



MEMBER RENEWAL

The MRRT celebrates its 58th year in 2018 – and this month is a great time to show your support by renewing your membership! (Or become 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 29, 2018 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library. Member Jeff Glass will speak on the almost forgotten “Sultana Disaster”.

Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

Member Brian Mayer’s nephew (Tim Mayer) was selected as a referee for the Men’s Ice Hockey Tournament at the February Winter Olympics in South Korea!

We are looking for a member(s) to become coffee sergeant, effective with the January 2018 meeting.

Our January 2018 meeting will begin the process of selecting our 2018 trip destination. Please bring your ideas for our consideration. Voting will start during the February 26th meeting with the final vote probably occurring at the March 26th meeting.

Recent field trips include: 2001-Richmond 7 Days, 2002-Shiloh, 2003-Shenandoah Valley-1864, 2004-Chattanooga and Chickamauga, 2005-Antietam & Harper’s Ferry, 2006-Franklin and Nashville, 2007-Gettysburg, 2008-Vicksburg, 2009-Chancesville & Fredericksburg, 2010-Wilderness & Spotsylvania, 2011-Springfield, 2012- 1st and 2nd Bull Run, 2013-Charleston, SC, 2014-Appomattox, 2015-Perryville, 2016-Antietam & Harper’s Ferry, 2017-Shiloh

The Roundtable welcomes back member Jeff Glass, who will speak on “The Sultana Disaster “at our Monday, January 29, 2018 meeting. The *Sultana* left Memphis, Tennessee on April 27, 1865 crowded with recently released Union prisoners of war. Suddenly, the *Sultana* exploded, “*The blast nearly cut the Sultana in two, soldiers and wreckage were hurled into the darkness, and hundreds of men were killed by the explosion, hundreds more scalded to death by escaping steam.*” The explosion was especially tragic as these victims had survived prison camp. **Jeff will review the circumstances of the greatest loss in U.S. maritime history as well as why this disaster is seldom remembered today.**

Jeff is enjoying retirement from the auto industry. He grew up in the Pittsburgh area and earned degrees from Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh. He is a Vietnam veteran from 1966-1968. He and his wife have two children and three grandchildren.



The Roundtable would like to thank Dr. Gerald E. Turlo, M.D., for his different and interesting presentation on “Alternative Medicine Homeopathy in the Victorian Age – A Medical Civil War”.

Medical treatment before the Civil War

During the 19th Century most people lived in small towns or on farms. **Limited sanitation resulted in frequent epidemics of various diseases, including cholera. The medical profession treated symptoms, not the root causes of illness.** There was minimal understanding of how diseases were transmitted to people. The common belief was that bad



air caused sickness. This time was known as the “Golden Age of Quackery” with many “doctors” just trying to make money.

Few preventive therapies and effective disease treatments existed. For example, the only preventative vaccine was for smallpox. Many doctors realized that fresh fruits and vegetables prevented scurvy. Fortunately, bleeding was no longer used.

Medical education was for only two years. Future doctors attended lectures, gaining very little, if any, surgical experience. This situation created problems treating wounded men during the Civil War.

Development of Alternative Medicine

Alternative medicine began before the Civil War as a reaction to the unscientific therapies of traditional medicine. Alternative medicine emphasized patient care based on the idea that illness derived from toxins in the body. One medical philosophy was

created by Samuel Thomson, a father of herbal medicine. He began to use herbs after a bad experience with traditional medicine. His patient treatment philosophy was to reopen body pathways to eliminate disease.

Mr. Thomson’s influence declined because there was a lack of science and research in his practice. During the Civil War, the U.S. Army Medical Corps and Sanitary Commission required education and experience to be a doctor and surgeon.

The development of alternative medicine resulted in a “Medical Civil War” between traditional and alternative medicine. Competition for patients resulted in most states developing licensing regulations. One result was that during the 1850’s the “Era of Patent Medicines” began.

Homeopathic Medicine

Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, M.D., developed another ‘alternative medicine’, the homeopathic medicine movement. His philosophy was to treat the whole person with diet, exercise, and medicine. He manufactured his own medicines, derived from plants and animals. He tried to achieve equilibrium between the mind and body.

Dr. Hahnemann came to the United States from Europe in 1825. His treatments spread rapidly, with the first homeopathic school opening in 1836. Patients lived longer than with traditional medicine, resulting in a 10% reduction in life insurance costs. Eventually, 22 colleges and 100 hospitals with trained nurses were created. The first women to attend medical college were homeopathic. The American Institute of Homeopathy, founded in 1844, still exists today.

During the Civil War, U.S. Surgeon General Joseph Barnes (1864-1865) was a homeopathic doctor. He attended the death bed of President Lincoln and helped Secretary Seward recover from his attack by Lewis Powell.

The American Medical Association (AMA) was formed in 1848 to fight homeopathic medicine. By 1871 all homeopathic doctors were expelled from the AMA. As a result, the homeopathic doctors had to set up their own licensing procedures.

Homeopathic medicine declined during the early 1900’s. By 1923, only two homeopathic schools remained. Traditional medicine had incorporated many homeopathic practices through the years.

