

DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

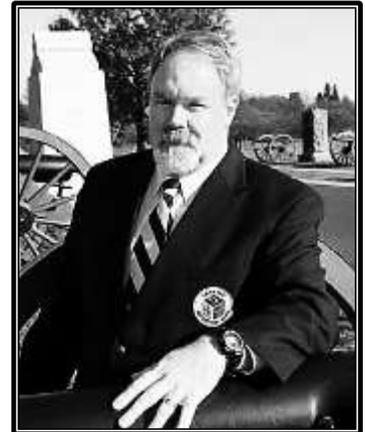
DATE: Monday, February 12, 2018 @ 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406
SPEAKER: **Stuart Dempsey, Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg**
The Union Eleventh Corps

Gordy Morgan, Editor
Gary Wholf, Co-editor
Dave Duchek, Publisher
Hugh Earnhart, Reservations
www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com

A few years ago while planning a weekend in Gettysburg, I scheduled a tour with a guide to help me better understand the fascinating story of the Ninth Massachusetts Battery, or Bigelow's Battery, in their action of July 2nd. While looking for contact information, luck guided me to the name Stuart Dempsey. You really

can't appreciate the story of Bigelow's Battery until you've walked the ground over which it executed a fighting retreat, and Stuart took me everywhere and covered every detail for one of the best tours I've ever experienced.

Born in Ohio and raised in Connecticut, Stuart's fascination with the Civil War began typically: a trip to Gettysburg as a youngster. Researching his genealogy, he found four ancestors who fought in the war, cementing his interest. A *summa cum laude* graduate of Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, Stuart has been an LBG at Gettysburg since 2004. He has written articles for several history-themed magazines and is working on a manuscript on selected Federal units at Gettysburg. Tonight he'll talk about one of those units, the Union's Eleventh Corps.



Stuart lectures on a variety of military history topics, but his real joy is being out in the field. As the man behind Battleground Historical Tours, Stuart conducts Revolutionary War and Civil War battlefield tours in North America and First and Second World War excursions to such places as Normandy, Berlin, and Battle of the Bulge sites in Europe. In September, he is offering a special 100th anniversary tour of American World War 1 battlefields in France, including the Meuse-Argonne, St. Mihiel, Belleau Wood, and Verdun.

WINTER WEATHER: A La Cart had their parking lot salted shortly before our meeting, but there were still patches of ice that made walking an adventure. If you feel that you need help getting into the building, please call my cell at 330.###.####, and I'll come out and walk in with you. And please use good judgement in deciding whether to attend if the weather is bad. It's not worth risking your well-being.

The Ladies Department *By Charen Fink*

United States Colored Troops (USCT)—After the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared that black men of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States. Both free and newly emancipated slaves flocked to enlistment centers. Here are some statistical results.

States with the most Black Recruits

| Rank | State | Number of Recruits | % of State's Black Population |
|------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Louisiana | 24,052 | 6.9% |
| 2 | Kentucky | 23,703 | 10.0% |
| 3 | Tennessee | 20,135 | 7.1% |
| 4 | Mississippi | 17,869 | 4.1% |
| 5 | Maryland | 8,718 | 5.1% |

Average age—23 Average height—5' 6.7" Volunteered—87.9%
Never Deserted—89.8% Never arrested—95.3% MIA at least once—1.6%
Hospitalized during the war—53.7% Died during the war—22.0%
Cause of that death—illness, 87.1% and wounds, 12.5%

Harriet Tubman—as a spy, she helped plan and oversee the liberation of 750 enslaved people in the 1863 Combahee Ferry Raid in the South Carolina Lowcountry. At least 100 of those freed went on to join the Union army.

Antebellum Transportation (continued)

The B&O RR was the first in 1829. By the end of the 1830s more than 4,000 miles of track went across the U.S. with the steam engines speeding at 30 miles per hour. There were no ladies-only railway cars because it was too costly with no guarantee that 60 unescort-

References

Cohen, Patricia Cline, "Women at Large: Travel in Antebellum America." *History Today*, Vol. 44, December 1994, pgs. 46-50.
The Civil War Monitor. "The Civil War Almanac." 2017, pg. 22-23 and 76.

ed women per car would purchase a ticket. There was mixed seating for men and women traveling together and ladies only waiting rooms.

