



After being wounded twice at Glendale on June 30, 1862, Federal General John Sedgwick was hit again three times at Antietam. As he led his division into the holocaust of the Miller Cornfield, a bullet tore through his leg. Another fractured his wrist, and Sedgwick nearly fainted from loss of blood. Refusing to leave the field, Sedgwick was hit by a third bullet in his shoulder. Carried away by his soldiers, he would be out of the war for three months. He later stated prophetically, *"If I am ever hit again, I hope it will settle me at once. I want no more wounds."* A year-and-a-half later at Spotsylvania on Monday, May 9, 1864, Sedgwick calmed a frightened youthful soldier by saying, *"They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance."* Unknowing as he spoke, a bullet from a sharpshooter's rifle was on its way and about to hit its mark. The projectile tore into Sedgwick's face just below the left eye and traversed the base of his brain. He staggered and fell on the flat of his back. A corps doctor poured water from a canteen over the general's face as blood still spurted upward in a little fountain. Medical aid was useless. Sedgwick was dead. He had been killed by a nameless Confederate sharpshooter using a telescopic rifle at a distance of 1600 yards.

Later a detail from a Vermont brigade went to the front looking for the unseen sniper. Sergeant Sanford Grey and D.R. Sanborn discovered a dummy soldier—a red shirt stretched over a crossbar. Waiting near the rifle pit, Grey saw a Rebel approach and shot him. The dead sharpshooter was a man about 50 years of age with a high-powered rifle still clutched in his right hand.

Sharpshooter units had been formed on both sides during the war. The most famous organizer was the controversial New Yorker Hiram Berdan. Described by one contemporary as *"thoroughly unscrupulous and unreliable,"* Berdan had made many enemies. Another labeled him *"unfit for command,"* and yet another believed Berdan to be *"a great liar."* Berdan, who ranked as the top amateur rifle shot in the nation since 1846, however, had a vision: he desired to create a special unit of superb marksman or sharpshooters. Qualified recruits had to place 10 shots in a 10-inch bulls-eye at 200 yards, firing any rifle they chose from any position they preferred. Two regiments were soon put together. Armed with .52-caliber Sharps rifles, some of which had telescopic sights, Berdan's sharpshooters were also known for their distinctive uniforms—a green cap with a black plume, a green coat, and light blue trousers (later changed to green). Throughout the war these marksmen performed a vital service especially during the Peninsula Campaign, Malvern Hill, Chancellorsville, and particularly on the Federal left at Gettysburg, where on July 2, they helped slow the Confederate attack on Little Round Top.

This month—**MONDAY, JULY 30**—the MRRT's resident-expert on Civil War navies, **Larry Hathcock**, will present *"Civil War Sharpshooters."* Larry, an award-winning retired teacher, will explain the development of the rifle and its impact on the Civil War. He will further describe the formation and tactics of Union sharpshooter units such as Hiram Berdan's. Larry will also determine that even though the Confederates were late in developing sharpshooter units, they were better trained and organized than their Union counterparts.

Mark your calendars for this special presentation.

FALL FIELD TRIP: The checks you have submitted for the bus/speaker's fees will be turned in to Carroll Tietz this month. Also at this month's meeting checks for the Saturday night dinner will be collected (made out to either Carroll or Jerry Maxwell). We will eat at the highly recommended and historic Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The dinner cost will be \$37 per person. This will, of course, include tax, gratuity, and the costs for the room. Dinner will be preceded by a CASH BAR for assorted libations.

All dinners will include: Fresh garden salads, Red potatoes, Fresh Vegetable du jour, Homemade baked bread, and dessert (either Red Velvet or Chocolate Raspberry Chambord cake), and coffee or tea.

Dinner choices will be:



- Slow Roasted Prime Rib Au Jus
- Chicken Jean Marie: Chicken Breast Sauteed with Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Garlic, Fresh Parmesan, Basil and Olive Oil Tossed with Penne Pasta
- Fresh Broiled Teriyaki Glazed Salmon
- Vegetarian Plate

Your choice for the dinner should be submitted with your check.

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The Michigan Regimental extends its thanks to last month's speaker, **Jerry Maxwell**, for his program: “*A Terrible and Useless Waste of Life: Six Dead Generals at Franklin.*”

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QUIZ: Civil War Weapons

1. What type of weapon, including the caliber, did John Wilkes Booth use to assassinate Abraham Lincoln?
2. What weapon was probably used to mortally wound Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston? And, what incendiary apparatus was supposedly used by Confederate agents to burn the P.T. Barnum Museum in New York City on 25 November 1864?
3. Which pistol developed in New Orleans fired a .40-caliber bullet from a 9-shot cylinder with an 18-gauge shotgun barrel beneath the main barrel? And, name 2 Confederate officers who carried this type of pistol.
4. What 2 weapons were known to be carried by Rob Wheat's Louisiana Tigers?
5. Which 2 Frenchmen developed the minie bullet in the 1840's?
6. Which invention made in 1805 by a Scotsman vastly improved rifles? And, which innovation made by Swiss gunsmiths in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1720 made rifles superior weapons?
7. Which noted rifle contained a split firing pin that struck the cartridge at two points, thus reducing the chances of misfires? And, which Federal cavalry unit carried a 9-foot lance with an 11-inch, 3-sided blade with a scarlet swallow-tailed pennant attached?
8. Which rapid-fire weapon with six revolving barrels was capable of firing 600 rounds per minute? And, when the U.S. Government refused to purchase the contract for this weapon, which Federal general bought 12 of them for \$1000 each?
9. Which Confederate-invented weapon, a breech-loading rapid-fire piece made at Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, was mounted on a 2-wheel carriage pulled by a single horse? And, which of the following was NOT a hand grenade used in the Civil War? A) Hanes B) Briles C) Adams D) Ketchum
10. Which Confederate general, the head of the Stonewall Brigade, was killed by an exploding shell at the Battle of Cedar Mountain? And, what kind of shell killed Confederate General Leonidas Polk at Pine Mountain, Georgia on June 14, 1864?

