

Sadly, **Shirley Petz**, the wife of our long-time friend and Abraham Lincoln expert Dr. Weldon Petz, passed away on Sunday, February 9th. Although she often accompanied her husband to our meetings, many of us fondly remember her jointly presenting a “*Musical Note in Lincoln’s Life*” with Weldon on January 27, 2003.

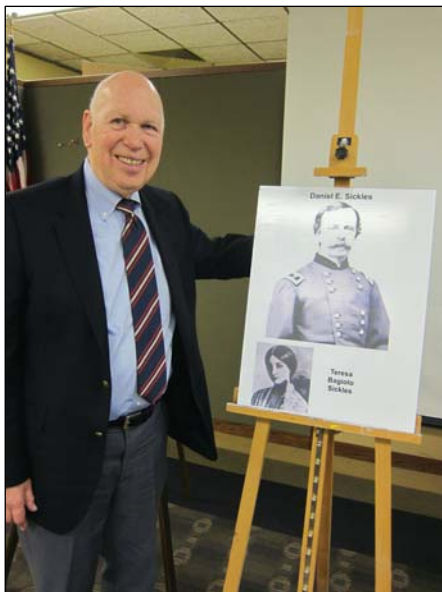
On MONDAY, February 24, the Roundtable welcomes back MRRT member Bill Cottrell, who will speak on “From Lincoln to Andrew Johnson-Reconstruction or Restoration?”

Bill will discuss the causes of conflict between President Andrew Johnson and the Congress over Reconstruction after the end of the Civil War. Historians have had a difficult time understanding this time-period. The career of Andrew Johnson was fascinating. Bill will share with us his origins, his meteoric rise to power in Tennessee; Governor Johnson’s term as Tennessee’s war-time Governor; and his ascendancy to the Presidency.



Bill has been an avid student of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War for over 40 years and is the expert guide for the Dr. Petz’ Lincoln collection at the Plymouth Historical Museum. He is a life-time member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and a member of the Sons of Union Veterans–Dearborn chapter. Bill graduated from Wayne State University. He previously spoke to our group August 2012 on “*Lincoln’s Position on Slavery – A Work in Progress*”.

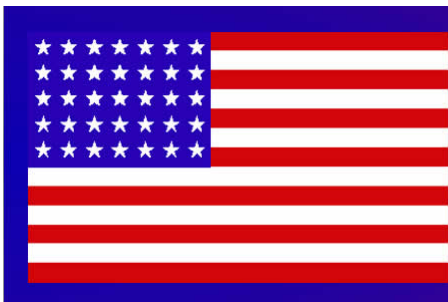
The Roundtable would like to thank John Renick for an entertaining presentation on one of the true characters of the Civil War, “Dan Sickles: A Heroic Scoundrel?” Dan Sickles (1819-1914) was a lawyer, politician, General, veterans advocate, Gettysburg battlefield preservationist, philander, embezzler, and murderer. He died destitute in 1914 as the last living Corps Commander.



Sickles worked for Benjamin Butler as a lawyer in New York. As a young man about town, he patronized bordellos and met Fanny White, a prostitute who owned and managed several bordellos. Upon being elected to the New York legislature in 1843, he brought Fanny along to Albany and introduced her as ‘his lady’. In 1854, although now married to Teresa, a woman 16 years his junior and pregnant, he takes Fanny to England as his escort when appointed as an assistant to Ambassador James Buchanan. He goes so far to introduce Fanny to Queen Victoria as ‘Miss Bennett’. When at last Teresa joins him, Fanny departs for a tour of Europe.

In 1856, Sickles is elected to Congress and moves to Washington D.C. with Teresa. During this stay, Teresa becomes perhaps too friendly with family friend, Phillip Barton Key—son of Francis Scott Key. Upon learning of an alleged affair between the two, Sickles lays in wait and kills Phillip Key in front of twelve eyewitnesses. The murder trial resulted in an acquittal but is most noteworthy as the first use of ‘temporary insanity’ as a successful defense.

