

Please note that our May meeting is one week early, Monday May 23rd because of the Memorial Day holiday.

Our Monday, May 23, 2016 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library. Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

Our trip committee will begin collecting money at the May meeting. The present cost is \$145 for the tour guide and bus to take us around to the various historic sites and \$45 for the Saturday night banquet. Presently, 37 people have signed up for the trip. You are encouraged to sign up for what will be a great field trip.

Each tour participant must provide their own transportation to Fredrick, Maryland. Once there, we will have the bus to take us around the various historical sites.

We will be staying at the Hampton Inn, Fredrick-Fort Detrick, MD. The hotel's address is 1565 Opossumtown Pike, Fredrick. Their telephone number for room reservations is 301-696-1565 to book at the MCR rate of \$149/night + tax for a king room. Block rate cutoff is Wednesday, September 7, 2016. We do not have to stay at the hotel but the bus will leave from there each morning. The pre-tour meeting will be held at the Hotel on Friday, October 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

Our Saturday night banquet will be at the Old South Mountain Inn at 6132 Old National Pike in Boonsboro, MD. The cost for dinner at this 275 year-old stone tavern is \$45/person. The menu choices are Prime Rib, Salmon, and Vegetarian.

For more information (also to sign-up for the trip), call Mollie Galate (313.530.8516), Linda Gerhardt (586.588.2712), or Jeanie Graham (248.225.7596).

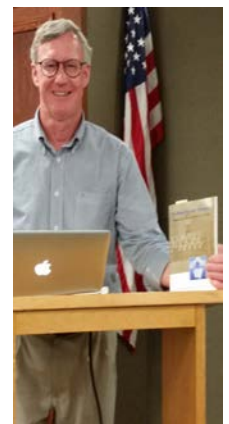


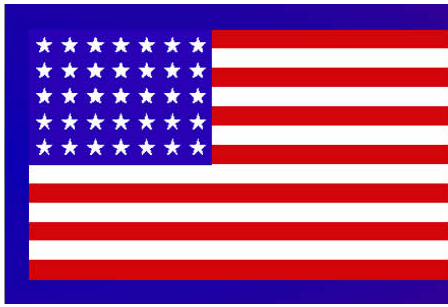
The Roundtable welcomes John Simmons from Grand Rapids, who will present "Gettysburg: The Civilian Viewpoint". The greatest battle ever fought on the North American continent occurred in and around a town of 2,000 inhabitants. Almost every property was damaged, homes were looted, and all crops and food was either destroyed or stolen. Countless wounded from both armies required attention. The odor was sickening. John read news articles from the home-town newspapers, the short stories written, and the diaries kept to discover first-hand how the battle affected the town's residents. He discovered so much material that a second presentation is being worked on. Please join us for a lively discussion on how the war actually affected civilians. John is a member of the Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable.

The Roundtable thanks Tom Nanzig for his informative and entertaining (even humorous!) presentation on "Nuns under the Guns". The "Sisters of the Battlefield" had four guidelines to follow:

- Traditional commitment to nursing.
- Offered a model for the care of the sick and wounded.
- The nuns will serve in hospitals that they do not operate.
- Providing written directions on the treatment of patients.

A Washington, D.C. monument to honor the Catholic sisters' services during the Civil War was dedicated on September 24, 1925. Sister Mary Madeline O'Donnell, the last surviving nun, was present. The inscription on the monument reads, "They comforted the dying, nursed the wounded, carried hope to the imprisoned, gave in his name a drink of water to the thirsty."





Nursing organizations did not exist when the Civil War began in 1861. Women were shielded from wars' dangers. However, by 1865 10,000 nurses had served along with 640 Catholic nuns.

Dorothea Dix was appointed to supervise women's nursing on June 10, 1861. She did not allow attractive women to serve as nurses. Nurses were paid 40 cents a day plus food if they were recognized by the government as nurses.

Ms. Dix held Catholics in low regard even though **Catholic sisters were the only group with nursing or hospital administration experience. The U.S. military asked for the sisters' assistance because they were the best available.** The sisters' desire to treat all the same way that Christ would have treated them was put into practice at several Union and Confederate hospitals.

The sisters' first job was to clean-up the hospitals and set up a meal program for the patients. They scrubbed the floors, removed rotten mattresses, and used clean sheets. Fruits and vegetables were served to the patients. Each patient in the Indianapolis hospital cost 11 cents per day to care for. The Indianapolis hospital was the "sweetest, quietest" spot. The sisters straightened out the Camp Curtin hospital in Pennsylvania. When they were finished, the hospital was comfortable, neat, and orderly. The sisters received hospital supplies from the government after threatening to go home. Several large steamboats were used as hospitals after the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. A Confederate gunboat did not attack a hospital ship that had sisters aboard.

