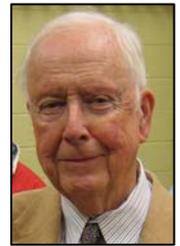


**Please note that our July meeting comes one week early on Monday, July 23.**

**Trip Update:** Check out the attached [flier](#) for itinerary and all other trip related information. Price for the October 27-28 tour of First and Second Bull Run is a very reasonable \$90—and there are still seats available. If interested, contact one of organizers listed on the flier or simply come to the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and sign-up. For those already signed-up, the trip committee would like to begin collecting the trip and meal money at the upcoming meeting. Checks should be made out to Don Kadar and given to either Don or Linda Gerhardt.

The MRRT mourns the recent loss of **Harry Hudson Mead**. Hudson, as we knew him, passed away on June 24 at the age of 90. This last February, Hudson provided an entertaining and insightful presentation on Gen Benjamin (Beast) Butler to the MRRT. Following service in the U.S. Navy, Hudson earned his law degree at the UofM and went on to practice law in Detroit for 50 years with the firm Tolleson, Mead, Welchli and Dahn. Interested in history, he was appointed by Gov George Romney to the Michigan Historical Commission on which he served from 1965 to 1978. He also served on the Detroit Historical Society board. He served a term as president of both organizations. In 1979, Hudson was instrumental in the resurrection of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and was a long time member of our Michigan Regimental Round Table. He is survived by his wife Mary and children Priscilla, Mignon, Hudson Alger. RIP.



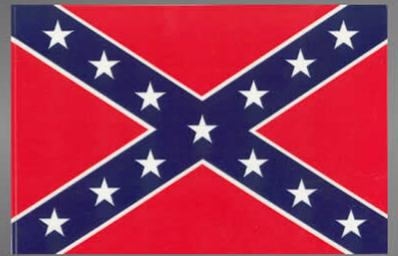
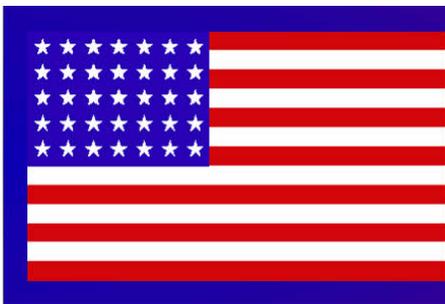
**On MONDAY, July 23, the Roundtable welcomes Steven Ramold, PhD, from Eastern Michigan University. Steven will present “Discipline and the Union Army”.** Discipline played a major role in the Union Army during the Civil War. The French philosopher Claude Helvetius observed “Discipline is simply the art of making the soldiers fear their officers more than the enemy”. Steve will discuss several questions regarding soldier discipline; i.e., why did Union soldiers commit infractions; what sort were they; did they feel justified in doing so; and what was the Army establishment’s response.

Steven Ramold is an Associate Professor of History at Eastern Michigan University. He received his PhD from the University of Nebraska. He teaches several history-related courses, including Civil War and Reconstruction, History of World War II, and History of American Sports. His Civil War tour course explores Civil War battlefields and historical sites every summer. He is the author of two books: *Slaves, Sailors, Citizens: African-Americans in the Union Navy* (2002) and *Baring the Iron Hand: Discipline in the Union Army* (2009). His is planning to publish a third book next year with the title *Across the Divide: Union Soldiers View the North Home Front*. Steven and his wife, Paula, live in Ypsilanti, MI.

**MRRT would like to thanks Roger Rosentreter, PhD, for his fine presentation, “Three Generals and an Unlucky Regiment: Michigan at Antietam”.** Roger’s colorful presentation covered several Michigan regiments and a look at the careers of three distinguished Michiganders: Orlando B. Wilcox, Israel B. Richardson, and Alpheus S. Williams and their common intersection at Antietam.



