



## MEMBER RENEWAL

The MRRT celebrates its 59<sup>th</sup> year in 2019 – and this month is a great time to show your support by renewing your membership! (Or become a new member!). Membership is \$25 a year (\$5 increase to support preservation) – or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Treasurer **Jeanie Graham** (the bank does not like checks made out to the RoundTable) and can be mailed to her home at **29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326**; or simply bought to the meeting and given to Jeanie. Cash is always welcomed.

**Our next meeting will be Monday, Monday May 20, 2019.** This is one week earlier than normal because of the Memorial Day holiday. We meet in the basement of the Farmington Library (corner of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road) at 6:30 pm. **Our speaker will be William Cottrell, who will share with us the story of “Abraham Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence”.**

Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

**We congratulate George Crouch on being elected President of the Roundtable.** Gary Pritchard will continue as Vice President and Jeanie Graham was re-elected as Treasurer. Mollie has retired as Secretary, even though a replacement was not elected.

**The Roundtable will be visiting Savannah, Georgia this fall!** Our great trip committee – Jeanie, Linda, and Mollie is working on the details of the trip to this great destination.



**The Roundtable welcomes William Cottrell who will share with us the story of “Abraham Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence”.** Bill will discuss the role of public opinion in Abraham Lincoln’s political thought. He will share with us which founding document speaks to that opinion and when and where the President discovered that. Bill will examine three key speeches and how this doctrine was employed. **Bill has studied Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War era for almost 50 years.** He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Bill has been a guide in the Lincoln Room at the Plymouth Historical Museum for more than 10 years. He has a degree in geology from Wayne State University.

**Minutes for April 29, 2019 Meeting** **Call to Order** 6:40 pm, approximately 35 present for business meeting **Pledge** Dedicated to the latest casualties in Afghanistan **Introduction of Guests and New Members** guest Ellen Steward new members David Duncan and Jim Voss **Treasurer’s Report** Approved Member dues of \$25 are due now **Secretary’s Report** March 2019 accepted **Preservation** None **Newsletters** Bob Newill read from the Cincinnati Canister, NYC Dispatch, and the Indianapolis Hardtack **Program** Jim has added two speakers for 2020. **Web** Updated every month by Gerald Furi **Trip** Still looking for a guide, and we cannot fix a date until a guide is found **Items of Interest** On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Abraham Lincoln Roundtable will host Curt Fields, a living historian, who will portray Grant-the Man Behind the Uniform. Bill Christen brought three copies of The Antietam Effect to sell for the Roundtable’s preservation efforts. **New Business** Our next meeting will be on May 20, 2019, one week earlier because of Memorial Day **Old Business** the Roundtable elected new officers including George Crouch as President. Gary Pritchard will continue as Vice President and Jeanie Graham was re-elected as Treasurer. No one was elected to be Secretary.



**The Michigan Regimental Roundtable would like to thank Bill Christen for his educational and entertaining presentation on “Bugs or Bullets? How Did Michigan soldiers die during the Civil War?”** When the Civil War began there were more than 60 medical schools in the United States. The inadequate studies usually consisted of six months of lectures and attending dissections.

New recruits received a physical exam, which may have been through or not. Sick call was used in the camps.

**During the war the Union Army developed the Ambulance Corps.** Regimental band members helped to gather the wounded for the ambulances.



**There was no formal Nurses’ Corps.** Numerous volunteer nurses assisted the Union and Confederate armies.

**Camp conditions were usually filthy. Several conditions impacted soldier health; including disease, food quality and quantity, weather, the type of shelters contrasted, unsanitary latrines, disease, stress, and physical activity.**

**The most common diseases were:**

**Typhoid from contaminated food and water** 65,000 cases of which 1/3 died

**Pneumonia** 37,000 cases of which 1/6 died

**Measles** 11,000 died – 5% of the cases

**Tuberculosis** 14,000 cases

**Malaria** 30,000 cases. Good supplies of quinine limited deaths

**Smallpox**

Bill’s main source of information was **Michigan in the Civil War.**

**Approximately 87,000 Michigan men served in the Union Army during the war, approximately 23% of the male population. Of these men, almost 14,000, or 16% died. The number of deaths varies depending upon the source. There were 4,000 deaths from battle and almost 10,000 deaths from disease, Disease accounted for 70% or almost 3 to 1 over those killed in battle.**

**Bill has studied the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry in detail.** He has been creating a daily journal of the 17<sup>th</sup> during the war, based on surviving diaries and letters. The 17<sup>th</sup> participated in several battles, including South Mountain during the Maryland Campaign, the Battle of Antietam, the Knoxville Campaign against General Longstreet, and General Grant’s 1864 Overland Campaign. There were 320 men wounded that survived the war.

