

**Our July meeting will be TWO weeks earlier than normal, on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library.** We will enjoy the return of our world famous AUCTION! Please bring your Civil War related items for us to bid on! Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrirt>

Our trip to Shiloh and Corinth on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> is FULL with a four person waiting list (July 3<sup>rd</sup>)! You can follow the tour bus in your vehicle if you want to. The tour cost is \$120 per person. The tour cost includes the guide, bus rental and driver for the tour, Saturday picnic lunch, and a battle map booklet. Additionally, the Saturday night banquet at Hagy's Catfish Hotel Restaurant in Shiloh costs \$35.

Please write your checks to our Treasurer, Jeanie Graham (the bank does not like checks made out to the Roundtable). You can write a check for \$155 to cover both the tour and dinner. If you are planning to go just on the tour, please write a check for \$120, or if you are just going to the Saturday banquet, the check will be for \$35. **PAYMENT IS REQUIRED BY THE AUGUST 2017 MEETING TO HOLD YOUR SEAT. AFTER THE AUGUST MEETING NON-PAID SEATS WILL BE OPEN TO THE WAITING LIST.**

Jeanie's mailing address is: 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326

The hotel is the Hampton Inn Pickwick Dam at Shiloh Falls –90 Old South Road, Counce, TN. Call (731)-689-3031 to book a room and request the CWR block rate (available until Oct. 6). The rate is \$115/night + tax for a king room or a double bed.

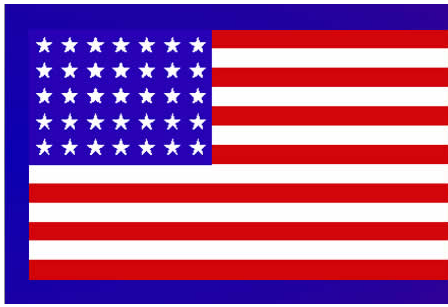
The tour is The Battle of Shiloh – Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and Walking Tour of Corinth's Historical District on Sunday, October 22. A Friday night, October 20<sup>th</sup> preview will be held at the Hampton Inn at 7:30 pm. Call Linda (586.588.2712) or Mollie (313.530.8516) or Jeanie (248.225.7596) if you have any questions or need more information.

**Please bring your Civil War related items for our AUCTION.** Books, magazines, and battle relics are welcome. The auction will help us with our various expenses, including room rental and battlefield preservation. This will be a fun evening for all of us as we add to our Civil War collections!

Ken Baumann displayed his CA. 1861 Ellsworth Rifle at Greenfield Village's Salute to America over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend!



The Michigan Regimental RoundTable wishes to express its appreciation for Dr. Roger Rosentreter's enlightening discussion of Claude, Sophia & the Eighth Michigan Go to War. The 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry was formed in Grand Rapids of militia units from 10 different towns in September, 1861. William Fenton (after which Fenton, Michigan is named) from Flint was its first commander. He had had a major political career in Michigan prior to the war. The regiment quickly moved to Ft. Wayne, Detroit then went on through Baltimore to Washington where it drilled briefly at Camp Cameron (now Meridian Park). **Next it was sent to Annapolis to join the Amphibious Corp under Gen. Thomas Sherman being assembled for an attack**



**on Port Royal, South Carolina.** The 8<sup>th</sup>, the only western unit in the corps, was brigaded with the 79<sup>th</sup> New York Highlanders, an experienced if unruly regiment.

They boarded the USS *Vanderbilt*, formerly the Commodore's yacht, for the trip down the coast. This proved to be stormy and uncomfortable. **They were fortunate to be spectators only at the attack on the Confederate forts which the Navy was able to defeat without the need for a land assault.** They were then tasked with rebuilding fortifications to turn Port Royal into a secure naval base for the blockading fleet. **Skirmishes inland resulted in the first casualties for the regiment.** During these forays, the 8<sup>th</sup> indulged in some "foraging" that looked like looting and left some soldiers with misgivings.

