



Our **membership renewal drive** is now at just over 50% of 2012 membership levels. If you have not yet renewed, and we sincerely hope you do, you can do so by either sending a check for \$20 to Don Kadar at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178; or simply by bringing in cash or a check (made out to Don) to this month's meeting.

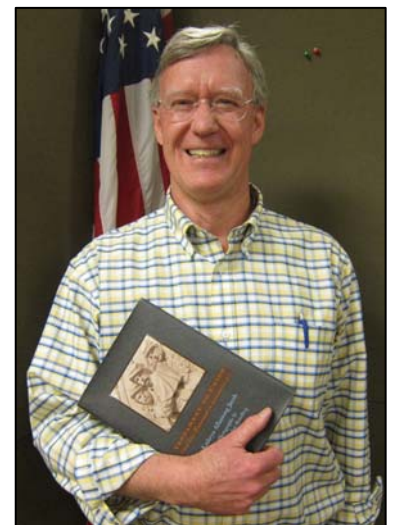
A well photographed slide-show of our trip to Manassas is now available on our website (www.farmlib.org/mrrt/) under the Annual Field Trip tab. I'd like to thank Linda, Mollie and Jim for the photos. There are a number of good member shots and should you want a digital copy, simply send a note to ncarver55@gmail.com and indicate which one(s) you're interested in—a brief description should suffice.

This month—MONDAY, February 25—the Michigan Regimental proudly welcomes Bill Grandstaff, the founder and president of the Israel B. Richardson Civil War Round Table in Rochester, as our guest speaker. Bill's topic is "The Men of Fort Sumter." He will discuss the small Union garrison that went from being a welcomed guest of Charleston to armed invaders between December 1860 and April 1861. The commander, Major Robert Anderson, and his men treaded an uneasy path between no directions and conflicting directions from their superiors in Washington. We will learn about these men and what happened to them after Fort Sumter surrendered. This is a great prelude to this year's field trip!

Bill is a long-time friend of the Roundtable; educating and entertaining us on several occasions. Bill last spoke with us during March 2011 on "*Three That You Know and One that You Don't*". He has also spoken to our round table on the Civil War experiences of Walt Whitman. He served in the 101st Airborne during the Vietnam War and subsequently attended Oakland University earning a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in American History.

The Roundtable sends out a hearty thanks to Tom Nanzig for his presentation of "The Civil War Monuments of Washington, D.C. (Part 2)". Tom discussed the history of twenty one monuments, telling each monument's story in a humorous yet informative manner. A few of the many highlights from Tom's talk included:

- *Who's buried in McPherson's Tomb?* This was the first federally funded equestrian statue of General McPherson but he's actually buried in Clyde, Ohio.
- *Mr. Ball was in their court:* This Lincoln monument was paid for by African-Americans to honor his issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- *The result of Admiral Porter's naval gazing:* Close to the U.S. Capitol, Admiral Porter both raised the needed funds and sketched the Naval Monument which subsequently became known as the Peace Monument.
- *Congressional Fantasy Island:* The monument for General John A. Logan included several glaring historical inaccuracies.
- *Mrs. McClellan will let you know when she is ready:* Mrs. McClellan became not only a major impediment during the design phase, to placate her plans to vacation in Europe, the dedication of the statue was delayed a year. Like husband, like wife!
- *Grant me the days to see this monument completed:* The Grant monument is the fourth-largest equestrian statue in the world and largest bronze structure in this country. The monument required 20 years to complete and Henry Shady, the sculptor, died two weeks before its dedication in 1924.





- *I call it a Pillar, they call it an Obelisk:* The veteran’s monument with the message “*Love makes the heart of the nation one*”. The sculptor also did the Iwo Jima monument.
- *The artist also has a Mountain in S. Dakota that might work:* Perhaps one of the more beautiful and uncharacteristically natural memorials is to Phillip Sheridan. The sculptor, Gutzon Borgium, went on from this to create the monumental presidents' heads at Mount Rushmore and the Stone Mountain memorial outside of Atlanta.

