. He received a wound in the knee at the battle of Germantown. He was married first to Mary Ann Kirk in 1780 and second to Leona Sisk in 1814. Lewis R.W. Howell left a will on 10 July 1832 at Gallatin Co., IL, which was proven May 5, 1834.

William Rourke/Roark Sr., born June 6, 1760 Ireland, died March 4, 1841 or January 4, 1842 Gallatin Co., Illinois. His service state was New Jersey, and he served as a Private under Captains John Fleet, Mark Thompson, John Maxfield, and Michael Catt. Also Colonel Archibald Lochry/Laury and General George Rogers Clark. All but 47 of Capt. Catt's men was taken prisoner by Indians in a battle in 1781. The prisoners were first taken to Detroit, then into Canada, near Montreal, where they were kept for almost a year. Mr. Roark was finally discharged March 17, 1783. He was married to Elizabeth Martin and is buried in Cottage Grove Cemetery, Harrisburg, Saline Co., IL.

Today many of these soldiers and patriots descendants live in and around Saline, Gallatin, Hardin and other southern counties in Illinois. Take some time to stop by your local historical society, public library or genealogical society to read more about these American Soldiers and Patriots. And you can always visit this Revolutionary War Memorial site at Sunset Lawn Cemetery in Harrisburg, Illinois.

Written by Christy L. Allen-Hyden Short

Gallatin's Major Affection for Its Major Generals

By **Mark York**, *President of Gallatin County Tourism*

Gallatin County lays claim to two distinguished military Major Generals, neither of whom was born in this area. Though separated by time and place of birth, their paths converged and both spent some time here, and both were laid to rest in the historic cemeteries of the county, which proudly claims General Posey and General Lawler. Thomas Posey was born on July 9, 1750 in Virginia. His family were neighbors to George Washington, and he was rumored to be Washington's illegitimate son. Although dismissed as unfounded by many historians, the gossip, with the tenacity typical of the salacious rumors attached to famous figures, has persisted down to the present day. Whatever the facts of his parentage, Posey certainly earned his own place in history in multiple venues. He advanced rapidly in both his military and political careers.

At the age of twenty-five Posey served on the Virginia Committee of Correspondence, one of the first attempts at self-governance created by the Patriots in response to the mistreatment of colonists by the British authorities. These local committees were instrumental in promoting popular support for the Revolution.

When war broke out, Posey served as a Captain with the Seventh Virginia Regiment until his promotion to Major in 1778 and to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1782. Following the Revolutionary War, he retired to private life but returned briefly to his military career as a Brigadier General for the period of 1793-94 in the Northwest Indian War for control of the Northwest Territory.

As far as his private life is concerned, Thomas had married Martha Mathews in his youth, but she died in childbirth with their third son. In 1784 he married Mary Thornton with whom he had nine more children. They made their home in Virginia on her family plantation until her death.

In 1802, in acknowledgment of his military contributions to the United States, Posey was allowed to choose 7,000 acres of land and he settled an area near Henderson, Kentucky. As a popular and well-known figure, he was rapidly elected to the Kentucky State Senate and also served for a time as the Lieutenant Governor of the state. As tensions between the United States and Britain increased, a Kentucky Militia was formed in 1809 and he was appointed its commander with the rank of Major General. He helped with the formation and training of this unit, but retired once more in 1810 and was thus not directly involved in the War of 1812.

In 1813 he was appointed as the Governor of the Indiana Territory and moved to its capital of Corydon. He was not a popular governor of this area due in part to his southern views on the issue of slavery. He served in this capacity until Indiana was admitted as a state in 1816. In that year he was appointed as Indian Agent in the Illinois Territory, a position he held until his death.



This mural from the Gallatin County Courthouse depicts General Posey in uniform.



Grave of Thomas Posey in Westwood Cemetery.

