

# DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

## MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

**DATE:** Monday, January 8, 2018 @ 6:30 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406  
**SPEAKER:** **Mike Wilson, Executive director of the Scope Senior Centers serving Trumbull County**  
*"Bringing History to Life": William McKinley portrayal*

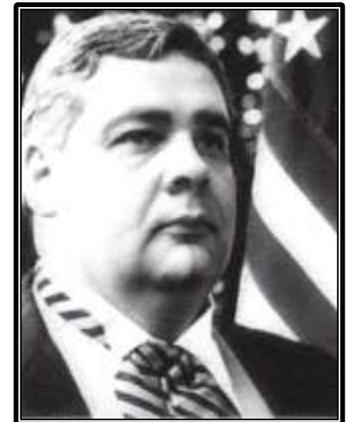
Gordy Morgan, Editor  
Gary Wholf, Co-editor  
Dave Duchek, Publisher  
Hugh Earnhart, Reservations

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

During his life, William McKinley rose from private to brevet major in the Union Army and served 14 years in the U.S. Congress and two terms as Ohio governor before being elected 25th President of the United States in 1896. Consequently, there are several historical sites in the Valley asso-

ciated with our most famous resident: his birthplace home in Niles, the Sparrow Tavern in Poland where he enlisted for the war, the veterans' monument in Poland Riverside cemetery where he gave the dedication address, and an Ohio Historical Marker near the Home Savings bank in Poland where his boyhood home stood.

Tonight we will be treated to a visit by McKinley in the form of an impression by Warren resident Mike Wilson. Mike has been portraying William McKinley for civic, school, church, and historical groups for over 25 years and has been approved by the Historical Actors Guild as the official presenter for President William McKinley. He was a featured performer for the National Travel Writers' Association and was filmed giving a front porch speech for broadcast on C-Span.



Mike is the executive director of the Scopes Senior Centers serving Trumbull County and is a life member of the Friends of the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial and Library, located in Niles, Ohio.

**BATTLEFIELD DONATIONS:** We were so impressed with our tour of the Allegheny County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum ([soldiersandsailorshall.org](http://soldiersandsailorshall.org)) in Pittsburgh with curator Michael Kraus that we decided to make them the beneficiary of our Spring 2018 donations drive. For our Fall 2017 drive, we donated \$200 to the Friends of Ball's Bluff Battlefield.

**SPRING TOUR MAY 4-6, 2018:** The dates are set for our Spring Tour of the Wilderness battlefield with the guys from Civil War Excursions. We're scheduled for the weekend of May 4-6, which happens to be the 154th anniversary of the battle. The cost is \$55/person, and you can contact Dan Welch at 330.881.3516 or [dwelch1863@gmail.com](mailto:dwelch1863@gmail.com) to sign up. More details will come in the next few weeks. We'll also be gauging interest in a tentative one-day bus trip in the spring to the Motts Museum in Columbus.

# The Ladies Department *By Charen Fink*

## **Tribute to Women:** by Robert G. Ingersoll

*This article was found in the Youngstown Vindicator in Youngstown, Ohio, many years ago. It was discovered in a book belonging to our family. The reverse side of the article revealed some classified ads which may give a sense of the time period.*

It takes 100 men to make an encampment, but one woman can make a home. I not only admire woman as the most beautiful object ever created, but I reverence her as the redeeming glory of humanity, the sanctuary of all virtues, the pledge of all perfect qualities of heart and head. It is not just nor right to lay the sins of men at the feet of women. It is because women are so much better than men that their faults are considered greater. The one thing in this world that is constant, the one peak that rises above all clouds, the one window in which the light forever burns, the one star that darkness cannot quench is woman's love. It rises to the greatest heights, it sinks to the lowest depths. It forgives the most cruel injuries. It is perennial of life and grows in every climate. Neither coldness nor neglect, harshness nor cruelty can extinguish it. A woman's love is the perfume of the heart. This is the real love that subdues the earth; the love that has wrought all miracles of art; that gives us music all the way from the cradle song to the grand closing symphony that bears the soul away on wings of fire. A love that is greater than power, sweeter than life and stronger than death.

**For Rent**—Furnished rooms, all conveniences, suitable for 2 or 4 gentlemen, convenient to rubber works, concrete steel and railroad. (McGuffey St.)

**For Rent**—Store room 100 feet deep, steam heat, all conveniences, cemented basement, reasonable rent. (N. Phelps St.)

**Notice**—After this date I will not be responsible for ant debts contracted by my wife\_\_\_\_\_. (Jackson St.)

**Lost**—A red calf weighing about 200 lbs. Finder please notify\_\_\_\_\_ and receive a reward.

**Lost**—Mink muff, Wednesday evening between Poland Ave. and receive reward.

**Found**—That SENSIBLE buyers get lowest prices by ordering when dealers are not busy. 1900 furnace rush is over. NOW for summer prices and easy \$10 payments. Be wise. Buy now. (Wilson Ave.)

