



Happy New Year and welcome back from our two-month furlough! Please make note of our new meeting place (and map) on the last page of the newsletter.

2001 promises to be an exciting year for the Michigan Regimental—and what better way to kick off the new millennium than a program from Dr. Weldon Petz. This month on **MONDAY, JANUARY 29**, Dr. Petz will present **“Lincoln’s Last Month.”**

It was past 3:00 P.M. on Friday, April 14, 1865, a balmy day of 68 degrees, when President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary, commenced their daily afternoon ride in an open carriage. Mary asked if he thought anyone should accompany them. *“No—I prefer to ride by ourselves today,”* he replied. Mary later wrote that she had never seen him *“so supremely cheerful....his manner was even playful. He was so gay, that I said to him, laughingly, ‘Dear Husband, you startle me by your great cheerfulness. I have not seen you so happy since before Willie’s death.’”*

“And well I may feel so, Mary,” he responded. *“I consider this day, the war, has come to a close.”* Then he added, *“We must both, be more cheerful in the future—between the war and the loss of our darling Willie—we have both, been very miserable.”*

Their conversation during the drive, as reported by Mary to friends and relatives later, covered a wide range of subjects with much emphasis on plans for the future. *“We have had a hard time of it since we came to Washington,”* the President remarked, *“but the war is over, and with God’s blessing we may hope for four years of peace and happiness, and then we will go back to Illinois and pass the rest of our lives in quiet....I will open a law office at Springfield or Chicago and practice law and at least do enough to help give us a livelihood.”*

Perhaps Lincoln was recalling at this moment the request he had made of his former law partner of sixteen years, Willie Herndon. On the day before he left Springfield for Washington, Lincoln eyed the sign outside his law office—Lincoln & Herndon—swinging on its hinges. *“Let it continue to hang there,”* he said. *“Give our clients to understand that the election of a President makes no change in the firm of Lincoln and Herndon. If I live I’m coming back some time, and then we’ll go right on practicing law as if nothing had happened.”*

Less than eight hours after the carriage ride, Lincoln lay on a bed, breathing shallowly, in the Petersen Boarding House. A doctor, standing over the President, somberly announced, *“His wound is mortal; it is impossible for him to recover.”*

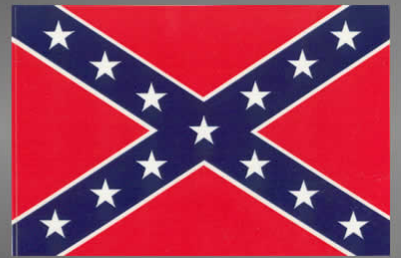
We are fortunate to have as a member and guest speaker, Dr. Weldon Petz, a nationally known scholar, lecturer, collector, writer, and expert on Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Petz’s ability to hold audiences of all ages spellbound is widely acknowledged. This will be a special evening. Mark your calendars for **MONDAY, JANUARY 29.....**

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A distinctive thank you from the MRRT to our November speaker, **Pam Newhouse**, for her outstanding presentation, *“The Sultana Disaster.”* Pam filled the hour with an excellent program on the mysteries of the tragedy that affected so many lives at the end of the Civil War.

QUIZ: The following are all Lincoln quotes. Identify the person to whom he was speaking to or referring to.....

1. “I know the hole he went in at, but I can’t tell you what hole he will come out of.”
2. “[He] is the first general I have had. You know how it has been with all the rest. They wanted *me* to be the general. I am glad to find a man who can go ahead without me.”
3. “God bless you, and all with you. Destroy the rebel army if possible.”



4. “My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery....what I do about slavery and the colored race I do because I believe it helps save this Union.”
5. “It is a good face....I am glad the war is over at last.”
6. “We had them within our grasp. We had only to stretch forth our hands and they were ours.”
7. “If [he] had been killed by the shot which knocked over the pillar that stunned him, we should have been successful.”
8. “With *me*, the race of ambition has been a failure—a flat failure; with *him* it has been one of splendid success. His name fills the nation; and is not unknown, even, in foreign lands.”
9. “I must have _____ to reorganize my army and bring it out of chaos.”
10. “[“He is] little more than a first rate clerk [and behaves] like a duck that’s been hit over the head.”

