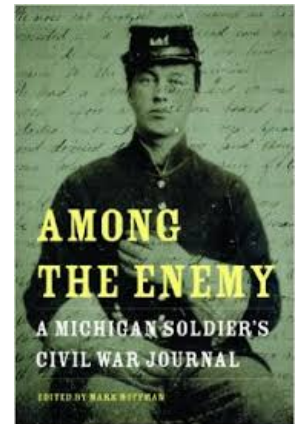




Another opportunity to continue your support for the Roundtable, if you have not already done so, by renewing your membership. Annual membership remains \$20 annually, or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Don Kadar and can be mailed to his home at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178; or simply brought to the meeting and given to Don or Jeanie Graham. Cash is always welcomed.

On Monday, April 27th, the Roundtable welcomes back Mark Hoffman who will present a talk based on his new book, Among the Enemy: A Michigan Soldier's Civil War Journal. William Horton Kimball, from Spring Arbor, was a military engineer who spent a lot of time behind the lines dealing with Confederate guerrillas and Southern sympathizers. His journal described several of these encounters. Mark is using the journal, found in the Detroit Public Library's Burton Historical Collection, to discuss the complex relationships between Union occupiers and Southerners. **Mark will have copies of his book available for purchase.**

Mark previously shared with us his first book, The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War "My Brave Mechanics". He has studied the 1st Michigan Engineers for over 20 years. Mark is a graduate of Michigan State and a member of Camp #17, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.



The Roundtable would like to thank Bill Christen (Bill has become a member of our Roundtable!) for his fascinating presentation, "Rewinding the Bobbin – a Photographic Mystery Solved". Bill explained that he took the title phrase from a Michigan soldier, Elmer Gates, who used the imagery of a sewer rewinding her bobbin in his diary to describe the wrapping up of his time in service at war's end.



Bill recounted how he and an associate had rectified prior misidentifications of several photographs taken of the 17th and 24th Michigan Infantry Regiments in 1865. Their clever detective work included painstaking examination of the photos for clues as well as consulting diaries and other written sources. This effort enabled them to identify the photos as having been taken by Corydon Randall, a Detroit photographer, at Camp Backus (in present day Detroit) in June of 1865.

His work included identifying many of the officers of these regiments shown in the photos. Their combat experiences were recounted, allowing us to put a face to many acts of heroism and sacrifice.

The histories of the two regiments were also recapped, beginning with their formation in 1862. The 17th campaigned with Burnside while the 24th participated in the Eastern theater battles. The war's terrible toll is reflected in the losses suffered by these units – 283 of the 17th and 313 of the 24th failed to return. Bill also discussed the psychological scars the war left on many surviving veterans. It is clear from his talk that PTSD is not a recent phenomenon.

He recommended a new book called Marching Home by Brian M. Jordan which explores the topic of Northern soldiers' experiences after the war. There was no Veterans Administration to help the veterans and pensions did not begin for several years after the war ended.



Fall Trip: Rooms for our fall trip to Perryville, KY on October 10-11, have been reserved at the Danville Hampton for \$104 per night. The Hampton's address is: 100 Montgomery Way, Danville, KY 40422. The telephone number is 844 752 6216. As usual, those planning to go on this great trip are responsible for their own transportation and making their own hotel reservations.

MRRT Minutes for March 30, 2015: The **Call to Order** 6:35 with new President, Wayne Smith. **Pledge** dedicated to the three Michigan Marines killed in the Black Hawk helicopter crash off the Florida coast earlier in March.

Introduction of Guests and New Members guests Mark Behrendt and Wayne Smith's wife, Laura **Secretary's Report** Accepted **Newsletter** Bob presented the Cleveland Charger, Indianapolis Hardtack, Cincinnati Cannister, NYC Dispatch, and Toledo Mini Bulletin **Preservation** Joe read thank you's from Franklin Charge and the Brandy Station Foundation. A motion was approved to donate \$250 to the Civil War Trust for their work at Mill Spring, Perryville, and Stones River. Don Kadar received the membership card from Fort Wayne. **Fall Trip** There was some discussion about February's voting for our trip destination, but the vote was a clear 2 to 1 for Perryville. So, Linda has contacted a guide, Chuck Lott, who along with Darryl Smith, will take us around the battlefield October 10-11. We may be able to visit the Bottom House due to Ken Baumann's acquaintance with the owner. The battlefield isn't very bus friendly so Chuck is trying to find alternate transportation. **Items of Interest** Chris Caulkins, whose article on Sailor's Creek is in the present issue of Blue and Gray spoke on C-Span at Longwood University.

Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to the 1st Michigan Engineers:

1. How many engineer regiments were there in the Union Army during the course of the war?
2. What were the main duties of an engineering regiment?
3. What battles and/or campaigns was the 1st Michigan Engineers involved in?
4. What is unique about the regiment's monument that was erected in 1912?
5. How many of the Regiment's men died during the war? What was the major cause of death?

