



Our **membership renewal drive** is nearing the end. If you have not yet renewed, you can do so by either mailing a check for \$20 to Don Kadar at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178; or simply by bringing in cash or a check to this month's meeting. Checks should be made out to Don Kadar.

This month—MONDAY, March 25—the Michigan Regimental Round Table proudly welcomes back long-time member Ken Baumann who will present 'It's A Trial To Get Up Home.' Ken has collected numerous regimental histories, letters, journals, dairies, and photographs of Illinois Civil War soldiers. He is using unpublished material from this collection to relate the variety of experiences soldiers incurred on their way home from the greatest event of their lives, participation in the American Civil War. This will be an informative and entertaining look at an often forgotten topic.

Ken is a long-time member as well as three times President of our round table. He has spoken to us on several topics and is an expert on artillery and Illinois in the Civil War. Recently he became the Program Director for the Ann Arbor Roundtable. Ken is the author of *'Arming the Suckers 1861-1865: A Compilation of Illinois Civil War Weapons'*, which received favorable reviews when it was published in 1988. He has also written several articles for collector journals. Ken has a horticultural degree from the University of Illinois.

The Roundtable would like to thank Bill Grandstaff for his entertaining and informative presentation on the 'Men of Sumter'. Bill splendidly discussed the key individuals comprising the small Union garrison stationed in Charleston at the outbreak of the Civil War. Charleston had three forts: Moultrie, Castle Pinckney and Sumter. The purpose of these forts was originally to protect Charleston from attacks from the sea by France and Great Britain. None could be considered battle ready; Fort Moultrie had cows grazing on the parapet, Castle Pinckney had a two man garrison and Fort Sumter was still under construction. The key garrison officers included:

- Major Robert Anderson (1805-1871) was the commander and 56 years of age at time of his posting in November 1860. Ironically, he had been working on curriculum for West Point with 'the' Jefferson Davis when posted. As pro-slavery and a former slave-owner from Kentucky, many think his posting by Secretary of War John Floyd was that he (Anderson) must have had held Southern leanings and would more than likely surrender the forts without a fight. His original and intended posting was to Fort Moultrie (not Sumter) with orders to guard it (Moultrie) and precious little about what to do with the other two forts.
- Captain Abner Doubleday (1819-1867) was the commander of Company E's thirty two men and second-in-command. Although often credited with inventing baseball, he did not, but he could reasonably lay claim to having fired the first Union shot of the war. After the war, he received a patent for a cable car in San Francisco.
- Lieutenant Norman Hall (1837-1867) was from Monroe, MI. He was wounded at Antietam and served near the copse of trees at Gettysburg.
- Samuel Crawford (1829-1892) was the assistant surgeon. He helped man two of the cannons during the bombardment. Being ambitious, following the loss of Sumter, he transfers to a fighting role and by the close of the war, is promoted to Major General and present at Gen Lee's surrender at Appomattox—thereby seeing the first and last action of the war.
- Captain Truman Seymour (1824-1891) was commander of Company H's thirty two men. He was a drawing instructor at West Point and upon retiring from the service in 1876, travels to Europe to study painting.





- John G. Foster (1823-1874) was on engineering duty in Charleston Harbor, overseeing the construction of Fort Sumter. He's promoted to Major General of Volunteers in 1862 and is best known for his response to D.H. Hill's demand for the surrender of Washington, D.C.: *"If you want Washington, come and get it."*
- Lieutenant Jefferson C. Davis (not the Confederate President) (1828-1879) was second-in-command of Co. H. Later in the war, he killed General "Bull" Nelson but was not charged with murder.

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina secedes. Major Anderson is conflicted by his orders which suggest Moultrie his only responsibility but he rereads and rethinks his position as secession hostility rises among the locals. He decides to move troops and armaments from Moultrie to Sumter in the dead of night on December 26, 1860. Waking the next day to find Moultrie abandoned, the Southerners cry foul and South Carolina governor, Francis Perkins, demands Anderson move back to Fort Moultrie.



President Lincoln sends a message to Governor Perkins on March 30, 1861 that he was sending a boat to the fort with food for the garrison. The resupply effort fails. The Confederate commander, General Beauregard, demands Sumter's surrender on April 11, 1861. Anderson refused even while knowing he would run out of provisions in a few days but honor dictated holding on while the means were present. The Civil War starts with the Confederates firing the first shot at 4:20 am on April 12, 1861. The first Union shot was fired at 6:30 am. There were 3,341 shots fired by the Confederates and 1,000 by the Union during the 36 hour bombardment and amazingly, no casualties to hostile fire. However, one Union soldier died and another was mortally wounded during a 100 shot salute requested by

Anderson, and allowed by the Confederates, following the 'honorable' surrender of Fort Sumter on April 14, 1861. After the surrender, Major Anderson and 430 troops depart Sumter and are honored with a parade on Broadway. The key benefit of this whole episode for the Union was it could plainly be stated that the war was started by Southern aggression, not by that of the North. Fort Sumter was the Pearl Harbor of the Civil War and the North was now ready to fight.

QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Soldier Experiences On the Way Home From the Civil War:

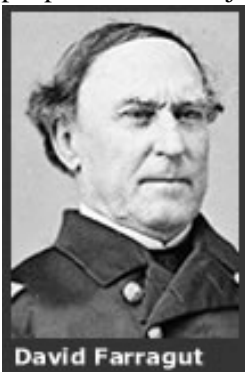
1. How did Civil War troops travel on freight trains?
2. What was the name of the railroad bridge that the Union troops crossed the Ohio River on at Louisville?
3. What was the 'Veteran Pox'?
4. Did the soldiers traveling north have to purchase their own food and lodging?
5. Were Union soldiers discharged from the army in their home states, which would minimize traveling expenses?

MRRT Minutes for February 25, 2013: The **Call to Order** was at 6:40 pm with approximately 20 present and 40+ by time of Bill Grandstaff's presentation. The **Pledge** was dedicated to George Allen who experienced a bad fall in January. He's at home and doing much better. **Introduction of Guests and New Members:** We had a new member, Charlie Wagner, and guest, John Gignac, attend the meeting. **Newsletter Report:** Bob read from the Cleveland Charger, Cincinnati Canister, Indianapolis Hardtack, NYC Dispatch, and the Toledo Mini Bulletin. **Preservation Report:** The Civil War Trust (CWT) sent the MRRT a letter in February thanking us for our \$300 donation. The CWT is contracted to purchase 61 acres at Brandy Station on Fleetwood Hill for \$3.6M. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation is seeking \$110K to preserve the earthworks of Ft. Star, one of the last remaining star shaped forts near Winchester. The CWT is also raising \$275K to save 69 acres at Glendale, Malvern Hill and First Deep Bottom. The CWT has successfully



saved 3,775 acres in 2012. **Trip Report:** The team is working on a trip to *Charleston, S.C., for Oct 5-6*. As usual, it will be up to the members to get to Charleston. More details will follow. A sign-up list will be started at the March meeting for those interested in going on the 2013 field trip. **Items of Interest:** Antietam Battlefield has allocated space on an easement on private land for a Michigan monument representing all units participating in the battle. **Old Business:** The MRRT became a member of the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition by sending a donation of \$75. **New Business:** We are considering a change of meeting time to accommodate those who have trouble getting to the library by 6:30 pm; e.g., starting the coffee/social at 6:30 followed by the meeting at 7 pm. We must be out of the library by 8:45 so a more streamlined business meeting is desirable. Comments are welcomed. Jerry Maxwell's book, *The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham*, was awarded the Alabama Historical Association's 2013 James Sulzby Award for making the greatest contribution in furthering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Alabama history. **Secretary's Report:** The January 28, 2013 report was accepted.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (March 1863): **3 Mar:** Congress passes the new Enrollment Act (also known as the Conscription Act) calling for able bodied men, 20-45 years of age, to serve an enlistment of 3 years. This act bypasses the states. Also authorized is the controversial suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. The Territory of Idaho is established. **4 Mar:** CS Gen Van Dorn captures several of Gen Rosecrans's regiments near Spring Hill, TN. One of the last acts of the adjourning Congress is to establish the National Academy of Science. **5 Mar:** Vicksburg continues to prepare for the battle sure to come while Grant is digging the canal to bypass that city. Col Coburn's federal forces are defeated by confederates near Franklin, TN. Southern troops then occupy that city. **8 Mar:** Confederate troops capture Gen EH Stoughton and his headquarters at Fairfax County Court House, VA. **10 Mar:** Abraham Lincoln issues a proclamation of general amnesty allowing union deserters to rejoin their units by 1 Apr without consequence, otherwise they would be charged with desertion. Union forces under Col Higginson comprised of predominantly of black regiments occupy Jacksonville, FL. **11 Mar:** Confederates at Vicksburg construct Fort Pemberton to block federal attempts to move on that city from the Yalobusha River and are successful in this effort. **13 Mar:** The Confederate Ordinance Laboratory at Brown's Island, near Richmond, blows-up due to the careless handling of a detonation device by a factory worker. 69 people are either injured or killed in the explosion, 62 of them women. **14 Mar:** In an effort to reach Vicksburg from the south, **Adm David Farragut** runs the batteries at Port Hudson but not without cost. The USS Mississippi is lost and 2 other gun boats with serious damage are turned away. **17 Mar:** Gen William Averell (Army of the Potomac) cavalry corps successfully engages Gen Fitz Lee at Culpeper. **19 Mar:** Adm Farragut positions his gunboats south of Vicksburg having passed Natchez and Grand Gulf. **20 Mar:** Federal forces take another thrust towards Vicksburg, this time by way of the Steele Bayou with troops commanded by Adm Porter and Gen Sherman but this too is repulsed. **23 Mar:** Adm Farragut's gunboats, the Hartford and Albatross attack confederate shore batteries at Warrenton. **24 Mar:** The federals once more maneuver towards Vicksburg by way of the Black Bayou but are again repulsed. Grant concedes further efforts in this direction against Vicksburg are futile and withdraws Sherman. **25 Mar:** Abraham Lincoln approves Gen Burnside's appointment as commander of the Department of Ohio and the incumbent, Gen Horatio Wright, is assigned as a division commander in the Army of the Potomac. **26 Mar:** Abraham Lincoln writes TN governor Andrew Johnson "*The colored population is the great available, and yet unavailed of, for restoring the union. The bare sight of black soldiers on the banks of the Mississippi would end the rebellion at once.*" West Virginia citizens approve a referendum providing for the emancipation of slaves. **27 Mar:** Abraham Lincoln meets with several Indian tribe chiefs, advising them to turn to "*cultivation of the earth*" to support their people. **30 Mar:** Abraham Lincoln proclaims a day of fasting and prayer for 30 Apr. **31 Mar:** CS Col Mosby defeats union cavalry at Drainesville, VA. Union troops evacuate Jacksonville, FL.



