

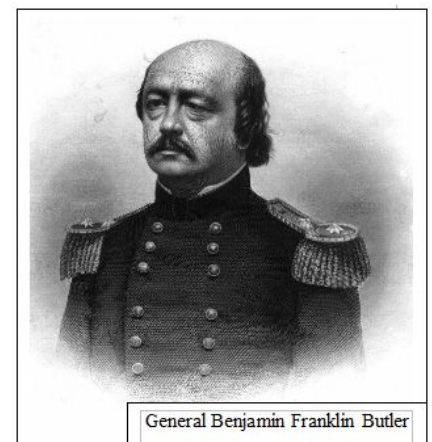
You'll find a few changes in this newsletter as we continue to streamline our monthly meeting to allow more time for our speaker as well as facilitate an earlier departure time. We began this effort last month with the inclusion of the Secretary's Report and now include the Preservation and Web Reports. An additional benefit of these inclusions is to share some of the outcomes from our meetings with those unable to attend, as well to archive this information at our website. Also new this month is a Civil War Item of Interest section. For all members at large, should you have read a new Civil War book and been impressed or not, or come across a key Civil War finding that would be of wide interest to the group; email that item with an appropriate write-up to Norm at ncarver55@comcast.net.

We're hoping to close in soon on 100% collection of the **\$20 ANNUAL DUES** and drop these reminders. If to date you have not paid, you're encouraged to do so by sending a check to our Treasurer, Don Kadar at [61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178-8966](mailto:61895FairlandDrive, SouthLyon, MI 48178-8966). Alternatively, you can bring cash or a check to the February 27 meeting and see Don or Assistant Treasurer, Jeanie Graham. An additional way you can contribute to the MRRT coffers is by subscribing to the **EMAILED NEWSLETTER**. Dependent upon number of pages, replication and mailing costs runs monthly at 70¢ to 90¢ per person. Today roughly 60% of our members receive it by email. Should you be interested; simply send a note to ncarver55@comcast.net. Word of caution, if you keepsake hardcopies, perhaps the emailed version is not for you.

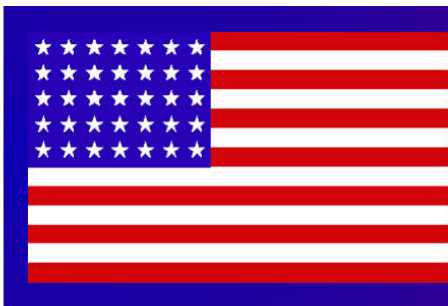
One last carryover items is the **ELECTION OF A NEW MRRT PRESIDENT**. Historically our Presidents serve roughly a two year term. Don Kadar has done so and done it well but recently he's also assumed the duties as our Treasurer, so the time is appropriately upon us to elect a new President. This is a great opportunity to give back to the group and also notch-up your own enjoyment index---it's an enjoyable, non-stressed position. If interested, see Don Kadar or Mollie Gallate prior to the start of our February 27 meeting.

ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE HUDSON MEADE, a long time MRRT member. His father, Harry Mead, was a "Polar Bear", fighting for the U.S. in the North Russian Campaign of 1918-1919. Hudson served in the U.S. Navy and subsequently earned a law degree from the University of Michigan. He practiced law for 50 years in Detroit. Hudson served as President of the Detroit Historical Society and the Michigan Historical Commission. He previously spoke to the MRRT in July 2004 on Russell Alger, his late wife Frances Alger Boyer's great-grandfather. Russell Alger was a Brevet Major General in the Union Army and a Republican governor of Michigan from 1885-1887.

Hudson's topic this month is on **GENERAL BENJAMIN BUTLER** (1818-1893). General Butler was one of the most colorful and controversial individuals involved in the Civil War. During his lifetime he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Governor of Massachusetts, and a Civil War general. General Butler was a classic "political general". He was described as fat, bald-headed, slovenly, unscrupulous, and cunning. When the war started Democrat Benjamin Butler was appointed, with no military experience, Brigadier General of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. His initial ventures, including keeping Maryland in the Union, securing Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and restoring order to New Orleans was successful because they required his substantial political skills. However, expeditions that required military skill were usually a disaster. Big Bethel, Bermuda Hundred, and Fort Fisher were all failures led by General Butler. After the war, Benjamin Butler became a politician again as a Radical Republican. He was elected to Congress and Governor of Massachusetts. You will not want to miss Hudson Mead's discussion of one of the most colorful individuals of the Civil War.



