

The following story was in the Niles Times - March 2, 1950  
 Encased in a massive frame, darkened with age, the charter of this G.A.R. Post No. 16 hangs on the wall in the McKinley Memorial eternally watched by a young soldier with rifle and bayonet, an unknown soldier who took part in the Civil War between the states, 1861-1865. The Grand Army Republic Post #16 was dedicated Oct. 21, 1892 with a membership of 121, who served during the Civil War.

Names on the plaque are:

*J. L. Davis, G. W. Bean, J. A. Alien, John Dithridge, J. Burnside, Hiram Ohl, Jacob Holzbach, C. W. Talbitzer, A. Warthman, T. D. Thomas, John Roger, T. J. Seledgman, William Getz, D. H. Hartman, R. O. Swindler, J. E. Battles, L. S. Cole, Joe Fisher, D. C. Tigby, Ed Lockwood, Jacob Shipman, C. J. Callahan, D. C. Moge, A. M. Brockaway, Josiah Robbins, M. J. Sloan, W. B. Mason, George Campbell, R. W. Jones, Thomas Smith, Thomas J. Williams. and Cornelius Unger.*

These men built their homes and raised their families in our city, they became our merchants, our professional men and our manufacturing heads. By their active participation in the political and social affairs of our city, state and nation, they laid the foundation for the spirit and enterprise, which made Niles the hustling and thriving city it is now.

The Grand Army of the Republic, Post #16 kept its organization alive and took an active part in all the social and civic activities of our city, but, in 1925, upon the death of their then commander, *L. L. Holloway*, and due to the physical condition of the few remaining members, they felt it their duty to advise *Williams S. Matthews*, then Assistant Adjutant of the Department of Ohio, that they wished to surrender their charter, but with the stipulation that it should remain here and be placed in the McKinley Memorial permanently. This was allowed by the Ohio Department.

However, the Sons and Daughters of the Union Veterans of The Civil War addressed a letter to McPherson Post No. 16 on Jan. 3, 1926, asking them to reconsider their decision and still continue to function, which they did and carried on until the last surviving member was no more.

However, they did not hold any more regular sessions, passing along to the American Legion and other patriotic societies, the task of handling the Memorial Day services, as the placing of flags and decorating the graves of the deceased soldiers with flowers.

At this time *Mr. Charles Holeton*, son of C. R. Holeton, volunteered to handle all the business of the organization until, in 1939, when the last remaining members of the post died. The McPherson Post No. 16 G.A.R. of the city of Niles, Ohio, ceased to exist except in the memory of many hundreds of friends and relatives of these gallant soldiers of the great Civil War. The books were closed.

Mr. Charles Holeton created a great scrapbook which contains newspaper articles dealing with the activities of all of the Post members, their meetings, their past Memorial Day

observances and many amusing incidents which occurred during the Civil War and to their life before the war. The location of that scrapbook is unknown at this time.

According to the article in the Niles Times 1950, Mr. Holeton also submitted a typewritten list of the soldiers of all wars, together with the names, the sections giving the location of their burial places in all of the cemeteries around Niles.

As of 1940 there were 44 soldiers of all wars buried in the St. Stephens Cemetery, including four Spanish American war veterans. One hundred sixty-five were listed in the Union Cemetery, which includes 10 veterans of the War of 1812 as well as four Spanish American veterans. Since that time many more have passed away. It may be safe to assume that upwards of 1,000 veterans of all wars are buried in Niles and surrounding cemeteries.

Editors note: Sadly, the charter of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post #16 no longer hangs in the McKinley Memorial building, also the location of the scrapbook and the list of burial locations is also unknown. Proper care and preservation of items central to our history is always an on going problem. The Grand Army of The Republic Post 16 has faded into history, gone but never to be forgotten by the few that still treasure the service of these great men. .



The surviving members of the McPherson Post No. 16 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Memorial Day 1922.

George John was able to identify his Grandfather, *Cornelius Unger* in the last row third from the left side.



Niles Historical Society  
P. O. Box 368  
Niles, Ohio 44446

Non-profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Niles, OH  
Permit #337

Visit our Website: [www.nileshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org)  
and check out the Photos and Stories links.

Monthly Calendar		Trustees:
<b>Public Open House</b> The first Sunday of each month 2-5 p.m.		Fremont Camerino, Jesse Scott, Roselyn Watson
Private tours may be scheduled by calling: The office 330.544.2143		<b>Officers:</b>
<b>Membership meetings</b> – 10:00am The first Saturday each month		Betty Whitney.....President
<b>Executive meeting</b> – 9:30am prior to membership meeting.		Nancy Malone.....Vice-President
		Letha Pihonsky.....Recording Secretary
		Ruth Van Huffel.....Corresponding Secretary
		Pat Burgess-Fisher.....Treasurer
		Frank Burke.....Assistant Treasurer
		Anne Townley.....Program Editor Chairman
		Audrey John.....Research Editor
		Nancy Malone.....Education Editor
		Ralph Tolbert.....Technology Editor

**“Saving Memories for Future Generations”**

With a firm belief in the preservation of history, *Betty Moritz* wrote the following letter for the paper.

