

As the MRRT marches into its 52nd year you'll find that the format of this newsletter has changed as there's simply no replacing *Old Sarge*. The newsletter, at least for the time being, is being edited by Norm Carver and Jim Burroughs. We will endeavor to soldier on and produce what we hope to be an informative newsletter. Should you, the reader, like to contribute and/or take over the editing duties, please feel free to come forward or email Norm at ncarver55@comcast.net.

Prior to covering this upcoming meeting, I'd like to address a few items of maintenance with number one on that list being directed to those that have not yet paid their **\$20 ANNUAL DUES**. You are encouraged to resolve this by sending a check to our new Treasurer, Don Kadar, 61895 Fairland, South Lyon, MI 48178. Alternatively, you can bring a check or cash to the January 30th meeting and see Don or Assistant Treasurer, Jeanie Graham. The annual dues are critical for sustaining the MRRT, as well as supporting member approved preservation efforts---most recently \$250 for Gaines Mill.

The second item is the **ELECTION OF A NEW MRRT PRESIDENT**. Since Don Kadar has now assumed the duties as Treasurer, technically we have lost a proper check and balance. Again, you're encouraged to either step forward and seek nomination, or nominate a fellow member. Ideally we hold the election this upcoming meeting but it truly should be a concluded by February's meeting.

On a sadder note, the MRRT would like to recognize the passing this past November of member **EVELYNE CROUCH**. Evelyne was a regular at our monthly meetings and on our annual trips. The MRRT passes on its condolences to her family and George. She will be missed.

ON MONDAY, JANUARY 30, OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE JOHN MOORE, a long-time member of the MRRT. He will soon finish a PhD in American History at Wayne State. John's a CPA, a managing member of Cedar Management, and during his spare time, a professor of Finance and Economics at Walsh College. John holds a number of degrees in business, finance and history.

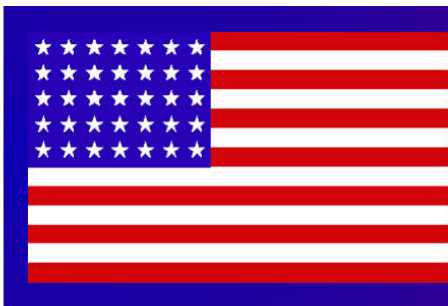
This month John will continue his discussion of the high command of the Northern and Southern armies during the Civil War. John discussed promotion and turnover of senior officers during a November 2008 presentation. Now he turns his attention to the process of finding and changing the generals in **HIGH COMMAND** during the war. John will demonstrate with analysis and examples of why the Union army did a much better job of finding and promoting good, young officers. The Union army also did a great job of weeding out the mediocre, such as Buell, Burnside, McClellan, and Pope. This resulted in the Union army having a far better group of high officers during the second half of the war. The Southern army resisted innovative approaches to high command selection, and unnecessarily held talented officers back. In the end, this contributed significantly to the war's final outcome. This will be a thought provoking discussion you will not want to miss.

THE MRRT WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A HEARTY THANK YOU TO PAUL



TAYLOR for his outstanding November presentation: "*Orlando Poe: Civil War General and Great Lakes Engineer*". It was an engrossing tale of a Buckeye making good---namely by becoming a Michigander! He married a Detroitter and spent the significant part of his postbellum career in Michigan, designing and building the first Poe Lock in the American Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, as well as designing and building eight Great Lake light houses that are still in use. As to his Civil War experience, he had the dubious distinction of going from a Colonel of Volunteers, to selection as a Brigadier General, and after non-ratification by Congress, restoration to his Regular Army grade as First Lieutenant. He made good, however, working first as the chief engineer for Gen Burnside and his successful Knoxville





campaign. As a chief engineer, he was involved in five major campaigns, all successful, ending with the Gen Sherman's March to the Sea. He ended the war as a brevetted Brigadier. You can check out other books written by Paul Taylor at Amazon.com or on his home page at www.paultaylor.com.

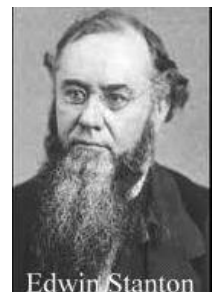
QUIZ: ALL QUESTIONS PERTAIN TO THE "HIGH COMMAND"

1. Which two Confederate high command officers in the Army of Northern Virginia during 1862 were brothers-in-law?
2. Which Union officer began the war in the quartermaster department in Missouri, commanded an infantry division in the Western theater, and finally, the cavalry corps in the Eastern Theater?
3. Which Union high commander, who commanded infantry corps in both the Eastern and Western theaters, tutored his West Point roommate, Philip Sheridan, into passing classes at West Point?
4. Which Southern division commander suggested arming slaves in return for emancipation in early 1864, ruining any chance for future promotions?
5. Which high commander was a boyhood friend of James Longstreet, served as a division commander under him, was put up for court-martial by Longstreet during 1863-1864 and later reconciled with Longstreet after the war?

