



# DRUM AND BUGLE CALL

## MAHONING VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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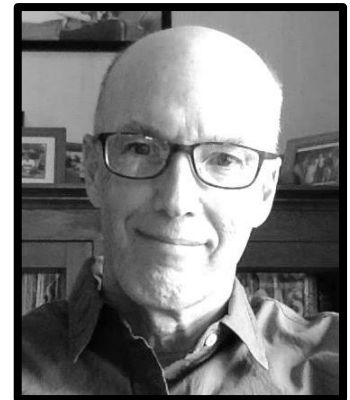
**DATE:** Monday, February 13, 2017 @ 6:30 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** Antone's, 8578 Market Street, Boardman, Ohio  
**SPEAKER:** **David Castle, history professor at Ohio University Eastern**  
*Secession: Self-determination or Rebellion? Who Decides?*

Gordy Morgan, Editor  
Dave Duchek, Publisher  
Hugh Earnhart, Reservations  
[www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com](http://www.mahoningvalleycwrt.com)

"South Carolina, where the doctrines of Calhoun were cherished," wrote Winston Churchill in his 1956, *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, "passed by a unanimous vote at Charleston on December 20 its famous Ordinance of Secession, declaring that the Union of 1778

between South Carolina and all other states, Northern and Southern alike, was dissolved." Six states soon followed, and in February of 1862 the Southern Confederacy was formed and Jefferson Davis chosen its first president. Tonight, David Castle, professor of history at the Eastern campus of Ohio University, will discuss these events to answer the question who decides whether the actions of Davis and his allies constituted self-determination or rebellion. It's a topic I've heard discussed inside the walls of Antone's Banquet Centre many times the second Monday of each month, and I know many of you have strong views.

Dr. Castle has taught history at the Eastern campus since 1994, serving as Faculty Chair from 2005 to 2011. He received his PhD in History with an emphasis in American Foreign Policy and US-Latin American Relations from the University of Oregon in 1991, which prepared him to be a contributing author to *Beyond the Ideal: Pan Americanism in Inter-American Affairs* (2000).



Born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, and raised in Oregon, he now lives in Barnesville, Ohio (about an hour southwest of Steubenville) with his wife Bobbie. High praise for David's talk comes from *Emerging Civil War* co-founder Kris White, who tells me that it is "well thought out" and "thought provoking."

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**Civil War Symposium in Pittsburgh:** On Saturday, March 18, **Dan Welch** will be part of a day-long regional Civil War symposium at the **Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall** in Carnegie, PA, just outside of Pittsburgh. Full-day registration is \$45 and half-day \$25. The symposium ends with a tour of the **Captain Thomas Epsy Post 153 of the GAR**, located at the library. Call **Diane Klinefelter** at 412.276.3456, ext. 9, for more information, or visit [www.carnegiecarnegie.org](http://www.carnegiecarnegie.org).

# The Ladies Department

*By Charen Fink*

## **Women who made a difference in the care of the soldiers, 1861**

Amy Morris Bradley was born in Maine and taught school in her neighborhood in Massachusetts and in Costa Rica. After three years, she returned and secured a well-paying job and took courses in bookkeeping and taught Spanish. During the Civil War she was a nurse and hospital matron. Following the war, she went to Wilmington, N.C., and became a school principal. She died in 1904 in her cottage on the Tileston School grounds in Wilmington.

Mary Ann Bickerdyke (Mother) was a middle-aged woman who made her rounds of hospitals around Cairo. She saw to it that the kitchens were run properly and dismissed inefficient nurses and replaced them with able-bodied soldiers who were doing time for minor infractions. In the summer of 1861 she worked with a young woman from Vermont, Mary Safford. Mary would console patients, write letters, hang curtains, and bathe fevered brows. She learned the less glamorous side of nursing by cooking, washing patients' clothes, ironing sheets, and making beds.

In Lynchburg, VA, Mrs. Lucy Wilhelmina Otey was a 60-year-old mother of seven Confederate soldiers. She took over the old Union Hotel, converting it into the Ladies' Relief Hospital for the purpose of nursing the wounded and sick. Her 500 volunteers provided all the nursing staff. After a visit with Jeff Davis, she returned to Lynchburg with full authority to open her hospital. The traditional approach at the time did not allow women in the hospitals. The women took great care of their patients, providing niceties, formally dressing the deceased for burial, and sending a lock of hair to the deceased's mother.

## **St. Valentine's Day**

On a more upbeat topic, February 14th is Valentine's Day, and it was celebrated during the war. The sending of cards was popularized in Europe and England. Handmade missives were still preferred, but commercialized cards were now being produced. According to legend, the holiday dated back to a third-century Roman priest, St. Valentine. On the night before his execution he wrote a tender letter to his jailor's daughter signing it, "your Valentine."

Supposedly the Roman emperor decreed that men remain single because they made better soldiers. But Valentine opposed this and believed marriage to be God's sacrament, so he continued to marry young citizens.



It was Pope Gelacius I, near the end of the 5th century, who dedicated February 14th to St. Valentine. By the time of the Civil War, vinegar or penny dreadful Valentines were sent. These were meant to make fun of professions, personal physical attributes, personal habits, politics, etc.

