

We'd like to start this month's newsletter congratulating **Larry Hathcock** on his election as our new President. And it's only appropriate to say 'job well done' to our out-going President, Don Kadar. Don is to be given kudos on his effort to find ways to sustain and revitalize the MRRT, providing this writer the perfect segue to reiterate the committee groups he proposed and those that volunteered. They are:

- **Trip Committee:** Mollie, Joe, Jeanie, Linda Gerhardt, Barbara Moore, and Gary
- **Monthly Meetings & Recruiting Committee:** Norm, Jim Burroughs and Gene Kramer
- **Year Long Activities Committee:** Brandon Wright & Don Kadar.



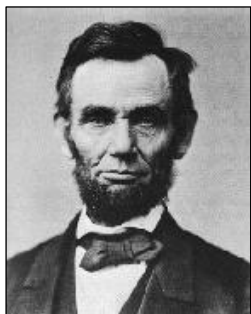
More volunteers are welcomed! This writer would like to recommend that volunteers arrive for the March meeting at 6:15 pm to begin discussion on how they intend to accomplish their chosen tasks.

Back on the **2012 ANNUAL DUES** front, we're still quite some ways from reaching our goal of 100% collection. If you haven't paid yet, you are strongly encouraged to do so this month. We suggest either bringing cash or a check to the March 26 meeting and giving to either Don Kadar (Treasurer) or Jeanie Graham (Assistant Treasurer), or mail a check payable to:

Don Kadar at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178-8966

We'd also like to encourage members receiving the hardcopy newsletter to consider switching to email. There's at minimum a 70¢ savings per member per month for email over hardcopy----that's \$7 per year per member! If you're willing and able to make that switch, simply send a note to ncarver55@comcast.net.

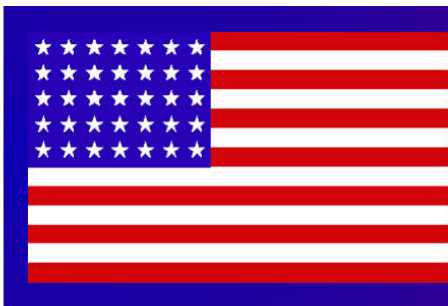
ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE DAN PACKER PRESENTING "THE



ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN." Abraham Lincoln's assassination is probably the greatest crime in the 235 year history of the United States. Numerous books have been written, and documentaries and movies made about the murder of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865. Dan will explore the backgrounds of John Wilkes Booth, his fellow conspirators, and how they came together to plan and implement their dastardly deed. He will discuss in an hour by hour, and even minute by minute, basis the key events leading-up to that fateful act. Many characters not normally covered in this topic will be included. The Weldon Petz' Lincoln book collection (over 500) at the Plymouth Historical Museum was the major source of information for the presentation. A short list of books about the assassination includes:

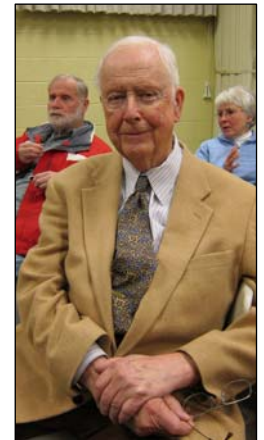
The Day Lincoln Was Shot, by Jim Bishop; In the Shadow of Lincoln's Death, by Otto Eisenschiml; Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer, by James L. Swanson; American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies, by Michael W. Kauffman; and Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever, by Bill O'Reilly Martin Dugard.

Dan Packer is a Plymouth resident who previously spoke to our group on "Lincoln's Connection with Women, Indians, and Michigan". Dan is presently the curator of the Plymouth Historical Museum, specializing in Abraham Lincoln and Civil War material.



MRRT WOULD LIKE TO THANK HUDSON MEADE FOR AN ENTERTAINING PRESENTATION ON GENERAL BENJAMIN BUTLER.