At the start of the war, a patriot, Sickles raises 3,000 men that become the Union Excelsior brigade. Later, as the Third Corps Commander in 1863 under his friend General Joseph Hooker at the Battle of Chancellorsville, he famously tells Hooker the Confederates were “retreating”...which unfortunately proved to be very wrong. Following General George Meade’s appointment as the Army of the Potomac’s new commander, Sickles would likely have been replaced but was not because a battle at Gettysburg appeared imminent. Sickles, not liking the position he was assigned, moved his troops forward without authorization, leaving the Round Tops undefended. The resulting Confederate attack almost broke the Union Army.



Sickles was wounded in the right leg during the fight just above the knee. His amputated leg can still be seen today at Walter Reed Hospital.

After the war, he was appointed Minister to Spain in 1869 and enjoyed a romance with the former Queen, Isabella. Following Teresa death, he married one of the Queen’s ladies-in-waiting—Carmina Creagh. Even though they separated after 6 months, the marriage lasted 27 years with 2 children. He came back to New York politics in 1874, working on New York battle monuments and Gettysburg battlefield preservation. Asked why there is no statue of him at Gettysburg, Sickles states, the “*whole place is a monument to me*”.

So, in the final analysis, I think we can safely conclude that he was indeed a SCOUNDREL, although a PATRIOTIC one.

QUIZ: The questions involve Andrew Johnson.

1. What political office was Johnson elected to by the Tennessee voters?
 - a. Mayor
 - b. State Representative
 - c. U.S. House of Representatives
 - d. U.S. Senate
 - e. All of the Above
2. What successful business activity did Johnson engage in outside of politics? Choices include Barber, Slave Trader, Tailor, Community organizer, and Cotton trade
3. What was the political motivation for Johnson’s selection as a Vice Presidential Candidate?
4. Whom was President Johnson most likely referring to when he used the political mantra “*Traitors must be punished and treason crushed and made odious*”? Choices include Former slave owners, Democrats opposed to the war, Moderate Republicans, Abolitionist Republicans, or Clement Vallandigham
5. True or False – During the election of November, 1869, Tennessee voters were so displeased by Andrew Johnson’s presidency that they refused to elect him to any future political office.

Odds & Ends:

- **Yearly Dues:** Our membership drive continues and to date, 41 members have renewed. However, this is less than 50% of 2013 membership. Membership remains \$20—or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Don Kadar and can be mailed to his home at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178; or brought to the meeting and given to Don or Jeanie Graham.
- **Recommended Website:** Jim B. passes along the following website: <http://emergingcivilwar.com>. He states it provides daily Civil War articles on numerous subjects by emerging historians. Recent articles included: “*My Poor Brother*”, “*A Hard Earned Victory*”, and “*Stark Contrast*”. You can also set it up to receive the articles in your personal e-mail.
- **Website Updated for 2014:** Coming soon will be a short video on the Charleston trip this last October. Also updated, the newsletters from 2001 through 2014 have all been updated to the email format. Check them out at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.

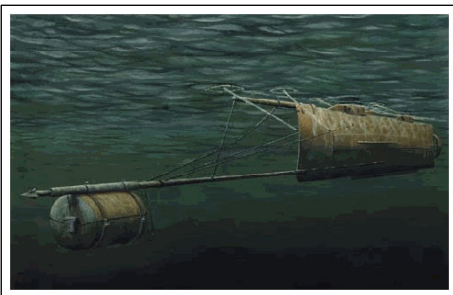
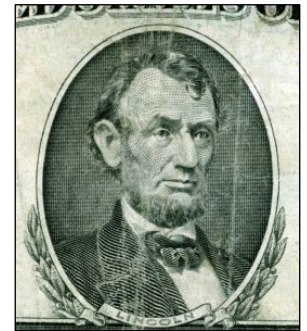