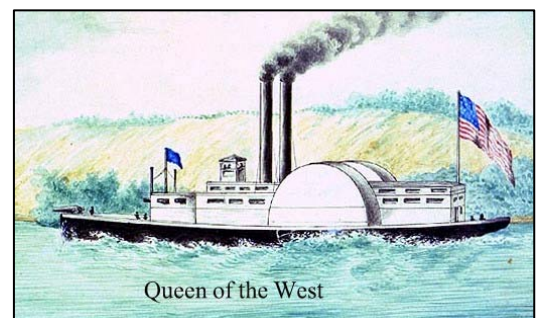
Should you have the inclination to do a self-tour of the many many memorials in and around Washington, D.C., Tom highly recommends the book “*Testament to Union: Civil War Monuments in Washington, D.C.*” by Kathryn A. Jacob.

QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Fort Sumter:

1. How many members (and names) of the Union garrison at Fort Sumter were from Michigan?
2. How large and what was the composition of the Union garrison?
3. What was the size of the Union artillery force in Fort Sumter?
4. What was Major Anderson’s previous attachment to the fort?
5. How long did the U.S. government work on the building of Fort Sumter?

MRRT Minutes for January 28, 2013: The **Call to Order** was at 6:40 pm with approximately 40 persons present. The **Pledge** was dedicated in memory to Weldon Petz. **Introduction of Guests and New Members:** Teddy Spickler who found us on the internet; Charlie Warren, a friend of George Crouch; and Sally DeMaria. **Newsletter Report:** Bob read from the NYC Dispatch, Toledo Mini Bulletin, Cleveland Charger and the Cincinnati Canister. **Preservation Report:** The Limestone Quarry Company has donated 28 acres to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Association. CWT has assisted in the purchase of 109 acres at Gettysburg near Spangler Spring, the Round Tops and the South Cavalry field. Another effort is under way to save 1400 acres at Wilderness/Chancellorsville, Wilson's Creek, South Mountain and Cool Springs, VA, for \$132,125 with a \$109 to \$1 match. The state of Virginia has invested \$2.6 million to preserve 3,000 acres of land at Appomattox, Chancellorsville, Port Republic, Second Manassas, Cedar Mountain, Cool Springs, Kelly's Ford and Peebles Farm. **Web Report:** Our website (www.farmlib.org/mrrt/) has been revamped to facilitate smart phone use and fully updated for 2013 to include a slide show of our field trip to Manassas as well as speakers for 2013. **Items of Interest:** Many of John Bell Hood’s personal papers have been uncovered including one that claims he was not using laudanum. **Secretary’s Report:** The November 26, 2012 report was accepted.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (February 1863): **1 Feb:** Union forces occupy and hold Franklin, TN. **2 Feb:** The federal ram **Queen of the West**, commanded by CPT Ellet, successfully runs the batteries at Vicksburg. **3 Feb:** The Queen of the West attacks and seizes 3 Southern vessels. Fort Donelson held by Union forces is attacked by Southern forces under Wheeler and Forest but the federals fend off the blows, inflicting disproportionate casualties on Confederate forces. The Federal Congress recognizes naval Commodore John L. Worden’s contribution to the Union war effort. Worden was commander of the USS Monitor at the time it battled the CSS Merrimack during March 1862. **5 Feb:** Gen Hooker continues his effort to reorganize the Army of the Potomac. **12 Feb:** The Queen of the West, now on the Red River, continues to inflict damage on Southern troops and logistics. The Federal ironclad, the



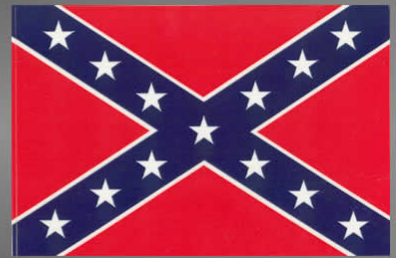
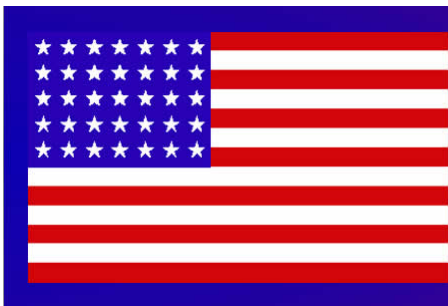