QUIZ No. II: How much do you know about Dr. Weldon Petz? [Answers will be given at this month’s meeting]

1. From which high school did Weldon, a native Detroit, graduate? A) Pershing B) Chadsey C) Mackenzie D) Western E) Denby
2. Which of these noted scholars did not serve with Weldon as a member of the Civil War Publications Advisory Board at the University of Iowa? A) Bruce Catton B) Shelby Foote C) Allan Nevins D) Carl Sandburg
3. An accomplished musician, Weldon played which of the following instruments professionally? A) saxophone B) trumpet C) trombone D) clarinet E) cornet
4. During the Big Band Era, Weldon played this instrument with each of the following noted band leaders except one: A) Horace Heidt B) Johnny Long C) Les Brown D) Jimmy Dorsey
5. In 1974, Weldon received the National Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor. How many other recipients of this prestigious award have been from Michigan? A) 5 B) 4 C) 7 D) 6 E) 2
6. At one time Weldon organized his own band under which of the following names? A) Weldon’s Trumpeters B) Tommy Weldon C) Weldon Dorsey D) Weldon Petz E) Weldon’s Brass Band
7. A baseball aficionado, what is Weldon’s favorite Detroit Tiger Championship team? A) 1968 B) 1945 C) 1940 D) 1935 E) 1984
8. Which one of the following historians does Weldon consider to be his mentor? A) Carl Sandburg B) Philip Van Doren Stern C) Dr. Louis A. Warren D) Allan Nevins E) Bruce Catton
9. Whose book does Weldon consider to be the best biography on Abraham Lincoln? A) Stephen B. Oates B) David Donald C) William Herndon D) Benjamin Thomas E) Gore Vidal
10. Concerning a few of Lincoln’s famous speeches—A) Gettysburg Address B) 1st Inaugural C) 2nd Inaugural D) House Divided Speech E) Farewell to Springfield friends—which two are Weldon’s favorites? A) C and E B) A and D C) A and B D) D and E E) B and D
11. Which of the following awards or memberships has Weldon received? A) Honorary Life Member of the Marquette Historical Society B) Named Honorary Citizen of Louisville, Kentucky C) Phi Delta Kappa at U of M D) Recipient of the Governor’s Minuteman Award E) All of the above

MRRT member Al Oakes announces the “**First Annual Old Sporting Goods and Equipment Show**” to be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Clawson on Sunday, February 4. Civil War items will be featured, as well as, antique arms and Indian artifacts, etc. Tables are available for displays, buying, selling, and trading. The Hall is located at 870 N. Main Street, and the show will run for only one day (9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.). More details will be announced at this month’s meeting.

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In early April, 1863, President Lincoln, accompanied by Tad and a few friends, spent a week with the Army of the Potomac. Peering through field glasses, he could see the town of Fredericksburg across the river with scarcely a building free from battle scars. Later riding over the rough campground in an ambulance drawn by six mules, the President marveled at the driver's proficiency in a soldier's manner of speaking to a mule. "*Pardon me,*" asked the President, tapping the driver on the shoulder, "but are you an Episcopalian?" The blasphemous driver professed to be a Methodist. "*Well, I thought you must be an Episcopalian,*" observed Lincoln, "*because you swear just like Governor Seward, who is a churchwarden.*"

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Tad Lincoln knew he could always find a champion in his father when his pranks got him into trouble; the President's office provided sanctuary from his unpredictable mother and the vengeance of outraged servants. The father knew how to manage the boy when everyone else despaired. One day a secretary interrupted a conference to whisper in Lincoln's ear. The President excused himself and left the room. Tad had been ill and his nurse stood in the hallway. "*Mrs. Lincoln insists that I see you,*" she stated apologetically. "*Tad won't take his medicine.*" They walked to the boy's room. "*You stay here,*" the father said outside the door, "*and I'll see what I can do.*" He soon came out with a grin. "*It's all right. Tad and I have fixed things up,*" he announced.

Tad was smiling happily from his pillow when the nurse walked into the room. She had no further trouble about his medicine. For his small hand clutched a check that read: "*Pay to 'Tad' (when he is well enough to present) Five Dollars.*" It bore the signature: "A. Lincoln."

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. William Sherman, when asked about the destination of his "March to the Sea"
2. Ulysses S. Grant
3. George McClellan, after Special Orders NO. 191 were found prior to the Battle of Antietam
4. Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune*
5. Robert E. Lee, when Lincoln observed Lee's photograph
6. George Meade
7. Joseph Hooker, after he was wounded at Chancellorsville
8. Stephen A. Douglas
9. George McClellan, after John Pope's fiasco at Second Bull Run
10. Henry Halleck

Because of major construction at our old meeting place, this month (and probably for the rest of 2001) we will be meeting at a new location: the Public Library in downtown Farmington. It is located a couple of blocks SW of the corner of Farmington Road and Grand River. The address is 23500 Liberty Street (248-474-7770). Parking is adjacent to the Library or behind the Baskin-Robbins on Farmington Road just south of Grand River.

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Come help us celebrate the beginning of a new year for the Michigan Regimental. Program Chairman Jim Burroughs has established an impressive slate of speakers and programs for 2001. You won't want to miss **Dr. Weldon Petz's** presentation of "*Lincoln's Last Month.*" As usual, we will begin our meeting at 7:30 P.M. Don't be late.....