

The Tri-State Warbird Museum...a historic aviation museum dedicated to remembering those who fought for our freedom, and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

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The Tri-State Warbird Museum

Tri-State Warbird Museum
4021 Borman Drive
Batavia, Ohio 45103
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tristatewarbirdmuseum@fuse.net

Hours:

Wednesday 4pm-7pm

Saturday 10am-3pm

Admission \$12

Discounts available for veterans and students

Annual and lifetime individual and family memberships are available

Donations are needed and are most appreciated - Thank you!

Walk of Veterans Bricks

Turner Lee Wilkerson III continued... Page 2

Turner Lee Wilkerson III family served... Page 3

Gala June 8th / Tri-State Warbird Museum Billboard Page 4

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The Tri-State Warbird Museum would like to introduce Turner Lee Wilkerson III, a Museum member and Vietnam War veteran with a very interesting family history of serving in the United States military. He has documented his family from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War...14 bricks to be engraved into the Walk of Veterans honoring these great veterans and loved ones

Fathers, Sons & Soldiers

by

Turner Lee Wilkerson III

Placing paving stones along the walkway surrounding the Tri-State Warbird Museum to honor our family's military service is a great way to remember them and their willingness to defend our national heritage. All of us, as Americans, have been uniquely blessed simply by having been born in this great nation. The National Archives and the Military Personnel Records Center have maintained the history of just about everyone's service to our country which is where I initially discovered my Revolutionary War Grandfather's pension request, submitted by him in the early 1830's. From there I went on to find the records of my other relations quite easily . on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line!

My Great-great-great-great grandfather was also named **Turner Lee Wilkerson (1758-1838)**. He was born in Henrico County, Virginia. When he was 17 years old, he enlisted for one year in the First Virginia Regiment of Foot which was commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry. In December 1775, about eight months after the battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, several companies of the First Virginia fought in the Battle of Great Bridge near Norfolk, Virginia (while it is not known for certain whether Turner was present during this engagement, it is known with confidence that his unit was present). After his one year enlistment was completed he returned to his home in Henrico County, joined the Virginia Militia, married, and became a father. In 1781 his militia unit was called to service several times beginning with the Battle of Guilford Court House in North Carolina and finally, the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia as the Revolutionary War reached its climax. After the Revolution ended he returned to his home and with his wife, Chloe, sired a family of sixteen offspring and finally, late in 1814, migrated to Smith County, Tennessee. He died and was buried there on 19 March 1838.

Five of my 4th great-grandfather's sons were of an age to serve in Virginia's Militia Companies during the War of 1812. Given that this conflict was predominantly fought at sea, their service was fairly short in duration and concentrated during the period when the British were raiding throughout the region of the Chesapeake Bay. One of the five sons was my 3rd great-grandfather, **Thomas Wilkerson (1788-1867)** who served with Captain Baker Pegram's Co. of Infantry, 1st Regiment of

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As a 501(c)3 organization the Tri-State Warbird Museum is supported primarily through membership dues and the contributions of individuals and businesses that share in the desire to preserve our country's rich aviation legacy.

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Virginia Militia. Thomas's brothers would be considered my 4th great-uncles. **Turner Lee Wilkerson (1780-1849)** served in Andrew Baker's Co. of Infantry 4th Regiment Virginia Militia, **William Wilkerson (1785-1849)** served in Captain Horace Timberlake's Co. of Infantry 7th Regiment Virginia Militia, **Walter C. Wilkerson (1793-1849)** served in Captain William Moseley's Troop of Cavalry 1st Regiment Virginia Militia and **Daniel Wilkerson (1796-1860)** served in Captain Benjamin Graves's Co. of Riflemen 23rd Regiment Virginia Militia.

In April, 1861, our nation's Civil War began. My family was from Virginia. **Thomas Jefferson Spradlin (1832-1862)** was my 3rd great-uncle through my paternal grandmother's family. Thomas enlisted in the Buford Grays or "C" Co., 42nd Virginia Infantry in Lisbon, Virginia on 18 May 1861 just one month after Virginia seceded from the Union. He died in Lynchburg, Virginia in September 1862 as the result of a railroad accident near Bedford, Virginia. Another 3rd great-uncle, **Turner Lee Wilkerson (1820-1864)** was enlisted in "E" Co., 3rd Regiment of Virginia Reserves in April 1864. Simple arithmetic would show that uncle Turner was 44 years old at the time of his enlistment and the tragic war was still a year away from ending. His unit was responsible for the security of transportation and supply routes and bridges across southern Virginia from Union Cavalry raids that occurred with increasing regularity during that final year of the war.

A little over 50 years later, on 2 April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson, in a speech made before the United States Congress, asked that war be declared on Germany and the Central Powers. Shortly after that date my great-uncle **Thomas Jefferson Spradlin (1892-1977)** volunteered for service with "H" Co., 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division, AEF. A few months later my Grandfather, **Turner Lee Wilkerson Sr. (1886-1951)**, was drafted into "K" Co., 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division, AEF. My Grandfather Turner and Great Uncle Thomas were private soldiers in the Meuse Argonne Offensive at the close of the Great War. Both returned home to Virginia in the spring of 1919.

Between the two world wars, from 1934 to 1938, my wife's dad, **Howard Parkus Simons (1916-2010)**, served with the US Navy aboard the *USS Pennsylvania* (BB-38) in the aviation division. He served all four years aboard the *Pennsylvania* in the Pacific Fleet. During the coming world war he would serve as a shipbuilder at the Navy's Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California.

In May 1943, World War II had been underway for about 18 months. Also, during the month of May 1943, my father, **Turner Lee Wilkerson Jr. (1926-1995)**, turned seventeen years old and managed to convince his parents to allow him to drop out of high school and enlist in the Marines. Pop was initially assigned to a Marine Guard Company in Washington, DC. But after a short tour of duty in Washington he managed to get into Marine Sea School and was assigned to the Marine Detachment aboard the *USS Duluth* (CL-87), serving as an anti-aircraft gunner. The *Duluth* was a newly built light cruiser, bound for Okinawa and the Occupational Landings at Yokosuka, Japan. Pop made the landing at Yokosuka with "B" Co., 1st Battalion, 4th Marines (provisional), 3rd Fleet Landing Force, Task Group 31.3 in August 1945. He was discharged from active service after the war ended and returned to high school graduating in 1947. He married my Mom, Margaret Lamprou, in 1948 and a short while later in 1949, **Turner Lee Wilkerson III (1949- Present)** arrived. Pop was recalled to service with the Marine Corps in October 1950 for service in Korea but released from service in January 1951 due to family hardship.

By the mid 1960's we were involved in another war. **Terry Howard Simons (1946 – Present)**, my wife's brother, was enlisted in the Army to serve with "G" Co., 504th Military Police Bn, 16th Military Police Group. Terry spent his tour in Vietnam working in the Central Highlands in and around Bong Son and the An Lau Valley. A couple of years afterwards, I enlisted and volunteered for Jump School and Non Commissioned Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. Afterwards, I served briefly with Headquarters Co., 2nd Bn., 508th Airborne Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division before receiving orders for Vietnam in March 1970 where I was assigned to "B" Co., 3rd Bn., 503rd Airborne Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). Like my future brother-in-law, I too, spent a lot of time in the Central Highlands, around LZ Uplift near the villages of Phu My and LZ English near villages along the Hoai Nhon River. After returning home, I continued to serve actively with an Army Reserve unit in Richmond, Virginia; "A" Co., 2nd Bn., 11th Special Forces Group until discharged in June 1976.

Revolutionary War

4th Great Grandfather

Private Turner Lee Wilkerson
First Virginia Regulars
Continental Army
1775-1776

Virginia Militia
1780-1781
United States of America



Battle of Great Bridge – 1775
Battle of Yorktown – 1781

War of 1812

3rd Great Grandfather

Private Thomas Wilkerson
Captain Benjamin Graves' Company
23rd Regiment
Virginia Militia
1814

3rd Great Uncle
Private Turner Lee Wilkerson
4th Regiment
Virginia Militia
1814

3rd Great Uncle

Private Walter C. Wilkerson
Captain William Moseley's Company of Cavalry
1st Regiment
Virginia Militia
1814

3rd Great Uncle

Private Daniel Wilkerson
Captain Benjamin Graves' Company
23rd Regiment
Virginia Militia
1814

Civil War

2nd Great Uncle

Private Turner Lee Wilkerson
Company "F"
3rd Regiment of Virginia Reserves
(Booker's Regiment)
Army of Northern Virginia
Confederate States of America
Halifax & Appomattox Courtesies, Virginia
1864-1865

2nd Great Uncle
Color Corporal Thomas Jefferson Spradlin
Company "C"
42nd Virginia Infantry
Army of Northern Virginia
Confederate States of America
Lynchburg, Virginia
1861-1862

World War I

Grandfather

Private Turner Lee
Wilkerson Sr.
Serial Number 3179666 USA
Company "K"
109th Infantry Regiment
28th Division
American Expeditionary Force
US Army



Meuse-Argonne Offensive
France – 1918

Great Uncle

Private First Class Thomas Jefferson
Spradlin
Serial Number 1821790 USA
Company "H"
318th Infantry Regiment
80th Division
American Expeditionary Force
US Army



St. Mihiel Salient
Meuse Argonne Offensive
France – 1918

Father-in-Law

Petty Officer/2 Howard Parkus
Simons
USS Pennsylvania (BB-38)
Aviation Division
US Navy



Pacific Fleet
1934-38

Father

Sergeant Turner Lee
Wilkerson Jr.
Serial Number 544522 USMC
Marine Detachment
USS "Duluth" (CL-87)
US Marine Corps



Battle of Okinawa – 1945
Amphibious Landing Yokosuka
Japan – 1945

Brother-in-Law

Specialist/4 Terry Howard
Simons
"C" Company
504th Military Police Battalion
US Army



Binh Dinh Province,
Vietnam – 1967

Son

Staff Sergeant Turner Lee
Wilkerson III
Serial Number RA 11 942 270
Company "B"
3rd Battalion
503rd Airborne Infantry
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)
US Army



LZ Uplift
Binh Dinh Province
Vietnam – 1970

Vietnam War

Hours:

Wednesday
4pm-7pm

Saturday
10am-3pm

Admission \$12

Discounted admission for veterans
and students \$7

Admission for World War II veterans
is complimentary

Group tours are a great way to spend
some time learning about World War
II aviation history

Memberships:

Annual individual and family

Lifetime individual and family

Bricks can be engraved into the Walk
of Veterans- a great way to honor
someone

Donations are needed and are most
appreciated - Thank you!



EIGHTH ANNUAL
TAKING FLIGHT
Tri-State Warbird Museum Gala Event

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012
RECEPTION, DINNER & PROGRAM

To benefit the mission of the Museum

Formal invitations will be mailed in April.
Questions? Call the museum at 513-735-4500




Did you see it??

Check out the new Tri-State Warbird Museum billboard! Route 32, south side, travelling west before the Old Route 74 intersection...we want visitors, members, school field trips, tours, donatorsō ! We have so much to teach.

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