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McKinley Birthplace Memorial





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Wm. H. H. H.

The
National McKinley Birthplace
Memorial Association

Proposal to build a
Monument and Memorial
to William McKinley
at Niles, Ohio, the place of his birth



Published by the Association

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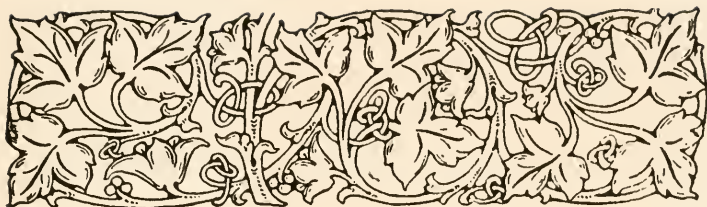
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OCT 22 1913



THE National McKinley Birth-
place Memorial Association was
incorporated by Act of Congress,
approved by President William
H. Taft on March 4, 1911. Its
object is declared in this Act of

Incorporation to be "to perpetuate the name and achievements of William McKinley, late President of the United States of America, by erecting and maintaining in the city of Niles, in the State of Ohio, the place of his birth, a Monument and Memorial Building." The incorporators named in the Act are: Joseph G. Butler, Jr., Myron T. Herrick, J. G. Schmidlapp, John G. Milburn and W. A. Thomas.

Peculiarly fitting is it that the city of Niles, Ohio, should be the site of the McKinley Memorial, where it is planned to preserve the many interesting McKinley family heirlooms, documents, pictures, papers, etc. pertaining to the life and career of the late President and his im-

mediate family. For not only Niles, but also the country for a score of miles around, affords many extremely interesting historical data, mementoes, etc. pertaining to the young man McKinley, the Soldier, the Congressman, and finally the President.

He was born in Niles and attended the public schools there, completing his education in the then locally famous seminary at Poland, Ohio, which is a dozen miles southeast of Niles. He enlisted in the Union Army from Poland, and after the Civil War was concluded, he returned to that locality determined as a good citizen to make his own way in life. While later at the solicitation of a sister he removed to Canton, Ohio, and there made his home, yet in every great moment of his after eventful life, he turned to those boyhood friends still residing in Niles, Poland and Youngstown for the generous cooperation which never failed him. During his Congressional contests, this portion of his district remained the impregnable McKinley Gibraltar. His subsequent career is bound up inseparably with the history of the Nation. But on the occasion of his visits, infrequent because of Presidential duties confining him closely to the Capitol, he always referred with earnest feeling to his "coming back home."

A striking co-incidence with the birth of William McKinley in the city of Niles, is found in the fact that the first mill of size for the mak-

ing of tin plate as an American industry whose very existence was made possible only by the passage of the McKinley tariff law in 1890, was built in Niles within one year and a half after the McKinley law was placed on the statute books of the Nation. It was an actual, concrete vindication in the eyes of his old neighbors of his lifelong advocacy before the electorate of the United States of the Protective Tariff System. Other tin plate mills were later built in Niles, as well as sheet mills, until today it is recognized as one of the country's centers of production of sheet material that daily enters into the life of every home-maker.

William McKinley, Sr., father of the future President, was managing a blast furnace at Niles when his son was born. It was from his father that the lad early absorbed his practical knowledge of the iron business as well as of its ups and downs commercially, and those early lessons in the need of a Protective Tariff were borne in upon him by the stern medium of actual domestic experience. Therefore, in many ways, Niles became the very cradle of the American system of Protective Tariff embodied in the so-called McKinley Bill.

