



# Camp Sherman

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

## Introduction

Camp Sherman, named for Ohioan and Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman, was a United States Army training camp during World War I. Built outside Chillicothe, Ohio, between June and September 1917 on farmland and prehistoric American Indian mounds, the nearly 2,000 acre site was the nation's third largest camp and saw over 120,000 men during its short existence. In addition to barracks, offices, railroad tracks and utility lines, there were several theaters and a hospital, library, farm and German prisoner of war camp. Four different army divisions called Camp Sherman home: 83<sup>rd</sup>, 84<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup>, although the latter two never went overseas because the war ended before their training was completed. The camp was closed in 1921 and today the property is home to Chillicothe's Veteran's Hospital Group, two Ohio correctional institutions, the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park and a wildlife refuge.

## Important Dates

- April 6, 1917: United States officially enters World War I.
- June-September 1917: Camp Sherman is constructed to support rapid mobilization of U.S. troops.
- September 5, 1917: First soldiers arrive at Camp Sherman.
- November 29, 1917: Camp Sherman Stars play Ohio State University Buckeyes in football.
- June 5, 1918: 83<sup>rd</sup> Division is sent overseas to Europe.
- 1918: "The Remaking of a Nation" film, depicting army life at Camp Sherman, tours theaters.
- 1918: Spanish Influenza Pandemic hits Camp Sherman, eventually taking over 1,700 lives.
- November 11, 1918: World War I ends.
- September 1919: Camp Sherman's German prisoners of war are released.
- 1921: The U.S government closes and dismantles Camp Sherman.

## Suggested Search Strategies

- Try combining Camp Sherman with the following terms (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Chillicothe, soldier, influenza, football, prisoners, training.
- Use specific date ranges when looking for articles about Camp Sherman.
- Combine "Camp Sherman" with a name—local newspapers often reported on specific soldiers.

## Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Times Writer on Tour of U.S. Army Cantonments Visits Camp Sherman"](#) *Tacoma Times* (Tacoma, WA), September 27, 1917, Image 3, col. 3-7.
- ["Notes from Camp Sherman"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), November 20, 1917, Image 3, col. 3-4.
- ["Our Army Camps"](#) *Mahoning Dispatch* (Canfield, OH), February 22, 1918, Image 2, col. 4.
- ["Camp Sherman in Wauseon"](#) *Fulton County Tribune* (Wauseon, OH), March 15, 1918, Image 1, col. 1.
- ["Hound-Dog is Only Friend of German Prisoners at Camp Sherman"](#) *Richmond Palladium and Sun-Telegram* (Richmond, IN), September 2, 1918, Image 3, col. 2-3.
- ["58 Selects Go Thursday"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), September 6, 1918, Image 5, col. 1.
- ["Seven Army Camps Will Be Abandoned"](#) *New York Herald* (New York, NY), July 27, 1921, Image 7, col. 2-4.