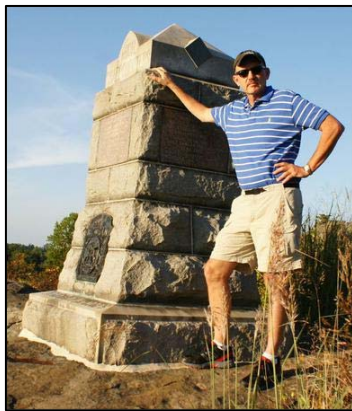


Although the trip to Charleston this October has been successfully subscribed, should you wish to participate, there's still room. Price is \$300 which includes the tour guides, three meals, bus, tour booklet and taxes. The Saturday evening meal at the Washington Light Infantry for someone not on the tour is \$35.00—this includes the meal, open bar and gratuity. For further information, check out the flier on our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/2013MRRTFieldTrip.pdf>.

**On MONDAY, June 24, the MRRT welcomes back Dr. Roger Rosentreter from MSU to speak on “Michigan at Gettysburg”.**

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the greatest battle ever fought on the North American continent will be this coming July 1-3. During this battle in a small farming town in southern Pennsylvania over 150,000 men made war on each other for three days. The state of Michigan had a major impact on the battle's result, including General George Custer (Michigan's Hero), the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the 16<sup>th</sup> Michigan on Little Round Top with the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, and General Alpheus S. Williams.



Dr. Rosentreter spoke to us last year on “*Three Generals and an Unlucky Regiment: Michigan at Antietam*”. He is a Michigan native and has taught history classes at Michigan State for over 20 years—primarily the American Civil War, Michigan history and 20th Century U.S. Military History. Roger co-authored two books with our friend, Lincoln scholar Dr. Weldon Petz: *Seeking Lincoln in Michigan: A Remembrance Trail* and *Michigan Remembers Lincoln*. He was the editor of Michigan History magazine for 22 years (1988-2010). He is presently completing a book on the history of Michigan.

**The Roundtable would like to thank Steve Hawks for his entertaining and informative presentation, “The Civil War in Winchester, Virginia”.**

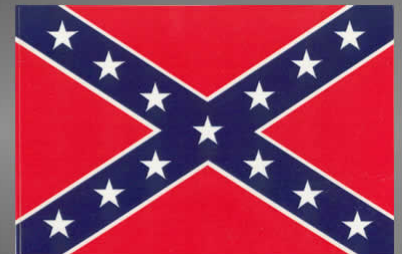
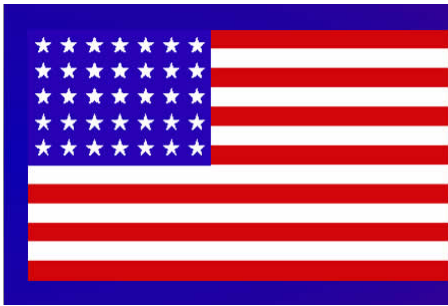
Steve did a superb job covering Winchester's battles and explaining the whys and wherefores of how such a small Civil War town had come to have so many battles in such a small area but with so little to show for it on the ground today. Using maps and present-day photos, Steve showed how this came to pass. In short, Winchester is located where the Shenandoah Valley splits into lower and northern valleys—and virtually everything in the northern part of the valley converges on it.

After four years of war as the pathway to and from the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester saw the comings and goings of most key Eastern war figures, including Joseph Johnston (in his first retreat), Thomas ‘Stonewall’ Jackson (in his only defeat), Nathaniel Banks, Richard Ewell, Jubal Early, Philip Sheridan and Michigan's own, George Armstrong Custer. Stonewall was so taken by the city that he declared his intent to return and settle there at the conclusion of the war.



Steve also shared a story of his ancestor, commissary officer Hawkes. Hawkes had offered Stonewall a chicken meal earlier in the day only to be turned-down but as the evening passed, Stonewall had a change of mind. He asked for the previously rebuffed meal but received the prompt reply from Hawkes: “*I'm sorry but the hawks have got in among the chickens*” which purportedly elicited a sly smile from the normally dour man.