Indianola, also successfully runs the batteries at Vicksburg. The Confederates CSS Florida seizes and destroys the Yankee clipper Jacob Bell in the waters off of the West Indies. **14 Feb:** For nearly two weeks, the Queen of the West operated independently on the Mississippi and its tributaries, where she captured four Confederate steamers. On this date her luck finally ran out while seeking another prize on the Black River, she ran aground near an enemy shore battery and was captured. Her crew escaped, eventually hooking up with the Indianola south of Natchez. (Note: She was repaired, becoming the Confederate warship Queen of the West.) **16 Feb:** The Senate passes the Conscription Act. **18 Feb:** Several Army of Northern Virginia divisions are relocated from in and around Fredericksburg to protect the Confederate capital at Richmond. **23 Feb:** Simon Cameron, former War Department Secretary, resigns as minister of Russia. **24 Feb:** The Indianola suffers grievous damage by Confederate rams and is forced to surrender. **26 Feb:** The Cherokee Indian National Council affirms its support for the Union cause and repeals its former ordinance of secession. Southern forces clash with Federals at Woodstock, VA. Union forces hold and the Confederate incur approximately 200 casualties. Gen Longstreet takes command of Southern troops in the Confederate Department of Virginia and North Carolina. **28 Feb:** The USS Montauk destroys the Confederate steamer, Nashville, on the Ogeechee River, GA. The Montauk is commanded by J.L. Worden. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

Civil War Essentials—Women Nurses: This month's article is inspired by Tom Nanzig's discussion of the 'Nuns of the Battlefield' monument dedicated to the Catholic nuns that served the ill and wounded on both sides of the conflict.

- Woman, just as the men, were swept up in a patriotic fervor of the times but unlike the men, found it difficult to serve their cause. Many women, inspired by Florence Nightingale's (Crimean War 1853-56) philosophy of fresh air, clean environment and insuring wounded and ill soldiers received compassionate care, found that nursing could be that outlet even though there were many obstacles placed in their way.
- At the time of the Civil War, nursing had not yet been established as a profession, so men and woman alike came to their task without specialized medical training and were expected to learn on the job.
- In June 1861, the federal government created the United States Sanitary Commission. Although many felt women nurses would be in the way or the duty vulgar and unladylike, Henry Bellows of the U.S. Sanitary Commission felt injured and ill soldiers would profit greatly from the care of females rather than males as they were not as sensitive.
- On June 10, 1861, Dorothea Dix was appointed Superintendent of Women Nurses for the army—although Dorothea herself was not a nurse. She initially required her nurses to be over 30 years of age, plain looking, and to wear dresses that were brown or black and unadorned with ornaments, bows, curls, jewelry or hoop skirts. Over time, these requirements were loosened as the demand for nurses grew.
- In general, female nurses of the Civil War were white, from middle class families, of old American stock and well educated. Although there were few nurses of ethnic minorities, there were 181 black nurses documented for the Union. Also underrepresented were those of foreign birth with the exception of the Catholic Sisterhood. Aside from appointment by Superintendent Dix, many women found their way into nursing by way of soldier aid societies or simply by following their husbands, sons or fathers into the army.
- 600 nuns from eight Catholic orders served the ill and wounded on both sides of the conflict. When the war began, the Sisters were the only organized and trained female nurses.



