

# Drum Barracks Civil War Museum

July / August 2019

## *Reveille*

### **Director's Chair**

*Tara Fansler*

As this issue goes to press we are still recovering from our second, highly successful, Civil War Technology Fair. We would like to thank all our volunteers, exhibitors and lecturers for their time, talent and passion for sharing history with the public.



*Civil War Tech Squad volunteers stand ready to greet visitors*

This year we were so pleased to welcome back Bailey-Denton Photography, the Southern California Garden Railroad Society, the First Pennsylvania Light Artillery, Battery B, blacksmith Ken Kurtz, Bill Wenda and his mobile telegraph, and Patrice and Steve Demory as Leontine and Thaddeus Lowe. We were also pleased to welcome new exhibitors, Bruce Smith, Paul Kristen, Debbie and Rodger Gullede, and the International Printing Museum. It has been a great pleasure to see the Technology Fair grow, and we are already making plans for our 2020 event!



*Volunteer Patrice Demory uses a Civil War press from the International Printing Museum*

Enjoy the rest of these lazy summer days, because fall is going to be amazing. The months from September to December are our busiest in terms of community events, and this year we will add another very important event to our schedule, the LA as Subject Archives Bazaar, held at USC. This event, featuring museums, archives, historical societies and libraries, is a wonderful opportunity for us to promote our Research Library and introduce Drum Barracks Museum to a whole new segment of Los Angeles history buffs. Our Research Library is available for use by appointment with more than 5,000 books and periodicals on all aspects of Civil War life, politics and society. Members have borrowing privileges so make an appointment and take advantage of all the library has to offer. For dates and information on all of our fall events check our website [www.drumbarracks.org](http://www.drumbarracks.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



*Mounted cavalry from On Site Living History joined our 2019 event*





Top, Technology Fair visitors enjoy exhibits and demonstrations in the courtyard. Bottom left, docent Julian Della Puppa poses for a photograph before taking his station in the Parlor. Bottom right, The First Pennsylvania Light Artillery, Battery B, conduct a cannon demonstration.

## Presidents who were Civil War Veterans

The Civil War was the defining event of the 19th century, and some presidents got a political boost from their wartime service. Veterans organizations such as the Grand Army of the Republic were ostensibly non-political, but there's no denying that wartime exploits translated to the ballot box.

### William McKinley

<https://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/presidents-who-were-civil-war-veterans.html>



William McKinley was born on January 29, 1843 of Irish-Scottish heritage in Niles, Ohio. The family moved to nearby Poland, Ohio a decade later. He briefly attended Allegheny College but returned home in 1860 and was teaching school when the Civil War broke out. McKinley and a friend enlisted as privates. McKinley was sworn in by John C. Frémont at the Union training camp in Columbus, Ohio. He joined the Poland Guards, which became Company E of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He joined fellow future U.S. President Rutherford Hayes, who would become commander of the 23rd. In April, 1862, with the 23rd campaigning in West Virginia, McKinley was promoted to commissary sergeant. It was in this capacity that he had his most memorable experience in the Civil War. On September 17, 1861 at the battle of Antietam, the 23rd was serving in Major General Ambrose Everett Burnside's IX Corps. When he saw his comrades pinned down without having any food that day, McKinley loaded a mule-driven wagon with food supplies and headed for the front in the face of Confederate fire. His battlefield bravery was recognized by his promotion to second lieutenant following this bloody conflict. In March, 1863, McKinley was promoted to first lieutenant.

1864 saw the 23rd in the Shenandoah Valley. It was attacked by Jubal Early's force at Kernstown, south of Winchester on July 24, 1864. Dispatched by Colonel Rutherford Birchard Hayes to an isolated battalion threatened with capture, McKinley brought them back to safety, to his mentor Hayes' gratitude. McKinley also led the saving of some of the command's artillery. McKinley was promoted to captain, serving on the staff of George Crook. For his service in Phil Sheridan's victorious campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, McKinley was promoted to major, a title by which he enjoyed being addressed in later life. After participating in the Grand Review in Washington City, McKinley headed home at the age of twenty-two.

After studying law, McKinley opened his law practice in 1867 in Canton, Ohio where his sister was teaching school. In 1869, he was elected to the position of prosecuting attorney of Stark County but was defeated in 1871. 1871 saw McKinley marry Ida Saxton, daughter of a prominent Canton family. With the deaths of their two young daughters in 1873 and 1875, Ida became a sickly companion to McKinley for most of the rest of their marriage.

In the Spring of 1876, Ohio miners fought the mine owners amidst an economic downturn, requiring Governor Rutherford B. Hayes to send troops to restore order. While a political supporter of Hayes, McKinley decided to represent miners charged with disorderly conduct and won the acquittal of all but one miner. This won McKinley the respect of labor in both political parties. It also led to his meeting Mark Hanna, one of the mine owners, leading to a friendship that would later help propel him to the presidency. In 1876, while campaigning for Hayes for president, McKinley won a seat in Congress. Early in his Congressional career, McKinley embraced protectionist tariffs. In his contested election in 1882, his bare victory was overturned in Congress on a party line vote. McKinley returned to Canton. In 1884, he re-won a seat in Congress.