**Orlando B. Wilcox** graduated from West Point 1847; served in the Mexican-American War and fought against the Indians on the frontier. He resigned from the Army in 1857 and became a lawyer in Detroit. At the start of the Civil War, Michigan governor Austin Blair appointed Wilcox colonel of the 1st Michigan Volunteer



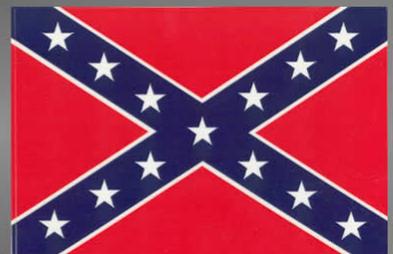
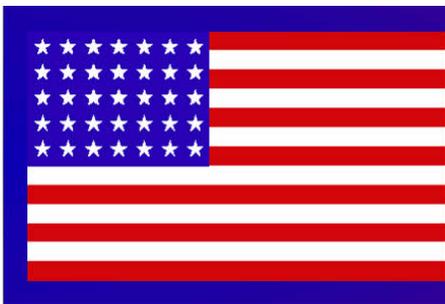
Infantry. It's said that Abraham Lincoln on the arrival of the 1<sup>st</sup> MI to D.C. declared "*Thank God for Michigan.*" He was wounded and captured at First Bull Run and held prisoner for one year, to include time at the infamous Libby Prison. Upon his release and exchange, he had dinner with the Lincoln's and described Abraham as having "*that faraway sad and anxious look.*" He was given command of the Burnside's 1st Division, IX Corps, and led it at Antietam. In 1895 he received a belated Medal of Honor for "most distinguished gallantry" at First Bull Run. After the war Wilcox again went on to serve with the army in the Western Indian campaigns. He retired April 1887 as a brigadier general of the regular army, died in 1907, and is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery.

**Israel B. Richardson**, reportedly a descendant of American Revolutionary War general Israel Putnam, graduated from West Point in the Class of 1841. He saw early action in Florida's Second Seminole War and received two brevets for meritorious service during the Mexican-American War, earning the nickname "*Fighting Dick*". He resigned his commission in 1855 and took-up farming near Pontiac, Michigan. At the start of the Civil War, he reenlisted. Gov Blair, unsure about Richardson's reenlistment, asked Wilcox for a character assessment where he states unequivocally—"*this is your man.*" Richardson fights often in the early battles of the Army of the Potomac. By Antietam, he was commanding a division that fought the Confederate position in the center of the Sunken Road. His men upon gaining control of high ground enfiladed the Confederate defenders in the road. It would become known as the "*Bloody Lane*" for the carnage. Pushing forward, Richardson was directing counter artillery fire when he was struck by a shell fragment. He was carried to the Pry House with wounds not thought to be life threatening. While convalescing, he was visited by Abraham Lincoln during his visit to the battlefield. Unfortunately, Richardson succumbed to infection and died that November. His body was escorted to Detroit where crowds lined the streets on his funeral procession to Oak Hill Cemetery. He was a Major General at the time of his death. Richardson was a popular general with his troops and is quoted as saying "*I won't ask you to go anywhere I won't go myself*".

**Alpheus S. Williams**, unlike his two other fellow generals, he was not a West Point graduate; nor did he see combat action prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. He earned his law degree from Yale in 1831. Prior to Antietam, Williams saw action with the Army of the Potomac, Department of the Shenandoah, and the Army of Virginia. Williams rejoined the Army of the Potomac as commander of the 1st Division of XII Corps. On the way to Antietam, his troops found the "lost dispatch," Special Order 191 that revealed Gen Robert E Lee's campaign plan. During the Battle of Antietam, Williams temporarily assumed command of XII Corps when MG Mansfield was killed. Twice more Williams was to assume corps command (Gettysburg and while assigned to Gen Sherman) but in each case was replaced and returned to division command. After directing counter-artillery fire at Antietam, he is quoted to have said a "*disagreeable customer was soon silenced*". Following Antietam, Williams went on to fight at Gettysburg, in support of the battle for Chattanooga, and joined Gen Sherman in the Atlanta Campaign, the March to the Sea and the Carolinas Campaign. He received a brevet promotion to Major General on January 12, 1865 but ended his service as a Brigadier. Williams died while serving as a congressman for the Michigan's 1st congressional district in December 1878. He is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. Of the three generals, he is the least known in spite of a highly distinguished career. This is attributed to the fact he was not a West Pointer; not a self-promoter, outspoken, and a democrat to boot.

#### **QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Discipline in the Union Army.**

1. What was the most common punishment for Union soldier's offenses/crimes? Why was this punishment a serious matter for the normal private soldier?
2. What crime caused the biggest problem for the Union Army? How large of a problem was this?
3. Which organizations in the Union Army were dedicated to the administration of military justice?
4. What were some of the other punishments (besides monetary) that a soldier might receive?
5. What was alcohol's role in crimes committed by soldiers in the Union Army?