Several members of the 17<sup>th</sup> were sent to the Belle Isle or Andersonville prisons.

For the regiment, 59 out of 184 prisoners died, mostly at Andersonville.

Grove Sevey was a mason from Brooklyn, Michigan who survived unwounded from South Mountain to Petersburg. His diary was always discussing his poor health. *“Fever, headache, diarrhea. No better this morning not so well this morning take medicine every day”*.

How did a soldier deal with the loss of an arm or leg, or even both? Union General Joshua Chamberlain had to use a drainage tube for 20 years after receiving a groin wound. **Picture right – “The Letter Home” hoping for recovery and the minding of mind and spirit.**



**Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to Abraham Lincoln:**

1. Abraham Lincoln visited Michigan only once – August 27, 1856. Where did he appear and why was he here?
2. Why are the following dates important in Lincoln's life – November 4, 1842, January 17, 1851, and February 20, 1862?
3. Which speech did Lincoln claim was his best, stating: "I should choose that speech and leave it to the world uneraser"?
4. What did Lincoln refer to as a 'wet blanket'?
5. To which abolitionist did Lincoln supposedly say: "So this is the little lady who made this big war"? Also, to which abolitionist did Lincoln say, "There is no man's opinion that I value more than yours"?

**Civil War Essentials - Sam Houston and the Civil War**

Everyone knows who Sam Houston was – the man who attained independence for the Texas Republic by leading a rag-tag army to victory over Santa Anna's Mexican army at San Jacinto in 1836 after the military disasters at the Alamo and Goliad seemed to doom it. Few are aware of his truly fascinating life including his position on the events leading up to the Civil War. His interconnection with great men and great events in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is astounding.

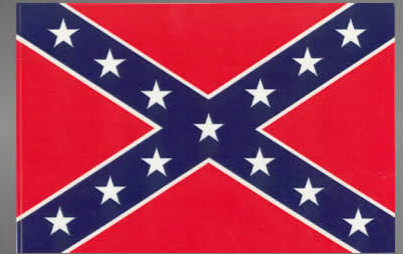
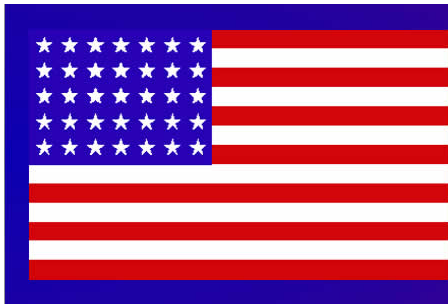
**His life was a series of rapid rises to elevated positions in society and also equally sudden plummets to unpopularity and rejection.** He was at various times a soldier, a successful lawyer, a Congressman, governor of



Tennessee, a general who won the key battle for Texas independence, the President of the Lone Star State, several times governor of Texas, and a US Senator. As Texas President in 1845, he craftily played Britain against the US in order to overcome northern resistance to the annexation of Texas. He was also an outcast after he abandoned his bride of a few days in 1829, resigned his Tennessee governorship and lived for several years among the Cherokee Indians in Arkansas. In April 1836 he was a general scorned by his officers and men who felt he would never turn and fight Santa Anna's army.

**One constant in his life was the friendship of Andrew Jackson with whom he shared a passion for preserving the Union.** This passion led to his unpopularity during the decade leading up to the war, as he swam against the secessionist current running through the south including Texas. As the war approached, Houston was again the Texas governor. His attempts to stymie the convention called to approve secession failed. He was ridiculed when he warned that the north would not let the Union be peacefully dissolved and that any war would be long and bloody. He publically refused to take the oath to support the Confederacy. His position caused the Texas legislature to declare the governorship vacant and the Lt. governor was installed in his place. **As he had 30 years before, Houston became an overnight pariah.** His only son (he had married again after his first wife obtained a divorce) joined the Confederate Army.

