

If you have not yet renewed your annual MRRT membership, make this the month you close that loop. 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 simply brought to the meeting and given to Don or Jeanie Graham. Cash is always welcomed.

On MONDAY, February 23, the MRRT welcomes back the AUCTION. Please bring your Civil War books or relics to help the Roundtable raise funds for our activities, to include battlefield preservation.

The Roundtable would like to thank long-time member, Ken Baumann, for his outstanding presentation, “Fort Powell and the Battle of Mobile Bay”. Ken, using his KenPoint map, provided the MRRT an excellent overview of the dredging and fortification development at Mobile Bay, and the events leading-up to the long postponed battle that was finally initiated by Rear Admiral Officer David G. Farragut on August 5, 1854. Initially things looked ominous for the Federals as the USS Tecumseh, off the shores of Fort Morgan, while heading to engage the CSS Tennessee, struck a torpedo (mine) and sank within 2 to 3 minutes. Only 21 of a crew of 114 were saved. The next two ships in line halted in the confusion in sight and range of Fort Morgan’s guns, placing them in dire peril until Farragut, on his flag ship the USS Hartford, steamed forward leading the attacking naval fleet. It’s here where Farragut is claimed to have said *“Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!”* The Union naval and ground forces, led by Gordon Granger, ultimately secured Mobile Bay and the Confederate forts lining it later that month. Ken provided this interesting quote from Ulysses Grant’s memoirs, along with Farragut and Banks, all early advocates of taking action against Mobile, *“I had tried for more than two years to have an expedition sent against Mobile when its possession by us would have been of great advantage. It finally cost lives to take it when its possession was of no importance, and when, if left alone, it would within a few days have fallen into our hands without any bloodshed whatever.”* Ken also brought along artifacts ranging from salvaged munitions and a possible hinge fragment from the doors to the ammo bunker at Fort Powell.

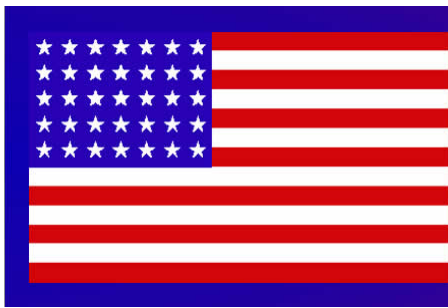
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Quiz Questions: This month’s questions and answers pertain to Michigan in the Civil War:

1. Which Michigan regiment lost three colonels killed in action?
2. The “In Defense of the Flag” Civil War monument in Jackson depicts which Michigan regiment?
3. Who was the last Union brigade commander that led his men into the ‘Angle’ in helping to repulse ‘Pickett’s Charge’ at Gettysburg?
4. Who is the sea captain buried in Muskegon who’s hand was branded SS (Slave Stealer) by the federal government?
5. Name the two 17th Michigan officers who were on the Lincoln conspirator’s execution team?

Minutes for January 26, 2014: The **Call to Order** was at 6:40 pm. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Frank Hasse, long time member, who died earlier this month. **Newsletter Report:** Bob read from the Cleveland Charger, The Indianapolis Hardtack and the NYC Dispatch. **Preservation Report:** Joe reports there is a major restoration underway at Fleetwood Hill (aka Brandy Station) to create a walking trail by midyear 2015. Franklin, TN, must raise \$2.8M to save a key piece of land in the heart of the battlefield. The Bennett Place State Historic Site has raised \$310K to purchase 2 acres of



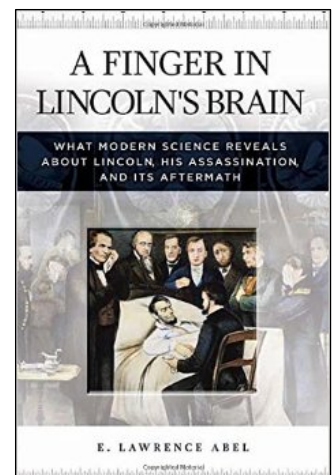
adjoining historic land. Chesterfield City, VA, has purchased an additional 15 acres at the site of Battery Danzler on the James River. The CWT still needs \$495K to acquire 479 acres at Chancellorsville. The CWT announced that it saved over 2,023 acres of Civil War land in 2014. **Trip Report:** Trip recommendations were: 1-Perryville; 2-Stones River; 3-Chickamauga; 4-Franklin/Nashville/Springhill; 5-Monocacy/Washington DC; 6-Mobile Bay; and 7-Atlanta. We will take a vote at the February meeting so the planners can get things started. A suggestion of taking a bus from this location to the chosen site was introduced. Although this has been explored in the past, the Pros for the proposition are ease of facilitating the trip by eliminating personal travel expense and effort as well as opportunities for socializing while in route. The Cons include substantially higher costs for participants and that many members enjoy having their own transportation, enabling their ability to make side trips before and after the field trip. A vote was not taken on the suggestion. **Program Report:** Jim is asking for someone to help with February’s auction—contact Jim at jwburrough@aol.com. **Items of Interest:** Gene brought more books to sell. Jim suggested he bring them to next month’s auction. **Old Business:** 1-The response to our request for new officers can be summed up as underwhelming. 2-Jeff Glass volunteered to help Jim with articles but Jim still would like additional person to help—computer experience a plus! 3-Our membership to Historic Fort Wayne was renewed and our donation doubled from the \$75 to \$150. **New Business:** Motions were made and passed to donate \$250 to Franklin, TN, and \$50 to Brandy Station. The **Secretary’s Report** for November 24 was accepted.

