



This month members will decide what we do for the field trip this upcoming October 25-26. Mollie reports that Scott Patchan has offered up four choices—this meeting we’ll pick one of the four. If one choice out of the four does not get at least 50% of the first vote, we’ll do a runoff between the top two vote getters. For those planning to participate in this year’s trip, review the choices shown below and come prepared to vote. If you’re unable to attend the meeting, you can send me your prioritized choices 1 thru 4 by email ncarver55@gmail.com.



Choice #1	Choice #2	Choice #3	Choice #4
<p>“Grant’s Road to Victory”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Forks • Pamplin Park and Union Breakthrough • Forts Hell and Damnation • Saylor’s Creek • Surrender at Appomattox 	<p>“Sheridan in the Shenandoah”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Battle of Kernstown • Third Battle of Winchester • Battle of Fisher’s Hill • Walking tour of Winchester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lexington • New Market • Piedmont • Virginia Military Institute (VMI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boliver Heights • Monocacy • Second Kernstown • Third Winchester

On **MONDAY, March 31**, we welcome President Lincoln to our humble Roundtable. Lincoln will be portrayed by the well-known Abraham Lincoln first-person actor, Fred Priebe. He will discuss **“Why Did He Wait So Long?”** We will hear from the President himself as he describes the path he took to issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. There were numerous difficulties that had to be addressed before the Proclamation was published in late 1862—and the President will explain his thinking as he dealt with each and every one.



Fred Priebe has been doing President Lincoln first-person presentations since 1996 when a Civil War re-enactor at Greenfield Village suggested he do Lincoln after watching one of his role-playing activities. Employing his vast knowledge of Abraham Lincoln, Fred launched his new career. Fred has spoken to a variety of audiences and groups in several states and four countries, including Australia, Canada, France, and England. Fred won the award for *“Best Abraham Lincoln of 2006”* by the Association of Lincoln Presenters. He is a member of several Lincoln societies.

The Roundtable would like to give a hearty thanks to Bill Cottrell for his thought provoking presentation, “From Lincoln to Andrew Johnson-Reconstruction or Restoration?” Perhaps the legacy of the Andrew Johnson presidency can be best summed up by this quote from Wikipedia:

In the early 21st century, Johnson is among those commonly mentioned as the worst presidents in U.S. history. According to historian Glenn W. Lafantasié, who believes Buchanan the worst president, "Johnson is a particular favorite for the bottom of the pile because of his impeachment ... his complete mishandling of Reconstruction policy ... his bristling personality, and his enormous sense of self-importance." Tolson

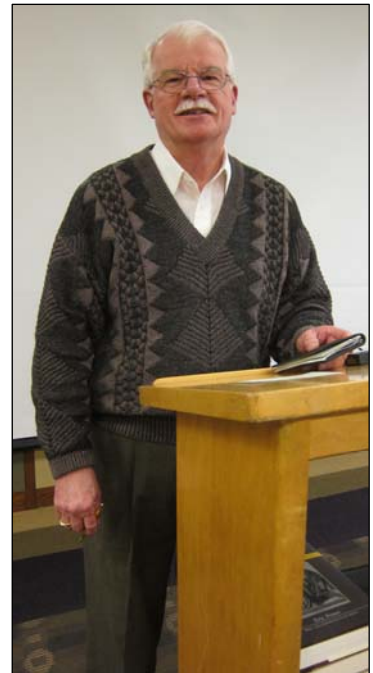


suggests that "Johnson is now scorned for having resisted Radical Republican policies aimed at securing the rights and well-being of the newly emancipated African-Americans". Gordon-Reed notes that Johnson, along with his contemporaries Pierce and Buchanan, are generally listed among the five worst presidents, but states, "there have never been more difficult times in the life of this nation. The problems these men had to confront were enormous. It would have taken a succession of Lincolns to do them justice."

Against this damning indictment, Bill did a superb job of presenting Johnson in full, from a humble birth in Raleigh, NC, to his rise as a self-made man in his chosen residence of Greenville, Tennessee. Johnson proved to be an immensely popular Tennessean politician, rising from local offices up through his ultimate elevation to the Presidency on April 15, 1865. Unfortunately for him, his political life has ultimately been judged by this four year span during which he escaped impeachment by one vote, personally campaigned against adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and in general, poorly executed Southern Reconstruction.

Quiz Questions:

1. In 1832, the Virginia Enquirer newspaper, called slavery a “dark and growing evil”. During the 1850’s what was this newspaper calling for?
2. Why did Lincoln consider the Dred Scott decision of 1857 part of a growing threat to labor in the nation?
3. What role did slavery play in the 1860 Republican Party platform?
4. What caused the war to be known as a rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight?
5. Who wrote the bills that become the 13th Amendment?