General Benjamin Franklin Butler



MRRT CONSENSUS WAS JOHN MOORE DID A “MIGHTY FINE JOB” IN HIS PRESENTATION OF THE HIGH COMMAND:

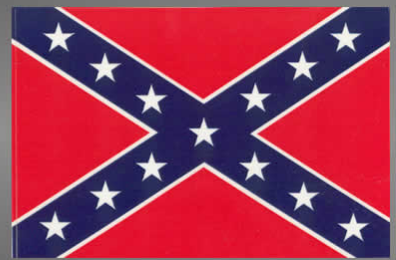
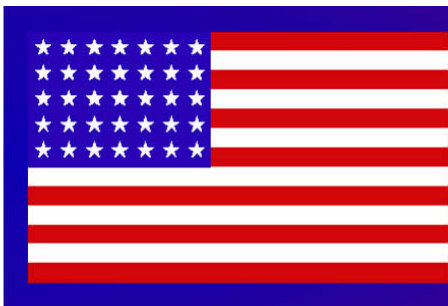
John argues against the familiar Confederate refrain for failure as “we was outnumbered” or “we was out managed”, instead looking at root issues that led to Northern success. He maintained as late as 1864 success or failure hung in the balance. John looked at ten key areas where the Union outperformed the Confederates and thereby turned the tide. These were 1) organization & logistics, 2) that politics mattered, 3) identifying & rewarding talent, 4) admitting mistakes, 5) giving second chances, 6) that some people have a wide array of talent (and it should be used), 7) that war is physically demanding, 8) that new ideas can make a big difference, 9) to have a good back office, and 10) to have a creative organization chart. By presenting contrasting examples in each of these categories, John made a compelling case for what ultimately resulted in a Union victory in the War Between the States. In summary John said the Union command demonstrated through actions to be a meritocracy, innovative and flexible whereas the Confederate command could be better characterized as aristocratic, too respectful of seniority (to the point of failure), and not being particularly innovative. As promised in the January newsletter, John presented a thoughtful and provoking presentation and we can’t wait to get him back on the docket---perhaps January 2013!



QUIZ: ALL QUESTIONS PERTAIN TO BENJAMIN BUTLER

1. Who did Benjamin Butler vote for at the 1860 Democratic National Convention in Charleston, S.C.? Also, who did he support in the 1860 general election?
2. General Butler was depicted as the most detested man in the Confederacy. Name one way dislike was expressed in New Orleans, when Butler was military governor.
3. When General Butler was the commander of Fortress Monroe in Virginia during May 1861. The day after he assumed command, the first 3 Negro slaves crossed over to Union lines. By July 1861 there were over 1,000. What term did General Butler put into use to justify not returning the escaped slaves to the Confederacy?
4. President Lincoln appointed General Butler as a Major General of Volunteers, dated May 16, 1861. How high was he ranked in the Union Army?
5. The Confederates bestowed the nickname “Beast Butler” on General Butler. What was another nickname that he had and how did he get it?

MRRT MINUTES FOR JANUARY 30, 2012: The pledge was dedicated to Jerry Maxwell. **Introduction of Guests and new Members:** Bob Bradley was introduced as a guest. **Newsletter Report:** Bob Newill read from NYC Dispatch, Cincinnati Canister, Toledo Mini Bulletin, and the Ann Arbor letter. **Preservation Report:** Joe Epstein thanked the membership for their support on the Richmond KY monument project. The funds have been raised and the dedication should occur sometime in 2012. The CWPT is attempting to raise funds for 267 acres of pristine battlefield land at Fallen Timbers, KY; 16 acres at the Mill Springs, KY battlefield; and another 121 acres at Perryville, KY. **Web Report:** The 2012 calendar is up as well as a slide show from the Springfield trip. Newsletters on the site date back to Jan 2000. **2012 Trip Report:** Nothing yet. **Program Report:** Some of Jerry’s books may be auctioned off this summer. Jerry’s book, ‘The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham’, received praise in a recent review from the Blue and Grey magazine. **Items of Interest:** Vicksburg used government money to open up the battlefield and restore it to more of its wartime look. Larry read the book Custer’s Luck and thought it was worth the dime he spent for it. **Old Business:** We need to nominate and elect a new president. **New Business:** Don wants volunteers to sign up for committees to explore changes in how we conduct our meetings, our yearly trips, activities, recruitment and the order of business. Sign up sheets will be out at the next meeting. Larry Jackson and Ron Cleveland