Hudson weaved an interesting portrait of the up and down career of Benjamin Butler. Remembered by Civil War enthusiast as a controversial, if not failed, political General (e.g., New Bethel, New Orleans, Fort Fisher), he in fact led a successful life when measured over the whole. Before the war, he earned distinction as a criminal lawyer, became a member in both the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate. Postbellum he served five terms in the US Congress, a term as Massachusetts governor, and became a presidential candidate on the Green-Back Party. Shortly before his death in 1893, his income as a lawyer was estimated at \$100k annually---a tidy little fortune in today's dollars.



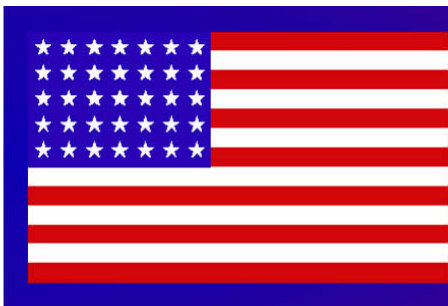
QUIZ: ALL QUESTIONS PERTAIN TO THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

1. Which of the alleged assassins officially charged in the conspiracy to kill Lincoln were not involved in the actual assassination?
2. How many (and who) of the alleged conspirators had actually seen service in the Confederate military?
3. When did John Wilkes Booth affirmatively state that Lincoln must be killed?
4. What was Joseph (Peanuts) Burroughs role in the assassination?
5. Which of the conspirators signed an oath of allegiance to the United States after being captured at Gettysburg?

MRRT MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2012: The pledge was dedicated to William T. F. Pike, one of the first casualties from Co. A, 2nd Batt (CSA), Hilliard's AL Legion, at Hoovers Gap. **Introduction of Guests & New Members:** Dave Thompson was introduced as a guest. **Newsletter:** A note of thanks was expressed to Norm & Jim for their work on our newsletter. Adding the secretary's report was seen as positive letting members not in attendance know what's happening at the meeting. **Web Report:** Will no longer be provided routinely at the meeting, rather it will be included in the newsletter. **Program, Preservation and Items of New Interest Reports** were not covered. **Old Business:** Larry Hathcock was unanimously elected President. **New Business:** We want to thank Jerry Maxwell's wife, Carlene, for her generous donation of a multi media projector for use by our speakers. There was further discussion on how we could honor Jerry for all he did and meant to the roundtable. Ron Cleveland and Larry Jackson discussed their proposals which included adding his name to the roundtable; adding MRRT money to an existing prize at his former high school, North Farmington HS (NFHS); giving a cash stipend to the college of a student chosen from a limited word essay submitted by history students from NFHS; giving money directly to the NFHS school history dept (possibly to an outstanding history teacher). Larry and Ron are to do more research and get back to us at the next meeting. **Secretary Report:** The February 2012 report was approved.

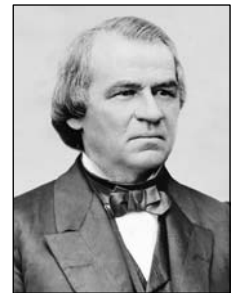
2012 TRIP REPORT: Suggestions for the 2012 October battlefield trip were generated at the February meeting and are shown below. A vote to select this year's destination will be held during the upcoming meeting from this list or any late additions. Come prepared to contribute and vote. Also noted below was last time the MRRT specifically visited the suggested battlefield and the approximate mileage from the Farmington Community Library.