Even though class and race status protected travelling women from male passengers, nevertheless, male sexual privilege might be displayed in prolong glances, touching, intimate conversation, or the assumption that unescorted women were open targets for sexual conquest.

Women wearing hats with veils provided a barrier against eye contact. Oddly, rape at that time was not considered a threat to women, what was, however, the seduction and conquest of a woman through deceit and trickery.

The transportation revolution produced an etiquette of travel with emphasis on rigid male-female codes of politeness and sex segregation which shaped the gender system.



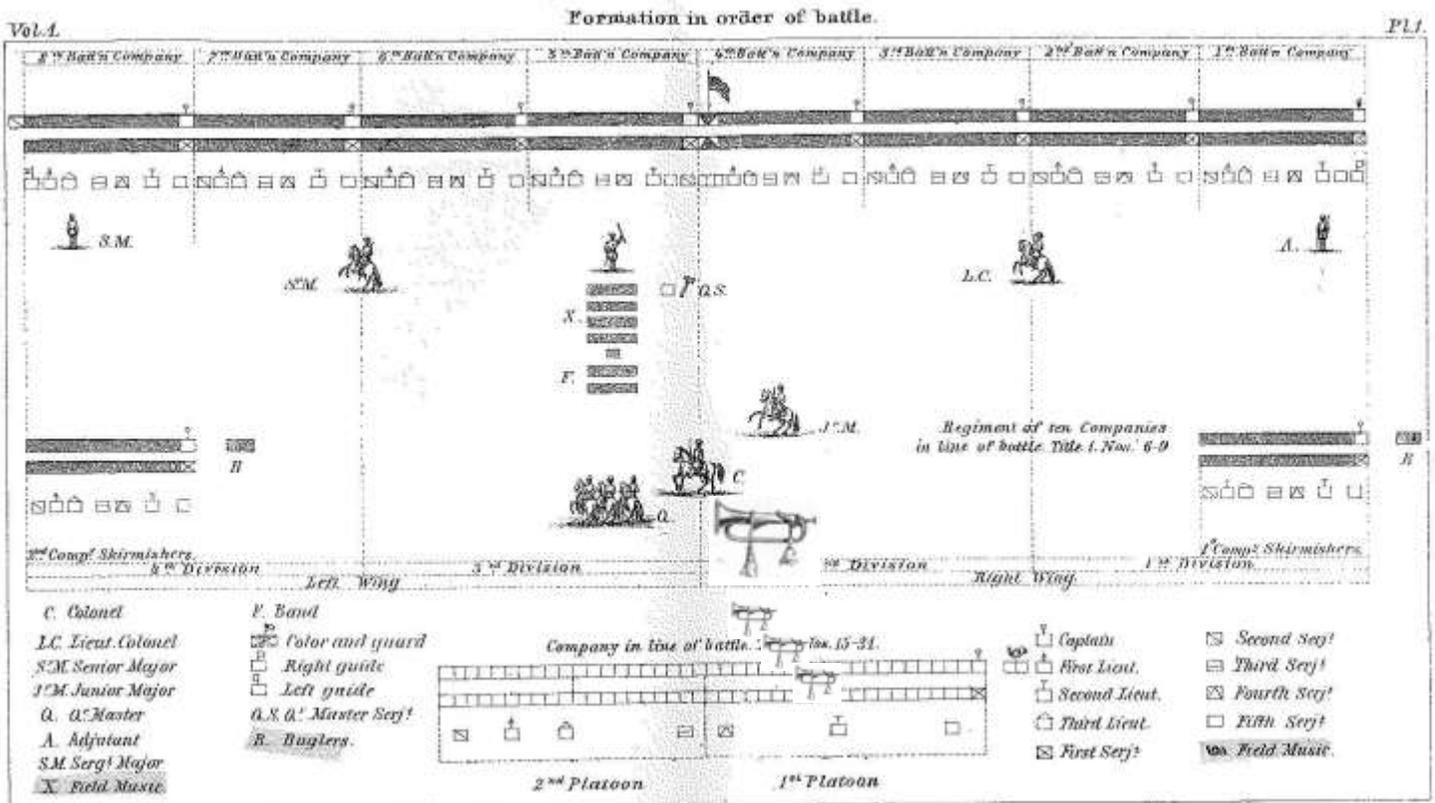
IN MEMORIAM: G.L. Mears passed away on January 13 at the age of 75. He was a long-time member of the round table and served for many years as our treasurer. Born in Jonesboro and raised in Minden, Louisiana, G.L. earned his Doctorate of Education in 1971 from the University of Mississippi. In 2002, he retired as the Administrative Vice President from Youngstown State University after 22 years of service.