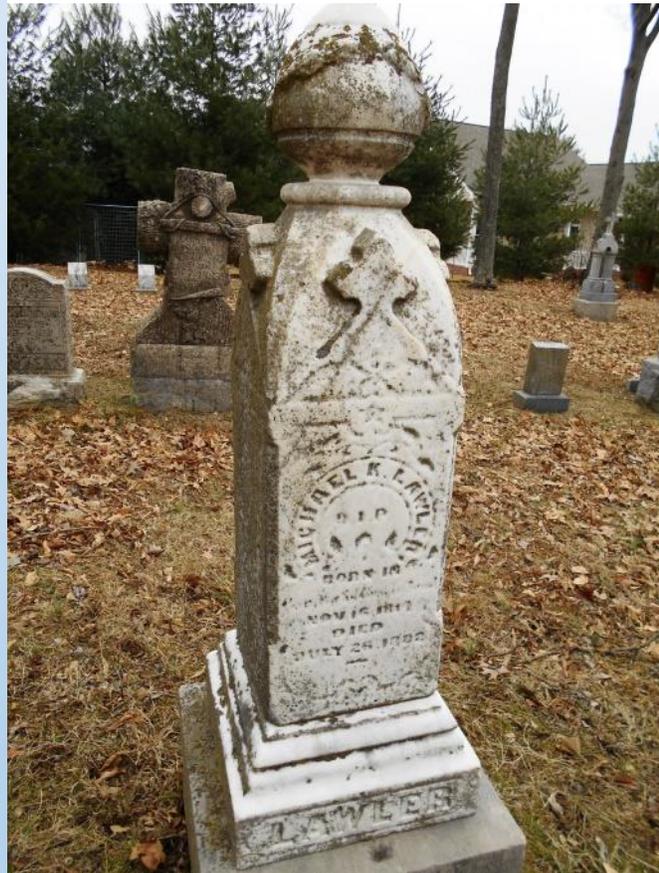
Some of General Posey's children had settled in the prosperous and growing city of Shawneetown on the banks of the Ohio River in Gallatin County, Illinois. While visiting there in 1818, he fell ill with typhus fever and died at the home of his daughter on March 19. He was buried in her rose garden where others later joined him in the beginnings of what is now known as Westwood Cemetery. His gravestone has been restored by the Gallatin County Historical Society and can be seen in this historic cemetery just east of Shawneetown.

Another historic general claimed by Gallatin County is Michael Kelly Lawler for whom a monument was erected over a century ago on the village square in Equality. Unlike General Posey, he spent a much greater portion of his life actually living in the county. Born in Ireland in 1814, his family immigrated to the United States in 1818 and settled in Gallatin County in 1819. He was married in 1837 to Elizabeth Crenshaw, daughter of the famous, or infamous, John Crenshaw. The couple had eleven children.

He served as a Captain in the Mexican War and then returned to civilian life as a merchant and attorney in Gallatin County. With the outbreak of the Civil War, he became a Colonel leading the 18th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He was subsequently promoted to Brigadier General and, at the end of the war, to Major General. He then returned to his southern Illinois farm to continue his law practice until his death in 1882. He is buried in the Lawler Cemetery adjacent to the Crenshaw Cemetery collectively known as the Hickory Hill Cemetery near the historic Crenshaw House. His gravestone was part of the general restoration completed recently by the Association of Gravestone Studies and can be seen near the intersections of Illinois Routes 1 and 13.



Monument in Equality honoring General Lawler.



This mural from the Gallatin County Courthouse depicts General Posey in uniform.

Pope County will Celebrate their Bicentennial in 2016!

When Illinois petitioned to become a state in 1818, the original boundary lines fell short of maintaining some very important geography in the northern part of the state. The Galena lead mines were not included. Fort Dearborn and the nearby southern tip of Lake Michigan were not included. Thanks to Nathaniel Pope, the boundary was moved 41 miles north and what would later become Chicago, as well as, those lucrative lead mines in Galena became a part of the State of Illinois.