will take the suggestions made at this meeting for ways to honor Jerry and make a presentation at the Feb meeting for member discussion. **Secretary Report:** November 2011's report was approved.

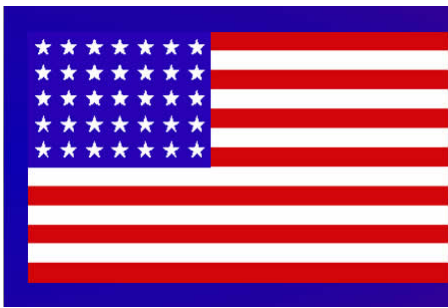
CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL (FEBRUARY 1862): On **Feb 6**, Flag Officer Foote (US) accepts Gen Tilgham's (CS) surrender at Fort Henry. On Feb 8, Gen Burnside (US) defeats Col Shaw (CS) at Roanoke Isle, NC, taking the important Atlantic coast position and dealing the Confederate cause a serious blow along the eastern seaboard. Gen Grant and naval forces move on Fort Donelson, defeating General Buckner (CS) on **Feb 16**. This action is notable for Grant's demand "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." The fall of Fort Donelson was a major Union success, ensuring that Kentucky would stay in the Union and opening up Tennessee for a Northern advance along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. In recognition, Gen (*Unconditional Surrender*) Grant is promoted to Major General of Volunteers. Willie Lincoln dies in the White House on Feb 20 after battling Typhoid for weeks. On **Feb 21**, Gen Sibley (CS) secured a victory over Col Camby at Fort Craig, New Mexico Territory. Jefferson Davis gives his inaugural address in Richmond, VA on **Feb 22** declaring "We are in arms to renew such sacrifice as our fathers made to the holy cause of constitutional liberty." For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

CIVIL WAR ESSENTIALS: This month we take a brief look at the **CAVALRY**. The base organization is the company (or troop) consisting of ~100 soldiers and was led by a Captain. The Union used squadrons early on in the war for tactical deployment composed of two companies. By 1863, the Union replaced the squadron concept and instead organized around battalions that were composed of four companies. It was found that the battalion made for a more compact column on the march and proved to be a better size to detach than a full regiment. Union regiments, led by a Colonel, were composed of 3 battalions of 4 companies each. The standard Confederate regiment had 10 companies. Anywhere from 2-6 regiments made a brigade. A Union division was normally composed of 2-3 brigades, whereas the Confederate may have had anywhere up to 6. A Corps was organized with 2-3 divisions. Like the infantry, the number of subordinate units at the higher level commands (i.e., regiments) was a function of actual, as opposed to authorized, unit strengths. Whenever possible, the cavalry was accompanied by mobile artillery. By the war's end, the Union had created 272 cavalry regiments to the Confederates' 137.



Historians nearly unanimously hold that the Confederate cavalry was superior to that of the North during the early stages of the conflict, and for many solid reasons. At the start of the war, 104 of 176 US Army cavalry officers had resigned their commissions and

fought for the South, thereby providing it a valuable competence that took the North some time to overcome. Geography also played a hand in this disparity, as the South was a much more rural environment where road and rail infrastructure was significantly less developed than in the urbanized North. This contributed significantly to the better overall horsemanship of the southern soldier compared with his northern city counterpart. At the beginning of the war, the Union had 5 US cavalry regiments; the 1-5 US Cavalry Regiments (soon augmented by a sixth). The Union proved slow adopting the enlistment and active deployment of cavalry, partially based on the belief that it took two years to train an effective cavalryman---and everyone knew the war wouldn't last that long---as well as the terrain under exiting Napoleonic tactics did not support cavalry operations. The Union's deployment of cavalry during the early stages also tended towards non-game changer missions such as pickets, guards for senior officers and messengers. This misuse of cavalry potential was corrected as the North began to recognize the value the South enjoyed with its use of cavalry in reconnaissance, raiding and other such operations. Immediately prior to the Chancellorsville Campaign, Gen Hooker organized the widely dispersed cavalry of the Army of the Potomac into a consolidated command under Gen Stoneman. By Brandy Station, June 1863, the Union cavalry was finally acknowledged to have come into its own and reach parity with the South.