Although the economic downturn of recent years has been bad for most in general, it's proved to be a certifiable windfall for preservation efforts in the Winchester area. Several pieces of historic properties that were to have fallen under development plows laid dormant and undervalued, providing a boost to organizations such as the Civil War Trust in



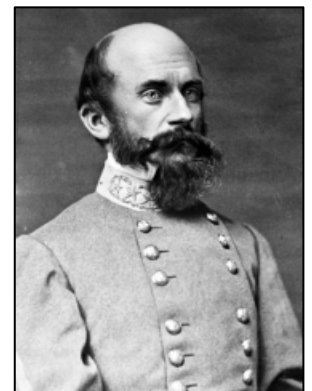
saving these lands; i.e., Kernstown Battlefield. Surprisingly, the only government owned land is the Winchester National Cemetery.

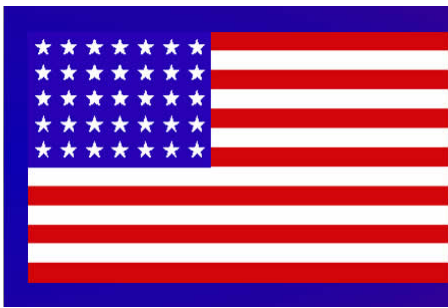
### QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Michigan's Role at Gettysburg:

1. What was Michigan's contribution to the Union Army during the Battle of Gettysburg?
2. Which officer, Detroit-born and West Point graduate in 1839, commanded the Union artillery at the Battle of Gettysburg?
3. Who commanded the 24th Michigan of the Iron Brigade and was wounded and captured by the Confederates during the Battle of Gettysburg? Also, what was the commander doing when he was wounded?
4. When was General George Armstrong Custer promoted to Brigadier General? Also, which Michigan cavalry regiments comprised the Michigan Cavalry brigade?
5. Besides General Custer, name other generals with Michigan connections who fought at Gettysburg?

**MRRT Minutes for May 20, 2013:** The **Call to Order** was at 6:45. The **Pledge** was dedicated to the men and women of the Armed Forces as well as to Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson. There were no **Guests or New Members** introduced. **Preservation Report:** Joe had a brief report on recent Civil War Trust actions. **Trip Report:** Nothing new from the two guides. Payment is due now although installment payments are acceptable as long as the balance is paid in full by the August meeting. **Items of Interest:** The new museum/visitor center at Gettysburg is excellent. It's owned by the Friends of Gettysburg—not the government. Only a small portion of the collection is displayed. **New Business:** A computer literate volunteer is needed to help Don develop a brochure about our organization to display at the Farmington Library rack. Larry will look into advertising the roundtable in the Civil War News. The **Minutes for April 29, 2013** were approved.

**Civil War Sesquicentennial (June 1863): 1 Jun:** Gen Burnside is back at it again, creating a public relations disaster for the administration by calling for the suppression of the Chicago Times because of inflammatory statements against the war effort. Lincoln telegraphs Grant asking "*Are you in communications with Banks*" while both commanders pursue separate rather than coordinated strategies in the Mississippi area of operations. **3 Jun:** Lee concludes on a strategy of attacking north through Pennsylvania and moves his Army of Northern Virginia out of the Fredericksburg vicinity setting the stage for Gettysburg. **4 Jun:** Vicksburg prepares for Grant's siege of that city. **5 Jun:** Lee and Hooker forces clash at the Battle of Franklin's Crossing. Lincoln counsels Hooker to concentrate on Lee's forces moving north rather than those remaining in the Fredericksburg as that would be "*less profitable*". USA Gen Thomas and CSA Gen McCulloch clash at Milliken's Bend, LO. Thomas with the help of gunboats Lexington and Choctaw force the Confederates to withdraw. Jefferson Davis' home at Brierfield, MS, is burned by Union troops. Gen Hooker directs Gen Pleasonton and his 11,000 cavalymen to recon the area of the Rappahannock River known as Brandy Station. Pleasonton and JEB Stuart's cavalry clash there at what's considered the most severe cavalry fight of the war. **10 Jun:** Lincoln has more advice for Hooker, "*Fight him when the opportunity offers. If he stays where he is, fret him.*" **11 Jun:** Ohioan Peace Democrats submit Clement Vallandigham's name for nomination as governor—despite the fact he's been banished to the Southern states. **12 Jun:** Anticipating the coming invasion, Pennsylvania governor, Andrew Curtin, calls out the militia and requests aid from New York. **13 Jun:** The Second Battle of Winchester begins as **CSA Gen Ewell** clashes with Gen Milroy's Union troops in and around that area. **14 Jun:** Nathaniel Banks demands the Confederates holding Port Hudson to surrender. They refuse and Banks assaults the position with 6,000 troops to the Confederate's 3,750. The Confederates parry the attack and continue their hold on Port Hudson. **15 Jun:** Lincoln requests the states of PN, MA, OH and WV provide 100,000





