

MEMBER RENEWAL

The MRRT celebrates its 59th year in 2019 – and this month is a great time to show your support by renewing your membership! (Or become a new member!). Membership is \$25 a year (\$5 increase to support preservation) – or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Treasurer **Jeanie Graham** (the bank does not like checks made out to the RoundTable) and can be mailed to her home at **29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326**; or simply bought to the meeting and given to Jeanie. Cash is always welcomed.

Our January meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather. President Lincoln (Fred Priebe) has agreed to reschedule for our July 29, 2019 meeting!

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 25, 2019. We meet in the basement of the Farmington Library (corner of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road) at 6:30 pm. Our speaker will be long-time friend Tom Nanzig of Ann Arbor who will discuss “Ten True Tales ... With a Twist”.

Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

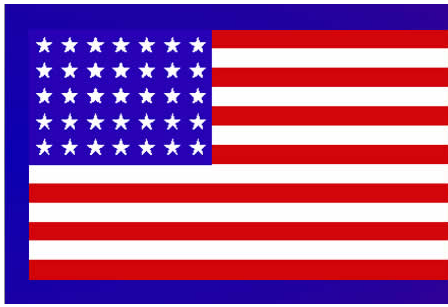
We will be electing new officers in February! Mollie is retiring as Secretary after many years of service and George will be retiring as coffee sergeant. All of our positions, including President, will be up for a vote. Your participation with the Roundtable will be greatly appreciated.

Our February meeting will begin the process of selecting our 2019 trip destination. Please bring your trip ideas for our consideration. Voting will begin during the February 25th meeting, with the final vote occurring at the March 25th meeting.

Recent field trips include: 2006-Franklin and Nashville, 2007-Gettysburg, 2008-Vicksburg, 2009-Chancellorsville & Fredericksburg, 2010-Wilderness & Spotsylvania, 2011-Springfield, Illinois, 2012-1st and 2nd Bull Run, 2013-Charleston, SC, 2014-Appomattox, 2015-Perryville, 2016-Antietam & Harper’s Ferry, 2017 – Shiloh, and 2018 – Chickamauga & Chattanooga



Our Monday, February 25, 2019 program will feature long-time friend Tom Nanzig discussing “Ten True Tales ... With a Twist”. Tom has been writing “The Colonel” column for his CWRT newsletter for more than 20 years. He has reviewed dozens of these columns to derive ten interesting stories of the Civil War. Each story will be introduced with three or four photographs, giving us the direction of each tale. **Our audience participation is welcome and encouraged to connect-the-clues that lead to ten true tales of the Civil War.** Tom was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His interest in the Civil War began in 1960 when his parents took him to Gettysburg. He is the author of three Civil War books and has been a member of Civil War Roundtables in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Tom was an avid hunter for Civil War artifacts when he lived near Virginia’s Civil War battlefields. Tom is a recently retired product editor from the ProQuest Company where he coordinated the microfilming of Civil War and genealogy books for sale to libraries.



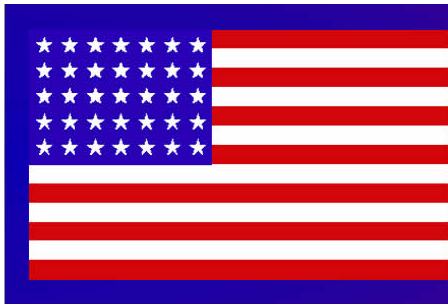
Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to the Civil War (Our thanks to Tom Nanzig for the questions):

1. What military innovation was used by the Confederates retreating from Yorktown, VA in April, 1862 to stall the Federal Army's pursuit?
2. Anderson Cooper, host of a popular CNN program, is a direct descendant, through his mother, of the Civil War general about whom William T. Sherman once said, "I know that _____ is a hell of a damned fool, but I want just that sort of man to command my cavalry on this expedition". Name the fool?
3. The most decorated Medal of Honor regiment in the Federal Army with 14 medals awarded was the 47th Ohio Infantry Regiment. But from which state did Company B (8 Medals of Honor) originate? Bonus points if you know what county seat they called home.
4. Which three armies were represented at the Appomattox Court House surrender proceedings and which army was not represented? Why?
5. Name the last organized body of Confederate forces to surrender and where did they surrender. Bonus points for naming the British colonial country from which 42 men enlisted in February 1865?