MRRT Minutes for November 27, 2017: Call to Order 6:40 pm, about 25 present for business meeting. More came for the speaker **Pledge Dedicated to Carroll Tietz, long-time member and treasurer who died recently **Introduction of Guests and New Members** Dorothy Chateau has returned! She brought her daughter Jeannie Hagen **Treasurer’s Report** Trip lunch money returned to Roundtable will be donated to the Friends of Shiloh. Dues remain at \$20 for 2018. **Secretary’s Report** Accepted **Preservation** Civil War Trust is saving over 1,056 acres at Corinth, MS, Champion’s Hill, MS, Prairie Grove, AK, Brice’s Cross Roads, MS, Monocracy, MD, Deep Bottom, VA and Cedar Creek, VA at a \$14.10 to \$1 match. The CWT is also working on 140 acres at Kelly’s Ford, VA and Manassas, VA with a \$5.77 to \$1 match.**



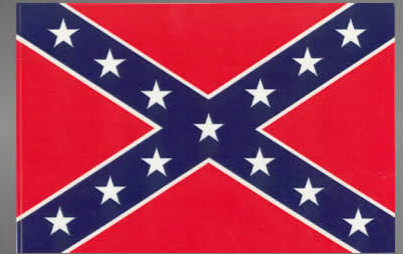
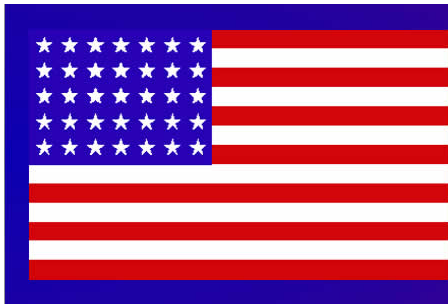
Joe Epstein asked for and received \$100 for each of the two projects. **Newsletters** Bob read from the Indianapolis Hardtack, the Cleveland Charger, the NYC Hardtack, Toledo Minie Bulletin and the Cincinnati Canister **Website** No change **Trip Report** the Shiloh trip was another success due to our excellent guide, Keith Willingham. He would like to take us around again and this time spends some time at night to fully enjoy the atmosphere. We have found our best guides through member contacts (thanks, Ken!). **Program** Jim has found 2018 speakers for every month except June. **Items of Interest** David Stoddard traveled again, this time to Atlanta and Chattanooga, with a lot of hiking at Chickamauga. **New Business** None **Old Business** None

Quiz Questions: This month’s questions and answers pertain to the Sultana disaster.

1. What two key Civil War events took place the day before the Sultana tragedy?
2. From which riverside city did the Sultana pick up its load of paroled prisoners?
3. What unusual “pet” was on the Sultana on April 27, 1865?
4. From which two Confederate prisons did most of the Union prisoners come from?
5. True or false – there were more deaths from the Titanic sinking than from the Sultana sinking.

MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL ROUNDTABLE 2018 SPEAKERS

<u>Month</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 29, 2018	Jeff Glass - MRRT member	The Sultana Disaster
February 26, 2018	Ron Carley - Professional Lincoln Presenter	Abraham Lincoln
March 26, 2018	Peter Gaudet - MRRT member	Gettysburg Photography: Then and Now
April 30, 2018	Bill Grandstaff - Isreal Richardson Roundtable	TBD
May 21, 2018	David Collins, Norm Sauer	Photograph - Gettysburg Sharpshooter
June 25, 2018	David Bastion - Illinois	General Grant's Canal
July 16, 2018	Show and Tell	
August 27, 2018	Mark Laubacher - Ohio	A Surgeon's Life Aboard the USS Monitor
September 24, 2018	David Ingall - Temperance, MI	The Battle of the Little Bighorn
October 2018	Field Trip -TBD	
November 26, 2018	Shayne Davidson - Ann Arbor, MI	Civil War Soldiers – Drawings And Biographies



Civil War Essentials – Lawyer in Blue Stanley Matthews (1824-1899) and well-known Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. were Union soldiers who served as Associate Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, after the Civil War.

Stanley Matthews was born in Ohio and graduated from Kenyon College (Ohio) in 1840, only 16 years old. He became a very successful lawyer, practicing in both Tennessee and Cincinnati, Ohio. He became a Republican and volunteered for the Union Army, mustering in with the future President, Rutherford B. Hayes.



During June 1861 he joined the 23rd Ohio with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. William Rosecrans was the Colonel and Rutherford Hayes the Major. The 23rd was the first three year regiment from Ohio. Private William McKinley was a member of the regiment.

The regiment was sent to the mountains of present-day West Virginia. Lieutenant Colonel Matthews often took half the regiment on detached duty in the Kanawha Valley, where Union forces were thinly deployed. He became the regiment's de facto commander when Rosecrans' successor as commander left to command a brigade.

Matthews became a Colonel and commander of the 51st Ohio in October, 1861. Rutherford Hayes said on their separation, *"It will, I fear, separate us. I shall regret that much, very much. He is a good man, of solid talent and a most excellent companion, witty, cheerful, and intelligent"*.

During 1862 the 51st Ohio operated in the Nashville, Tennessee area. By the fall, Matthews was the de facto commander of a brigade. He led the brigade at the Battle of Stones River at the end of 1862. They then spent several months in the Murfreesboro, Tennessee area.

Matthews was frequently ill, resulting in his resignation from the Army. When he left a Kentuckian said, *"... he had endeared himself to every regiment, and many of regretted his having to leave us."*

Stanley Matthews resumed his law practice in Ohio. **He served as counsel for the Hayes campaign during the disputed election of 1876. He served as a U.S. Senator (1877-1881), and then became an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1881, retiring in 1888, because of illness. He died in 1889.**

Stanley Matthews was married twice and had 8 children.

Quiz Answers:

1. The assassin John Wilkes Booth died and Joseph E. Johnston surrendered his army to W. T. Sherman.
2. Vicksburg, Mississippi
3. An alligator was a crewman's pet (it was killed so that its pen could be used as a floatation device).
4. Andersonville, Georgia and Cahaba, Alabama
5. False – at least as many died on the Sultana and almost certainly several hundred more.