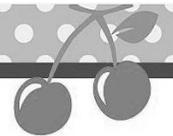


CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
Fall 2016



Since the birth of our nation, there have always been brave men and women standing in the gap to protect our nation and ensure our freedoms. Let us be mindful that we should honor our veterans every day of the year, and not just one. Beth Pennington, founder military-missions.org



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Jerry (Gerold Nolley) 77 July 2016



Veterans' Day

Cherry Valley has always played a vital part in sending its sons and daughters to the wars in which our country has been involved. The Museum is honored to hold quite a bit of memorabilia, medals, equipment, photos and artifacts. There are two full glass cases dedicated to housing them. Uniforms are on display from WWII Army and Navy, Vietnam, and Dessert Storm. From WWII Aviator goggles, to medals, and war rationing tokens, we would be honored to have you check out our military history.

As far back as the Civil War, at least 163 men from Cherry Valley and Township served our country. Pilot William Harned was commended 3 times for outstanding and meritorious services. Richard Sheldon earned the Silver Star, and Robert Ronnenburg the Bronze Star in WWII. Leonard Keller earned his silver star in the Vietnam war. Among the Cherry Valley servicemen who gave their lives for their country are Arthur Buck, Howard Burton, Leroy Carlson, George Cassidy, Carroll Eifer, Wilson Lee, Melbourne McLaughlin, Jon Pippel, and John Nystrom. We know that many more soldiers than this have served. To remember them, and their part in defending our freedoms, is to honor them all.

Credits to "Our Memories are Warm" and those who donated items to the museum.



Uniforms belonging to:
**Sgt Jack Anger,
Medic WW2 Army
Sgt Leonard Keller
Vietnam
Dave Stokste
Desert Storm**

uniforms displayed at CVHS
**Robert Murphy
WW2 Navy
Mrs Leonard Keller
Vietnam Navy
Eileen Hyland
WW2 Navy
and Donald Gorsuch
Navy**



above..
WWII troop train passing through Cherry Valley
 left..Article on Sgt. Leonard Keller's heroism



Leonard B. Keller
 Sgt. - U.S. Army
 9th Infantry Div
 Ap Bac Zone, Vietnam
 May 2, 1967

Citation:
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sweeping through an area where an enemy ambush had occurred earlier, Sgt. Keller's unit suddenly came under intense automatic weapons and small-arms fire from a number of enemy bunkers and numerous snipers in nearby trees. Sgt. Keller quickly moved to a position where he could fire at a bunker from which automatic fire was received, killing 1 Viet Cong who attempted to escape. Leaping to the top of a dike, he and a comrade charged the enemy bunkers, dangerously exposing themselves to the enemy fire. Armed with a light machinegun, Sgt. Keller and his comrade began a systematic assault on the enemy bunkers. While Sgt. Keller neutralized the fire from the first bunker with his machinegun, the other soldier threw in a hand grenade killing its occupant. Then he and the other soldier charged a second bunker, killing its occupant. A third bunker contained an automatic rifleman who had pinned down much of the friendly platoon. Again, with utter disregard for the fire directed to them, the 2 men charged, killing the enemy within. Continuing their attack, Sgt. Keller and his comrade assaulted 4 more bunkers, killing the enemy within. During their furious assault, Sgt. Keller and his comrade had been almost continuously exposed to intense sniper fire as the enemy desperately sought to stop their attack. The ferocity of their assault had carried the soldiers beyond the line of bunkers into the treeline, forcing snipers to flee. The 2 men gave immediate chase, driving the enemy away from the friendly unit. When his ammunition was exhausted, Sgt. Keller returned to the platoon to assist in the evacuation of the wounded. The 2-man assault had driven an enemy platoon from a well prepared position, accounted for numerous enemy dead, and prevented further friendly casualties. Sgt. Keller's selfless heroism and indomitable fighting spirit saved the lives of many of his comrades and inflicted serious damage on the enemy. His acts were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.





DUTCH ENDERS

ENDER HONORED
 "Consolidated News Service" has reported that PFC Howard Enders of Cherry Valley, Ill., Aug. 7—Pvt. Howard Enders of Cherry Valley has been awarded the combat infantryman badge for participation in combat in Italy. 8-5-45

PFC Howard Enders

Donald Gorsuch



GORSUCH





PERSONAL ADDRESS
 Donald 1120 19th Chicago, Illinois
 Phone LU 4-6771 San Diego, California

Medals and Ribbons: Awarded in full
 Armed Forces Medal
 Navy Commendation Service Medal
 National Defense Service Medal
 American Service Medal
 Overseas Service Medal
 Vietnam Service Medal
 Vietnam Campaign Medal

Don was born and raised in Cherry Valley the attended Cherry Valley Grade School and was a 1940 graduate of Rockford East High. He was born on June 11, 1921 in Rockford and passed away on August 10, 2002 in Glendale, California.



Compiled from notes by WWII Veteran, Elmer Lyle Wilt (10-5-1924...8-4-2015)

My father Charles Wilt served in WWI. My Great Grandfather Adam Wilt served in the civil war. While he was on leave from the civil war, my grandfather (also named Adam) was conceived. After he returned to active duty, he was captured and put in a confederate prison camp. There he died of typhoid fever before my grandfather was even born. If you go back 2 generations farther, HIS great grandfather served in the revolutionary war.

About the time I graduated from high school, they reduced the age requirement for enlisting in the air force flight training program from a college degree. The need for pilots was too great. Shortly after I turned 18 I started the process of getting into the Army Air-Force. The gal giving the tests told Dad only 1 in 20 would pass the 2 days of written testing. My dad was so proud when I was notified, and on Dec 14th I was sworn in.

