

The MRRT is now in its 55th year. Show your support for continuing this roundtable and renew your membership for \$20—\$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Don Kadar and can be mailed to his home at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178; or simply brought to the meeting and given to Don or Jeanie Graham. Cash is also welcomed.

February Meeting Note: After a lapse of many years, our AUCTION returns to raise money for the roundtable. Bring items from your Civil War collection for us to bid on!

On MONDAY, January 26, the MRRT welcomes long time member, Ken Baumann, who will speak on “Fort Powell and the Battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864”. The Battle of Mobile Bay was crucial to the Union war effort. Prior to the battle, Mobile was the last important port on the Gulf of Mexico remaining in Confederate control. Capture of the port completed the Union blockade of the region. The Battles of Atlanta (September 1864) and Mobile Bay helped ensure the re-election of Abraham Lincoln. Ken’s presentation is sure to be informative and entertaining on this infrequently discussed but crucial battle.



Ken has been a member of the MRRT for over 40 years, serving three terms as our President. He has spoken to us on several topics over the years. A major hobby for Ken is the study and restoration of cannon and military vehicles from 1845-1945. Ken is the author of “*Arming the Suckers 1861-1865: A Compilation of Illinois Civil War Weapons*”, published in 1988. His second book is near completion. Ken has a horticultural degree from the University of Illinois.

The Roundtable would like to thank long-time member Bill Seger for his presentation “Little Round Top, Fact or Fallacy?” Most of us have read multiple books discussing the Battle of Gettysburg in detail. These books have depicted the battle for Little Round Top as the key moment of the battle and maybe of the entire war. According to most of these books, a Confederate victory on Little Round Top would have forced the Union Army to retreat from Gettysburg in disarray. Fortunately for the Union cause, General Warren and Colonel Joshua Chamberlain’s 20th Maine heroically came to Round Top just in time to save the day.



Bill does not agree with this depiction of the battle. His study of the battle, both on the scene and in the written documents, reached the conclusion that the Union Army would still have won the battle even if the Confederates had initially captured the Round Top.

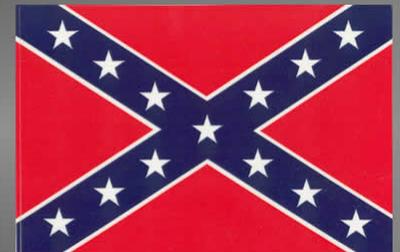
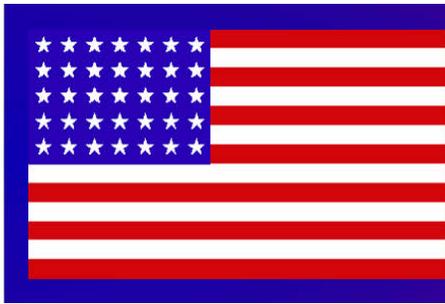
Strong Union reinforcements, over 11,000 men from the VI Corps, and batteries for counter battery fire, were within a short distance of Round Top. Meanwhile, the Confederates had few, if any, reinforcements, and little artillery within striking distance of the Round Top. A Union counterattack would have outnumbered the Confederates by a large margin.

Bill’s conclusion is that the Union Army would have won the Battle of Little Round Top, even with an initial Confederate victory on Little Round Top.

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Quiz Questions: This month’s questions and answers pertain to the Battle of Mobile Bay:

- Which Union Army general made a major contribution in helping to save the army at the Battle of Chickamauga and was involved at Mobile Bay?
- Which Confederate personality was involved at both Norfolk, Virginia and Mobile Bay?
- What was unusual about the fort on Ship’s Island?
- Which celebration did New Orleans copy from Mobile?



- Which famous Confederate has a monument dedicated to him (including a large cannon from Fort Powell) in downtown Mobile?