To the Editor, Sir;

In 1979 when the *Niles Historical Society* began to use the *Ward-Thomas House* for its headquarters, this small group of history lovers was faced with the daunting task of furnishing its empty rooms. That was THEN .

Today, visitors to that house tour a stately, Victorian showplace which is listed as a museum by the State of Ohio and which is also recognized on the National Register of Historical Places. The Ward-Thomas House, built in 1862 by *James Ward*, industrialist, is a Place of Pride to the entire community. School children learn of their roots; adults reminisce; everyone who visits admires the beautifully landscaped grounds and the well-kept out buildings.

In appreciation of the Society’s efforts, people have generously donated their prized possessions for permanent display in all the house’s fourteen rooms, with overflow to places that had been set aside for meetings.

The problem facing the Niles Historical Society in 1979 has been met so well that it now faces another- lack of space. Expansion is the only solution.

Plans for an addition have been drawn. The location of the new building will be just a short distance from the House on a lot north of it. Its rooms will be used for meetings, lectures, research, and for storage. The cost estimates are over one and a half million dollars.

Society members are already contributing to the Building Fund and have been given a pamphlet, which pictures the project and lists possible gift memorials, which are options for donors

This letter is an appeal for the dollars needed to ensure the continued collection and preservation of the area’s history. The Niles Historical Society is located at 503 Brown Street in Niles.

Sincerely, Betty Moritz,  
Charter member and Past President of the Niles Historical Society.



**Niles Historical Society Building Fund**

Please designate my gift for one of the memorial plaques.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum                      \$35,000 - \$49,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gold                              \$20,000 - \$34,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ Silver                             \$5,000 - \$19,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze                            \$1,000 - \$4,999
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other                             \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift to be: in memory / in honor of:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We are a 501c3 tax-exempt organization

Mail to:

Niles Historical Society, P.O. Box 368, Niles, Ohio 44446

Thank you for making a difference in the preservation of Niles history.

**Donation and Pledge Levels for 2011-12**

**Account total \$89,040.00 as of May 2012**

**Platinum \$35,000-\$49,999**

**Gold ~ \$20,000-\$34,999**

The Carfaro Foundation- in memory of William M. & Alyce Carfaro

**Silver ~ \$5,555- \$19,999**

Fred Fisher ..... in honor of Audrey & George John

Paul D. Whipple ..... in memory of David Prosser

Betty Whitney ..... in memory of Bob Whitney

**Bronze ~ \$1,000- \$4,999**

The I.J. Van Huffel Foundation..... Lippy Foundation

Dave Prosser .....Michelle & Gene Griffiths

George & Audrey John .....Margaretta Hosack Jones

Paul Shaker ..... in memory of Genevieve Nader Shaker

Nancy Wick..... in memory of R. Clare Westenfield

Richard & Joyce Mahan..... in memory of Bill & Marilyn Thorp

Richard & Joyce Mahan.....in memory of Richard & Margaret Mahan

Tabor Siblings ..... in memory of Bessie & Louis Tabor Sr.

(Martha A., Janet L., Louis Jr. Joseph E. Timothy A. Cynthia E., Goffrey T.,

Leslie A.)