- Manassas I & II, VA: 1975 - 540 miles.
- Brandy Station, VA: 1991 - 550 miles
- Charleston & Fort Sumter, SC: No recorded visits since 1973 - 880 miles
- Bentonville, NC: No recorded visits since 1973 - 780 miles
- Perrysville, KY: 2000 - 400 miles

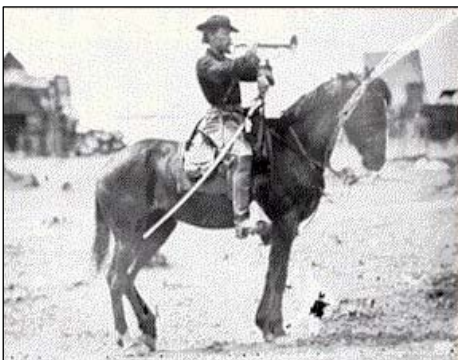


There was also discussion about traveling by bus from the Detroit area to the chosen destination with hotels included versus our standard mode of individual travel. The factors found most advantageous were convenience and the greater opportunity for members to socialize. Also discussed were the potential offsets including increased cost (or at least up front cost) and giving up some measure of individual freedom to travel. Gary Pike has had experience with this model with another roundtable in the area and has offered to provide further insight as the travel committee further explores this option.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL (MARCH 1862): On **Mar 3**, Gen Andrew Johnson receives Senate approval as the military governor of Tennessee. Gen Robert Lee assumes duties as Jefferson Davis' military advisor. In engagements **Mar 6-8**, Gen Van Dorn (CSA) surprises Union forces at Pea Ridge but the confederate forces are ultimately repelled by a counterattack from Gen Samuel Curtis near the Elkhorn Tavern. Result a Union victory. On **Mar 8**, Hampton Roads, VA the CSA ironclad Merrimack engages Federal vessels, putting the USS Cumberland and USS Roanoke out of commission. Later that day, the USS Monitor reaches Hampton Roads after a difficult trip from NY. The following morning, the USS Monitor and CSA Merrimack engage in a two hour dual, ending with injuries to both commanders but little damage to either vessel. The USS Monitor proves to be the better maneuvering vessel. On **Mar 11**, Lincoln issues General War Order Number Three removing Gen McClellan as general in chief of the Union Army and reassigns him as commander of the Army of the Potomac. New Berne, NC, **Mar 14**, Gen Burnside repels Gen Branch's (CSA) troops. Gen John Pope (US) takes Madrid, MO. On **Mar 17**, the Army of the Potomac embarks on the Peninsular Campaign. Out in the West, **Mar 26**, Colorado Territories, a clash between Union and CSA cavalry near Denver City results in a Federal victory with 50 confederate cavalymen captured. **Mar 26-28**, there are engagements in the New Mexico Territory at Apache Canyon, and later at La Glorietta Pass, that results in Union victories. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

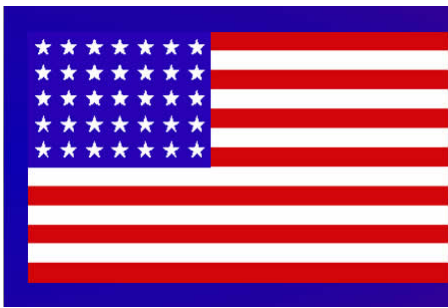


CIVIL WAR ESSENTIALS: This month we'll conclude our look at the cavalry. "Cavalry regiments were expensive to maintain while in service because of the amount of equipment carried by each cavalryman (carbine, saber, pistol, belt set, saddle, blanket, and other equipment for the soldier's mount), the number of horses needed, and the amount of feed, horse equipments and medical care required for the animals. A cavalryman had to carry not only enough food and water for himself, but he also had to carry a comb, canvas water bucket, a grain bag and other items for his horse. If a soldier's horse became ill or was lost, then he was on foot until a new horse could be obtained, which was more difficult for a Confederate cavalryman than the Union trooper. Most Confederate cavalymen had to provide their own horses, which they brought from home. If their horses were killed or went lame, the soldier had to rely on his folks at home to provide him with another mount or capture one from a hapless Union cavalryman (<http://Americancivilwar.com>)."