After basic and C.T.C. we were sent to Santa Ana, CA for the Aviation Cadet Training Program. That was the worst 3 day train ride ever. We traveled in converted boxcars with bunks 3 high, pulled by steam engines. No fans or air conditioning, with the windows wide open and cinders blowing into the car constantly. The very small water tank for drinking ran out in a short time after filling at the station stops.

Because it happened one of our cadets' father was a big shot at Warner Bros. Studio, our graduation was held at the famous Beverly Hills Hotel, with the Tommy Dorsey band playing. Our good fortune continued...we were given a checklist to fill out for a graduation dance...blonde, redhead, etc, and had about 200 of the pretties starlets and secretaries that you could imagine for our dates for the evening.

My crew was put together at Dyersburg. Two Pilots, tail gunner, waist and ball turret gunners, radio operator, flight engineer, and a toggleer. The toggleer doubled as the top turret gunner. After handshakes and small talk, The Waist gunner said "Can I ask you a question sir? How old are you?" You should have seen their faces...they would be going into combat with a 19 year old kid flying that bomber, and the rest of the crew was 2-5 years older than me.

For our flight to England, we picked up a B17 in Lincoln NB, on to New Hampshire, then Goose Bay Labrador. We had hoped for an overnight to rest, but there was no hanger space, and -30 degrees. With no de-icers, it was a quick refueling, snacks and a thermos of the worst tasting coffee I've ever had. The weather was so bad approaching Iceland, it took 4 tries to land, and we were close to having to ditch in the ocean. I have never seen that much snow again. When we got down, the tower used radar to find the plane and guide a truck to us.

Once in England we flew the plane to Belfast, Ireland to be modified for war. We could hold 3,000 gallons of fuel, 4 to 6 tons of bombs, 13 machine guns with 400 rounds of ammo for each, and 9 crewmen. The planes were basically a flying tin can. We wore long johns under our uniform. Officers had to wear a class B uniform and tie to go to war. Then an electric heated suit complete with heated gloves and felt boots. Next came the heavy flight suit, and a 'Mae West' life jacket, then our parachute. Heavy boots went on top of the heated boots. First you put on a pair of silk gloves, then wool gloves, then leather ones. Then your helmet and goggles and lastly you clipped on the oxygen mask.

Cities like Berlin and Bremen, had a lot of military targets. Lipzieg, a major oil producing area had 440 guns bearing. That means every 30 seconds each gun could fire a shell at our group. We had stuff called Chaff...small strips of paper with foil glued on one side ...500 in a bundle. Every 30 seconds each radio operator would discharge a bundle out a chute by his desk. The metallic strips would put an extra blip on the German radar making it more difficult to hit us.

Note added by his family...

Our father was proud to have earned 4 oak leaf clusters for 32 missions with 250 hours of combat flying time, and over 700 hours of flight time. While his sense of patriotism and pride was so very strong, he would be the first to tell you that his service wasn't anything special-because back then everybody did their part. He stayed in contact with the men in his crew the rest of his life as their numbers slowly dwindled.



In the last newsletter, I inadvertently referred to the Cherry Valley Garden Center as Enders Greenhouse. The Falzone family is not by any means a "new" owner of Cherry Valley's oldest business. In 2007 John and his son Benny bought the greenhouse, and began the process of remodeling and restoring it to recapture its 20th century luster.



Editor.... Pam Jeske (golfnsew@aol.com)

Please feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories either to my e-mail, the Historical Society's e-mail (cv.historical86@frontier.com)

Cherry Valley Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Or stop by, leave a note ...have a chat with a member!

Cherry Valley Area Men's Club

What has Cherry Valley Men's Association done for the Cherry Valley community?

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph at Mill and Harrison
2. Established the Robert Larson Foundation, to help CV area students with college or technical education
3. Donated uniforms and equipment for the 4th and 5th grade, boys and girls basketball teams at Cherry Valley School.
4. Donated cheerleading uniforms for the 4th & 5th CV grade spirit squad
5. CVAMA members assist with a yearly clothing, food and paper shredding drive at city hall.
6. Donated and helped raise funds for 65 uniforms for the Goldie B. Floberg special athletes. Travel bags, jackets jerseys & shorts.
7. CVAMA worked the the Winn. County Forrest Preserve to design, produce and install rules of the river signs at [6] Winn. forrest preserves
8. CVAMA made 20 "Love your River" signs and are along the Kishwaukee River.
9. Donated to the CV Merchants youth baseball team uniforms.
10. Donated to Christmas lights and installed lights [Dave Doig in 2011 & 2012]
11. Donated 600 frisbees to the 2012, 2013 & 2014 4th of July parade
12. Coordinated and got the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile to come to the 2012 4th of July parade
13. Sponsored numerous CV 4th& 5th grade school basketball players to coaches clinics held for youth basketball
14. Designed, produced and printed [1,000] 2015 Cherry Valley Calendars.
15. CVAMA annually sponsors Family Night Ice Skating at the Carlson Ice Arena.
16. CVAMA is having their first golf outing September 14th at Newburg Hills.
17. CVAMA hosted & mediated a political debate at the Methodist church, open to the public to meet the candidates.

**To Join or to get more information
visit our web site cherryvalleyama.com**

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at Salamone's at 7 p.m.



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Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their wonderful support and assistance.
 And to CV Methodist Women group for their sponsorship.
 Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement in the newsletter, we appreciate them!