MRRT Minutes for January 27, 2014: The **Call to Order** was at 6:45 on a very cold, snowy night. The **Pledge** was dedicated to our troops in uniform. **Introduction of Guests:** Rick Murray, Phyllis Jose and Peter Durand. **Preservation Report:** Joe reported the Preservation Trust still needs \$155K of \$5.5M to save 608 acres at Rappahannock Station. Money is coming from federal grants as well as grants from the states of TN and VA, the Trust for Public Land, and some generous landowner donations. There is also an effort to raise \$2.19M with an 11 to 1 match at Antietam, South



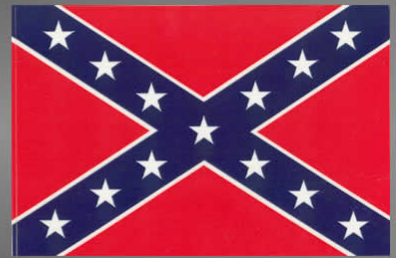
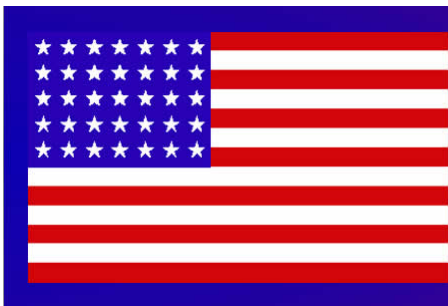
Mountain, Harper's Ferry and Shepherdstown. Joe asked the group to give \$150 to each. The motion was carried. **Trip Report:** The fall trip is set for October 25-26 with Scott Patchan as our guide. The plan is for somewhere in northern Virginia—details will follow. **Program Report:** Jim reports we are all set for the year. **Items of Interest:** 1-George brought a model of the H.L. Hunley. 2-Gary enjoyed the *History of the 4th Michigan* by Crawford. He said it was the best regimental he has read. 3-Peter liked *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*. **Old Business:** It was decided, almost unanimously, to return to having our coffee break between the business meeting and the speaker. The February meeting will begin at 6:30 and Larry has promised to keep us on track in order to give the speaker enough time each month. The **Minutes for November 25, 2013** were approved.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (February 1864): 1 Feb: Lincoln calls for 500,000 more draftees. He also abandons the black colonization of Ile A Vache in San Domingo and sends a ship for those wanting to return. **2 Feb:** The US gunboat **Underwriter** is boarded by Confederate soldiers under CSS Gen Pickett. The commander and 3 crewmen are killed and the gunboat set on fire. **3 Feb:** Gen Sherman leaves Vicksburg with 25,000 men as Gen W Sooy Smith with 7,000 men departs Memphis with the mission to sweep Confederate cavalry from northern Mississippi. **9 Feb:** Lincoln sits for several photos, one of which is to be used later on the five-dollar bill. 109 Union officers escape Libby Prison. The leader, Col Thomas Rose, is recaptured along with 48 others, 2 drown and 59 reach Federal lines. **11 Feb:** Irregulars troops under CSS Maj H.W. Gilmore derail a train in WV and rob the crew and passengers. **14 Feb:** Gen Sherman takes Meridian, MS, with little opposition from CSS Gen Polk. In a preview of things to come, Sherman says "*For five days, 10,000 men worked hard and with a will in that work of destruction...Meridian, with its depots, storehouses, arsenals, hospitals, offices, hotels and cantonments no longer exists.*" **16 Feb:** The Union blockade captures the Confederate ships **Pet** and **Spunky** near Wilmington, NC. In the West, Union troops begin a campaign against the Indians from Fort Walla Walla, WA Federal Territories. **17 Feb:** In Charleston Harbor, destiny brings the **USS Housatonic** and the Confederate sub, the **H.L. Hunley**, together. The **Hunley**,



in a naval warfare first, sinks the **Housatonic** but it too is lost. 5 die on the **Housatonic** and the 7 man **Hunley** crew is also lost. The Confederate Congress extends the age of conscription to men between 17 and 50. **18 Feb:** Sooy Smith's troops engage in minor skirmishes around Okolona. **20 Feb:** Gen Sherman withdraws from Meridian and heads back to Vicksburg. In Florida, at the instigation of Lincoln, the 5,500 troops of Gen Gilmore engage 5,200 Confederates at the battle of Olustee. After fierce fighting, the Union withdraws. Federal losses, particularly among black troops, are high with 1,861 killed, wounded, captured or missing with 934 for the Confederates. **21-22 Feb:** Sooy

