

MILITARY MUSINGS



National Society Descendants of American Farmers – #2, May 2023

By Glenn D. Martin, Military Co-Director

Welcome to the second issue! We are now officially a tradition. It's a pleasure to keep in touch with our Farmer Veterans, and all our NSDOAF Family, through this newsletter.

The big news to report is that our first Vietnam Commemoration Zoom was a great success, and fun as well! For those of you who missed it, we celebrated the service of five NSDOAF members who served during the Vietnam War era. We were fortunate to have men and women, officers and enlisted, and Veterans from four different branches. They each shared some memories about their time during that period, and following the Zoom call, received a specially designed Certificate of Honor, as well as a lapel pin and other items provided by the United States Vietnam Commemoration.

Our second Vietnam Commemoration Zoom will be held on June 4th. All NSDOAF members are invited, as well as any guests you'd like to bring!

Once again, let me say that it is an honor and a privilege to be your Military Co-Director, and it is a pleasure to be a part of NSDOAF, one of the finest societies in the Nation. Please don't hesitate to contact me at glenn.martin.wc@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

By Renee M. Hamilton, Military Co-Director

Hello! I'm reporting on the status of R.E.D. Fridays. As of this writing, we are in week 18 of our year-long weekly project to show support for our deployed military. We did have the month of December, 2022 to practice posting our photos, and I have now made them into collages also-giving us 22 weeks of data. Each Friday, I post a call on our Members NSDOAF Facebook page for a photo showing you in your red attire. At the end of the day, the photos are placed into a collage. The goal is to have all collages posted to our Military Tribute page as well as alerting the Red Organization of our Society's support and influence in spreading this initiative. We now have five other organizations also sporting their red attire. This is totally optional to participate with us, but we would love to have many of our members join us in spreading the word to remember everyone deployed until they all come home. It is a great way to educate others about our Society also, and recruit.

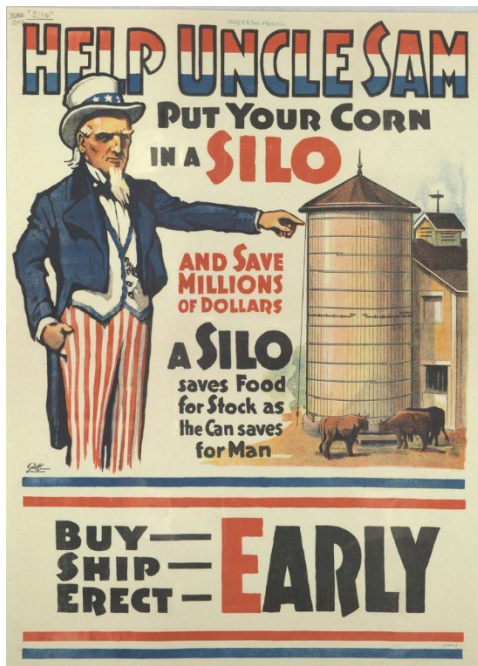
It is an honor for me to get to participate with our Vietnam Commemoration Zooms. Thank you to those who have been involved so far. We will continue to work through our eligible military members. Reach out to me at DiggingUpAncestry@gmail.com with comments.

Military Service Pin

All members of the NSDOAF are greatly encouraged to purchase and wear the Military Service Pin. The Society is proud to honor its Veterans with this large, gorgeous pin designed by your Military Co-Directors. Please cut and paste the link below and pre-order yours today!



<https://www.hamiltoninsignia.com/products/%2ANEW-NSDOAF-Military-Service-Pin.html>



Why Poppies are the Symbol of Remembrance

During WWI, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was blasted, bombed, and fought over repeatedly. Previously beautiful landscapes turned to mud; bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow. There was a notable and striking exception to the bleakness - the bright red Flanders poppies. These resilient flowers flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, growing in the thousands upon thousands.

