

MEMBER RENEWAL

The MRRT begins its 57th year this month – and this month is a great time to show your support by renewing your membership (or becoming a new member!). Membership remains \$20 a year – or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Treasurer Jeanie Graham (the bank does not like checks made out to the RoundTable) and can be mailed to her home at [29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326](mailto:29835@northbrook.com); or simply bought to the meeting and given to Jeanie. Cash is always welcomed.

Our Monday, January 30, 2017 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library with returning speaker Mike Gillett discussing “Thomas Nast and Civil War Cartoonists”. Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

We will be electing a new President, Vice-President and Secretary at our January meeting!

Our January meeting will begin the process of selecting our 2017 trip destination. Please bring your ideas for our consideration. Voting will begin during the February 27, 2017 meeting, with the final vote probably occurring at the March 27, 2017 meeting.

Recent field trips include: 2001-Richmond 7 Days 2002-Shiloh, 2003 – Shenandoah Valley-1864, 2004-Chattanooga and Chickamauga, 2005-Antietam and Harpers’ Ferry, 2006-Franklin and Nashville, 2007-Gettysburg, 2008-Vicksburg, 2009-Chancellorsville & Fredericksburg, 2010-Wilderness and Spotsylvania, 2011-Springfield, Illinois, 2012-1st and 2nd Bull Run, 2013-Charleston, SC, 2014-Appomattox, 2015-Perryville, and 2016-Antietam and Harper’s Ferry.

The Roundtable welcomes back Michael Gillett, who will speak on “Thomas Nast and Civil War Cartoonists.

Political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was one of the heroes of the Civil War. President Lincoln praised Mr. Nast as the North’s “*best recruiting sergeant.*” Thomas Nast raised the political cartoon to an art form, while working for *Harper’s Weekly* during the war. Wartime press coverage included portraits, political cartoons, and other illustrations featured in weekly newsletters. The 1864 election received extensive coverage from the newsletters.

Michael is a retired minister who previously spoke to our group on Civil War Chaplains. He has been a Civil War reenactor for over 10 years, portraying a Union chaplain. He is a member of both the 4th Michigan and 21st Michigan (President Emeritus). Michael has spoken at grave dedications for Civil War veterans, often with descendants present. He is one of Santa’s helpers during the Christmas season.



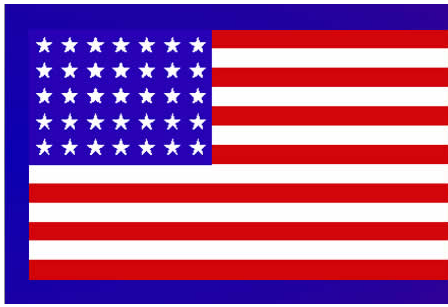
The Roundtable would like to thank Gary Rembisz for his informative and entertaining presentation on “Black



Feathers in Black Hats – The 24th Michigan Infantry”. The 24th was formed after a rally for troops in Detroit became a riot because of the proposed Northern soldier draft. Colonel Henry Morrow led 1,037 men east to Washington on August 29, 1862. The 24th Michigan was also called the Wayne County regiment because 428 men were from Detroit and other men were from Wayne County communities, including Plymouth. Farmers comprised approximately 40% of the soldiers. The regiment’s average age was 25 years old.

The soldier’s diet usually consisted of three items; hardtack, canned coffee, and salt pork. Each soldier carried a knapsack that included combs, candles, fork, spoon, soap, the Holy Bible and a razor. During the war, Union soldiers were better equipped and fed than the Confederates.

The 24th was assigned to the Iron Brigade of the Army of the Potomac in October 1862. The



Iron Brigade was designated as the 1st Brigade, 1st Division of the 1st Corps. The regiment's first battle as part of the Iron Brigade was the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. The soldiers performed the manual of arms to remain clam during the bloody defeat. The regiment incurred 36 casualties. Shortly thereafter, the 24th participated in the Mud March. The remainder of the Iron Brigade initially thought that the men of the 24th were bounty men, which was not true. **Just before the great Battle of Gettysburg the 24th received the "official" Iron Brigade uniform. During the fighting on July 1, 1863 the regiment flanked the 13th Alabama and drove it back.** General Archer was captured, the first Confederate general captured. The regiment made three stands in the woods that day, and retreated into the Gettysburg town square. The regiment moved to Cemetery Ridge for "safety".