Smith's cavalry runs into troops led by Nathan Bedford Forrest at West Point. Over this and the next day, Forrest chases Smith who retreats towards Memphis. Gen Thomas and his Army of the Cumberland begin a reconnaissance in force of CSS Johnston's army at their winter quarters in Dalton, GA. **24 Feb:** In an unpopular move, Jefferson Davis appoints Braxton Bragg to be in charge of the conduct of military operations in the army of the Confederacy. **25 Feb:** Thomas' *'Demonstration on Dalton'* comes to an end with 345 casualties for the Union to 345 for the South. **26 Feb:** Sooy Smith's routed cavalry limps into Memphis. **27 Feb:** At Andersonville, GA, the first Union soldiers start to arrive at the unfinished prison compound. **28 Feb:** Lincoln approves a raid on Richmond to free Union prisoners and to distribute amnesty proclamations. The raid is to be lead by Gen Judson Kilpatrick and the raid's author, Col Ulric Dahlgren (son of the Navy commander). **29 Feb:** The Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid begins as Kilpatrick's main body heads towards Richmond and Dahlgren and 500 men toward Goochland after their forces split at Spotsylvania. For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.



Civil War Essentials: Over the next many months we'll be presenting musings on the cavalry and Civil War prisons. This month we'll take a brief look at how the prison systems started-up.

Prior to the war's outbreak, there was little need for large scale prisons and neither side set-out to establish a permanent prison system for captured enemy troops. When the outlook for the war was optimistically thought to be a short and a decisive one, prisoner battlefield exchanges was a system that looked to work. However, as it became apparent this was to be a grueling, long, grudge match between two fierce obstinate opponents, this system began to breakdown and by 1862 each side began establishing temporary '*holding pens*' for prisoners. On July 18, 1862, the Dix-Hill Cartel agreement formalized a basis of parole using the rank of private as the term of exchange. However, this system too broke down. On October 23, 1862, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton directed there would be no more exchanges. The temporary '*holding pens*' now became permanent, resulting in a rapid growth of prisons—and by wars end, some 150 overflowing prisons had been established.



A few of the reasons the exchange system broke down included the Confederacy's refusal to recognize the legitimacy of the black soldier, returning many to slavery and dealing harshly with their white officers—to include execution. Another dominant factor was the simple fact that many paroled fighting men were quickly back under arms in their respective forces; i.e., many of the paroled Confederate soldiers were back in the trenches weeks after being paroled in Vicksburg. Obviously not a satisfactory state, particularly for a field commander faced with fighting his defeated foe for a second time.

The results were nothing less than calamitous. Although verification of numbers can be tricky, imprisoned Federal soldiers has been put at approximately 195,000—to include 30,000 deaths while in prison. For the South, almost 215,000 soldiers were held with almost 26,000 deaths. In all, we're talking about some 56,000 (*American*) prisoners of war losing their lives (*to fellow Americans*) after being taken and held as a prisoner. To put this in perspective, these deaths alone would make it the third deadliest conflict this nation has endured; more than WW1, the Korean War or Vietnam; exceeded only by battle deaths from the Civil War itself and WWII. Over the coming months we'll examine this issue in greater detail.

QUIZ Answers:

1. E All of the above
2. Tailor
3. He was a War Democrat that supported the Union and the war and would bring in other Democrats to help re-elect President Lincoln.
4. Abolitionist Republicans
5. False. He was re-elected to the U.S. Senate.

Mark your calendars for, **Monday, February 24** to hear **Bill Cottrell**, present "***From Lincoln to Andrew Johnson-Reconstruction or Restoration?***" It's sure to be a fun and entertaining evening. Returning to our old schedule for the meeting, the business meeting will begin at 6:30 pm followed by a brief break for coffee and cookies and then the speaker.