Gillian & David Jenkins..... in memory of Norma Jenkins McBride

Gillian & David Jenkins..... in honor of Neal McBride

**Other donations and pledges \$10.00 - \$999.00**

*William & Renee Ruman ... in memory of Paul & Delores Kramer*

*Karl Zipf, Jr. .... in memory of Col. .Karl A. Zipf*

*Gus C. Cost.....in memory of Barbara Ann Cost*

*Betty Whitney.....in memory of Charles Harris*

*Beatrice Baer..... in memory of William C. Baer*

*Betty Whitney ..... in memory of Jane Whitney*

*Jan Ward Chambers*

*.....in memory of Richard Troutman Ward*

*Albert A. Salerno..... in memory of Martha Pitts*

*Frank & Lois Berlingham ..... in memory of Brad Burlingham*

*Angela Kaercher .....in memory of Joseph & Agnes Ballotta*

*Mrs. Cahrles R. Adgate.....in memory of Charles R. Adgate*

*Holly Fillian Scott.....in memory of John Linus Fillian*

*Martha Jensen.....in memory of William A. Jensen*

*Gerrie & Bob Miller ..... in memory of Kay Weddell*

*Frank Burke ..... in memory of Mary Ann Burke*

*Neal McBride ..... in memory of Norma McBride*

*David & Susan Pappada..... in memory of Dominic Pappada*

*Albert A. Salerno..... in memory of Samuel "Chinks" D'Antuono*

*George & Audrey John..... in memory of Kay Weddell*

*Catherine McMurray.....in memory of Pete McMurray*

*Carol & Joe Smaltz.....in memory of Joy Quilty*

*Gerrie & Bob Miller ..... in memory of Dave Prosser*

*Tom & Judy Grainger .....in memory of Helen Hutchings Grainger*

*James Bernard Jr. . in memory of James & Rose Alterio Bernard*

*John Hodge..... in memory of Atty. Paul Z. & Isabelli Hodge*

*Nancy Hodge Valentine*

*..... in memory of Atty. Paul Z. & Isabelli Hodge*

- Jason Altobelli
- Mary E. Moritz
- Robert & Sue Bullock
- Jean Williams
- Tee Dental Lab
- Bill & Arlene Fischer
- Vivian Whitney
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stoll
- Alice Slavokovsky
- Joyce Hartzell
- Tom Calderone
- Brian Pritchard (A-Z)
- Nancy Mancini
- Betty W. Chase

- Ellen S. Ford
- Nicholas & Helen DeMaiolo
- Patricia A. Pfeifer
- Connie Gatta
- Judith S. Wiand
- Sandra Bilovesky
- Eva & Bob Doyle
- Barbara Long
- Philip & Tonya Penrose
- Betty Sullivan
- T. J. Lynn
- Anne Kaczmarek
- Louis Ralston
- Virginia Harkleroad

- Altobelli Real Estate Co.
- Robert Macali
- Janet Hill
- Susan M. Rossi-Wilcox
- Rosemarie & Roger Bartscher

- Adele Jones
- Dean & Elizabeth Mathews
- Eleanor Fairbanks
- Martha Ellers

A year ago we started our campaign to collect funds for the new building. A professional fund raiser offered to run our campaign for \$20,000.

However, we decided to develop our own plan and attempt to raise the needed money ourselves. This has been a low keyed campaign, touching on a limited number of people so far.

To date \$89,040 is in the building fund.

We will be expanding our campaign until the needed funds are collected. **We are very grateful for the donations we have received.** If you haven't donated, or care to donate again, we urge you to do so.

**Columbus Ohio Historical Society visitors**

A recent visitor to the Ward-Thomas Museum was Bert Logan, executive Director of the Ohio Historical Society. He enjoyed a tour of the Ward-Thomas Museum and sent a personal thank-you note offering his assistance where needed. Later in the month Sharon Dean, Director of Museum Services at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus called for an appointment. Sharon and her assistant, Angela O'Neal arrived to view the collection of Indian artifacts we now have.

Rose DeJute had a massive collection of Indian artifacts which she sold to the McKinley Memorial Library many years ago. As we are cramped for space, they are too and decided to donate the collection to us. We are in the process of identifying which pieces we will keep in our collection and which will be sold. The collection is basically from the Southwest part of the United States and is not reflective of the native Indians we had around Niles. Sharon and Angela will assist us in this process

In the mean time, however, we will have the Indian collection on display for the public to view on Heritage Day at the Museum on August 5, 2012. Hope you save the date and are able to visit with your family. Plans are being made for a wonderful family event.



Show here is l-r. Sharon Dean, Angela O'Neal and Betty Moritz, (sister of Rose DeJute.)

# A COMPARISON

	WET	DRY
Arrests in Niles .....	1907	1912
Drunk and Disorderly .....	252	74
Building Permits Reported .....	2	70
Paving .....	7400 yds.	12000 yds.
Sanitary Sewering from 1908--1912 .....		20 miles

Do you think a dry town is a dead town?

**Neighbor, Think on These Things!**

## Another Story about The Ohio State Band & Wet-Dry Battle in Niles, by Ray Gilbert

The year 1908 witnessed some stirring and exciting times in Trumbull County, and especially in our city of Niles. The state legislature of Ohio had passed the *Ross County Local Option Law*, and a petition was circulated and properly signed to make Trumbull County dry.

Naturally there were decided differences of opinion as to the outcome of this issue, the first of the kind ever attempted in this county. The wet element, supremely confident that such a thing could not possibly happen, freely expressed their opinions whenever the opportunity occurred.

The dry element, with their solid, united forces, and who, truth to tell, had all the argument on their side, were equally confident that they would win. The battle was on, and the storm center of the whole county was in Niles.

The dry people had an active working organization in every ward in our city, and mass meetings were held in every one of them. *The Ohio State Band* was hired (18 members strong) We would head the parade to the different ward meeting places, play a couple of lively tunes, and then the band would be dismissed while the meeting would take place.

