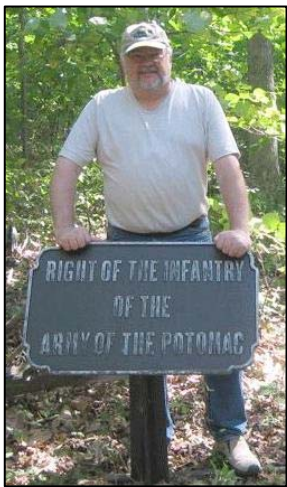


The May meeting comes **one week early** so mark your calendars for **Monday, May 20**.

**On MONDAY, MAY 20, the MRRT welcomes back Steve Hawks from Grand Rapids, MI, to speak on “The Civil War in Winchester, Virginia”.** Winchester was a prosperous town located on the north end of the Shenandoah Valley. During colonial times it was the frontier headquarters of George Washington and the place he began his political career. During the Civil War, the town was on the front line of battle for most of the war, changing hands 73 times. Today, surprisingly, it’s difficult to find evidence of this activity. Steve will guide us through the major Civil War events in Winchester and where to find markers, monuments, and preserved battlefields. This should prove to be an informative and entertaining evening as Steve combines Civil War events and places with the present day!

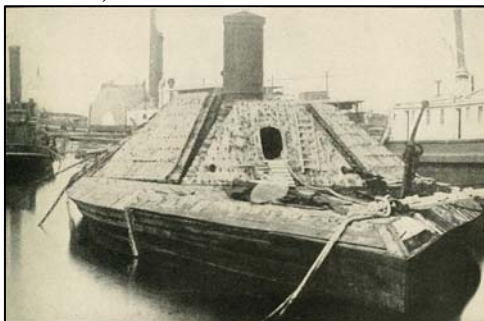


Steve has provided the MRRT many interesting presentations over the years: *“Mostly Missed Monuments”*, *“Markers at Gettysburg”*, *“The Embattled B&O Railroad in the Civil War”*, and *“The Union Surrender at Harpers Ferry”*. He has an extensive Civil War background as an author and publisher of several books and websites. Steve created one of the first commercial CD-ROMS in 1993 on the Battle of Gettysburg. Steve’s websites include [www.Stonesentinels.com](http://www.Stonesentinels.com) showcasing monuments and historical markers at more than a dozen battlefields and [www.CivilWarInTheEast.com](http://www.CivilWarInTheEast.com) that serves as a reference tool for the Eastern campaigns. Steve has just published his third book, *“Gettysburg Monuments: The First Corps of the Army of the Potomac”*. Steve teaches marketing at Grand Valley State in Grand Rapids.

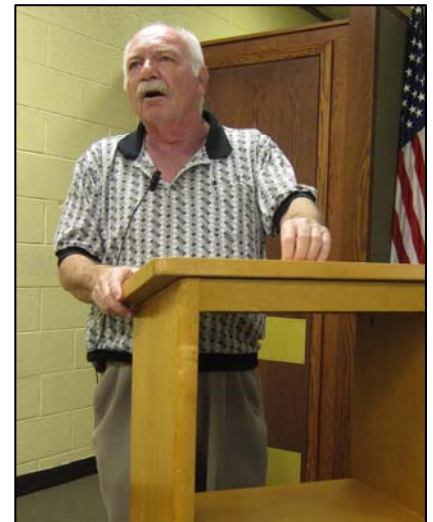
**The Roundtable would like to thank President and long-time member Larry Hathcock for his engaging and colorful presentation on the “Attack on the C.S.S. Albemarle”.**

Clearly the MRRT has much to thank Larry about, particularly clarifying that most baffling question as to ‘who’ actually won the Civil War...apparently, and should there be doubt, it was the US Navy!