Civil War Essentials - Civil War in the Smokies – Part 2

Organized war came closer in the fall of 1863 as Burnside led Federal troops to Knoxville. Longstreet attempted to recapture the city in November. Secessionist partisans grew bolder and increased their raids in eastern Tennessee including the Smokies. After his failed assault on Knoxville, Longstreet withdrew to winter quarters at Bulls Gap. This meant that skirmishes between regular forces would continue in the Smokies until spring when Longstreet returned to Lee's army. **By this stage of the war, the Confederacy, desperate for resources, added to the misery of all families in the Smokies by conducting sweeps to impress whatever food, forage and horses they could find. CSA impressment details and conscription officials forcibly entered homes and removed goods and male inhabitants.** This alienated even some people who had started the war favoring secession. **To survive, locals became adept at concealing whatever they had in and around their homes.** They set up warning systems, often using children as lookouts, to provide an alert when any threatening group, Confederate or outlaw, approached. Such strategies were at best acts of desperation; the raiders were skilled at finding hidden supplies and often resorted to violence even against women to get what they wanted.

The economy and societal structure of the area descended into chaos as the war when on. Artifacts of civilization such as law courts, schools, stores, and churches often ceased to function. As elsewhere, Confederate script was almost worthless and there was little to buy at any price. Roads and bridges, primitive before the war, declined even further. Quartermaster officers on both sides recognized by 1864 that there was little left in the Smokies to exploit. In fact the remaining inhabitants were destitute. The Federals made sporadic, inadequate attempts to assist local Unionists. **The end of the war resulted in the exodus of regular troops from the area but a few unforgiving Unionists and unyielding secessionists continued to harass or sometimes even murder each other.** Some inhabitants on both sides moved away to protect their families or escape the war's devastation. It would be years before peace and the rule of law were once again the norm.



Civil War Essentials – The Generals Buckner The future Confederate lieutenant general (1823-1914) was named for Simon Bolivar, the well-known South American revolutionary. **General Simon Buckner, Sr. was well known for his Civil War experience.**

Simon Buckner graduated from West Point in 1844. After serving in the Mexican War, he taught infantry tactics at the Point. He resigned from the army in 1855, to successfully manage his father-in-law’s real estate in Chicago. The Buckner family moved to Louisville, Kentucky.

When the Civil War began, he was offered a brigadier general’s commission in the Union Army. However, he joined the Confederate Army as a brigadier general after General Leonidas Polk occupied Columbus, Kentucky. He was the third ranking Confederate officer at Fort Donelson in February, 1862. His two seniors, General Floyd and General Pillow, both fled the fort during the night of February 15, 1862, leaving General Buckner in charge. He refused to desert his men even though he knew that the South would revile him for being the first general to surrender an entire Confederate army.



The Union commander at Fort Donelson, General U.S. Grant, demanded an “*unconditional and immediate surrender*”. General Buckner replied, “*overwhelming force under your command, compel meto accept the ungenerous and unchivalrous terms which you propose*”.

Generals Grant and Buckner had known each other at both West Point and during the Mexican War. The last time that they had met was in 1854. U.S. Grant was sad and broke after leaving the Army. Buckner vouched for Grant’s expenses at the Aster House Hotel in New York City. Simon Buckner was an honorary pallbearer at General Grant’s funeral in New York.

General Buckner participated in the Battles of Perryville, Chickamauga, and the last surrender of a major Confederate force in May 1865 after being released from five months as a prisoner of war. Near the end of the war he served as Chief of Staff to General Edmund Kirby Smith in the Trans-Mississippi.

After the war, General Buckner served as the 30th governor of Kentucky in 1887. Later, he was the Gold Democrats’ candidate for Vice President in 1896. His party only received 1% of the vote during the 1896 election.

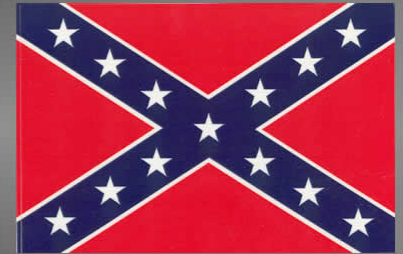
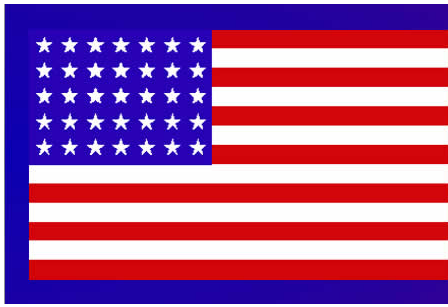
After his first two wives died, General Buckner married Delia Claiborne on June 10, 1885. He was 62, she was only 28. Their son, Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. was born on July 18, 1886.

