

Memorial Day Special Edition Parkman Paragraphs

Created by Cory Anderson



Parkman Paragraphs is published in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.
This limited Special Edition 2009 issue is printed specifically for the
2009 Memorial Day Parkman Parade.



Parkman Paragraphs

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for newsletter items only.

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I 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. Cory

On behalf of the Parkman Trustees and the Parkman Chamber of Commerce - **Special Thanks** for the continued support of the Geauga County Sheriff Department, Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team, Parkman Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops #76, the Cardinal Marching Band, and the various participants who helped to make our Memorial Day Parade a success.

**Best wishes to everyone for a
fun and safe Summer!**



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Community Website: <http://www.ParkmanOhio.com>
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History of the Gotham Brothers

By Tom Gotham

Lyle and Mabel brought their Gotham Family to Parkman from Troy. Their daughters Alma, Anoma, and Lilian, and sons John, Carlisle, Glen, Neil, and Leland all graduated from Parkman High School. The family originally had a farm south of town on Rutland Road. Today that farm no longer exists. It was burned down in the late 1960's. The Gotham Family moved to another parcel of land on Parkman Nelson Rd.

When War came, the boys all entered a branch of the service. Having been raised to honor family and country, it was quite natural. They were anxious to leave and see the world. Until that time, only two of them had escaped the rigors of farm life by participating in the Buckeye Band—John and Kelly.

John Gotham

John joined the service in 1943. He went to Fort Hood Texas for boot camp and went on to become a crew chief and top turret gunner for the 748 bomber squadron. His rank was Sergeant. He flew on a B-24 and was nicknamed the "old man" because he was 28 years of age and the oldest on the crew. He received 8 bronze stars and an air metal with 4 oak leaf clusters.

After his honorable discharge from the European theater, John became a noted head chef in the Cleveland area restaurants.



Carlisle "Kelly" Gotham

Carlisle "Kelly" Gotham joined the service along with his brothers in 1943. We was able to go to boot camp with his brother John in Fort Hood Texas. Kelly was injured while training and was honorably discharged and sent home back in Parkman. While at home he worked as a welder on the first Landing Barges used on D-Day. The plant was in Hubbard Ohio.

Kelly also served for many years with the Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue team, was a Boy Scout leader, Church leader, and was a Justice of the Peace for Parkman.

Playing baseball with the Komandt and Ferry Brothers was a common tradition enjoyed by Kelly.



Glen Gotham

Glen was known throughout the country because of his athletic abilities. He was quite the basketball player

Glen joined the Merchant Marines in 1942. In the service, he became a first class chef and was assigned duties in Sheephead Bay New York. He did not go overseas. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1946.

In later years, he became a blacksmith.



Neil Gotham

Neil followed his brothers and joined the service in 1943. He was able to go to boot camp in Fort Hood Texas with them. Neil was trained as a Gunner on a Tank in the Armored Division. His Rank was sergeant. The action that he participated in was in Europe. He was a part of the Patton armored Division which entered Germany. Neil received an honorable discharge.

In later life he went into business as a Lumberman and Contractor. The three brothers would always compete at the Geauga County Sugar Festival in the wood chopping contest. The winner of the contest would traditionally come from Parkman and would be one of the Reynolds family boys or one of the Gotham brothers..



Leland Gotham

Leland was the youngest and last to enter into the service. He also went into the Merchant Marines. As a child he had sustained a bicycle injury in the center of town. While in training during boot camp, this injury flared up. He was given an honorable discharge and sent home. He was stationed at Paris Island in South Carolina. In later life, he became a truck driver for the 3CCC firm.

Thanks to Tom Gotham for sharing his family history with us and helping develop the special edition Parkman Paragraphs.

The Parkman Community salutes the Gotham Brothers for their dedication to our country and community.