The five major cavalry missions were:

- Reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance screening
- Defensive, delaying actions
- Pursuit and harassment of defeated enemy forces
- Offensive actions
- Long-distance raiding against enemy lines of communications, supply depots, railroads, etc.



Some interesting facts:

- It's been estimated that 1.5 million horses died during the war (includes draft and artillery horses).
- A horse ate 10 pounds of grain each day.
- Union cavalrymen were provided horses whereas their Confederate counterparts provided their own, and if lost and unable to replace, reverted to being infantryman.
- At a walk, cavalry could cover four miles in an hour; at a slow trot, six; at a maneuvering trot, eight; at an alternate trot and walk, five; at a maneuvering gallop, twelve; and at a full extended gallop, sixteen.
- CSA Gen Stuart's raid on Chambersburg in 1862 resulted in a march of eighty miles during a twenty-seven hours.
- Union cavalrymen were armed with sabers and revolvers and initially carried carbines or rifles but as the war progressed, the carbine became the standard issued weapon.
- Confederate cavalrymen also carried saber, revolver and carbine, though some carried a rifle or a muzzle-loading shotgun.
- Regiment personnel included many specialties; i.e., Quartermaster, Commissary, Surgeon, saddler Sergeant, a chief farrier or blacksmith, and musicians.

CIVIL WAR ITEM OF INTEREST: Although there's literally hundreds of websites dedicated to the Civil War, here's a few you might find interesting.

- www.michiganinthewar.org/cwmireg.html: The website covers in great detail Michigan's role in the Civil War. Included are regimental histories, wartime deaths, and Michigan soldiers' gravesites.
- <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/abpp/battles/bycampgn.htm>: An excellent source of Civil War battle summaries provided by the National Park Service.
- <http://www.civilwar.org/> and <http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/>: The Civil War Trust provides an outstanding site with numerous articles on all aspects of the war to include the 150th anniversary.
- www.battleofgettysburgbuff.com/index.html: This is one of the many websites covering the Battle of Gettysburg in great detail.
- www.civilweek.com: This website provides a detailed description of military events that happened "this week" during the Civil War.

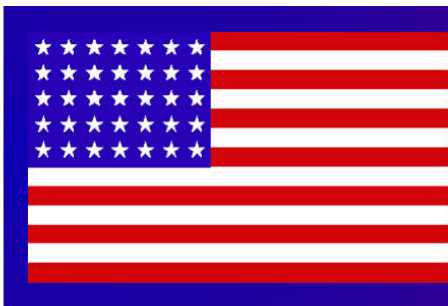
Should you have read a Civil War book, come across a key Civil War finding, or have a personal website favorite that would be of interest to the group; email that item along with an appropriate write-up to ncarver55@comcast.net.

PRESERVATION REPORT: Joe Epstein reports the CWT is attempting to save 77 acres at Cedar Creek, VA, for a purchase price of the \$1.258M. The trust has already secured funding of \$971K from Federal sources.

WEB REPORT: No significant update will occur until a decision is made on the 2012 Field Trip. Over the past decade, the MRRT website has been made possible through the auspices of the Farmington Public Library and the invaluable services of Mr. Gerald Furi, the library's former Information Manager. Gerald retired this last December but is continuing to provide his support to maintain the website. If you haven't had a chance, check it out at www.farmlib.org/mrрт/.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Samuel Arnold, Michael O'Laughlin and John Surratt were not involved in the conspiracy to kill Lincoln. Some historians have also included the stagehand Ned Spangler.
2. Only two, Samuel Arnold and Lewis Powell.
3. April 11, 1865 – when President Lincoln makes an impromptu speech from the White House balcony.



4. Joseph “Peanuts” Burroughs was holding Booth’s horse at the time of the shooting and gave Booth the horse during his escape from the theater. Joseph was not charged with any crime.
5. Lewis Powell

Don’t forget our next meeting date—**MONDAY, MARCH 26**—for **Dan Packer’s** presentation, “*The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.*” The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there!