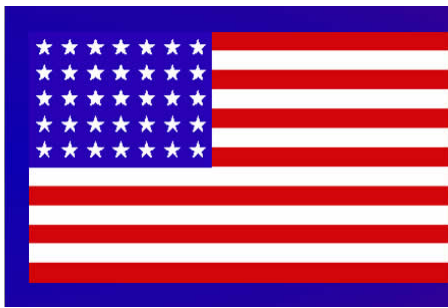
Odds & Ends:

- **MRRT elective positions:** Any members interested in an elective position (e.g., president, secretary, etc.), send an email to Mollie at mgalate@att.net.
- **Annual Trip:** Come prepared to vote for one of the following trip locations put forth at the January meeting:

Recommendations	Last visit by MRRT	Approx distance in miles
Atlanta	1989 (included Kennesaw Mountain)	700+
Stones River	1996 (included Franklin)	580
Perryville	2000	400
Chickamauga/Chattanooga	2004	630
Springhill/Franklin/Nashville	2006	575
Monocacy/Washington DC	No record	500+
Mobile Bay	No record	1000+

- **MRRT author:** Member E. Lawrence Abel’s book “*A Finger in Lincoln’s Brain*” was released January 2015 and can be found on Amazon (or click title). Lawrence provides a brief summary: “*The book is an in-depth analysis of the science behind the Lincoln assassination, including the illness that turned John Wilkes Booth into an assassin, a discussion of the medical care Lincoln received at the time he was shot, the treatment he would have received if he were shot today, and the impact of his death on his contemporaries and the American public. The medical chapters challenge the long-standing description of Lincoln’s last hours and examine the debate about whether Lincoln’s doctors inadvertently doomed him.*” He earned a MA and PhD from the University of Toronto and a postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Medicine at University of North Carolina. Lawrence is currently a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Professor of Psychology at Wayne State and past Director of the Mott Center for Human Growth and Development. His previous books on the Civil War are “*Singing The New Nation*,” and “*Confederate Sheet Music*”.





Civil War Essentials-Railroads: Railroads made a rapid impact on society after the first train traveled the Liverpool and Manchester Railroad (England) in September 1830. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was the first American railroad to carry freight and passengers, with construction beginning in 1828.

Were railroads a major factor in the Civil War? Steam-powered locomotives provided 10 times the amount of supplies than the same amount of mule-driven wagons provided. Trains were obviously much faster than wagons. Using trains, the army would be much less exhausted arriving at their destination. The mules had to be fed even during winter camp. Locomotives and the rails did require maintenance, which became a major problem for the Confederacy as the war progressed. General Sherman's 1864 Atlanta campaign – supplies were provided by a 473 mile long railroad. This effort would have been impossible with mules.

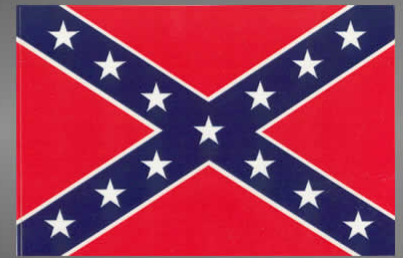
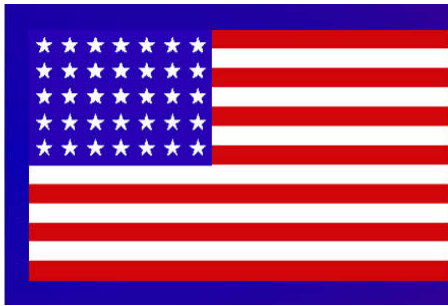
Armies significantly increased in size because of the use of railroads. A typical army using wagons for supplies was usually no more than 30,000 men while an army using locomotives had 100,000 men or more. The Union Army of the Potomac stayed near their railroads for most of the war with the railroads delivering 800 tons of supplies a day to the front. The Union Army was able to move 16 railroad cars from Washington, D.C. to Falmouth, Virginia in 12 hours using barges to haul the cars on rivers when needed.

