



For forward planning purposes, please note that the July meeting comes one week early on July 23. I'd also like to draw your attention to the attached trip flier. To date there are thirty folks signed-up. This trip is shaping up to be something special and it's time for those on the fence to jump-off and sign-on. This can be easily accomplished by sending either an email to one of the trip coordinators (lindagerhardt@comcast.net, mmgalate@gmail.com, or grahamjeanie@hotmail.com), or simply come to the June 25th meeting and sign-up.

On MONDAY, June 25, The Roundtable welcomes Roger Rosentreter, PhD, from Michigan State University to present “Three Generals and an Unlucky Regiment: Michigan at Antietam. The Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest one-day battle in U.S. military history, with 12,400 Union casualties and 10,300 Confederate casualties. Even though a third of the Army did not fire a shot, the Army of the Potomac had the Army of Northern Virginia on the brink of total disaster several times. General Lee's retreat after the battle enabled President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, changing the course of the war. Tonight, Dr. Rosentreter will discuss Michigan's role in the battle of Antietam. You will really enjoy this presentation on one of the greatest battles in American history.

Roger Rosentreter is a native Michigander who has taught classes for the Michigan State History Department since the early 1990's (primarily Michigan history, the Civil War, and 20th Century U.S. Military History). Roger was the editor of *Michigan History* magazine for twenty two years (1988-2010). He co-authored with our friend Dr. Weldon Petz two books: *Seeking Lincoln in Michigan: A Remembrance Trail* (2009) and *Michigan Remembers Lincoln* (2009). Presently, Dr. Rosentreter is working on a manuscript on Michigan history for the University of Michigan Press, scheduled for release in mid-2013. He is directing a pilot MSU Civil War “Study Away” program that includes a 3-week field trip to the Washington, D.C. area.

MRRT would like to thanks JACK DEMPSEY for his very fine presentation, “Michigan: 1861, the First Year of the Civil War”. Jack's talk detailed Michigan's reaction to the beginning of the Civil War. Michigan in 1861 was still recovering from the financial panic of 1857. Abraham Lincoln won Michigan with 57% of the vote in the 1860 election and Austin Blair, a Republican, was elected governor that year. The Republican Party was founded in Jackson in 1854. At the beginning of the war, Michigan's population of 750,000 appropriated \$3,000 to support 28 militia companies with 1,240 men. The soldiers had to buy their own equipment. After Fort Sumter, Governor Blair called secession treason and stated that Michigan is loyal to the Union. Michigan's reaction to Fort Sumter was immediate with Governor Blair promising that Michigan will contribute more troops than requested. The First Michigan (3 months enlistment) was mustered into Federal service with 798 men by early May 1861. Orlando Wilcox, a future Medal of Honor winner, was the commander. The First Michigan was the first western regiment into Washington, the first to cross the Potomac at Alexandria, and achieved the deepest Union penetration at First Bull Run. During the course of the war, 90,000 Michigan men served in 46 state units, with nearly 15,000 dying. No other state had proportionately greater losses. Michigan units were involved in every major battle. The First Ladies Aid Society was formed in Michigan. During the war, an early version of Rosie the Riveter helped manufacture war items. The Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission held the first conference in the nation in March 2009, honoring John Brown's meeting with Frederic Douglass in Detroit. A Michigan Civil War guidebook has been published. Michigan Day at Antietam will be held on August 26, 2012.





QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Michigan at Antietam.

1. How did a Michigan officer help General McClellan confirm the authenticity of Lee’s “Lost Orders”?
2. What argument did McClellan (and some historians) offer to explain why the V Corps (which included several Michigan regiments) was not sent into action on September 17th?
3. What experience did General Orlando Wilcox, from Michigan, enjoy upon his release from Confederate prison?
4. What was General Israel Richardson of Michigan doing when he was mortally wounded? Where is General Richardson buried?
5. Which Michigan regiment earned the nickname, the “Stonewall Regiment”? How did the regiment gain the nickname?

