



Welcome back to all our members and friends! As we begin our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, we have much to look forward to in the oncoming months. The highlight of the next twelve months will certainly be our own **Golden Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 15** (please note the insert in this newsletter for details on this most significant event.) Our Program Chairman, Jim Burroughs, has all ten months of meetings filled with exceptional speakers. And, the October Field Trip is a guaranteed winner to the Battlefields of The Wilderness and Spotsylvania where we'll be led again by the incomparable Frank O'Reilly. And what better way to start it all off than with our special guest speaker, **Tom Nanzig**, who will present, *"Civil War Monuments of Washington D.C.: Up Close and Personal."*

The theory on equestrian statuary is threefold:

1. All hooves on the ground means the rider survived all battles unharmed.
2. One hoof raised indicates the rider suffered a battle wound but survived. And,
3. Two hooves raised implies the rider was killed in battle.

The question is, is this notion correct? Using ten Washington D.C. statues of Federal generals, we can be certain of the validity of this theory. The statue of Ulysses S. Grant has four hooves down, no wounds, and died of non-battlefield reasons (theory holds). Winfield Scott Hancock has three hooves down, wounded at Churubusco and Gettysburg. He, too, died years after the Civil War (theory holds). Phil Kearny has two hooves up and was killed at the Battle of Chantilly (theory holds). John A. Logan has three hooves down and was wounded at Fort Donelson. He died in 1886 (theory holds). Thus far, we are four for four with the theory obviously holding true.

However, as we continue alphabetically, things get interesting. George McClellan's equestrian statue has three hooves down and he died peacefully in 1885 (theory fails). James B. McPherson has three hooves down and was killed in the Battle of Atlanta (theory fails). Winfield Scott has four hooves down, was wounded at Lundy's Lane, but died in peace a month before his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday (theory fails). Phil Sheridan has four hooves down, was wounded at Middle Cascade in the Oregon Territory, and died peacefully (theory fails). William T. Sherman has four hooves down, was wounded at Shiloh, but also died from any non-battle wound (theory fails). Finally, George Thomas has four hooves down, was wounded at Clear Fork, on the Brazos River in Texas, but died from a non-combative reason (theory fails).

Although the monuments of Washington D.C., honor more than two centuries of history and heroes, four years of that history produced more of the city's commemorative sculpture and art work than all the others combined. The heroes of the Civil War command Washington's choicest vantage points and most visible parks, lending their names to the city's most familiar circle and squares—Scott, Farragut, Thomas, DuPont, and McPherson to name a few. In addition, there are lesser known works of interest including memorials to three Confederate generals and three groups of Civil War era women.

The Michigan Regimental is proud to welcome back, Tom Nanzig, who will enlighten us on the variety of statuary and sculptures in Washington D.C. Tom, a fourteen-year president of the Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table is currently the "associate-semi-coordinator to the Programs Vice President," and is a gifted speaker and Civil War scholar who needs no introduction to most of us. He is the author of three outstanding books, his most recent *The Civil War Memoirs of a Virginia Cavalryman, Lt. Robert T. Hubard, Jr.* Tom, who knows a good story when he sees one, and even better, can tell it with authority, will amaze you with this ability. In addition to viewing details of many of the monuments, Tom will share some of the interesting and sometimes juicy background stories behind the creation of these sculpture works. Mark your calendar for—**MONDAY, JANUARY 25**—you'll be glad you did.

The MRRT wishes to thank November speaker, **Steve Hawks**, for his fine presentation, *"Mostly Missed Monuments and Markers at Gettysburg."*



The **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** will again be in session at 5:30 P.M. before the regular meeting commences at 6:30. This meeting will be of significance as we close in on our May celebration.

**QUIZ: Match the quote.....**

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| <p>___ 1. Gov. Joseph Brown</p> <p>___ 2. Gen. Robert E. Lee</p> <p>___ 3. Gen. Joseph Hooker</p> <p>___ 4. Gen. William T. Sherman</p> <p>___ 5. Pres. Abraham Lincoln</p> <p>___ 6. Gen. George B. McClellan</p> <p>___ 7. Pres. Jefferson Davis</p> <p>___ 8. Gen. Ben "Beast" Butler</p> <p>___ 9. Gen. James Longstreet</p> <p>___ 10. Abolitionist Wm. Lloyd Garrison</p> | <p>A) "War is at best barbarism....Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot....who cry aloud for blood...."</p> <p>B) "I believe that Mr. [Jefferson] Davis would be the strongest, most available candidate the Democratic party could run; and if nominated would defeat the Republican candidate."</p> <p>C) "Certainly I have no special regard for Mr. Lincoln, but...I fear [his death] will be disastrous to our people, and I regret it deeply."</p> <p>D) "Fortunate, indeed, was it that [Lincoln] was not a man of hot impulse....nor a lover of arbitrary peace...."</p> <p>E) "[Atlanta] is to the Confederacy as important as the heart is to the body. We must hold it."</p> <p>F) "I almost think that were I to win some small success now I could become Dictator or anything else that might please me...."</p> <p>G) "We retreated like a parcel of sheep, and a few shots from the rebels would have panic-stricken the whole command."</p> <p>H) "I hate to see McClellan go. He and I had grown to understand each other so well."</p> <p>I) "That man....will fight us every day and every hour till the end of the war."</p> <p>J) "In a storm at sea, no one on board can wish the ship to sink; and yet, not infrequently, all go down together, because too many will direct, and no single mind can be allowed to control."</p> |
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Few officers of the Civil War provoked such controversy in their military careers as **Nelson Appleton Miles**. Praised as a man of "*indefatigable industry, sound judgment and personal bravery*," the Medal of Honor winner was also chastised as a preening, strutting, self-indulgent "*peacock*." As one critic put it, "*Seize General Miles' uniform, we must strengthen the gold reserve*." Yet his military record was seldom if ever equaled by a volunteer soldier. Born on his father's farm near Westminister, Massachusetts on August 8, 1839, young Nelson became a store clerk at age 17 while taking night school classes taught by a French army colonel. When the Civil War broke out Miles was commissioned first lieutenant in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Infantry. Later in charge of the 61<sup>st</sup> New York Infantry he was wounded in the foot at Fair Oaks as a ball grazed his heel. It was the first of his four Civil War wounds.

