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KENT CIVIL WAR SOCIETY * P.O. Box 3671 KENT, OH 44240
<https://www.kentcivilwar.org/>
Meeting Hotline (330) 474-9362

WHAT: ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER AND AUCTION
WHERE: SHELTER HOUSE, FRED FULLER PARK, KENT
WHEN: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M.
COST: FREE TO MEMBERS AND A GUEST

Happy Holidays! Another year of Civil War programming comes to an end with our annual Holiday dinner and popular auction of Civil War publications and artifacts. The dinner is free to you and a guest and features a main course and beverages provided by the Society. Each member is asked to bring a dish to share (see below) AND YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE, CUP AND UTENSILS. Those with last names beginning with:

A through G, bring a dessert

H through O, bring a potato or vegetable dish

P through Z, bring a salad or hors d'oeuvres

The auction follows dinner. Not sure who will be our auctioneer, but we can probably count on Mark Perkins and Jeff Jones!

We encourage all members to check their collections of Civil War books, magazines and memorabilia for items you are willing to donate to the auction (as well as items from other wars). Simply bring them with you to the dinner. There will also be some items that have been hanging around. Proceeds benefit our programming fund.

Please note: It is not required that you bring an auction item in order to attend the party. However, we do hope that you will bring your checkbook in order to take advantage of some very real bargains.

Civil War Christmas Trivia:

What happened right before Christmas, one-hundred-sixty-four years ago?¹



A Christmas Card from the 1860s

¹ On December 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede the Union.

Notes

Ruth has sent out membership forms and is now collecting dues for 2025. Annual dues are still \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families.

Christmas Bells

Written on Christmas day 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Christmas Bells" has become the song we know today as "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." He had recently lost his beloved wife in a chance fire and his son Charles was wounded in the Battle of New Hope Church in November, so the words of the poem have great meaning for those who lost loved ones during the war. Here is the poem in its entirety:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along
 The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
 A voice, a chime,
 A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
 And with the sound
 The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
 And made forlorn
 The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
 "For hate is strong,
 And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
 The Wrong shall fail,
 The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."