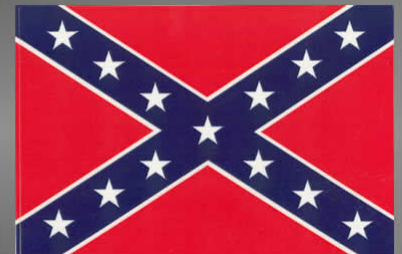
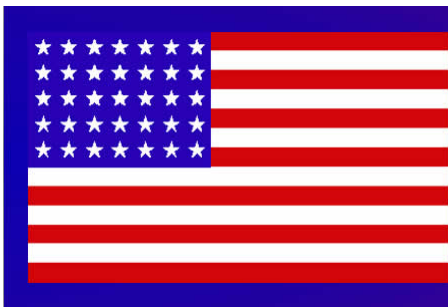
The Confederates built the ironclad CSS Albemarle to reverse the Union occupation of the area (particularly with the US Navy’s capture of Hatteras Island and inlets in 1861) and control the Roanoke River which if it fell into Union hands would



threatened Lee’s supply line to Richmond. Her stat lines were: 158’ long with a 35’ beam and 9’ draught; displacement 376 tons; equipped with 2 steam engines (each 200 hp) driving 3 screw props capable of 4-5 knots; fitted with two 6.4 Brooke double-banded rifles (one forward, the other aft, each capable of firing from three different fixed positions); with a crew of 150. It was commissioned April 17, 1864.



The Albemarle’s mission was to clear the Roanoke River of Union boats allowing the ground forces under CSA General Hoke to take the town and nearby forts of Plymouth, NC. She saw engagement during April 1864 against the USS Miami and USS Southfield. It resulted in the sinking of the Southfield and the death of the Miami’s commander, Captain Charles W. Flusser, from a rebounding shell off the Albemarle hull. On May 5, 1864, the Albermarle and CSS Bombshell while escorting the troop-laden CSS Cotton Plant down the Roanoke River were engaged by the USS Miami, USS Mattabesett, USS Sassacus, and USS Wyalusing. The Albermarle was rammed by the Sassacus but was able to disengage and return to



Plymouth with little more damage than a shredded smokestack. Through the summer of 1864, the Albermarle controlled the Roanoke waterway and approaches to Plymouth.

The US Navy sought several plans to defeat the Albermarle and open up the waterways. It eventually settled on a daring plan put forth by Lieutenant William B. Cushing to use two small steam launches to be fitted with spar torpedoes. Cushing was a daring and courageous individual with a colorful past, illustrious ancestry, and connections. He has occasionally, and quite correctly, been referred to as the US Navy's Custer.

On the evening of October 27, 1864, Cushing's party of one spar torpedo boat and small cutter closed on the Albemarle. They were discovered when a dog started barking. Cushing launched his torpedo attack just as the Albemarle fired its cannon. The Albemarle sustained a 6 foot hole in its hull, sinking in 8 feet of water. The explosion threw Cushing's crew into the water. He and one other man escaped, 2 drowned and 10 crewman were captured. He was honored for his success by receiving the 'Thanks of Congress'. The 'Thanks of Congress' was only awarded to officers; the Medal of Honor was created at this time to honor soldiers in the Army. Only one officer has received both the 'Thanks of Congress' and the Medal of Honor—General Ulysses S. Grant



Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles called Cushing a "hero of the war". He became the youngest Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy during the war. He died from illness as a young man of 32 years on 17 December 1874 in the presence of his wife and mother.

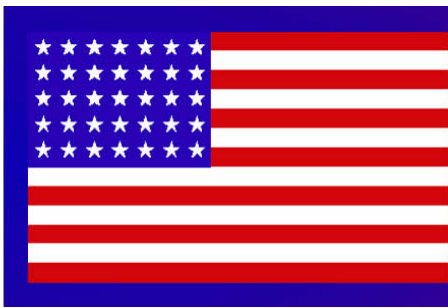
Although expelled from Annapolis shortly before graduation, on 8 January 1875 he was buried with honors at the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland. William Cushing name reverberates long after the Civil War in the US Navy. The first torpedo boat, built in 1890, was named the U.S.S. Cushing and four destroyers follow. The last was the USS Cushing (DD-985) decommissioned in 2005.

**QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Winchester, VA.**

1. Which famous Civil War general commanded his first battle near Winchester, resulting in a serious tactical defeat?
2. Why was this tactical defeat a major strategic victory for the Confederates?
3. What the highest number of times Winchester changed hands in ONE day?
4. How many (and who) future U.S. Presidents fought in Winchester battles?
5. Which famous World War II general had a grandfather and namesake who was killed in one of the battles around Winchester?

