

## Sherman House and Georgian museums host WWI exhibits

The Georgian and Sherman House museums are marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I with two exhibits.

The Georgian Museum is hosting “Fairfield County in the Great War.” Some 2,000 men and women from Fairfield County served during the war and more than 80 died. This exhibit displays medals, photos, uniforms and other military gear – much of it from Fairfield County soldiers. The display also includes government posters, draft photos, rosters, souvenirs and trench art.

Among those honored is 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Karl H. Eyman, who was killed June 5, 1918, when his plane was shot down during the Battle of Soissons in France. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre posthumously by the French government. Lt. Eyman’s photo, medal and certificate are on display.

Other soldiers represented include Oliver Smith, Ernest Thomas, Theodore Alfred, Charles Drinkle, Chester Beavers and Neal Burdette.

The exhibit also covers many of the home front activities in Fairfield County to support the war effort.

The Sherman House Museum exhibit is called “Life and Death at Camp Sherman,” which tells the story of the massive training camp that was hammered together in just a few months near Chillicothe. Named for Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, it was built to train 42,000 soldiers at a time and soon had its own dairy farm and vegetable farm just to feed the soldiers.

The population of Chillicothe more than tripled with the addition of the camp. And when the influenza epidemic struck, both the camp and the city were deeply affected and put under quarantine. More than 1,000 people died at Camp Sherman alone, including several from Fairfield County.

The Sherman House exhibit includes photographs, training gear and souvenirs from the camp.

The Sherman House Museum is open from noon until 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The Georgian Museum is open from 1 until 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.



**Cpl. Oliver “Ollie” Sherman Smith Jr., kneeling in this photo, served in the trenches of France with several men from Fairfield County as part of the so-called Rainbow Division. His medals and memorabilia are on display in the exhibit “Fairfield County in the Great War,” on display at the Georgian Museum.**



The museums are operated by the Fairfield Heritage Association, a nonprofit organization that champions preservation and revitalization in Fairfield County and provides historical programming.

**Lancaster native John Edward Nutter was a railroader married to Edna Flo Butler when he joined the Army on Sept. 24, 1918. He was sent to Camp Sherman for training, but died Oct. 6, a victim of the influenza epidemic sweeping through the camp.**