David Farragut



Civil War Essentials—Medical Service: This month starts a series of articles on Civil War medical practices. As Charles Dickens wrote, “*it was the best of times, it was the worst of time*” as America approached the advent of the war. It’s frequently said that the Civil War was the first ‘modern war’. For warfare, it certainly was the best of times; weapons became more accurate, longer ranged, and fired more rapidly; the capacity to move troop and war material between distant geographical locations had improved multi-fold; rapid communication with far flung units by telegraph and other means was rapidly evolving; and the industrial capacity to fuel the fire with war materials was unparalleled. Now throw in the rapid growth of volunteer troops, young and old, healthy and not, from rural to urban settings and from all walks of life combined to establish a lethality not only on the battlefield, but in the camps as well, never previously experienced. And against this setting, it could be easily said that it was the worst of times for medicine. Not only were both sides completely unprepared for the massive injuries and illnesses to come, medical practices of the day were barely emerging from the Middle Ages.



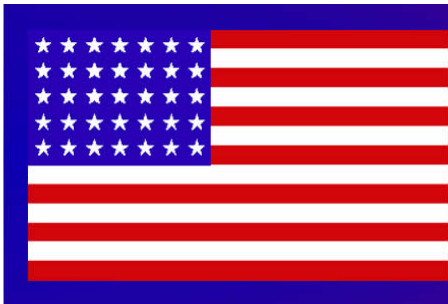
The practice of medicine at the start of the war must be seen against the backdrop of poorly trained doctors; the knowledge and critical importance of hygienic and sanitary principles nearly completely lacking; and the near incompetence with treating the wide range of illnesses and battlefield wounds to be incurred. None of this is to suggest arrogance and purposely struck ignorance of those in the field, it simply was a time when critical medical discoveries were yet to come—and the Civil War proved to be a catalyst, spurring the rapid advancement of medical practices.

Just looking at the numbers, of nearly 3 million soldiers that served, 618,000 would die with approximately 400,000 of those to illness and disease and the remaining 218,000 to battlefield wounds. These are staggering numbers and numbers perhaps no nation of the time could have dealt with successfully. In upcoming articles we’ll look at further details in how North and South dealt with these issues, the doctors, the medical systems in-place and the improvements made throughout the conduct of the war.

Item of Interest: The Abraham Lincoln CWRT has open spots for their spring trip; ‘*From Cedar Mountain to Second Manassas.*’ The dates are April 12-15, 2013 and the tour guides are Scott Patchan and Gary Ecclebarger, both well known historians and Civil War authors. Trip cost, double occupancy, is \$499. This includes 3 nights lodging, breakfasts, round trip transportation via deluxe motor coach from Farmington Hills, tour guides, all entrance fees, gratuities, and a farewell dinner banquet. If interested or you have questions, please contact Liz Stringer at 248-473-4118 (evenings) or email at stringerl@aol.com.

QUIZ Answers:

1. There were very few passenger trains while the army controlled the railroads, so the soldiers usually rode on the roofs of the freight cars. By contrast, World War 1 soldiers rode in 40 by 8 box cars.
2. There was no bridge across the Ohio River, so they had to wait for the ferry.
3. Numerous Union soldiers who veteranized, contracted venereal diseases in Louisville, Memphis, and Nashville while traveling north for their 30-day Veteran Furlough.
4. Not always, some of the larger cities had established Soldier’s Rests, where they could obtain food and lodging.
5. No, some lucky soldiers were released close to home; while others were mustered out in far away locations such as New Orleans, Texas, and Utah.



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