



The Ninth Michigan Cavalry mustered in at Coldwater on Tuesday, May 19, 1863. Its rolls consisted of 1073 officers and men commanded by Col. James I. David of Trenton, formerly the Quartermaster of the First Michigan Cavalry. Within a few days the regiment left for Covington, Kentucky. Prior to their departure the men of the Ninth were presented with a finely lettered flag with the U.S. arms on one side and that of the state on the other with the inscription, “*Presented by the ladies of Coldwater.*”

Soon the Ninth Michigan was involved in stopping a raid by Confederate cavalryman John Hunt Morgan and in capturing the famous horseman. That morning of July 26, Union forces, including the Ninth, inflicted losses of 23 killed, 44 wounded, and 305 prisoners on Morgan’s cavalry. Morgan himself, according to an article in the **Cleveland Herald**, “*was riding in a carriage drawn by two white horses. Major [William B.] Way [of Pontiac] saw him, and, galloping up, reached for him. Morgan jumped out at the other side of the carriage, leaped over a fence, seized a horse, and galloped off as fast as horseflesh, spurred by frightened heels, could carry him. About a couple hundred of his men succeeded in breaking away and following their fugitive leader. In the buggy thus hastily evacuated by Morgan were found his rations, consisting of a loaf of bread, some hard boiled eggs, and a bottle of whisky.*” Morgan soon surrendered.

The Ninth Michigan would later be added to the army of William Tecumseh Sherman who began his famous March from Chattanooga to the Sea on May 6, 1864. By the time the March had been completed in North Carolina, the Ninth had traversed nearly 3000 miles and was the only Michigan cavalry regiment which marched entirely on the route. It had fought in 57 engagements and totaled 2057 men on its rolls. On July 21, 1865, the Ninth, commanded by Lt. Col. Solomon P. Brockway of Plymouth, was mustered out at Concord, North Carolina. The regiment returned to Jackson, Michigan where it was paid off and disbanded. In a little over two years of service the Ninth had lost 28 killed or mortally wounded and 156 who died of disease. An additional 24% had deserted.

Lieutenant Major F. Lockwood of Spaulding was killed on October 2, 1864, while scouting near Stone Mountain, Georgia. Lieutenant Frederick S. Ladd of Adrian was killed on December 7, 1864, at Cypress Swamp, Georgia. The regiment also included Captain William C. Stevens of Whitmore Lake whose 64 letters are today housed in the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan. Another notable was Lt. John L. Ransom of Jackson who was a prisoner at Andersonville before he escaped. His published diary of prison life remains a classic. He later worked for the Jackson *Citizen* newspaper and died in 1919 at age 76.

This month on **MONDAY, JUNE 28**, the MRRT welcomes back guest speaker, **Dr. Roger Rosentreter**, who will present, “*We **Have Had Perfect Success: Morgan, Sherman and the Ninth Michigan Cavalry.***” Dr. Rosentreter received his PhD from Michigan State University and has taught courses there since the early 1990’s in Civil War, Michigan History, American Revolution, and 20th Century U.S. Military History. He also served on the staff of *Michigan History* magazine for thirty years—most notably as editor (1988-2009). Last year Roger worked on the State of Michigan Bicentennial Commission and collaborated with our own Dr. Weldon Petz in the publication of *Seeking Lincoln in Michigan: A Remembrance Trail* and *Michigan Remembers Lincoln*. This will be a special presentation for the Michigan Regimental so mark your calendars now.

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On behalf of the **50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** a heartfelt Thank You is extended to the nearly 100 folks who attended our all-day celebration on Saturday, May 15. Your support was deeply appreciated. Three afternoon speakers—Dr. William Anderson, Jerry Maxwell, and John Gibney—headed the festivities with Weldon Petz finishing off the evening with a phenomenal history of Michigan’s Round Tables as well as the story of the Michigan Regimental. It was a day to be remembered. Our thanks to the 50th Anniversary Committee for its extreme diligence and preparation.



The **FALL FIELD TRIP** to Wilderness/Spotsylvania is scheduled for the weekend of Saturday/Sunday, October 16-17. Once again we will be led around by the incomparable Frank O'Reilly. Forty-two people have signed up for the trip so there's still plenty of room on the bus. The sign-up sheet will be passed around again at this month's meeting along with the motel information for your stay.

This month Trip Chairman Jerry Maxwell will be collecting a check for \$80 from each of you that have signed up. This will cover bus costs, guide fees, etc. Please make the check out to either Jerry or Carroll Tietz (no cash accepted).

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Preservation Chairman Joe Epstein has announced that the Round Table is invited to visit the flag we have adopted in Lansing on Sunday, June 27. The address of the building is 720 W. Kalamazoo. The showing of the many flags in the Capital will be at 1:00 P.M.

YEARLY DUES: A small amount of people have forgotten to pay their dues for this year. Please check your mailing envelope for the Dreaded Red Dot. If the Red Dot appears beside your name, you owe \$20. You may submit your check to Carroll at this month's meeting or mail it to him at: 10640 Gamewood Drive South Lyon, MI 48178

QUIZ: All questions pertain to Cavalries.....

