



On MONDAY, April 28, the Roundtable welcomes Jody Egen who will speak on the “Michigan Soldier’s Aid Society”. The *Soldiers’ Aid Society* was established during the fall of 1861. Its mission was to help ensure that undamaged supplies arrived on a timely basis to the soldiers that needed them the most. Come out next Monday and hear Jody’s tale on how this was or was not accomplished.

Jody is the Director of Museums and Cultural Affairs for the Wyandotte, MI Museums.



The Roundtable would like to thank Fred and Bonnie Priebe for their outstanding portrayals of President and Mrs. Lincoln. Lincoln explained to us “Why Did He Wait So Long?” to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation begins with *“That on the first day of January, 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free...”*.



Abraham Lincoln traveled a long road to that proclamation. During his one term in Congress in 1849, he proposed a resolution to ban slavery in the District of Columbia which was defeated. At that time he was also reluctant to join the new Republican Party so as not to be associated with the abolitionists. However, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 prompted Lincoln to join the Republican Party with the objective of keeping slavery out of Kansas. Lincoln ran for U.S. Senator from Illinois in 1858. During one of his speeches he said, *“A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free.”*

The Republican 1860 platform opposed the spread of slavery into the territories and left it alone in the states where it already existed. The main hope was that slavery would die a natural economic death. Once Lincoln was elected President, he fought two battles—the first against the Confederate South, and the second, against the northern Radical Republicans. Lincoln recognized that the general public was not ready to abolish slavery and if he prematurely acted against slavery in the Border States, they’d likely join the Confederacy. If this happened, the North would probably lose the war. Standing on principal rather than the on-the-ground realities, the Radicals wanted slavery ended immediately.

Initially, Lincoln worked for a gradual and compensated emancipation. Given that the war was costing \$2 million a day, compensated emancipation would save money. The Border States said no. He also was forced to rescind emancipation proclamations proffered by some Union generals to keep the Border States in the Union. Lincoln also favored colonization for the freed slaves as he feared what would happen to the freed slaves.

Lincoln discussed the preliminary Proclamation with his Cabinet on July 22, 1862, and in consensus with them, agreed to issue the Proclamation only after a Union military victory. The preliminary proclamation was issued five days after the Battle of Antietam on Sept. 22, 1862. The final Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, despite concern by some that he would change his mind and not issue it. The Proclamation was deemed legal because the Constitution invested the President with the power of war which allowed him to seize enemy *“property”*. The freed slaves were allowed to join the Union Army; an action that General Grant said was the biggest blow of the war to the Confederacy.



Quiz Questions:

1. Who was the Confederate general who served at Fort Mackinac before the war?
2. Which Union general at Gettysburg lived in Michigan when the war began?
3. Name the two 17th Michigan officers who were on the Lincoln conspirator’s execution team?
4. This 5th Michigan Cavalryman from Armada (Macomb County) mortally wounded Confederate Major General J.E.B. Stuart?
5. Where is Colonel Henry Morrow of the 24th Michigan and Gettysburg fame buried?

Odds & Ends:

- **Yearly Dues:** Our membership drive ends thankfully this month—no more reminders. If by mid-May you haven’t renewed, this will likely be your last newsletter. This doesn’t mean you can’t renew at a later date or continue to participate with the group but it does reduce funds available to support MRRT initiatives such as preservation, Jerry Maxwell’s scholarship, room and and newsletter expenses among other items. The price remains \$20 and you can bring cash or check to the next meeting or send a check (only) to Don Kadar, 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178. Checks should be made out to Don Kadar.
- **Preservation Note:** Joe will be unable to make the April meeting but wanted to report that the CWT is working to save 57 critical acres at Glendale, VA—part of the 7 days fight. This ground was hotly contested and is the site where General Meade was wounded. Nearly \$371K of the \$485K purchase price has been raised.
- **Battle of Gettysburg Buff:** A website for Civil War buffs interested in the Battle of Gettysburg providing numerous articles can be found at <http://www.battleofgettysburgbuff.com>



MRRT Minutes for March 31, 2014: **Call to order** was at 6:30 pm. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Joe Galate, Mollie’s father-in-law, who died March 22. Joe was with George Patton’s 4th Armor, 37th Division. **Introduction of Guests and New Members:** Alice Diebel, a descendent of a Union soldier killed at Pittsburg Landing, Shiloh. **Preservation:** Joe received a thank you from the Civil War Trust (CWT) for our recent donation. He also asked for a \$150 donation for the Cement Mill site at Shepardstown, WV battlefield—the request was approved. In other preservation news, Joe explained that Congress has allocated \$8.9 million in grants for Civil War preservation for 2014. The CWT has made an urgent purchase of a home that was coming up for auction on the Stones River Battlefield. In November of 2013 the Asian Foundation dedicated High Ground Park on the 150th anniversary of the battle of Knoxville TN. The Ft. Sumter/Ft. Moultrie Trust is attempting to raise money through an Adopt a Cannon program. Joe will investigate further. **Trip Report:** A vote was held between four good trip options with Scott Patchan. The Appomattox tour was chosen. The dates are Oct 25-26. Details will be given at the next meeting. **Items of Interest:** Brandon, our youngest member, brought pictures possibly from Lincoln’s funeral procession in NYC. Larry found he’s related to Pleasant Riggs Crump, the last surviving Confederate soldier in Alabama and possibly the very last Civil War Soldier. The **Minutes for February 24, 2014** were approved.

Field Trip Report: As noted in the minutes above, this October 25-26, we’ll be off to retrace ‘Grant’s Road to Victory: Five Forks to Appomattox March 29, 1864 to April 9, 1865’ with Scott Patchan as our guide. Scott explains as follows how he’ll conduct this trip.

In the spring of 1865, Lt. Gen. U. S. Grant’s forces concentrated at Petersburg for one final push against the still lethal Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. At this point in the war, the Confederacy itself existed primarily in the ability of that army to withstand Grant’s efforts. After nearly one year of almost daily combat, Robert E. Lee’s army still stood defiant in the trenches defending Petersburg and Richmond. Please join us this fall as we fall in the footsteps of





*Grant's operations that brought Lee and the Confederacy to bay after four years of bloody combat. Our tour will be based out of the **Hampton Inn**, located in **Midlothian** outside of Richmond.*

*On **day one**, we will begin the tour tracing Grant's efforts to get Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's force around Lee's right flank, an initiative that resulted in the decisive Union victory at Five Forks on April 1. We will visit the fields from the Battle of Lewis Farm/Quaker Road (March 29) and and White Oak Road/Gravelly Run (March 31) where Confederates under South Carolinian Lt. Gen. Richard Anderson's forces stoutly resisted advancing elements of the Union Second and Fifth Corps. Then we will move on to Five Forks battlefield to discuss the battle, tactics and outcomes of Sheridan's decisive April 1 victory over Pickett's army at the "Waterloo of the Confederacy." Then we will spend the afternoon at Pamplin Park, where we will have lunch in the cafeteria, visit the remarkable museum and visitor center. On these grounds we will see recreated fortifications that show the visitor exactly how formidable the Confederate defenses of Petersburg were in April of 1865. This is also the site of the first Union breakthrough of the Confederate battle lines when Grant ordered an all out assault on April 2, which action we will explore in depth. After leaving Pamplin Park, we will wrap up our day visiting Fort Gregg and Battery Whitworth, where a few hundred Confederates under Gen. Nathaniel Harris withstood furious assaults from Union Gen. John Gibbon's 24th Corps before finally being overrun. We will wrap up this day with a brief visit Sutherland Station and Namozine Church Battlefields before returning to our hotel.*

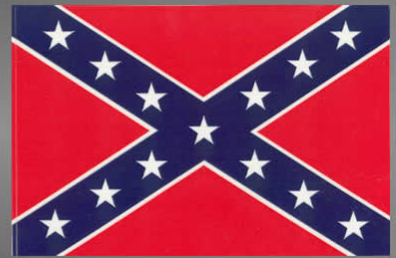
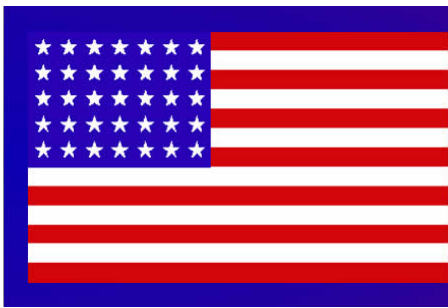
*We will begin **day two** following the footsteps of the Confederate forces that retreated southwest out of Richmond to the beautiful town of Amelia Courthouse, where they joined the rest of Lee's army retreating from Petersburg. Lee halted here to await food and supplies for his troops, but it never came and precious time was lost. We will*



continue on to Sailor's Creek Battlefield, where Sheridan tracked down the Army of Northern Virginia on April 6. The pugnacious Union general attacked, and when the fighting ended, Lee had lost nearly 9,000. We will follow the Union forces as they track Lee's army through Farmville, visit the High Bridge Museum, and finally onto Appomattox where Sheridan, Gibbon and Custer finally brought Lee to bay. There we will discuss some of the tactics that hemmed Lee in but more importantly will stand on the hallowed grounds where the war ended in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's farmhouse, the very same Wilmer McLean who abandoned his home in Manassas to avoid crossing paths with the warring armies again.