troops to counter the northward thrust of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Gen Milroy's troops are flushed from Winchester by **Ewell's** forces and retreat towards Harper's Ferry. The northern thrust of Confederate forces under Lee and **Ewell** elicit correspondence from Hooker to Lincoln stating the invasion is something "*it is not in my power to prevent.*" **18 Jun:** In naval action, the USA Weehawken and Nahant clash with the ironclad CSS Atlanta; resulting in the Atlanta's surrenders. **20 Jun:** Lincoln issues a proclamation declaring West Virginia as the 35<sup>th</sup> state of the Union. **22 Jun:** The CSS Tacony seizes five northern fishing vessels off the coast of New England. **23 Jun:** Gen Rosecrans successful harassment operations against Gen Bragg in the Tullahoma area prevent the Confederates there from reinforcing Vicksburg. **24 Jun:** In Vicksburg, the pressure continues under Grant's siege of that city. Civilian Edward Gregory describes the hardship: "*Hardly any part of the city was outside the range of the enemy's artillery except the south . . . Just across the Mississippi seven 11-inch and 13-inch mortars were put in position and trained directly of the homes of the people . . . how people subsisted was another wonder . . . There were some stores that had supplies, and the prices climbed steadily, but first nobody had the money, and then nobody had supplies.*" **25 Jun:** JEB Stuart's sets off on his infamous ride around Hooker's army that essentially robs Lee of needed intelligence on Union movements. **26 Jun:** CSA Gen Jubal Early and his troops move into Gettysburg. Rosecrans and Bragg's troops clash at Shelbyville. **27 Jun:** Lincoln and Gen Henry Halleck confer and decide to replace Gen Hooker with Gen Meade. On this same day, Gen Hooker seeks approval to abandon Harper's Ferry and if not agreed to, he would resign his position. Halleck countermands abandoning Harper's Ferry and Hooker resigns. Lee's army moves into Chambersburg in route to Harrisburg. JEB Stuart meanwhile engages in a fight with Union forces at Fairfax Court House, VA. **28 Jun:** Gen Meade is appointed commander of the Army of the Potomac. He informs Lincoln and Halleck that he is moving his forces towards the Susquehanna River. Both Lincoln and Halleck are reassured by Meade's actions. Lee on learning Union forces are north of the Potomac River changes his plan to move on Harrisburg and has Hill and Longstreet join **Ewell** at Gettysburg and Cashtown. **29 Jun:** Meade and Lee are on a collision course as both move towards Gettysburg. **30 Jun:** Cavalry forces under JEB Stuart and Kilpatrick clash at Hanover which nearly results in the capture of the Confederate cavalry commander. In the Western Theater, fighting continues between forces of Bragg and Roscrans as the former moves his troops across the Tennessee River in retreat from Tullahoma. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

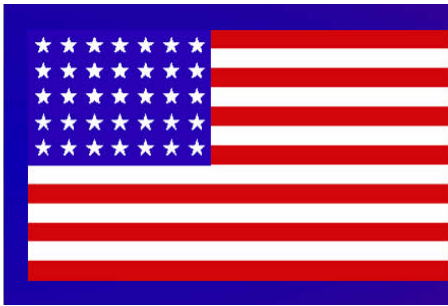
**Civil War Essentials—Dentistry:** This month we look at Civil War dentistry. By the time of the war, dentistry had been a recognized professional occupation going on twenty years. There were 5,500 practicing dentists and three dental schools. Of the 5,500 excluding 400 that had graduated from the dental schools were trained via the time honored tradition of apprenticeship.

