



# Memorial Day Special Edition Parkman Paragraphs

Created by Cory Anderson  
Parkman Paragraphs is published in Spring and Fall of each year.  
This limited edition issue is printed specifically for the

## 2003 Parkman Memorial Day Parade.

We wish to thank all of our Active Duty and Veterans throughout all eras of our country's existence for all of the sacrifices that they have made to give us our freedoms and continue to make our country a safe place to live. May our future generations understand these sacrifices from our Veterans and appreciate the quality of life created for them.  
On behalf of the Parkman Trustees and the Parkman Chamber of Commerce

### Special Thanks for the continued support of the:

Geauga County Sheriff Department  
Middlefield VFW Post 9678

Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team  
Parkman Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops #76  
Cardinal Marching Band

Parkman Congregational Church SS Edward Lucy Catholic Parish  
and the various participants who helped to make our  
2003 Parkman Memorial Day Celebration a success.

Thompson Family and Dale Komandt and Nikki Shrock  
(thanks for the Parkman Historical Society story of Glen Thompson)

Father John Burkley, SS Edward Lucy Catholic Parish  
Jeff Gardner, Commander, V.F.W. Post 9678

Monique Hornsby, Parkman Cub Scout Den Master  
Director, Cardinal High School Marching Band

Kevin O'Reilly, Parkman Trustee  
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Don Villers, Parkman Trustee

Nancy Wheelock, Parkman Fiscal Officer  
Wayne Komandt, Chief, Parkman Volunteer Fire Department  
Scott Villers Parkman Boy Scout Liaison

Best wishes to everyone for a fun and safe summer  
and don't forget to give THANKS to a Veteran.



# Parkman Paragraphs Memorial Day 2003



PARKMAN MEMORIAL DAY 2003 TRIBUTE TO

## Glenn A. Thompson

Community Website: [www.ParkmanOhio.com](http://www.ParkmanOhio.com)  
Newsletter E-mail: [ParkmanOhio@gmail.com](mailto:ParkmanOhio@gmail.com)



## Glenn A. Thompson

July 8, 1915 and passed away on Saturday, April 8, 2000

### Some History About Glenn A. Thompson

By Dale Komandt

My portion of tonight's program is some history of Glenn A. Thompson. He was born July 8, 1915, and died April 8, 2000. His stepfather was Glenn E. Owry (1896-1990) and his mother was Beth Evans (1892-1971).



Glenn was a Sergeant in the US Army Air Force during World War II. I understand he served mostly in Africa. After Glenn's discharge, he worked at the Ravenna Arsenal as a truck/wrecker driver and mechanic.



Glenn had told me that he was growing up on a farm north of Columbus, I don't remember the name of the place, when he came to this area. However, I do know that he and his first wife, Helen L. Thompson (1920-1972), worked a farm on Rt. 88 across from the Takacs farm until the early 1950s. He then took over the operation of a service station west of the light on the south side of Rt. 422 (the video store).

I think he took over from Richard Giles who moved to a station beside his home. Glenn and Helen also moved into a small home across the street from the station belonging to Mr. Duane Morris. That house had been the home of cartoonist Dale Brugman and his wife Theresa, an elementary teacher at Parkman School.

The small house had been an office for Dale, a dress shop for Peggy Warner and Dorothy Kimball, and a pickup point for Finch Cleaners. Glenn and Helen operated the service station and wrecker service until sometime after July 29, 1965. He then relocated his service station to a new location just west of the Community House on land previously owned by Kelly Gotham and/or Forrest Bidlack. He operated this station until he retired. You know it better as the Township Garage.

Glenn's first wife had died and a couple of years later, he married Lucille E. Blackford (1929-2003). After retiring, he continued to fix/repair stuff from a barn behind the home he and Helen had purchased on Madison Rd., just south of the Congregational Church. Glenn was a member of our Volunteer Fire Dept., joining in 1958. He was Second Assistant Chief (1960-1961), Chief (1962-1972), First Assistant Chief (1973-1981).



Glenn was a member of Western Phoenix Lodge #42 here in Parkman. He was initiated in April 1955, passed to Fellow Craft in May 1955, and raised to a Master Mason the same month. He was installed as Master of the Lodge for 1962.



Glenn loved to go to Canada each year with Dale Gates, Vernon Gates, and Al George to fishing for a week or so.

Glenn Thompson was honored by Parkman Trustees at the 2003 Parkman Memorial Day Parade and added to the Parkman Memorial Day Veterans Honoree Plaque found in the community house.

**Thank You Glenn Thompson for your service to both Community and Country!**

## Ravenna Arsenal History

[https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ravenna\\_Arsenal](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ravenna_Arsenal)

During World War II, Ravenna, Ohio, was the site of the Ravenna Arsenal. Illustrating Ohio's important contributions to winning World War II, from 1942 to 1945 workers at the Ravenna Arsenal produced more weapons for the war effort than at any other plant in the United States. More than 14,000 Ohioans found employment here during World War II.



The Ravenna Arsenal began production on March 23, 1942, although the Atlas Powder Company had manufactured shells and bombs at this site since 1941. The arsenal eventually included 1,371 buildings encompassed on 21,418 acres. The complex ceased arms production at World War II's conclusion, although it continued to store ammunition. The plant also began making fertilizer. With the Korean War's outbreak, the Ravenna Arsenal began production of arms again, now under the control of the Firestone Company. In 1957, the Arsenal ceased munitions production, only to manufacture arms again during the Vietnam War.

Following the Vietnam War, Ravenna Arsenal workers principally disarmed ammunition. Much of the site is now the Ohio National Guard's Ravenna Training and Logistics Site, with the Ohio National Guard using the Ravenna Arsenal for training. Approximately 1,481 acres of the Ravenna Arsenal have been deemed environmentally contaminated and efforts to make the site safe for human use are underway at the start of the twenty-first century.

The Department of Defense established the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) to provide guidance and funding for the investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste sites caused by historical disposal activities at military installations. The Army began working under the IRP in 1989 to eliminate or reduce to prescribed, safe levels any potential risks at RVAAP.

As of September 2013, administrative accountability for the entire 21,683-acre facility has been transferred to the Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) for use as a military training site, Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center (Camp James A. Garfield).

Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center is an Ohio Army National Guard training site located in Portage and Trumbull counties. The installation consists of about 21,000 acres, with various small arms weapons ranges and permanent facilities to support individual and collective training events for both weekend and annual training.

Major infrastructure improvements are turning Camp Garfield into a world-class training center for Army and other Department of Defense units in the Midwestern U.S.

Among the recent improvements is a Fire and Movement Range, and the current construction of an Automated Record Fire Range. Camp Garfield also features TADSS, or Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations, state-of-the-art digital training equipment that allows for realistic combat training without the logistic challenges of live-fire ranges.

