



On Monday, January 7, 1861, one hundred men gathered in the House of Representatives inside the Capitol of Montgomery, Alabama to determine the fate of their state during the secession crisis begun by South Carolina only eighteen days earlier. Most of the delegates from the northern counties were labeled “Cooperationists” because of their loyalty to the United States government and their unwillingness to vote for secession. Meeting behind closed doors for four days, the delegates debated the topic of withdrawing from the Union with much pressure brought to bear on those who opposed secession. On January 11 they cast the final vote—61 to 39 in favor of separation. Alabama thus became the fourth state to secede behind Mississippi and Florida which left the Union on the two preceding days.

One of Alabama’s young delegates, Charles Christopher Sheats, adamantly refused to sign the Ordinance of Secession and continuously spoke out against it during the four days of debate. Many of his fellow delegates labeled him a “Tory” and brutally knocked him to the floor of the chamber. He was dragged from the building and thrown into a local jail until the vote was finalized. Sheats eventually returned to his home in Winston County where he received a hero’s welcome from the many anti-secessionists for bravely sticking to his principles.

On July 4, 1861, approximately 2,500 anti-secessionists from across northern Alabama met at Looney’s Tavern to listen to Chris Sheats and other speakers voice their anti-war opinions. Numerous people in the crowd believed that since the State of Alabama thought it had the right to secede from the Union that Winston County had the right to secede from the State of Alabama. State Representative Hugh Lawson Clay feared that a serious attempt would be made “to excite the people of Northern Alabama to rebellion versus the State and we will have a civil war in our midst.” The movement, however, failed, but Winston County was from here on referred to as “The Free State of Winston.”

Most of the people at Looney’s Tavern and the northern counties desired that both the Union and Confederate governments simply leave them alone. This, of course, was not to be. When the Confederate Congress passed the Conscription Act on April 16, 1862, men between the ages of 18 and 35 had to report for duty with the Confederate Army or be declared deserters. When many of the men in the northern counties began hiding out to avoid the draft laws, local Confederate authorities often resorted to violence in an effort to force families to reveal their whereabouts. If caught, they were coerced into the Army. Others, tired of hiding, decided to escape to the Union forces that were now along the Tennessee River in northern Alabama. Many of these men would be formed into the First Alabama Cavalry, U.S.A.

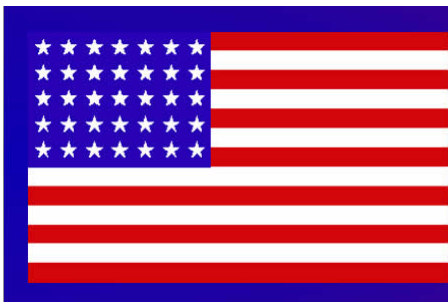
This month’s speaker, Larry Hathcock, a long-time MRRT member, will detail the story of the people of Alabama who remained loyal to the Union during one of the most perilous times in the history of the U.S. Larry was born in St. Clair County, Alabama, moving to Michigan at age nine. Larry is now a retired teacher from the Holly School System. Previous talks to the MRRT include the *C.S.S. Alabama v. U.S.S. Kearsarge*, Naval War on the Mississippi, and *U.S.S. Monitor v. C.S.S. Virginia*. Come join us on **MONDAY, MAY 22** for Larry’s newest presentation “Alabama Tories.” It should be a great program!

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FALL FIELD TRIP: Our planned venture to Franklin/Spring Hill/Nashville, scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, October 14-15, is shaping up nicely. Forty-four people have signed up, so there are only two remaining seats still available on the bus. For those who have signed up, please submit a check in the amount of \$65, made out to Carroll Tietz or Jerry Maxwell. This will cover the expenses for the bus, our guide [Thomas Cartwright], museum fees, and the bus driver. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE THIS CHECK AT THIS MONTH’S MEETING.**

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Our thanks to last month’s speaker, **Eloise Amy Haven**, for sharing the letters and history of her great-grandfather, Corporal Allen Dwayne Pease of the 6th Michigan Cavalry.



QUIZ: All questions pertain to the month of May.....

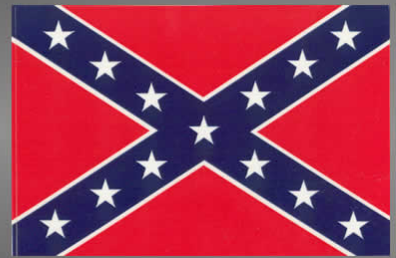
1. On May 3, 1861, which three Confederate commissioners to Great Britain did Lord John Russell, the British Foreign Minister, receive in London? And, on the same day which pro-secessionist Governor of Missouri stated that Lincoln was “threatening” civil war and further referred to Lincoln as a “despot”?
2. On May 20, 1861, which state legislature voted unanimously to secede from the Union, thus becoming the last state to join the Confederacy? And, on the same day, which Kentucky Governor declared his state’s “neutrality”?
3. On May 24, 1861, which 24-year-old Federal colonel was killed, thus becoming the first Union officer to die in the war? And, which angry pro-secessionist killed him with a shotgun blast? And, who killed the pro-secessionist?
4. On May 9, 1862, what valuable naval and army supply depot did Confederate forces evacuate? And, on the same day which Union general ordered the emancipation of slaves in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, an order that President Lincoln quickly rescinded?
5. On May 15, 1862, notorious Benjamin “Beast” Butler issued his infamous order in New Orleans which enraged the females of that city for any “word, gesture, or movement” insulting to Federal officers. What was the order officially called and what did it accuse women of “plying”?
6. On May 20, 1862, whose forces joined Stonewall Jackson’s Army of the Shenandoah bringing his numbers up to 16,000 men and 48 guns? And, three days later on May 23, which important community did Jackson occupy?
7. On May 1, 1863, what was the famous discussion between Lee and Jackson in the woods of the Wilderness proposing Jackson’s flank march toward Hooker’s Army at Chancellorsville sometimes called? And, on the same day which battle 30 miles south of Vicksburg began as well?
8. On May 12, 1863, Confederate General John Gregg attacked Union forces in Mississippi. Name the town where the fighting took place and the politician/general he attacked from James McPherson’s Corps.
9. On May 5, 1864, the Battle of the Wilderness began as the Federal Fifth Corps attacked the Army of Virginia’s Second Corps. Who led these two corps? And, along which road was this battle to begin?
10. On May 7, 1864, William T. Sherman began his march on Atlanta. Name his 3 armies and their commanders.