Odds & Ends:

- **2015 field trip:** Jeanie, Linda and Mollie are asking for trip ideas so the planning for 2015 can begin. Come to the meeting with recommendations. Where would you like to go this year? For a refresher, our last 10 trips:

2005: Antietam & Harpers Ferry	2010: Wilderness & Spotsylvania
2006: Franklin, Spring Hill & Nashville	2011: Springfield & New Salem
2007: Gettysburg	2012: First & Second Bull Run
2008: Grant's Vicksburg Campaign	2013: Charleston, SC
2009: Fredericksburg & Chancellorsville	2014: Grant's Road to Victory - Five Forks to Appomattox

- **Elections:** January is the traditional month every couple years to look at leadership change. If you're interested in running for one of the elective offices (e.g., President, Secretary), let your voices be known.
- **Newsletter:** The editor and postmaster (Norm Carver) will be moving to the far side of the state this coming May and will no longer be able to attend meetings. At present, Norm & Jim Burroughs (also the Program Coordinator) co-write the newsletter. We (make that Jim) **would like to get a volunteer or two** to help with the writing and distribution. If interested, see Norm (ncarver55@gmail.com) or Jim (jwburrough@aol.com) at the meeting or send us an e-mail.
- **Web Report:** The 2015 schedule is now on our website as are select pictures of the recent trip to Virginia. In addition, newsletters on the site go back to January 2001! Check it out at <http://history.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.

Minutes for July 21, 2014: The **Call to Order** was at 6:40 pm. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Charles Reid, Jeanie Graham's grandfather, who died November 1864 at Camp Lawton, Millen, GA, after leaving Andersonville prison.

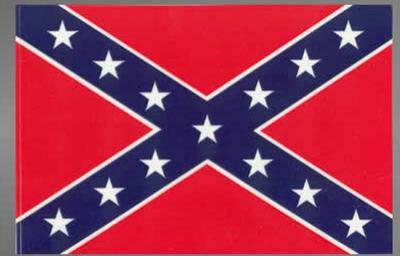
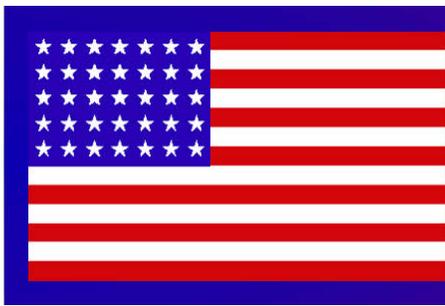
Introduction of Guests and New Members: David Stoddard became a member—he found us from our website.

Newsletter Report: Bob read from the Indianapolis Hardtack, Cleveland Charger and the NYC Dispatch. **Trip Report:** We had a great trip to Appomattox with Scott Patchan, good weather, and an excellent group dinner. We ended up spending less than expected for entrance to Pamplin Park and lower transportation costs from Scott. The \$125 excess was donated to Sailors Creek. **Items of Interest:** 1- Gene brought in a bag of Civil War books, asking \$3 each with the proceeds going to Northville Civic Concern. Gene also had the privilege of playing with a band at Gettysburg's Little Round Top at sunset. He reports that a wonderful bugler played taps over the valley. 2- The Michigan Antique Arms show is this weekend at Suburban Showcase in Novi. 3- The Annual Victorian Open House is Sun Dec 7, 1-5 pm, at Pine Grove. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family and includes a tour of Governor Wisner's house. Larry will give a short talk. **Old Business:** George disputed some of things said at the October meeting and a discussion ensued on the topic of racism. **Secretary's Report:** The September report was neither included in the November newsletter nor available at the meeting.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (December 1864/January 1865):

6 Dec: Gen Grant sends a direct order to his commander in the Western Theatre, Gen Thomas, telling him to "*attack Hood at once.*" Thomas demurs because of weather and between this interlude and the actual attack mid-Dec, Gen Grant considers replacing him. **7 Dec:** BG Robert Milroy's two brigades battle troops commanded by CSA Nathan Forrest near Murfreesboro, TN. The day belonged to Milroy; Forrest's men flee the field, losing 14 guns and 200 men





captured. **12 Dec:** Gen Sherman and his 60,000 troops arrive south of Savannah and prepare for a siege of the city. **13 Dec:** Sherman's troops storm and capture Fort McAllister, GA, opening up communications and supply lines. **15-16 Dec:** Gen Thomas's combined army attacks Hood's depleted Army of Tennessee, routes it in the Battle of Nashville, and sends it in retreat to Tupelo, MS. CSA Hood resigns shortly thereafter. This battle effectively marks the end of the Army of Tennessee's fighting capacity. **18 Dec:** Lincoln issues a call for 300,000 additional troops. **19 Dec:** While operating in the Shenandoah Valley, Sheridan dispatches Alfred Torbert with 8,000 men to interrupt the Virginia Central Railroad. They meet strong Confederate resistance and withdraw by the 23rd. **20-21 Dec:** Fearing being surrounded, CSA Hardee evacuates Savannah and Sherman's troops move into the city. Sherman sends Lincoln a message, "*I beg to present you as*