Nathaniel Pope was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1784 and was educated in Lexington, Kentucky. He first practiced law in St. Genevieve, Missouri but realized that important things were happening across the Mississippi River, so he moved to Kaskaskia about the time that Congress was organizing the Illinois Territory in 1809. Pope was quickly appointed as the Secretary of the new Illinois Territory and served as such through September, 1816.

Two years before Illinois became a state, Pope County was formed from portions of Gallatin and Johnson Counties and was named after Nathaniel Pope. On January 10, 1816, in legislation enacted by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Illinois Territory, Pope County was created. The legislation was signed by the first and only Governor of the Illinois Territory, Ninian Edwards, who was also Pope's cousin!

In 2016, Pope County, Illinois will celebrate its bicentennial. At a very well attended meeting on the evening of January 29, 2015, the planning began! Nearly two dozen organizations were represented by over 40 individuals who began expressing their ideas for a series of fantastic celebrations.

County Board Members Larry Richards, Steve Hudson and Tim Wallace organized the meeting. Chairman Steve Hudson introduced the project and indicated that the sesquicentennial celebration had been lead, fifty years ago, by the Pope County Historical Society. Hudson recommended that the Historical Society be placed in charge of the bicentennial and turned the meeting over to Tim Trovillion, the President of the group.

It didn't take Trovillion very long to get the creative juices flowing and members of organizations ranging from the school district to churches ... to the American Legion made recommendations.

Barbara Jones was among the first to speak up. Jones surprised the group by reporting that she had served as the secretary of the sesquicentennial committee fifty years before! She told of the many projects that had been a part of that year-long celebration. "Somebody wrote a play. We sold commemorative plates, had a beauty contest, had a beard contest and chased greased pigs," Jones reported.

Another mentioned a frog jumping contest and another clarified that if you didn't grow a beard, you would have been fined had you not purchased a button in advance!

After a few minutes of reminiscing for those who remembered the event from fifty years prior, suggestions for the 2016 event emerged. To his credit, Tim Trovillion quickly suggested a structured committee with subcommittees responsible for certain aspects of the celebration. Trovillion indicated that support organizations would be engaged by letting them decide what part they want to play in the celebration.

A variety of fundraising activities were recommended, as the organizer of the annual BBQ Cook- Off indicated that the proceeds of that event will in part, be shared with the Historical Society for the Bicentennial events. The sale of shirts, hats and a commemorative throw/afghan were suggested as good ways to raise money.

Upon the suggestion that the event needed a promotional logo, it was also suggested that a contest be launched so members of the community could offer their ideas.

Pope County is known throughout the Midwest for its popular annual Shrimp Festival and Deer Festival. There is no doubt that the 2016 Pope County Bicentennial will go on that list of favorite and popular events!

To follow the event planning, check the event Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/popecobicentennial>

If you'd like to volunteer or have ideas to share, email the Pope County Historical Society at Popecountyhistoricalsociety@outlook.com.

Written by: Debbie Moore



Larry Richards,
Pope Co. Commission, Chairman



Famous Korean War General has Deep Roots in Pope County

By: Debbie Moore

“In order to have a better world, we must first have a world of better men.” Herb Scobie, Triangle Fraternity 1932

Better men certainly create a better world. and that kind of a “better man” comes from the Ohio River Scenic Byway Region. Golconda native and 1916 Triangle Fraternity member, John R. Hodge, was that kind of man.

The Triangle Fraternity was founded at the University of Illinois in 1907. Today, there are over fifty chapters in several states and Herb Scobie’s comment is frequently used to describe the kind of members the fraternity seeks, still today. The Triangle Fraternity was created for students studying engineering and science and was intended to prepare them for strong careers and lifetime networking opportunities.

