



## MEMBER RENEWAL

Welcome back to all our members and friends as we begin our **54<sup>th</sup>** year of fellowship and learning about the Civil War! We hope you continue your support by renewing your membership. Checks should be made out to Don Kadar and can be mailed to his home at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178; or brought to the meeting and given to Don or Jeanie Graham. Cash is also always welcomed.

### On **MONDAY, January 27, MRRT member John Renick will present “Dan Sickles, A Heroic Scoundrel”.**



One of the most colorful and controversial leaders of the Civil War, Dan Sickles (1819-1914) in his long life played the role of lawyer, politician, diplomat, and military leader. However, he was also a serial philanderer, suspected embezzler, and an admitted murderer. John will discuss with us Sickles’ famous murder case, his controversial performance at Gettysburg, why he was labeled “*The Yankee King of Spain*”, and why he does not have a monument at his most famous battlefield. Together, we will try to answer the question, “*Was he a scoundrel or a hero?*”

John retired as an Information Support Services manager with the Kelly Services Company. After retirement he earned a Master’s Degree in history from Wayne State. John has been a member of the Roundtable since 2001 and last spoke to our group February 2004 on ‘*Could the South Have Won the War?*’ He concluded that everything would have had to gone right for the South to do so.

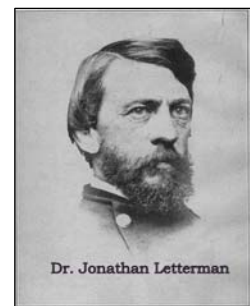
### The Roundtable would like to thank **Dr. Gerald E. Turlo from Wayne State for his presentation ‘Civil War Medicine’.**



Dr. Turlo spoke of the many ways in which medical care changed during the Civil War. The Union medical corps, small at the outset with an 80 year old Surgeon General at its head, grew rapidly to include the appointment of William Hammond as the Surgeon General in 1862. Samuel Preston Moore was the Confederate Surgeon General during the war.

During the Battle of Bull Run, July 1861, the ambulance system was extremely poor and only six hospitals were available for wounded care in Washington D.C. During the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, all medical supplies went through the Quarter Master Corps.

Jonathan Letterman (known today as *Father of Battlefield Medicine*) was appointed June 1862 as the Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac. Among his many accomplishments was the creation of an effective Ambulance Corps. Probably his most salient achievement is the ‘*Letterman Plan*’ that created a system of Dressing Stations, Field Hospitals, and General Hospitals—and notably, is still in use today.



- Level 1 - Field Dressing / Aid Station: Limited supplies with the primary objective to stop bleeding.
- Level 2 – Field Hospital: Out of enemy artillery range. Surgeons performed all major surgical procedures. Stabilized patients were transferred to the General Hospitals.
- Level 3 – Short-Term Hospitals: After the Battle of Antietam, there were 7 hospitals in 27 buildings and 2 large tent hospitals in the battlefield area. During the battle of Gettysburg, all wounded were transferred by ambulance to Camp Letterman. Several thousand wounded were housed there on a short-term basis.
- General Hospitals: These were located in public buildings throughout the major eastern cities such as Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. The Philadelphia General Hospital held 3-4,000 wounded.



Typical types of wounds from various battlefield weapons:

- Artillery shells: Often led to the victim bleeding to death; the shell (or shell fragments) would go through a leg or other appendage, shattering bone structure.
- Cavalry weapons: Usually scalp and bullet wounds.
- Infantry: The Enfield and Springfield weapons were the most lethal. Particularly deadly was the Minie ball; the bullet would flatten out on impact causing severe tissue and bone damage—the exit wound being twice as large as the entry wound. Bayonet wounds were usually fatal

For the Union Army the wounded to kill ratio was 4–5 to 1. The fatality rate for spine wounds was 56%, abdomen 49%, pelvis 30%, and chest 28%. The most common form of anesthesia was chloroform. Anesthesia was used universally to perform over 80,000 surgeries. A limb could be amputated in 10-15 minutes. There were 40,000 amputations performed in the Union Army. Prosthesis devices were made of wood and most would last 3-5 years after which time a new one had to be procured.