MRRT Minutes for May 21, 2012: The call to order at 6:40 pm with about 30 present for business meeting. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Sgt. Sobo, a recent Medal of Honor winner. There were no announced guests or new members. **Preservation Report:** Joe thanked the group for the \$500 donation to the Toms Brook preservation effort. Elsewhere, the CWT and the Legacy Park Foundation have preserved 68.87 acres of the Ft. Sanders battlefield near Knoxville. The Trust and the Friends of Ft. DeRussey purchased 15.4 acres of the Red River campaign battlefield. They are trying to save 491 acres at Shiloh, named by chief park ranger Stacy Allen, the Little Round Top of the west. The purchase price is \$1.25 million but due to a \$1 million grant from the government the final price is \$250,000. **Trip Report:** Trip plans are final. We have a guide, a hotel, a restaurant and a bus. Details are in the flyer passed out at the meeting. Cost of the tour is still not definite but will be somewhere near \$80.00 with an additional \$30.00 for dinner. Sign up can be done by email to Linda- lindagerhardt@comcast.net, Mollie- mmgalate@gmail.com or Jeanie- grahamjeanie@hotmail.com. The sign-up sheet will also be passed around again next month. **Program Report:** The Michigan in the Civil War series continues next month with our speaker, Roger Rosentreter. **Items of Interest:** Ken felt our speaker last month was cut short and suggested we not talk as much and give more time to the speaker. Larry vowed to start at precisely 6:30 from now on. Larry visited Wilmington NC recently and went to the Monitor Center. He almost got to stand on a mock up of the deck. Now he has a reason to return. He also attended a round table meeting and heard about the artifacts brought up from the wreck of a blockade runner. **Old Business:** We were reminded of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society Annual Ice Cream Summer Social on Saturday July 28, 2012 from noon to 5 PM. Cannon fire is promised! **Secretary’s Report:** The April 2012 report was accepted.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (June 1862): 6 June: Commodore Charles H. Davis, USN, and CPT Montgomery, CSS, clash near Memphis, TN. The USN guns outnumber CSS by 68 to 28. The Union flotilla roundly defeats the Southerners and accepts the surrender of Memphis. 9 June: Stonewall Jackson ends his Shenandoah campaign after skirmishes at Cross keys and Port Royal. Stonewall moves to join Gen Robert E. Lee to oppose McClellan forces on the Peninsula. 12 June: Gen JEB Stuart initiates his “First Ride around McClellan” on the Peninsula, bolstering Southern morale. 16 June: Confederate forces under Gen Evans repulse a vigorously pressed attack by US Gen Benham at Secessionville, James Island, SC. 17 June: US Gen Fremont, upset at being replaced by Gen Pope, resigns from the Army of Virginia. 20 June: Admiral Farragut and Gen Thomas Williams advance on Vicksburg, MS, and the Confederate forces led by Gen Van Dorn. 23 June: Abraham Lincoln embarks on a trip to NY and West Point. 25 June: Gen Robert E. Lee launches his assault on McClellan’s forces and the Seven Days campaign begins. 27 June: The Battle of Gaines Mills results in 6837 Southern and 8750 Union casualties. 28 June: Union forces in the face of the Confederate threat destroy equipment and supplies at White House Landing and evacuate the area. 30 June: Following the Battle of White Oak Swamp, McClellan’s forces take up entrenched positions north of the James River on Malvern Hill. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.





Civil War Essentials: Last month we discussed smooth bore guns, this month its rifled guns. Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, the US Ordnance Department was not keen on researching rifled guns. For the elder military officers of the department, the smoothbore field guns did the job during previous wars and should be just fine for the future. Unlike the U.S., Great Britain began experimentation early with the use of rifling to improve trajectory and accuracy. The pre-war years saw many British patents. As to the benefit, the rifling spiral grooves along the inside of the gun barrel causes the shell or shot to spin parallel with the gun barrel, enacting a gyroscopic force that increased accuracy. Most rifled guns still employed muzzle-loading although a small number of breech-loaders were introduced. Rifled guns had to be much stronger than smoothbore because the projectile had to fit tighter in the barrel in order for it to take the rifling, thereby creating greater pressure in the breech. The need for rifled guns to be stronger, the act of rifling and lengthening the tube, resulted in the rifled gun being much more expensive to manufacture than smoothbore.



The most widely used smooth bore was the 3-inch wrought iron rifle, or the **Ordnance Rifle**. It's also sometimes referred to as a 3-inch Rodman gun. It was a durable gun, made of wrought iron, and had exceptional accuracy. A confederate gunner was quoted as saying "The Yankee three-inch rifle was a dead shot at any distance under a mile. They could hit the end of a flour barrel more often than miss, unless the gunner got rattled." The Confederates also produced their own version.

