

MEMBER RENEWAL

The MRRT celebrates its 58th year in 2018 – and this month is a great time to show your support by renewing your membership! (Or become a new member!). Membership remains \$20 a year – or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Treasurer **Jeanie Graham** (the bank will NOT accept checks made out to the RoundTable) and can be mailed to her home at **29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326**; or simply bought to the meeting and given to Jeanie. Cash is always welcomed. **We have 23 members unpaid for 2018!**

The March meeting will include the FINAL vote for our fall 2018 trip destination. The preliminary February vote (in order of votes received) resulted in Chattanooga & Chickamauga, Richmond, Virginia, Gettysburg, and the Shenandoah Valley Campaigns (either 1862 or 1864) being the finalists. **If you want to vote by proxy, please send an e-mail to Mollie, mmgalate@gmail.com, with your choice.**

Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

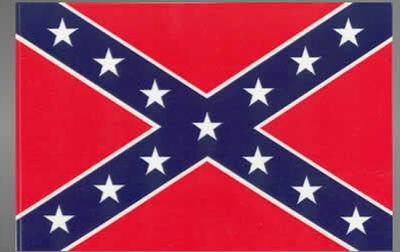
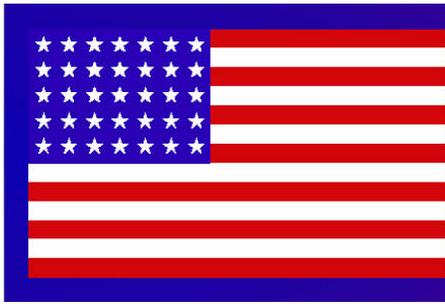
Our Monday, March 26, 2018 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library. Member Peter Gaudet will share with us “Gettysburg Photography: Then and now”! Shortly after the end of greatest battle ever fought on the North American continent, photographers Alexander Gardner, Timothy Sullivan, James Gibson and Matthew Brady headed to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to record graphic images of death and destruction. **Peter will show us the wet plate photographic process that preserved the aftermath of a great battle for our generation(s).**

Peter has accumulated battlefield images over the last 10 years, taken precisely where the historic images were created in 1863. These images will be both fascinating and thought provoking. This will be a great presentation for us! Peter became interested in the Civil War during the late 1960’s when his family visited Civil War battlefields. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Michigan and was a commissioned officer with the 101st Airborne. Peter expanded a professional wedding photography business to include both portraits and landscaping. He is a member of several Civil War Roundtables. Peter and wife Veronica live in Clinton Township, MI with their two sons, Jonathan and Joshua.



The Michigan Regimental Roundtable wishes to thank Ron Carley for his compelling and authentic interpretation of Abraham Lincoln’s early years – “Lincoln Straight from the Horse’s Mouth”. Ron bears a remarkable resemblance to the 16th President. He was motivated by the recent movie about Lincoln to consider becoming a Lincoln interpreter. Although dressing up as Lincoln began as a costume for a Halloween party, **Ron has found stimulating his audience’s interest in American history to be the most important and rewarding aspect of this role.**

Ron cast the retelling of Lincoln’s early years as a response to an imagined request from Lincoln’s law partner, Herndon, for input to a planned book. Lincoln’s character tells us that he was born in Kentucky in 1809, the second child in his family. Abe’s mother Nancy taught him some basic reading and math skills. His family moved frequently; in 1818 they moved to Indiana where they stayed for 14 years.



Young Abe worked at many labor jobs to earn money which he dutifully turned over to his parents. After his mother died from “cow milk disease” (tremolo poisoning), his father returned to Kentucky to find another wife. The blended family moved to Illinois but **Abe, now an adult, struck out on his own and settled in New Salem.** He decided to study as much as possible so that he could avoid doing hard labor all his life. A stint as a postmaster enabled him to read newspapers passing through the mail as part of this education. He entered into a joint ownership of a store but his



partner left Lincoln with a debt which took years to pay off. His first love was Ann Rutledge but she died young.

Lincoln began to read law books and found an aptitude for the law. He passed the written examination and became a lawyer. To earn a living, he moved to the new state capital of Springfield. He entered into partnerships with several other lawyers, eventually with Herndon. Lawyers of the time did what was called “riding the circuit”, which meant moving from one town to the next to adjudicate cases (both civil and criminal). Lincoln and others spent a lot of time away from home as a result.