Civil War Essentials-Formal Surrender at Appomattox on Wednesday, April 12, 1865, the defeated Army of Northern Virginia marched through the village of Appomattox Court House to surrender its arms to the Army of the Potomac. The Federal high command had ordered *"the ceremony to be as simple as possible, and that nothing should be done to humiliate the manhood of the Southern soldiers."* Beginning at 6:00 A.M., nearly 25,000 Rebels proudly advanced through the lines of watchful bluecoats they had recently fought. The procession lasted about ten hours without incident. *"We suffered no insult in any way from any of our enemies,"* recalled one Rebel veteran. *"No other army in the world would have been so considerate of a foe that it had taken so long, so much privation, so much sacrifice of human life, to overwhelm."* Another Confederate complimented the victorious Yankees, who *"acted with so much consideration, and like good soldiers, and good Americans can only act, did not show their exultation they must have felt."* A Union general noted *"an awed stillness, and breath holding, as if it were the passing of the dead."*



The last Confederate unit proceeded toward the famous Triangle to stack its arms at 4:00 P.M. As it passed between the Federal soldiers, a Southern officer later remembered that *"someone in the blue line broke the silence and called for three cheers for the last brigade to surrender....but for us this soldierly generosity was more than we could bear. Many of the grizzled veterans wept like women, and my own eyes were as blind as my voice was dumb."*

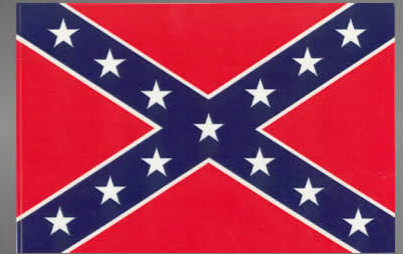
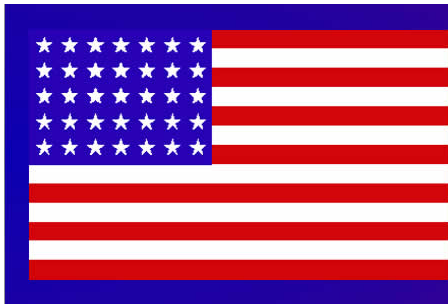


Nearly two weeks earlier, Robert E. Lee's army had suffered a devastating loss at the Battle of Five Forks. This defeat crumpled the Confederate right wing, forcing Lee to order the evacuation of the defensive lines protecting the key Virginia cities of Richmond and Petersburg. Over the next eight days, Lee's weakened forces sought to avoid a full-scale confrontation with the powerful armies under the command of Ulysses S. Grant. Lee headed his forces west in an effort to push around Grant's flank, hoping to join forces with Joe Johnston's army in North Carolina. After a week of severe struggle, Lee recognized that his efforts had failed, resulting in the surrender at Appomattox on April 9. We thank Jerry Maxwell for this description from the August 2002 newsletter.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (April 1865): 1 Apr: CSA Pickett's troops are crushed at Five Forks by the combined weight of Sheridan and Warren's troops. Later this day, Warren is relieved by Sheridan. At Mobile Bay, the Federal monitor *Rudolph* hits a torpedo in Blakely River and sinks while in support of Canby's operations there. **2 Apr:** Grant orders an attack along the entire Confederate lines at Petersburg. Horatio Wright's VI Corp makes a critical breakthrough and rolls up the Confederate's right flank. On this day, CSA A.P. Hill is killed. Gen James Wilson cavalry raid on Selma, AL, succeeds this day pushing aside troops of CSA Forrest and Richard Taylor. The goal of this raid is to deny the South one of their last manufacturing centers. **3 Apr:** The city of Richmond is formally surrendered. **4 Apr:** Lincoln tours Richmond. He has been with the Federal troops in and around Petersburg since 24 Mar. The Federals clash with the Confederates at Tabernacle Church and Amelia Court House. Lee's forces are effectively trapped by Meade's troops to the east and Sheridan's from the south and west. **5 Apr:** Lee's forces continue their retreat westward and clash with the Federals at Amelia Springs and Paine's Cross Roads. In Washington D.C. on this day, SoS William Seward is severely injured in a carriage accident. **6 Apr:** Grant and Lee's troops again clash at Sailor's Creek with the Confederates losing near a third of their strength. **7 Apr:** Lincoln, hearing that Lee might surrender if pressed, responds "*Let the thing be pressed.*" Back in Virginia, Grant sends Lee a message asking he surrender to prevent "*any further effusion of blood.*" In England, the U.S. begins negotiations about recovering damages from those inflicted by the CSS Alabama . . . the Alabama was built on their soil. **8 Apr:** Lincoln returns to the capital. Lee rejects surrender to try one last break through to meet up with Joseph Johnston's troops to the south. **9 Apr:** Lee's troops launch an early morning attack but the effort is soon blocked. In order to prevent further bloodshed in this futile attempt, Lee sends a courier under white flag to Grant requesting a cease fire while they work out terms of surrender. In the early afternoon, Grant and Lee meet at Wilbur McLean's home and conclude a surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee tells his men to "*Go to your homes and resume your occupations. Obey the laws and become as good citizens as you were soldiers.*" At Mobile Bay, Federals capture Fort Blakely. **11 Apr:** Lincoln addresses a crowd at the White House on the issue of reconstruction. This will be his last speech. At Mobile Bay, Confederate troops abandon their last fortifications and pull out of Mobile. **12 Apr:** The formal surrender ceremony of the Army of Northern Virginia takes place between Chamberlain and CSA John Gordon. Neither Grant nor Lee