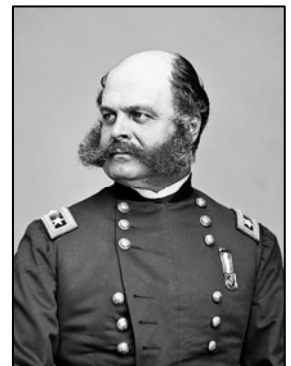
Considering the trying and difficult circumstances facing the medical corps during the war, the mortality rate of 14% was the best in the world. Although the Civil War occurred at time when the many things we take for granted today were not available (i.e., antibiotics, diagnostic tools, labs, x-rays, blood transfusions, etc.), medical corps personnel did their best in the face of overwhelming odds while rapidly advancing medical knowledge.

#### **QUIZ: The questions involve Dan Sickles.**

1. Which notorious “*Political*” General served as a political sponsor and mentor for the young Dan Sickles?
2. Who were the attorneys leading Sickles defense in his murder trial? What was legally significant about the result of the trial?
3. What did Sickles do as the Secretary of the American delegation in Great Britain that raised eyebrows?
4. During the battle of Chancellorsville, what incorrect information did General Sickles send to General Hooker?
5. Why did General Sickles dispute General Meade’s positioning of the III Corps at the Battle of Gettysburg?

**MRRT Minutes for November 25, 2013:** The **Call to Order** was at 6:50 pm. The Pledge was dedicated to Larry’s father, Rayford Hathcock, who died on Veterans Day, Nov 11. **Introduction of Guests and New Members:** Joyce and George Kopp. **Trip Report:** Several people told us this was the best trip yet....going to be hard to beat next year. One of the highlights mentioned was the H. L. Hunley. **Items of Interest:** Chuck recently read a letter from Gen. Sickles’s secretary, signed by Simon Cameron, from Sec. Seward on Michigan matters. David Manchester’s book, *Joseph K. Manchester Northern Son in the South, 1861-1863*, is available. If anyone is interested, contact Mollie or pick up an order form at the front. **Old Business:** The vote was even on whether we should continue to have coffee at the start of the meeting or go back to a mid-meeting break. The **Minutes for September 30, 2013** were approved.

**Civil War Sesquicentennial (December 1863-January 1864):** **1 Dec:** Meade withdraws across the Rapidan River to setup winter quarters after failing to advance at Mine Run. **2 Dec:** CSA Gen Bragg resigns and Gen Hardee is appointed the interim commander of the Department of Tennessee. **3 Dec:** CSA Gen Longstreet abandons his campaign against Knoxville and withdraws his troops for winter quarters at Greenville, TN. **8 Dec:** Lincoln in his annual address to Congress announces his Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction—it is received well in the North. Northern Copperheads seize the Union merchant ship the *Chesapeake* near Cape Cod. The Union navy chases and recaptures it off the coast of Nova Scotia. **9 Dec:** Gen Burnside, at his request, is relieved of command at





Knoxville and is replaced by Major General Foster. Burnside’s leadership has been roundly criticized and it’s said *“that it is to his discredit that he is a poor commander and to his credit that he knows it.”* **11 Dec:** At Ft Sumter, a Union shell strikes a powder magazine resulting in 11 killed and 41 wounded, however, the fort continues to hold-out. **14 Dec:** Half-sister to Mary Todd Lincoln, Emilie T. Helm, widow of CSA Gen BH Helm (killed at Chickamauga), is given amnesty by Lincoln after swearing allegiance to the Union. **16 Dec:** Jefferson Davis appoints Gen JE Johnston as the permanent commander of the Department of Tennessee and Gen Polk as commander of the Army of Mississippi. **31 Dec:** The Virginia Examiner observes the Confederate cause *“Today closes the gloomiest year of our struggle.”*

