



# DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

## MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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**DATE:** Monday, April 9, 2018 @ 6:30 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406  
**SPEAKER:** **Thomas Bogar, Professor of Theater History**  
*Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination*

Gordy Morgan, Editor  
Gary Wholf, Co-editor  
Dave Duchek, Publisher  
Hugh Earnhart, Reservations

[www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com](http://www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com)

*“Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination is the previously untold story of Lincoln’s assassination: the 46 actors, managers and stagehands of Ford’s Theatre who lived through the horrifying events of April 14, 1865,”* says Thomas Bogar, *“and what each of them witnessed in the chaos-streaked hours before John Wilkes Booth was discovered to be the culprit.”* It’s a detailed account written with what feels like an insider’s eye.

As a professor of theatre history and theatrical production for forty years (as well as having directed more than seventy theatrical productions), Thomas Bogar is uniquely qualified to tell this story. He holds a Ph.D. in theatre history/literature/criticism from Louisiana State University, and a B.A. in educational theatre and an M.A. in play directing, both from the University of Maryland.



In addition to *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination* (Regnery History 2013), Mr. Bogar is the author of *American Presidents Attend the Theatre* (McFarland, 2006), and a biography of 19th-century actor-manager John E. Owens (McFarland, 2002). He has written for *Washington History*, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, *Teaching Theatre*, and *Music Educators Journal*. A resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, Thomas Bogar has been the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships and has served as a judge for Washington’s Helen Hayes Theatre Awards.

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**Cyclorama Painting Piece Raffle:** Remember that in May we’re raffling off a piece of the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting. Tickets are 1 for \$1, 3 for \$2, and 12 for \$5.

**Keith Rocco Print Raffle:** The MVCWRT is blessed with hard-working volunteers and generous members. Recently, Bob Schneider donated a framed Keith Rocco print titled “The Color Guard of the 6th and 15th Texas Consolidated, Granbury’s Brigade, Army of Tennessee.” It’s signed and numbered (335/750) and we’re going to raffle it off as a fundraiser in September when Mr. Rocco visits our round table. Tickets are \$5 each and only 50 will be sold.

# The Ladies Department *By Charen Fink*

An often asked question is, “What were the roles of women?” To make it easier to follow they are listed according to category and just a few of the women who are represented. This month I’ll talk about those in the medical field, and in May describe women as wives and mothers and soldiers.

## **Nurses**

**Sarah Edmonds:** Born in Canada and ran away at 16, enlisted and served as a nurse while disguised as a soldier.

**Phoebe Yates Pember:** Matron at Chimborazo in Richmond. She had to keep the alcohol under lock and key.

**Sally Thompkins:** Her hospital was in the home of Judge John Robertson losing only 73 patients out of approximately 1334.

**Maryann Bickerdyke:** Known as “Cyclone in Calico” from Ohio. She cleaned up hospitals fouled with blood, urine and vomit. Bickerdyke stated her authority came from the Lord God, Almighty.

**Susie King Taylor:** She was the first black nurse, serving 1st South Carolina Volunteers—later called the 33rd U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment—where her husband served four years. She was never paid.

## **Doctors**

**Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell:** The first woman doctor in America to graduate from a medical school and who organized the Women’s Central Relief Association. She was a pioneer in educating women in medicine.

**Dr. Mary Walker:** Born in New York and served three years as a nurse and the 4th year as an assistant surgeon. As an activist she lectured on women’s rights, dress reform, suffrage and also received the Medal of Honor. In 1917 this medal was withdrawn although she continued to wear it. In 1960 Jimmy Carter restored her medal.

**Dr. Esther Hill Hawks:** She was unable to serve as a surgeon because of her gender so then taught newly freed slaves on Hilton Head Island.



**Dr. Blackwell**



**Member ancestor—John Quincy Ayars:** Recently, past president Bob Ayars told me the story of his great-grandfather John Quincy Ayars, who was with an Illinois regiment when he was wounded in Winchester prior to the Gettysburg campaign. He was treated by two sisters acting as nurses in Winchester, and he fell in love with one and they were soon married.

