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"That ain't no milishy! There's them damn black hats again—that's the Army of the Potomac." So should a surprised but respectful Johnny Reb at the sight of the famous Iron Brigade on July 1, 1863, at Gettysburg. These hard-fighting members of the Iron Brigade consisted of the 2^{nd} , 6^{th} , 7^{th} Wisconsin, the 19^{th} Indiana, and its most recent addition—the 24^{th} Michigan Infantry, added in the fall of 1862. The ten companies of Michigan men included 343 born in this state, 357 born in other states, 325 born in foreign lands, and 5 unknown. Nearly half of its members had been farmers (412), but the regiment also contained such varied occupations as sailors (34), blacksmiths (25), students (10), butchers (9), cigarmakers (7), lawyers (6), doctors (5), teachers (5), coffinmaker (1).

Most of the men hailed from Detroit, Plymouth, Redford, Livonia, and Brownstown, but they also came from Romulus to Grosse Pointe. Their ages varied as much—312 were twenty or under, 27 were over forty-five. The first man to enlist in the unit was Corporal George W. Crouch, who had already seen service in the army and was the tallest enlisted man. The youngest was Willie Young, barely thirteen years of age. The oldest, James Nowlin of Nankin Township, claimed to be in his mid-40's. However, it was discovered that he lied about his age and hid the gray hair in his beard with dye. Before the year was out he perished from disease and his age was proven to be 70.

Detroit Judge Henry A. Morrow served as the regiment's colonel. Born in Virginia, he received his education at Rittenhouse Academy in Washington D.C. He later served as a page in the U.S. Senate and became a favorite of Senator Lewis Cass. During the Mexican War, Morrow enlisted in the army at age 17 and fought at Monterrey and Tampico. Returning to the U.S., he settled in Detroit, studied law, and was later elected as first judge of the newly created Recorder's Court. As an officer of the 24th Michigan, he earned a reputation for excellence; one of his men recalled "[*a*] *braver man never carried a sword*." Despite three wounds, Morrow survived the war. Mark Flanigan, the Sheriff of Wayne County, served as the regiment's lieutenant colonel. A fiery Irishman, Flanigan stood six feet four with a powerful and no-nonsense demeanor. At Gettysburg he suffered a serious wound resulting in the amputation of his leg.

Resented at first by the veterans of the Iron Brigade, the 24th Michigan Infantry proved its mettle especially at the Battle of Gettysburg where it suffered casualties of 80%.

Our speaker this month, **<u>Bob Zaetta</u>**, will present "*The 24th Michigan and the Brave Men of Company C*." Bob, a member of four Civil War Round Tables in this area, is a retired history teacher from Redford Union Public Schools. He has been an active member of the Plymouth Historical Society for many years. This promises to be a fine talk on one of Michigan's premier regiments. Plan on being in attendance—**MONDAY, MARCH 25**.

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If you weren't at last month's meeting, you missed an excellent program as **Marty Brosnan** presented "*Henry Halleck,* 'Old Brains' of the Union Army." Our thanks to Marty for another exceptional talk.

ODDS & ENDS:

- FALL FIELD TRIP: Last month the membership voted on our next two fall excursions— 2002—Shiloh 2003—Shenandoah Valley Campaign (1864) More details will be given at this month's meeting.
- MRRT WEBSITE: Our Website is up and running. The address is <u>http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/</u>. Click on your computer and check it out. You'll be impressed. Our thanks to Norm Carver for his work on this project.



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QUIZ: Relatives of the Civil War (Part II)..... [Identify both]

- 1. I graduated first in my West Point class of 1854. A major general during the Civil War, I served primarily as an engineer in the defense of Richmond. When finally given a field command, I was captured at Sayler's Creek, but the Federals released me because of my famous name and the illness of my mother. My younger brother graduated from Harvard, became a major general, was severely wounded in the thigh and captured at Brandy Station, and became one of Jeb Stuart's most valued officers.
- 2. My father was a famous Kentucky Senator who attempted to save the Union with a last-ditch compromise in 1861. I became a Confederate general with little battlefield success and was labeled a "besotted inebriate" and later court-martialed for drunkenness. My younger brother served as a Federal general at Shiloh, Stone's River and for awhile with the Army of the Potomac.
- 3. I wrote possibly the most famous song of the Civil War in 1862. It was published in the *Atlantic Monthly*, which paid me \$4 for the rights to its ownership. My husband, an ardent abolitionist, was a member of the "Secret Six" that supported John Brown and his Harpers Ferry raid.
- 4. I had the distinction of serving as a general in both theaters of the war. My marriage on January 19, 1865, in Richmond's St. Paul's Church was called "the social event of the season." I was killed at Hatcher's Run by a bullet near my heart, and my body was returned to St. Paul's exactly three weeks after my wedding. My 23-year-old brother without a military background surpassed my reputation. He was mortally wounded seven weeks after my death at Five Forks. We are buried in the same plot at Hollywood Cemetery.
- 5. I won much fame for defending Dred Scott before the U.S. Supreme Court. Although I graduated from West Point, I did not serve in the military during the Civil War. Instead, I served as President Lincoln's Postmaster General. My younger brother helped save Missouri for the Union and later fought successfully as a general at Vicksburg and Atlanta.
- 6. As an 18-year-old officer in the 24th Wisconsin, I was awarded the Medal of Honor for seizing the colors and charging up Missionary Ridge; the following year I became known as the "boy colonel." I died of a heart attack addressing the 90 survivors of my regiment on September 5, 1912. My son, also a Medal of Honor recipient, won distinction in three wars of the Twentieth Century.
- 7. A native-born Tennessean, I won more fame in Texas as a sheriff and Texas Ranger. I alternated between the military and political posts before being a rather nondescript general during the Civil War. My older brother won far greater fame. He was mentored by Davy Crockett and became a friend of Sam Houston. He helped win Texas independence in 1836. As a general in the Civil War, he was killed March 7, 1862, at Elkhorn Tavern.
- 8. I served as Robert E. Lee's Chief of Artillery and was sometimes mistakenly identified as the commanding general himself. My abilities were often questioned especially after Antietam. My son was a highly skilled officer on Stonewall Jackson's staff. He was killed at Fisher's Hill on September 22, 1864, from a gunshot wound to the abdomen.
- 9. I served as Minister to England during the Civil War. My responsibilities were primarily to keep Great Britain from joining with the Confederacy. I also came out of retirement after the war to negotiate the "*Alabama* Claims." My father, a noted abolitionist, served as Secretary of State, Minister to Great Britain, member of Congress, and argued the *Amistad* Case before the Supreme Court. He died on February 23, 1848.
- 10. I was a noted explorer, officer during the Mexican War, first Republican candidate for the Presidency, and a Civil War major general. However, I was relieved of command by President Lincoln for my embarrassment as a military man and for violating the administration's policies on slavery. My father-in-law was the tough, redoubtable Senator from Missouri who owned slaves, but fought secession. He was both a friend and foe of Andrew Jackson before dying in 1858.



