

Southern boys were from the outset of the Civil War noted for their unsurpassed horsemanship. *“There was a dash about them that the Northern men lacked,”* wrote one admiring Northern civilian. *“They rode like circus riders.”* Virginia horsemen were especially celebrated for their prowess, and perhaps none were more prolific than those of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry. *“My love of horses would, of course, permit me to join no other branch in the service,”* stated one member of the Third. Outfitting the troopers became a problem from the beginning. *“Some of us were equipped with old sabers that had done service in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, or the war with Mexico,”* began another trooper. *“Some of the troops had derringers, others had revolvers of ancient vintage, while only a few had modern weapons.”* This lack of weaponry, however, did not deter the fighting spirit of these Virginians. As one of them boasted, *“Though we had everything from shotguns to sporting rifles, we were not daunted, knowing that we could shoot accurately with what we had, and when it came to horses, we had steeds that could overtake....anything the Yankees had.”*

Once initiated into battle, these Virginians proved their worth, yet the war gave them numerous unwanted experiences. Following the fighting at Williamsburg in May of 1862, Private Robert Hudgins wrote: *“One shell landed to my right, killing a man and mortally wounding his horse. This was the first time I had ever heard a horse squeal when wounded, and it was truly horrifying.”* Hudgins later saw action at Gettysburg where the Virginians fought head to head with George Custer’s Wolverines. *“We advanced at the charge with drawn sabres as the enemy did the same toward us,”* wrote Hudgins. *“We met near the center of that field where sabre met sabre and pistol shots followed in quick succession. Because we tried to ride the enemy down, the individual encounters were often decided by the weight and strength of animals. The battle grew hotter and hotter, horses and men were overthrown or shot and many were killed and wounded.”*

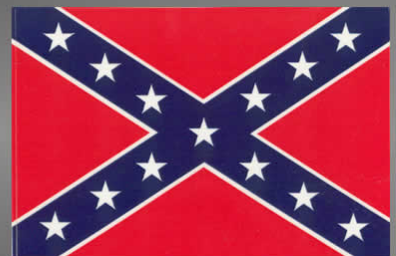
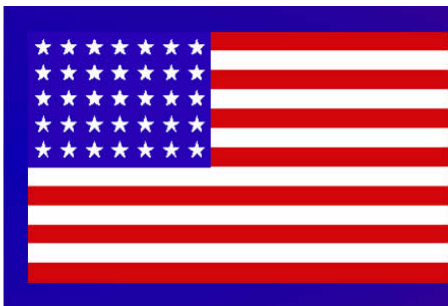
Not unlike other fighting units, the Third contained soldiers who became hardened to the concepts of warfare. William Clark Corson wrote his fiancée about passing an enemy campground where he picked up *“a number of trophies, among which I have saved a Yankee daguerotype [sic] and a lot of letters, envelopes etc. for you which I will send up by the first opportunity.”* Corson then callously penned, *“I tried to cut a ring off a dead Yankee’s finger, but my knife was too dull. This may appear revolting to you but if you had seen as much of the scoundrels as I have you would think otherwise.”*

The finest writer of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry was Robert T. Hubard, Jr. The son of a wealthy Virginia planter, Hubard was valedictorian of his class at Hampden-Sydney College, and had recently begun law school at the University of Virginia when the war interrupted his studies. Enlisting as a private in the Third, Hubard participated in the many battles fought under the command of J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry. Throughout his experiences Hubard chronicled a unique record of the mounted war in the Eastern Theater.

This month the MRRT is proud to welcome back as its guest speaker, Tom Nanzig. Tom, a native Michigander, lived in Virginia where he served as an officer in the Williamsburg and Lynchburg CWRT’s. Later moving to Pittsburgh, Tom co-founded the Western Pennsylvania CWRT. Moving back to Michigan, he co-founded and is the current president of the Ann Arbor CWRT. Tom is the author of the regimental history of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry, as well as *The Badax Tigers*, a documentary history of the 18th Wisconsin Volunteers. His latest book, *The Civil War Memoirs of a Virginia Cavalryman (Lieutenant Robert T. Hubard, Jr.)* is the inspiration for this month’s subject, and copies of the book will be available. So mark your calendars now—**MONDAY, APRIL 30**—for what promises to be an exceptional program.