The Daughters of Charity supervised hospitals in both Philadelphia and Richmond because the sisters were not for the North or South, but for God. The Philadelphia hospital treated 50,000 patients.

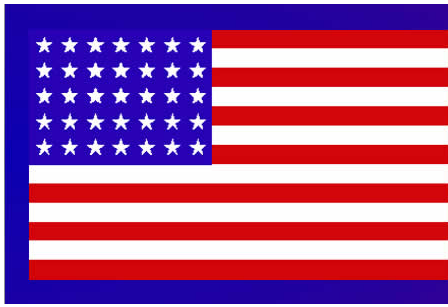
The Sisters of Mercies ran a Pittsburgh hospital. Several tents were set up when they ran out of space in the hospital. The Ursuline nuns in New Orleans were assisted by Union General Benjamin Butler. Nuns were active in Charleston and Richmond. Most Southern Catholics lived in the larger cities.

Nurse casualties were often from exhaustion. Only a few nurses died during the war.

MRRT Minutes for April 25, 2016: The **Call to Order** 6:40 pm, with 40 people present for the business meeting **Pledge** Dedicated to our troops still in Afghanistan **Introduction of Guests and New Members** guest Dennis Nagle **Secretary's Report** Approved **Newsletters** Bob Newill read from the Indianapolis Hardtack, Cincinnati Canister, Cleveland Charger, and NYC Dispatch **Trip** Discussed on page 1 of the newsletter **Preservation** The Federal budget for fiscal 2017 will again fund the American Battlefield Preservation Program. Virginia has promised \$2 million for their preservation fund while Tennessee has funded \$250,000. The Civil War Trust (CWT) is attempting to save 26 acres on Power's Hill, an important Union artillery position. The price is \$1,773,000. Already, 77% has been raised from the HTR Foundation, a local landowner, matching grants, and a generous former CWT Board member. This is a \$4.20 to \$1 match. **Website** The website is updated with information on the Antietam field trip. **Program** No update **Items of Interest** Our friend Gary Pike is feeling better. George Crouch read the book, Grant and Lee, He did not agree with the author's 1864 southern perspective. The Addiction of Mary Todd Lincoln was reviewed. She was addicted to laudanum. David was in Louisiana tracing the steps of his great-grandfather at Port Hudson during Bank's Red River Campaign. Gene said that his 5th Michigan Band will be playing at the Fort Wayne Civil War reenactment on May 14th. Dave Finney has published a book of photographs of Michigan soldiers. **Old Business** none **New Business** the Roundtable unanimously agreed to once again give \$300 to a scholarship fund for 2 students at North Farmington High School in Jerry Maxwell's memory.

Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to "Gettysburg: The Civilian Viewpoint".

1. How many Confederate and Union wounded were left to the care of the Gettysburg community?
2. What was done with most of the Confederate Gettysburg dead after the war?
3. What was the ratio of dead soldiers on the battlefield compared with the town of Gettysburg's population?
4. How many dead horses were there on the Gettysburg battlefield?
5. When was the last Gettysburg field hospital closed? How many field hospitals are recognized with signs?



Civil War Essentials - Yanks in Gray, “South’ns” in Blue – Part 1

Not everyone in the Civil War sided with the region they grew up in or lived in. Two prominent Southerners became unwaveringly loyal and successful Union military commanders; two Northerners swore allegiance to the Confederacy but under different circumstances didn’t fare well.



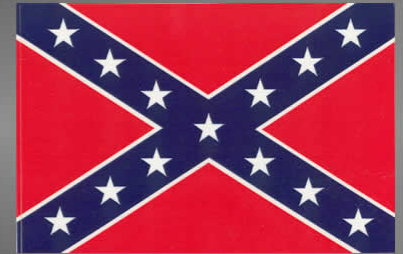
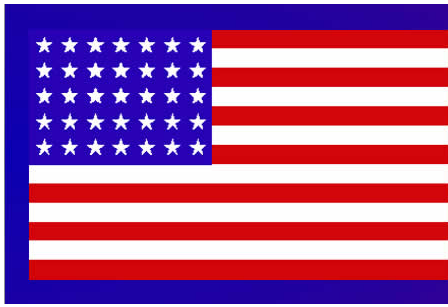
George H. Thomas – born in southern Virginia into a slave-owning plantation family, Thomas narrowly escaped death as a child during the 1831 “Nat Turner” slave rebellion. At West Point, he graduated 12th out of 42 cadets in 1840. Assigned to the artillery, Thomas fought with distinction in the Mexican war. In 1851, he became an artillery and cavalry instructor at West Point under Academy superintendent, R. E. Lee. In 1852, he married a woman from Troy, New York. Later transferred to the cavalry, he saw action against plains Indians and was wounded by an arrow in an 1860 encounter in Texas. On leave to recover from this wound, he injured his back in a fall from a train platform.

