

A LOOK IN THE ATTIC

THIS WEEK IN OHIO NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY



THROUGH THE LENS January 20, 2013

1st Lt. Lauren A. Perry and Sgt. 1st Class Eric L. Hammond, 1486th Transportation Company command team, case the unit guidon during a transfer of authority ceremony with the 1487th Transportation Company at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

January 21, 1903: The Militia Act, sponsored by Ohio Congressman and Ohio National Guard Maj. Gen. Charles Dick, is enacted. It was benchmark legislation that repealed the outdated Militia Act of 1792. With its passage, the modern National Guard, as part of the federal reserve, was born. The Guard now had to meet stricter federal requirements for training and equipment, though now the government paid most of the bills. The Guard's officer corps would be required to be "federally recognized" – certified as to physical, professional and

moral standards. Its enlisted personnel would also have to attain higher standards than under the old militia period. All ranks would get pay and allowances for their attendance at a five-day summer encampment. Eventually, federal monies for all training periods, annual and drill, would be added as well as monies for armory construction and maintenance. Many aspects of "Guard service" as it is understood today date from the passage of the Dick Act of 1903.

CONNECTING TO THE COLLECTIONS

FLAG STAFF, 42D OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT

Portion of the flag staff used to carry one of the flags presented to the 42d Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the American Civil War. The 42d OVI was organized in 1861 under the command of Col. James A. Garfield, who was later elected as the 20th President of the United States.

The 42d OVI was mustered into service on December 7, 1861 and participated in the Battles of Middle Creek, Chickasaw Bayou, Port Gibson and Champion Hill, the Siege of Vicksburg and Jackson and the Red River Campaign. The regiment was mustered out in late 1864 and lost 240 men during their service.

While Garfield organized the regiment, he commanded it for only a brief period when he was promoted to command a brigade in early 1862. A year later he was assigned as Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans' chief of staff for the Army of the Cumberland. He left the service as a major general in 1864 after his election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The inscription on the upper portion of the staff reads: "Presented to Col. J.A. Garfield of the 42 Reg't O.V.M. By the Ladies of Ashland and Citizens of Portage Co. O."