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The Michigan Regimental wishes to thank last month’s speaker, **John Vohlken**, for his fantastic program, *“The Construction of Doom, the Mine at Petersburg.”* As many of our members expressed, John’s presentation and visuals *“made you feel as though you were actually there.”*



### ODDS & ENDS:

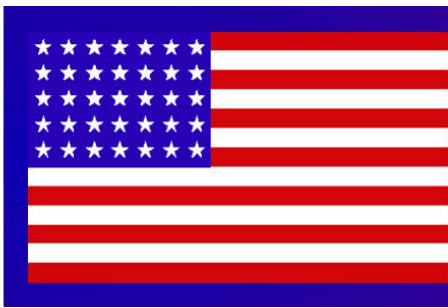
- **FALL FIELD TRIP:** Our planned trek to Gettysburg, scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, October 20-21, will be further discussed at this month's meeting. Fifty-seven have signed up thus far. NO MONEY will be collected until the May meeting and the details are worked out.
- **YEARLY DUES:** A few folks have still not paid their dues for the year. A RED DOT appearing on your mailing envelope indicates that your dues are delinquent. You can pay Treasurer Carroll Tietz at the meeting or send him a check: 10640 Gamewood Dr. South Lyon, 48178. [Regular: \$15/Seniors and Students: \$10]

### QUIZ: Cavalrymen

1. Which future Confederate cavalry general fought at First Manassas as an officer in the Union army? And, which future Union cavalry general began the war as an officer in the Confederate artillery?
2. Which Federal cavalry general had a daughter who married a famous Confederate horseman and a son who became a Confederate general? And, where is this Union general buried?
3. Which South Carolinian, a future Confederate cavalry general, lost his right foot to an artillery shell, but survived and became a U.S. Senator after the war? And, at which famous cavalry battle did this wounding occur? [Extra Credit: Which noted Confederate scout lost his leg and life in the same wounding by the same cannon shell?]
4. Which Federal cavalry colonel was killed in a controversial raid on Richmond, Virginia in February, 1864? And, besides freeing 15,000 Federal prisoners and burning Richmond, what else did the papers found on his person instruct him to do?
5. Which Federal cavalry general participated in the same raid on Richmond? And, earlier at Gettysburg this same general ordered a suicidal attack on July 3. Which young cavalry general lost his life in leading this charge?
6. Which Confederate partisan ranger worked throughout the Shenandoah Valley and in the summer of 1864 won a propaganda victory by capturing 60 members of the Federal 6th West Virginia Cavalry swimming naked in the South Branch River? He was later mortally wounded at Mount Jackson, Virginia, dying on November 9, 1864. And, which colorful adventurer led the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles on a "Buffalo Hunt," in reality a ruse to invade the New Mexico Territory?
7. Which flashy Confederate cavalry general was captured at New Lisbon, Ohio, and later killed at Greeneville, Tennessee? And, who was his brother-in-law that served as his cavalry officer and biographer?
8. Which Federal cavalryman was instrumental in delaying the Confederate army from advancing on Gettysburg on July 1? And, what caused his death at age 37 on December 16, 1863?
9. Which Confederate cavalry general was labeled "by far the most troublesome man I have to deal with" by Jeb Stuart, though Jeb's wrath may have been caused by this man courting Mrs. Stuart before their marriage? And, which Confederate cavalry general, the leader of the Laurel Brigade and a friend of George Custer, wrote scathing reviews of Stuart's private life?
10. Which native Ohioan was mortally wounded in 1865 while leading his horsemen to Washington D.C. for the purpose of assassinating Abraham Lincoln? And, name his two vicious henchmen/leaders that were killed three days apart in 1864?