Early Confederate victories such as 1<sup>st</sup> Manassas seemed to vindicate his many critics. Even so, the Texas/Richmond honeymoon soon ended. The new country failed to provide enough troops to protect Texas citizens from Indian raids. Texas objected to the CSA recruiting soldiers within its territory. Hebert, the CSA general sent to command the Texas military district proved to be heavy-handed and provoked resentment. **Houston's son (like so many other men's sons) became a casualty at the Battle of Shiloh.** Badly wounded and left behind on the second day, he was saved from death by a Federal chaplain who remembered that his father had striven to hold the Union together in the pre-war years. **With the war slowly turning against the Confederacy and the casualty lists getting longer, the popularity of those who**



had ridiculed Sam Houston and pushed him aside in early 1861 began to fade. Houston had begun a quiet campaign to reestablish the Texas Republic while keeping his few public comments inoffensive. What might have transpired had Houston lived longer is conjecture; he died of natural causes at age 70 in July 1863.

**Civil War Essentials – Paul Revere’s Grandsons in the Civil War** Paul Revere Jr. of “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” fame during the Revolutionary War had a very large family with 51 grandchildren. Three of his grandchildren, Paul Joseph Revere, Joseph Warren Revere, and Edward Hutchinson Revere served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Their father, Joseph Warren Revere (1777-1868), was the 11<sup>th</sup> child of Paul Revere, Jr.

Paul served as a colonel in the 20<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts with his brother, Edward, who was an assistant army surgeon. Joseph became a Brigadier General in the New Jersey Volunteer Infantry.

Paul and Edward were captured by the Confederates during the Battle of Ball’s Bluff, Virginia in October, 1861. Paul was a Major who led his men up a hillside to attack the Rebels on the plateau. Edward believed that he should be at the front instead of at a hospital in the rear. The battle was a Union disaster as many soldiers drowned trying to swim back across the Potomac River. The Revere brothers were captured because they stayed on the Virginia side of the river. Edward was sent to a prison in the Harwood tobacco factory in Richmond. Paul, who was wounded in the leg during the battle, was held at either the Libby or the Harwood prison then transferred to the Henrico County jail.

According to the book, *Massachusetts in the War*, Paul was “one of seven Federal officers made hostages for the lives of Confederate privateersmen held by the United States government on the charge of piracy. For three months he was with his fellow hostages confined in a wretched cell of Henrico county jail.

His brother Edward wrote home that, “They are confined in one small room with two small windows. I hear from them every day, but am not allowed to see them. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that whatever is done to the privateersmen will be meted out to our unfortunate comrades.”

Then, on February 22, 1862 Edward and Paul were paroled for Confederate prisoners. The official exchange in May, 1862 allowed them to rejoin the Union Army. Memo: Unable to discover what happened to the Confederate privateers.

Edward and Paul both fought in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Edward was shot through the heart and killed while caring for a wounded soldier. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. saw Edward “. . . kneeling in ministrations to a wounded man just in rear of our lines at Antietam, his horse’s bridle round his arm---the next moment his ministrations were ended.”

Paul was wounded again during the battle. He made a full recovery and rejoined the Union Army.

Unfortunately, Paul did not survive the Battle of Gettysburg. He was wounded on July 2 by a canister of bullets exploding overhead and then died on the Fourth of July. Paul had survived seven other engagements and four months in captivity before the Battle of Gettysburg. Posthumously, he was promoted to Brigadier General.

The third brother, Joseph, survived the war. During the Battle of Chancellorsville, he withdrew his troops without orders to do so, resulting in a court martial. Sentenced to be dismissed from the army, President Lincoln then allowed Joseph to resign.

#### Quiz Answers:

1. He went to Kalamazoo to campaign for Republican presidential candidate John Fremont during the 1856 presidential election campaign.
2. Wedding date, father Thomas’ death, and son Willie’s death
3. His “A House Divided against Itself Cannot Stand”, delivered on June 16, 1858.
4. His Gettysburg Address-“that speech fell on the audience like a wet blanket”.
5. Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass