



Our **membership renewal drive** and mention in this newsletter is finally at an end. Thank you for those that have chosen to renew you membership. However, if you come to realize that you have not done so but meant to (not getting a May newsletter might be a strong indication), you can renew at any time by simply mailing a check for \$20 to Don Kadar (61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178) or by bringing in cash or a check to this month's meeting.

It's come to our attention that the microphone has not been used in the last month but some members have commented that it helps. Unfortunately, the leadership is not sure who has it currently. If you have the microphone, please bring it to this month's meeting.

This month—MONDAY, APRIL 27—the Michigan Regimental Round Table proudly welcomes President and long-time member Larry Hathcock, who will present “Attack on the C.S.S. Albemarle”.

During April and May 1864 the Confederate ironclad ram, C.S.S. Albemarle, was involved in two engagements with Union naval forces in the waters of Albemarle Sound, North Carolina. First the C.S.S. Albemarle sank the U.S.S. Southfield and then severely damaged the U.S.S. Sassacus. The wooden hulls of the Union ships were no match against the C.S.S. Albemarle's armor. The Union navy had a major problem as Union ironclads could not be brought in due to the shallow water at Hatteras Inlet and there was not enough time to build a shallow draft Union ironclad. The Union Navy quickly needed a plan to destroy the C.S.S. Albemarle. Larry will present the Union plan in an informative and entertaining manner that you will really enjoy.

Larry is presently the President and long-time member of the Roundtable (since 1982). He is recognized as the Roundtable's expert on Civil War naval affairs. Some of the subjects that he has shared with us over the years include “U.S.S. Kearsage and C.S.S. Alabama”, “Naval War on the Mississippi”, “Yankee Neptune: Gideon Welles”, and “Blockade Runners”. Larry is retired from a 30 year teaching career (4th, 5th, and 6th grade) in the Holly, Michigan school system. He won the 1998 American Legion “Teacher of the Year” award. Larry earned degrees from Oakland University and Wayne State University.

The Roundtable would like to thank Ken Baumann for his entertaining and informative presentation of “It's A Trail To Get Up Home”.

Ken discussed a topic that has received little attention over the years. Union soldiers went home in an organized manner if they were with their own unit. Men who went home on their own had issues. Railroad passenger cars were not available for the army veterans. A common occurrence was soldiers traveling on the top of boxcars. Ken discussed the adventures of four Illinois soldiers.

- Benjamin Scasson, a musician in the 38th Illinois, joined the Signal Corps. He was discharged when his 3-year enlistment expired during 1864. Benjamin went north from north central Georgia in a railroad boxcar. Benjamin was able to stay at Soldier's Homes for meals and lodging. He mustered out at Nashville. He reached his Illinois home after purchasing train tickets to Indianapolis and then Illinois.
- Alexander Lord of the 65th Illinois was captured at Harper's Ferry during the Antietam campaign. He was paroled and after a tough travel experience went to Camp Douglass in Chicago to guard Confederate prisoners. A Captain in the 52nd Illinois took prisoners from Camp Douglass from the Fort Donelson surrender. He fought at Shiloh and also fought guerrillas in Mississippi.





- Surgeon Gray, whom we met during Ken's previous presentations, went on furlough after the Battle of Atlanta. He took a train north that was hit by a tornado in Indiana, which had a bigger din than the sound of battle. Later the train was detained three hours by more storms and then lost a headlight when it hit a large tree. He had to rent a livery for the final trip into Peoria, Illinois. Later, in February 1865, Dr. Gray took a sea trip home from Savannah, Georgia to Hilton Head, South Carolina. The Union government provided a steamer but no food to New York. He had to pay for his food in diner. Dr. Gray described how another surgeon on the steamship tried to rip off the government. Once he reached New York, he took a train to Peoria.

During the very informative commentary session after Ken's talk, several items were discussed:

- A Michigan regiment mustered out in Utah Territory. The men had to find their own way home.
- Several soldiers developed the "veteran's pox" on their way home.
- Ladies of the evening were very common in the major cities, including Memphis and Nashville.
- Union soldiers were allowed to buy their military equipment for \$6 when they were mustered out of the army.
- The Confederate trip home from the war was discussed. Texas' soldiers created several problems on their trip home. The men looted stores in Georgia and elsewhere for supplies.
- Confederate POW's spent four months walking home from their New Jersey prison camp to Jacksonville, Florida.

QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to C.S.S. Albemarle.

1. Albemarle Sound was named for which English nobleman?
2. How many U.S. Navy ships have been named for William Cushing?
3. Why was William Cushing expelled from the U.S. Naval Academy?
4. Who was in charge of building the C.S.S. Albemarle?
5. In which battle was William B. Cushing's brother, Major Alonzo Cushing, killed?

MRRT Minutes for March 25, 2013: The **Call to Order** was at 6:40 pm. At least 50 stayed for the meeting. The **Pledge** was dedicated to the crew of the USS Monitor. **Introduction of Guests and New Members:** Tom Vollman was a guest and friend of Gary Pike. The **Newsletter Report:** Bob read highlights from the NYC Dispatch, the Toledo Mini Bulletin, the Cincinnati Cannister, the Cleveland Charger and the Indianapolis Hardtack. The **Trip Report:** The Charleston trip for October 5-6 planning is done thanks to our guides, Doug Bostick and Dana MacBean. A flyer will be passed out at the next meeting and details will be in future newsletters. Sign up starts now, so get your name on the list. **Items of Interest:** Ken says the Michigan monument at South Mountain is now across from the Reno monument. Maybe it'll stay there. Ron Cleveland and Ken Baumann both had excellent displays in Baltimore. Attempts were made to identify two of the crew of the Monitor but they were unsuccessful. They were buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full honors, one day short of the 150th anniversary of the battle. The US is still paying benefits to a survivor of a Civil War Veteran. **Old Business:** Discussion continues on how to change our meetings in order to give our members time to get here and to not short change the speaker. Suggestions included: Chaos (thank you Don); having a true roundtable discussion once or twice a year; have coffee and treats at 6:30 at the same time as the business meeting with the speaker starting at 7:30; and changing the venue so we could stay later. A counterpoint to this last suggestion includes the library having been renewed through 2014 and that commitment also covers the MRRT website to include site maintenance. **Secretary's Report:** The February 25, 2013 report was accepted.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (April 1863): 2 Apr: Jefferson Davis ends a Bread Riot in Richmond by threatening the rioters that the militia which is standing by will use deadly force if they did not disperse. **5 Apr:** Great Britain detains several Confederate vessels in country.



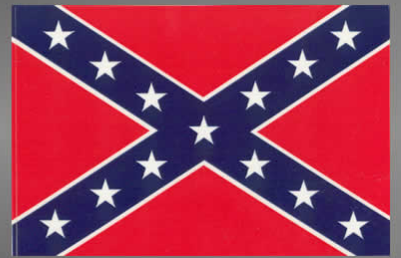
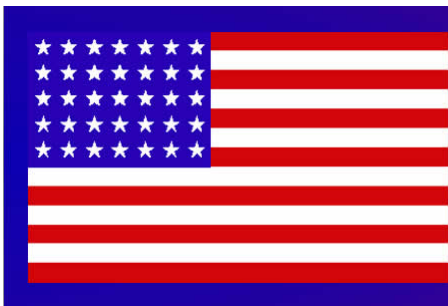


Ultimately they are released but this signals to the Confederates the changing political landscape in England. **6 Apr:** Lincoln meets with Gen Hooker and notes “*our prime object is the enemies army in front of us, and is not with, or about, Richmond*”. **7 Apr:** Under Federal Flag Officer DuPont, his nine ironclads attack Fort Sumter but are repulsed with the loss from damage of the USS Keokuk. It becomes obvious that to take Charleston will require joint operations by ground and naval forces. **10 Apr:** Gen Granger’s federal troops attack Confederate forces under Gen Van Dorn near Franklin, TN. Casualties are 100 wounded or dead for the northern troops, and 300 for the southern troops. **11 Apr:** General Nathan Banks embarks on an expedition with 17000 federal troops towards the Red River. **13 Apr:** Gen Burnside, now commander of the Department of Ohio, issues a proclamation that southern sympathizers would be deported to the South and those convicted of aiding the Confederate cause would be subject of the death penalty. **14 Apr:** At Bayou Teche, Union and Confederate forces clash with the advantage to the northern troops. Of note is the Queen of the West, once a Union ram but now in the hands of the Confederacy, is finally destroyed. **15 Apr:** The CSS Alabama seizes two union whaling ships off the coast of the Brazilian Island of Fernando de Noronha. **16 Apr:** Adm David Porter with twelve vessels runs the batteries of Vicksburg. He losses on vessel and comes to rest south of Vicksburg at Bruinsburg, MS. **17 Apr:** Colonel Benjamin Grierson leads 17000 union soldiers from La Grange, TN, on a 16-day raid to divert southern attention from the build-up of union forces against Vicksburg. Likewise, CSS Gen Marmaduke departs on a 16-day raid against federal positions in Missouri. **20 Apr:** Lincoln declares West Virginia will enter the Union on 20 Jun 63. Gen Banks successfully takes Onehusas. **22 Apr:** Eighteen more union vessels are run south under the guns of Vicksburg to reinforce federal forces. Seven are lost, one troop carrier and six barges. **27 Apr:** The Army of the Potomac moves towards Chancellorsville but Hooker leaves General Sedwick’s forces of 30000 men at Fredericksburg. **30 Apr:** Jefferson Davis advises General Joseph Johnston that “*General Pemperton telegraphs that unless he has more cavalry, the approaches to North Mississippi are almost unprotected*”. General McClelland’s troops cross the Mississippi River near Bruinsburg as part of General Grant’s move on Vicksburg. General Grant states “*all the campaigns, hardships . . . were for the accomplishment of this one object*”. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