John R. Hodge was born in Golconda, Illinois on June 12, 1893. His parents were John Jay Hardin Hodge (1861 – 1902) and Melissa Steagall Hodge. The General’s father had no known military service experience, but his grandfather, William Stewart Hodge, fought in the Mexican American War. It is not known exactly when the Hodge family moved into Pope County, but General Hodge’s great-grandfather, George Hodge, is found with his wife and children on both the 1830 and 1840 Pope County, Illinois census.

John R. Hodge attended schools in Pope County, and furthered his education at the Southern Illinois Teachers College (Southern Illinois University) and at the University of Illinois, where he obtained a degree in Architectural Engineering. Hodge was a member of the esteemed Triangle Fraternity, while at the University of Illinois, and served as the chapter’s president, newspaper editor and toastmaster until 1917, when he entered military service.

Our Golconda native’s fascinating military service began as he attended U.S. Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Sheridan, then entered the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant of the Infantry. He served in World War I in France and Luxembourg. After the war, Hodge stayed in the Army and taught Military Science at Mississippi State University for four years. After he graduated from Infantry School in 1926, Hodge posted in Hawaii and completed “Command and General Staff School”, the “Air Corps Tactical School” and the most prestigious “Army War College”.



General John R. Hodge was born in Golconda, Illinois



Major General John R. Hodge, XXIV Corps commander, outlines plans to his staff at corps headquarters near the Dulag Airstrip in the Phillipines, 1946.

Well educated and prepared for future service, Hodge was a part of the staff of the VII Corps at the beginning of World War II.

He was appointed Brigadier General and started his combat career as part of the staff of General Joseph Lawton Collins (Army Chief of Staff) in the Guadalcanal Campaign. The 1943-44 Bougainville Campaign was the next duty for Hodge and then came the Philippines Campaign, during which he was promoted to Major General. In 1945 he served on Okinawa and was promoted to Lieutenant General and became the commander responsible for a portion of the XXIV Corps of the U.S. Tenth Army.

The Tenth Army had over 102,000 soldiers and another 88,000 Marines and Seabees. General John R. Hodge was responsible for the Army troops in the Tenth Army, which comprised the landing force that occupied the former Japanese Colony of Korea in 1945. It later became an integral part of the United States Army Military Government in Korea.

From 1945 to 1948, General Hodge was the Military Governor of South Korea under the U.S. Army Military Government. He took his Corps to Korea under the orders of General MacArthur and landed at Incheon.

General John R. Hodge, born in Golconda, educated at Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois, was the officer in charge who received the surrender of all Japanese forces in Korea, south of the 38th parallel on September 9, 1945.

Hodge returned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to command the Fifth U.S. Corps until 1950, and after the Korean War broke out, he was named the Commanding General of the U.S. Third Army. He received yet another promotion in 1952 and ended his military career as the Chief of Army Field Services.

General John R. Hodge retired from the United States Army in 1953 and died just ten years later while living in Washington, DC. Hodge married Lydia Parson who was from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. They had one child, Mary Lynn, who died in infancy in 1923. General Hodge and his wife are buried at Arlington Cemetery.

Korean War Memorial Highway runs through Byway

The Korean War was fought between June, 1950 and July, 1953. It took a heavy toll on the United States, a country that had just began recovering from World War II. Almost 34,000 Americans were killed in action and another 20,617 died of injuries or disease.

The Korean War began when the United Nations urged UN members to stand up against the Communist aggressors in Korea and in July, 1950, the UN Security Council recommended that member nations who were already contributing to the defense of South Korea, also make their troops available to be a part of a unified command that was headed by the United States.

In recognition of the lives lost and the Korean War veterans living in Illinois, the Illinois 90th General Assembly (1997-98) enacted the creation of the Illinois Korean War Veterans' Memorial Highway. Route 1, which leads visitors to and through the Ohio River Scenic Byway Region was designated with this prestigious honor.



Vice Admiral Daniel Barbey and Lieutenant General John R. Hodge watch landings in Korea in September, 1945.



