

President's Notes: Anna Marie Beagle

As the leaves on the trees change to brilliant colors of orange, yellow, red and magenta we know that the holidays will soon be upon us.

If you are looking for a special holiday gift, please consider purchasing a Niles Historical Society 2020 calendar. This year the theme is "Old Niles Churches". The calendars are \$10.00 each plus a \$2.00 postage fee. The supply is limited. **Call Sandy at 330-652-8329 to order.**

A special thank you goes to *Ralph Tolbert* for the calendar design and for a talk on Urban Renewal which he presented in September in the Westenfield Room.

The Ceresis plant that has been featured in the newsletter bloomed in mid-October. This is a once a year event. Our keepers of the greenhouse, *Dave Martin*, *Joyce Mahan* and *Lynn Gombos* were on hand to observe. Once the plant blooms the flowers experience a sudden death in the blink of an eye.

The Society participated in the Halloween Pumpkin Walk at the M^cKinley Memorial on October 19. The event was well attended with lots of cider, donuts and candy enjoyed by all.

The Society will once again participate in M^cKinley Christmas with the McKinley Museum and with the M^cKinley Birthplace on December 14 from 12 – 4:00 PM. A trolley will transport attendees from one site to another. Admission is a box of cereal. Cereal boxes are being collected for distribution by Niles Community Services. There will be refreshments, entertainment, a visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves. Plan to attend and enjoy the rich history of Niles.

Ohio History Service Corps Outreach

Mia Owens, an AmeriCorps Local History Member in the Ohio History Service Corps program, will be serving organizations in Region 4 (Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage and Trumbull counties) at no cost. The goals of the Local History Corps initiative are focused on generating sustainable resources for historical societies, museums and other organizations.

Examples of projects that Mia could assist the Niles Historical Society include:

- Interpretive planning, research and exhibits
- Conducting strategic planning and goal-setting sessions
- Revising, drafting and training for collections management and/or policy improvements
- Training on marketing, outreach and evaluation
- Creating or improving volunteer recruitment and volunteer training programs
- Assisting with and connecting organizations to projects that promote and celebrate Ohio's rich history



Tribute Committee

l-r Evelyn Rice, Linda Belcastro, Nancy Malone, Kathie Hafely, Pat Pfeifer, Pastor Paula Marbury, Carol Rathburn, Merrily Rogers

Nancy Allison M^cKinley Tribute

A tribute to Nancy Allison M^cKinley, mother of the 25th president of the United States- William M^cKinley. This tribute which took place on Sunday May 19, 2019 was hosted by The Niles First United Methodist Church. Nancy and her husband William M^cKinley, Sr., were founding members of the Niles Methodist Church.

Guest speaker was *Mike Wilson*, who portrayed President M^cKinley, and spoke about M^cKinley's mother, Nancy, and the influence she had on the future president's life.

Nancy was born in Lisbon, Ohio in 1809, the daughter of Abner and Ann Campbell Allison. She was one of nine children and grew up and attended school in Lisbon. She met William M^cKinley, Sr. at a church event in Lisbon, and they were married on January 6, 1829.

Nancy and William moved north where William sought to establish himself as an iron maker. By the time they moved to Niles in the early 1840s, they were parents of six children: David, Anna, James, Mary, Helen, and Sarah. Born in Niles were William in 1843, Abigail in 1845, and Abner in 1847.

Abigail died as an infant in 1846, and is the only family member buried in Niles Union Cemetery.

When William was age 9, the family moved to Poland, Ohio as the parents stressed education and believed the schools to be better there.

In 1867, daughter Anna acquired a home in Canton, Ohio for William, Sr. and Nancy where they lived happily until William, Sr. died in 1892 and Nancy in 1897. Both are buried in West Lawn Cemetery in Canton. Contributed by *Nancy Malone*

Nancy Allison M^cKinley Drawing

The drawing of Nancy Allison M^cKinley was located in the M^cKinley Memorial basement. *Jo Reese* then rescued it and asked if the Niles Historical Society would like to add the image to their collection.