In the Spring of 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, LTCOL John McCrae was moved by the sight of the poppies, and was inspired to write the famous poem "In Flanders Fields". The poem then inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She campaigned to get it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of the American Legion, to memorialize the servicemen who died in WWI. The distribution of poppies became a national program of the Legion in 1924. In the United States, National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day, so this year, we urge our Farmer family to wear a poppy on May 26th. Let us remember the brave men and women who sacrificed everything to protect our freedom and our way of life.



Honoring Our Veteran Farmers

Our Nation owes so much to both its veterans and its farmers, so we are proud to continue this feature celebrating Veteran Farmers in Military Musings. In our second installment, we discuss the service of Robert Alexander Pinn, a First Sergeant in the Union Army during the Civil War.

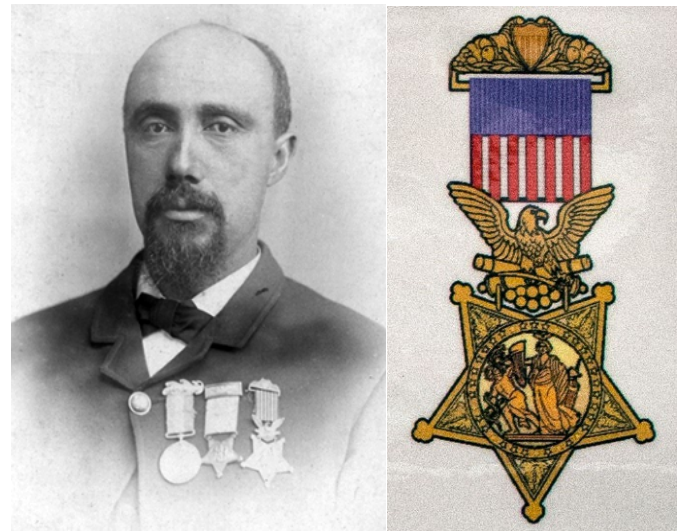
Robert was born a free Black man on a farm in Perry Township, Ohio on March 1, 1843. His father William was a Black man who had escaped enslavement and fled to Ohio; his mother was a white woman who had grown up in Pennsylvania. They eventually had ten children, of which Robert was the sixth. He went to school as well as working on the farm until he was 18 years old.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Robert attempted to join the Union Army at Massillion. However, because of his race, he was denied enlistment. His desire to serve his Nation led him to joining the 19th Ohio Infantry Regiment as a civilian worker, and marching south with the regiment when they deployed as part of the Army of the Ohio. Despite being a non-combatant, Robert fought at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6 and 7, 1862. He remained with the regiment, fighting in numerous other battles, while still in a civilian status.

After President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, he authorized the enlistment of Black men and their deployment into combat. Robert joined the 127th Ohio Infantry Regiment on September 5, 1863. This regiment was renamed the 5th US Colored Infantry Regiment in November, and immediately moved to support other Union troops in Virginia.

In early 1864, Robert was promoted to First Sergeant of Company I, 5th US Colored Troops. The regiment went into action at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm on September 29, and it was for his actions in this engagement that Robert was awarded the Medal of Honor. Seeing that all his

company's officers had been killed or wounded, Robert took command of the company and led it gallantly through to the conclusion of the battle. Robert received the Medal of Honor about six months later, on April 6, 1865.



After the war, he returned to Massillion and worked as a contractor and teamster. Pinn entered Oberlin College in 1874 and studied law. He served as principal of Cairo High School in Lima, Ohio and later was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1879. He married Emily J. Manzilla, and they had a daughter Gracie. Robert A. Pinn died on January 5th, 1911, and is buried in his hometown of Massillion.

In 1973, the Ohio National Guard named the new armory in Stow, Ohio, in his honor. In 1998, the shooting facility at the University of Akron was renamed the Robert A. Pinn Shooting Range in his honor. It is one of the premier shooting facilities in Ohio and is used by the university ROTC unit and the NCAA shooting team. Robert Pinn was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 1992.

The NSDOAF thanks Robert Alexander Pinn for his service as an American soldier and farmer.