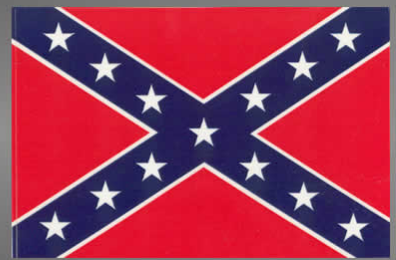


Odds & Ends:

- **Yearly Dues:** Our membership drive has one month to go. If you have not yet renewed, make this the month to close the deal. You can pay by check or cash at the upcoming meeting, or simply mail a check directly to Don Kadar, 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178. All checks should be made out to Don Kadar.
- **American Libraries website** (<https://archive.org/details/regimentalhistories>) provides numerous regimental histories for your reading and research efforts. Regimental histories are a prime Civil War research tool.

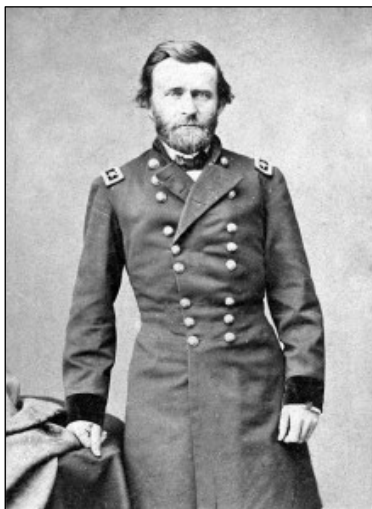


MRRT Minutes for February 24, 2014: The **Call to Order** was at 6:35. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Shirley Petz, Weldon’s wife, who died February 9. **Newsletter Report:** Bob read from the Indianapolis Hardtack, Toledo Mini Bulletin, NYC Dispatch, Cleveland Charger, and Cincinnati Canister. **Preservation Report:** Joe reports the CWT is attempting to raise \$112,000 to save 45 acres at South Mountain, MD. This plot of land was the scene of eight hours of intense fighting between Cox’s Kanawha division and Confederate General Samuel Garland Jr’s troops in Fox Gap. The trust has raised \$337,000 in Federal grants toward the \$445,000 purchase price. **Web Report:** The annual trip page video of the 2013 Charleston trip is safe to download as well as to stream from the site. **Trip Report:** Scott Patchan will be leading us Oct. 25-26. **Items of Interest:** 1-Gene highly recommends “*Bully for the Band*”. Its about four brothers that served in the 10th Vermont Regimental Band. The story is taken from their letters and diaries. 2-Sons of Union Veterans is looking for descendants of Union officers. They meet in Dearborn the 2nd Tuesday of the month. 3-The GAR building in Detroit will be opening this fall but only the mosaic in the lobby will be Civil War related. 4-Due to a lack of funding, the Mariners’ Museum has announced it is temporarily closing the conservation lab that holds the large artifacts



from the USS Monitor. The artifacts will not be harmed, but it means that treatment of large artifacts, like the gun turret, steam engine, and Dahlgren guns, have been put on hold. An appropriation from Congress will be necessary before restoration can resume. **New Business:** We need a volunteer to make a trifold brochure about our organization to put in the library. Volunteers? The **Minutes for January 27, 2014** were approved.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (March 1864): 1 Mar: Lincoln nominates U.S. Grant for Lieutenant General and on the following day, the Senate approves it. Along with being the highest ranking officer, Grant also assumes the title of general in chief of the USA. On this day, Kilpatrick and Dahlgren close in on Richmond. They are unable to combine forces and each is separately turned back. **2 Mar:** Dahlgren’s forces are entrapped by the Confederates and Dahlgren is killed. Found on his body were two documents, one stating the objective of releasing prisoners and burning Richmond; the other more inflammatory yet unsigned document read, “*once the city is destroyed, and Jeff Davis and cabinet killed...*” This letter is sent thru Lee to Meade with an inquiry as to its origin. Meade replies that neither he nor Kilpatrick sanctioned or approved it. **4 Mar:** Andrew Johnson is confirmed by the Senate as the governor of TN. Kilpatrick reunites with Meade’s army. The Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid costs the Union 340 men. **5 Mar:** Lincoln and Grant meet for the first time at a Washington Reception. **10 Mar:** The Red River Campaign kicks-off with the objective to establish Union control in Louisiana and eastern Texas. **14 Mar:** The Union experiences its first success during the Red River Campaign, taking Fort de Russy near Simpsport, LA. **15 Mar:** Lincoln transfers power from the military command to the new civil governor of LA in his first steps of reconstruction in that state. **17 Mar:** Grant formally takes command of the Union armies and announces “*Headquarters will be in the field, and, until further orders, will be with the Army of the Potomac.*” **18 Mar:** Arkansas ratifies a pro-Union constitution and abolishes slavery.

