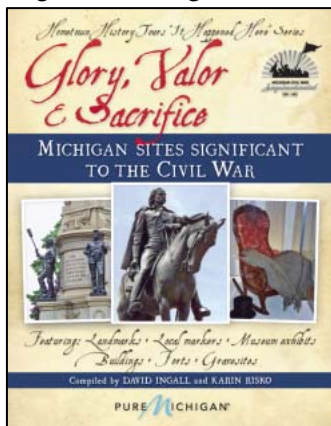




This month’s meeting will be held on Monday, July 22—one week earlier than usual.

On MONDAY, July 22, the MRRT welcomes back David Ingall to speak on “Michigan’s Significant Civil War Sites”. Even though no Civil War battles were fought on Michigan soil, there are numerous reminders of that time-period in Michigan.



Numerous forts, gravesites, markers, monuments, museum exhibits, and period buildings are available to visit. Examples include the Soldiers and Sailors monuments in Muskegon and Detroit, the state’s collection of blood-stained regimental battle flags at the historical museum in Lansing, and historic Fort Wayne in Detroit.

David is a historian, primarily interested in the American Civil War, the Civil War in Michigan, General Custer, and the War of 1812. He is a member of numerous historical associations including the Monroe County Civil War Roundtable. He has spent extensive time researching Monroe County’s role in the Civil War, including the Custer family. He recently co-authored “*Glory, Valor & Sacrifice: Michigan Sites Significant to the Civil War*”. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. David previously spoke to our

group on “*Traveling Civil War Mississippi*” and “*Traveling Civil War Kentucky*”.

On the cusp of the Gettysburg sesquicentennial, the Roundtable would like to thank Roger Rosentreter, PhD, for his particularly timely presentation of “Michigan at Gettysburg”. Roger used ‘*Michigan Day at Gettysburg June 12, 1889*’ to highlight this state’s participation in that pivotal struggle.

Nearly 26 years after that great battle, Michiganders gathered there to pay tribute to the role of Michigan units, its soldiers, and to dedicate Michigan monuments on the Gettysburg battlefield to their memory. Michigan contributed 3,900 men to the Union Army at Gettysburg and incurred losses of approximately 30%.



Roger spoke of notable unit actions, such as 24th Michigan of the Iron Brigade and their deeds on July 1; the 3rd, 4th and 5th Michigan Infantry at the Peach Orchard and Wheatfield on July 2; and the 7th Michigan on July 3 from their location 100 yards from the Copse of Trees. And of course, BG George Custer Brigade’s “*most gallant charge of the war*” on July 3 against General J.E.B. Stuart’s men with Custer yelling “*Come You Wolverines*”.

He also discussed the somewhat more perplexing performance of an otherwise bravely fighting 16th Michigan at Little Round Top. The 16th withstood four rebel assaults yet on holding their ground, some 25 men of the unit along with the unit flag and its commander, Colonel Welch, fell back nearly a mile to the rear.

Roger also spoke about several of our finest Michiganders to include General Henry Baxter (Jonesville) wounded several times as a brigade commander; General Alpheus Williams (Detroit), perhaps Michigan’s greatest general; Henry Hunt

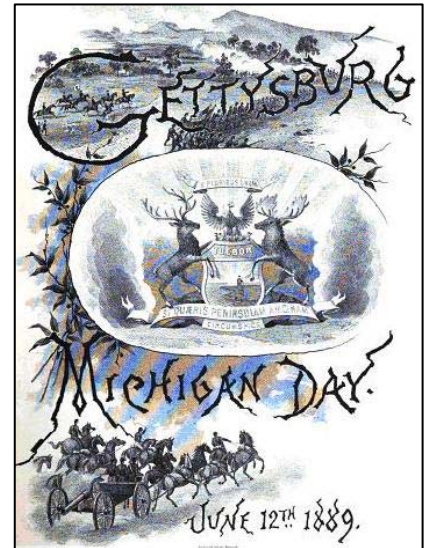


(Detroit), Chief of Artillery in the Army of the Potomac; and Annie Etheridge (Wayne County) who served as a medic/nurse during most of the war and one of only two women to win the Kearny Cross for her work and courage.

