

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2009
EVENT DATE: AUGUST 13-16, 2009
Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

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For Detailed Up-to-Date Festival Information, Visit www.DanEmmettFestival.org

Festival features Civil War Era Living History Activities

MOUNT VERNON – Visitors to this year’s Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival can get an up-close look at what life was like for the soldiers and their families during the Civil War and Colonial times. The Living History encampment will be Saturday, August 15th, on the riverfront near Dan Emmett’s birthplace home, 501 S. Main St.

Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Co. B, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, the 5th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry and the Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War will be on hand. There will be blanket talks, demonstrating the essentials a soldier carried with him in his knapsack; drills, where the soldiers from the 1860s marched and learned battlefield techniques under the watchful eye of their sergeant; and weapon firing demonstrations. Members of the Ohio County Militia will be on hand to discuss and demonstrate life of soldiers during the 1700s in America.

The groups will hold a flag raising ceremony on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. on Public Square. At 11 a.m., a portion of Clement Vallandigham’s famous speech will be given in front of the High Restaurant. Vallandigham was arrested following the speech in 1863, where he denounced the ongoing Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln.

Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as soldiers from Early American times, will open their camps from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. so visitors can learn about life in the 1860s and 1700s. Those Civil War soldiers will square off in the “Battle at Owl Creek” at 11:15 a.m. and again at 3 p.m. The American Minstrels will entertain the audience at 12, 2 and 4 p.m. A cannon demonstration by the 1st Ohio Light Artillery will be at 1 p.m. Members of the re-enactment group will explain the different positions of the six-man firing squads, demonstrating what each soldier is required to do, and then firing off the six-pound cannon. A flintlock musket demonstration will also be available at 1 p.m.

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Even with the war going on between the North and the South in the 1860s, there were still plenty of opportunities for men and women to socialize. One of the best ways was a ball, complete with caller, dancing and, of course, socializing. Waltzes and reels were the order of the day, giving men a chance to court a woman in a social setting. A Civil War Period Ball will be held Saturday night from 7 to 9 p.m. in the First-Knox National Bank parking lot on the corner of South Main and Vine streets. Re-enactors will be participating, but the public is welcome to join in on dances such as the Virginia Reel, the Grand March and the Pattycake Polka.

Volunteers from the Knox County Historical Society will be on hand at Dan Emmett's home from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. They will give information and tours on the home of one of Mount Vernon's most famous people. Emmett was a songwriter and entertainer in the 1800s, known for his songs "Dixie," "Old Dan Tucker" and "The Blue Tail Fly."

The Battle at Owl Creek will be recreated Sunday at noon on the riverfront. The Dan Emmett home and soldiers' camps will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Highlights of this year's Festival will include performances by Sonny Geraci and The Outsiders, Phil Dirt & The Dozers, a wide variety of local musicians such as Kokosing River Surf Club, Autumn Daze, Mount Vernon Heritage Singers, KnoxSquares, Knox Idol, as well as the popular Chautauqua program, the antique and classic car show, a new motorcycle show, all with a wide variety of delicious foods for your tasting pleasure.

The 2009 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 13th – 16th in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. The 2009 Festival is made possible through the contributions of Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, Time Warner Cable, WMVO, Eagle 93, WNZR, I-Conn Video Productions, Mount Vernon News, the Knox Partnership for Arts & Culture, and the Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau. For additional information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378) or email at director@DanEmmettFestival.org.

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Living History Schedule Attached

Living History Schedule

Saturday – August 15th

- 10 a.m. Dan Emmett House open
- 10 a.m. Camps open
- 10:30 a.m. Flag raising on square
- 11 a.m. Clement Vallandigham speech (in front of High Restaurant)
- 11:15 a.m. Skirmish (will start at Vallandigham speech site and chase each other down S. Main Street to riverfront where full-scale battle will occur)
- 12 noon American Minstrels (riverfront)
- 1 p.m. Demonstrations (Civil War artillery, flintlock musket)
- 2 p.m. American Minstrels
- 2:45 p.m. Clement Vallandigham speech (High Restaurant, on the square)
- 3 p.m. Battle at Owl Creek
- 4 p.m. American Minstrels
- 5 p.m. Dan Emmett house closed
- 6 p.m. Camps closed
- 7 to 9 p.m. Civil War period dance (First-Knox Bank parking lot on W. Vine St.)

Sunday August 16th

- 10 a.m. Dan Emmett house and camps open
- 12 noon Battle at Owl Creek
- 2 p.m. Dan Emmett house and camps closed