



En route to Washington D.C. for his first inauguration, President-elect Abraham Lincoln had stated, *“I think when the clouds look as dark as they do now, one term might satisfy any man.”* Two-and-a-half years later a weary Lincoln contemplated the possibility of a second term as President when he wrote a friend: *“A second term would be a great honor and a great labor, which together, perhaps I would not decline, if tendered.”* Second terms were rather out of style at the time. No president had been reelected since Andrew Jackson in 1832. Running again had become the thing not to do. To run again, Lincoln would have to buck thirty years of tradition. And there was plenty of doubt in many minds in late 1863 whether he should even try it.

While Lincoln was contemplating his decision, George McClellan had moved into the political scene moseying up to Democratic bigwigs in New York City. From his Fifth Avenue Hotel he had infused himself into the political arena. The city was a steaming Democratic hotbed, the largest party stronghold in the North. Cheering partisan crowds greeted McClellan at the door of the hotel and followed him all over town. The New York newspapers carried a daily schedule of his movements. He could not go to the theater, the opera, a dinner party, or a grand ball without notice. Leading Democrats in NYC had made *“Little Mac”* their special project. They presented him with a handsome, fully furnished, four story brick house on West Thirty-First Street in one of Manhattan’s finest neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, Lincoln continued to waver in his thinking. Writing to Henry Wing of the *New York Tribune*, the President stated: *“There’s many a night, Henry, that I plan to resign. I wouldn’t run again now if I didn’t know these other fellows couldn’t save the Union on their platforms, whatever they say.”* Then sadly Lincoln stated: *“I can’t quit, Henry. I have to stay.”* Lincoln was re-nominated in Baltimore unknowing what had transpired at the Convention. Later in the Telegraph Office he was congratulated. Seemingly stunned, the President blurted, *“What! Am I renominated?”* The anti-war Democrats saw this as disastrous. *“The Republican convention nominated Lincoln just as was expected,”* stated one of them. *“We must now beat him or the country is ruined.”*

When McClellan received the nomination from the Democratic Party in Chicago, the convention exploded. Shout after shout went up. A cannon outside on the lake shore boomed. Music inside swelled, and for the next fifteen minutes men behaved *“like bedlamites.”* Delegates mounted chairs. Women in the galleries waved their handkerchiefs. A wounded soldier who had found his way into the auditorium tied his handkerchief to a crutch and waved it as tears of joy rolled down his face. As the tumult began to subside, a large banner, reading, *“McClellan, Our Country’s Hope and Pride”* was carried to the front and elevated amid a new outburst of wild cheering. The band saluted the banner with *“Hail to the Chief,”* and a third wave of enthusiasm swept the hall. The Political War of 1864 had commenced.

On **MONDAY, MAY 21**—mark your calendars for the earlier meeting date—guest speaker David Collins will present *“The McClellan Effect,”* a study of the Presidential Election of 1864. In particular, David will examine the similarities between the presidential campaigns of 1864 and 2004. “I will offer a modest theory about why the two political campaigns were so much alike in their negative campaigning,” explains David. “The similarities between them are the basis for my argument that there is such a thing as a ‘McClellan Effect.’ ”

David has worked for General Motors as an attorney for 31 years. He earned his Masters Degree in history from Wayne State University, has finished his course work for his PhD, and is now focusing on his dissertation.....You’ll want to be in attendance for this unusual presentation.

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A special thank you from the MRRT to last month’s speaker, **Tom Nanzig**, for sharing all his difficulties and woes in publishing his latest work, *The Civil War Memoirs of a Virginia Cavalryman (Lieutenant Robert T. Hubard, Jr.)*. Tom’s stellar presentation was followed by a brisk sale of autographed copies of his book.



FALL FIELD TRIP: 59 folks have signed up for the Gettysburg Trip on Saturday/Sunday, October 20-21. Since the bus only holds 46 (plus our guide, John Heiser), it will be necessary for some to follow along in their cars. A tentative list is enclosed in this newsletter to only those who have signed up. PLEASE TAKE NOTE that a deposit check will be collected at this month’s meeting [\$60 for those on the bus; \$10 for those in cars]. Make the checks out to either Carroll Tietz or Jerry Maxwell—not to the MRRT. Another check covering the Saturday night dinner will be collected at a further date. If you have any questions, please call Jerry at 248-363-1710.