Roger ended his talk with a quote from General L.S. Trowbridge’s speech those many years back at Gettysburg: *“Long after we shall have passed away shall these monuments, dumb and speechless though they may be, proclaim the deep and lasting gratitude of a great people to their heroic deeds.”*

The book, *“Michigan Day at Gettysburg June 12, 1889”* is available on the internet at the below URL or alternatively, by simply Googling *“gettysburg june 12, 1889”*. The book has been scanned in its entirety by Google and can be read on the web or downloaded as a PDF or EPUB file.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=4XsvAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA1&dq=gettysburg+june+12,+1889>



QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to Michigan Civil War Sites:

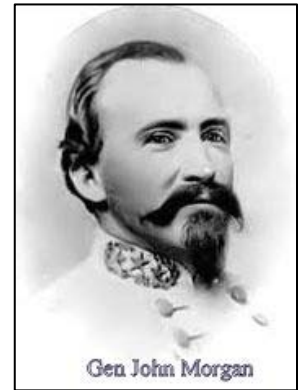
1. Which Michigan Cavalry soldier buried in Detroit’s Woodmere Cemetery developed the first soft drink?
2. Which Confederate general owned land in Michigan through his wife’s family?
3. Name three well-known Union generals who attended the 1872 unveiling of the Michigan Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Detroit?
4. Who is buried in Detroit’s Elmwood Cemetery that has a connection to Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart?
5. Who is depicted on the equestrian statue on Belle Isle?

MRRT Minutes for June 24, 2013: The **Call to Order** was at 6:45. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Mike Yeck, a friend to reenactors and recipient of the Bronze Star in WWII. **Trip Report:** Everyone planning to go on the trip to Charleston must be paid in full by the August meeting. The cost for just dinner Saturday evening is \$35. **Item of Interest:** George Allen is recovering and is hoping to be back at meetings soon. Eight of twelve remaining 1860’s era trains are in Baltimore—it’s said to be a great exhibit and roundhouse. **New Business:** The MSU archives contacted Jim to solicit money to help preserve the thousands of Civil War letters in their possession. It was moved and voted to donate \$100 to the MSU Archive and Historical Collections. **Old Business:** Larry put a six-month ad in the Civil War News about our roundtable. It can then be sustained by members also subscribing the CWN or picked up for a small fee. Don suggested making a YouTube video—there were no volunteers. The **Minutes for May 20, 2013** were approved.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (July 1863): 1 Jul: Day 1 of Gettysburg kicks-off with the initial clash between General Buford’s cavalry and A.P. Hill’s troops. After a desperate day of fighting, the evening finds the Confederates occupying Gettysburg and the Union troops the fish hook including Culp’s Hill, Cemetery Hill and Cemetery Ridge. In Vicksburg, Pemberton’s bottled-up troops increasingly struggle against the Union siege and the squalid conditions within the town. Elsewhere, the offensive thrust of Rosecrans in the Tullahoma vicinity is concluding while Bragg’s southerners move southward towards Chattanooga. **2 Jul:** Day 2 fighting at Gettysburg includes close and determined fighting at the Peach Orchard, Devils Den, Little Round Top and Culp’s Hill. At the end of the day, the Union retains their positions and finds the Confederates aligned along Seminary Ridge. **3 Jul:** Lee attempts one final thrust with 15,000 troops (Pickett’s Charge) against the heart of Meade’s line. Lee’s gamble fails. Elsewhere in Gettysburg, Custer routes a larger contingent of J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry. Back in Vicksburg, Pemberton enters into surrender talks with Grant. Grant’s terms are *“You will be allowed to march out, the officers taking with them their side arms and clothing, and the field staff and cavalry*