The McKinley Birthplace Memorial at Niles, Ohio, will mark the birthplace of a statesman who holds a peculiarly intimate place in the hearts of his fellow countrymen; a place won by his singularly winning personality, his sterling

integrity, his purity of motive, his unblemished life, and more than all, by his unflagging and whole-hearted devotion to his invalid wife. In all the range of American History, the memory of few statesmen who attained the Presidency and who exerted such a powerful influence upon the after history of their country is held in the same reverence as is that of William McKinley in the entire Mahoning Valley today. No memorial of granite is needed to perpetuate his memory in that portion of Eastern Ohio. From father to son and from mother to daughter the stories of his unfaltering Christian faith, his devotion to his home, his nobility of character, his unfailing cheerfulness under most trying circumstances and his democratic and ever modest every-day life, have been and are today being handed down at every hearthstone in the old Eighteenth Congressional District. However, in the proposed Memorial would be preserved for personal observation many mementoes of the man as he had lived, serving as actual pages in the volume of patriotism and devotion that he wrote for the guidance of the youth of America.

The residence of the President at Canton, Ohio, has been permitted to pass out of the possession of the family and can never again serve the purpose of a Memorial because it has been devoted to hospital uses. The old house in which the future President was born at Niles has fallen into decay and has been removed. There remains,

then, only one way to establish a suitable Memorial. That way is to build it.

For the purpose of securing funds whereby such a suitable building as well as a distinguishing Monument to the life and name of President William McKinley can be devoted, this Association has been chartered by the Congress of the United States. Already several substantial subscriptions are pledged and more are in prospect.

The Incorporators met on May 17, 1911, in New York City and effected formal organization by the election of the following named Officers:

President,

J. G. Butler, Jr., Youngstown, Ohio.

Vice-President,

John G. Milburn, New York City.

Treasurer,

J. G. Schmidlapp, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Secretary,

W. A. Thomas, Niles, Ohio.

Executive Committee :

Myron T. Herrick, Chairman, Cleveland, Ohio;

J. G. Butler, Jr. and W. A. Thomas.

The National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association presents this cause to you, believing that every American, every lover of the good and true in humanity, every admirer of the man McKinley and every recipient of the benefactions that have followed the adoption of the wise and benevolent policies of the statesman McKinley,

will feel that he owes it to himself and his country to contribute to the establishment of the proposed Memorial.

The proposal has been enthusiastically received by the city of Niles, and at a recent mass meeting of its citizens it was determined to contribute the site and to secure an adequate endowment fund, which will insure in perpetuity the suitable maintenance of the Memorial.

Sixty-first Congress of the United States of America;

At the Third Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fifth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and ten.

AN ACT

To incorporate the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following-named persons, namely, J. G. Butler, junior, of Ohio; Myron T. Herrick, of Ohio; J. G. Schmidlapp, of Ohio; John G. Milburn, of New York; and W. A. Thomas, of Ohio, their associates and successors, duly chosen, are hereby incorporated and declared to be a body corporate of the District of Columbia by the name of the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association, and by such name shall be known and have perpetual succession with the powers, limitations, and restrictions herein contained.

SEC. 2. That the object of the corporation shall be to perpetuate the name and achievements of William McKinley, late President of the United States of America, by erecting and maintaining in the city of Niles, in the State of Ohio, the place of his birth, a monument and memorial building.

SEC. 3. That the management and direction of the affairs of the corporation and the control and disposition of its property and funds shall be vested in a board of trustees, five in number, to be composed of the individuals named in section one of this Act, who shall constitute the first board of trustees. Vacancies caused by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the remaining trustees in such manner as shall be prescribed from time to time by the by-laws of the corporation. The persons so elected shall thereupon become trustees and also members of the corporation.

SEC. 4. That said corporation shall hold its meetings in such place as the incorporators or their successors shall determine.

