

DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

DATE: Monday, December 11, 2017 @ 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406
SPEAKER: Barton Myers, Associate Professor of history at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia

"A Very God of War": General Robert E. Lee on the Front Lines of Battle.

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

www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com

It's one of the more memorable moments in Ken Burn's epic documentary, *The Civil War*. While describing the Seven Days Battles, the narrator, David McCullough, quotes George McClellan saying of his new adversary, Robert E. Lee, "I prefer Lee to Johnston. Lee is too cautious and weak under grave responsibility." But McClellan completely misjudged Lee, McCullough continues, "Robert E. Lee was a fighter."

Barton A. Myers, Associate Professor of Civil War History at Washington and Lee University, received his B.A., Phi Beta Kappa from the College of Wooster in Ohio and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He's the author of the awarding winning *Executing Daniel Bright: Race, Loyalty, and Guerrilla Violence in a Coastal Carolina Community, 1861-1865* (LSU Press, 2009) and is featured in the Fall 2017 edition of *The Civil War Monitor*.



Born fifty, or so, miles south of us in Steubenville, Barton Myers has taught at Cornell, University of Georgia, and Texas Tech and served as a public historian with the National Park Service at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP. His work has been featured on several national media outlets like the Los Angeles Times, CSPAN's American History TV, and NPR. He's also the recipient of prestigious grants and fellowships from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Virginia Historical Society, and several others.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: At this past meeting, our president, Bob Ayars, led what was a stirring introduction of our veterans when he not only asked them to stand and be recognized, he did so by branch of service. It was a special moment.

Bob's tenure as president will come to an end after our December meeting, and we wish to thank him for volunteering to lead us this past year. In January, original member and Poland resident via New Castle Gary Wholf will boldly take the MVCWRT into 2018. Gary is a former re-enactor and recently retired from the Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

The Ladies Department *By Charen Fink*

Facts and Figures:

The total population for the North and South: 22.3 million and 9.1 million

White male population, 18-45: 4.6 million and 1.1 million

Bank capital: 330 million and 27 million

Largest American Cities, 1860: New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, and Baltimore in the North, and New Orleans, Charleston, and Richmond in the South.

Women At Large: Travel In Antebellum America:

Between 1790s and the 1840s there was a transportation revolution with the growth of stagecoach, canal boat and railroad routes. Women still, however, required an escort because of safety from unsuspecting predators and propriety. Early stagecoaches, such as the nine-passenger Concord coach, mixed male and female passengers elbow to elbow and knee to knees. With three-seat coaches, backsides were touching, two seats faced front and the third faced back. Women did not ride on top with the driver. Men yielded the back-supported back row to the women. Total isolation from other passengers was uncommon, it more or less enforced sociability, unlike on canal boats and trains. Current events were the subject of conversation among men but not women.

Canal boats came next in popularity with the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825. With a high moon and well-maintained tow-path, animals could pull the boats 24-hours a day, but there was a required etiquette of public sleeping. Usually the canal boats contained a Ladies' Cabin with berths, settees and sometimes an attendant on duty. Men and boys slept on deck or in a room next to the ladies. By the 1830s, steamboat prevailed. Women still had a space marked out for them for sitting and sleeping. This was apparently not necessary for men.

Reference: Trent, Linda. "Christmas Customs and Traditions." *The Citizens' Companion*, Dec. 2015/2016, Vol. XXI-No. 6, pgs. 24-26.
Cohen, Patricia Cline. "Women at Large: Travel in Antebellum America." *History Today*, Dec. 1991, Vol. 44, pgs. 44-46.
The Civil War Monitor. "The Civil War Almanac." 2017, pgs. 10, 14-14, 18, 24.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

Christmas

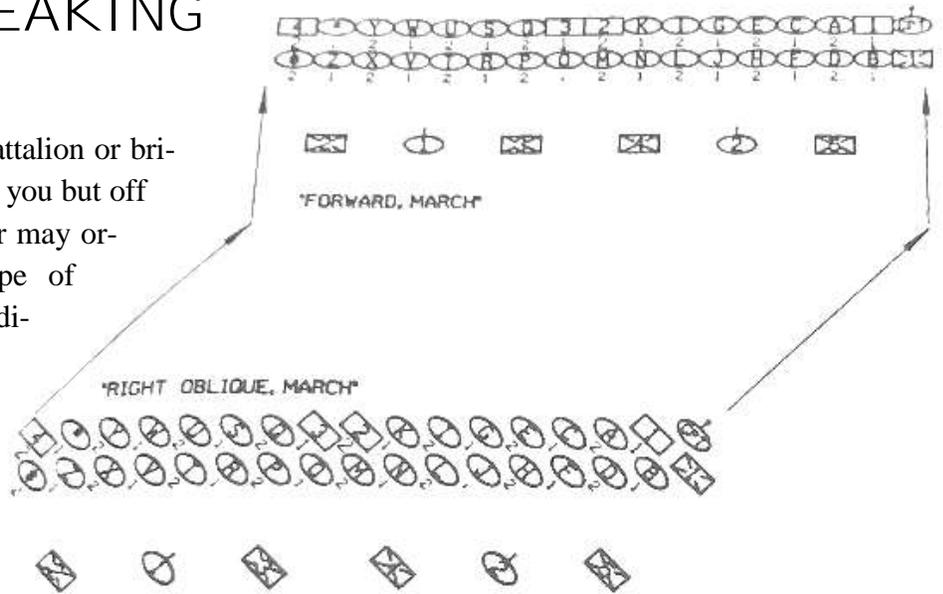
I have written much about Christmas in this space but recently found more information from the past. Manger scenes were placed under trees that ranged in height from one to twelve feet in height. They were found in the finest room of the house. Tree holders were large stones filled with wet sand or thick boards weighted with lead. The universal ornamentation was the candle. The practice of decorating our houses and churches with mistletoe and holly at Christmas is merely a custom of the time. It has no relation to the festival but belongs to Paganism, not to Christianity