Colonel Morrow was captured by the Confederates on July 1st. He told the Confederate Corps commander, General Ewell, that "the 24th Michigan had come to fight, not surrender".

The 24th Michigan had 496 men go into battle on the morning of July 1, 1863. Only 99 answered the roll call on July 2nd, an 80% casualty rate. Captain Edwards was the highest ranking surviving officer. He led the regiment on Culp's Hill during the remainder of the battle.

The regiment participated in the 1864 Overland campaign. Just before the Battle of the Wilderness the regiment received 216 raw recruits. During the battle, the Confederate Stonewall Brigade got behind the 24th resulting in the regiment's running for the first time during the war. The 24th made two charges at Laurel Hill during the Spotsylvania Court House battle. Only 149 men were left after the battle. No member of the 24th received the Congressional Medal of Honor during the entire war.

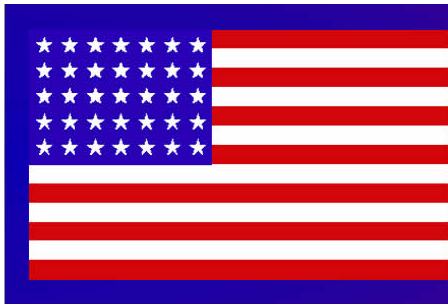
The 24th Michigan was the Honor Guard for President Lincoln's funeral in 1865. The regiment was guarding bounty men at Camp Butler, only 20 miles away.

The 24th mustered out in Detroit on June 28, 1865. The regiment captured two Confederate flags while losing none. Returning home, there were less than 200 men and only 6 officers present.

MRRT Minutes for November 28, 2016: Call to Order 6:50 pm, about 20 present for business meeting **Pledge** Dedicated to the military personnel killed at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, 75 years ago. **Introduction of Guests and New Members** None **Treasurer's Report** \$500 of the money left over from the Antietam trip will be kept for startup money in 2017. The remainder will be used for preservation efforts. Jeanie Graham has concerns regarding the future of our treasury. Our membership has declined to only 60 paid in 2016, while our preservation donations have increased. Don Kadar has donated two boxes of books with the money collected to be used by the Roundtable. Our speaker, Gary Rembisz, donated tonight's sales of his book to the Roundtable. **Secretary's Report** accepted **Preservation** No update **Newsletters** No update **Website** Updated monthly **Trip** The trip committee will be taking suggestions at the January 2017 meeting. A vote to narrow the choices will be in February with the final vote at the March meeting. **Program** Jim has completed the 2017 program. **Items of Interest** Bee Friedlander enjoyed the book Capital Dames by Cokie Roberts. Ms. Roberts discussed how women shaped Washington society from 1848 to 1868 and influenced history. Ken Baumann celebrated his 75th birthday at Shiloh, helping to pull a 20 pound Parrott gun set up the hill from the landing. **New Business** It's time for new officers and new blood! Mollie wants to retire after 14 great years as our Secretary. Wayne Smith has been President for two years and Jeanie Graham has 4 jobs with the Roundtable. **Old Business** None

Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to "Thomas Nast and Civil War Cartoonists".

1. How did Thomas Nast connect Santa Claus to the Civil War?
2. Name 3 of the 5 well-known figures created or popularized by Thomas Nast that are still in use today?
3. Which newspapers did Thomas Nast work for?
4. What made it easier for newspapers to incorporate editorial cartoons in their publications?
5. Who was probably depicted most frequently in the political cartoons of the Civil War era?



Civil War Essentials – Drummer Boys Civil War drummers were younger than their Revolutionary counterparts. Drummers were used on both sides during the American Revolution. During the Civil War, the drummers were younger and significantly more advanced in playing the drum than their Revolutionary counterparts.

