Camp Bushnell was named for the then Ohio Governor Asa Smith Bushnell. It was the largest of all the state camps of the National Guard. The circle of land which filled the intersection at Drexel Avenue and East Broad Street was considered the center of the camp and was where the large 45-star American Flag flew. Camp Bushnell covered about 500 acres of the Bullitt Park Addition, property owned by Logan M. Bullitt of Philadelphia. Water, sewer and electric lines were brought east from Columbus in order for the camp to function. In about a month's time, more than 15,000 troops who answered the call, "Remember the Maine", were mustered into service at this site where the named streets were utilized for the camp's layout.

City Beginnings

The infrastructure brought to the area helped spur residential development to this unincorporated land that became, first, the Village of Bexley (1908), and later, the City of Bexley (1932). The infrastructure brought to the area helped spur residential development to this unincorporated land that became, first, the Village of Bexley (1908), and later, the City of Bexley (1932). The infrastructure brought to the area helped spur residential development to this unincorporated land that became, first, the Village of Bexley (1908), and later, the City of Bexley (1932). The infrastructure brought to the area helped spur residential development to this unincorporated land that became, first, the Village of Bexley (1908), and later, the City of Bexley (1932).

Sundays at Camp

Friends and family came on Sundays from all corners of Ohio to visit the boys in blue with trains arriving at Union Station. City streetcars were inadequate to move these visitors the four miles from downtown Columbus to the camp. Transportation was provided by box wagons, furniture vans, coal carts, and ice wagons charging 5¢ a person.

Memorial Boulder

A memorial to Camp Bushnell and to those who served in the Spanish-American War, an 11-ton granite boulder with bronze plaques, rest at Bexley Circle. At the urging of Bexley resident Dr. Edward G. Mills, Bexley school children gave their pennies and nickels for this visual tribute. The boulder was dedicated September, 1934 with a parade including school children, Scout and civic groups, and veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I.