

## April 12 is Civil War Day

April 12, 1861: Southern forces fire upon Ft. Sumter, South Carolina.

The Civil War formally begins.

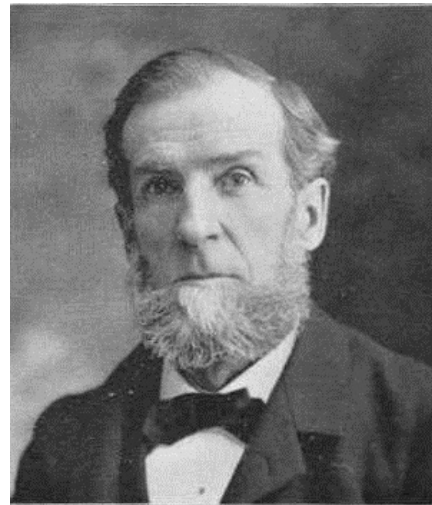
## Col. Hiram Strong and Congressman Lewis B. Gunckel

Lawyers, Civil War Patriots, founders of Coolidge Wall



**Col. Hiram Strong**

Hiram Strong was a Colonel in the Ninety-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He died of wounds received on September 19 during the battle of Chickamauga in 1863. He was an unlikely soldier but a good one, a natural leader without a natural inclination to earn fame or solve problems through killing and maiming his fellow man.



**Lewis B. Gunckel**

Lewis B. Gunckel was born in 1826 in Germantown, Ohio. He read law with Moses B. Walker and Walker's partner H. V. R. Lord. He graduated from Cincinnati Law School in 1851 and won the first case he tried, his adversaries being his old mentors Walker and Lord.

He was born in Centerville, Ohio in 1825. He graduated from Miami University in 1846, and was admitted to the bar in 1849. He was as unlikely a lawyer as he had been a soldier; he was bashful, slow and hesitating in speech, quiet and retiring.

He overcame his disabilities to develop a large and lucrative law practice. There was a generous aspect to his personality that gave him empathy for his clients, and he soon developed a reputation as a peacemaker and problem solver. He practiced for four years with William C. Bartlett, and then formed a nine-year association with Lewis B. Gunckel in 1853.

On August 5, 1862, Hiram volunteered in the Union Army for three years of service with the Ninety-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He did this not out of a desire for military life or ambition, but out of a sense of duty to his community and for the common good, giving up his home family and a successful law practice.

Hiram had no military knowledge when he entered the army and had to learn "on the job." He adapted well and rose through the ranks. In July 1863, he asked for and was granted a twenty-day period of sick leave and returned home until August 14. He had considered resigning his commission citing disappointment with the lack of progress in the War and his own health problems. But each time his sense of duty strengthened his resolve to remain true to the course of his three-year service commitment.

Col. Strong returned to the War and on August 17, led the 93rd OVI on a march to Alabama and established camp in Lookout Valley and awaited further orders. By September 18th, the Ninety-third Ohio had joined with other forces of the Army of the Cumberland, under Gen. William Rosecrans, at Chickamauga Creek in northern Georgia, and engaged in heavy combat. The next day, in battle with Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederate forces Col. Hiram Strong was mortally wounded by an enemy bullet.

Hiram died on October 7 and his body was returned to Dayton. A funeral service and burial took place on October 12, 1863.

Gunckel was Hiram Strong's senior partner in the law firm of Gunckel & Strong. He developed a reputation as one of the most successful jury lawyers in southern Ohio and as a peacemaker who used his influence to settle controversies.

He was elected to the Ohio Senate, was a delegate to the Republican National Convention and a supporter of John Fremont in 1856. He was a member of the reception committee when Lincoln came to Dayton in September 1859. He recalled being welcomed into the future president's room at the Phillips House only to find Lincoln sitting in a chair in his shirt sleeves while his wife brushed his hair.

In the Ohio Senate, Gunckel was the author of the soldiers' voting law, of measures to send medical aid and supplies to the battlefields, and of bills to provide care for the widows and children of those killed in service of the Union.

In the middle of the Civil War, he introduced a bill for the establishment of a state soldiers' home and this became his pet project. He canvassed the state as a presidential elector for Lincoln in 1864, and in that same year Governor Brough established a state soldiers' home near Columbus with Gunckel as one of its trustees.

In 1865 Congress established the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Dayton and Gunckel was its first resident manager. It still exists today as the Veterans Administration Center.

After the war, Gunckel served for many years as manager and secretary of the board of the Soldiers' Home without compensation. In 1871, he was appointed by President Grant as special commissioner to investigate frauds practiced upon the Cherokee, Creek and Chickasaw Indian tribes. His report was a milestone in the history of reforms in the Indian service.

He served in Congress from 1872 to 1875. He lost his bid for reelection and spent the rest of his life in the practice of law in Dayton.

In 1860, Gunckel married the daughter of Valentine Winters. When Winters and his son Jonathan founded Winters National Bank in 1882, Gunckel became a member of the bank's first board of directors.



Hiram Strong was born on October 28, 1825 and died on October 7, 1863 at the age of 37. He is located in Section 87 Lot 272.



Lewis B. Gunckel was born October 15, 1826 and died on October 3, 1903 at the age of 76. He is located in Section 44 Lot 1008.

**The transformation of the law firm of  
Gunckel & Strong, the first 150 years.**

1853 - 1863 Gunckel & Strong  
1864 - 1872 Gunckel & Rowe  
1873 - 1876 Gunckel, Rowe & Gunckel  
1877 - 1894 Gunckel & Rowe  
1895 - 1900 Gunckel, Rowe and Shuey  
1901 - 1906 Rowe & Shuey  
1907 - 1910 Rowe, Shuey, Matthews & James  
1911 - 1912 Matthews, James & Matthews  
1913 - 1915 Lee Warren James  
1916 - 1937 James & Coolidge  
1938 - 1942 Coolidge & Becker  
1943 - 1950 Coolidge, Becker & Wall  
1951 - 1954 Coolidge, Becker, Wall & Wood  
1955 - 1967 Coolidge, Wall & Wood  
1968 - 1971 Coolidge, Wall, Wood & Matusoff  
1972 - 1982 Coolidge, Wall, Matusoff, Womsley & Lombard  
1983 - 2003 Coolidge, Wall, Womsley & Lombard

Today the law firm goes by the name Coolidge Wall.

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Wall lawyers resting peacefully at  
Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum**

Hiram Strong Oct. 28, 1825 - Oct. 7, 1863

Lewis B. Gunckel Oct. 15, 1826 - Oct. 3, 1903

Webster W. Shuey Mar. 11, 1849 - Feb. 3, 1910

Joseph B. Coolidge Feb. 14, 1886 - Feb. 15, 1965

John C. Lombard Aug. 19, 1927 - Aug. 23, 2013

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your loved ones at the Woodland Cemetery website. Click on Locate a Loved One.**



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From your phone you will be prompted to download our app. Take one of 12 walking tours we have available for your enjoyment at the cemetery. If you are on your desktop, laptop or tablet, you can take the tour right from the tour page. We will be adding more tours so come back often to learn about the men and women who made it Great in Dayton.

Download the mobile app for your phone by clicking here.



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Using our app, you can:

- Navigate to your relative or friend's grave using our GPS-based system
- Share stories about your family
- Upload photos and video
- Share memories with your family on Facebook

Your loved one's memorial page is automatically created when you make cemetery arrangements with our office. You may also share and upload information by using our burial database via our website ([woodlandcemetery.org](http://woodlandcemetery.org)). (please contact our office if you need assistance)

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HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

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