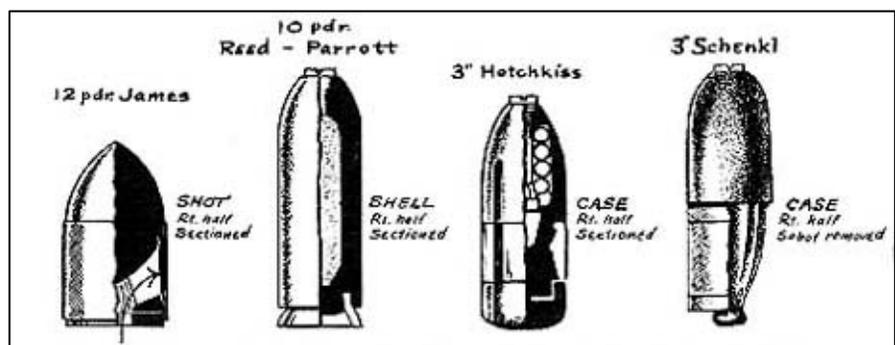
**MRRT Minutes for June 25, 2012:** The **Call to Order** was at 6:30 pm. Approximately 40 persons were present for business meeting. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Hudson Mead, a long time member of the MRRT. **Introduction of Guests & New Members:** Jack Zatirka was a guest at our meeting. **Preservation Report:** The group Franklin Charge has raised the \$500,000 necessary to receive a challenge grant from the CWT in addition to a \$960,000 grant from the state of Tennessee to purchase a strip mall on Columbia Ave. This will help preserve and reconstruct the site of the Carter Cotton Gin in Franklin, TN. **Trip Report:** Our fall trip to First and Second Bull Run (Manassas) in October is set. Cost of the trip is \$90.00 with an additional \$30 (optional) for dinner at City Tavern in Old Town. An information sheet is available with all the details including a tentative itinerary. You must call the Hampton Inn Manassas to make a reservation (703 369-1100) and mention MRR to get the room rate of \$84 per night. Transportation to and from Manassas is up to the individual. A 47 PAX bus has been reserved for the battlefield tour. The conference room at the Hampton Inn is ours from 7-9 pm Friday for a group meeting. Since we have seats available on the bus, the trip has been opened up to other nearby Round Tables. **Items of Interest:** Jerry's book got a fine review in the Civil War News. The monument to the 17<sup>th</sup> MI at South Mountain has been taken down by the Park Service—temporarily we hope. A monument to the 17<sup>th</sup> MI and others in Ypsilanti should be up during July. The monument at Richmond, KY, will be dedicated at 11 am, July 21. Our members are invited to attend. Please contact Joe Epstein ([mrmt1983@gmail.com](mailto:mrmt1983@gmail.com)) or Liz Stringer ([stringerl@aol.com](mailto:stringerl@aol.com)) if you're planning to attend. Liz needs a head count before the event. **Secretary's Report:** The May 21, 2012 report was accepted.

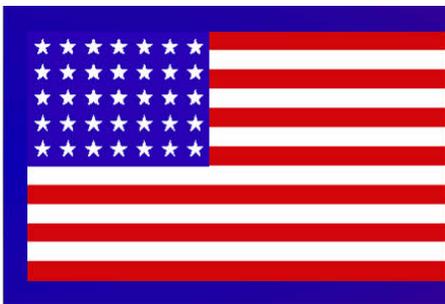
**Civil War Sesquicentennial (July 1862):** **1 July:** Abraham Lincoln (AL) signs into law a 2 tier income tax. McClellan defeats confederate forces at Malvern Hill, concluding the Seven Days campaign. Union casualties are estimated at 16,000; 20,000 for the Confederates. **2 July:** AL signs the Morrill Land Grant Act, a law that contributes to the agricultural development of the West. **4 July:** The union celebrates its 86<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Confederate Col John Hunt Morgan begins a series of raids against Union forces in KY and TN. **7 July:** McClellan dispatches a letter to AL counseling him on the prosecution of the war, suggesting it be waged on armed combatants rather than the civilian population. **10 July:** Gen John Pope issues an edict in the Shenandoah Valley declaring the populace must aid Union forces or face harsh consequences. **11 July:** AL appoints Gen Henry Halleck as General and Chief of the Federal army. **13 July:** Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest defeats Union forces at Murfreesboro, TN. **14 July:** AL unsuccessfully lobbies congress for a law to compensate states that abolish slavery. Congress establishes WV as a state. **17 July:** AL signs the Second Confiscation Act into law. **22 July:** AL presents his Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet. **29 July:** Union officials were unsuccessful in England preventing the Alabama, captained by Raphael Semmes, from departing the port of Liverpool. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.