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The following stories exemplify Colonel Henry A. Morrow's character.....

A few days before the Battle of Gettysburg during a dusty march, two men in the 24th Michigan stepped out of ranks and confiscated a couple of geese. At the suggestion of an ingenious fellow, one of the drummers unheaded his instrument and put in it the captured birds. Shortly afterwards <u>Colonel Morrow</u> came along, and noticing that the drummer boy was shirking his usual drum whacks, rode up to him and asked, "*Why don't you beat that drum*?" "Colonel," replied the startled musician, "*I want to speak to you*." The Colonel drew still closer to him and bending his head asked, "*Well, what do you have to say*?" The drummer whispered, "*Colonel Morrow, I've got a couple of geese in here*," pointing to the drum. The Colonel straightened up and said gravely, "*Well, if you're sick and can't play, you needn't*," and rode off. Needless to say, Colonel Morrow ate roast goose that night.

During the fighting on the first day at Gettysburg, Corporal Andrew Wagner, holding the regimental colors, was shot through the breast, staggered and fell. Colonel Morrow seized the flag and held it aloft. Private William Kelly of Company E shouted, "*The Colonel of the 24th Michigan shall not carry the colors while I am alive.*" He had barely taken the flag from the colonel's grasp, when he too fell dead. Private William Spaulding, Company K, then grabbed the flag and carried it forward. He was the seventh man to carry it since morning. By the end of the day nine men had been killed and two wounded while carrying the flag. Later that day Morrow would again hold the flag. Waving the flag high and shouting "rally," Morrow was hit in the head by a bullet. With blood streaming down his face, Morrow reluctantly left the field to have his wound attended to. He was ultimately captured by the Confederates, but was left behind in a hospital where he escaped and rejoined his regiment on July 4th.

Morrow would suffer two other serious wounds during the war. On May 5, 1864, at the Wilderness he took a bullet in the right calf. During a half hour operation Morrow labored in and out under the effects of chloroform as a surgeon removed ten small pieces of bone. At one point the delirious Morrow begged a captain "*to take his revolver and blow his brains out [to relieve] the suffering*." At Dabney's Mill on February 6, 1865, Morrow was hit in the shoulder. Again he would spend time convalescing. Following the war, Morrow returned to Detroit to continue his political career, but in 1867 reentered the army. As Lieutenant Colonel of the 36th Infantry, Morrow assisted in the reconstruction of Louisiana. In the early 1870's he was transferred to Utah to help quell a disturbance by the Mormons. In 1877 Morrow helped end the railroad riots in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He became Colonel of the 21st Infantry on April 27, 1879. After a long illness he died at Hot Springs, Arkansas on January 31, 1891. He was buried in his wife's home town, Niles, Michigan, the funeral being attended by many of his comrades from the 24th Michigan.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1. George Washington Custis Lee and W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee
- 2. George B. and Thomas L. Crittenden
- 3. Julia Ward Howe and Samuel Gridley Howe
- 4. John and Willie Pegram
- 5. Montgomery Blair and Francis Preston Blair, Jr.
- 6. Arthur MacArthur and Douglas MacArthur
- 7. Henry Eustace McCulloch and Ben McCulloch
- 8. William N. Pendleton and Alexander "Sandie" Pendleton
- 9. Charles Francis Adams and John Quincy Adams
- 10. John C. Fremont and Thomas Hart Benton



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Reminder for this month's meeting: **Bob Zaetta** will present "*The 24th Michigan and the Brave Men of Company C.*" It should be a good one. We'll see you at the Farmington Public Library (at Grand River and Farmington Road). The meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

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