In 1862 the New York City post office reported 21,260 Valentines accepted. Another form of Valentine was the puzzle purse.

They dated back to 1720 and 1840 and were more economical to send as they were handmade. Small

gifts, messages, CDVs, or a lock of hair were incorporated into the many folds of paper. The challenge was to try to refold the purse into the same shape.

#### References

Hoobery, Marie. "Love in War." *The Citizens' Companion*, February/March 2015, Volume XXI-No.1, pgs. 5-10.

Denney, Robert E. *Civil War Medicine*. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.: New York.



**A Tip for Reading Battle Histories:** In his in-depth study of the last battle of the 1862 Valley Campaign, *Conquering the Valley: Stonewall Jackson at Port Republic*, noted historian Robert K. Krick explains the effective Union rearguard actions following the climactic charge.

*Any attempt to unsnarl the troop dispositions at this stage would be pointless. As British general A.S. Warrell aptly reminded some junior officers after World War I, "Remember that war is always a far worse muddle than anything you can produce in peace." The battlefield chaos reduced by historians (including the author of this book with its neat maps) to good order is unimaginable. Creating artificial good order is essential to understanding, but the reader must remember to reimpose a layer of confusion atop the events under discussion.*

He adds that "As is the case with virtually every Civil War objective fact—time, distance, and other such measurements—eyewitnesses estimated unevenly."

**Poland Riverside Cemetery:** Overlooking the rolling hills of the Riverside Cemetery in Poland, Ohio, is the life-size statue of a grieving Civil War veteran, part of a monument that bears the names of thirty-seven men who left Poland for war but did not come home.

One of these men was Robert Wilson, a 40-year-old tailor with a wife and three children. A Mexican War veteran, Wilson became captain of Company H of the 105th OVI. At the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky, Wilson was mortally wounded leading his men while engaged with Confederates at a distance of 100 yards. He was transported to Mackville, where he died and was buried.

In 1866, Wilson was reinterred at the new National Cemetery at Camp Nelson in Kentucky. In 1916, Poland resident Ira Mansfield, a wealthy mine owner who fought next to Wilson at Perryville, paid to have a marker erected and dedicated at Riverside Cemetery to his boyhood hero.

Read more about Captain Wilson and other historical personalities at MVCWRT member Ten Heine-man's excellent blogsite, *Riverside Cemetery Journal*, located at [www.riversidecemeteryjournal.com](http://www.riversidecemeteryjournal.com).

## BOOK REVIEW

### *The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln*

*A Self Made Man, 1809 – 1849*

By Sidney Blumenthal

Simon & Schuster, NYNY. 2016

*Reviewed by Carole Babyak*

The author is a former assistant to President Bill Clinton and author of *The Clinton Wars* and *Rise of the Counter Establishment*. Lincoln's early speeches are examined, and ideas in them become very important to his later thoughts.

One of Lincoln's first important speeches was in Springfield, Illinois for the Young Men's Lyceum in the Baptist Church. He warned of approaching danger that would yield mob rule. This could not survive, and to counter that danger every lover of liberty should remember the Revolution, the blood of our fathers and for respect the rule of law. Lincoln's law partner was an abolitionist, as were many of the men he worked with.

The author also mentions that Lincoln's favorite Shakespearean play was MacBeth, where the image of blood, spilled from murder and unable to wash away, is very important. Blood becomes important in many of Lincoln's speeches. Henry Clay's opposition to slavery affected Lincoln. In Congress Lincoln became part of what was called the "Young Indians," and this was where he befriended Alexander Stephens, who would become the Vice-President of the Confederacy. This book does make the case that Lincoln was self-made; his education and all the turmoil of that time mixed together to formulate his thoughts and important words, which are so significant even today.

**Joseph Harsh on George McClellan:** The late Joe Harsh, who was a long-time professor of History at George Mason University, wrote what many believe to be the best work done on the Maryland Campaign, a three-volume study he published between 1998 and 2000—*Confederate Tide Rising*, *Taken at the Flood*, and *Sounding the Shallow*.

In 1995 Harsh did an interview in which he was asked about George McClellan's poor reputation among prominent modern historians like T. Harry Williams. Harsh replied:

*McClellan was not always the whipping boy that he has become in the last 30 or 40 years. For a long time, there was a genuine debate on McClellan, with a fair number of people giving him a great deal of credit beyond simply recognizing that he was a good organizer. Harry Williams's first book grew out of his doctoral dissertation "Lincoln and the Radicals." You will find a relatively fair appraisal of George McClellan, including a statement that McClellan could have won the war if the politicians had let him alone.*

When asked about the turnaround in opinion, Harsh says that one reason has to do with expectations and preconceptions, especially when it comes to highly respected characters like Lincoln and Lee. "You cannot," he says, "say good things about McClellan without saying bad things about Lincoln."

During his tenure at George Mason, Harsh is said to have had a "gift for bringing out the best in every student." At the risk of having a certain GMU alum's hat suddenly shrink three sizes, I will say that Dr. Harsh succeeded wildly in this with one of his Master's program students, our good friend Rob Orrison.