## **Confederate Soldier Profile**

Average age, 1861—25; Born in the U.S.—96.6%, Born in a northern state—4.9%; Marital status: single—62.5%, Married—37.5%; Economic class: Lower (\$0-\$799)—41.7%, Upper (\$4,000+)—35.5%; Occupation: Farmer—53.7%, Skilled worker—9.2%; Slaveholding: Personally owned—13%, Resided in a slaveholding household—44.4%

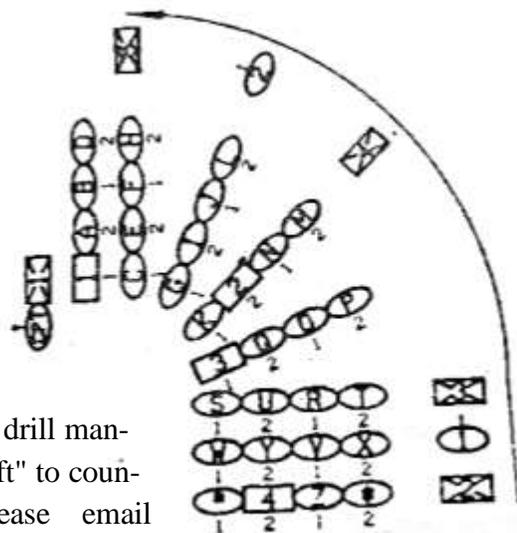


**WINTER WEATHER POLICY:** January and February are the most volatile months when it comes to weather here in our valley, so we'll repeat our winter weather policy: A La Cart Catering won't close because of severe weather. Speakers show up and expect to be compensated for their time. We can't cancel or reschedule, so we will hold our meetings and leave it to each of you to use good judgement.

# TACTICALLY SPEAKING

By Gary Wholf

When moving by the right or left flank in column, and the commander wishes to change the direction of the column, he may order “By files right” or left. When performing a countermarch such as Longstreet's countermarch at Gettysburg, the commander probably would not just face about his troops because they would become confused if contact were made, and he would like to have his lead brigade remain in the lead (normally, his lead brigade was his best brigade). Since no command to countermarch is found in drill manuals, he might order a “By files left” and a second "By files left" to countermarch. If you have questions or a request, please email gary.wholf1@yahoo.com on this or any previous articles.



**CAN YOU GUESS?** The lights create a peculiar shadow on this historic town's oldest building. It's unique because what results is the profile of a prominent figure from the Civil War era. In which town and upon which building is this shadow cast, and who is it?



*Answer on the next page...*

**IN OUR THOUGHTS:** Larry Kravec, a mainstay in our group and usually the first one to show up for the meetings, is in the hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts and pray for a speedy recovery.

**MCKINLEY IN YOUNGSTOWN**—The Civil War monument in Youngstown has had the good fortune of having three future presidents play a role in its story: R.B. Hayes dedicated the cornerstone in 1868 and James Garfield spoke at the dedication in 1870. In 1892, McKinley added his mark.

A local teamster named James Caldwell was hired to haul the granite pieces of the monument from the train tracks running along what is now Commerce Street the short distance to the city center. When he tried to collect his \$50 fee, the representative of the sculpting firm, the J.G. Batterson Company of Connecticut, refused to pay any more than half that. Caldwell went to court and secured a mechanic's lien on the monument, and a few weeks later he bought it at a public auction.

In 1892 when William McKinley visited Youngstown to dedicate the new YMCA building downtown, he learned that the city did not own its monument and suggested to his affluent hosts that they correct the embarrassing situation. Soon after, Joseph G. Butler Jr. sought out Caldwell to pay the contractor his claim in full. We'll have more here on McKinley next month.

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Bloody Engagements*

*John R. Kelso's Civil War*

Edited by Christopher Grasso

Yale University Press, New Haven, CT 2017

208 pages

Reviewed by Carole Babyak

John Kelso fought in Missouri during the Civil War and was elected to Congress in 1864; his diary was just discovered. The author has included speeches made while in Congress as well as others he gave. For background information the author mentions a 2-volume book from 1863, *Civil War on the Border*, written by Wiley Britton, a historian

who interviewed soldiers. Another historian, R. Holcombe, called Kelso a desperate man.

Born in March, 1851 and dying Jan. 26, 1892, John Kelso was called a hero by the Union and a monster by the Confederates. In 1892 the St. Louis Republic published a 5,300-word article, "The Scout of the Ozarks, John Kelso's mysterious and bloody career in SW Missouri," which was based on interviews.

He left his scouting when he was hit by a bullet that lodged in his sternum. Elected to Congress in 1864, in 1868 he left that body to teach, also becoming a Methodist minister. However, his civilian life was agonizing: he had 2 failed marriages and his second wife had an affair with the town doctor during his soldiering, which caused John much grief. Two of his sons died young.

In 1861 he was committed to the Union, which he considered a sacred cause and a light for the whole world, but when pro-Southern neighbors burned his property, it forced him and neighbors to seek revenge. During his service in Congress, he realized that the government was corrupt—a contrast to the sacrifice of the soldiers—and he lamented everything he did during the war.

The Civil War in Missouri was a guerilla war without military protocol. This book shows how it twisted embattled people. John Kelso's suffering lasted all his life.

**DID YOU GUESS?** On a ghost tour in **GETTYSBURG** last year, the guide pointed to this shadow of **ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S** profile in the upper left corner of the **DOBBIN HOUSE**.

**THE UNION'S POLITICAL GENERALS:** In his 1958 *America Goes to War: an Introduction to the Civil War and Its Meaning to Americans Today*, noted author Bruce Catton explains the Union's need for political generals, which is unheard of in today's professional armed services.

*To win the war the Northern government had to get and keep the support of any number of separate groups, factions, and classes. One of the important ways in which it got that support was through the appointment, as generals, of civilian leaders in whom the members of those highly divergent groups strongly believed.*

Catton notes that despite the presence of amateurs in various commands, the "really disastrous mistakes were made by the professionals," and cites the butchery at Fredericksburg and Cold Harbor and the missed opportunities at Antietam and the Crater as examples.