The couple moved to Shelby Township, Illinois, and in 1867 had twin boys. Tragically, four months later an epidemic took Bob’s great-grandmother and one of the twins. The surviving twin, John Erbie Ayars, was Bob’s grandfather. Needing a mother for his child, John Quincy soon married his wife’s sister, the other nurse in Winchester. When she died, John Quincy married a third time and moved his growing family to Texas.

*(continued)*

While the family was living in Texas, his third wife's daughter inherited a large ranch. They eventually sold the ranch and used the money to buy 2,500 acres of vineyard in California. The property eventually became a retirement community, but part of it became Ontario International Airport, located just east of Los Angeles in San Bernardino County.

Bob tells me that the Ayars family has a long history of military service, but only he and his great-grandfather John Quincy were in the Army. The others were mostly Sailors and Marines. But that history gets even more interesting because Bob recently found out that the nurse who cared for his great-grandfather in Winchester was a niece of Jubal Early, making Bob a descendant of the crusty confederate general.

I know that we have many members who are descended from Civil War soldiers, so if anyone else has an ancestor's story that they'd like to share with the group, I'm happy to include it in the newsletter. Either talk to me at the meeting, or send an email to me at [mvcwrt@gmail.com](mailto:mvcwrt@gmail.com).

## TACTICALLY SPEAKING *By Gary Wholf*

When firing the musket, the rear rank soldier always remains over the right shoulder of his front rank file partner. The rear rank soldier will lean forward enough so as not to injure his front rank file partner with the muzzle blast. The front rank soldier will have placed his feet in a "T." The Commanding Officer may fire his troops in many ways depending on the situation. If he wishes, he may volley fire (fire all muskets at once), fire by file by company then independent fire, or he may fire volleys by company, fire at the oblique, or order independent fire.



## BOOK REVIEW

*Inventing Loretta Velasquez  
Confederate Soldier, Impersonator,  
Media Celebrity and Con Artist*

by William C. Davis

So. Illinois Press, Carbondale, IL 2016

208 pages

Reviewed by Carole Babyak

William C. Davis has woven facts into a narrative, clarifying the remarkable life of Mary Ann Keith, Mary DeCaulp, Alice Williams or Loretta Velasquez. This could be a survival story of a woman fallen on hard times who dressed as a Confederate officer, a Lieutenant Buford, but Davis focuses on her changing story, even becoming a con artist to maneuver in society and accumulate money to tell a more truthful tale.

She has been mentioned as a woman who fought in the Confederate Army, and in her book, *Exploits, Adventures and Travels of Mrs. Loretta Velasquez, as Lt. Buford, CSA*, published in 1889. She claimed to have been at Shiloh (intent on killing General Grant) but was wounded during an artillery skirmish of which there is no record. Then with the 21st Louisiana, she joined Longstreet at Chickamauga, spied for the Confederacy, and claimed to be in St. Thomas when the raider CSS Florida was in port—the CSS Florida was indeed in port, except it was not in St. Thomas at that time.

She also claimed to have fought with Quantrill, but perhaps the most fantastic story is that she had electrotype copies of printing plates for Confederate counterfeiting in the North. Another fantastic story was she was involved in a conspiracy with Garfield, Seward and Salmon P. Chase to distribute \$100 plates, her share of which she gave to buy Confederate ships.

She carried with her, letters supposedly from famous people like Mark Twain, Jefferson Davis, and Jubal Early and prominent citizens like bank president J.P. Morgan to acquire money for railroad, mining and resort schemes. Jubal Early said she was a fake, Mark Twain expressed the same, and there is no evidence that Loretta received any letter or commission from Davis.

She married at least four times, lived in hotels in New York for extended periods for free, and always managed to find sympathy from someone for room and board. One story told had her as an heiress to a fortune, her father being a wealthy Cuban, and she had sympathy for Cuban independence. However, she misspelled certain Spanish words, which prompted questions about her roots.

On August 5, 1912, she was hospitalized in Washington for insanity, dying January 6, 1923, from serious and persistent mental illness and heart disease. This book contains much information about life during the Civil War and how a woman of that time could manipulate people and change her story when needed to survive.