Simon, Jr. was appointed to West Point by President Theodore Roosevelt after spending two years at the Virginia Military Institute. After graduating, he trained Air Corps cadets in Texas during World War 1. He then spent 17 years as a professor at West Point, eventually becoming Commandant of Cadets.

During World War 2, General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. commanded Alaska’s defenses from 1940 to 1943. **During 1944, he became the commander of the Tenth Army in Hawaii and led it to Okinawa on April 1, 1945. The Battle of Okinawa was the bloodiest battle of the Pacific War.**

General Simon Buckner, Jr. was killed on Okinawa by Japanese artillery on June 18, 1945. He is the highest ranking U.S. officer killed by enemy fire in both World War 2 and the 20th Century. The Buckner’s are buried next to each other in Frankfort, Kentucky.

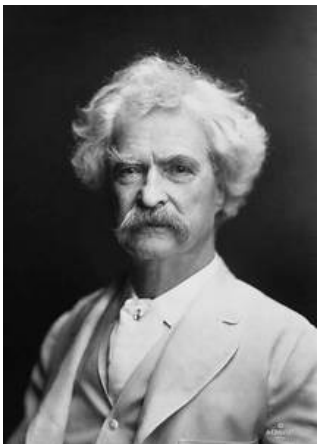




Quiz Answers:

1. The first modern mechanically fused high explosive anti-personnel land mines were created by CSA General Gabriel Rains during the siege of Yorktown in 1862.
2. Union General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick
3. Michigan; Adrian
4. The Army of Northern Virginia (General Lee), Army of the Shenandoah (General Sheridan), and the Army of the James (General Ord). The Army of the Potomac (General Meade) was not present. The Army of the Potomac was behind the Army of Northern Virginia and could not easily get to Appomattox Court House. Also, General Meade was not feeling well.
5. The “C.S.S. *Shenandoah*” sailed to Liverpool, England and surrendered there in November, 1865. During repairs to the ship in Australia, in January-February 1865, 42 Australians snuck aboard and then enlisted after the ship was sailing in international waters.

Civil War Essentials – Mark Twain and the Civil War Mark Twain (1835-1910), the well-known author whose real name was Samuel Clemens, had little actual involvement with the Civil War. When the war began he loudly proclaimed both his support for the Confederacy and his hatred for Yankees. He signed up with the Confederates, but after two weeks he left for Nevada. Only a year later, in 1862, he became a loud supporter of the Union, reviling the Rebels in his Virginia City newspaper column.



Twenty years later, in 1882, Mark Twain toured the South. His job was to distinguish between his actual non-existent war experiences and what he decided for others to know about them. Mark wrote *Life on the Mississippi* to reflect on what he had seen and heard in the South. He wrote, “*In the South, the war is what A.D. is elsewhere: they date from it. All day long you hear things ‘placed’ as having happened since the waw; or du’ in the waw; or befo’ the waw; or right aftah the waw; or ‘bout two yeahs or ten yeahs befo’ the waw aor aftah the war*”.

Mark Twain visited the Washington Artillery Armory in New Orleans, where the famous equestrian portrait, *The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson*, was located. He changed the name of the portrait to either “*Jackson Asking Lee for a Match*” or “*Jackson Declining Lee’s Invitation to Dinner-with Thanks*”.

He wrote an article on the war for “*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*”. The editor, Robert Johnson, wanted a piece on the early war in Missouri. Instead, Mark Twain wrote a funny story about boys going off to war. Eventually, the story of “*Private History of a Campaign that Failed*” was published in *Century* in December, 1885. It was not included in the final four-volume set of *Battles and Leaders* published in 1888.

Mark Twain significantly helped General Grant with publishing his memoirs. He formed a publishing house with his nephew-in-law Charles Webster to publish *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and his other books. Mark was a frequent lunch guest at the Grant & Ward investment firm in New York. **This helped him win the contract to publish General Grant’s Memoirs, which sold a record 300,000 copies. He also helped General Grant finish his Memoirs during the painful last days of the General’s life.**