



Our next meeting will be Monday, Monday, June 24, 2019. 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 Dr. Roger Rosentreter, PhD, Michigan State Professor, who will share with us the vivid story of “Michigan at Shiloh”.

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

The Roundtable will be visiting Savannah, Georgia this fall during the weekend of November 9th and 10th! Our trip committee has been working very hard on putting this trip together. The tour cost, including bus rental for the tours, venue fees, and meals/gratuities for the driver, will be approximately \$200 per person, based on 30 participants. We will be staying at the Hampton Inn & Suites – Savannah/Midtown, which is 4 miles from the historic district. The nightly rate is \$129. The telephone number is 912.721.3700. Our group code is C-MRR. Rooms are available from Thursday night through Sunday night.

The Saturday banquet will be at Vic’s on the River. The cost is \$55 per person, including gratuity. Saturday and Sunday lunches will be on our own at two interesting seafood venues.

- **Friday, November 8th – Optional Savannah Riverboat Cruise** – Narrated 90-minute Harbor Sightseeing Cruise at 1:00 pm at a cost of \$24.95 per person (www.savannahriverboat.com). **Please make your own reservations.**
- **Saturday, November 9th** – Guided trolley tour through Savannah’s 270 year history. Old Fort Jackson Civil War Militia Program with Cannon Demonstration. Fort Pulaski Visitor’s Center and Ranger Tour
- **Sunday, November 10th** – Guided Civil War Walking Tour through Savannah Historic District. Fort McAllister’s Visitor Center and Guided Tour

If you want to sign-up or have questions, please call Jeanie (248.225.7596), Linda (586.588.2712) or Mollie (313.530.8516)

A reminder: Each participant must provide their own transportation to and from Savannah.



The Roundtable welcomes back Dr. Roger Rosentreter, PhD, who will share with us the story of “Michigan at Shiloh”. The Battle of Shiloh has been described as a fistfight between 100,000 men, most of whom did not know their job as a volunteer soldier. Most of the soldiers, especially the Confederates, had never been in combat. A Union veteran said many years after the battle *“I was more scared than I was at Shiloh...would be the most could say of any fight”*. **Dr. Rosentreter, using primary sources, will share with us Michigan’s role in the great battle. This will be another great evening of learning about the personal side of the Civil War.**

Dr. Rosentreter has visited with us on several occasions, most recently during 2017. Dr. Rosentreter teaches Civil War, Michigan History, and 18th, 19th, and 20th Century Military History at Michigan State University. He recently published *Grand Rapids in the Civil War*. **Roger worked with our friend Dr. Weldon Petz on two Abraham Lincoln books.** He was the editor of *Michigan History* Magazine from 1998-2009.

The MRRT enjoyed William Cottrell’s thought provoking presentation of Abraham Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence. Bill began his talk by referring to a remark by Margaret Thatcher that while Britain’s government was based upon its history, the US was founded upon an ideology. That ideology was critically based on how society defined liberty.

In 1866, William Herndon, Lincoln’s law partner, began gathering material for his book on the late President. He interviewed key people close to Lincoln and professed to have had received comments which cast Lincoln in a different



light than his generally accepted persona. One comment by his secretary, John Hay, was that Lincoln considered public opinion very important. While an obvious trait for any politician, **Bill believes this meant that the views of the great mass of ordinary people were paramount and that they put great stock in the idea of the equality of man.** In turn, this concept came from the Declaration of Independence which Lincoln had first read during his youth living in Indiana.



The equality of man was expressed in key first sentence of the second paragraph of the Declaration – “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” By comparison, Bill believes the

US Constitution carefully sidestepped the concept of equality. When asked about his political views in the mid-1850s, Lincoln contended that he not sure he was a Whig, but was definitely *not* a “Know-Nothing”. Lincoln recognized that the Know-Nothings were denying equality to (mostly Catholic) immigrants just as southern slave holders were denying it to blacks.

When Steven Douglas introduced the idea of *popular sovereignty* in the Kansas/Nebraska bill, he unwittingly opened the door to conflict between those who held differing views of what liberty meant with respect to slaves. Kansas quickly became an area of conflict between pro and anti-slavery factions which rushed into the territory after the bill’s passage. **The March 1857 Dred Scott decision by the US Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution had never intended any black person to be considered a citizen** and therefore Scott, a slave, had no legal standing *anywhere* in the US. There is evidence that President-elect James Buchanan exerted improper influence on the Court. The effect of Dred Scott was to negate the principle behind Kansas/Nebraska and therefore undermined Douglas’s presidential ambitions. Lincoln saw this and invited Douglas to participate in a series of debates in Illinois. These debates and the Coopers Union speech led to Lincoln’s nomination as Republican candidate. Douglas lost support in the south and the Democratic Party was fatally split along sectional lines which allowed Lincoln to win the 1860 election with a plurality rather than a majority of the vote.

