

Our Monday, June 25, 2018 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

We will continue to sign up for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Chattanooga & Chickamauga at the June meeting. Contact Linda Gerhardt (586.588.2712), Jeanie Graham (248.225.7596), or Mollie Galate (313.530.8516) to sign up for the trip or ask for additional information. Mollie's e-mail is [mmgalate@gmail.com](mailto:mmgalate@gmail.com)

Trip Itinerary – Saturday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Chickamauga Campaign Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – Lookout Mountain & Chattanooga Campaign

Tour Guide – Rick Manion, Chattanooga area Civil War tour guide for more than 20 years.

Tour Cost - \$150 for the tour guide and bus rental fees. The hotel and Saturday night banquet are extra.

Hotel – Hampton Inn, 1000 Market St., Dalton, GA 30720

Telephone: (706) 226-4333 State that you are with the Civil War Tour Group (CWT) Rate per night \$104 – good for Friday night, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday night, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. Departure date is Monday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. We do not have to stay at the Hampton Inn on Sunday night for the lower rate. King study and double rooms are available.

Cutoff date for reservations is October 18, 2018.

Saturday Night Banquet – Polly Claire's at the Historic Dent House, circa 1854 - \$45 per person.

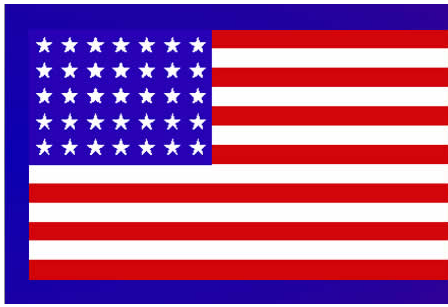
Our Monday, June 25, 2018 speaker will be Dave Bastian, who will speak on “Grant’s Canal: The Union Attempt to bypass Vicksburg.” Dave will discuss the two unsuccessful Union Army attempts to divert the Mississippi River away from Vicksburg by digging a canal across the narrow bend opposite the town. The commander, General Thomas Williams said, “*the labor of making this cut is far greater than estimated by anyone.*” Had the Union Army succeeded, they would have had complete control of the River, thus rendering Vicksburg unimportant! Dave has first-hand knowledge of the area as he was a civil engineer in Vicksburg for several years. He worked on the feasibility study for the enlargement of the Panama Canal and the post-Katrina levee rebuild in New Orleans. He has a degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and a master’s degree from Delft University (The Netherlands). This will be a fascinating presentation!



The Roundtable would like to thank Dr. David Collins, PhD – History, Dr. Norman Sauer, PhD – Forensic Anthropology, and Dr. Jane Wankmiller, PhD – Forensic Anthropology for their fascinating and very educational presentation on the photograph of “The Home of a Rebel Sharpshooter. This was a terrific and unique experience.

The famous Gettysburg photograph of a dead Confederate sharpshooter was staged by Alexander Gardner on July 6, 1863. The corpse was in good shape compared to the others lying in the area. He was dragged approximately 40 yards to a better photographic location in the Devil’s Den.

The sharpshooter was from Hood’s Division, most of who died on July 2<sup>nd</sup> with a few men dying on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. He probably died of head wounds; as there were no other visible wounds. Historian William Frassanito said that the soldier was from either the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas or 17<sup>th</sup> Georgia. If so, he died on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gettysburg guide John Heiser said that the soldier was “most likely” a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Georgia, which made a July 3<sup>rd</sup> death likely.



**There were 241 fatalities from the Confederate regiments in the contested area. Of these, 66 are eliminated, leaving 175 possible candidates. Photographs of most these men do not exist. From these 175 men, there are three leading candidates. Candidate #1 was Andrew Hoge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia. Andrew’s cousin said that he was with him when he was wounded. This candidate was eliminated as he was probably fighting on Culp’s Hill.**

**Candidate #2 is William Langley of the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas.** A photograph of William and his brother, who surrendered at Appomattox, exists. Dr. Sauer has testified as an expert witness in many criminal cases in which the identity of the victim or of the defendant depended upon disputed photographic evidence. **Dr. Sauer said that the best that can be done sometimes is to exclude someone.**

**Dr. Sauer compared the two photographs (William Langley and the sharpshooter):**

- Upper Face – Hair and forehead heights are similar, Eyebrows are inconsistent.
- Eye Region – Space between eyebrows and eyes – consistent. Eyes appearance – inconsistent.
- Nose – Length and shape of nose – no inconsistencies
- Mouth – Numerous similarities, no significant inconsistencies.



**Dr. Sauer cannot exclude William Langley because of the features discussed above.** He can find no reason to exclude William Langley; there are a lot of similarities between the photographs.

**It was uncertain whether or not William Langley’s body was on the battlefield when Gardner took the photograph on July 6<sup>th</sup>.** He may have had a “slow” death from a minie ball wound. Details to remove wounded men may have missed William, possibly resulting in him still being on the battlefield on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Candidate #3 is John Ash of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia.** Dr. Jane Wankmiller was formerly the “Unidentified Remains Coordinator” for the Michigan State Police. She said that John Ash’s image may have been altered.

**Dr. Wankmiller compared the two photographs (John Ash and the sharpshooter):**

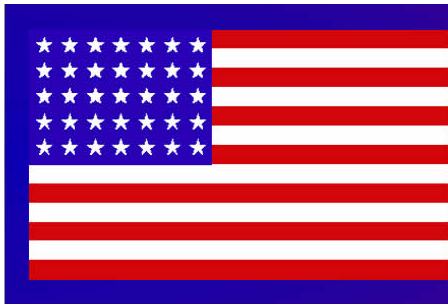
- Upper Face – Broad forehead, straight hairline, hair color, possible widow’s peak, and eyebrows – similarities. The length, width, and angle are more similar than William Langley.
- Nose – More similar than Langley’s, has a wide nasal bridge.
- Mouth and Chin – both have full lips, tall, and rounded chin. The nose-to-mouth distance is different.

**Dr. Wankmiller could not eliminate John Ash as the sharpshooter. A recent discovery was that the photograph of John Ash was from 1850, when he was 13 years old.**

John Ash’s wound on July 3<sup>rd</sup> may have also resulted in a slow death, also resulting in him possibly being on the battlefield on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Conclusion: The sharpshooter could be either William Langley or John Ash. Based on the evidence available, who do we vote for?**

**MRRT Minutes for May 21, 2018:** Call to Order 6:40 pm, about 20 present for business meeting, 35 for presentation Pledge No dedication Introduction of Guests and New Members None Treasurer’s Report Jeanie said that members receive free parking as well as admittance to Fort Wayne. She will look into how we, as a group member, can use it. Jeanie also wrote out the inscription for the Adrian memorial in Jerry’s memory. Carlene gave the book but no money to the scholarship fund this year. We will contribute for this last year, but individuals are welcome to donate as well. Secretary’s Report Accepted Preservation the Olustee Union Monument Assoc. is attempting to raise \$30,000 to



provide a cultural balance with a monument to all of the Union troops who fought there. The Sons of the Confederacy are opposed. The Civil War Trust is trying to raise \$3.5 million for 18 critical acres on Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg. There are no matching funds due to the properties' location. **Newsletters** Bob shared with us the NYC Dispatch, Indianapolis Hardtack, Cincinnati Canister, and Cleveland Charger **Website** No change **Trip Report** Information on the trip is discussed on Page 1 of the newsletter and Linda's summary e-mailed and sent to members. **Program** Jim has started working on 2019, arranging for our January speaker. **Items of Interest** The book, Chickamauga: Bloody Battle in the West was highly recommended by George Crouch as a good read before our November trip. Ken Baumann won an award at the Mansfield, Ohio show for best artillery display. He included one of the eight surviving Ellsworth rifles. Gary Rembisz is feeling better and hopes to be back at a meeting soon. **New Business** None **Old Business** None

#### **Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to General Grant's Vicksburg Canal.**

1. What were the planned dimensions of the canal – length, depth, and width?
2. Who commanded the Union troops digging the canal? What happened to him?
3. Why did the two attempts to build the canal fail?
4. What happened to the men working on the canal?
5. What happened to the course of the Mississippi River at Vicksburg after the Civil War?

#### **Civil War Essentials - Did the Confederacy Starve to Death?**

The fledgling Confederacy began the war with major handicaps compared to the North – a smaller total (and adult male) population, a limited manufacturing base, no navy, and virtually no merchant fleet. **What it did have was a huge well established agricultural economy. Why then was it plagued by food shortages which caused terrible suffering for its soldiers and people and limited the effectiveness of its armies at critical times?** The reasons were many but combined to help doom "Old Dixie".

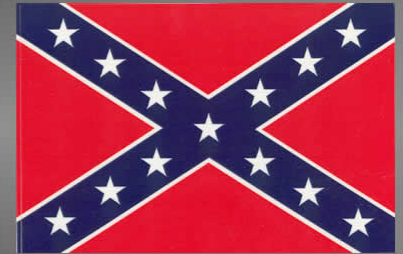
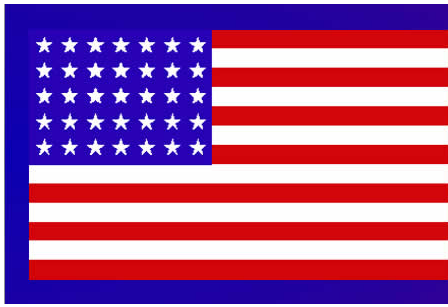
**Not what it first appears to be - The states which would secede in 1861 accounted for the majority of all U.S. exports in the pre-war years. Southern states exported cotton, tobacco, hemp, lumber, indigo, rice, and sugar.**



While the South did produce some cereal crops, pork and beef, **much of the food consumed in the South came from the Midwest.** For instance, only a small fraction of the 3 million hogs slaughtered in the U.S. in 1860 were in what became the Confederacy. Southern hog (and beef) production increased during the war, but never enough. Luxury imported items like wine, tea and coffee had usually been transhipped via the North before the war.