**MRRT Minutes for April 29, 2013:** The **Call to Order** was at 6:40 pm. **The Pledge** was dedicated to the sailors, Union and Confederate, involved in the attack on the CSS Albemarle. **Introduction of Guests and New Members:** Jack Wotoring and Gerald Furi were introduced. Gerald it should be noted is the keeper of our MRRT website. **Newsletter Report:** Bob read from the Cleveland Charger, Toledo Mini Bulletin, Indianapolis Hardtack, Cincinnati Canister, and the NYC Dispatch. **Preservation Report:** Joe's full report will be included in the newsletter from now on. **Trip Report:** The sign up sheet will be passed around at every meeting. The trip committee was asked if payments could be made in installments and this was agreed to—as long as the final payment is made by the August meeting. All payments must be complete by that date to reserve your place. Linda's flyers were passed out which contains all the pertinent trip information—it can also be found at our website (<http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>) under the Annual Field Trip tab. **Items of Interest:** *Civil War News* has published an article about the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley with a new theory about the torpedo it carried which may explain why she sank. The memoir of W.T. Sherman was given a hearty

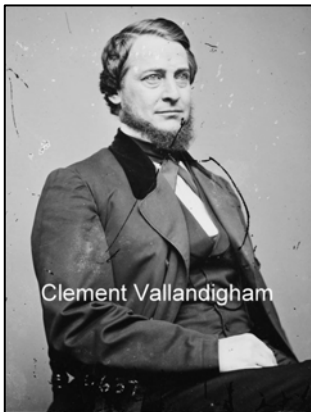




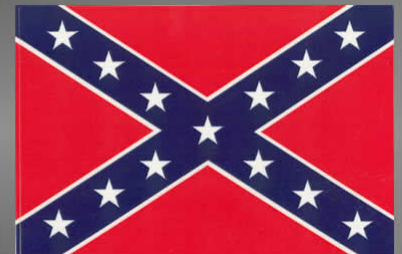
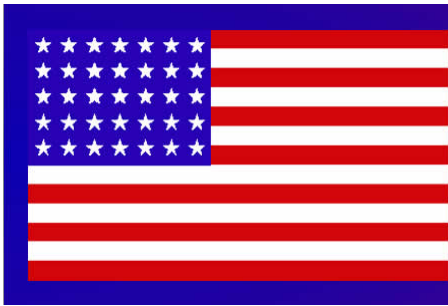
recommendation and Don has more books to sell. *The Artilleryman* magazine has published another complimentary review of Jerry’s book, “*The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham*”. Loomis Battery will be setting up for Civil War Days at Greenfield Village and will accompany the DSO on the 1812 Overture at the July 4th concerts. They will also be at Camp Grayling the last weekend in July. The 38<sup>th</sup> Civil War Show in Mansfield, OH, is this weekend. Ron Cleveland will be speaking at the Milford Public Library May 6 on hunting and preserving Civil War artifacts—and how to not get arrested! Reservations are necessary. **Old Business:** The \$200 scholarship in Jerry Maxwell’s name for North Farmington High School was renewed. As a reminder, \$100 each will be given to a male and female student as chosen by the NFHS History Department Chair. Personal donations over and above the \$200 have been given by members—others so inclined are encouraged to do likewise to increase the scholarship fund. Jerry’s ashes will be released at Brandy Station. The Pelham monument will soon be moved to another location. Coffee and cookies will, for a 6 month trial, be at 6:30 with the business meeting at 6:45 so we can move things along and give our speakers more time. **Secretary’s Report:** The March 25, 2013 report was accepted.

**Trip Report:** Although the upcoming trip this October to Charleston is addressed in the minutes above, an important question arose out of the last meeting regarding payment of the trip fee, namely, *could payment be done in installments?* The answer is **YES** as long as the final payment is made by the August meeting. Incidentally, the \$300 cost per person includes the tour guides; three meals (Saturday Banquet, and Saturday & Sunday Lunches); local motor coach transportation throughout the Charleston area; fees for the boat tour of Charleston Harbor; Tour booklet with information, maps, and period photographs and paintings; and City of Charleston permits & taxes.

