

Soldiers Monument

Originally dedicated on Memorial Day 1913 to honor the Union Soldiers of the Civil War. Col. W.L. Curry, who led the 1st Ohio Volunteer Cavalry in the Civil War, spoke to the crowd of citizens, children, and Civil War veterans gathered. It was said to be the largest crowd ever assembled in New California. The site was originally given by President Andrew Jackson as part of land payment for military service to a Revolutionary War soldier.

Through the years the monument has shared the corner with several other occupants including a gas station and pizza shop.

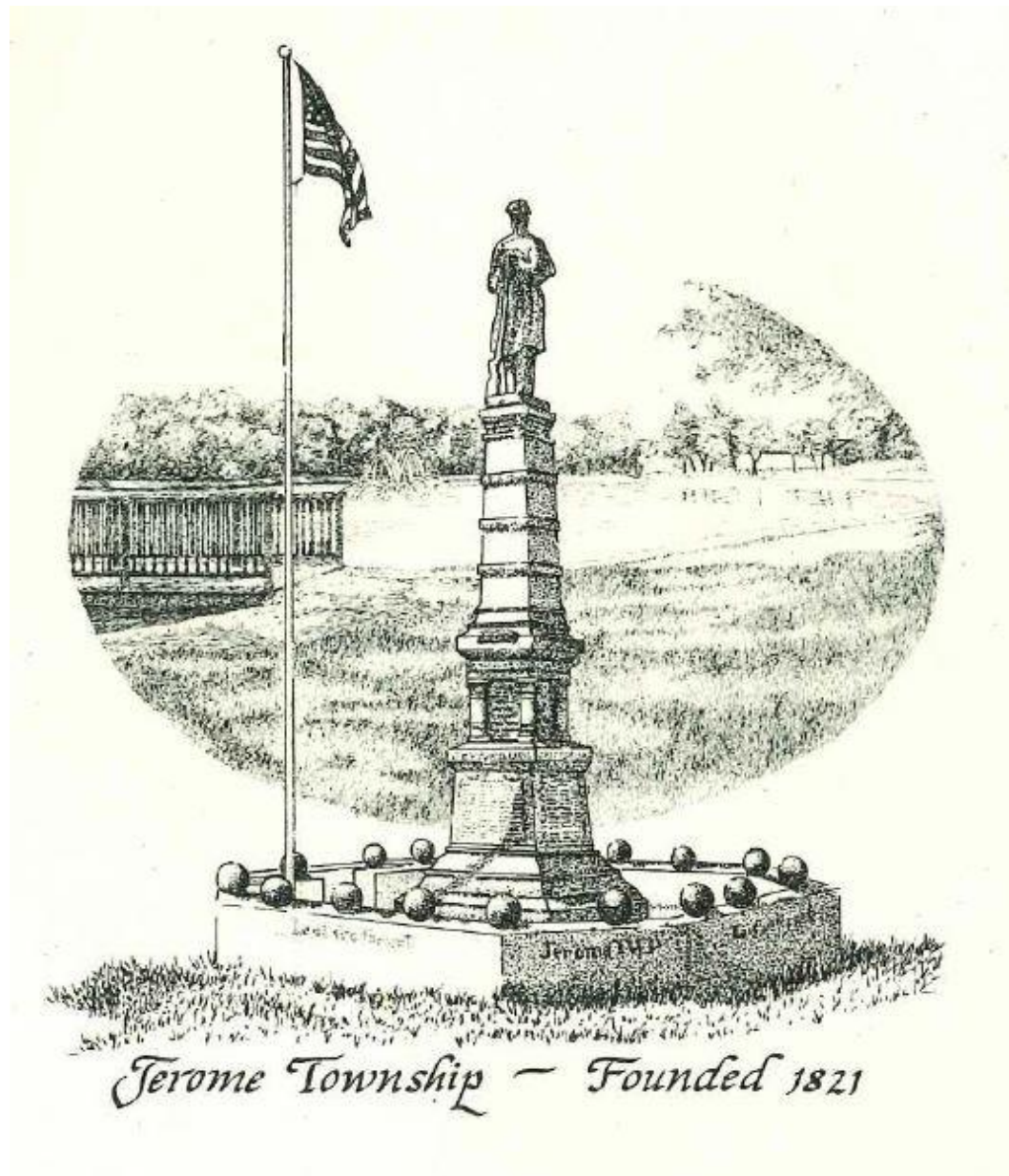


A time capsule was placed inside the monument at the 1913 dedication. This containing historical documents, a list of all school children in Jerome Township in 1913, a roster of all the soldiers from Jerome Township that enlisted in the Civil War, the names of the committee members in charge of the construction of the monument, several documents pertaining to the dedication ceremony, and 60 pictures of civil war soldiers. When the monument was relocated in 2013 the original time capsule was found to have been partly opened and the contents had sadly disintegrated. With the help of an Eagle Scout project, a new time capsule is being planned. The hopes are that it will contain many documents, photos and articles explaining the history of the

monument as well as the Township. The new time capsule will be placed in the wall surrounding the monument at another, yet unplanned, ceremony for the public. Watch the website and Facebook page for announcements on that as they become available.

The monument was made of zinc and was funded by the community, as well as a bequest by R.L. Woodburn a Civil War veteran and Ohio legislator. The monument stands 20 feet 4 inches high and is located at the corner of U.S. 42 and Industrial Parkway. It is inscribed with a quote from Col. W. L. Curry's dedication speech "in honor of the men who served in the Army of the Union. Those who fought and lived and those who fought and died. May this shaft ever call to memory the story of the glory of the men who wore the blue."

The names of Jerome Township men who served in the Civil War are inscribed on the 4 sides of the statue. A star beside the name indicates the soldier paid the ultimate price. Jerome Township gave up more men to the civil war than any other township in the country in proportion to the total number of residents. In 1861 the population of Jerome Township was estimated at 1398. 367 Men volunteered to fight in the Civil War from Jerome Township several were under the age of 16 and at least one listed as being only 14. Sadly 75 never returned, either dying in battle or complications due to the war.



On April 5, 1982, the Township Trustees announced they were hoping to replace the cannon balls that were originally located at the sight of the monument. A call to the residents went out for any information about the missing cannon balls. They were described as 8" in diameter and weighing around 50 pounds.

On October 5, 2013, 100 years after the original dedication of the monument, the Monument was rededicated after being restored and relocated several feet back from the road to its present location in a place described as “as



generals in the war would say, good ground and of our choosing”. The monument was moved from its location just 3 feet from the curb to a safer distance farther back at the same location.

A crowd of similar proportions to the original dedication gathered to share in Civil War era music and entertainment including a visit from Abraham Lincoln. The spirit of the original dedication was felt again that day at the rededication.