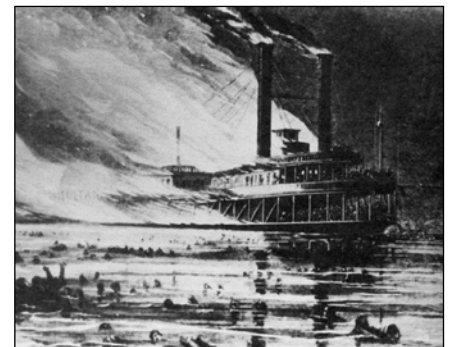


attends. Sherman's troops meet resistance outside of Raleigh, NC. At Mobile Bay, Federal troops occupy Mobile but the victory came at such a late time that Grant writes in his memoirs, "*when its (Mobile) possession was of no importance.*" **13 Apr:** Sherman occupies Raleigh. **14 Apr:** Lincoln attends the play, *Our American Cousin*, at Ford's Theater with his wife, Mary, Clara Harris and MAJ Henry Rathbone. At approximately 10 pm, John Wilkes Booth gains access to his booth shoots Lincoln behind the ear, stabs Rathbone and leaps over the balcony, breaking his leg but making good on his escape. Across town, SoS Seward is viciously attacked but narrowly escapes death. Back on the war front, CSA Joseph Johnston requests a temporary cessation of hostilities with Sherman while a peace deal is worked out. Meanwhile, at Fort Sumter, SC, a flag raising ceremony is conducted with Gen Robert Anderson on hand to see the stars and striped



raised over the long embattled fort. **15 Apr:** Abraham Lincoln dies this day at 7:22 am. Andrew Johnson takes the oath of office at 11 am and assumes the presidency. Wilson's cavalry is still on the march and captures the city of Columbus and West Point, GA.

17 Apr: Lincoln's body is brought to the East Room of the White House where it will lie in state until the funeral ceremony. **18 Apr:** Sherman and Johnston meet at Durham Station to discuss peace. **19 Apr:** Sherman and Johnston reach a peace agreement but it far exceeds terms of surrender, instead broaching broadly on a political settlement which is received with severe criticism. **19 Apr:** Lincoln's funeral services are held in the East Room. **20 Apr:** Lee writes Jefferson Davis telling him that he's opposed to continuation of hostilities and recommends an end to all fighting. Davis and other key confederates held the opinion that hostilities should continue using partisan warfare. **21 Apr:** Lincoln's body is placed on a funeral train headed to Springfield, IL. John S Mosby disbands his troops. **22 Apr:** Wilson's cavalry is still engaged in the fight, taking the town of Talladega, AL. **24 Apr:** Grant meets Sherman at Raleigh, NC, and tells him his peace agreement with CSA Joseph Johnston has been rejected by Pres Johnson. Johnston is notified that the truce will end in 48 hours. **26 Apr:** John Wilkes Booth and co-conspirator Herold are surrounded in a barn on the farm of Richard Garnett, located south of the Rappahannock River in VA. Booth refuses to surrender but Herold gives himself up. The barn is fired and Booth is mortally wounded, dragged from the barn and dies. **27 Apr:** The Sultana, carrying over 2,000 passengers, mostly freed Federal soldiers from Confederate prisons, catches fire and sinks. At least 1,238 persons are killed in the accident. **30 Apr:** Near Mobile, AL, Gen Edward Canby and CSA Richard Taylor meet to surrender all Confederate troops in Alabama and Mississippi. The Confederate armies of Taylor and Kirby Smith have yet to surrender. For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit seekingmichigan.org/civil-war.



1. 11. The 1st Michigan Engineers was one of 3 organized in 1861.
2. The engineering regiment was involved in repairing and building railroads, bridges, and blockhouses; destroying enemy communication lines, railroads and bridges. They were often attacked by Confederate cavalry.
3. The regiment participated in Corinth, Perryville, Stones River, Chattanooga, Sherman's March to the Sea and the Carolinas.
4. The 1st Michigan Engineers is one of the only two Michigan Civil War regiments to have a monument on the grounds of the Michigan State Capitol building.
5. During 4 years of service, 364 officers and men died, including 351, or 96%, who died from disease, with the remaining 13 casualties dying in battle.

This will be a great meeting on Monday, April 27th, with Mark Hoffman presenting Among the Enemy: A Michigan Soldiers Civil War Journal, at the Farmington Community Library. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Also, check-out our website at <http://history.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.