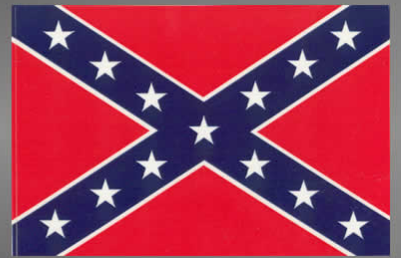
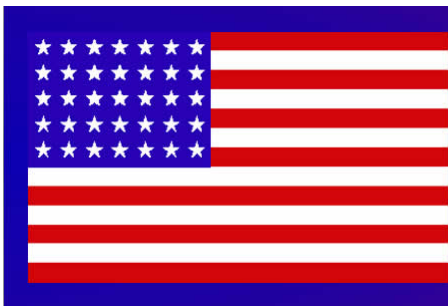
officers one horse each. The rank and file will be allowed all their clothing but no other property.” **4 Jul:** Lee’s Confederate Army of Northern Virginia heads south under rainy conditions, never to return to northern soil. In Vicksburg, Pemberton formally surrenders. **8 Jul:** Following the fall of Vicksburg, the siege of Port Hudson became increasingly untenable for the Confederates and they surrender this day 6,000 troops. One Port Hudson resident notes during the 6-month siege that he and his friends consumed “*all the beef, all the dogs, and all the rats that were obtainable.*” Elsewhere, Confederate **John H. Morgan** and 2,500 men begin a raid on Ohio and Indiana with the hope this action would galvanize Copperhead sentiment. **9 Jul:** CSA Gardner formally surrenders Port Hudson to Nathan Banks. The Mississippi River is now fully under Union control although sniping and guerrilla attacks will continue to hamper transport. **11 Jul:** Union troops are repulsed on an attack of Battery Wagner in Charleston Harbor. In New York, the first draftee names are drawn as authorized by the Union Enrollment Act of 3 March. **12 Jul:** Following the Union’s victory at Gettysburg, Meade’s troops finally begin to make a serious attempt to engage Lee’s army which is still waiting to cross the swollen Potomac. **13 Jul:** In New York, a four day riot breaks-out over the draft and opposition to the Union Enrollment Act. The rioters are predominantly working class Irishmen. Over the course of the four days, the focus is increasingly aimed at blacks. Federal troops fresh from Gettysburg are called-in to quell the riot leading to 1,000 dead and wounded. Lesser riots also occur in other cities and towns. **14 Jul:** Meade presses the attack on Lee’s army only to find his positions at Williamsport abandoned. Lincoln writes in an unsent letter to Meade “*Your golden opportunity is gone, and I am distressed immeasurably because of it.*” **15 Jul:** Distressed over the losses at Gettysburg, Vicksburg and Port Hudson, Jefferson Davis writes “*the clouds are truly dark over us.*” **18 Jul:** A second attack by Union forces on Battery Wagner is repulsed, inflicting particularly heavy losses on the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry. Their commander, Col Shaw, is killed in the attack. The Federals conclude that further frontal attacks are inadvisable and begin a siege. **19 Jul:** In pursuit of Lee’s retreating army, Meade’s troops cross the Potomac at Harper’s Ferry and Berlin. In Ohio, **John Morgan’s** raiding party has been greatly reduced due to skirmishes and desertions. He escapes with 300 men towards Pennsylvania with Union forces in pursuit. **24 Jul:** Meade’s troops enter the Shenandoah Valley only to find Lee once again gone. **26 Jul:** **John Morgan** and the last of his men are captured at New Lisbon, Ohio. His raid has led to not much; the hoped Copperhead rebellion did not occur, and his raiding party was completely routed. He is sent to the Ohio Penitentiary from which he later escapes. **28 Jul:** J.S. Mosby embarks upon harassing attacks on Meade’s army. For information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.



Civil War Essentials—5 Medical Innovations of the Civil War: Concluding our series on Civil War medicine is this extract from an article written by Chip Rowe and published in the December 2011 issue of *Mental Floss Magazine*.

Life-Saving Amputation: The old battlefield technique of trying to save limbs with doses of TLC (aided by wound-cleaning rats and maggots) quickly fell out of favor during the Civil War. The sheer number of injured was too high, and war surgeons quickly discovered that the best way to stave deadly infections was simply to lop off the area—quickly. Amputation saved more lives than any other wartime medical procedure by instantly turning complex injuries into simple ones. Battlefield surgeons eventually took no more than six minutes to get each moaning man on the table, apply a handkerchief soaked in chloroform or ether, and make the deep cut. Union surgeons became the most





skilled limb hackers in history. Even in deplorable conditions, they lost only about 25 percent of their patients—compared to a 75 percent mortality rate among similarly injured civilians at the time. The techniques invented by wartime surgeons—including cutting as far from the heart as possible and never slicing through joints—became the standard.

