



DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

DATE: Monday, April 10, 2017 @ 6:30 P.M.
LOCATION: A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St, Canfield, OH 44406
SPEAKER: **Sue Boardman, Gettysburg Foundation and Licensed Guide**
The Gettysburg Cyclorama

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www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com

If you haven't experienced "An Evening with the Painting," an exclusive "after-hours" program showing at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, this I can tell you: Put it on your list of things to do this year! The remaining dates for this amazing presentation are March 25, April 29, May 20, June 3 and 30, July 29, August 19, September 23, October 7, November 17, and December 9. It is \$20 well spent and you won't be sorry.

At this month's meeting, you'll get a preview when Sue Boardman, Licensed Battlefield Guide and Leadership Program Director for the Gettysburg Foundation, visits to talk about her book *The Gettysburg Cyclorama: The Turning Point of the Civil War on Canvas*. A native of Danville, Pennsylvania, Sue earned an Honors Graduate degree from Penn State/Geisinger Medical Center School of Nursing and was an emergency room nurse for twenty-three years before moving to Gettysburg to pursue a dream career as a guide.



She is a two-time recipient of the Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Guiding, and since 2004 has served as historical consultant for the Gettysburg Foundation for the new museum project as well as for the massive project to conserve and restore the Gettysburg cyclorama. Sue has served as President of the historic Evergreen Cemetery Association and has taught at Harrisburg Area Community College and Susquehanna University.

In her talk, Sue will "explore the history of the genre of cycloramas and in particular the history of the Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama including a discussion of the massive multi-year conservation effort of our country's largest painting." She promises to also point out "some interesting content depicted in the battle scene (including some mistakes!)." Sue will have copies of her book for sale at the meeting for \$28.

QUICK REMINDER: For those of you who didn't attend the March meeting, we've moved our gathering place to A La Cart Catering in Canfield. Please note the change: Our monthly meetings will now be held at A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon St., Canfield, Ohio 44406. Their phone numbers are 330.533.0363 and 330.533.9771.

The Ladies Department

By Charen Fink

Medicine Before the Civil War comes from a 2005 Ohio Historical Society article. Common diseases in Ohio before the Civil War included cholera, tuberculosis, agues and fevers. Other accidents and injuries resulted from hunting and farming accidents, as well as injuries from battles with Indians and the British.

Doctors treated the injuries and disease with such herbs as tansy, peppermint, catnip, pennyroyal and other items. The use of calomel, containing mercury, was prescribed for cholera, but the side effects eventually resulted in death. Another treatment was bleeding for anything from a cold to cancer.

During the first half of the nineteenth century medical care began showing improvement. By 1819, many physicians were attending Ohio's medical schools such as Medical College of Ohio. The first dental school in the United States was opened by John Harris in Bainbridge, Ohio in 1827. That same year, John Richmond performed one of the first Caesarean operations in the United States. Reuben Mussey, a professor at the Medical College of Ohio, improved the use of anesthesia in surgical procedures. William Awl was the first surgeon west of the Appalachian Mountains to succeed in tying off a left carotid artery and the patient survived. He also improved treatments for the insane.

Some major issues during this early period were sanitation, lack of sewers, use of public wells in cities and towns. This allowed diseases to spread rapidly. Doctors' fees were exorbitant among poor Ohioans, ranging from fifty cents for an office visit to seventy-five dollars for the removal of kidney stones. Bartering was a way to pay for fees but his method of payment did not allow doctors enough money to buy more advanced medical equipment.

Little Known Nurses Information about the following nurses is taken as written from the 2016 issue of *Civil War Times*.

New Hampshire native Sarah Low tended the human wreckage of war at the 1,000-bed Armory Square Hospital in Washington, located at the site of what is today the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum on the National Mall, from October 1862 until August 1865. The hospital was situated near a steamboat landing, and many of the most grievously wounded were rushed there. Consequently, Armory Square had a fairly high death rate.

Smoketown, MD, was a hamlet of six log houses until the carnage of the September 1862 Battle of Antietam turned it into a field hospital of 80 tents, the largest of its type in the area. It remained opened until May 1863. "Mrs. Kennedy," a Hagerstown, MD resident, writes to a friend describing the conditions at Smoketown and the suffering of the soldiers convalescing there.

19th Century Dining was changing in America due to inventions, patents and the desire to improve their lot in life. By mid-century, dining moved from the kitchen to a separate dining room. A

separate dining room also brought a change in utensils, glasses, and serving pieces because now individuals had separate place settings. Multiple table cloths were used occasionally; when a course was finished the top cloth was removed with the soiled dishes so that fresh linen could be placed for serving the next course. This practice declined in popularity later in the century. Now there were items for sweeping up crumbs from just one table cloth.