SEC. 5. That the board of trustees shall be entitled to take, hold, and administer any securities, funds, or property, real or personal, which may at any time be given, devised, or bequeathed to them or to the corporation for the purposes herein defined, and to purchase necessary lands for site and to sell and convey by good and sufficient deed any other lands that may be given, devised, or bequeathed to the corporation, and to convert the same into money; with full power from time to time to adopt a common seal, to appoint such officers and agents, whether members of the board of trustees or otherwise, as

may be deemed necessary for carrying out the objects of the corporation; with full power to adopt by-laws and such rules or regulations as shall be deemed necessary to secure the safe and convenient transaction of the business of the corporation; and with full power and discretion to invest any principal and deal with and expend the income of the corporation in such manner as in the judgment of the trustees will best promote the objects hereinbefore set forth; and, in general, to have and use all the powers and authority necessary and proper to promote such objects and carry out the purposes of the corporation. The trustees shall have power to hold as investments any securities given, assigned, or transferred to them or to the corporation by any person, persons, or corporation, and to retain such investments, and to invest any sums or amounts from time to time in such securities and in such form and manner as may be permitted to trustees or to charitable or literary corporations for investment according to the laws of the State of Ohio, or in such securities as may be authorized for investment by any deed of trust or by any act or deed of gift or last will and testament.

Sec. 6. That all personal property and funds of the corporation held, or used for the purposes hereof, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, whether of principal or income, shall, so long as the same shall be so used, be exempt from taxation by the United States or any Territory or district thereof: *Provided*, That said corporation shall not accept, own or hold directly or indirectly any property real or personal except such as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of its creation as defined in this Act.

Sec. 7. That the services of the trustees, when acting as such, shall be gratuitous, but the corporation may provide for the reasonable expenses incurred by the trustees in attending meetings or otherwise in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 8. That this charter shall take effect upon its being accepted by a majority vote of the incorporators named herein, who shall be present at the first meeting of the corporation, due notice of which meeting shall be given to each of the incorporators named herein, and a notice of such acceptance shall be given by said corporation causing a certificate to that effect signed by its president and secretary to be filed in the office of the recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 9. That Congress may from time to time alter, repeal, or modify this Act of incorporation, but no contract or individual right made or acquired shall thereby be divested or impaired.

Approved:

W. H. Taft
March 4, 1911.

McCann
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

J. S. Sherman
Vice-President of the United States and
President of the Senate.



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J. G. CANNON,

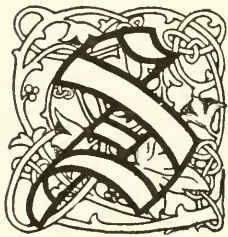
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

J. S. SHERMAN,

Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Approved: WM. H. TAFT, March 4, 1911.

Letters of Endorsement



SINCE the formal chartering of the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association, many letters have been received by Mr. J. G. Butler, Jr., who long has been planning such a movement. These letters are from such friends of the late President as President Taft; Willis L. King of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Co.; Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation; Hon. Myron T. Herrick, former Governor of Ohio; Hon. Whitelaw Reid, American ambassador to Great Britain; and many others. All of these men who knew President McKinley and the great work he did for the advancement of his country politically and commercially, placing the United States among the great World Powers of today, heartily endorse the McKinley Birthplace Memorial movement. Some of these letters follow:

I am in receipt of your letter in which you speak of your plan for a Memorial Hall and Monument at Niles, Ohio, to perpetuate the name of the late President McKinley.

I heartily sympathize with this movement, and hope that it may have the success which its object deserves. William McKinley was a man whom it was a great pleasure and inspiration to know. His high patriotism, his steadfastness of purpose and devotion to duty, his gentleness, his cheering optimism, all endeared him to those who came in personal touch with him as well as to the general public, who acquired their knowledge of him from his long service to the country. He was a man who rose to the exigency, and whose capacity and greatness impressed themselves upon everyone, even his intimates, as the crisis in the country's welfare developed. The demands of the Spanish War and the enormous responsibilities that followed it, called out his innate abilities and seemed to expand them in a marvelous way.





Mr. Carnegie is pre-eminently a practical man. Ever a strong admirer of President McKinley, the man and the statesman, he has given a ringing endorsement to the proposal to build a Memorial at the birthplace of the martyred President, in his practical and characteristic manner by causing to be transmitted to the President of the McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association the following note:

“Mr. Carnegie has received yours of October 2nd and will be glad to provide the last Five Thousand Dollars of the One Hundred Thousand Dollars you are raising for a McKinley Birthplace Memorial Fund.”