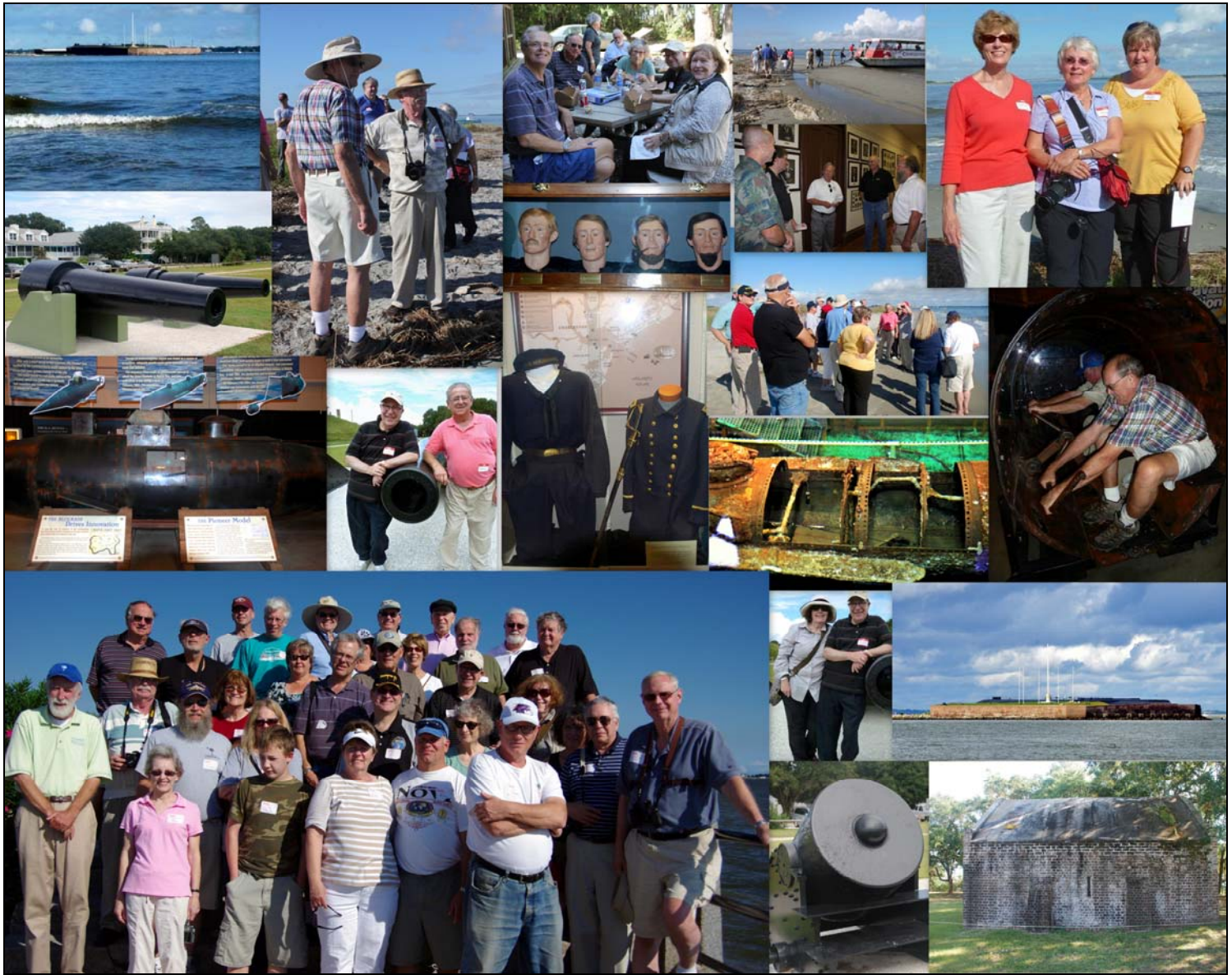
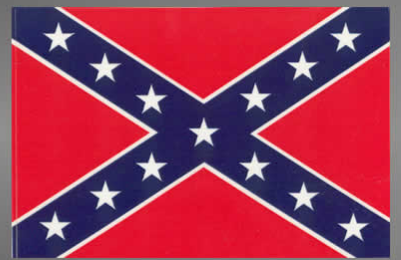
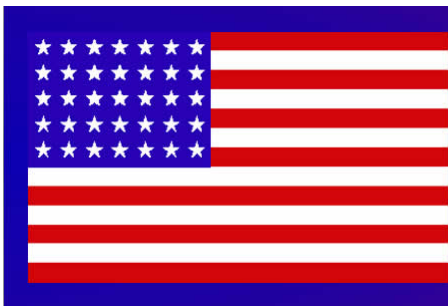
**4 Jan:** Jefferson Davis authorizes Gen Lee to commandeer food supplies from an already suffering Virginian populace. **6 Jan:** Union Col ‘Kit’ Carson traps Navajo Indians in the Canyon de Chelly, New Mexico Territories. These Indians will be forced on a 300-mile *“Long Walk”* to Fort Summer, New Mexico. **7 Jan:** Although military desertions are a problem for both armies, Lincoln commutes the death sentence of Henry Andrews for desertion by commenting, *“I did this, not on any merit in the case, but because I am trying to evade the butchering business lately.”* **8 Jan:** Richmond embraces the return of John Morgan following his escape from an Ohioan prison. **21 Jan:** Tennessee plans to setup a constitutional convention to establish a new government and abolish slavery in accordance with Lincoln’s Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction. **23 Jan:** Lincoln approves a plan whereby freed slaves can work for pay from their former masters. **31 Jan:** Lincoln signals a softening of the Proclamation of Amnesty requirements as he advises Gen Banks in New Orleans that he’s *“at liberty to adopt any rule which shall admit to vote any unquestionably loyal free state men and none others. And yet I do wish they would all take the oath.”* For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.