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As a combat commander John Bell Hood had no superior and few equals. His outstanding Civil War career included a brilliant performance at Gaines’ Mill where his personal leadership played a crucial role in the Confederate victory. At Second Manassas and Antietam Hood again fought with great distinction. With each glorious victory came praise, adoration, and promotion. Wounds, illness, an addiction to morphine and alcohol, a lost love affair, and promotion beyond his abilities, however, ruined the reputation of this once-valued officer.

Born to a prominent family in Owingsville, Kentucky, on June 29, 1831, Hood grew into manhood, received a basic education, and became somewhat legendary as a horseman. Appointed to West Point by his Congressman-uncle, young John Hood was anything but a quality student, as he graduated number 44 of 52 in the Class of 1853. Serving in the famous pre-Civil War 2nd Cavalry in Texas, Hood received his first wound when an arrow pinned his left hand to his bridle during a fight with the Indians at Devil’s River. He broke off the projectile head and tried to pull the arrow out, but the feathers would not pass through the wound. Finally he freed himself by pulling on the feathered end and continued in the fight. His next more serious wounds occurred during the Civil War.

On the second day at Gettysburg shell fragments struck his left hand, forearm, elbow, and biceps. Although his arm was saved from amputation, he would carry it in a sling as the arm was rendered useless. During his convalescence, Hood was a hero to the people of Richmond and fell desperately in love with Sally “Buck” Preston. Captivated by her beauty and charm, Hood was embarrassingly giddy. He believed he would conquer Sally as easily as he defeated Yankees.



Returning to the war, Hood and his division fought at Chickamauga in September, 1863. While leading a furious assault that was to send the Union army to the brink of disaster, Hood was struck in the right leg by a rifle ball, fracturing the femur bone. He was carried to a nearby house with his bloody leg dangling off the side of the litter. It was an ugly wound, the bone being shattered only a few inches below the hip. Dr. T.G. Richardson performed the operation. Hood was horribly disfigured by the amputation, retaining but a four-and-a-half-inch stump. Some sources claim the stump was cauterized by heating a skillet and mashing it against the remains of his leg. His great physical strength and will pulled him through the hideous ordeal. Outfitted with a wooden leg, Hood would return to the army, a symbol of Confederate manhood.

When the war ended, Hood's much-publicized romance with Sally Preston ended as well. To many observers the beautiful and flirtatious Sally simply did not want a mangled man for her husband. Eventually settling in New Orleans, Hood's postwar career was marked by varied swings in fortune. He worked as a merchant in the cotton business, sold life insurance, and wrote his often distorted and self-serving version of the Civil War, entitled, *Advance and Retreat*. He also fell in love with Anna Marie Hennen, an attractive European-educated woman, the daughter of a prosperous Louisiana lawyer. They were married on April 13, 1868. To the surprise of many friends John and Anna Hood began producing children at an alarming rate—11 children within 10 years, including three sets of twins. The eight girls and three boys were often referred to as "*Hood's Brigade*."

Yet Hood remained a tragic figure. In the summer of 1879, amid an outbreak of yellow fever, much of Hood's family was stricken with the illness. His wife died on August 24, two days after becoming sick and only a few weeks following the birth of her daughter, Anna. Hood's eldest child, Lydia, was next, dying at age ten, a few days after her mother. On August 27 Hood was stricken with a high fever. On the 30th his labored breathing and moans foretold his fate. At 3:30 A.M. he shuddered convulsively and died at age 48. Yellow fever had completed the tragedy that had plagued John Bell Hood much of his life. He and his family are interred in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. William L. Yancey, A. Dudley Mann, Pierre A. Rost and Claiborne Jackson
2. North Carolina and Beriah Magoffin
3. Elmer Ellsworth, James Jackson, and Pvt. Francis Brownell
4. Norfolk, Virginia and Major General David Hunter
5. Order No. 28 and their "avocation"
6. Richard Ewell and Front Royal
7. "Cracker-Barrel Conference" and Port Gibson
8. Raymond and John A. Logan
9. Gouverneur K. Warren and Richard Ewell/Orange Turnpike
10. Army of the Cumberland-----George Thomas
Army of the Tennessee-----James McPherson
Army of the Ohio-----John Schofield

Hope to see all of YOU on **MONDAY, MAY 22** for **Larry Hathcock's** presentation of "*Alabama Tories*." Please make note of the change in our regular "last Monday of the Month" format. The meeting time and place will remain the same—6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there. Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.