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Federal General John Fulton Reynolds was an exemplary soldier, “*a fighter by instinct and a master of his art.*” A captain remembered him as “*that dark, silent, alert man....We learned to appreciate the superior ability of General Reynolds in caring for his troops and providing for their comfort.*” A member of the 24th Michigan Infantry recalled Reynolds as “*a strangely reticent man....but the quiet demeanor could not wholly mask the ardent spirit....[His soldiers] trusted him implicitly.*” Another wrote: “*He never asked anybody to go in the way of danger unless he himself was in front.*”



Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on September 20, 1820, Reynolds would die in battle only 50 odd miles from his birthplace. A graduate of West Point in the Class of 1841 (number 26 of 52), Reynolds served in the Mexican War where he received two brevet promotions for meritorious conduct. He later became Commandant of Cadets and instructor of tactics at the U.S. Military Academy. During the Civil War, the handsome, 6-footer, with black hair and beard, was acknowledged as the army's best horseman. Reportedly, on two occasions he turned down the command of the Army of the Potomac. Throughout his 42 years, he remained unmarried.

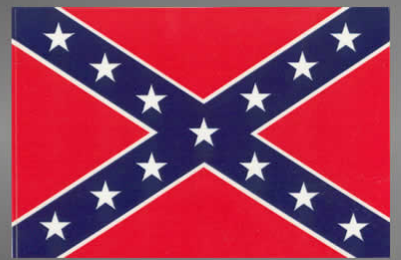
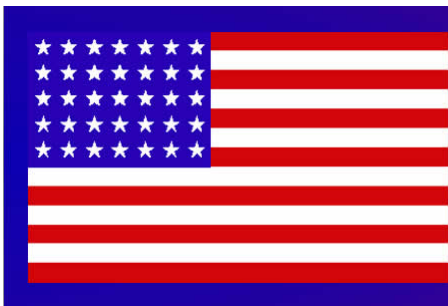
On the first day of fighting at Gettysburg near the summit of McPherson's Ridge, Reynolds was mounted on his "powerful black horse" in the company of his orderly, Pvt. Charles Veil. Here he directed the movement of the 19th Indiana and 24th Michigan Infantries. Knowing the gravity of the situation, Reynolds shouted: "*Forward men, forward for God's sake, and drive those fellows out of the woods!*" Carelessly exposing himself, he at once drew the fire of James Jay Archer's Tennesseans. Reynolds, looking back toward the Gettysburg Seminary, probably to see if the rest of his men were coming up, suddenly shuttered and slumped from the saddle. It was 10:15 A.M. Wednesday, July 1, 1863.

A minie ball had struck the back of Reynolds' neck behind the right ear at the base of the skull, passed through his head, and exited from the other side at the eye. It had been fired by a nameless Confederate marksman perched in a tree on the bank of Willoughby Run (some sources claim the sniper was hidden in the loft of a barn). Reynolds' near-lifeless body dropped from the saddle. Without the steadying hand of his rider, the unseated horse wildly dashed toward the open fields. Veil vaulted from his own horse and ran to Reynolds, who was lying on his left side and had a bruise above his left eye. Veil at first thought the general was merely stunned, and he grasped Reynolds under the arms. Assisted by others Reynolds' body was carried to a safer place. At one point Veil claimed the general seemed to gasp and smile faintly, and Veil attempted to give Reynolds some water from his canteen. Reynolds probably lived only one or two minutes from the time he was struck. Curiously, the wound did not bleed.

Reynolds' body was taken to the George House on Emmitsburg Road where surgeons pronounced him dead. The body was packed in ice, placed on a train at 5:00 A.M., and reached Baltimore about noon. Here an undertaker embalmed the body. From Baltimore a train carried Reynolds on to Lancaster where his sisters buried him on July 4. Adding to the mystery of the general, a chain holding a gold ring in the shape of clasped hands was found around his neck. Inside were inscribed the words "*Dear Kate.*"

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. .44-caliber derringer pistol
2. .5775 Enfield rifle and "Greek Fire"
3. LeMat revolver and J.E.B. Stuart, P.G.T. Beauregard, Capt. Henry Wirz
4. .54-caliber Mississippi rifle and a large D-handled Bowie knife (as well as assorted brass knuckles and blackjacks)
5. Captains Henri-Gustave Delvigne and Claude-Etienne Minie
6. Percussion caps instead of flints and rifling, inside the barrels, instead of smoothbores
7. Henry repeating rifle and [Richard] Rush's Lancers (6th Pennsylvania Cavalry)
8. Gatling gun and Benjamin "Beast" Butler
9. Williams rapid-fire gun and B) Briles
10. Charles Winder and a Parrott shell



Make certain you're on hand for this month's meeting: **MONDAY, JULY 30** for **Larry Hathcock's** presentation of "*Civil War Sharpshooters.*" We'll start the show at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there.....Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrtr/>.