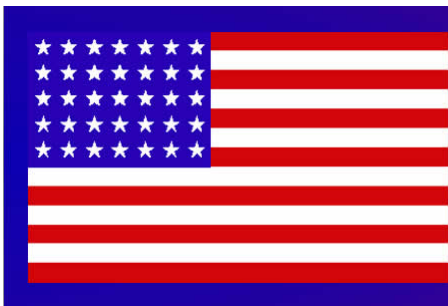
Also commonly used was the **Parrott** rifle gun. It was manufactured from cast and wrought iron and reinforced with a band overlaid on the breech. It came in sizes from 10-pounders up to a 300-pounder although the 10- and 20-pounders were the common version used by both armies. The common field bore sizes were 2.9-inch and 3.0-inch, a fact that complicated ammunition logistics. During the 1st day at Gettysburg, a union battery of 2.9" Parrott's was issued 3-inch shells, taking it out of action for the day. Following this the Union re-rifled all 2.9" Parrott's to 3". The Parrott gun were accurate but had a poor reputation for safety.



Two other notable rifled guns were the **James** and 12-Pounder **Whitworth** Breech loading Rifle. Interestingly, the breech loaded Whitworth could be converted to muzzle loaded if the breech loader malfunctioned. The 2.75" Whitworth was exceptionally accurate and effective in counter-battery fire and for firing over bodies of water although it was not a popular an anti-infantry weapon.

Civil War Item of Interest: Jim Burroughs's has done some research for the upcoming trip to Bull Run and has provided the references below for those of you that would like to do some prep work before October.

1. Books:
 - a. Battle at Bull Run: A History of the First Major Campaign of the Civil War – Davis, William,
 - b. Dissonance: The Turbulent Days between Fort Sumter and First Bull Run – Detzer, David.
 - c. First Battle of Manassas: An End to Innocence, July 18-21, 1861 – Hennessy, John J.,
 - d. Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas – Hennessy, John J.
2. Magazines:
 - a. Blue and Gray, The Battle of First Manassas, Volume 27, #5, 2011
 - b. Blue and Gray, The Second Battle of Manassas, August 1992



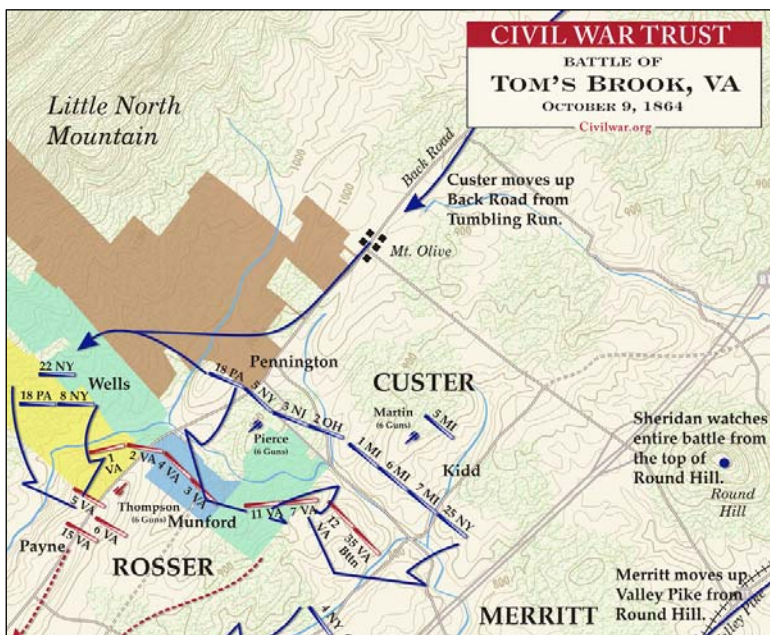
3. Websites

- a. The National Park Service website. The website is of great value, even though it is geared toward high school students. <http://www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm>
- b. The Civil War Trust's site on Manassas – lots of information and photographs. <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/bullrun.html>
- c. Looks like great site for 1st Manassas – based on Official Records of the Rebellion. <http://www.civilwarhome.com/1manassa\,.htm>
- d. Second Manassas – based on Official Records. <http://www.civilwarhome.com/2manassa.htm>