1890 saw McKinley leading the fight for a strong tariff bill. After fierce Congressional battles with the free traders, the McKinley tariff act of 1890 passed. But then McKinley once again lost a close Congressional election. This time, McKinley rebounded politically quickly by winning the 1891 Ohio gubernatorial race. He was re-elected in 1893 but Ohio like the nation suffered severely during the 1893 Depression and the economic and labor troubles that it brought. McKinley also survived a personal financial crisis, aided by Mark Hanna and his industrialist circle.

McKinley stepped down as Ohio governor in 1895. With Mark Hanna's help, McKinley began the effort that would culminate in his 1896 Republican nomination for the presidency. McKinley was nominated on the first ballot with Hanna as his campaign manager. His surprise Democratic opponent was the free-silver candidate from Nebraska: William Jennings Bryan, who had electrified the Democratic convention with his Cross of Gold speech. Siding with the sound money



Republican platform, which adhered to the gold standard backing the U.S. currency. McKinley conducted a front porch campaign (as had his predecessors) in Canton. McKinley won a decisive victory over Bryan, becoming the twenty-fifth President of the United States. In his first term. McKinley had to deal with the bimetallism issue. His administration also won the annexation of Hawaii.

However, this was overshadowed by the drumbeat for war to liberate Cuba from the repression of the Spanish Empire. William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer and their yellow press newspapers pushed public opinion for war to support Cuban rebels, which McKinley resisted. His hand was forced on February 15, 1898, when the visiting battleship USS *Maine* blew up and sank in Havana's harbor. Despite uncertainty over the cause of the explosion and Spain's denial of responsibility, a reluctant McKinley sent a declaration of war to Congress in April. With Congressional approval, McKinley became the first of the Civil War veteran presidents to conduct a war while in office. Despite the weakness of the U.S. armed forces at the outset, they quickly subdued Spanish forces not only in Cuba but also in the Philippines and Puerto Rico. What Secretary of State John Hay termed "a splendid little war" made heroes of former Assistant Secretary of the Navy and head of the Rough Riders Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt and Admiral George Dewey. While the annexation of Cuba did not occur, the United States became embroiled in a protracted and vicious conflict in the Philippines when the anti-Spanish rebels were not awarded independence as they had expected. Despite opposition to America's emergence as a world military power, President McKinley's administration presided over the expansion of American influence beyond the Americas. [2]

In the 1900 election with Roosevelt on the ticket as Vice-President, McKinley easily won re-election over William Jennings Bryan. In 1901, after a lengthy national tour, McKinley visited Buffalo, New York for the Pan-American Exposition. While greeting the public on September 6, McKinley was shot by anarchist Leon Frank Czolgosz. McKinley died eight days later and Teddy Roosevelt became President. McKinley's daily wearing of a carnation led to its becoming the official state flower of Ohio.

Thus tragically ended the era of the Civil War veteran presidents.

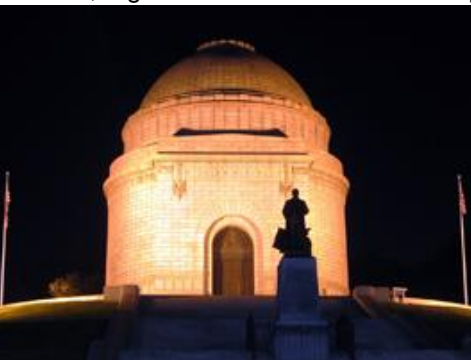
<sup>[1]</sup> Kenneth D. Ackerman, *Political Dark Horse: The Surprise Election and Murder of President James A. Garfield* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2003), 379.

<sup>[2]</sup> Secretary of State John Hay to Theodore Roosevelt, July 27, 1898 in Walter Millis, *The Martial Spirit* (Lower Stratford, NH: Ayer Publishing, 1979), 340.

## William McKinley Memorial and Tomb

[https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/presidents/mckinley\\_tomb.html](https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/presidents/mckinley_tomb.html)

The McKinley Memorial that contains the tomb stands on a grass-covered hill overlooking the city of Canton. Designed by architect H. Van Buren Magonigle, the circular, domed pink granite building rises 96 feet above ground and measures 79 feet in diameter. The double bronze doors of the entrance were the largest in the nation at the time of installation. Originally a long, narrow reflecting pool stretched out from the base of the hill in front of the memorial. This feature, together with the 108 stone steps that lead up to the mausoleum, symbolized the President's sword in time of war. In 1951, a depressed lawn replaced the pool, but the sword effect remains. Midway up the steps is a large bronze statue by Charles Henry Niehaus of President McKinley delivering his last speech in Buffalo.



William McKinley Tomb at night  
William McKinley Presidential Library & Museum

Colored marble laid in a cross pattern forms the floor of the mausoleum. The bodies of McKinley and his wife lie side by side in two polished, dark-green, granite sarcophagi, resting atop a ten-foot-square of polished dark maroon granite in the center of the space. Their two young daughters are also laid to rest here. Three semi-circular arched bays encircle the central chamber. The entablature and frieze extending around the bottom of the dome contain words from McKinley's last speech.

