



In April 2004 guest speaker, **Robert Myers**, delighted the Michigan Regimental with a first-person account of Corporal Martin W. Stafford of the 2nd Michigan Infantry, entitled “*Hard Bread and Coffee*.” Mr. Myers’ return to our Round Table is long overdue. This month, on **MONDAY, MARCH 31**, Robert will present, “*The Worst Colonel I Ever Saw: Francis Quinn of the 12th Michigan Infantry*.”

Francis Quinn, an Irish immigrant, active Republican, and a postmaster of Niles, Michigan had no prior military experience when he raised and commanded the 12th Michigan Infantry. Following the mustering in of the regiment, it left Niles to St. Louis, Missouri and then made its way to Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The 12th was assigned to Col. Everett Peabody’s brigade in Gen. Benjamin Prentiss’ Division, Army of the Tennessee. On the morning of Sunday, April 6, 1862, the 12th took heavy losses in the wake of a Confederate attack which commenced the Battle of Shiloh. It is entirely possible that the diligence of Peabody and members of the 12th Michigan, may have saved the Federal Army from disaster that day. Lt. Col. William H. Graves of the 12th later described the early action:

Gen Prentiss was so loath to believe that the enemy was in force that our division was not organized for defense....had it not been for these four companies (two from the 12th Michigan and two from the 25th Missouri) which were sent out by Col Peabody, our whole division would have been taken in their tents, and the day would have been lost without doubt, in my own mind....

Colonel Quinn despised Graves and the feeling was mutual. Their reports and conflicting viewpoints of the battle caused considerable stir which reached back to the state of Michigan. “*Cowardice*” was a commonly used term in each of their writings to describe the other. Local rival newspapers supported one over the other. Both officers wrote to Governor Austin Blair, denouncing the other’s behavior. Blair ultimately asked for Quinn’s resignation and wrote to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton describing Quinn as the “worst colonel I ever saw [who] has made more trouble than all the rest put together.” Quinn’s return to Niles was not what he anticipated it would be.

Robert Myers will sort through the lurid details and explain the entire scenario. Robert is a graduate of Alma College and holds a Master’s Degree in history from Western Michigan University. He works as curator of the Berrien County Historical Association’s 1839 Courthouse Museum. His publications include *Adeline and Julia: Growing Up in Michigan and on the Kansas Frontier* (Michigan State University Press, 2000) and *Lost on the Lakes: Shipwrecks of Berrien County, Michigan* (Andrews University Press, 2003). He has also published articles in Michigan History Magazine. So circle the date—**MONDAY, MARCH 31**.

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The Michigan Regimental extends its thanks to last month’s speaker, **Mark Hoffman**, for his excellent talk on “*My Brave Mechanics: The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War*.”

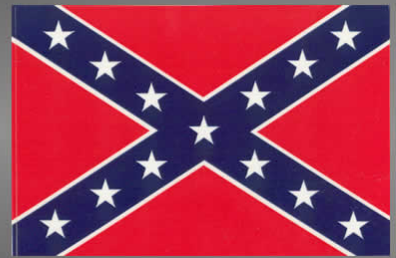
FALL FIELD TRIP: Last month we voted to make our way to Vicksburg this fall. Expert guide, Terry Winchel, and he’s the best on this campaign, has agreed to Saturday/Sunday, October 11-12. Tentatively our itinerary will be—Saturday: Louisiana Circle overlooking the Mississippi River, then into downtown Vicksburg to John Pemberton’s Headquarters, Chickasaw Bayou, Grant’s Canal to Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond. Sunday: the Battlefield of Vicksburg. This is the month to sign up and get further information.

**ODDS & ENDS:**

- The famous Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana is closing on June 30. Seventy-nine historical items will be displayed elsewhere, including the cane carried by Abraham Lincoln, a shawl worn by Mary Todd, and toys belonging to the Lincoln children. If you haven't been there, it would be worth your while to visit before closing.
- A new Civil War Museum is to open in Kenosha, Wisconsin on June 14-15. It will focus on the connection between the Home Front and Battle Front, especially in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota.
- Because the MRRT values its association with the Farmington Public Library, we will be starting our meetings promptly at 6:30 P.M. We must be out of the library by 8:45 P.M.

QUIZ: All questions pertain to Confederate and Union generals, in the format, “What did you do after the war?”

