

## Photos by Terry Taggart



103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Museum



103rd OVI Exhibits



103rd OVI Battle Flag (Replica)



Carpenter House, Frostville



Handmade Hearse. Frostville



Relaxing in the Carpenter House Dining Room

# Chagrin Falls Exponent

## A. E. Smith Civil War Diary

Alfred E. Smith was born in Streatham, Surrey Co. England on the 20th day of March, 1835. June 12th 1854, at the age of 19 he arrived in New York. We are not sure when he arrived in Chagrin Falls, but on the 7th of June 1861 this cabinet maker enlisted in Company D, 7th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, along with 10 other young men from Chagrin Falls. By the end of the war, a total of 18 Chagrin Boys will have served in the 7th OVI.

Barely 2 months after his enlistment, on August 30, 1861 A. E. Smith, along with 3 other Chagrin boys, was captured following the battle at Cross Lanes, Virginia. Both sides in the Civil war were ill-prepared to deal with the high number of prisoners captured in the early days of the war.

A.E. Smith was first held in Richmond, Va. then transferred to New Orleans, then on to the new Confederate prison in Salisbury, NC. Here is the account from his diary of his reception when he arrived in New Orleans Sept. 29, 1861. I have kept the punctuation as written in his diary.

Sept 29, 1861 At 10 AM we arrived at Jackson Mississippi, staying here until 4 PM when we left Jackson for New Orleans, and after stoppages we arrived in New Orleans some time in the morning.

Sept 30, 1861 We had a very exciting time this morning. When getting into the Depot, we, the 250 Federal Prisoners, came very nearly getting into trouble. A Mob of people, or the Union hating part of the people--and there were a great many of them, were at the Depot and were bound to get their hands onto the Federal prisoners, especially one Negro that was with us and who had unfortunately fell into their hands at Cross Lanes, Va. The Train had to run back into the Louisiana Swamps until they got a Sufficient Guard to protect us. It required a Brigade of Infantry and a Brigade of Cavalry to escort 250 Federal Prisoners into the Old Parish prison at New Orleans and after parading us through the principle Streets, we were safely and securely landed in the Criminal part of the Parish Prison in New Orleans--and did not see mother earth again for four long months. Some days after this 250 more Federal prisoners from Richmond Oct. 1, 1861 joined us making 500 in all--Several of them died while there. We were 10 days in the Cars and Boat making the Journey from the Confederate Capital to New Orleans. Oct 1, our first day of actual residence in New Orleans Louisiana, but quite a relief from the Long Tedious journey here riding in Cattle Cars. The time passed today as well as could be expected under the Circumstances except in one instance a "Capt. Vincent, a Large Mouthy Official and overbearing Gentleman of the so-called Southern Confederacy", made a few remarks. Pointing to Gallows that was a permanent Fixture in our prison yard, Said "for every Privateer that the Beast Abraham Lincoln Executes, They would Hang Five of you Yankees."

Oct. 2, 1861 Here we are and very likely to stay. A great many Visitors in to see us today. The Greatest Living Curiosities of this date in this City. Two Hundred and Fifty Yankee prisoners.

There will be more from AE Smith in future Exponents.

### **Scrap Zalba Scholarship**

**To date, almost \$4000 has been donated to the Historical Society in memory of Scrap Zalba. The family has asked that these monies be put into a scholarship fund to be administered by the Society in Scraps honor.**