One time the dry meeting was held in the *Bert Street School* (now Belmont Ave.) The Ohio State Band was there and performed their usual stunts, after which the musicians headed back to the bright lights in the main part of town. Half of them came back one way, and half the other way. One section arrived up on State Street (Mill St. then). One section arrived up on State Street after coming up from the Penns depot past the old Drake and McConnell flour mill.

They had been serenading at various points on the way back, and just as they reached State Street the first group of musicians struck up the old familiar tune, "How Dry I Am."

As it turned out, the Bert Street meeting had not lasted as long as usual and the entire county dry committee was coming up the street and came face to face with the band as they opened up.

That was just one too many for the Dry Committee. The county, as we all know, did vote dry by a big majority, but the Ohio State Band did not help the issue anymore. They were fired right then and there.

One of the biggest meetings of that whole campaign was held on East Park Avenue, alongside the Old Allison (later the Antler) Hotel. The band paraded through the downtown district and a great crowd followed them to the meeting place. On this occasion there was a joint debate scheduled, between *Bishop Kilpatrick of Warren* — speaking for the dry issue, and *Mr. Mindrey* of Youngstown, orator for the wet element. Each was to give a 15

— minute address, and it was understood that there was to be no interruptions from the audience.

These two men, both forceful speakers, expounded their views and ideas thoroughly. Mr. Mindrey stressed his firm belief that by voting the cause dry it would cause a great influx of "speakeasies" to be established in the city, and I guess he was about right about that count. Mr. Kilpatrick, on the other hand, held forth the undisputable fact that money spent for drink was money foolishly thrown away, causing misery and distress for the families of the imbibers.

Yes, the band played (and was fired) and Trumbull County went dry in 1908. By the same token there are many deep-thinking people today who are of the opinion that Old Trumbull might repeat and go dry again if certain conditions are not rectified.

## A Grand Organization Folds Up

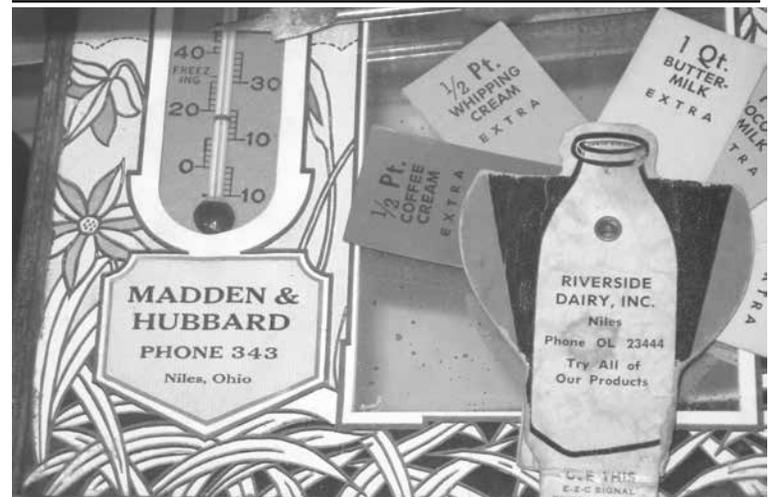
The great and colorful Ohio State Band, which was the pride and joy, first off Warren, and later of Niles, was sponsored in the beginning in 1814 by *Prof. O. R. Farrar*. It flourished for 10 years in the county seat, afterward locating in this city. It began to fall apart at the end of the year 1910.

About the last episode of the Ohio State Band was at a camp installed on the Meander Creek, on the *John Frech* farm, very close to where the great Meander Dam of the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District was built. This camp lasted for six weeks, and was the mecca for all sport-loving, music-loving and fun-loving people in this part of the country.

There was a concert every night of the week, and the program was varied occasionally when a number of Niles fellows, notably *Jim Holloway, Lon Lockwood, Butch Lewis* and others would ride out there on their fast, fiery ponies and put on a regular Buffalo Bill rodeo.

The name adopted for this place of hilarity was "*Camp Niles America*." The sky was the limit on the eats and everything else as well. For instance, one Sunday morning we had 21 spring chickens for breakfast. And on the last day the band campers put on a grand ox roast and clam bake, which was attended by a vast throng from all around this territory. Many Niles residents still remember "Camp Niles America."

So, the famous Ohio State Band, founded by Prof. Orien R. Farrar, finally folded up its tents and silently slipped away from sight, but never out of mind of many members still living in Niles and elsewhere. Besides, hundreds more of our citizens, who were thrilled and delighted with the music, the parades, and the open-air concerts given to them by one of the most celebrated bands of musicians in this whole country; and these people were always ready to back them up to the limit, win, lose, or draw



Remember the order tabs for the two Niles milk companies? Page 4