How was a young boy able to enlist in the Union or Confederate army? The easiest way was to lie about their age to the recruitment officer. Sometimes, the officer would let them in to meet his recruitment quota. Ministers would encourage enlistment because the regiment was led by “*Christian gentlemen*”. Schoolteachers also encouraged enlistment. Even fathers would help their sons enlist, especially if both of them would be in the same regiment. The last resort was to run away from home.



Once enlisted, the boys encountered other issues. Homesickness was a common problem. “*The one solid and reliable thing they knew-their families-had been left behind*”. **Another concern was finding a uniform that fit.** It was very difficult to find smaller sized uniforms, much less replace them. Socks and shoes were hard to find in the correct size. **The young men were exposed to the adult vices of alcohol, gambling, prostitution, and tobacco.**

The drummer had to learn variations of the 26 rudiments. The long roll signified attack. Assembly was a series of flams. Other requirements included the double stroke roll, paradiddles, flamadiddles, flam accents, flamacues, single and

double rolls, and sextuplets. The vast majority of drummers learned on the field. The most popular textbook was Bruce and Emmett’s 1862 The Drummers’ and Fifers’ Guide.

The major concern for the drummer boys was participating in battle. One boy described his experience at the Battle of Shiloh, “*As we lay there and the shells were flying over us, my thoughts went back to my home...I would have been glad to see my father coming after me*”.

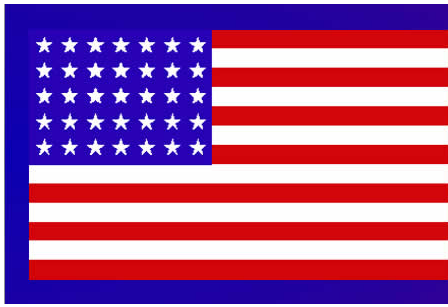
Several Civil War drummer boys became well known. The youngest soldier to win the Medal of Honor was 12 year old drummer boy Willie Johnston of the 3rd Vermont Infantry. During the Union retreat in the 1862 Peninsula Campaign he was the only drummer in his division to keep his drum during a general rout. Numerous soldiers threw away their guns. The division commander recommended Willie for the Medal of Honor which was bestowed by Secretary of War Stanton on September 16, 1863. **Today, Willie remains the youngest recipient of the Medal of Honor.**

The drum would be replaced by the bugle as the years went by after the war.

Today a Civil War drum in good condition may sell for as much as \$7,500.

Quiz Answers:

1. Thomas Nast first depicted Santa Claus as dressed in a suit of stars and stripes while distributing presents in the field to Union soldiers in late 1862. He later created the version of Santa Claus that we love today.
2. Thomas Nast created the Republican elephant, the Tammany Hall tiger, Joh Bull (England), and Uncle Sam. He popularized the Democrat donkey, Uncle Sam and Columbia.
3. Mr. Nast worked for *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* from 1855-1862, then joined the prestigious *Harper’s Weekly* from 1862-1886.
4. During the 1850’s print technology improvements allowed newspapers to print detailed woodcut drawings. Previously, newspapers used simple, clip art-like illustrations.
5. The two Presidents, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. Uncle Sam was depicted numerous times. An official count is not available.



2017 Speakers For Michigan Regimental Roundtable (MRRT)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 30, 2017	Michael Gillett - Westland, MI	Thomas Nast and Civil War Cartoonists
February 27, 2017	William Christen - MRRT member	The Curtis Brothers of Connecticut
March 27, 2017	Dr. C. David Stoddard - MRRT member	Red River Campaign
April 24, 2017	Peter Gaudet - MRRT member	Photography at Gettysburg - Then and Now
May 22, 2017	John Simmons - Grand Rapids, MI	Gettysburg: The Civilian Viewpoint - Part 2
June 26, 2017	Dr. Roger Rosentreter - Michigan State History Professor	Claude, Sophia, and the Eighth Michigan Go to War
July 17, 2017	World-Famous Auction!	
August 28, 2017	Ron Carley - Lincoln Presenter Plymouth, MI	Abraham Lincoln
September 25, 2107	Larry Hathcock - MRRT member	The Last Confederate Soldier
October 2017	Annual Field Trip	
November 27, 2017	Dr. Gerald Turlo-Wayne State	TBD-Civil War Medicine