The first two years of the War the railroads served the North and South relatively equally. Just before the war began the North produced 15 times as much iron, a key component of railroads, as the South did. The North also had 24 times as many locomotives and several times the amount of rolling stock that the South possessed. Even though the North had twice the railroad mileage of the South in 1861, the disparity fades when we discuss the mileage actually involved in the war. When the war started, the North East had 10,000 miles, the Mid-West had 11,000 miles and the South had 9,000 miles. The South's railroad mileage was the third largest in the world. There was a major railroad construction effort in the South during the 1850's, increasing mileage by four times from previous levels.

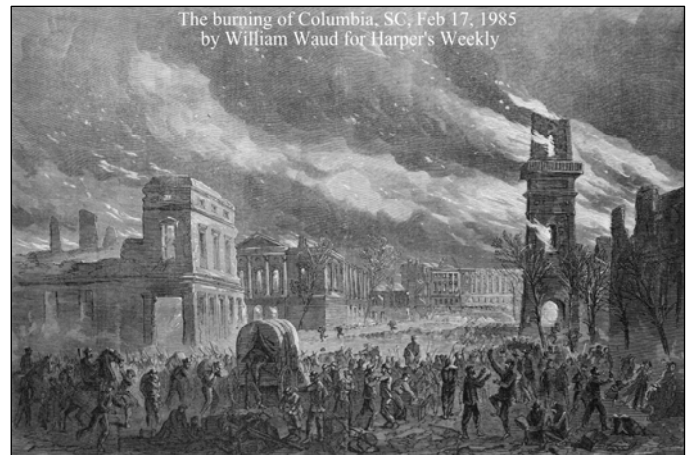


Railroads helped the South win the First Battle of Bull Run. Reinforcements by train from the Shenandoah Valley helped turn the tide of battle. In 1862, General Bragg moved 30,000 men from Mississippi to Chattanooga before he began the invasion of Kentucky. This was the largest movement of the war by either side. Prior to the Battle of Chickamauga, General Longstreet's Corps moved 800 miles in 12 days by train. Shortly afterward, the Union Army accomplished a similar feat, moving 25,000 men 1,200 miles in 12 days. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, not the government, planned the move. The initial movement began within 2 days after the movement was approved by the Lincoln Administration.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (February 1865): 1 Feb: Illinois becomes the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment. Sherman and army set out in earnest to march through the Carolinas. Although destruction of military targets is officially authorized on this march, many soldiers wish to further punish SC leading to much destruction of civilian property. Sherman foresees this in a letter to Halleck, "*The whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon SC . . . I almost tremble at her fate, but feel that she deserves all that seems in store for her.*" RI & MI become the 2nd and 3rd states to ratify the 13th Amendment. **3 Feb:** Lincoln & Seward meet with Confederates Stephens, Hunter and



Campbell off Hampton Roads on the River Queen to discuss peace but talks end in failure. **5 Feb:** Grant directs an attack on Boydon Plank Road to stop Confederate resupply from that direction and to further extend the Union line westward. **6 Feb:** CSA Gen John Pegram is killed during the Battle of Hatcher's Run. **7 Feb:** The Union forces fighting at Petersburg fall back from Boydon Plank Road but effectively extend their lines to Hatcher's Run. **12 Feb:** Lincoln is declared president by a vote of 212 to 21 by the Electoral College. **17 Feb:** Sherman's troops take the surrender of Columbia, SC, as their Confederate counterparts evacuate the city. That evening fires start and by morning nearly two-thirds of Columbia's homes lie in ashes. Each side blames the other. One of the burnt home's belongs to CSA Gen Wade Hampton, the cavalry commander opposing Sherman. **18 Feb:** Fort Anderson, near Wilmington, NC, comes under naval bombardment while troops under USA Gen Jacob Cox maneuver to engage the Southerners there. **21 Feb:** Robert E. Lee writes Secretary of War John Breckenridge that should he be forced to abandon Richmond, he would move his forces to Burkeville, VA. Back at Wilmington, Braxton Bragg orders the Confederate troops to abandon the city. By the next day, the last major Southern port falls to the Federals. **24 Feb:** Sherman complains to CSA Wade Hampton that his soldiers are murdering his foragers. Hampton replies "*This order shall remain in force as long as you disgrace the profession of arms by allowing your men to destroy private dwellings.*" **27 Feb:** Sheridan sends a 10,000 man cavalry force under Gen Merritt to destroy the VA Central Railroad and James River Canal. For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit seekingmichigan.org/civil-war.



Quiz Answers:

1. 4th Michigan Infantry – Dwight Woodbury of Adrian, Harrison Jeffords of Dexter, and George Lombard of Hillsdale
2. The 17th Michigan Infantry
3. Colonel Norman Hall of Monroe
4. Captain Jonathon Walker
5. Captain Christian Rath of Jackson and Captain Richard Watts of Adrian

This should be a fun meeting and a chance to pick-up a Civil War book (or two) or artifact, so make plans to come on out Monday, February 23, to the Farmington Community Library. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Also, check-out our website at <http://history.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.