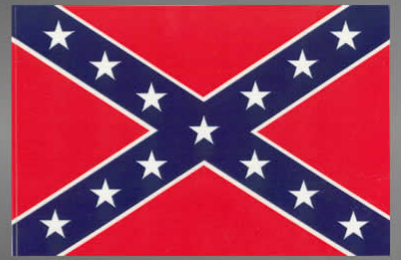
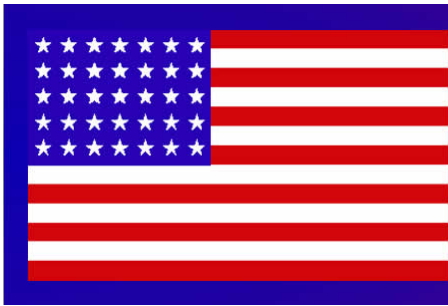


- Most nurses were volunteers and not paid for their services, nor were they granted military appointments regardless of their responsibilities. Male nurses outnumbered their female nurse counterparts by 4 to 1, and were paid \$20.50 a month plus benefits whereas Dorothea Dix's corps of female nurses were paid 40 cents a day and inferior benefits. Although reported numbers vary, somewhere between 2000-3000 female nurses held paid positions but upwards to 6000 female nurses served both sides. Unfortunately there has been little recorded or written of their efforts aside from a few memoirs such as Louisa Alcott's *'Hospital Sketches'* and Jane and Georgy Woolsey's *'Hospital Days'*.
- Female nurses had three principal duties: 1) regulate, prepare & serve patients' their meals; 2) manage their physical needs to include distribution of linens, clothing or supplies; and 3) care for their emotional and spiritual needs to include writing letters and reading to them.
- Speaking of dresses, they were in general of dark color, either solid or patterned, so filth and other stains weren't easily seen. They were generally made of cotton to facilitate easy cleaning when soiled. The Catholic Sisters wore their traditional black habits although the Sisters of Charity wore blue habits.
- Few female nurses were present on actual battlefields; most served from general hospitals or hospital transports.
- Female nurses rarely participated in actual surgeries. Clara Barton, an exception, removed a minie ball from a soldier's cheek wound at Antietam, and then cleansed and bandaged the wound. Following the war, Clara Barton was instrumental in the founding of the American branch of the International Red Cross.
- Louisa May Alcott, author of *'Little Women'*, served as a volunteer nurse at the Battle of Fredericksburg. She became ill with typhoid fever soon after entering her brief service as a nurse and recalled Dorothea Dix "*stealing a moment from her busy life to watch over the stranger of whom she was as thoughtfully tender as any mother.*"
- The South commissioned Sallie Louisa Tompkins to the rank of Captain and put her in charge of the main hospital in Richmond. Captain 'Sally' received a military burial upon her death in 1916.
- Although not a nurse, Mary E Walker, a surgeon prior to the war volunteered her services to the Union and subsequently served as such. She is the first, and to date, the only woman to have received the Congressional Medal of Honor and was cited for bravery under fire for saving the lives of hundreds of Union soldiers. She is also one out of only eight civilians to have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



QUIZ Answers:

1. 2nd Lieutenant Norman J. Hall (1837-1867) was from Monroe. Later, during the Battle of Gettysburg the brigade he commanded was heavily involved with repulse of Pickett's Charge.
2. Major Robert Anderson commanded 85 military men (there were also 43 noncombatant workmen) in the fort. The 2 artillery companies were commanded by Captain Abner Doubleday (not the inventor of baseball) and Captain Truman Seymour. There were 6 other officers, 68 noncommissioned officers and privates, and 8 musicians.
3. The Union force positioned 60 guns in a fort designed for 135 guns. Unfortunately, the fort was designed for harbor defense with the guns primarily aimed at the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, there was minimal capability to defend against artillery fire from the surrounding South Carolina shoreline.
4. Major Anderson previously served a tour of duty at Fort Moultrie. His father was a defender of the fort (called Fort Sullivan) during the American Revolution. He also served as General Beauregard's (the Confederate commander) artillery instructor at West Point.



5. The U.S. government began working on the fort in 1829. Decades of inaction in Washington created an unfinished fort in the fall of 1860. The masonry was largely completed, but a lot of work was required before the first gun could be mounted. A major building project began during the fall of 1860, outraging the secessionists.

Come out Monday, February 25, to hear Bill Grandstaff present “The Men of Fort Sumter”. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm, Farmington Public Library.