Arnold Funeral Home Joins McKinley Presidential Library & Museum Board as an Institutional Member

Canton, Ohio... At the January 2020 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Arnold Funeral Home became an institutional member of the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum’s Board, with John Arnold, Jr. serving as its first representative. The 22 member Board has six institutional seats reserved for businesses with a long history in Canton.

Arnold Funeral Home, now in its fifth generation of family-ownership, handled the local arrangements for President William McKinley in Canton on September 18, 1901. When Director of Education Christopher Kenney was researching his book The McKinley Monument: A Tribute to a Fallen President, he went to Arnold’s and they got out “Book One” to show him the page for McKinley’s “Record of Funeral.” They also shared a second page, dated October 11, 1907, which showed what was done when the President, his wife Ida, and their two young daughters were removed from West Lawn Cemetery and placed in the recently completed Monument.

When Chris passed away in 2019, Executive Director Kim Kenney chose Arnold Funeral Home specifically because of the McKinley connection. “In addition to researching McKinley for two books, Chris portrayed President McKinley as a first person interpreter, so I knew Arnold was the right choice,” she said. “The great great grandson of the man who handled McKinley’s arrangements met with me, which was very special. Everything was perfect, and they made a very difficult time in my life so much easier for me.”

The Arnold family views the new board seat as a tremendous honor. “It’s a privilege to carry out the legacy of our founder,” said John Arnold, Jr. “We have served several families in the Canton area for four or five generations, which is remarkable for a local business.”

“We are always looking to be impactful in the community in a variety of ways,” said John Arnold, Sr., “and since this is tied to our heritage, it means so much more to us than it would to many others. We’re proud to be able to carry on the traditions that were started in the 1800s. We were chosen to handle the President’s arrangements simply because he and my great grandfather were friends.” J.L. Arnold and McKinley were founding members of the Congress Lake Club.

J.L. Arnold emigrated from Bavaria in 1882 at the age of 17, after serving as an apprentice in furniture building. The early funeral industry evolved from furniture making, because in addition to building household furniture, they often built wooden coffins. J.L. Arnold first settled in Cincinnati and later came to Canton in 1888, where he purchased the undertaking and furniture establishment owned by the Shearer Brothers. In 1899 he formed a partnership with H.D. McCrea, and eventually sold out the furniture side of his business to focus exclusively on funerals.

J.L. Arnold was one of the organizers of the Citizen’s Building & Loan Company, which is part of Huntington Bank today. He served as both president and secretary on the Ohio State Board of
Embalming Examiners, receiving appointments from three governors. He was a member of the Canton Board of Health and one of the original organizers of the Canton Chamber of Commerce. He was a 32nd degree mason and his affiliations included McKinley Lodge #431 F&AM, Knights Templar, Scottish Rite, Nazir Grotto, Al Koran Shrine, and the Masonic Veterans Association. Other memberships included National Funeral Directors Association, Ohio Funeral Directors Association and First United Church of Christ. He held a life membership in Canton Lodge of Elks.

An ad for Arnold Funeral Home, from the August 12, 1890 Sangerfest program:
**Record of Funeral.**

No. 595  
Date Sept 18 1901

For the Funeral of  
William V. Stanley

To be charged to  

Order given by  
Mr. B. Day

Date of Funeral  
Sept 19 1901

Place of Death  
Buffalo N.Y.

Date of Death  
Sept 14 1901

Occupation of the Deceased  
Nurse, Wounded

Cause of Death  
Wounded

Position as Member in Family  
(Wife, Father, Mother, Son, Daughter, or Sister.)

Name of Father  
William V. Stanley

Name of Mother  
Hannah Allen

Funeral Services at  
P.S. Chaffee (State Place of Church)

Time of Funeral Services  
10:30 P.M.

Clergyman  
C. E. Marshak

Certifying Physician  

His Office  
(Stated Place of Residence)

Number of Pall Bearers  

Size and Style of Casket or Coffin  

Manufactured by  

Metallic Lining  

Outside Box  

Satin Lining  

(State Number and Color.)

Handles  

Ornaments  

(Please)

Plate Engraved  

Interment at  
(Where.)

Lot or Grave No.  

Section No.  

How Secured  

Shipped to  

Place of Birth  

Place of Death  

Date of Birth  

Date of Death  

Single or Married  

Religion  

Aged  

Years, Months, Days.

Number of Burial Certificate  

His Birthplace  

Her Birthplace  

(Town and State, or Land.)

Price of Casket  

Metallic Lining  

Outside Box  

Burial Robe  

Burial Shoes  

Embalming Body (Fluid)  

Washing and Dressing  

Sharing  

Keeping Body on Ice  

Disinfecting Rooms  

Use of Caskets and Draperies  

Folding Chairs  

Candelabrum  

Candles  

Gloves  

Crape  

Number of Carriages  

Hearse  

Wagon Deliveries  

Death Notices in  

Newspapers  

(Names of Newspapers.)  

Flowers  

Outlay for Lot  

Opening Grave  

Lining Grave  

Shipping Charges, prepaid  

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ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The McKinley Presidential Library & Museum is located at 800 McKinley Monument Dr NW in Canton. The Keller Gallery is the Museum’s temporary exhibition space and features a variety of topics each year. The Museum also includes the McKinley National Memorial, McKinley Gallery, Street of Shops, The Stark County Story, Discover World, Ramsayer Research Library, and the Hoover-Price Planetarium. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Museum is closed Sunday and Monday.

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