Bill noted that the first words of Lincoln’s famous 1863 Gettysburg Address – “Four score and seven years ago...” – refers to 1776, the year of the Declaration of Independence, not 1787 when the Constitution was drafted. He also believes that the “*great task*” the president proclaimed in the Address was to finish the effort to establish true equality among people in the United States.

May 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes We agreed to donate \$200 to the Jerry Maxwell Scholarship Fund at North Farmington High. We also agreed to donate \$50 to save property at the South Mountain Battlefield. Robert Seuch was a guest. Our committee is making major progress on our trip to Savannah, Georgia on November 9th and 10th.

Quiz Questions: This month’s questions and answers pertain to the Battle of Shiloh:

1. Which famous drummer boy was incorrectly reported to have fought with the 22nd Michigan Infantry at Shiloh and died as a retired general on May 13, 1937 three months before his 86th birthday?
2. Which Michigan units participated in the Battle of Shiloh?
3. Which two Union generals died in the Cherry House? Also, what other connection did the Cherry House have with the Battle of Shiloh?
4. Which Union division commander, stationed at Crump’s Landing, took over 7 hours to move his 5,800 men merely six miles to the battlefield? Why would he earn lasting fame in the 1880’s?
5. Which Confederate general ordered 62 cannons to concentrate heavy fire on a solid Union line and what name was later given to this sunken road area?

We thank “Old Sarge” for this quiz.



Civil War Essentials – Ely Parker (1828-1895) Four months before Ely Samuel Parker was born, his mother had a **vivid dream of a rainbow broken in two.** One half was at the home of the local Indian agent in Buffalo and the other half was on the Seneca Indian reservation. A dream interpreter said that this meant that *“A son will be born to you who will be distinguished among his nation as a peacemaker...He will become a white man as well as an Indian, with great learning.. .”*

Ely Parker was born in Indian Falls, New York. He persisted in his missionary schooling, eventually rising in the ranks of the Seneca tribe. He was bilingual in Seneca and English. At age 18, he had dinner at the White House with President James Polk.



He read the law for three years and then applied to take the bar exam. Ely was turned down because Seneca Indians were not considered to be American citizens. He then gained admission to study engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York.

Ely became the Grand Sachem of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy in 1851 at the very young age of 23. Parker launched his public service career as an interpreter and diplomat to the Seneca chiefs in their negotiations about land and treaty rights.

After his graduation from RPI Ely became a civil engineer. **He helped to upgrade and maintain the Erie Canal. Working on several projects in Galena, Illinois Ely became friends with Ulysses S. Grant and John E. Smith.**

When the Civil War started in 1861, Ely Parker was rejected three times in his efforts to join the Union Army. Secretary of State William Seward wrote him

that the conflict was “an affair between white men... We will settle our own troubles among ourselves without any Indian aid.”

Eventually, John E. Smith placed Ely on his staff with the endorsement of General Grant. After Ely Parker distinguished himself during the Vicksburg campaign, General Grant placed him on his own staff. He was Grant’s adjutant during the Chattanooga Campaign. He transferred to the East and worked for General Grant during the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg. Ely became Grant’s military secretary at Petersburg with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Ely wrote most of Grant’s correspondence.

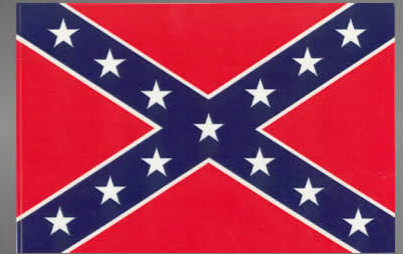
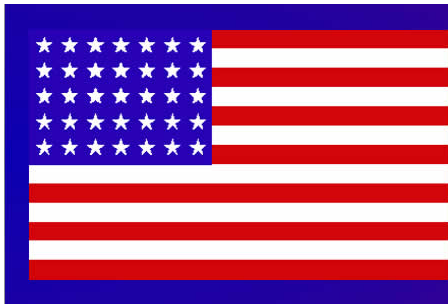
Colonel Parker’s biggest moment during the war came in April 1865 when he was present when General Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House. He helped draft the surrender documents, which are in his handwriting. Colonel Parker wrote the official copies of the documents when senior adjutant Theodore Bowers was too shaky to write them. Ely Parker kept one of Grant’s handwritten copies on which General Grant originally drafted the surrender terms as a prized possession.