**Civil War Sesquicentennial (May 1863): 1 May:** The Chancellorsville Campaign continues as Hooker and Lee engage in the area in and around Chancellorsville. Hooker ends the day by withdrawing his forces away from Lee’s, taking defensive positions in the Virginia Wilderness. In other news, the First Confederate Congress establishes a provisional navy and draws-up punishment for white Union army officers captured while in command of black troops. **2 May:** Stonewall Jackson flanks the Union forces and launches a punishing attack and rolls up Hooker’s left. Jackson is later wounded by his own men. Col Grierson federal raiding party of 600 men rides into Baton Rouge concluding his daring 16-day ride. Casualties are 3 killed, 7 wounded, 9 missing and 5 men left behind due to illness. **3 May:** Hooker has Sedgwick fire on Confederate positions at Fredericksburg to relieve pressure at Chancellorsville. Initially northern troop’s efforts are successful but Lee’s attack at Salem Church halts further Union advancement. **4 May:** Sedgwick’s troops fall back across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg under pressure by Confederate troops. Hooker soon issues a general withdrawal of federal troops engaged in the Chancellorsville campaign. Davis telegraphs Lee that the nation “*reverently united with you in giving praise to God for the success with which he has crowned your arms.*” Union losses are 1,606 dead, 9762 injured and 5,919 missing; Confederate losses 1,665 dead, 9,081 wounded and 2,018 missing. Although a Confederate victory, the casualty math favored the Union. In the west, Grant continues his relentless advancement south of Vicksburg. Former Ohioan congressman and leading **Copperhead Clement Vallandigham** is arrested for treason by Gen Burnside. **6 May:** Vallandigham is sentenced to confinement for the duration of the war. Despite the Union defeat at Chancellorsville, Hooker issues a proclamation thanking the troops...“*The men are to be commended on the achievements of the past 7-days*”. **7 May:** Now that the federal threat in the Eastern Theater has been deflected, Davis telegraphs Gen Pemberton “*to hold Vicksburg and Port Hudson is necessary in our connection with Trans-Mississippi. You may expect whatever is in my power to do for your aid.*” **10 May:** Stonewall Jackson succumbs from his wound and subsequent pneumonia. **11 May:** In ongoing political intrigue at the capital, Treasury Salmon Chase presents his resignation to Lincoln for a second time and is again refused. Gen John Logan’s troops are attacked by Confederate



Clement Vallandigham



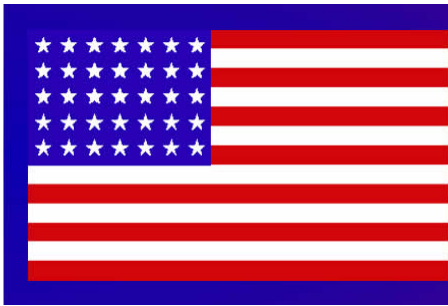
forces under Gen John Gregg at Raymond—some 15 miles south of Vicksburg. Each side reports casualties of approximately 500. **14 May:** CSA Gen Johnston's forces flee north as Grant moves on Jackson, MS. **16 May:** The Battle of Champion's Hill occurs as Grant and Pemberton's forces clash. This northern victory is attributed to be the severest fight of the Vicksburg Campaign. Union losses were 410 dead, 1,884 wounded & 187 missing; Confederate losses 381 dead, 1,800 wounded and 1,670 missing. **18 May:** Grant moves his forces close to Vicksburg by crossing the Big Black River. Pemberton decides to stay with his troops at Vicksburg. The siege of Vicksburg begins. **19 May:** The matter of Copperhead Vallandigham had not yet been fully settled as Lincoln weighs in directing that he be sent outside of Federal military boundaries and not be allowed back-in. Grant launches an assault on Vicksburg that is repulsed and results in 1,000 Union casualties. **21 May:** Gen Nathaniel Banks moves his troops into positions near Port Hudson and begins a siege of that city. **22 May:** Grant launches a second assault on Vicksburg which is again repulsed with 3,200 casualties. Grant concludes "*the work to be done was to make our position as strong against the enemy as his was against us.*" **23 May:** Jefferson Davis, in a reevaluation of the dire Confederate position at Vicksburg, sends a message to Johnston saying "*the disparity of numbers renders prolonged defense dangerous.*" **25 May:** Vallandigham is handed over to Confederates in Tennessee. Rather than frontally assaulting Vicksburg defensive lines once again, a tunnel is dug and 2,200 lbs of gunpowder detonated to create a gap for Union troops to directly access Vicksburg. However, this too fails as the Confederate defenses were simply too deep to allow Union exploitation. In naval action, The CSS Alabama seizes two vessels off the coast of Bahia, Brazil. Nathaniel Banks initiates an assault on Port Hudson with 11,000 Federal troops only to be repulsed by CSA Gen Gardner's 4,500 men. Banks' incurs casualties of near 2,000 men. **28 May:** The black soldier making up the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers leave Boston to train at Hilton Head, SC. **30 May:** Burnside tenders his resignation as commander of the Department of the Ohio as a result of Lincoln overturning his imprisonment order of Vallandigham. Lincoln refuses his resignation. Jefferson and Lee meet to discuss Vicksburg. Jefferson states "*Gen Johnston did not...attack Grant promptly and I fear the result that which you (Lee) anticipated if time was given.*" For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