The contribution from him came unsolicited.

From WILLIS L. KING
Jones & Laughlin Steel Co.



I have learned with much pleasure of your purpose to erect a Monument to the memory of William McKinley, and no spot seems more fitting than the place of his birth at Niles, Ohio.

For many centuries the old world has taken this method of encouraging coming generations to emulate the virtues and achievements of its great men, but our country is young and has not, until recently, looked with favor on this plan, being content to leave the task to the historian.

McKinley was a plain man of the people, but did his duty as he saw it, faithfully. He was always animated by a desire to better the condition of his countrymen, regardless of class or position, and he believed that a Protective Tariff could best accomplish this. He was permitted before his death to see in some part the result of his efforts, but not the fullness apparent to us.

I hope you will be successful, as you ought to be, in bringing about this recognition of his work, and as the country prospers and grows great in coming years, this Monument will typify in some measure the place he held in the hearts of a grateful people.



From JUDGE E. H. GARY
United States Steel Corporation





I am greatly pleased to learn of your intention to raise a substantial subscription to build a Memorial to President McKinley at his birthplace. The project seems worthy; and has my cordial endorsement and support.

I sincerely trust your efforts will be crowned with success.

From MYRON T. HERRICK

Former Governor of Ohio



I am very greatly interested in the proposed McKinley Monument at Niles, Ohio.

The great service that President McKinley rendered the Nation and his State make it particularly appropriate that his birthplace should have a fitting Monument to his memory. His life and activities are an inspiration to the highest type of citizenship, and the people of Ohio owe it to themselves and the Nation to erect a suitable Memorial to this great statesman in this city which was honored by his birth.



From GEORGE B. CORTELYOU
Former Secretary of Treasury



The plan to erect a suitable Memorial to the late President McKinley, at Niles, Ohio, his birthplace, is a commendable one and I hope will meet with success. Anything that serves to recall the record of his life, character and public service is entitled to the hearty support of the American people.



From WHITELAW REID
United States Ambassador to Court of St. James



I was glad to learn from your letter of the 13th, the degree of encouragement you have already received with regard to the proposed McKinley Memorial, to be erected at the birthplace of the late President. Now that the homestead at Canton is no longer available, it is certainly an excellent idea to have at his birthplace a Memorial Hall, in which his friends and admirers may preserve many things connected with his life and career, which would otherwise be scattered, and I hope to hear that your public-spirited plan is meeting with the encouragement it deserves.



From JAMES M. SWANK
General Manager of American Iron and Steel Association




I have your letter of February 28th. Ohio Protectionists will do well to assist you in the erection of a Monument to McKinley whose advocacy of the Protective Policy made him easily the foremost of all believers in that policy in your State and eventually, made him President of the United States. I have never seen Niles, McKinley's birthplace, but have no doubt that the people of that town will consider themselves honored in having a Monument erected where he was born and spent his boyhood.

It is a constant source of regret to me that Pennsylvania has not similarly honored her great Protectionists, Carey, Colwell, Kelley and Randall, and now that he has gone, I may add, Joseph Wharton. I hope that you will meet with abundant success in the effort you are making to secure funds to erect a Monument that will be worthy of McKinley's fame and worthy of Ohio Protectionists.



From THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Former President of the United States




I was glad to learn of the proposal to raise a Memorial to the late President McKinley at his birth-place, Niles, Ohio. I wish all success to the effort.

Most cordially I wish to reaffirm what I said at the banquet at Canton, Ohio, on January 27, 1903, which was held in honor of the birthday of the late President:

“It was given to President McKinley to take the foremost place in our political life at a time when our country was brought face to face with problems more momentous than any whose solution we have ever attempted, save only in the Revolution and in the Civil War; and it was under his leadership that the Nation solved these mighty problems aright. Therefore he shall stand in the eyes of history not merely as the first man of his generation, but as among the greatest figures in our national life, coming second only to the men of the two great crises in which the Union was founded and preserved.”

