



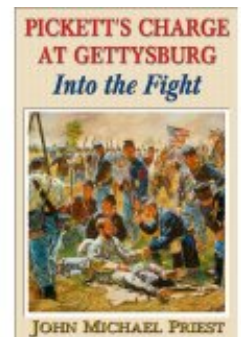
You do not want to miss this month’s meeting. First, we have John Michael Priest (he goes by Mike) visiting with us from Maryland as our keynote speaker. Mike is a widely published Civil War author and his subject is Gettysburg. This is can’t miss stuff. Secondly, no more guessing about where we go for our field trip this year. By majority vote, the MRRT will visit the Manassas I & II battlefields. For further information, check out the attached flier and the Trip Report section.

Last call on **2012 ANNUAL DUES**. Thanks to all that have now paid up their annual dues but there are still 2011 members that have not. It’s surprising how easy small things like this slip by unnoticed but if you are one of those individuals and you place value on your membership and time with the MRRT, it’s a great time to get it behind you by bringing cash or a check (payable to Don Kadar) to the April 30 meeting and giving it to either Don Kadar (Treasurer) or Jeanie Graham (Assistant Treasurer). Alternatively, you can mail a check to:

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

Last pitch---for at least the next several months---but we’d like to encourage members receiving the hardcopy newsletter to consider a switch to getting it by **EMAIL**. This saves the MRRT approximately \$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, APRIL 30, THE ROUNDTABLE WELCOMES JOHN MICHAEL (MIKE) PRIEST. HIS PRESENTATION IS ENTITLED “STAND TO IT AND GIVE THEM HELL”. The Focus will be the Wheatfield and Little Round Top on July 2, 1863, and the crucial role these two battles were to the story of Gettysburg, the greatest battle fought on the North American continent. The Wheatfield was the scene of some of the heaviest and most destructive fighting of the entire war. The field changed hands six times in 1½ hours with 4,000 total casualties for the two sides. After dark, the Wheatfield became a deadly no-man’s land. The battle for the Little Round Top was legendary. The Union General Warren saw the danger and was able to get Strong Vincent’s brigade on the hill just in time. Of course, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain soon became a hero. Mike will provide a thought provoking discussion of these battles that you will not want to miss.



Mike comes to us from Maryland. He’s a retired high-school history teacher and author of numerous books and articles about the Civil War, to include [Before Antietam: The Battle for South Mountain](#); [Into the Fight: Picket’s Charge at Gettysburg](#); [Victory without Triumph: The Wilderness](#); and [Antietam: The Soldier’s Battle](#).



MRRT WOULD LIKE TO THANK DAN PACKER FOR HIS PRESENTATION, “THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN”.

Dan methodically detailed the events beginning from the summer of 1864 up through the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the attempt on Secretary Seward’s life, and the aborted attempt on VP Johnson. Interestingly, and for those not versed on John Wilkes Booth, there were several attempts by he and cohorts to kidnap Lincoln fueled by their Southern sympathies that seethed at the suspension of prisoner swaps by Gen Grant. However, the final event tilting the Wilkes conspiracy into its ultimately successful assassination was Lincoln’s April 14th impromptu speech suggesting black suffrage in a congratulatory address upon news of General Robert E. Lee’s surrender to U.S. Grant. Booth was in attendance and is quoted as saying “*That means n___er citizenship. Now, by God, I’ll put him through. That is the last speech he will make.*” And so it was. A



few snippets from Dan’s insightful and entertaining presentation included:

- Ironically, the carriage accident William Seward experienced April 9th, and the metal wire bracing placed on his injured jaw, probably saved his life from the viscous knife assault at the hands of Lewis Powell.
- Dr. Samuel Mudd and John Wilkes Booth association was not only the day he set John’s broken leg, but reached back to the fall of 1864 when the two became friends. Was Dr. Mudd involved with the plot? Most think not, but he was certainly guilty of not turning John Wilkes and David Herold into the authorities.
- Major Henry Rathbone who grappled with John Wilkes Booth after the fatal shot at Ford Theater went on to several prominent assignments but having never being able to deal with his failure that fateful night, suffered a mental breakdown, killing his wife, Clara Harris, and living out his life in a mental institution. The film actor known for his Sherlock Holmes, Basil Rathbone, was a distant cousin.

QUIZ: ALL QUESTIONS PERTAIN TO GETTYSBURG 1863:

1. Which Michigan regiment was on Little Round Top with Colonel Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine? What happened to the Michigan regiment during the fighting?
2. How many Michigan men are known to be buried in the Gettysburg National Cemetery?
3. What happened to General Daniel Sickles amputated leg after the war? Also, what was a major contribution of General Sickles after the war?
4. What happened to Colonel Chamberlain after the Battle of Gettysburg?
5. What is the elevation of Big Round Top and Little Round Top?