**Civil War Essentials:** We conclude this month with our look at artillery. Civil War guns used basically four types of ammunition: 1) solid, 2) shell, 3) case and 4) canister.

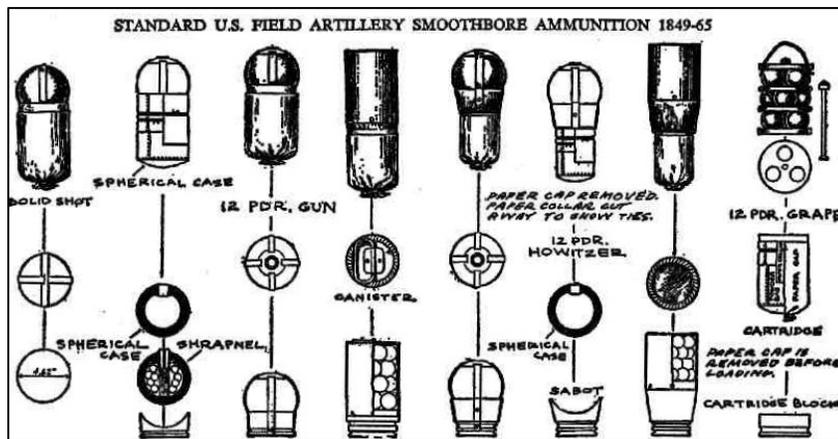
- **Solid shot** was used to batter fortifications, against wagons, buildings, or troops. For a smoothbore, the projectile was a round "cannonball" and for a rifled gun, the projectile had a





cylindrical or spherical shape and was called a “bolt”. Against troops, the smoothbore was more effective as the cannonball would skip across the field inflicting havoc. Despite the effectiveness of solid shot, many artillerymen preferred using explosive types of ordnance. Solid projectiles required greater accuracy and more tube wear than their explosive counterparts.

- **Shells** were hollow projectiles filled with gunpowder and exploded by a fuse to burst into fragments in the midst of enemy infantry or artillery. Shells were effective against troops behind obstacles or earthworks, and were good for destroying wooden buildings by setting them on fire but ineffective against good quality masonry.



- **Case shot** (“spherical case” for smoothbore) was a hollow projectile with thin walls, loaded with lead or iron balls, a bursting charge, and a timed fuse. It was designed as an anti-personnel weapon, bursting high above the enemy and showering them with lethal shrapnel and ball.
- **Canister** was a cylinder filled with balls packed in sawdust. When the gun was fired, the cylinder disintegrated and the balls fanned

out. The effective range was 400 yards and deadly to anyone in its path. Under siege and in close conditions, artillerymen could fire a "double canister" where two containers of balls were fired simultaneously.

### QUIZ Answers:

1. For most minor offenses, monetary fines were the most common punishment. Since Union privates were paid \$13 per month, a monetary fine received their attention.
2. Desertion represented more than 1/3 of punishable violations, more than any other offense. There were more than 400,000 desertions (260,339 enlisted deserters and 161,286 absent draftees) or approximately 1 in 11 Union soldiers.
3. The Provost Martial Corps was established by General McClellan after the chaos resulting from First Bull Run. By 1865, the Provost Guard numbered 6,000 men, 3% of the Union Army. The Judge Advocate General Corps handled all formal courts-martial proceedings.
4. There were a variety of punishments that primarily depended on the severity of the offense. An offender might wear a barrel or stand on a platform wearing a placard describing the offense. For more serious offenses, the soldier might have to walk in a circle carrying heavy logs or wear a knapsack filled with sand or rocks. The most humiliating punishment was to be drummed out of camp. Death was the punishment for capital offenses.
5. Alcohol was the most common item involved with soldier crimes. Theft (15%) and breaches of discipline (28%) were the most common offenses that involved the use of spirits. The soldier would usually get drunk and do something stupid.

Make plans to come-out **Monday, July 23**, and hear **Steven Ramold** present “**Discipline and the Union Army**”. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm, Farmington Public Library. See you there! Also, check our website at [www.farmlib.org/mrrt/](http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/).