Civil War Essentials—Medical Service: This month we turn our attention to doctors, or surgeons as classified by the military. At the onset of the war, the Union was reported to have 100 surgeons and the Confederacy 24. By the end of the war these numbers soared to between 13-14,000 for the Union and 3-4,000 for the Confederacy. Precise numbers vary between sources.

Exactly how did a doctor (or surgeon) come about being qualified? Unfortunately, the pre-Civil War period our medical practices could be considered little removed from the Middle Ages. By 1860 there were nationally some 100 medical schools but the teaching, anywhere from a one to two year period, consisted primarily of lectures, with little or no clinical experience or laboratory instruction. In many of the two-year schools, the second year student would sit through the same lecture again as his first year counterpart. It’s been widely noted that even the esteemed Harvard medical school did not possess a single stethoscope or microscope until the end of the war. This is also prior to national standards as there wasn’t a licensing board; so if you passed the school’s final exam, you were a ‘doctor’. In contrast, four-year medical schools in Europe were common, laboratory training widespread, and a greater understanding of disease and infections existed.

However, a large portion of the older practicing doctors pre-war had learnt their trade through apprenticeship. An apprentice would work with a ‘qualified’ doctor until the mentor felt he was proficient and knowledgeable and then be cut loose to start his own practice.



Surgeons were often required to bring their own surgical kits. The kit normally contained scalpels, scalpel guides, amputation knives (used to prepare soft tissue prior to amputation), various amputation saws, tourniquets, bullet probes, and extractors.

As to medicines, the choices were limited and the 20th Century wonder drugs penicillin and antibiotics far in the future. Instead, they had remedies that included opium, blue mass (a mixture of mercury & chalk), quinine, herbs, poke-root and even whiskey and other forms of alcohol to treat various symptoms. Perhaps most noteworthy, chloroform and morphine became widely used during and after surgery, and contrary to common perception, few surgeries were performed without anesthetics.

Although often undertrained, overwhelmed and undersupplied, the Civil War surgeons did their best, treating 10 million cases of injury and illness in 48 months of war with as much compassion and competency as possible. Poet Walt Whitman, who served as a volunteer in the Union army hospitals, greatly respected the doctors and claimed that *“all but a few are excellent men...”*



QUIZ Answers:

1. Albemarle Sound was named for George Monck, 1st Duke of Albemarle (1603-1670).
2. Five U.S. Navy ships have been named for William B. Cushing (1842-1874).
3. William B. Cushing was expelled from the U.S. Naval Academy for pranks and poor scholarship. However, he was buried in the U.S. Naval Academy cemetery.
4. Confederate Lieutenant Gilbert Elliott, 19 years old, was in charge of building the C.S.S. Albemarle.
5. Major Alonzo Cushing (1841-1863), of the 4th U.S. Artillery, was killed at Gettysburg helping to repel Pickett's Charge. A Medal of Honor was approved for Major Cushing in 2010.

Come out Monday, April 29, to hear Larry Hathcock present “Attack on the C.S.S. Albemarle”. This is sure to be an informative and entertaining evening. The meeting will begin at 6:40 pm, Farmington Public Library. Also check out our web site at <http://www.farmplib.org/mrrt>.