1. Which colonel of the First Michigan Cavalry was mortally wounded at Second Bull Run on August 30, 1862, dying three days later? And, from which Michigan town did he hail?
2. Which two Union cavalry regiments helped capture Jefferson Davis at the end of the war? And, which officer commanded the Michigan group?
3. Who was the only Confederate cavalryman to die in Jeb Stuart's first ride around George McClellan in June of 1862? And, where did Stuart raid the headquarters of General John Pope in August of 1862?
4. Which Federal general led an unsuccessful raid against the communications and supply lines of Robert E. Lee prior to the Battle of Chancellorsville? And, what physical ailment plagued this cavalryman?
5. At which cavalry battle, fought on June 11-12, 1864, did Phil Sheridan and George Custer suffer defeat while trying to destroy the Virginia Central Railroad and the James River Canal? And, which Confederate general defeated this force?
6. Which two major battles did Earl Van Dorn lose as an army commander? And, where, as a cavalry commander, did he daringly destroy U.S. Grant's supply lines hindering the Federal advance on Vicksburg?
7. Which Union cavalry general attacked Fitz Lee's Confederates at Kelly's Ford on March 17, 1863, but was later to lose his command for his dilatory leadership at Chancellorsville? And, which Union general could claim victory over Nathan Bedford Forrest at Selma, Alabama?
8. Which Federal general gained national renown for a 16-day cavalry raid through Mississippi and Louisiana? And, which Union cavalry general escaped with 109 others by tunneling under the walls of Libby Prison?
9. Which Confederate cavalry general successfully raided the Sequatchie Valley Road, the only supply route open to the Federals at Chattanooga, the first week of October, 1863? And, which Confederate cavalry general led the longest cavalry raid of the war (from September 22 until November 3) in the Kansas-Missouri theater?
10. Which Federal general was captured in his sleep at Fairfax Court House, Virginia, on March 8, 1863? And, in which cavalry battle, fought during the Bristoe Campaign, did Confederate cavalry chase Judson Kilpatrick's confused forces for five miles in what Rebels called a "glorious fox hunt"?



Colonel Benjamin Franklin “Grimes” Davis was an anomaly. Born in Alabama, raised in Mississippi, he would be one of only two Southern officers who remained with the regular army during the Civil War. A graduate of West Point in the Class of 1854 (#32 of 46) which included Jeb Stuart, John Pegram, and Custis Lee, “Grimes” Davis received his early military experience fighting the Apaches in the American southwest. By the autumn of 1862 Davis found himself trapped at Harpers Ferry, along with 12,000 other Federals, surrounded by the Confederates of Stonewall Jackson. Escape appeared impossible, but Davis believed that anything was preferable to surrender. Although his commanding officer, Colonel Dixon Miles, labeled Davis’ plan “*wild and impractical*,” Davis in fact led over 1300 cavalymen out of the trap to safety. Davis was assisted in the escape by a “*moonless night*,” unsuspecting Confederates, brazen audacity, and luck. Not only had the horsemen escaped, they also captured the 40-wagon reserve ordnance train of James Longstreet. It had been a miraculous achievement, one of the war’s most extraordinary.

For “Grimes” Davis, however, the war only lasted less than nine months after his famous escapade from Harpers Ferry. On June 9, 1863, Davis would fight his last battle in the war’s greatest cavalry clash at Brandy Station. That morning Federal troopers surprised the Confederates and swiftly rode forward into the shaken Rebels. Davis’ brigade charged down the Beverly Ford Road scattering Virginia horsemen into the woods and fields, driving hard for St. James Church where the Confederate artillery lay. “Grimes” Davis was out in front and when he saw the blue-jacketed cavalry slow down, he stopped his horse and waved his sword in the air shouting, “*Stand firm, 8th New York!*” Just then Confederate Lt. R.O. Allen of the 6th Virginia, mounted on a badly wounded horse, rode toward Davis. Allen had only one shot left in his pistol, so he hoped to get within sword’s length before firing. As Davis slashed at Allen with his saber, Allen expertly ducked, swung down below his horse’s side, and firing from that awkward position, used the last shot in his revolver to wound Davis fatally—the bullet entering beneath Davis’ chin and lodging in his brain. Allen was able to get away.

Chaplain Samuel Gracey of the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry paused long enough to say to the men around “*God have mercy on the brave, noble patriot-soldier, the hero of Harpers Ferry.*” Four days later John Buford wrote: “[Davis] was a thorough soldier, free from politics and intrigue, a patriot in its true sense, an ornament to his country and bright star in his profession.” In fact, “Grimes” Davis was not universally mourned. Regimental Surgeon Elias Beck of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry wrote to his wife: “*Our Brigade Commander Col. Davis was killed....A proud tyrannical devil--& had the ill will of his whole Command--& I’ll bet that he was killed by our own men.*”

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Thornton F. Brodhead and Grosse Ile
2. 4th Michigan/1st Wisconsin and Lt. Col. Benjamin Dudley Pritchard of Romeo
3. Captain William Latane and Catlett’s Station
4. George Stoneman and hemorrhoids
5. Trevilian Station and Wade Hampton
6. Pea Ridge/Corinth and Holly Springs, Mississippi
7. William Woods Averell and James Harrison Wilson
8. Benjamin Henry Grierson and Abel D. Streight
9. Joseph Wheeler and Jo Shelby
10. Edwin Stoughton and “Buckland Races”

Come help us continue to celebrate our 50th Year, as Dr. Roger Rosentreter will present “We Have Had Perfect Success: Morgan, Sherman and the Ninth Michigan Cavalry.” Circle the date—**MONDAY, JUNE 28**. The meeting begins at 6:30 P.M. at the usual place: Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). Hope to see you there. Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.