CIVIL WAR ITEM OF INTEREST (BOOK REVIEW): *1861* by Adam Goodheart, 481 pages, Knopf, 2011. *1861* was named the History Book Club's Book of the Year for 2011. As one might guess, this book takes a fresh look at the first year of the war with an emphasis on the state of American society as the war began. There is minimal discussion of the 1861 battles with the prominent exception of Fort Sumter. Tony Horwitz, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and author of *Confederates in the Attic*, said “*1861* is the best book I have ever read on the start of the Civil War.” A great read on the beginning of the war (Jim Burroughs). Here are several interesting observations:

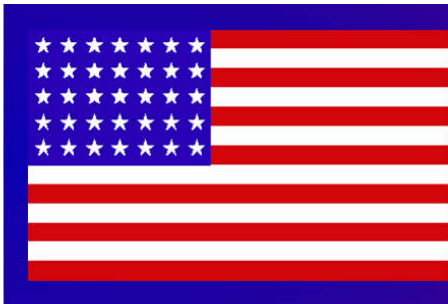
- Only 26 privates out of 16,000 in the 1861 United States Army defected to the South. However, more than 300 out of approximately 1,000 officers went south.
- Beards became very popular during the 1850's and 1860's. An observer walking through Boston in 1857 noted that 338 out of 543 men had full beards. The beard portrayed an uncompromising personality.
- The use of standard sizes for men's clothing began with wartime production for the Union Army. This was soon also used for civilians.
- The telegraph would cross the country in October 1861, thereby eliminating the Pony Express. During 1862, the Homestead Act was passed, providing 162 acres of federal land in the prairies and West to anyone willing to settle. The transcontinental railroad was started in 1863. All this while a very expensive war was being fought.
- The price of slaves fell rapidly and by mid-1861 it had fallen to ½ to 1/3 of the 1860 price.
- At the Battle of Big Bethel, Virginia “George Scott is to have a revolver”. This was the first time that a federal officer gave a gun to a black man.
- General Benjamin Butler was the commander at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. During May 1861, the first three Negroes came into the Union lines. They were allowed to stay. By July 1861, there were over 1,000.

PRESERVATION REPORT: Joe Epstein reports there are several preservation actions that merit consideration. The Civil War Trust is attempting to raise funds for: 121 Acres at Perryville, KY, the site of terrible fighting by Union's 22nd Indiana and Southern troops; a 16 acre site at Mill Springs, KY (site of CS General Zollicofer's demise); Fallen Timbers, KY, the scene of intense fighting between Sherman and Nathan Forest; and a new effort to save 77 acres at Cedar Creek. As announced earlier, the money for a marker at Richmond, KY, has been raised and will take place soon.

WEB REPORT: If you haven't had a chance previously to check out the MRRT website, not a bad time to do so---as easy as a click or two away at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/ (at least for those of you viewing this electronically). A departure from our previous practice of posting newsletters 2-3 times yearly, this year we're endeavoring to post monthly. For those of you interested, you'll find a slide show of the sights from our October 2011 Springfield/New Salem trip at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/videos/2011Springfield.wmv.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Benjamin Butler voted for Jefferson Davis, the future Confederate President, on 57 ballots at the Democrat National convention. During the 1860 presidential campaign, he supported John Breckinridge, future CS general.
2. General Butler's portrait was painted on the bottom of chamber pots.
3. Contrabands – used for the remainder of the war.
4. General Butler ranked third as a major general of volunteers. This would create problems as his lack of military skills became obvious later in the war.
5. “Spoons Butler” – General Butler was falsely accused of stealing silver spoons from the home of a rebel commander.



Don't forget our next meeting date—**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**—for **Hudson Meade's** presentation on General Benjamin (*Beast*) Butler. The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there!