**QUIZ Answers:**

1. General Ben Butler. Mr. Butler headed the law firm where Dan received his legal training. He brought Sickles into the Tammany Hall political machine and sponsored Dan’s first run for the New York state legislature.
2. The defense attorneys were John Graham and Edwin Stanton. Mr. Graham became a very prominent criminal attorney in New York City and Mr. Stanton was Secretary of War for President Lincoln. Their successful temporary insanity defense was the first time that it was used in an American murder case.
3. He took a well-known prostitute, Miss Fanny White, to a reception for Queen Victoria. Dan introduced her to the Queen as Miss Bennett of New York City.
4. General Sickles thought that the Rebels were retreating when he noticed Confederate movement that was actually part of Stonewall Jackson’s flank attack.
5. The portion of Cemetery Ridge assigned to General Sickles was at a lower elevation than adjacent territory. He desired to move his Corps to a Peach Orchard that created a salient resulting in Confederate attacks from three directions.

**Trip Report:** Thanks to contributions from Jim, Mollie and Linda we take one last look back on the 2013 Charleston trip with a photo collage.



**Note:** If you receive your newsletter by mail, the picture quality above is likely to be very poor and in b&w. The reason is the newsletter is printed to plain standard bond paper & then Xeroxed unto the MRRT letterhead in b&w. Unfortunately, picture quality suffers terribly yet the cost of an average newsletter is 80 cents—or \$8-9 a year per subscription. The email version, on the other hand, is picture perfect at zero cost to the MRRT. For those that can receive email and don't keep their newsletters, now might be a perfect time to subscribe to the email version by sending a note to [ncarver55@gmail.com](mailto:ncarver55@gmail.com).

**Mark your calendars for, Monday, January 27 to hear John Renick present “Dan Sickles, A Heroic Scoundrel”.** It’s sure to be a fun and entertaining evening. Coffee and cookies will be available at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:45 pm, Farmington Public Library. Check out our website at [www.farmlib.org/mrrt/](http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/).