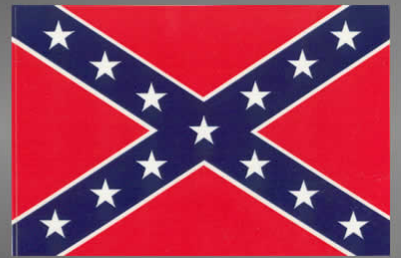
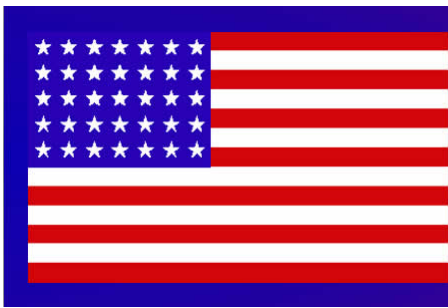
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QUIZ: Union Civil War Politicians

1. Which New York Democrat, who opposed Lincoln’s suspension of the writ of habeas corpus and the emancipation of slaves, was elected governor in 1862 but was defeated in 1868 for the presidency? And, which Republican, who was later killed in the war as a Union general, did he defeat for the governor’s post?
2. Which noted Democratic “Copperhead” who had been arrested, denied his right to habeas corpus, and banished to the Confederacy, lost the race for Ohio governor in 1863? And, which former Democrat, now a converted Republican, defeated him, prompting Lincoln to exclaim, “Glory to God....Ohio has saved the nation”?
3. Which Pennsylvania politician, a supporter of President Lincoln, was called “the greatest of the Northern war governors” and “the Soldier’s Friend”? And, which sleazy politician, referred to as the “Czar of Pennsylvania,” was despised by the governor?
4. Which New Hampshire-born politician became a Radical Republican Senator from Michigan who served on the Committee of the Conduct of the War? And, who did he almost single-handedly persuade to drop his third-party candidacy for president in 1864?
5. Which Lincoln cabinet member clandestinely campaigned for the presidential nomination in 1864 and offered his resignation when his intentions were made public? And, what was the name of the anti-Lincoln letter, circulated by a Kansas Senator, that denigrated Lincoln’s leadership and pushed for the cabinet member’s nomination?
6. Which Ohioan served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate and was only a heartbeat from the presidency during Andrew Johnson’s impeachment trial? And, which much despised Union general/politician had once voted for Jefferson Davis 57 consecutive times for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1860 and later played a significant role in Johnson’s impeachment trial?
7. Prior to the war this Radical Republican Pennsylvania Congressman practiced law in Gettysburg. He chaired the powerful Ways and Means Committee during the war, strongly supported the Civil Rights Bill, the Freedmen’s Bureau, and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. Name him. And, which Radical Republican from Massachusetts headed the Foreign Relations Committee and prior to the war delivered the embittered “Crime Against Kansas” speech?
8. Name the Kansas Senator and noted Jayhawker who strongly supported Lincoln’s re-nomination in 1864 and committed suicide in 1866. And, which ex-governor of New York and a Senator in 1864 held the position of Republican National Chairman?
9. Who was Lincoln’s campaign manager in 1860 that was later selected by Lincoln as a justice on the Supreme Court? And, who was Lincoln’s first Vice-President?
10. Which Ohio “Copperhead” was George McClellan’s Vice-Presidential running mate in 1864? And, which wartime governor of Indiana was a supporter of Lincoln and the war effort but later allied himself with the Radical Republicans?