**Preservation:** Joe Epstein reports that the Civil War Trust (CWT) has an opportunity to preserve 37 acres of Stonewall Jackson's Flank Attack including the site of the Talley Farm. On the evening of May 2, 1863, the Alabamians of George Doles' brigade advanced like a growing storm upon the unsuspecting Yankees of the Eleventh Corps located around the house and outbuildings of James M. Talley. Their Federal troops attempted to rally, but, in the words of one Alabamian, "*they may as well have tried to stop a cyclone.*" The inexorable tide of Jackson's Flank attack was rolling and could not be stopped.



this historic property adds one more missing piece of the Chancellorsville battlefield that can be saved forever—and *perhaps the MRRT can play a part in this effort!*

The parcel in question is located along modern day Route 3 and will be added to the more than 115 acres already saved by the Trust and its partners. The purchase price is \$889,000 but the CWT has obtained \$820,000 in matching funds leaving a balance of \$69,000 to be raised. A \$13 to \$1 match. Securing



**Civil War Essentials—Medical Service:** This month we continue with medical facts and trivia but this time around it's all derived from a Jerry Maxwell paper titled "*Bizarre Random Medical Facts*".

1. Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond was a sprawling complex of 150 wards with a capacity for more than 8,000 patients. It had a bakery capable of turning out 10,000 loaves of bread per day, a 400-keg brewery, 5 ice houses, a soap factory, cultivated fields and large herds of livestock.
2. In disease to battle deaths, the Civil War death rate was 2:1. In the American Revolution it was 12:1.
3. Of the 174,200 wounds of extremities in the Federal army, just under 30,000 led to amputation. Nearly 75% of the amputees survived. The death rate doubled if the amputation was delayed beyond 48 hours.
4. 94% of Union injuries were caused by bullets (163,748); 5.5% from artillery (9,581); and less than 0.4% from saber or bayonet (696).
5. 87% of belly wounds died—100% when the small intestine was hit, 41% when hit in the large intestine.
6. Pyemia ('pus in the blood') was a virtual death sentence at mortality rate of 97.4%. One wounded man of 100 contracted it.
7. Maggots were generally cleaned out of Union wounds with chloroform. Confederate doctors did not use chloroform for this purpose. Consequently, Confederate wounded healed faster since maggots are scavengers that eat only dead tissue. Southern hospitals smelled fresher and were healthier than their Union counterparts.
8. Prodigious amounts of calomel—an ivory colored, tasteless powder—became a panacea or 'wonder drug'. Made of mercurous chloride, calomel caused 'explosive evacuation of the bowels' accompanied by 'volcanic vomiting'.
9. Embalmer Thomas Holmes of Washington D.C. was the best known practitioner of the war, embalming more than 4,000 Union soldiers at \$100 each. Holmes became extremely wealthy, earning more than \$400,000.

#### QUIZ Answers:

1. Confederate General Stonewall Jackson began his famous Valley Campaign with a tactical defeat at Kernstown (near Winchester) on March 23, 1862. Faulty intelligence led to an unsuccessful attack on a Union detachment that was much bigger than he thought.
2. General Jackson's aggressiveness convinced President Lincoln to keep General Banks' troops in the Valley and General McDowell's 30,000 men near Fredericksburg, thus reducing General McClellan's invasion force by 50,000 men.
3. 13
4. Two – Rutherford Hayes and William McKinley
5. General George Smith Patton Jr.'s grandfather, George Smith Patton, commanded the 22<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Infantry and was killed during the Third Battle of Winchester on September 19, 1864.

Come out **Monday, MAY 20**, to welcome back **Steve Hawks** and hear his presentation "**The Civil War in Winchester, Virginia**". The meeting will begin at 6:45 pm at the Farmington Public Library, 23500 Liberty St. Farmington, MI 48335.

Check out our website at [www.farmlib.org/mrrt/](http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/).