The Anesthesia Inhaler: The Confederate Army had a tough time securing enough anesthesia because of the Northern blockade. The standard method of soaking a handkerchief with chloroform wasted the liquid as it evaporated. Dr. Julian John Chisolm solved the dilemma by inventing a 2.5-inch inhaler, the first of its type. Chloroform was dripped through a perforated circle on the side onto a sponge in the interior; as the patient inhaled through tubes, the vapors mixed with air. This new method required only one-eighth of an ounce of chloroform, compared to the old 2-ounce dose. So while Union surgeons knocked out their patients 80,000 times during the war, rebels treated nearly as many with a fraction of the supplies.

Closing Chest Wounds: At the onset of the war, a sucking chest wound was almost certainly a death sentence. An assistant surgeon named Benjamin Howard came to realize that it wasn't the wound itself, but the sucking. The negative pressure in the thorax was created by the opening in the chest cavity. The effect often caused the lungs to collapse, leading to suffocation. Howard found that if he closed the wound with metal sutures, followed by alternating layers of lint or linen bandages and a few drops of collodion (a syrupy solution that forms an adhesive film when it dries), he could create an airtight seal. Survival rates quadrupled, and Howard's innovation soon became standard treatment.

Facial Reconstruction: Carleton Burgan of Maryland was in terrible shape. The 20-year-old private had survived pneumonia, but the mercury pills he took as a treatment led to gangrene, which quickly spread from his mouth to his eye and led to the removal of his right cheekbone. He was willing to try anything. In a pioneering series of operations in 1862, a surgeon from City Hospital in New York used dental and facial fixtures to fill in the missing bone until Burgan's face regained its

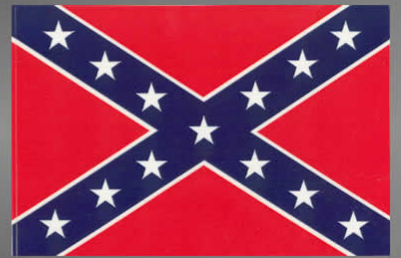
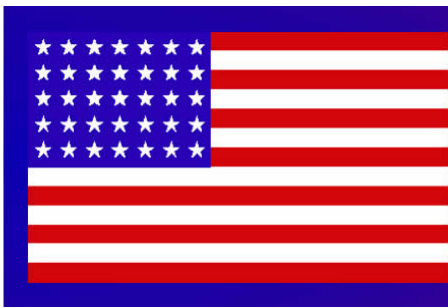
shape. The doctor was Gurdon Buck, now considered the father of modern plastic surgery. During the war, he and other Union surgeons completed 32



revolutionary "plastic operations" on disfigured soldiers. Buck was the first to photograph the progress of his repairs and the first to make gradual changes over several operations. He also pioneered the use of tiny sutures to minimize scarring.

The Ambulance-to-ER System: The Union went into the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, expecting a mere skirmish. The rebels brought a war. Although 1,011 Union soldiers were wounded, empty ambulances led the retreat to Washington, D.C. Most of the civilian drivers at the time were untrained and "of the lowest character," according to Dr. Henry Bowditch, an activist whose son died after lying wounded for hours following a charge. Many were cowards or drunkards, he added.

It took Jonathan Letterman, the medical director of the Army of the Potomac, just six weeks to implement a brilliant system to evacuate and care for the wounded, becoming the model for the ambulance-to-ER system we know today. On September 17, 1862, the Battle of Antietam left 2,108 Union soldiers dead and nearly 10,000 wounded. Letterman



established caravans of 50 ambulances, each with a driver and two stretcher bearers, to ferry the injured to field hospitals. He hired private wagons to carry medical supplies to circumvent enemy damage to railroad lines. He even introduced spring suspensions to ambulances and added a lock box under the driver's seat to make it harder for soldiers to steal protein, bedsacks, and morphine reserved for the wounded.

QUIZ Answers:

1. James Vernor - Ginger Ale
2. General James Longstreet
3. Generals Ambrose Burnside, George Custer ('Michigan's hero) and Phillip Sheridan
4. Union Major General Phillip St. George Cooke (Stuart's father-in-law)
5. Major General Alpheus Williams of Detroit

Monday, July 22, come out to hear David Ingall present **"Michigan's Significant Civil War Sites"**. Coffee and cookies will be available at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin promptly at 6:45 pm, Farmington Public Library, 23500 Liberty St. Farmington, MI 48335. Also, check out our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.