At the onset of the war, over half of the officers in the Thomas’ US 2nd Cavalry resigned to join the Confederacy; Thomas did not, possibly because of his Northern-born wife. His birth family and Southern-born fellow officers were outraged and never forgave him. Although hung with the nickname “Old Slow Trot”, perhaps because his injured back caused him to avoid faster paces on horseback, Thomas proved to be a competent subordinate commander as at Chickamauga and successful leader as at Mill Springs and at Nashville. Disliked by Grant, his role was diminished after he chased what was left of Bell’s army out of Tennessee. Never a self-promoter like McClellan or Schofield, Thomas burned his wartime papers and never wrote an autobiography. Still in the army, he died in 1870 in San Francisco and was buried in New York.

John C. Pemberton – Born in Philadelphia in 1814, he graduated from West Point 27th out of 50 cadets in 1837 and entered the artillery. He saw action in several battles with the Seminoles and **served in various posts in the north including Detroit and Fort Mackinac**. He fought in most of the battles in the Mexican war being wounded at the battle of Mexico City. After that war, he again battled the Seminoles and served in a number of frontier posts.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Pemberton chose to join the Confederate army perhaps due to his Virginia-born wife and years of service in Florida. Initially a major of artillery, he was promoted to Major General commanding the Department of South Carolina and Georgia in March, 1862. Distrust of his northern birth and reaction to his publicly stated preference for saving his army before saving Charleston [just as Beauregard would actually do in 1865] caused the governors of the two states to request his replacement. He was reassigned to the Mississippi/East Louisiana Department in October, 1862. He had about 50000 troops but lacked enough cavalry to track Grant’s movements. He was torn between whether to defend Vicksburg to the bitter end as President Davis demanded or to save his army as his immediate superior, Joseph Johnston, urged. In the end, confused by Grant’s rapid movements after crossing the river below Vicksburg, Pemberton chose to retreat into the fortifications around the city and was soon besieged. Although his troops turned back two assaults by Grant early on, the Union stranglehold on Vicksburg proved fatal and Pemberton was forced to surrender on July 4, 1863. After his exchange in October, he returned to Richmond. He requested Davis that he should be returned to duty “in any capacity”. Davis, who made it clear that he did not blame him for Vicksburg, offered him an artillery position. He first commanded artillery in the Richmond defenses then became Inspector General of Artillery in January 1865. After the war, Pemberton lived in Virginia until 1876, but returned to Pennsylvania where he died in 1881.





The Story of “Douglas the Camel” The military’s decision to use camels was the brainchild of Jefferson Davis. As Secretary of War in 1855 he arranged for the formation of a Camel Corps. Davis surmised that camels would be better equipped to carry supplies in the western deserts than horses or mules would be. His ideas may have been correct, but secession and the resulting Civil War ended the experiment.

No one seems to know how a camel ended up in Mississippi. This camel was given to Colonel William Moore of the 43rd Mississippi Regiment by Lieutenant William Hargrove of Company B. The camel was named “Old Douglas” and **assigned to the regimental band to carry instruments and knapsacks.**

Although the men tried to treat Old Douglas like a horse, he would break free of any tether and was eventually allowed to graze freely. **Despite not being tied, he never wandered far away from the men.** The infantry horses feared Old Douglas and he was recorded to have spooked one horse, starting a stampede, which reportedly injured many horses, and possibly killing one or two.



Old Douglas’s first service was in the Iuka Campaign. He also participated in the 1862 Battle of Corinth. Douglas remained with the 43rd Mississippi during the Siege of Vicksburg. It was here that he was killed by Union sharpshooters. Enraged at his murder, the men swore to avenge him. Colonel Bevier enlisted six of his best snipers, and successfully shot the culprit. Of Douglas’s murderer, Colonel Bevier reportedly said, *“I refused to hear his name, and was rejoiced to learn that he had been severely wounded.”*

According to legend, the starving men of the 43rd Mississippi didn’t let Old Douglas’s corpse go to waste. They promptly cooked his remains and dined on his flesh.

Among the grave markers of the 5,000 Confederate soldiers buried at Soldier’s Rest in Vicksburg is a marble tablet that pays tribute to Old Douglas- *“A Faithful and Patient Animal”*.

“Gettysburg: The Civilian Viewpoint” Quiz Answers

1. There were over 21,000 Confederate and Union wounded to care for.
2. The Hollywood Memorial Association successfully brought Confederate dead back to Richmond in June, 1872 for burial in Hollywood Cemetery. The cemetery has a special section for the Gettysburg dead.
3. There were 4 times as many corpses on the battlefield as the Gettysburg civilian population of 2,000.
4. There were 3,000 dead horses on the Gettysburg battlefield.
5. The last Gettysburg field hospital, Camp Letterman, was closed in October 1863. There were 17 Union and 18 Confederate field hospitals recognized by present day signs.