

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30th, 2008
EVENT DATE: AUGUST 7th-10th, 2008
Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

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

Civil War Living History, Period Dance, and Parade Return to the Emmett Festival

MOUNT VERNON — Visitors to this year's 2008 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival will get a chance to step back to the time of Dan Emmett and the Civil War era. On Saturday, Aug. 9th, visitors will be able to see, hear and even participate in activities involving that period of time in the United States.

American vs. American. North vs. South. Brother vs. Brother. The Civil War touched the lives of Americans like nothing else. 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 Living History Encampment Saturday, August 9, on the riverfront near Dan Emmett's home. 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 where there will be blanket talks, demonstrating the essentials a soldier carried with him in his knapsack; drills, where the soldiers marched and learned battlefield techniques under the watchful eye of their sergeant; and weapon firing demonstrations.

The groups will hold a flag raising ceremony on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. on Public Square. At 10:30 a.m., the re-enactors will lead a parade down South Main Street to the encampment and Dan Emmett's boyhood home where a dedication ceremony will be held at 11:00 a.m. The Union and Confederate camps will be open from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. where visitors can learn about life in the 1860s.

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Ball & Stahl will entertain the audience at 12:30 p.m. followed by a cannon demonstration by the 1st Ohio Light Artillery at 1:00 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. Abraham Lincoln, aka Gerry Payn, will speak at 2:00 p.m., followed by a skirmish between the Union and Confederate soldiers at 2:30 p.m.

Even with the war going on between the North and the South at the time, 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 Friday night from 7:00 to 8:30 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.

Highlights of the Festival this year include performances by Micky Dolenz of The Monkees, Phil Dirt and the Dozers, the All-Ohio State Fair Band, and a wide variety of other local musicians and performers. A juried fine arts and crafts fair, a homemades and trades show, a flower show, a quilt show, a motorcycle show, and an antique & classic car show are also scheduled as part of the four day Festival.

The 2008 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 7th-10th in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. For detailed scheduling information, visit the Festival website at www.DanEmmettFestival.org. The 2008 Festival is made possible through the contributions of Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, Time Warner Cable, WMVO, WQIO, WNZR, I-Conn Video Productions, Mount Vernon News, 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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