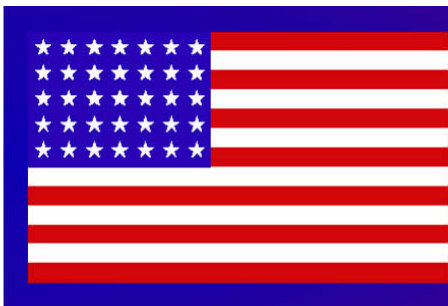
MRRT MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 28, 2011. The pledge was dedicated to Jerry Maxwell. Bob Newill read from the NYC Dispatch and the Toledo Mini-Bulletin. **Preservation Report:** Joe Epstein reported the Civil War Trust has preserved the first significant part of the Hog Mountain battlefield, and the second half of a project to secure 240 acres of the Wood Lake battlefield in Minnesota. All the Gettysburg and Franklin preservation campaigns have closed. One of the most pristine pieces of battlefield property at Gaines Mill has become available. Over 285 acres of land has been purchased for \$3.2 million. The trust has until July of 2012 to close. The purchase was helped by a grant of \$1 million from the state of Virginia but \$2.2 million is still needed. A motion was made and passed to donate \$250.00 to Gaines Mill preservation. **Trip Report:** It was agreed that the museum, New Salem and the ability to walk to the historical spots were high points of the trip. Many thanks to Jeanie, Ken & Mollie for their efforts in making this year's trip successful. **Program Report:** Jim Burroughs' is almost done with next year's schedule. **Items of Interest:** Larry gave a talk in Blount Co. AL about the Alabama soldiers who remained loyal to the Union. He expected trouble from the Sons of Confederate Veterans but instead received a warm welcome. Joe reported the Detroit GAR building has been sold to the Carlton Bros. for \$225,000 for commercial use, but they plan to retain much of the building architecture and hope to have a Civil War museum on the 1st floor. Jim will contact the Carlton Bros to see if a representative will speak to us. Don Kadar would like us to consider tweaking a few things, like our field trips, new member recruiting and meeting structure. Discussions will be held at future meetings. Larry Jackson would like for us to do something to perpetuate Jerry's name. Ron suggested an annual scholarship to the top history student at Farmington High School, and to somehow add his name to our roundtable's name. **Secretary Report:** October 2011 report was approved.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL (JANUARY 1862): The two confederate commissioners, James Mason and John Slidell, seized by the USS San Jacinto November 1861 were released, easing Anglo-American tensions. War Secretary, Simon Cameron, resigns under a cloud of charges claiming corruption and incompetence. He is appointed minister to Russia and Edwin Stanton becomes the new War Secretary. After much frustration with his field commanders, Abraham Lincoln issues General War Order Number One commanding that union naval and ground forces to move upon the insurgents by February 22, 1862. Union forces under George Thomas defeat Confederates under Crittenden and Zollicoffer at Mill Springs, KY. Gen Grant sets naval and ground forces into movement against Fort Henry. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website

<http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.



Edwin Stanton



CIVIL WAR ESSENTIALS: The plan in this section is to explore the many different facets of the Union and Confederate forces. In this first effort, the infantry military organization is examined. Although exceptions exist, shown below is a general breakdown. It should be noted, although differences are not highlighted, the Union and Confederate command structures were similar---not in too small of part because William J. Hardee wrote both Union and Confederate infantry tactics hand books.

- COMPANY** Approx 100-110 men at full strength; led by a Captain. Companies were designated A-K with J not being used to prevent confusion in a handwritten era with the letter J.
- REGIMENT** 10 infantry company's with approx 1000-1100 men at full strength; led by a Colonel. The Regiment was the largest military organization raised by the states. Regiments were assigned a number by the state; e.g., 85th NY Infantry. Regular Army soldiers, although few in number compared with volunteers, were assigned to regiments such as the 10th US Infantry.
- BRIGADE** 2-6 Regiments. The Brigade was the basic fighting unit and led by a Brigadier General (BG). As Regiments strength shrank, the number assigned to the Brigade increased to maintain approximately the same number of soldiers.
- DIVISION** 2-4 Brigades; led by a BG.
- CORPS** 2 or more Divisions; led by a BG or Major General (MG)
- ARMY** 2 or more Corps; led by a MG. Union Armies were named after rivers (e.g., Army of the Potomac) and Confederate Armies after states (e.g., Army of Tennessee).

During the course of the war, unit strengths experienced significant attrition from full strength authorizations due to disease, battle casualties, disabilities and AWOLs. It was not unusual after a year of service that a company could only muster 30-40 soldiers or a regiment 300-400.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Stonewall Jackson and D. H. Hill
2. Philip Sheridan
3. Henry Slocum
4. Patrick Cleburne
5. Lafayette McLaws

Don't forget our next meeting date—**MONDAY, JANUARY 30**—for **John Moore's** presentation of "*High Command*." The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there!

Also try our website www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.