From His Eminence,
JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS



I assure you that I am most pleased to learn of the proposed erection of a Memorial to the late President McKinley at his birthplace, Niles, Ohio.

This is indeed a most worthy undertaking and I sincerely hope that you will be most successful in your efforts for its realization.

I had the honor and privilege of enjoying the personal friendship of Mr. McKinley. I admired him greatly and he was in truth, a glory of his country.

From JOHN K. TENER
Governor of Pennsylvania




I am sincerely gratified to learn of your effort to erect a proper Memorial at the birthplace of the late William McKinley.

Always having been an ardent admirer of that eminent statesman, I do not think there is anything that would perpetuate his memory to a greater extent than to carry to a successful conclusion the worthy object in which you are so deeply interested.



From CHARLES E. HUGHES

Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court



I am gratified to know that it is proposed to erect a suitable Memorial to the late President McKinley at his birthplace. This proposal, I am sure, will make a strong appeal to National sentiment, and I take pleasure in sending to you my best wishes for the success of the work of the Memorial Association.



From SETH LOW
Former Mayor of New York City



I am glad to learn of the purpose of the Association of which you are the President, to make a national Memorial for President McKinley at his birthplace at Niles, Ohio.

The memory of President McKinley is one of the most precious heritages of the American people. Every American who recalls his heroic bearing, and the noble characteristics which he displayed, after he had received his fatal wound, may well say:

“Better than new Californias every year are such examples as these to a nation that would be noble.”

I shall take great pleasure in becoming a member of the Association.



From ALBERT B. CUMMINS

U. S. Senator from Iowa



I have known a great many of the men who, in the last quarter of a century, have devoted their lives to the public service. I knew William McKinley intimately, and I have no hesitation in saying that among all the public men of my acquaintance no one surpassed him in strength and gentleness. All things considered, he was the first man of his generation.

I earnestly hope you will be successful in the undertaking which you have proposed for yourself.

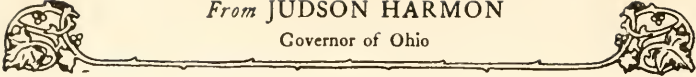
From RT. REV. WM. A. LEONARD
Bishop of Ohio



I have read your interesting outline of the proposed Memorial, to be built at the birth-place of the late President McKinley. It is a project which should receive the loving and generous aid of his many friends throughout the United States. It is in keeping with the spirit of Americans who desire to perpetuate, for the generations to come, a knowledge of the high character of our heroes and statesmen. I trust you will be successful in your undertaking, and beg to assure you of my personal interest in it.

From JUDSON HARMON

Governor of Ohio

A decorative horizontal line with ornate, symmetrical scrollwork flourishes at both ends, separating the header from the main text.

I am heartily in favor of the plan you propose to perpetuate the memory of our good Governor and President, William McKinley, at the place of his birth. Such memorials do much to keep alive the spirit of patriotism among our people, especially the young, and I wish you success in your undertaking.



From WILLIAM R. DAY
Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court



I am glad to note the organization of an association to build a proper Memorial at Niles, Ohio, commemorating the life and character of the late President McKinley at the place of his birth. No more suitable spot can be found for such a Memorial than the place of his birth and early residence. I am glad to find the project in such worthy hands, and wish you abundant success in the undertaking.





From CHASE S. OSBORN
Governor of Michigan



I am glad to give my full approval to your plan to erect a Monument and Memorial Hall at Niles, Ohio, to perpetually distinguish the birthplace of William McKinley.

From JOSEPH B. FORAKER
Former U. S. Senator from Ohio





On my return here I found awaiting me your letter of September 26th in regard to the erection of some kind of a Memorial in honor of President McKinley at Niles to mark his birthplace.

I think it most appropriate to do something of the kind. The birthplace of almost every President we have had is marked in some such way. Surely President McKinley is well entitled to such a remembrance and those who knew him as you did and were contemporaneous with him in the great public service with which he is identified, should look after the matter as you are proposing to do.

I sincerely wish you every success.

The Denton Dress Company
Cleveland

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