Join us for this action packed tour of pristine Civil War battlefields, buildings and the finest Civil War museum in the land, Pamplin Park. It promises to be a tour de force of American history that you don't want to miss.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (April 1864): 3 Apr: Several ships of the federal flotilla involved in the Red River Campaign bottlenecked at Alexandria are finally able to move by but supplies must largely be landed and transported by wagon past the rapids above the city. Bank's campaign's supply line is becoming increasingly long and thin. **4 Apr:** Lincoln writes this day "I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong . . . And yet I have never understood the presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act officially upon this judgment and feeling." **7 Apr:** Gen Longstreet is ordered to join-up with Lee following his recent involvement in the Chattanooga and Knoxville campaigns. **8 Apr:** The Senate passes the 13th Amendment to the Constitution on a vote of 38 to 6 abolishing slavery in



the U.S. and all areas under its jurisdiction. Back to the Red River Campaign, the forces of CSA Gen Taylor and US Banks clash at the Battle of Sabine Crossroads after day long skirmishes. Banks troops are thrown into retreat—or as one Union soldier states, “*our skedaddle from the rebs.*” **9 Apr:** Grant begins issuing orders pursuant to his grand strategy, namely having Banks move on Alabama, Sherman on Johnston and the Army of the Tennessee in Georgia, Sigel to move down the Shenandoah Valley, Butler to move towards Richmond, and Meade with the Army of the Potomac to advance on Lee . . . or as stated by Grant, “*Wherever Lee goes, there you will go also.*” CSA Taylor pounces on Bank’s troops at Pleasant Hill to follow-up on his gains a day earlier. Bank’s counter attacks halting the Confederate attack and technically wins the day. However, Banks decides to retreat as his troop support and supplies are tenuous. This effectively ends the Red River Campaign’s offensive actions and is the last important event in Louisiana—which the Confederates will hold until war’s end. **11 Apr:** Although Banks ends his campaign, his flotilla must still escape but the low river level is a serious and threatening impediment. Also on this day, a pro-Union state government is inaugurated in Arkansas. **12 Apr:** Nathan Bedford Forrest troops attack Fort Pillow which is held by 557 Union troops, nearly half of them black. Nathan demanded immediate surrender from MAJ W.F. Bradford, who purportedly declines. In the ensuing attack, 231 Union soldiers are killed and 100 wounded. Captured were 168 whites and only 58 blacks. The Union battle report indicates the fort did surrender but what ensued was nothing less than a massacre. Regardless of which is true, Nathan’s action this day inflames the North. **15 Apr:** Andrew Johnson, now head of the pro-Union Tennessee government, makes a speech supporting emancipation. **17 Apr:** In a partial effort to put increasing pressure on dwindling Southern manpower, Grant announces that prisoner exchanges will be halted unless such exchanges are balanced equally—to date that had not been the case. He also states “*No distinction whatever will be made in the exchange between white and colored prisoners.*” The Union was holding 146k Confederate prisoners at time of this announcement. **19 Apr:** Congress authorizes the Nebraska Territory to join the Union. Also this day, the CSS Albermarle rams and sinks the USS Smithfield—which is providing firepower support to the Federal garrison in Plymouth, NC. **20 Apr:** CSS RF Hoke’s troops surround and take the Federal garrison at Plymouth, capturing 2,500 men and supplies. Grant concludes the garrison and its location are not strategically important and chooses not to retake it. However, he does reinforce the important port of New Berne. **22 Apr.** By an act of Congress, “*In God We Trust*” begins being stamped on Federal coins. Since black troops have now become a reality on the battlefield (particularly following the debacle at Fort Pillow), Jefferson Davis issues clarification on what to do with captured black prisoners: “*If the negro are escaped slaves, they should be held safely for recovery by their owners. If otherwise, inform me.*” **26 Apr:** Although the Red River Campaign is winding down, several Federal ships are stuck above the rapids at Alexandria. Union LTC Joseph Bailey proposes a plan of creating a series of dams to float the fleet over the obstacles. **27 Apr:** Grant issues his orders this day to implement his grand strategy. **30 Apr:** Bailey’s plan to free the trapped Federal fleet is begun and will be completed successfully in ten days time. Jefferson Davis issues a clarification on his 22 Apr statement dealing with black prisoners: “*Captured slaves should be returned to their masters on proof and payment of charges.*” On this same day, Davis’ son Joe dies from a fall off the Confederate White House. For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

Quiz Answers:

1. Major General John C. Pemberton
2. Major General George G. Meade
3. Captain Christian Roth of Jackson and Captain Richard Watts of Adrian
4. Private John Huff
5. Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles, Michigan

See you **Monday, April 28** to hear **Jody Egen** present “**Michigan Soldier’s Aid Society**”. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm. Also, check-out our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.