At Fredericksburg a minie ball entered the front of his throat and came out near his left ear. He held together the torn flesh with his hands covered with blood while giving his report to his commanding general. Five months later at the Battle of Chancellorsville Miles reached the apex of his Civil War career. A sharpshooter's bullet struck Miles' metal belt plate and glanced into his body. Completely paralyzed below the waist, Miles rode back squeezing the pommel of his saddle with both hands. Taken to the Chancellor House on a blanket, he was placed on a table for examination. The bullet had entered obliquely one or two inches and fractured his pelvis. He remained in the house until the building was



struck by a bursting shell and set on fire. Soldiers carried Miles on a stretcher five miles into the woods. The next morning he was transferred by ambulance to the Lacy House at Falmouth. From there he was taken to Washington D.C. where bone fragments and the bullet were removed. He was brevetted to brigadier general and awarded the Medal of Honor (given in 1892). He would not return to duty until several weeks later.

At Petersburg he received his final wound of the war. A bullet struck the shield of his sword, splitting it in two, and a small piece entered the side of his neck. After the war he was the jailor for Jefferson Davis at Fortress Monroe and was criticized for putting the aging Confederate president in irons. Miles later compiled an unequalled record for subduing Western Indians, including the Apache renegade Geronimo. Miles, however, has been reviled by some historians for his obvious lies and deceit with Geronimo and his followers. In 1895 he was named Commander in Chief of the army and directed the recruitment and training of soldiers in the Spanish-American War. In 1901 he was advanced to the rank of lieutenant general by President William McKinley.

Always a vainglorious man, Miles was never a favorite of new President Theodore Roosevelt. Miles publically stated that Roosevelt had not led the charge up San Juan Hill and that Teddy had stolen the war's spotlight. The President responded, "*What a scoundrelly hypocrite the man is!*" The persistent infighting continued to the detriment of both men. Miles leaked classified information from the Secretary of War's office to the Senate. At an open reception Roosevelt publicly scolded and humiliated Miles for his actions. Shouting and pointing his finger, Roosevelt charged, "*I will have no criticism of my Administration from you, or any other officer in the army. Your conduct is worthy of censure, sir.*" One eyewitness described Roosevelt's verbal attack as "*savage.*" Later Miles let word leak out that Roosevelt's Administration covered up atrocities in the Philippine Insurrection. Roosevelt countered, "*In the Wounded Knee fight the troops under your command killed squaws and children as well as unarmed Indians.*" The uproar from both men hurt the other equally. When Miles retired from the army on his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 8, 1903, Roosevelt stated, "*Nothing will hire me to praise him.*"

On May 15, 1925, Nelson Miles took his grandchildren to a circus in Washington D.C. The 86-year-old rose to observe the National Anthem and fell over backwards from an apparent heart attack dying instantly. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in a mausoleum, the construction of which he had designed himself many years before.

## QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. E. From a letter to Jefferson Davis
2. H. In a letter to his wife, Mary
3. G. On the Battle of Malvern Hill, 1 July 1862
4. A. "War is Hell" speech, given before the Michigan Military Academy, 19 June 1879
5. J. Message to Congress, 31 December 1861
6. F. Letter to wife, Ellen, 27 July 1861
7. C. Spoken five days after Lincoln's assassination, 19 April 1865
8. B. On the upcoming Presidential Election of 1860
9. I. Upon U.S. Grant's promotion to Lieutenant General
10. D. Quoted in the *New York Times* 11 November 1881

Make certain you circle the date for our first meeting of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year—**MONDAY, JANUARY 25**, as noted historian **Tom Nanzig** will present "*Civil War Monuments of Washington D.C.: Up Close and Personal.*" It's a guaranteed winner! Time and place are still the same: 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). Come early and get a good seat. Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.