General John R. Hodges died on November 12, 1963 and is buried at Arlington Cemetery.

A Hunter's Heros

Written by: Alli Armstrong

In January of this year, I attended the SHOT (Shooting Hunting Outdoor Trade) Show in Las Vegas, Nevada for the first time. This show features more than 1,600 exhibitors and attracts more than 65,000 industry professionals from all 50 states and 100 countries. Among these professionals were Stan Potts, Sarah Palin, the Swamp People cast, the Duck Dynasty cast, the Bone Collectors, Lee and Tiffany Lakosky, Don and Kandi Kisky, Ralph and Vicki Cianciarulo, Jim, Louise, Branlin, and Eva Shockey, Tom Miranda, Mark and Terry Drury, and many more! I was able to attend with a media badge since I would be covering the events and new products at the show. I was absolutely amazed at all of the people there and the fact that we all shared a love for the outdoors and shooting sports.

My main goal while at the SHOT show was to meet up with the people I had interviewed for my new book called Hunting Dream Jobs that I co-authored with Brenda Potts. For this book, I interviewed 67 of the top people in the industry about how they got started and what advice they have for other people seeking a job in this area. I then transcribed these interviews and Brenda transformed them into a book. I was able to see many of the people I had interviewed for the book and talk to them as well as getting them to sign my book copy. Talking to these hunting idols about our previous interviews and handing them their copy of the book was a dream come true! They all seemed genuinely pleased to be a part of our book project. As an author, there is no better feeling. While with them, I was able to film teaser interviews to use for promotion purposes. These videos will later be used on a television segment and social media. I also got to talk with other hunting industry professionals and hunters who attended.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the Bushnell breakfast, which is part of the ATK group. I, as well as other press and media members, was able to eat a great breakfast while listening to various speakers. I learned about the new products that Bushnell and other companies in the ATK group were introducing in 2015. While attending this breakfast, I also learned about a foundation that really sparked my interest. It was called the Folds of Honor Foundation. This foundation was able to attend and speak on how the ATK group has helped by donating to their organization. This organization has helped over 8,500 military families. Ten million dollars went to the education of the spouses and children of service men and women. Eight thousand scholarships were made available for them. While they were there, they showed a video about a veteran. It displayed the impact that this experience had on his life, mind, health, and family. It truly opened my eyes to how much our military men and women do for us. They sacrifice so much for us to have good, safe lives. Not only do they physically risk their own lives, but their families have to deal with them being gone too. Their families also have to deal with the issues of having someone they love exposed to such scarring experiences. Sadly, many of them make the ultimate sacrifice for our country, their lives.



Hunting Dream Jobs book cover featuring Stan Potts and his son Tim Potts.



Folds of Honor members on stage speaking about their great program for service people and their family.

I have so much respect and admiration for the people that choose to serve our country. People sometimes get down about the state of our country, but all I can see is how blessed we are to live somewhere this great. I love my life and am very thankful for all my freedoms. These great service people and their families have allowed me to do what I love and live my dream. Without them, I could not hunt and pursue my career. It is because of these brave men and women that I am able to write and interview freely. They have made sure that I have the freedom of speech and press to write a book that contains a passion that can be shared. I am grateful for the opportunity to witness people doing good things for others. It is so great that this company can give back to the people who give us everything. I am very thankful for the opportunities I have been given with writing the book and attending the SHOT Show. All of us hunters owe a huge thank you to those who allow us to hunt freely and attend these events. They truly are our heroes.



Folds of Honor members presenting the ATK Group with awards for their donations and support over the years.



Alli with Tom Miranda, a legend among hunters, at the SHOT Show. She was able to talk with him and got him to sign her copy of Hunting Dream Jobs.



Mounds City National Cemetery, Mounds City II

The Illinois State Soldiers and Sailors Monument is a marble and concrete construction honoring 2,637 unknown soldiers and sailors who lost their lives in defense of the country during the Civil War.

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