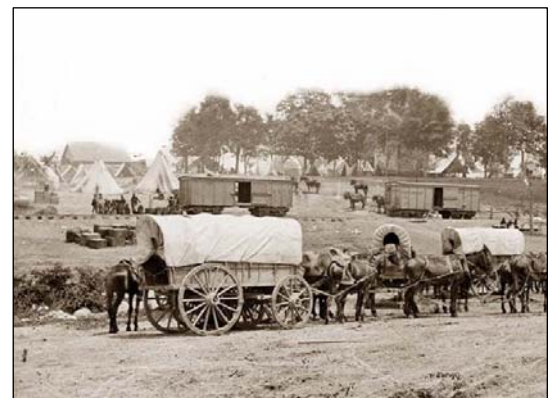


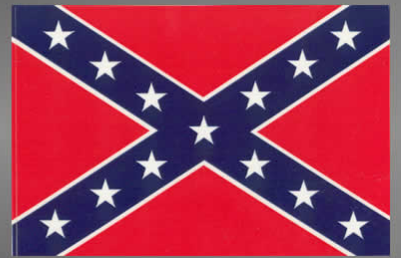
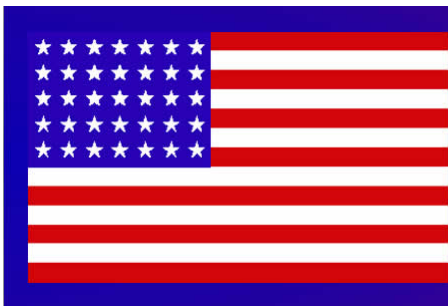
21 Mar: Back to the Red River Campaign, Federal Gen Mower surprises and roundly defeats CSA Gen Taylor, effectively depriving the Confederates of their means of scouting. **24 Mar:** Nathan Bedford Forrest captures Union City in west TN. Gen Nathaniel Banks Red River Campaign encounters two significant setbacks; first he must return 10,000 AJ Smith troops to Sherman, and secondly, he finds the river low, making it difficult to move his naval fleet. Nevertheless, he forges ahead to Shreveport. **25 Mar:** CSA Forrest attacks but does not take the Federal garrison stationed at Paducah, KY. **26 Mar:** Threatened by Sherman’s cavalry, Forrest retreats from Paducah towards Fort Pillow. **28 Mar:** In the worst anti-war outbreak since the 1863 Draft Riots in NY, Copperheads attack Federal soldiers in Charleston, IL, killing five and wounding twenty. **29 Mar:** Gen Meade stung by ongoing criticism from the press on his conduct of operations at Gettysburg requests a military inquiry but is ultimately dissuaded by Lincoln in following through. For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

Civil War Essentials: Over the next few months we will be alternating between stories on Civil War prisons and horses. This month we begin our look at the roles horses and mules played in each army.

Logistics are the key to an army’s success—and horses and mules are the primary source of logistics during the Civil War. Artillery, cavalry, infantry and teamsters used horses to move men and equipment. General Sherman told his army, “*Every opportunity at a halt during a march should be taken advantage of to cut grass, wheat, or oats and extraordinary care be taken of the horses upon which everything depends*”.

Horses were plentiful in 1861. There were approximately 3.4 million horses





in the North and 1.7 million in the Confederacy. The border states of Kentucky and Missouri had an additional 800,000 horses. At the battle of Gettysburg, the Union Army had 20,000 horses and 10,000 mules, while the Confederates had more than 16,000 horses and mules. During the war, the Union Army used approximately 825,000 horses costing an average price of \$150 each. Between the two armies more than 1,000,000 horses and mules were killed or died during the War. At the beginning of the war, more horses were killed than men.

Artillery used horses to move heavy cannons from place to place. They were usually big draft animals capable of hauling heavy weight. The capacity of a horse to pull a load was primarily affected by the nature of the surface over which the load was being hauled. One horse could pull 3,000 pounds 20-23 miles a day over hard-paved roads. The pulling ability went down to 1,100 pounds over rough ground. Men riding the horse also reduced the pulling ability.



Artillery horses were subject to mortal danger in battle. A common and effective tactic when attacking a battery was to shoot the horses harnessed to it. As a result, artillery pieces were often abandoned because there was no way to move them. For example, the 10th Massachusetts Battery was involved in heavy fighting at Ream's Station, Virginia in August 1864. The Battery had six guns fighting behind a makeshift barricade. Soon, only two of the Battery's thirty horses were still standing; both of these horses were wounded. The average number of wounds for each horse was five.

When the artillery served with cavalry, it was called horse artillery. Each man had his own horse, so that the artillery could keep up with the fast-moving cavalry.

Quiz Answers:

1. The revival of the African slave trade.
2. The Supreme Court ruled that a slaveholder could take his slaves anywhere he wanted to. This could, potentially, make all states slave states.
3. The Republican Party opposed the spread of slavery in the territories and promised no interference with slavery in the existing states.
4. A man could pay a \$300 fee (about one year's income for the average man) to avoid the Union draft.
5. Michigan Senator Jacob Howard

Mark your calendars for **Monday, March 31** to hear President Lincoln (aka Fred Priebe) present **“Why Did He Wait So Long?”** The business meeting will begin at 6:30 pm followed by a brief break for coffee and cookies and then the speaker. Also, check-out our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.