**The anaconda** -The coastal blockade and efforts to win back control of the lower Mississippi failed in the early part of the war to cut off Confederate commerce with the world. Ships ran the blockade easily at first; less so after 1863 when the Union was able to place more and better ships off rebel ports and the Mississippi had been retaken. **During the war, around 300 ships made about 1,300 attempts to run the blockade of which about 1,000 were successful. However this was only a fraction of the 20,000 visits (many by larger vessels than the wartime runners) to southern ports in the last four years before the war and was clearly insufficient.** In addition, basic food had to compete with munitions, uniforms, machinery, and luxury civilian goods for scarce cargo space on the blockade runners.

**Government/political obstacles** – Countless Confederate government policies had unintended negative impacts on the food supply. At first, confidence was placed in the "King Cotton" theory that either the North would relent or Britain would force an early end to the war to regain access to the vital commodity. This delayed any meaningful attempt to shift land from cotton to food production. **Fiscal policies based on printing money instead of taxation caused very high inflation which resulted in a great deal of food hoarding by speculators.** The policy of impressment of supplies by the



Confederate military, with little compensation, caused many farmers to hide any surplus food to prevent seizure by Confederate agents. **Conscription of men for the armies took a major toll on small family farms which mostly grew food, not cotton.** [In the North, farm manpower losses from the draft were offset by arriving immigrant labor and increased use of farm machinery.] Arguments between Richmond and state governments over states' rights issues caused some states to withhold food needed elsewhere and to ignore Confederate laws regarding land conversion to food crops. **Bureaucratic incompetence often caused spoilage or misallocation of food reserves.**

**Salt of the earth** – Before the war Southerners imported about 450 million pounds of European salt a year, mostly to preserve meat. **Salt became scarce after the blockade began to have a real effect** and some of the few domestic sources (Avery Island, La., for example) were overrun or wrecked by Federal troops. **Lack of salt meant slaughtered meat might spoil before it could be consumed.**

**Loss of territory and resources** - Starting in late 1861, the Union began to retake some territory from the Confederacy, beginning with a few coastal areas in the Carolinas. Then in the spring of 1862 came the fall of New Orleans/Baton Rouge, the loss of more coastal areas and of much of Tennessee. **These areas represented major sources of grain, sugar and meat now unavailable to the rest of the Confederacy.** Refugees who fled the enemy from occupied areas generally came to Richmond or other cities adding to their problems.

Union raids (Sherman's Georgia march, Sheridan's Shenandoah campaign, etc.) and crops destroyed during battles caused tremendous loss of food supplies even after the armies had moved on. Loss of slaves, farm animals, barns, and implements in the territories the Yankees raided reduced the ability to grow future crops. **Once the Mississippi was lost in mid-1863, shipments of cattle and other foodstuff from the Trans-Mississippi region to the east were greatly reduced.** Illicit trade across the lines provided some northern food and salt in exchange for cotton, but never enough.

**Transportation decline** – The pre-war Southern economy mainly relied on rivers to move bulk export commodities to the ports. The Southern railroads were mostly short and often not connected to each other. **Huge wartime demands were placed on them.** Unlike the northern railroads, there was no coordinating authority to improve efficiency. **Some were destroyed by the Yankees. The rest suffered increasingly frequent breakdowns due to a lack of replacement parts, rails and cars.** As a result, late in the war much of the surplus food grown in untouched areas like Florida failed to reach Lee's army in Virginia.

With all these factors against them, **it is a testament to the people and soldiers of the South that they were able to persevere so long in an uneven struggle on chronically empty stomachs!**

#### Quiz Answers:

1. The objective was to build a 1.25 miles long canal with a depth of 13 feet and wide enough for boat navigation.
2. General Thomas Williams commanded a 3,000 man brigade (including Michigan soldiers) and also used 1,100-1,200 African Americans for the back breaking work of digging the canal. General Williams was killed at the Battle of Baton Rouge in August, 1863.
3. The first attempt to build a canal during the summer of 1862 failed because the Mississippi River dropped faster than the workers could dig. The canal was 13 feet deep and 18 feet wide, unsuitable for navigation. The second try in January 1863 failed because a sudden river rise broke through the dam at the head of the canal, flooding the area.
4. General Williams' force of 3,000 men working on the canal was reduced to 800 because of heat exhaustion, sunstroke, malaria, and other illnesses. The African-American workers encountered most of the same problems as the able-bodied field hands had been previously evacuated by their owners.
5. The Mississippi River did break through the peninsula several years after the Civil War, but not precisely following the canal's route. Vicksburg's hairpin bend no longer exists and the main channel of the river does not flow past the Vicksburg waterfront.