MRRT MINUTES FOR MARCH 26, 2012: The call to order was at 6:40 with approximately 35 persons present for the business meeting. **Pledge:** Dedicated in memory of Staff Sgt Leonard E. Schwab, 94 yr. old WWII veteran (Larry Hathcock's father-in-law who recently passed away). **Introduction of Guests & New Members:** Tom Heritage was introduced & is now a new member. **Preservation Report:** The CWT is attempting to save more of Tom’s Brook, a \$17 to \$1 match, and Cross Keys, a \$2.32 to \$1 match, for a total of 244 acres, in cooperation with the SVBF. **Trip Report:** We voted on 5 choices to visit for our 2012 trip and Manassas I & II won the vote. The trip committee will work on the details. **Items of Interest:** Gary Pritchard has laid the last marker in Ypsilanti to the 17th Michigan. **Old Business:** Ron and Larry’s suggestion to honor Jerry by having his name attached to an existing history award at North Farmington HS was unanimously accepted by vote. A senior boy and girl in the field of history are each to be given \$100 and a copy of Jerry’s book. The History Award, which was actually begun by Jerry, will be called the Jerry Maxwell History Award. The MRRT will make an annual contribution of \$200 but will vote yearly on whether to continue or not. Carlene Maxwell in favor of this action. Ron will also ensure the school library has a copy of Jerry’s book. There was also suggestion of donating a portion of Jerry’s book collection to school library and Ron is looking into this. **Secretary’s Report:** The March 2012 report was accepted.

2012 TRIP REPORT: A lot has happened on this front since our selection of Manassas I and II last meeting as the attached flier attest. I’ve been forewarned by our Trip Committee that not all arrangements have been settled so an estimated trip cost is perhaps a month or so off. However, the committee has selected Scott Patchman as our guide for the weekend of October 27-28, 2012. Scott is a well known and respected guide as well as the author of numerous Civil War books and articles to include [Second Manassas: Longstreet's Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge](#); [The Last Battle of Winchester: Phil Sheridan, Jubal Early, and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, August 7 - September 19, 1864](#); [Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign](#); [The Battle of Piedmont and Hunter's Campaign for Staunton: The 1864 Shenandoah Campaign](#); and [The Forgotten Fury: The](#)





[Battle of Piedmont, Virginia](#). Rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn Manassas at \$84 nightly and the City Tavern in Old Town Manassas has been reserved for our Saturday evening meal. This is sure to be an exceptional trip and beginning this upcoming meeting, the committee will begin trip sign-up.

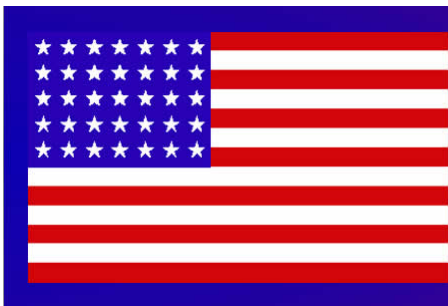
CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL (APRIL 1862): On **April 2**, Abraham Lincoln’s proposal for compensated emancipation is well received in the US Senate but never implemented. On **April 3**, the US Senate passes a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. **April 6-7**, forces under MG U.S. Grant and CSS Gen Albert Johnston clash at Shiloh. The assault initiated by Gen Johnston results in southern forces holding the advantage throughout the first day but being repelled on the second and driven towards Corinth. Gen Johnston is mortally wounded on the first day and replaced by Gen P.G.T. Beauregard. **April 10**, Fort Pulaski, Savannah, GA, falls to US Gen Gillmore and 360 confederate soldiers are taken prisoner. On **April 11**, the US House of Representatives passes a bill calling for the gradual elimination of slavery in D.C. On **April 12**, James Andrews leads a band of 21 men through Confederate lines to capture the locomotive, the General at Big Shanty near Kennesaw, Georgia. They travel north destroying track and telegraph lines, setting up what becomes known as the Great Locomotive Chase as southern troops and railroad men pursue them by foot, hand car, and a variety of locomotives, most notably the Texas. James Andrews is stopped when the General loses power and the men scatter north of Ringgold, Georgia. They are eventually captured and James Andrews is hung on June 7. On **April 16**, Abraham Lincoln signs the bill prohibiting slavery in D.C. This same day, Jefferson Davis approves a congressional action for a military draft within the Confederate states. **April 25**, Flag Officer David Farragut’s fleet sails into New Orleans following the withdrawal of CSS Gen Lovell and his 4000 Confederates troops. On **April 27**, Gen Ben Butler arrives to assume management of the city. New Orleans officially surrenders to union forces on **April 29**.



