

Some Veterans' Stories

- ◆ **Daniel Frederick Bakeman**, of Dutch descent, first appears in the 1850 census for this area. He served in the **Revolutionary War**, in Col. Willett's regiment. He served four years, some of that time hauling supplies for the Army. Daniel lived to the age of 109 years and celebrated every Fourth of July with great zeal, shouting, "Hurrah for Washington, Gates, Putnam and Lee, and all der brave men who fought for libertee!"
- ◆ **Eber Holmes** served in the **War of 1812** and came to Sandusky with his wife and six children in 1827. Here he built a grist mill, and then a saw mill. Later, he opened a general store, and served ten years as a Supervisor. His grandson, **Eber B. Holmes**, enlisted Co. D 154th Infantry for the Civil War in August 1861, following his grandfather's example of serving his country.
- ◆ At the outbreak of the **Civil War**, **Harrison Cheney** recruited a full company of local men for Co. D of the 154th Infantry, with more men to spare. Cheney was named Captain of the company. At the Battle of Gettysburg, in July 1863, he was captured. On the ninth day after capture, he broke away and was hotly pursued through the woods. He successfully eluded re-capture and after twenty-two days reached Union lines. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel in March 1865, and in 1876 and 1888 was elected to the New York State Assembly.
- ◆ **Claude L. Newman**, well-known Arcade attorney and civic leader, rose to the rank of captain of Co. G, 52nd Pioneer Infantry, and saw action in the Argonne in France during **WWI**. Upon his return to civilian life he retained membership active membership in the ROTC and was promoted to the rank of major.
- ◆ **Maurice Hopkins** served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of **WWII** in several capacities: as a Military Policeman, rank of Corporal, and as a Tec. 4 Medical Lab Technician with the 315th General Hospital in Luzon, Philippines. He conducted microscopic and chemical tests and analysis at a medical laboratory to determine the presence of germs and chemical composition of body fluids. He also assisted in the post-mortem of military personnel.
- ◆ **Margaret A. (Dryden) Hopkins (WWII)**, first Female V.F.W. member in New York State, was a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and met her future husband Maurice while stationed in Luzon, Philippines during WWII.
- ◆ **Anson (Shorty) Roblee (WWII)**, U.S. Marine Corps, Atlantic & Pacific Oceans. He served aboard the USS Bunker Hill from March 1943 to August 1945. On Mothers' Day 1945, kamikaze planes attacked the USS Bunker Hill. As told by Shorty to the Arcade Herald, " ...I heard what everybody thought was our attack planes

coming back from another strike. All at once a meatball" (Japanese plane) "came in over the island structure, dropped a 500 pound bomb and crashed his plane into our planes at the aft end of the flight deck. The bomb went through the flight deck, hanger deck, and blew up in the port quarter of the ship. This immediately started huge fires on the whole aft portion of the ship." Soon a second Kamikaze dove at the ship, crashing his plane into the base of the ship's island. "We fought the fires and further Jap attacks for 26 hours." Meanwhile, back at home, his mother had a strong feeling he would be in trouble on that day, but didn't find out about the attack until weeks later.

- ◆ **Wayne Bigelow (Vietnam)** joined the army after graduating from Archbishop Walsh High School. From 1968 to 1970 he served as a "boots on the ground" soldier in Vietnam. He later was an operating engineer for 40 years. He was a member of the Arcade V.F.W. Post 374 and the Disabled American Veterans.

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Sandusky Cemetery Veterans



The stone above is for Alfred H. Lewis, and has the inscription, "He fell mortally wounded at Gettysburg, nobly defending the proud inheritance of our fathers. In honor sleeps the patriot dead." Lewis died July 3, 1863, age 30, leaving behind his wife Jane and 3 year old daughter Kittie. He was one of the few soldiers whose body was returned home.

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