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Michigan Regimental Round Table Newsletter—Page 1

July 2003

MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL AUCTION: One of our most successful programs over the past few years has been the yearly auction. It's a wonderful opportunity for the entire audience to participate and to obtain some great, bargain-priced, Civil War items. The following figures indicate the popularity of this program—1996: \$465.00; 1997: \$834.00; 1999: \$600.00; 2000: \$690.00, 2001: \$406.00. We've auctioned off as many as 75 items in one evening, with prices ranging from \$1.25 to as much as \$150. So bring in any Civil War-related object—books, buttons, tokens, bullets, prints, coins, pieces of shell, gunpowder flasks, pamphlets, maps—and watch the fun begin. And, remember ALL money gathered goes into our own Treasury. It's a fun night with bargains galore.

Mark your calendar—MONDAY, JULY 28—and don't forget to bring in your collectibles.

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Our thanks to last month's speaker, Jerry Maxwell, for his presentation, "J.E.B. Earns His Plume: Stuart's First Ride Around McClellan."

FALL FIELD TRIP: All those signed up to go on our Shenandoah Valley trip (Saturday/Sunday, October 18-19) will be required to submit a check this month in the amount of \$65. This will cover expenses for our guide, Dennis Frye, bus fees, museum entrance, etc. Please make the check out to Carroll Tietz or Jerry Maxwell (NOT the MRRT), and submit it to Jerry. NO cash will be accepted. (Another check to cover the Saturday night dinner and breakfasts will be required at the August meeting.)

QUIZ: This year marks the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. All questions pertain to that battle.....

- 1. Which stream was crossed as the Confederates pushed toward Gettysburg when the battle opened on July 1? And, up which ridge did these Rebels first face Federal forces?
- 2. Which Confederate general headed 3 brigades of Tennesseans and 2 from Alabama and was captured (the first general to be captured since Lee took command) on the first day? And, what is the significance of Lt. Marcellus E. Jones of the 8th Illinois Cavalry and John E. Weaver of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry?
- 3. A historic struggle took place on the first day between two regiments—one from Michigan and one from North Carolina. What were these regiments and who led them?
- 4. Which Union colonel of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Corps, was killed at Little Round Top on July 2 and was issued a Brigadier General's commission that night posthumously? [He was later acknowledged by James Longstreet as the "savior" of Little Round Top.] And, which Michigan regiment fought under his command?
- 5. During Meade's War Council on the night of July 2, which Corps Commanders voted to retreat from Gettysburg and not remain on the field? And, which important general slept through the entire discussion and vote?
- 6. Of George Pickett's three brigade commanders, which was the only West Point graduate?
- 7. Which 28-year-old Brigadier General held the middle of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge on the third day? And, which regiments were under his command?
- 8. Which Confederate colonel of the 7th Virginia Infantry, great-uncle of an outstanding World War II general, was killed during the attack on Cemetery Ridge on July 3? And, who took command of Lewis Armistead's brigade when Armistead was mortally wounded?
- 9. Which Confederate general was mortally wounded, dying three days later, in the retreat from Gettysburg on July 14? And, where did this take place?
- 10. Which Governor of Pennsylvania commissioned a local attorney to purchase land for a cemetery to inter the Federal dead? And, who was the attorney that obtained the 17 acres for the cemetery?



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Joseph E. Love, a 31-year-old Texan, enlisted on April 1, 1863. Sent to Virginia, Private Love became a member of Company A, 5th Texas Infantry, in John Bell Hood's renowned division. Now ninety-two days after volunteering, Joseph Love and 800 fellow Texans struggled up the rocky slopes of Little Round Top on the hot afternoon of July 2, 1863. Before nightfall ended the day's bloody contest, 247 of Love's comrades had fallen. Love, too, was hit—a bullet, or possibly a shell fragment, struck his face; another projectile found his arm.

Rescued and captured by Federals, Joseph Love, and 75 other Confederates were taken to a field hospital on the farm of Michael and Matilda Trostle. On July 6 Federal surgeon Edward Breneman performed a "Circular Amputation of Rt Arm at the Upper 3rd," necessitated by a compound fracture of the humerus. After 20 days, Love, a prisoner of war, was turned over to the provost marshal and sent by rail to Baltimore, where he became a patient in West's Buildings U.S. General Hospital. Besides his amputated arm, Love's medical records described "A bullet wound destroying left Eye & opening cavity of the nose, accompanied by a Severe diarrhoea." For the next three weeks Love's diarrhea plagued him as did the "great discharges" of fluids from the stump of his arm. Eventually the remaining bone, which was being drawn forward by the great pectoral muscle, produced so much pressure on the skin covering it that "sloughing" began, resulting in a gradual opening of the wound. On August 15, as Love's "power of reason" decreased, it was decided to re-amputate to correct the problem. Following this procedure on August 20, his condition was "much improved," with the wound healing and the diarrhea subdued.

The good news did not last long. On August 22, "the axillary artery was opened by a slight process of sloughing, & considerable blood was lost." Surgeon Edward Brooks quickly tied off the artery, but it was too late. Joseph Love died within an hour of "exhaustion." The following day Love was laid to rest in Loudon Park Cemetery about three miles southwest of the hospital, on what is today known as "Confederate Hill." A marble headstone marks the spot.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1. Willoughby Run and McPherson's Ridge
- 2. James J. Archer and Jones credited with firing the first shot of the battle; Weaver credited with being the first killed
- 3. 24th Michigan under Col. Henry A. Morrow (born in Warrenton, VA) and 26th North Carolina under 21-yr-old Col. Henry King Burgwyn
- 4. Strong Vincent and the 16th Michigan Infantry
- 5. None (all voted to remain on the field) and Gouverneur K. Warren
- 6. Richard Garnett 1841 #29 of 52. [Lewis Armistead was expelled in his junior year, 1837, for thumping Cadet Jubal Early over the head with a mess tray; James Kemper graduated from Washington College.]
- 7. Alexander Webb and four Pennsylvania regiments, the 69th, 71st, 72nd, and 106th.
- 8. Colonel W. Tazwell Patton and Col. William R. Aylett, the grandson of Patrick Henry
- 9. James Johnston Pettigrew and Falling Waters, Maryland
- 10. Andrew G. Curtin and David Wills

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Last reminder for this month's auction—**MONDAY**, **JULY 28** at the Farmington Public Library at Grand River and Farmington Road. The meeting begins at 6:30 P.M. And, don't forget to bring your items for auction and a check for \$65 if you are going on the Fall Trip. Also, give our website a try: http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.