It was decided to donate the image to *Mason St. Clair*, a devoted collector of William M^cKinley and other presidential memorabilia, to add to his own collection. Mason is a junior attending Niles M^cKinley High School.



Mason St. Clair



Ward-Thomas Museum
Home of
The Niles Historical Society
503 Brown Street
Niles, OH 44446

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

Preserving and promoting Niles' History for future generations

Visit our Website: www.nileshistoricalsociety.org
Check out the Photographs and Stories links.

Monthly Calendar

Museum 'Open House'
The first Sunday of each month, 2-5 pm
Last tour begins at 4 pm

Membership Meetings

10:00 am First Saturday of each month
Call for private tours to be scheduled
330.544.2143

Officers

Anna Maria Beagle.....President
Dave Martin.....Vice-President
Lynda Ralston.....Treasurer
Coleen Tominey.....Secretary
Ruth Van Huffel.....Corr. Secretary

Audrey John.....Curator
Ralph Tolbert.....Newsletter and Website

Trustees:

Anne Townley, Nancy Malone, and Sandy Bilovesky



Formerly *The J.F. Morris* residence at 415 Robbins, it was the location of Reese-Wynn-Winyard-McDermott Funeral Home and now Lane Funeral Home.

Image below: The residence as it appears today.

Morris was a dealer in hardware and stoves in the 1890's. His store was located on State Street across from the old Post Office. This was located between Little Annie's Inn and Jensen's Hardware near the curve on the west side of State Street.



Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 3, 2019, 2 – 5 PM

Open House, Ward – Thomas House, Barn and Greenhouse
Last tour begins at 4 PM.

Saturday, November 9, 2019, 10:00 AM

Membership Meeting, Westenfield Room

Sunday, December 1, 2019, 2 – 5:00 PM

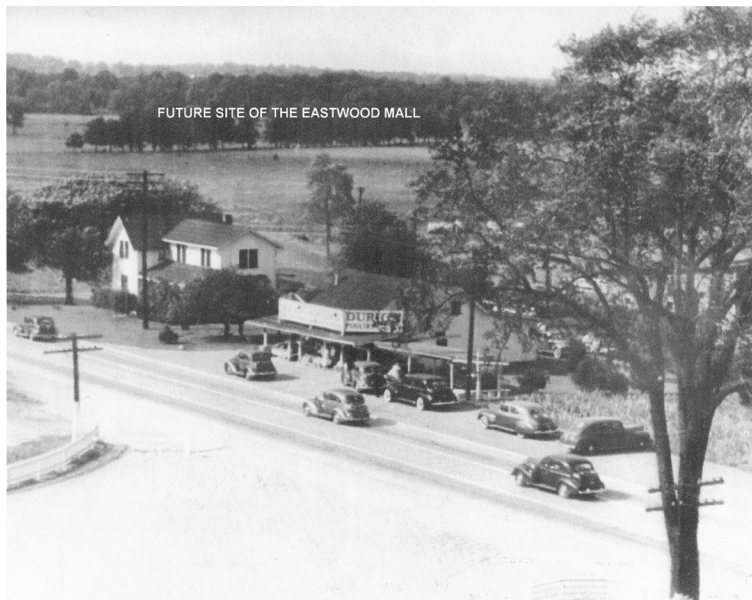
Open House, Ward - Thomas House, Barn and Greenhouse, last tour at 4:00 PM

Saturday December 14 from 12 – 4:00 PM.

Christmas with the MCKinley Museum,
MCKinley Birthplace and The Ward-Thomas Museum

Visit The Ward-Thomas Museum and enjoy the Christmas Scenes





Eastwood Mall — Celebrating Fifty Years

Durig's Farm Market on Route 422 overlooked the golf course and farther down was the Belvedere Restaurant. The original Eastwood Mall at this location opened in 1969 and has continued expanding to include a minor league baseball stadium and soon will include a teaching hospital. Recently, EWM was recognized as the Nation's best shopping mall.