General Lee “stared at me for a moment” said Parker. General Lee then extended his hand and said, “I am glad to see one real American here”. I shook his hand and said, “We are all Americans.” Colonel Parker then became a brevet brigadier general of volunteers on the same day, April 9, 1865.

After the war, General Grant was Parker’s best man at his wedding in 1867. He and his wife Minie had one daughter, Maud Theresa Parker.

President Grant appointed Ely Parker as the first Native American Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He served in this position from 1869 to 1871. Parker became the chief architect of President Grant’s Peace Policy, which reduced military actions against the Native Americans and supported their transition to living on reservations.

Ely lost his fortune in the stock market during the Panic of 1873. He died in poverty in 1895 and rests in Buffalo’s Forest Lawn Cemetery, which used to be in Seneca Territory. **His mother’s dream was fulfilled.**



Quiz Answers:

1. John Lincoln Clem or “Johnny Shiloh”
2. 2nd Michigan Light Artillery and the 12th, 13th, and 15th Michigan Infantries
3. Union generals Charles F. Smith and William H.L. Wallace died in the Cherry House. General Grant was having breakfast at the Cherry House when the battle of Shiloh began.
4. Major General Lew Wallace who wrote the novel, *Ben Hur*, in the 1880’s.
5. Confederate General Dan Ruggles and the “Hornet’s Nest”.

Civil War Essentials – Colonel Eli Lilly Eli Lilly was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1838 as the oldest of eleven children. The family soon moved to Kentucky and then to Greencastle, Indiana in 1852. He studied at Indiana Asbury University (today known as DePauw University) from 1852 to 1854.

Eli became interested in chemicals as a teenager. He visited Henry Lawrence’s Good Samaritan Drug Store in Lafayette, Indiana where he completed a four-year apprenticeship to become a chemist and pharmacist. Mr. Lawrence also taught him how to run a business.



Eli opened his own drug store in Greencastle during January, 1861. He then married Emily Lemon, the daughter of a Greenfield merchant, on January 31, 1861. Their son, Josiah, was born in November, 1861, after Eli had left for service in the Union Army.

Eli Lilly was mustered into the 21st Indiana Volunteer Infantry on July 24, 1861, three days after the Battle of Bull Run. He became a Second Lieutenant five days later. The regiment spent several months in Baltimore. Lieutenant Lilly resigned his commission in December 1861 and returned to Indiana to form an artillery unit.

Lieutenant Lilly recruited volunteers for his unit among his classmates, friends, local merchants, and farmers. He promised to form the “crack battery of Indiana”. The artillery unit became the 18th Battery, Indiana Light Artillery, also known as the Lilly Battery. The unit consisted of six, three-inch ordinance rifles and 150 men.

The 18th Indiana was mustered in Indianapolis on August 6, 1862 and then served under General Rosecrans in Kentucky and Tennessee. Promoted Captain Lilly’s unit was

transferred to the Lightning Brigade, on December 16, 1862.

The unit was involved in the Battle of Hoover’s Gap – June 1863 and the Battles of Chattanooga and Chickamauga in September, 1863. Captain Lilly became an excellent artillery officer until 1864 when his enlistment expired and then left the 18th Indiana.

Eli joined the 9th Indiana Cavalry and was promoted to major. He was captured by General Nathan Forrest’s troops at the Battle of Sulphur Creek Trestle, Alabama in September 1864. Major Lilly was held in a prison camp until he was exchanged in January, 1865. He was mustered out of the Union Army in August 1865 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Colonel Lilly used the title of Colonel for the rest of his life. He was the chairman of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1893. He organized a very large reunion of Union war veterans in Indianapolis.

After the war, his wife Emily died, probably from malaria, in 1866, eight months pregnant with their second child, who was stillborn. He then married Maria in 1869. Their only child, Eleanor, was born in 1871 and then died in 1884 of diphtheria.

Eli Lilly started his drug laboratory in Indianapolis in 1876. His business sign read, “Eli Lilly, Chemist”. He ran the company until 1890 when his son, Josiah, took over day-to-day management of the company. Today, Eli Lilly and Company is a well-known drug company.

The Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum is located inside the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis.