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Man reliving his family's history by playing in his grandfather's footsteps

Tuba sees action during Camp Sherman Veterans Day events

By JONA ISON
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Fred Brown never realized he'd find his grandfather at the Ross County Fair.

Brown's grandfather was Max A. Chenoweth, a sergeant with the 332nd Infantry that trained at Camp Sherman and served in Italy during World War I. As the Mt. Sterling native began to leave the fair, he glanced down one last aisle and saw some old military footage being shown.

Interested, he stopped to watch and talk to John Doeres and discovered the archive footage being shown was of the 332nd in Italy. Soon, the two men saw a quick flash (the video had been speeded up) of a tuba as the band marched along in Venice.

"When I was a kid, my grandma would tell all of us that grandpa played this (tuba) in World War I in Italy ... (When I saw it) Oh man, it just sent chills up and down my spine because I've been wanting physical photographic evidence and there it was," Brown said.

Saturday, his grandfather's 100-year-old tuba in hand, Brown stopped by the annual Camp Sherman Celebration at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park to see the video again and compare the tuba with the glimpse of one in the video.

Although growing up his grandmother never would allow him to play the tuba, he now plays it in the Pumpkin Show Band, Adelphi Band and London Silver Quartet Band. About three years ago, Brown retrieved the tuba from the attic, polished it and



Sarah Wright/Gazette

Fred Brown holds a 907 Double E Flat tuba with valve tuba his grandfather played in World War I.



Sarah Wright/Gazette

Bryan Knisley plays the tuba Saturday at Hopewell National Historical Park during the veterans celebration.

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