He met and fell in love with Mary Todd who came from a wealthy family in Lexington, Ky. Mary believed Abe would someday be President. **They were engaged, then he broke it off but reversed course and they married in 1841.** Their first child, Robert, was born the

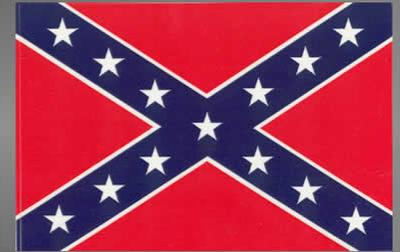
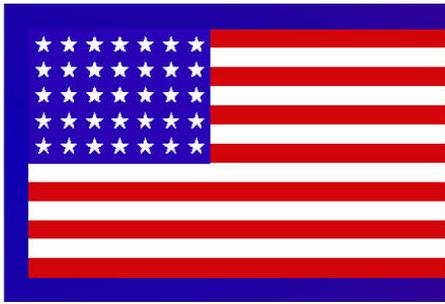
following year. They had several more children but Robert was the only one to reach adulthood. **Lincoln was nominated on the 3rd ballot at the Republican convention and won the election against the fragmented Democrats.**

Ron noted that Lincoln was a skilled wrestler in his youth and remained a strong man through his life. **Among other little known aspects of his life are that he enjoyed bowling, he was fond of cats, and he held a U.S. Patent.**

MRRT Minutes for February 26, 2018: Call to Order 6:40 pm, about 35 present **Pledge** Dedicated to Mollie’s uncle, Thomas Robert Courtney, who was held for 885 days in Fukuoka #1, Kashii, Japan, 1943 to 1945 **Introduction of Guests and New Members** Guests Don Neumann and Claire and Betsy Sheckels, friends of Al. We welcomed new members Rick Lampe and Mike Crumley **Secretary’s Report** Accepted **Preservation** Not available **Newsletters** Bob read from the Cleveland Charger, Indianapolis Hardtack, Cincinnati Canister, and the NYC Dispatch **Website** No change **Trip Report** the final four choices (listed on Page 1) will be voted on during the March meeting. Knowledge of a guide will advance significantly advance a location. **Program** the March 2018 speaker Peter Gaudet will speak on “Gettysburg Photography: Then and now”. **Items of Interest** Don Garlit read on a Gettysburg blog that John Hiser (our former Gettysburg tour guide) identified the Devil’s Den sharpshooter as John Rutherford Ash of the 2nd Georgia. **New Business** None **Old Business** None

Quiz Questions: This month’s questions and answers pertain to Civil War Photography.

1. Which improvement made the camera much more useful during the Civil War?
2. What was the impact of the photographic exhibition of “*The Dead at Antietam*”?
3. Approximately how many Civil War photographers were there? What was the main subject matter of Civil War photographs?
4. What was the relationship between Alexander Gardner and Matthew Brady?
5. What was the importance of the American Civil War to the photography business?



Civil War Essentials – Confederate spy Antonia Ford (1838-1871) was born in Fairfax, Virginia to a prominent merchant. The Ford family was staunch secessionists when the war began in 1861.



Antonia Ford

The Union Army came through Fairfax on its way to the First Battle of Bull Run during July 1861. Union soldiers stayed in the Ford home. Antonia decided that she had to help the fledging Confederacy with information. The attractive Miss Ford circulated among the Union officers and gathered intelligence about the size of the Union army and its planned movements. This was passed along to General J.E.B. Stuart, in whose artillery her brother served. As a reward for her efforts, she earned an honorary place on General Stuart's staff in the fall of 1861. During the fall of 1862, Antonia rode nearly twenty miles to inform General Stuart that the enemy planned to use Confederate colors to draw the Rebels from their positions on the Second Bull Run battlefield.

Union General Edwin Stoughton set up his 1862-1863 winter headquarters in Fairfax. Antonia made friends with General Stoughton, creating gossip in town and concern among the General's subordinates. She was still relaying information about the Union Army in the Fairfax area to General Stuart and Mosby. Mosby and his men slipped into town on

March 8, 1863 to successfully capture General Stoughton, two captains, 30 prisoners and 58 horses, without firing a shot.

Union Secretary of War Edwin Stanton demanded that those responsible be arrested. Antonia's father was arrested as the prime suspect but soon released. Soon, Antonia became the prime suspect.