a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah." **24-27 Dec:** A naval armada under Porter and troops under Butler begin a combined attack on Fort Fisher near Smithville, NC. The goal is to close the last remaining port available to confederate blockade runners. Butler lands his troops for an assault on the fort but having been met by fierce opposition, believes that the battle would be too costly and withdraws all troops by 27th in direct violation of his orders from Grant. **7 Jan:** Fresh on the heels of the failed Fort Fisher campaign, Lincoln and Grant assess the "*gross and culpable failure*" to Benjamin Butler; and on this day the political expediency of retaining him no longer outweighs the risk of his dismissal; he is relieved of command. **11 Jan:** CSA Thomas Rosser

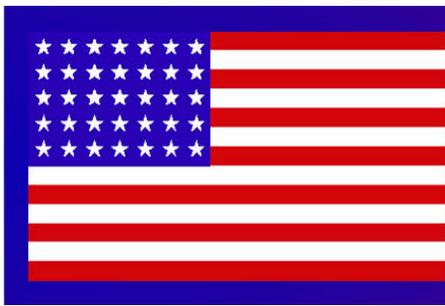
leads his cavalry troops on a daring raid against Union forces at Beverly, WV. The raid nets the Confederate commander 583 prisoners and 25 Federal casualties. **13 Jan:** A second assault against Fort Fisher begins. Again, the naval armada is led by Admiral Porter but the ground troops are now commanded by Gen Alfred Terry. The fort has been reinforced and is now defended by troops commanded by CSA Braxton Bragg. **15 Jan:** The battle of Fort Fisher comes to an end by a combined forces operation with heavy naval bombardment; a marine and sailor led attack by sea; troops under Terry attacking Fisher from the northwest; and the remaining troops under Terry blocking CSA Bragg's forces from interfering. Bragg is heavily criticized for failing to come to Fort Fisher's defense. **19 Jan:** Robert E Lee assumes the position of general in chief of all armies of the Confederacy. **31 Jan:** The House of Representatives, following the Senate's earlier passage, pass on a vote of 119 to 56 the proposed constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. The amendment must now go to the states and be ratified by three-fourths of them before it will become part of the Constitution.

Visit seekingmichigan.org/civil-war for Michigan events.

Quiz Answers:

1. Major General Gordon Granger
2. Admiral Franklin Buchanan
3. The Fort located on Ship's Island protected the Mississippi Sound channel with its main armament pointed toward the shore instead of the sea.
4. The Mardi Gras
5. Native son Rear Admiral Raphael Semmes, Captain of the CSS Alabama

Come out January 26 to hear Ken Baumann discuss the *Battle of Mobile Bay* at the Farmington Community Library. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.



MRRT group photo in front of the Amelia County Confederate Memorial.



2015 Speakers For Michigan Regimental Roundtable

Month	Speaker	Topic
January 26, 2015	Ken Baumann - MRRT member	Fort Powell and the Battle of Mobile Bay
February 23, 2015	Auction	
March 30, 2015	William Christen - Warren, MI	17th Michigan Photograph
April 27, 2015	Mark Hoffman - Mason, MI	A Michigan Soldiers' Civil War Journal
May 18, 2015	Michael Gillette - Westland, MI	Chaplains in the Civil War
June 29, 2015	Dave Pettigrove - 5th Regimental Band	Bugling in the Civil War (including a bugling demonstration)
July 20, 2015	Ron Cleveland & Larry Jackson - Members	Adventures in Civil War Relic Hunting
August 31, 2015	Jeff Glass - MRRT member	John Bull & the Yankees - British/U.S. Relations before and during the Civil War
September 28, 2015	Bee Friedlander - MRRT member	Animals and the Civil War
October 2015	Field Trip	TBD
November 30, 2015	John Moore - MRRT member	Civil War Economics
December 2015	Happy Holidays!	