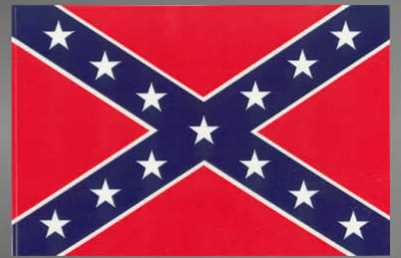
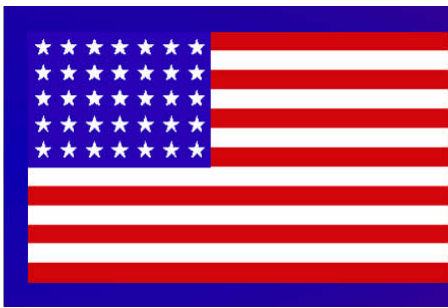
If you have an item of Civil War interest, be that a book report, website, battlefield visit, picture, etc., you'd like to share with the group, email that item along with a brief write-up to ncarver55@comcast.net.

Preservation Report: This last April, the MRRT approved a \$500 donation to the CWT for preservation of 161 acres of battleground associated with Tom's Brook. Some might ask what did our donation buy, was there any Michigan association, and by the way, how about a refresher on that battle. So for the record, the Battle of Tom's Brook occurred October 9, 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley. It was essentially an off-shoot of MG Philip Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Sheridan had pursued Jubal Early's Confederate army to near Staunton and on October 6, began withdrawing as his cavalry burned everything deemed of military significance. Gen Thomas Rosser, CSS, upon taking

command of MG Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry division, harassed the Union forces as they withdrew. On October 9, BG Alfred Torbert's Cavalry Corps turned on their pursuers routing the divisions of Rosser and Lomax at Tom's Brook. This was a clear cut victory for the Union cavalry, giving it superiority in the valley. Prior to the battle, Rosser taunted "That's General Custer the Yanks are so proud of, and I intend to give him the best whipping today that he ever got." However, on that fateful day on October 9, it was Custer that broke the Confederate's left line leading to the 20 mile pursuit later dubbed the Woodstock Races. It was Custer who had the last laugh on his old friend as he captured Rosser's headquarter wagon and later rode in front of his men wearing his (Rosser's) uniform coat as a trophy. Although not all Tom's Brook battlefield is shown on the attached map, our donation helps preserve the area shown in yellow on the lower left hand side. This area represents the right arm of



Custer's thrust at Rosser. For those of you interested in Civil War preservation or further information on Tom's Brook, the CWT maintains an excellent website at <http://www.civilwar.org/> and can also be followed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/civilwartrust>.



QUIZ Answers:

1. Colonel Samuel E. Pittman, an aide to the Michigan General Alpheus Williams, served with General Lee's adjutant, R. H. Chilton, before the war and recognized Chilton's handwriting
2. At the critical moment with the V Corps ready to go into the battle, General McClellan turned to the Corps' commander, General Fitz John Porter, and General Porter shook his head no. Their thinking was "They are the only reserves of the army, they cannot be spared."
3. President Abraham Lincoln had to submit his promotion to Brigadier General of Volunteers to the U.S. Senate three times before it was finally approved on March 11, 1863. General Wilcox commanded the 1st Division of Burnside's 9th Corps at Antietam. His division was nearing Sharpsburg when it was ordered to withdraw.
4. General Richardson's First Division attacked the Confederates in the center of the Sunken Road. He pushed beyond the Sunken Road directing artillery fire and organizing another attack when he was mortally wounded, dying in early November 1862. General Richardson was the highest-ranking Michigan resident killed in the war. He was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Pontiac.
5. The 17th Michigan Infantry earned the nickname, the "Stonewall Regiment during the Battle of South Mountain, a crucial prelude to Antietam. Under heavy fire, the regiment advanced up the mountain and carried the strong Rebel defenses, enabling the army to go after the Confederates.

Make plans to come-out **Monday, June 25**, and hear **Roger Rosentreter** present "*Three Generals and an Unlucky Regiment: Michigan at Antietam*." The meeting is promised to begin promptly at 6:30 P.M., Farmington Public Library. See you there! Check our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.