## Arlington National Cemetery

<https://www.history.com/topics/landmarks/arlington-national-cemetery>

Arlington National Cemetery is a United States military cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, outside Washington, D.C. The site, once the home of legendary Confederate Army commander Robert E. Lee, is now the burial ground for more than 400,000 active duty service members, veterans and family members. The cemetery contains several memorials including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument dedicated to U.S. service members whose remains were never identified.

### Arlington House



Arlington National Cemetery is built on plantation land that once belonged to George Washington Parke Custis. Custis was the grandson of Martha Washington and the step-grandson of President George Washington.

The plantation is located on a hilltop overlooking the Potomac River and Washington, D.C. Custis inherited the 1,100-acre plantation from his father at the age of 21 in 1802. He built Arlington House, a Greek Revival-style mansion on the property as a tribute to George Washington and filled the home with many of Washington's belongings.

In 1857, Custis willed the property to his daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis. Mary was the wife of Robert E. Lee, then a military officer in the U.S. Army. Lee took command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at the onset of the Civil War in 1861. The Lee family vacated the property that spring as Union troops advanced into the Virginia hills outside of Washington, D.C.

### Civil War Burials



482 Confederate Army troops are buried.

Beginning on May 24, 1861, the Union Army used the land and house as a camp and headquarters.

As the carnage of the Civil War entered its third year, fatalities began to outpace the burial capacity at Washington, D.C.-area cemeteries. To address the problem, the federal government designated Arlington as a national military cemetery in 1864.

Private William Christman of Pennsylvania was the first military service member buried at Arlington on May 13, 1864. Christman was a farmer, newly recruited into the Army. He fell ill with the measles and died several days later of complications before ever going into combat.

Approximately 16,000 Civil War soldiers are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1914, a Confederate Memorial was added to section 16 where

### Freedman's Village



In June 1863, the U.S. government established a Freedman's Village for African Americans on a portion of the Arlington estate. The village consisted of slaves who were freed by advancing Union forces (referred to as "Contrabands") or those who had escaped from nearby Virginia and Maryland plantations.

At its height, roughly 1,100 former slaves lived in the village. Some were employed in government jobs on the estate or on nearby farms growing food for the Union Army.

Freedman's Village was a bustling town with homes, churches, stores, a hospital and a school for nearly 30 years. The federal government closed down Freedman's Village in 1900 to make room for more burial plots.

Arlington National Cemetery's Section 27 contains the graves of nearly 3,800 former slaves, though no residents from Freedman's Village are buried there. The word "Contraband" was originally inscribed on these gravestones, though the headstone inscriptions have now been changed to read "Civilian" or "Citizen."

*Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, or Tomb of the Unknowns, is a monument at Arlington National Cemetery dedicated to unidentified U.S. service members who died in the line of duty. It is considered the most hallowed grave at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated on November 11, 1921 during an Armistice Day ceremony commemorating World War I veterans. President Warren G. Harding presided over the ceremony. (In the United States, Armistice Day later became Veteran's Day to honor veterans of all wars.)

The Unknown Soldier of World War I was exhumed from a military cemetery in France and buried with highest honors beside the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington. A two-inch layer of soil brought from France was placed below the coffin. The ornate marble sarcophagus, completed in 1932, reads, "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known But to God." The World War I unknown was later joined by the unidentified remains of soldiers from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

In 1998, the remains of the Vietnam Unknown were exhumed and identified by scientists as those of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, who was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam, in 1972. Blassie's remains were returned to his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. The crypt that contained the Vietnam unknown remains vacant.

*Future of Arlington National Cemetery*

More than 400,000 people have been buried at Arlington National Cemetery, including two U.S. Presidents—William Howard Taft and John F. Kennedy.

Currently, as many as 30 U.S. service members or relatives are buried at Arlington each day. The cemetery, which has gone through several expansions through the years, now spans 624 acres, roughly one square mile.

The Millennium Expansion Project, started in 2014, adds 27 acres and roughly 30,000 additional burial plots to the cemetery. Even with the expansion, Arlington National Cemetery is expected to reach capacity by the 2040s.

***Come March to the Beat of the Drum***

Join the Drum Barracks Garrison & Society and help preserve this unique piece of California's History

Private (Individual)	\$20	Colonel	\$200	Please make checks payable to: Drum Barracks Garrison & Society 1052 Banning Boulevard Wilmington, CA 90744
Corporal (Family)	\$30	Brigadier General	\$300	
First Lieutenant	\$50	Major General	\$400	
Captain	\$75	Lt. General	\$500	
Major	\$100	General	\$1000	
Lt. Colonel	\$150			

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Are you interested in becoming a volunteer in one of these areas? Docent \_\_\_\_\_ School Program \_\_\_\_\_ Events \_\_\_\_\_

Museum Shop \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_ Garden \_\_\_\_\_