The wealthy had an array of dining accoutrements to dress up the dining tables. Some of these included: 10-inch dinner plates, breakfast plates, tea plates, soup plates, 8-inch plates, bread plates, etc. Havilland & Co., Doulton & Co., and Staffordshire were recognized. Electroplating allowed for more pieces of utensils and serving pieces. The introduction of machine pressed glass brought about more available pieces.

Reference: Ohio Historical Society, 2005, "Medicine Before the Civil War," Ohio History Central: An Online Encyclopedia of Ohio History.
Rumble, Victoria. "Art of Dining in 19th Century America," *The Civil War Courtier*, February 2004.
Foard, Chris. "I Talked To Your Son About Dying." *Civil War Times*, December 2016, pgs. 29, 31.

There was an endless array of etiquette books showing the hostess how to set her table. By the 1880s, refrigeration made it possible to transport and store foods otherwise unknown to many Americans. The approach of the Gilded Age allowed the updating of earlier cookbooks and purchasing luxury items for the home. Godey's and Peterson's helped the housewife stay abreast of the intricacies of modern meals. Menus made their appearance by mid-century.



Daniel and Mary—Daniel May (1819-1888) was a druggist living in Poland, Ohio, at the time of the Civil War. His name might have been lost to history if not for his marriage to Mary McKinley, sister of the twenty-fifth president. But history buffs in the Mahoning Valley are indebted to him for the diary he left chronicling thirty-five years of life in Poland and the surrounding townships. In 1955, Alfred May, a high school teacher in New York City and Daniel's son by a subsequent marriage, wrote *Daniel and Mary* based on that diary and other primary sources, including war-time letters written to Daniel and Mary May by William McKinley, who was serving in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

May wrote the following about the day the "Poland Guards," who became Company E of the 23rd OVI, left for the war: "June sixth was the Big Day. The heavens smiled and the air was warm and pleasant. Just the kind of weather, Daniel thought, for the grand departure. All the town was on the sidewalks and everybody was singing the patriotic songs. Many bore flags, most of which had a new homemade star hastily stitched on the blue field—the twenty-fourth for Kansas. As far as the eye could reach, down to the Bridge and up to the Methodist Church, every available hitching post was host to a horse and wagon filled with the neighboring farmers and their families.

"Promptly at twelve o'clock, the company, obeying the Captain's orders, fell in, forming a double file facing the [Sparrow] Tavern. After an expert execution of the command, 'Right dress!' they were al-

lowed to stand at ease. They then were surrounded by their mothers and sisters and sweethearts, some in tears, others with a high-pitched and voluble gaiety, which they did not feel. They pinned rosettes and red, white and blue badges on their beloved ones.”

May wrote that finally “the command rang out, ‘Company attention! Fours right into line! Forward, March!’ Poland started for the War.”

BOOK REVIEWS

Yankee Tigers

Through the Civil War with the 125th Ohio

By Ralsa C. Rice

Edited by Richard A. Baumgartner & Larry M. Strayer (1992)

Yankee Tigers II

Civil War Field Correspondence from the Tiger Regiment of Ohio

Atlantic Monthly Press, 1995, 292 pages

Edited by Richard A. Baumgartner (2004)

Reviewed by Carole Babyak

These are two books that give valuable information about the 125th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The first is Ralsa Rice’s diary and account of his involvement during the war, first published about 1905 in *The National Tribune Scrap Book*.

Rice was born in Greene, Trumbull county and

married with two small children when he joined the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. While in Kansas, he came down with bronchitis, received a medical discharge, returned home, recovered and then joined the 125th OVI when Emerson Opdycke was recruiting in Trumbull County. This represents the patriotic dedication these men had in supporting the Union. This book is no longer in print.

The second book contains letters, part of Colonel Opdycke’s diary, and articles written by soldiers that appeared in Ohio newspapers not using their own names but names like Ceylon, Hugo and Cato. Lieutenant Henry Glenville, who worked at the Cleveland *Herald* newspaper before the war, wrote about the regiment’s experiences under the name Cato. The dates of the writing and the publication date are included, revealing the lapse of time between events and printing.

Both books have pictures identifying soldiers and are fine examples of research. Richard Baumgartner looked at a picture taken at Camp Harker just before Company B mustered out in June, 1865, that was a personal copy of Emerson Opdycke. He turned it over to happily see a key that identified each soldier. Keep reading, keep searching and you will find the same.

AT LAST MONTH’S MEETING, while talking about how the Sixty-ninth New York of the Irish Brigade has survived since the Civil War, Michael Kraus mentioned the 1940, World War One-themed movie *The Fighting Sixty-Ninth*, which starred James Cagney, Pat O’Brien, and George Kent. In one scene from that film, a brawl is ignited when a group of Alabamians brags about their boys whipping the “69th Irishers” on Marye’s Heights at Fredericksburg.