CIVIL WAR ITEM OF INTEREST: Ken Bauman recently toured the Vicksburg battlefield and had this to share. *“I was at Vicksburg last week (early February), and the NPS has clear-cut all trees (etc.) around the Shirley house, much as it was during 1863. One is able to get a much better idea of the bravery of the Western troops as they charged up these steep hills into the face of Rebel fire. When the roundtable last visited this area, trees blocked much of this area and the same perception could not be obtained.”* Ken’s photo is seen on the left, with a photo from our 2008 trip in the center, and a circa 1863 picture to the right.



Bill McCann also has an interesting article to share, **“Why Some Civil War Soldiers Glowed in the Dark.”** You can read the full story at <http://www.mentalfloss.com/blogs/archives/122477> but here’s a brief excerpt: *“Some of the Shiloh*



soldiers sat in the mud for two rainy days and nights waiting for the medics to get around to them. As dusk fell the first night, some of them noticed something very strange: their wounds were glowing, casting a faint light into the darkness of the battlefield. Even stranger, when the troops were eventually moved to field hospitals, those whose wounds glowed had a better survival rate and had their wounds heal more quickly and cleanly than their unilluminated brothers-in-arms. The seemingly protective effect of the mysterious light earned it the nickname “Angel’s Glow.” To find out why, check out the article.

If you have an item of Civil War interest, be that a book report, website, battlefield visit, picture, etc., you’d like to share with the group, email that item along with a brief write-up to ncarver55@comcast.net.

CIVIL WAR ESSENTIALS: For the next several months we’ll turn our eyes to the artillery. The Union entered the war with a strong advantage, having ample manufacturing capacity and a well trained and professional officer corps. Conversely, the Confederates were at severe disadvantage, having limited manufacturing capacity and artillery pieces built tended to suffer from the poor quality of metals used and shoddy workmanship. Their ammunition was also of inferior quality and the Union blockade of Southern ports severely limited the import of weapons from Europe. Instead, the Confederacy relied heavily on the capture of Union cannons and it’s estimated that two thirds of all Confederate field artillery were so obtained. Furthermore, the South did not begin the war with the cadre of professional artilleryman as was the case in the north.



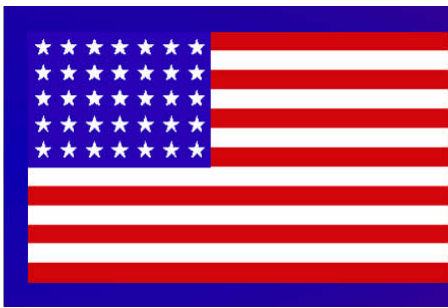
Union Artillery: The basic unit was the battery, led by a Captain, and was usually composed of six guns of which were most often of the same caliber. This simplified training and logistics. The battery was further broken down into sections, led by a Lieutenant and consisting of two guns. Artillery brigades were composed of five batteries and led by a Colonel. Infantry Corps were supported directly by one artillery brigade, and in case of the Army of the Potomac, five brigades formed the Artillery Reserve. The artillery reserve allowed fire to be massed in support of the army’s objectives rather than being widely dispersed with uncoordinated fire.

Confederate Artillery: Their batteries usually consisted of four guns, primarily as a consequence of cannon shortages, and were often of mixed caliber. The batteries were most often formed into battalions of four batteries each. The battalions provided direct support to the Infantry Division. Infantry Corps were assigned two battalions as an Artillery Reserve. The Confederate Army did not have an army reserve and this caused them difficulty massing artillery for best effect. *Note:* You can read more at the source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_artillery_in_the_American_Civil_War

WEB REPORT (www.farmlib.org/mrrt/): Our newsletters are now being posted monthly to the website.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. The 16th Michigan Infantry was posted on the right side of the Union line. During the Confederate assault, confusing orders resulted in a significant portion of the regiment retreating.
2. 212
3. General Daniel Sickles’ leg is on display at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, D.C. He led the effort to preserve the Gettysburg battlefield as a National Park.
4. Colonel Joshua Chamberlain (later General) was severely wounded at Petersburg in 1864. He accepted the formal Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House. After the war, he served four 1 year terms as Governor of Maine and later as President of Bowdoin College from 1871 to 1883.



5. Big Round Top (the highest point on the Gettysburg battlefield) is 794 feet high and Little Round Top is 650 feet.

Special note: Don Kadar requests that anyone interested in outreach to grow the membership meet with him at 6 PM prior to the general meeting.

Be there—**MONDAY, APRIL 30**—for **John Michael Priest's** presentation, **“STAND TO IT AND GIVE THEM HELL”**. The meeting begins at 6:30 P.M., Farmington Public Library. See you there!