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One of the most mysterious and enigmatic political figures in Washington D.C. history was Lincoln’s Secretary of War, Edwin McMasters Stanton. Admired by some, hated by many, Stanton could be curt, rude, and disobliging. When first



meeting Abraham Lincoln before the war, Stanton asked: “*Where did that long-armed creature come from?*” and remarked brutally, “[African explorer] *Du Chaillu was a fool to go all the way to Africa—he could have found the original gorilla in Springfield, Illinois.*” He frequently quarreled with Lincoln and badmouthed the president behind his back, yet Lincoln greatly respected the abilities of his “*God of War.*” Lincoln told a friend that Stanton “*is utterly misjudged....at present the man’s public character is a public mistake.*”

Born December 19, 1814, in Steubenville, Ohio, Stanton’s early education was interrupted by his father’s death. Merely 13, Stanton was forced to leave school and work in a bookstore. He later attended Kenyon College and studied law. Eventually he established a national reputation for his brilliant legal mind. When New York Congressman Dan Sickles killed his wife’s lover, Philip Barton Key, in the shadow of the White House on February 27, 1859, the trial became a focal point for the entire nation. Stanton, a friend of Sickles, was hired as a defense counsel and his claim of “*temporary insanity*” was used as a plea for the first time in American jurisprudence. Summing up for the defense, Stanton held forth the sanctity of the marriage vows and a husband’s right and duty to keep his home inviolate against seducers. Wild cheers rocked the courtroom when the jury, after deliberating only 70 minutes, brought in a verdict of “*not guilty.*”

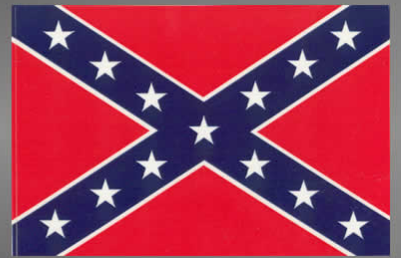
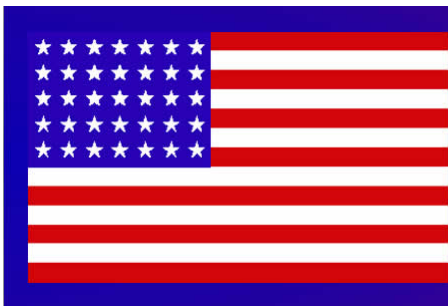
Stanton possessed a morbid fear of death and his grief often bordered on insanity. In 1841 when his little daughter Lucy died, he had her body exhumed and kept the coffin in his own room for two years. When his wife died in 1844, he dressed and re-dressed her in her bridal clothes—putting jewels and letters beside her, which friends kept removing—and after she was buried, he walked about the house at night repeatedly asking, “*Where is Mary?*”

Stanton suffered from severe asthma and in December of 1869 he began coughing violently. Doctors sought to relieve his pain without success. Stanton lost consciousness while his wife, Ellen, and his four children sat with him in the bedroom. At 3:00 A.M. on Christmas Eve, 1869, Stanton died at age 55. Ellen immediately closed the house to all except family and intimate friends. Her secretiveness gave rise to rumors that Stanton had committed suicide, cutting his throat as his brother Darwin had done years earlier. (This rumor still persists to the present day.) He was buried in Georgetown Cemetery as a steady rain fell all day.

Not everyone mourned Stanton’s passing. Jeremiah Black, a chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and an Attorney General in James Buchanan’s administration, had been a close friend of Stanton’s for years. Yet, after Stanton’s death, Black became the architect of vitriol toward his ex-friend by publishing a series of articles which questioned his former friend’s veracity, integrity, and consistency. These articles, wrote Lincoln’s bodyguard, Ward Hill Lamon, were “*such a portrayal of vice, corruption, and sycophancy, that it sickens the heart to contemplate the state of morals in high places.*”

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Horatio Seymour and James S. Wadsworth
2. Clement Vallandigham and John Brough
3. Andrew Curtin and Simon Cameron
4. Zachariah Chandler and John C. Fremont
5. Sec. of the Treasury Salmon Chase and The Pomeroy Circular
6. Ben Wade and Ben “Beast” Butler
7. Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner
8. James Lane and Edwin D. Morgan
9. David Davis and Hannibal Hamlin
10. George H. Pendleton and Oliver Hazard Perry Throck Morton



Make certain you have the right date for our meeting—**MONDAY, MAY 21**—at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). **David Collins** will be speaking on “*The McClellan Effect*,” in the Election of 1864. The meeting starts at 6:30 P.M. Come early and bring a friend....Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.