

In 1861 medical school consisted of nine months of lectures. To graduate, the student attended the same lecture series for a second time. There was or no practical clinical experience. After receiving his diploma, the young doctor with money would visit clinics and hospitals in Europe for a few months to complete his education. Those without the means to travel might apprentice themselves to local practitioners. Medical schools existed to make money; if they raised their entrance requirements or flunked out students, there was less profit, so the natural consequence was to admit anyone and graduate everyone.

Were there institutions outside of the medical schools that would assure some degree of quality? The answer is a resounding, “No!” Neither the patients nor the army could look to state licensure as a measure of quality. Since the members of the medical profession themselves rarely agreed on the principal points of medical theory and practice, there was no rational way to set standards, and the states had almost totally abandoned trying to regulate or license medical practice.

We today could reasonably expect a Civil War-era physician to know at least **five things**. The first was the prevention and cure of scurvy. In 1795 the Royal Navy, based upon decades of experience, mandated the use of lime juice to prevent scurvy. The second certain area was malaria, usually called the Ague. The first cure of malaria by “Peruvian bark” was published in 1642. In 1861, the U.S. Sanitary Commission strongly recommended quinine sulfate and urged that the Secretary of War instruct the Surgeon General to place sufficient quinine in the hands of every surgeon. A third area was that of vaccination against smallpox. Edward Jenner had clarified its usage in the previous century, and decades later, vaccination, too, should have been common knowledge. Syphilis, as well, had a long history and a specific remedy—mercury—first recommended by Paracelsus in 1530. Three centuries later, even with all its toxic side effects, the salts of mercury remained the standard remedy for a disease that affected at least 80,000 Union soldiers. Finally there was the control of pain. Opium and its various derivatives had been in use for many centuries. For the specific acute pain associated with surgery, two general anesthetics were usually available: chloroform and the less widely used ether.

On **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28**—the MRRT welcomes back its friend and longtime member, **Ken Baumann**, who will present more excerpts from the unpublished memoirs of Dr. Gray, the surgeon of the 60th Illinois. This time Ken will read the doctor’s observations on the incidents pertaining to the Lincoln Assassination, as well as, Dr. Gray’s subsequent transfer to Director of an army hospital in East Tennessee. A member of the Michigan Regimental since 1971 and three times a past president, Ken has always been a welcomed speaker on a variety of subjects. Make certain you’re there!

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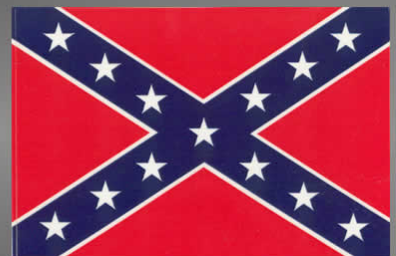
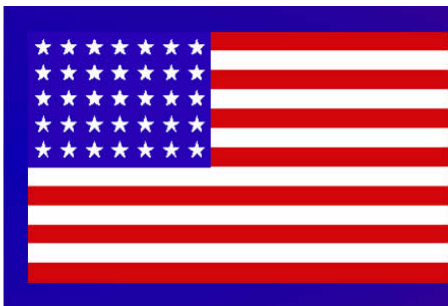
A special thank you to last month’s speaker, **Dave Ingall** as he took us “*Traveling Civil War Kentucky*.” Many saw places that they’ve never seen before, so the venture was entirely worthwhile. Everyone in the audience appeared to have a great time.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRESERVATIONISTS: For those who haven’t heard the good news, Walmart has abandoned its plans to build a supercenter on Wilderness Battlefield. It’s a huge victory and hopefully it won’t be our last.

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YEARLY DUES: It’s that time of year again. January 2011 began our new fiscal year, and what easier way to pay up your obligations than to take the envelope, write a \$20 check to Carroll Tietz, put a stamp on it and simply drop it in the



mail. That will take care of everything for the upcoming year. Carroll reports that we now have over 70 paid memberships already.

QUIZ: All questions pertain to characters in the Lincoln Assassination.....

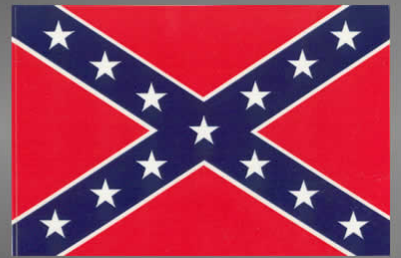
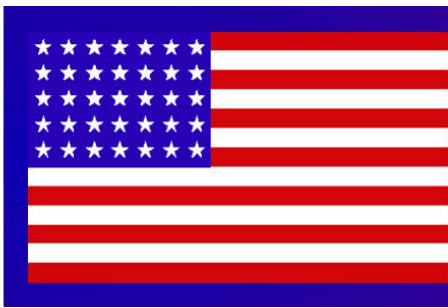
1. Who was the guard at the Navy Yard Bridge that allowed John Wilkes Booth and Davy Herold to cross into Maryland? And, nicknamed “Peanut John,” who held Booth’s getaway horse in the alley behind Ford’s Theater?
2. Who was Lincoln’s bodyguard that left his post on the night of the assassination? And, who would have normally been guarding the president that night but was in Richmond instead?
3. Which member of the 16th New York Cavalry is generally credited with killing John Wilkes Booth? And, on whose farm was Booth killed?
4. Who was the 23-year-old army surgeon that reached Lincoln shortly after his mortal wounding? And, who was renting the room in the William Petersen boarding house where Lincoln was taken to die?
5. Which major general was given command of the execution of the four condemned Lincoln conspirators? And, which Judge advocate general served as chief prosecutor in the Lincoln conspiracy trial?
6. What two people sat with Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln in the compartment at Ford’s Theater?
7. What British actress, who later held Lincoln’s bleeding head in her lap, starred in the play, “Our American Cousin”? And who was the only actor on stage, when Booth leaped from the presidential compartment?
8. Which brother-in-law of William Tecumseh Sherman defended Dr. Samuel A. Mudd? And, how close did Dr. Mudd come to a sentence of death?
9. Which two surgeons performed the autopsy on Lincoln’s body? And, which surgeon general of the U.S. performed the autopsy on Booth’s body?
10. Which captain of the 17th Michigan Infantry was known as the “hangman” of the Lincoln conspirators? And, which major general presided over the trial of the Lincoln conspirators?