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS

TACTICALLY SPEAKING

By Gary Wholf

When advancing in a company, battalion or brigade front and the enemy is facing you but off to the right or left, the commander may order an oblique march. This type of movement was used by Pickett's division in its advance on the Union line at Gettysburg. The movement maintains order and has the ability to form quickly for firing.



THE FALL OF NEW ORLEANS

by Hugh Earnhart

For New Orleans, known for “good times,” suddenly on April 26, 1862, fell on “bad times.” With Admiral David Farragut’s navy and General Benjamin Butler’s army capture of the city, the importance of this conquer can scarcely be exaggerated:

1. The Confederates were deprived of their largest commercial city
2. A large amount of Louisiana came under Union control
3. The Union navy had a logistical base from which to operate up the Mississippi River
4. It further dampened southern morale, having already lost Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Pea Ridge
5. The Union navy had one less port to blockade
6. Steam-powered warships proved their worth

WINTER WEATHER POLICY: As I write this just a few days before Thanksgiving, the meteorologist on WFMJ is warning me that we could get between a trace and two inches of snow. It’s time to face the music: “Winter is Coming.”

A La Cart Catering won’t close because of severe weather; they prepare to host us no matter what. Speakers show up and expect to be compensated for their time. We can’t cancel or reschedule, so we will hold our meetings and leave it to each of you to use good judgement.



BOOK REVIEW

*Bill O'Reilly's Legends and Lies:
the Civil War*

(a companion volume to the Fox News Series)

Written by David Fisher

Henry Holt & Co., New York, NY, 2017. 341 pages

Reviewed by Carole Babyak

In spite of the sensational title, this book is not so sensational in pointing out truths and non-truths. The author, who penned the New York *Times* best-sellers *The Real West* and *Legend, Lies: the Patriots*, goes in-depth in describing what led up to Gen. Butler's words concerning his refusal to return slaves, thus the word contraband. He also goes

over the reasons why President Lincoln suspended *habeas corpus*; we read often about that but not all the details.

He focuses on Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the telegraph—the Union used it, but the Confederates never developed it enough to be of use. He examines the Gettysburg Address, how it affected the audience, and the newspapers' role and eventually being hailed as “great.”

Gen. Thomas' role was very important at Chickamauga, as was Joshua Chamberlain's, who received the formal surrender, ordering his men to shoulder arms, a battlefield salute indicating respect and a noble gesture. The chapter devoted to Stonewall Jackson reveals him as a “colored” Sunday School teacher who during the war sent money to Lexington to continue the school. He even taught his cousin's slaves how to read so that they could read the Bible. The author considered Jackson, important, even great, noting that his death was a turning point in the war.

One chapter mentions Frederick Douglass' importance and also a little known lady, Elizabeth Keckley, a free black seamstress who was much sought after in Washington by notable ladies such as Varina Davis, who wanted Elizabeth to go with her. Elizabeth politely refused and became a seamstress and friend to Mary Lincoln.

The book has lavish pictures and maps, but I was shocked and surprised to find a photograph taken at Gettysburg with the caption “two doctors examine fallen men only hours after the battle.” Now, we know it took photographers days to go to the battlefields, and the picture does look staged—men draped over boulders with rifles gently lying near. Immediately, James Frassanito's books examining battlefield photos is remembered: this photo was taken in November, long after the battle. Surprisingly this wasn't caught, for the author noted several Gettysburg historians who were advisors for the book.



SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS FOR 2018

1/8	Mike Wilson, McKinley impression	4/9	Thomas Bogar, Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination
2/12	Stuart Dempsey, the Union 11th Corps		
3/12	Robert Dunkerly, the Surrenders of the Confederacy	5/14	Kris White, Burnside's Bridge at Antietam