

May 10, 2019

Honorable Rick Perales, Chair and Members of the
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, OH

Attempted purchase of Memorial cannons – Greenlawn Cemetery, Milford, OH

Several years ago a military relics dealer located in Pennsylvania approached the City of Milford with an offer to purchase the two Memorial cannons located in Greenlawn Cemetery for \$10,000 each. The dealer noted that as part of the arrangement he would replace the cannons with plastic replicas.

I, along with Batavia historian/attorney Gary Kneep, was approached by the Council to enlighten them on the cannons' background. In the presentation, we noted that the cannons were placed in the Cemetery by the S.R.S. Post 554 of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1909 to honor the service of men of the Milford area during the Civil War and the many notable contributions of Lt. General Henry Clark Corbin of Clermont County. And, as they were placed by the GAR Post, they were their property. Further, since the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are the legal heirs to the GAR, that organization now retains ownership.

Based on our presentation, the Council recognized the historical significance of retaining these artifacts in place. And, to document their resolve, the Council issued a Record of Resolution declaring "its continuing commitment to preserving these cannons and the legacy they represent by rejecting any and all offers to sell them and to retain them in perpetuity in Greenlawn Cemetery."

It is our hope that the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee will agree to the approach taken by the Milford City Council on a State-wide basis to protect these valuable memorials.

Thank you,



James H. Houston
Past Department Commander
Department of Ohio
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
955 Woodcreek Drive
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Attachments:
Resolution Milford City Council
Memorial cannons pictures



