



DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

DATE: Monday, November 13, 2017 @ 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406
SPEAKER: **Jonathan Noyalas, director of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University**
"Ours is No Longer a Divided Country": The Path to Reunion and Reconciliation in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley

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

www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com

Our November speaker, Jonathan Noyalas, comes highly recommended by several in our group who for years have attended his popular fall seminars. Tonight Dr. Noyalas will “explore the Civil War's impact on Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and how the visits of veterans from Union general Philip H. Sheridan's Army of

the Shenandoah to the region in 1883 and 1885 aided, to some degree, in healing the Civil War's wounds” there. He'll also “give insight into the limits of reconciliation.”

Jonathan A. Noyalas is the director of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah University. He is the author or editor of eleven books on Civil War era history, including *Civil War Legacy in the Shenandoah: Remembrance, Reunion, and Reconciliation*. More than 100 articles, essays, book chapters, and reviews bearing his name have appeared in a variety of scholarly and popular publications, among them *Civil War Times*, *Blue & Gray*, and *Hal- lowed Ground*.

Dr. Noyalas has also consulted on a variety of projects with major Civil War associations like the National Park Service and the Civil War Trust, and his television appearances include NPR's "With Good Reason" and C-SPAN's American History TV. He has received numerous awards for his teaching, scholarship, and service, including the highest honor that can be bestowed upon any professor at a college or university in the Commonwealth of Virginia—the State Council for Higher Education's “Outstanding Faculty Award.”



Memberships for 2018—Starting this month we'll be collecting dues for 2018. Dues are \$20 for individual, couple, or family. Our members are our best recruiters, so invite your friends to join us at a meeting. And remember that we're also gathering email addresses to keep you informed of round table news and special events.

The Ladies Department

By Charen Fink

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. President Lincoln issued a proclamation in 1863 to establish the first national day of Thanksgiving to be held on the last Thursday of November. In this proclamation, Lincoln made no mention of Pilgrims or Indians, nor did he mention North or South. He said nothing about founding fathers or national origins. Instead, he called attention to our desperate need for working to “heal the wounds of the nation.” Perhaps this is true even today.

The Best Civil War Movies

The Birth of a Nation—1915

Friendly Persuasion—1956

Gettysburg—1993

Gone With the Wind—1939

The Horse Soldiers—1959

Gods and Generals—2003

The Red Badge of Courage—
1951

Shenandoah—1965

Cold Mountain—2003

Glory—1989

Pre-War Occupations of Union Soldiers

Farmer—48%

Laborer—16%

Professional—3%

Mechanic—24%

Commercial Pursuit—5%

Miscellaneous—4%

Slaveholder Presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison,

Reference: Graham, Martin, C. Johnson, R.A. Sauers, Ph.D., G. Skoch. “Blue and Gray.” Illinois Publications International, 2006, pgs. 18, 136, 156, 284, 304.

John Tyler, James K. Polk, and Zachary Taylor all owned slaves—it was taken as a matter of course that a man of wealth would own slaves—but John Adams and his son John Quincy never did.

As a review, the Southern states seceded in the following order: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

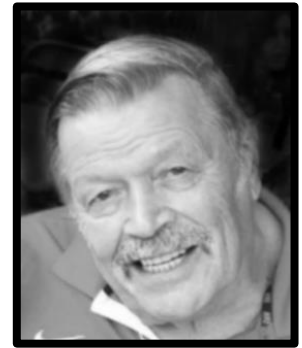
Slang Terms—“Fresh Fish” were new recruits and “Greenbacks” were money. “Doughboys” denoted infantry soldiers, a “Pig Sticker” a Bayonet, and a “Strawfoot” a recruit. “Mudscows” were clumsy shoes and “Seeing the Elephant” meant combat. A “Plebe” was a First-year cadet.

During the 1880s, “War of the Rebellion” was the term used to denote the event. Later, “War Between the States” came into play as a result of Southern hatred of the term *rebellion*. In the South it is still known as “The War of Northern Aggression” or “The War for Southern Independence.” Some Yankees called it “The War of Secession” while others avoided the use of *war* and used “The Late Great Unpleasantness.”



By the 20th century the government settled on the generic name “Civil War” for the conflict.

IN MEMORIAM: *Chuck Stepan* passed away on September 22 at the age of 86. Born in Minnesota, Chuck served as a tactical advisor in the U.S. Army in Korea. In 1958, he came to the area and worked for 35 years as a court reporter during what he called, “Youngstown’s exciting years.”



I only found out about a year ago that Chuck was a Taekwondo master. He achieved the level of eighth-degree black belt and was an inaugural inductee into the Taekwondo Hall of Fame International.

GETTYSBURG—1938

by Hugh Earnhart

In the early days of July 1938, a six-year-old boy stood between his father and grandfather in a crowd of 75,000 on the battlefield of Gettysburg. It was the 75th anniversary of the Civil War battle. Little did that young fellow (who would fight his own war in Korea) perceive that he was witness to the last vestiges of the Civil War and the new armaments that would fight World War II before he grasped the meaning of this event.

Almost 1,900 Blue and Gray veterans of the Civil War had mustered at Gettysburg for the last time. These old men, with an average age of ninety-four and their ranks thinning more each year, were the last remaining ambassadors of an America long vanished. Their speech, manners, clothing and values—everything about them—bespoke an era fast disappearing from the living memory. These veterans, who looked out from under broad-brim hats and over gray mustaches and beards, had from their youth seen the country transformed from a sleepy rural culture that moved at the speed of a horse into a nation of big cities, electricity, factories, fast trains and large airplanes.

The aged veterans, many with empty trouser legs pinned up and sleeves thrust into coat pockets, sat under white tents sheltered from the hot sun on the same field where George Pickett rode. Some reminisced fondly of the volley of rifles and the sound of cannon, while others just remembered the carnage and loss of life.

Then from above a strange hum grew louder and louder. Looking into the cloudless blue sky, the veterans and visitors saw eighteen fighter planes drop down from their perch in the sky escorting six B-17 Flying Fortress bombers across the heavens and into the wild blue yonder. While the attention was focused on the aerial display, thirty-one tanks assembled in Longstreet’s area and created a cloud of yellow dust as they performed maneuvers in the field where some 12,500 Confederates marched in 1863.

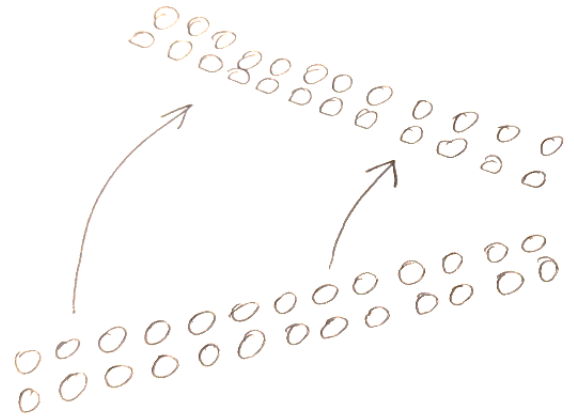
With the celebration ended, the noble Civil War veterans were escorted aboard trains that would return them to the safe confines of home. What they thought and saw in the clank of armor and the buzz of propellers the wizened veterans never said. But surely, they must have wondered about the gulf between the old 19th Century warfare of glinting bayonets and flying flags versus the new mechanized warfare of the 20th Century.

- Hugh authored this piece from personal experience.

TACTICALLY SPEAKING

By Gary Wholf

One of the movements either by companies or regiments was wheeling to change their front to deliver a more effective fire. A great example of this was Stannard's Vermonters during Pickett's Charge. It looks simple but can be quite difficult to do in practice. The maneuver can also be used in reverse to refuse a flank to an enemy attacking your flank, by one or several companies. There were also other ways to refuse the flank.



Interview with Gettysburg Park Ranger Dan Welch—In the September newsletter I started talking about some of MVCWRT member Dan Welch's experiences as a Gettysburg NMP seasonal ranger. We discussed park attendance and funding, so to conclude we'll hear about a couple of the tours Dan led over the summer.

The tours change slightly from year to year, Dan says, with a few additions and some subtractions. These depend mostly on popularity, but staffing is often a factor.

A special tour that Dan led this summer featured the movements of the Florida Brigade in Pickett's Charge, which at Gettysburg was led by Colonel David Lang. Dan says that finding first-hand sources for this story was a challenge because the Floridians left few accounts, and he had to piece together a tour using what Confederate sources he could find and the remembrances of the Union defenders on Cemetery Ridge.

His largest crowd for this tour came during the anniversary of the battle when around 500 people followed him from Seminary Ridge to the slope leading to Cemetery Ridge. An interesting note is that Lewis Powell, one of the Lincoln Assassination conspirators, participated in this action and was wounded in the hand and captured.

A new twilight tour Dan led was called "Sunset on McPherson's Ridge" and focused on the aftermath of the first day's fighting. Dan says attendance for this tour was hit-and-miss, and one evening he even gave one person an exclusive tour.

There were also the usual assortment of "interesting" questions, and this year Dan heard visitors ask "Do you move the headstones?" in the National Cemetery and "Why are there no bullet holes in the monuments?" But probably the most unusual one came while he was working the Visitor Center information desk: "How do I get to the Visitor Center?"

Civil War group is being organized

YOUNGSTOWN — Professor Hugh G. Earnhart of the Youngstown State University History Department is organizing a Civil War "Round Table" to meet monthly and discuss topics related to this period in American History.

The first dinner-meeting and organizing session is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at Western Reserve Restaurant, 6123 Market St., Boardman.

The organization is open to anyone interested in the Civil War period,

FIFTEEN

including teachers, students and the public.

Persons interested may contact Prof. Earnhart at YSU.

Earnhart, a resident of Poland, has been a member of the university faculty since 1963. He has specialized in the Civil War and the South, and in oral history.