1. He served 3 terms as Governor of Ohio, and later won a higher office where he removed Federal troops from the Reconstructed South. And, who did he defeat in the closest Presidential election in American History?
2. This Confederate general was born on the Choctaw Agency, Indian Territory in 1835. After the war he entered the Overland Mail Service in Texas and was an Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs from 1893-1895. And, what was unusual about him at the Battle of First Bull Run?
3. This non-West Point general once had a fist fight with a common private. A hard drinker, he was one of the Confederacy's toughest fighters. After the war he was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1872, but later served as superintendent of Tennessee's state prisons and postmaster of Nashville. And, in which battle did he clash with John Bell Hood, spurring a controversy that lasts to the present day?
4. This general reluctantly presided over the execution of the four Lincoln conspirators. Badly wounded at Gettysburg, he recovered and unsuccessfully ran for the Presidency from the Democratic Party in 1880. And, which former Federal general defeated him in his run for the White House?
5. This oft-wounded general fought the Sioux and Nez Perce Indians and led the troopers who rescued Custer's remaining cavalymen after the Little Big Horn. And, which book used by cannoners during the Civil War did he author?
6. This Tennessean was severely wounded at Franklin. After the war he was elected as Democratic governor, became President of the Texas & Pacific Railroad, and President of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Company. And, which well-known Tennessee politician defeated him for the U.S. Senate in 1875?
7. This Georgian began his illustrious Civil War career as a captain of a mountain company, the “Raccoon Roughs,” and concluded it as a possible Lieutenant General. After the war he was a 3-time U.S. Senator and Governor. He was also the first commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans. And, at which battle was he wounded 5 times?
8. Wounded 6 times and awarded the Medal of Honor, this general was elected governor of his home state 4 times. And, at which college was he the President?
9. He served as commandant of cadets at West Point from 1870-1875. Suffering from migraine headaches in San Francisco, he committed suicide with a pistol ball to the brain in 1881. And, where was his most notable action in the Civil War in 1864?
10. He was the brother of Jefferson Davis' first wife. A graduate of Yale, he served under Stonewall Jackson during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign before returning to Louisiana where he fought in the Red River Campaign. And, what book did he author after the war in 1879?



Newton B. Lord, colonel of the 35th New York Volunteers, began his military service in May, 1861, at age 29, as a captain of Company K. He soon moved up to the head of the regiment. Within 5 months he was in trouble, and on January 22, 1862, his first court-martial began with the charge of disobedience. Apparently, Lord received an order to keep three sentinels on Binn's Hill, near Falls Church. The sentinels were to be relieved every two hours, and all other personnel were to be removed from the location. Although receiving both written and verbal orders on numerous occasions, Colonel Lord simply refused to comply.

What seemingly compelled Lord to disobey the orders was that he wanted the courier to specifically state that he spoke for the general, who happened to be Brig. Gen. James Wadsworth, who issued them. Further, Lord seems to have seen contempt from the courier in delivering the messages. Surprisingly, the court acquitted Lord. Having escaped with no more than a personal reprimand from General Irvin McDowell, Lord was destined for more difficulties.

Accusations occurred at South Mountain that Colonel Lord was a coward. He was further berated by Provost Martial Marsena Patrick, who stated that, "*Since Col. Lord took command, there has been constant quarreling in this regiment, except when he was absent sick....*" Soon Lord was under arrest again for "*fraud in drawing forage, for drunkenness on duty, and cowardice.*" Soon another set of charges occurred when Lord was supposedly so drunk that he fell off his horse. At Cottage Landing, Virginia, he was so drunk that "*he made an indecent exposure of his person in the presence of a lady,*" after which he rode his horse into a gully and fell headlong from the saddle.

Lord seems to have reserved his most dramatic acts for the home folks. At Brownsville, New York, "*in full view of the citizens,*" he rode his horse into a bar, procured a drink of brandy for himself and a second brandy for his horse, then fired his revolver into the ceiling. After riding out into the street, where a large crowd of the curious had gathered, he rode once again into the bar, and "*repeated the performance.*"

By February 1863 the charges were dropped following his resignation. This would have ended the career of an ordinary man, but Lord was not ordinary. He returned to his native Jefferson County and by September 1863 had recruited enough men to form the 20th Regiment of New York Cavalry, with himself once again at the rank of colonel. This new regiment saw action in North Carolina and Virginia, and was present at the Appomattox surrender. Newton Lord served 18 months with this New York unit, resigning March 23, 1865. From all accounts, he seems to have kept his horse out any more bars.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Rutherford Hayes and Samuel Tilden
2. Frank Crawford Armstrong and he fought on the Union side
3. Ben Franklin Cheatham and Spring Hill, TN
4. Winfield Scott Hancock and James Garfield
5. John Gibbon and *The Artillerist's Manuel*
6. John Calvin Brown and Andrew Johnson
7. John Brown Gordon and Antietam
8. Joshua Chamberlain and Bowdoin College
9. Emory Upton and "Bloody Angle" at Spotsylvania
10. Richard Taylor and *Destruction and Reconstruction*

A last reminder for this month's exceptional meeting—**MONDAY, MARCH 31**—as **Robert Myers** will present: "*The Worst Colonel I Ever Saw: Francis Quinn of the 12th Michigan Infantry.*" The Farmington Public Library is near the intersection of Grand River and Farmington Road. Show up early since we will adhere to the starting time.