View of Eastwood Mall before the expansion along Route 46.
Below: Interior view of Center Court in the 1980's featuring the original 'Umbrella' ceiling design by *Andrew Burin*.



McKinley Restaurant

The restaurant was located at 9 North Main Street, between the Antler Hotel and Credit Thrift, and had seating for 70 people, not including those patrons seated at the bar. It was owned and operated by *Kemal* and *Julia Sisco Yakop* for more than 20 years. Kemal and Julia are behind the bar in the picture below. Kemal is located on the left, with Julia located in the middle with her hand on the bottle.

In the early fifties, Kemal had the huge muskie he caught mounted and displayed over the bar as a conversation piece.



Photo contributed by Michael Putkovich. Photo late 1940s).

The McKinley Restaurant was fondly known for its home-cooking and delicious dinner specials. It was most famously remembered for Julia's home-made hot dog sauce, with many folks remembering the Lunch Special of two chili dogs for twenty-five cents. With those low prices, it was a common lunch time destination for high school students who would walk over from the Niles McKinley High School.

In 1948, the McKinley Restaurant housed one of the first television sets for public viewing in Niles, with an 18 by 20 inch screen. This attraction drew in large numbers of customers, all leaving well-fed and well-served. The McKinley Restaurant continues to be a fondly remembered landmark in downtown Niles, and probably will be for many years to come.

Story contributed by the *Michael Putkovich* Family.



South Main Street — Niles, 1905.

“The Grand” dominates the block, Caramella’s had opened their Ice Cream Parlor next to it. Later, T. W. Morral’s Clothing Store and the Bakery & Restaurant would be replaced with brick buildings. The Armstrong-Morral Building would become the Ideal Department Store and the Wagstaff Building, Ragazzo’s Men’s Shop. The Crandon Building built in 1904 became Thomas-Hoffman’s Store the following year. It burned in 1962, marking the decline of downtown Niles.



1900 photo taken of Milo Caramella standing in front of his store located at 13 South Main Street in downtown Niles at the turn of the century. (2nd store from the current site of Farmer’s National Bank).

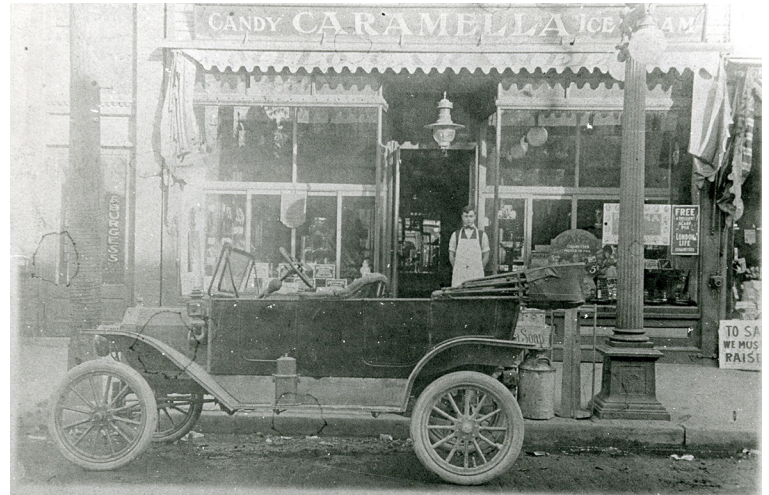


Photo taken outside Caramella’s Confectionery Shop in 1906 after it had been recently remodeled. Prominent in the foreground is one of the first Fords purchased in Niles.



In 1900 Caramella’s Confectionery & Ice Cream Parlor opened on South Main Street next to the Grand Saloon. This interior shot was taken in 1906 after the store had been recently remodeled.



Photo taken of the Caramella House located on Maple Street in Niles. This well known downtown merchant came to Niles in 1900 and ran a confectionary store and ice cream parlor.