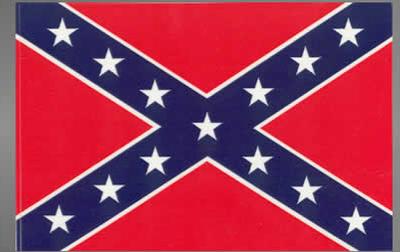
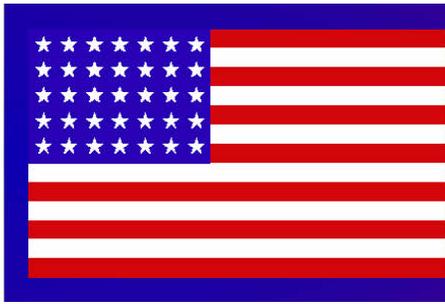
Lafayette Baker, head of the Union Secret Service, sent his own female spy, Frankie Abel, to the Ford home, posing as a refugee from New Orleans. Soon, Antonia made the mistake of showing her new good friend Frankie documents stating her place on General Stuart's staff. Secretary Stanton then ordered Antonia to be brought to the Old Capital Prison in Washington. Confederate correspondence and money were found in her possession.

After seven months in prison, Antonia's health began to fail. Fortunately for her, Union Major Joseph Willard, who had been at Fairfax, fell in love with her. He obtained her release after she signed the Oath of Loyalty to the Union. They married on March 10, 1864. Two of their three children died in infancy.

Antonia Ford died at the age of thirty-three. Her health issues were probably directly related to the time she spent in Old Capitol Prison.

Quiz Answers:

1. The wet-plate process, developed during the 1850's, reduced exposure time and allowed multiple prints to be made from single glass-plate negatives. Previously, the daguerreotype was used primarily in studios because of the long exposure time.
2. The exhibit was a sensation. One reporter wrote that the photographs brought "*home to us the terrible reality and earnestness of the war*".
3. There were approximately 750 photographers active during the Civil War. The Union Army authorized 300 photographers to take pictures. More than 90% of the photographs taken were either group or individual portraits. The exposure time was too long to show soldiers in combat.
4. Alexander Gardner took many of the photographs that Matthew Brady received credit for. The photographs for Brady's "*The Dead at Antietam*" exhibition were taken by Gardner and James F. Gibson. Gardner resigned and became very well known on his own.
5. The Civil War was the first great media event in American history and the first major event to be documented using photography.



Civil War Essentials – Slang Terms the citizen soldiers of both armies developed their own expressions to describe army life that were used in the numerous diaries, letters, and memoirs that soldiers on both sides wrote. The terms “Yanks” and “Rebs” were commonly used by both sides. Even the term “doughboys” (much more common during World War 1) was used.

Almost every item that the soldiers used had at least one nickname. Examples include:

Muskets	“smoke poles” and “pumpkin slingers”	Tents	“doghouses”
Sewing kits	“housewives”	Tall hats	“tar buckets”
Pistols	“pepperbox”	Large knife	“Arkansas toothpick”
Surgeons	“sawbones”	Hornets	“bullets”

Body lice included; “crumbs” “graybacks” or “Bragg’s bodyguards” – to “honor” unpopular Confederate General Braxton Bragg.

Diarrhea “Tennessee trots” and “Virginia quick-steps”

Obviously, there were numerous slang terms for the ‘delicious’ food served to the soldiers.

“Hellfire stew” “desecrated vegetables” “embalmed beef” “sheet iron crackers”

Army cooks were called “dog robbers”. **Peanuts** “goobers”

Coffee “the last grind” “dirty mud”

Soldier’s stomach “bread basket”

Soldiers who had fought in their first battle had “seen the elephant”.

If a soldier ran off, he had “skedaddled”.

A soldier who had done a lot “being through the mill”

Generals created new expressions. **Union General Benjamin Butler** was known as “Spoons” for confiscating the silverware of wealthy New Orleans residents. General Butler also created the term “Butlerize”, meaning to steal.

General Sherman’s army created new expressions on its march to the sea. “**Sherman’s neckties**” were the result of dismantling railroads, heating the rails, and then twisting them around trees. So many buildings were burned that burning meat to a crisp became known as “**Shermanizing**” it.

Several Civil War slang terms are with us today. A change in postal regulations created “**first class mail**”. Both sides used conscription during the war, creating slang terms such as “**drafttees**”, “**draft dodgers**” and “**bounty jumpers**”. Money was called “**greenbacks**”.