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William Dorsey Pender had become a legend among Confederate fighting men before the age of thirty. Born in North Carolina, he graduated from West Point in the high-powered class of 1854. While serving against the Indians in the Northwest, he was suddenly attacked by an Indian chief. Pender had no time to draw his sword and would have been killed had he not grasped his attacker’s upraised arm, then his neck, and pinioned him. Holding the powerless Indian, he put spurs to his horse and galloped toward his men. When he reached them, he lifted the Indian “*from his horse and hurled him back among the men, who soon dispatched him.*” After serving in New Mexico and on the Pacific Coast, Pender resigned from the US. army to serve with the Confederacy as a colonel in the 3rd North Carolina Infantry. By June of 1862, he had been promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

During the Seven Days’ Battles, Pender received his first wound in the arm. At Second Manassas he was knocked down by the explosion of a shell but refused to leave the field. Because his heavy felt hat provided some protection, he received only a small cut on the top of his head. At Fredericksburg, on December 13, 1862, a bullet passed through his left arm, but no bones were broken. He continued to ride along the line with the injured limb hanging down and blood dripping from his fingers. On May 4, 1863, following the battle at Chancellorsville, Pender was hit by a spent ball while standing behind an entrenchment. The ball, which had killed an officer in front of him, produced only a slight bruise to the right arm near the shoulder. That same month Pender was promoted to major general.

William Dorsey Pender, always known as a hard hitter and his coolness under fire, was further known to his men for his boundless religious faith and his devotion to his wife, Mary, and their two sons. His luck was about to run out on July 2



at Gettysburg. Late in the afternoon while riding to the right of his division, Pender paid no attention to the explosions of the Union artillery rounds, but went down suddenly when a two-inch-square shell hit his left thigh. With the aid of some staff officers, Pender rallied his troops, but his attack was disrupted by his fall. Thinking the wound was like so many others he had suffered, Pender tried to brush off its seriousness. His attempt to remount his horse proved unsuccessful.

By July 5 Pender was in an ambulance along with the wounded Gen. Alfred M. Scales on their way for medical help at Staunton. Although the wound was serious no fears were felt that it would prove mortal. By the time Pender reached Staunton, his wound was healing nicely. However, that night the large artery in his thigh began hemorrhaging. Pender was able to staunch the bleeding by improvising a tourniquet from a towel twisted around his leg with a hairbrush. In the meantime a surgeon arrived and attempted to mend the artery. But again it broke, whereupon the physician decided to amputate the leg. Pender survived the operation on July 18 but a few hours. A.P. Hill mourned the “*irreparable loss*” of his favorite subaltern whom he considered the best officer of his grade he had ever known, In his last moments Pender proclaimed his trust in God and lack of fear in dying, his only regret being that he would leave behind his pregnant wife, Mary, and two sons. A heartbroken Mary Pender gave birth to their third son that fall. By then her husband was at rest at Calvary Church Cemetery at Tarboro, North Carolina.

Upon receiving the news, the pregnant twenty-three-year old widow closeted herself in her bedroom for three days during which her hair reputedly turned white. Refusing outside help she independently supported her boys by running a school and working as postmistress at Tarboro. Despite her success in making a new life, she could never bring herself to discuss her husband. Nor did she ever remarry, and when she died in 1922 at the age of eighty-two, she was buried beside her beloved General.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Silas T. Cobb and John Burroughs
2. John F. Parker and Ward Hill Lamon
3. Boston Corbett and Richard H. Garrett
4. Charles Augustus Leale and William T. Clark
5. Winfield Scott Hancock and Joseph Holt
6. Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris
7. Laura Keane and William Henry Hawk
8. Thomas Ewing and the commission voted 5-4 to execute; one more vote to execute and Mudd would have hanged.
9. Edward Curtis/Joseph Woodward and Joseph K. Barnes
10. Christian Rath and David Hunter

A last reminder of **Ken Baumann's** program on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28**—as Ken will present more *excerpts from the unpublished memoirs of Dr. Gray of the 60th Illinois*, especially the doctor's observations on the Lincoln assassination. The meeting, as usual, will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there.

Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.