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While Robert E. Lee was doing battle with the Federals at Gettysburg, Confederate cavalry General J.E.B. Stuart, who had been out of contact with the main Rebel army for nine days, rode to find the commanding general. In Stuart's absence, General Wade Hampton was left in charge of the Confederate horsemen. Out in front of his men Hampton sat on his chestnut mare, "*Butler*," when suddenly a bullet whizzed past him. Turning in the saddle, Hampton estimated that the



projectile had been fired from a distance of about 300 yards. Without hesitation he spurred his horse forward. Reaching a stake-and-rail fence, Hampton reined in and carefully studied some thickets beyond.

At approximately 125 yards distant, Hampton saw the sniper—tall, nineteen-year-old Frank Pearson, a Michigan cavalryman who hailed from Kalamazoo. Prowling ahead of his own outfit, Pearson had spied the Confederate and opened fire with a carbine. As Hampton first saw him, the youngster was most unmilitarily standing in full view upon a stump behind what he should have been hiding, and was lifting his piece for another try. Hampton pulled his revolver from its holster and the two men fired shots nearly simultaneously. Pearson missed again, while Hampton, a peerless marksman, struck a bit of bark from the stump where Pearson stood. A second exchange and Hampton felt the boy's bullet rip his cavalry cape and graze his broad chest.

Now Pearson had difficulty reloading his weapon, and he naively held up his hand as though to enact a momentary truce while he reloaded. Hampton, ever the gentleman, held up his revolver acknowledging Pearson's silent request. When Pearson had his weapon ready, he signaled to Hampton that the truce was off. With that a third brace of shots rang out. This time Hampton's bullet struck and shattered Pearson's wrist, and the young trooper dropped his carbine, sprang from the stump, and vanished among the trees.

Suddenly a lieutenant of the 6th Michigan Cavalry appeared from a hedge swinging a saber at Hampton's head. Luckily, Hampton's felt hat and thick hair partially turned the saber's edge, but the scalp was opened by a four-inch gash. Hampton quickly turned in the saddle and leveled the same revolver he had just fired at Pearson and pulled the trigger. The trusty pistol, however, failed to fire. Hampton's assailant rode furiously away with the Confederate general racing madly after him repeatedly pulling the trigger of the revolver and cursing at its usefulness. Later Hampton wrote home: "*I have been handled pretty roughly, having received two sabre cuts on the head—one of which cut through the table of my skull—and a shrapnel shot in my body, which is there yet.*"

Nearly a dozen years after the war Hampton made the acquaintance of both Michigan soldiers. Pearson and Hampton often corresponded about the solitary incident that occurred between the two. The horseman chased so ingloriously by Hampton remembered, "*It was a half-mile race for my life. I heard his pistol snap three times at my back, and also his parting curse as I went through the gap in the fence.*"

## QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Frank Crawford Armstrong and Alfred Thomas Archimedes (A.T.A.) Torbert
2. Philip St. George Cooke [His daughter, Flora, married Jeb Stuart; his son was Confederate general John Rogers Cooke.] and he is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit.
3. Matthew Calbraith Butler and Brandy Station [Extra Credit: Will Farley]
4. Ulric Dahlgren and murder Jefferson Davis and his cabinet
5. Hugh Judson Kilpatrick and Elon John Farnsworth
6. John Hanson McNeill and John Robert Baylor
7. John Hunt Morgan and Basil Wilson Duke
8. John Buford and typhoid fever
9. Beverly Holcombe Robertson and Thomas Lafayette Rosser
10. William Clarke Quantrill and "Bloody Bill" Anderson and George Todd

Don't forget to attend our meeting on **MONDAY, APRIL 30** to hear **Tom Nanzig's** special presentation of "*The Civil War Memoirs of a Virginia Cavalryman (Lieutenant Robert T. Hubard, Jr.)*". We'll gather at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road) at 6:30 P.M. See you there. Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.