On an individual basis, dental care and hygiene was not widely practiced. Civilians and soldiers alike tended to neglect basic care of their teeth and combined with an often inadequate diet, led to poor teeth. Despite this, the health of a soldier's teeth was critical on the battlefield. Northern recruits in particular *'were turned down if they lacked six opposing upper and lower front teeth, considered necessary to bite off the end of the powder cartridges used with the muzzle loading rifles of the times.'*



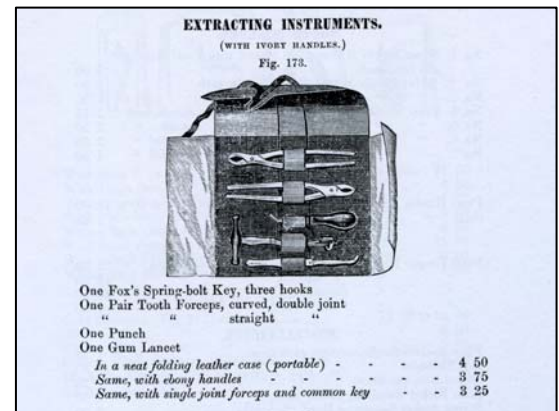
The Confederacy understood and prioritized the importance of dental care early on during the war. This is partially explained because men were of such a premium that exempting individuals from service because of poor teeth was simply not practical. The support for an organized effort was largely reflective of top leadership. Jefferson Davis, while serving as Secretary of War under Pierce, was an advocate of a dentistry corps. The inclusion of dental care into the Confederate infrastructure was gradual but the Conscription Act of February





1864, which included dentists, brought a large influx of them into the army. Unlike the Union, the Confederacy required every soldier to have a dental examination, and by the latter stages of the war, would have professional dentists circulating amid the military hospitals and providing care to soldiers out in the field. Medical director William A. Carrington, CSA, commented that dentists "*plugged, cleaned, and extracted teeth*", in addition to "*adjusting fractures of the jaw and operating on the mouth*". The South's proactive approach to dentistry led to fewer soldier's removal from the army, improved their health, and less unnecessary teeth extractions.

In contrast to this enlighten view on dentistry; the Union never established a dental corps. The idea of dental care was not embraced by the Federal military, toothbrushes were not issued, and the importance of dental hygiene not stressed. Official care of the Union soldier for dental concerns was the responsibility of the medical surgeon and stewards whose dental experience could generously be summed up as next to none. Dr. Roberts would claim in a New York Dental Journal article that "*the army surgeon is generally not only utterly incompetent to the proper care of teeth, but he is also entirely averse to it.*" Now this is not to say that dentists did not serve in the Union army, many did but they did so in a non-official capacity, often joining as privates and serving their fellow soldiers as the need arose. For a Union soldier, to acquire a toothbrush required one to either be provided by home or bought from a civilian sutler—on the off chance the sutler actually carried them. A soldier refusing the dental services of the medical surgeon was generally left with two options; finding a civilian dentist (at his cost) or 'grinning and bearing it'. Perhaps the choice facing the soldier is best expressed by Dr. William Roberts, "*There is no dentist in the army, so all the tooth has to do is rot away at its earliest convenience, when the soldier goes to the surgeon, the surgeon draws the tooth as expeditiously and painfully as he knows.*"



It was recognized by many in the North that Union dental care was sorely missing and despite the protestations and petitions from 'the American Dental Association and sympathetic dental practitioners, the Union military remained without any sort of commissioned dental care' throughout the duration of the Civil War. It wasn't until 1911 that the U.S. military created a Dental Corps.

**QUIZ Answers:**

1. Michigan contributed over 2,600 men to the Union Army with over 1,100 becoming casualties. There were seven infantry regiments, four cavalry regiments, four companies of sharpshooters, and an artillery battery.
2. Henry Jackson Hunt. His uncle was the second mayor of Detroit.
3. Colonel Harry A. Morrow. Colonel Morrow was hit in the head by a bullet when he was holding the regiment's flag during the fighting on July 1st.
4. General Custer was promoted to Brigadier General on June 29, 1863 – two days before the Battle of Gettysburg began. The 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th Michigan regiments comprised the Michigan cavalry brigade.
5. Generals Elon Farnsworth (killed on July 3rd), Henry J. Hunt (artillery commander), Alpheus Williams, Orlando Willcox, Isreal C. Smith, and Russell A. Alger (who became a general later in the war) all had Michigan connections.

Be there **Monday, June 24**, to hear Roger Rosentreter present "**Michigan at Gettysburg**". Coffee and cookies will be available at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin promptly at 6:45 pm, Farmington Public Library, 23500 Liberty St. Farmington, MI 48335. Also, check out our website at [www.farmlib.org/mrrt/](http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/).