G.L. was often accompanied to our meeting by his wife of 53 years, Virginia, who survives him.



TACTICALLY SPEAKING By Gary Wholf

The regiment, also sometimes referred to as the battalion in Civil War terms, is normally formed with ten companies, with each company normally commanded by a Captain. A regiment at the beginning of the war was up to a thousand men, by mid war it was about 350. The regiment was normally commanded by a Colonel. The regiment was broken into the right and left wings. In the field, the right wing was overseen by the Lt. Col. and assisted by the Adjutant and the left wing was overseen by the Major and assisted by the Sgt. Major. The color guard was posted at the center of the regiment and became part of the color company (the left most company of the right wing). This is the formation of the regiment.



Spring Tour May 4-6, 2018: Remember our Spring Tour of the Wilderness battlefield with the guys from Civil War Excursions. We're scheduled for the weekend of May 4-6, the 154th anniversary of the battle. The cost is \$55/person. More details will come in the next few weeks. Call Dan Welch at 330.###.#### to sign up.

William McKinley: Last month Mike Wilson gave a well-received presentation on the life of President William McKinley, delivering excerpts of the president's speeches in character. Back when we first went online with our website, Dave Duchek wrote an excellent piece describing McKinley's life and military service. Here are a few excerpts (soon the entire piece will again be on our website):

"McKinley was a competent soldier who was well liked by his commanding officers and fellow soldiers," Dave writes, which included two of his more famous comrades in the Twenty-third OVI, Rutherford B. Hayes and James A. Garfield. "McKinley was promoted from private to commissary sergeant, quartermaster, and adjutant," and "by the time he was mustered out of service, toward the end of the war, McKinley had achieved the rank of Major." Dave relates that this was "his proudest military achievement," and that "to the end of his life, McKinley preferred to be called 'Major,' even after he became president of the United States."

Dave then talks about the service diary McKinley kept, noting that the young soldier was not a prolific writer. He filled his diary (which covered only the first six months of his career) "with sparse entries that dealt primarily with camp life (particularly the religious experience of the soldiers in camp)." But as Dave states, the "one thing that definitely comes through in McKinley's words ... is his affection for the Union: this young soldier was willing to fight and, if necessary, to die for his country in order to preserve the ideals envisioned by the nation's founders."

Sources: *Major McKinley and the Civil War* by William H. Armstrong

A Civil War Diary of William McKinley, edited by Lewis L. Gould.

In the Days of McKinley, by Margaret Leech.

Lessons for everyone in studying Civil War history: I'm reading an interesting and, for me, eye-opening biography of Robert Kennedy written by former *Boston Globe* reporter Larry Tye titled *Bobby Kennedy: the Making of a Liberal Icon*. In it Mr. Tye writes that even though Robert Kennedy had an uneasy relationship with President Lyndon Johnson, they each sometimes managed to extend gestures of goodwill to each other. The following occurred at the height of the Vietnam War (this one is for Dave Frank):

In January 1966, Bobby sent Lyndon a copy of Bruce Catton's Never Call Retreat, a book that explored Abraham Lincoln's agonizing loneliness in waging the Civil War. In an accompanying note, Kennedy handwrote, "I thought it might give you some comfort to look again at another president, Abraham Lincoln, and some of the identical problems and situations that he faced that you are now meeting."

The usually hard-as-nails LBJ reciprocated with a warm reply: "You know better than most the gloom that crowds in on a President, for you lived close to your brother. Thus your letter meant a great deal to me and I tell you how grateful I am for your thoughtfulness."