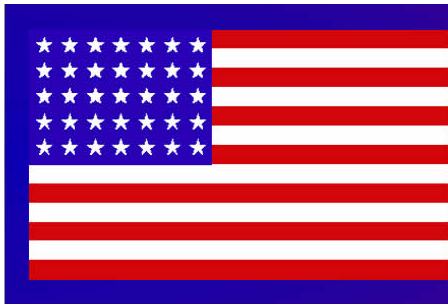
Gen. David Hunter replaced Sherman and plans were made regarding an advance on Charleston but Henry Benham, the new brigadier, exceeded his orders and landed on James Island. His attempt to attack Secessionville in June 1862 turned into a disaster and **the 8<sup>th</sup> suffered heavy losses trying to take Fort Lamar which barred the way to the town.** Hunter then evacuated the island and sent Benham packing.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> next moved to the Virginia Theater and participated in several major battles including Antietam where its losses were again high.** The regiment was next transferred to Kentucky and from there to Vicksburg. It arrived in June 1863 in time to participate in Grant's successful siege of the city. It subsequently took part in Burnside's defense of Knoxville, Tennessee against Longstreet's Confederate force in the fall of 1863. Finally, it rejoined the Army of the Potomac for the decisive Overland Campaign of 1864/5 losing heavily in these battles. The 8<sup>th</sup> took part in the final assault on Petersburg but was not included in the Union force that pursued Lee to Appomattox. **The many moves between Union armies and between different areas in the conflict had earned the 8<sup>th</sup> the title of the wandering regiment.**

**John Claude Buchanan, a dentist in pre-war Michigan joined the 8<sup>th</sup> when it was formed and ended the war as a Lt. Colonel. His wife, Sophia, was born in Sault St. Marie. She stayed home with the family and the two exchanged many wartime letters which have survived.** She wrote of her loneliness and her fears for the safety of her husband (whom she called by his middle name). She wondered at the apparent lack of competence of the early Union leaders. She helped in patriotic efforts on the home front. Sophia sent so many personal items to Claude over time that he finally had to ask her to stop. She suggested that a visit to see him would be a good idea; he thought otherwise so she stayed at home. **Buchanan began the war supporting the restoration of the Union but he had no strong feelings about slavery. This changed when he experienced the reality of slavery first hand.** He then declared in a letter that "slavery is a profanity". Initially skeptical about the policy of employing black soldiers, he changed his mind after seeing them in action.

**One of the fortunate ones, Claude was able to resign his commission and return to Sophia, his family, and dentistry at war's end.**

**MRRT Minutes for June 26, 2017: Call to Order** 6:40 pm, about 25 present for business meeting **Pledge** Dedicated to the 7 sailors killed on the USS Fitzgerald, June 17<sup>th</sup>, in a collision with a container ship **Introduction of Guests and New Members** None **Secretary's Report** Accepted **Preservation** The CELCO Power Co. of Louisiana has donated 14.5 acres that were part of the Battle of Mansfield. The Cynthia Battlefield Foundation (Kentucky) has been formed to preserve, interpret, and increase awareness of the two battles that took place there in 1862 and 1864. Both battles involved General John Hunt Morgan's raiders fighting Union home guards. There is a 30% chance that the government will take over Fort Wayne once the new international bridge goes up. It will probably be connected to the 1812 River Raisin Battlefield site. Some of the buildings will not be preserved. **Newsletters** No **Website** No **Trip Report** Discussed on Page 1 of the newsletter. **Program** Our July meeting will be two weeks early on July 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have an auction to raise funds for our activities. **Items of Interest** The mayor of St. Louis, Missouri said that the Confederate monuments will be coming down soon. Some people are protesting the \$165,000 cost of taking them down. George took



exception to the assertion that free blacks captured by the Confederates were sent South back to slavery. He pointed out that the Frassanito book said that some were released instead. Larry has acquired 50 copies of North South Trader and would like to find a home for them. They may appear at the July auction. The National Conference of Civil War Roundtables is Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Centreville, Virginia Regional Library. The \$30 fee includes lunch. Optional tours are available. The website is [pscwr.org/congress](http://pscwr.org/congress). The main purpose of the Conference is to explore strategies to attract new members, raise money, and run programs. **New Business None Old Business None**

**Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to the Battle of Shiloh.**

1. What was the strategic importance of Corinth, Mississippi?
2. What were General Albert Sidney Johnston's qualifications to be Confederate Western commander?
3. Why didn't General Grant establish entrenchments at Pittsburgh Landing?
4. What was General Grant's strategy in the days leading up to the battle?
5. How did it take the Confederate Army to march from Corinth to Pittsburgh Landing? What was the result of the delay?

**Civil War Essentials - Pardons & Oaths**

**Even before the end of the Civil War, it was clear to loyal people of both the north and south that persons guilty of the treason of taking up arms against the U.S. government would somehow have to be forgiven their actions and restored as citizens of the country.** Simply winning the war militarily would not recombine the two sides into a cohesive whole. After the war, the peoples of the North and South would have to deal with each other as equals.

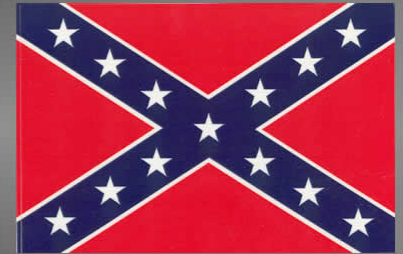
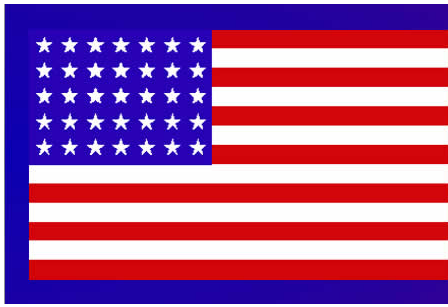
**The U. S. Constitution granted the President the power to grant reprieves and pardons.** In December, 1863, Lincoln issued a proclamation offering full pardons including protecting property rights (except slaves) to all those who had engaged in or aided in the Rebellion. Those accepting the pardon had to take an oath that they would from then on support the Constitution, cease any further participation in the Rebellion, and accept the Congressional acts and Presidential proclamations regarding slavery. Several additional general pardons (with conditions and exceptions) were issued in the next five years. Finally, in December, 1868, President Johnson granted full and unconditional pardons to all who had participated in the Rebellion without the requirement for an oath. He previously had granted special pardons to a large number of named individuals.

**Despite the need for reconciliation, many who had remained loyal distrusted those southerners who were now taking the oath and were assuming (or reassuming) important positions in society.** These loyal people questioned whether those returning ex-Confederates who had sworn to uphold the Constitution prior to the war had the moral standards not to violate this oath a second time. **Some states and the Federal Government legislated "test" oaths which required that the individual swear that they had not participated in or supported the Rebellion before they could be eligible for their position.**

**The intent of the test oath statutes were clearly in conflict with the various pardons issued during and after the war.** This conflict generated legal challenges that resulted in U. S. Supreme Court rulings, including the following two which had similarities.

***The Cummings Case***

As mentioned in Rufus Barton's interesting talk on the border war last September, **the Unionist victors in Missouri created an 1865 state constitution which clearly punished anyone who had supported the Confederacy.** Anyone seeking offices "of trust or honor", including clergy, had to swear that they had not participated in the Rebellion in anyway. Father John Cummings, Roman Catholic priest, resisted the requirement to take the oath and was arrested when he continued to serve in his church. Found guilty in Missouri courts, he appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.



### *The Garland Case*

A. Garland of Little Rock, Arkansas, was an attorney who had been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court just before the war started. He had to swear to uphold the Constitution as one of the conditions to be allowed to argue before the high court. Arkansas seceded in 1861 and joined the Confederacy. Garland became a Confederate congressman, then a senator. **In July, 1862, the U. S. Congress passed a law requiring all persons seeking U. S. government office to attest to their past and present loyalty – that is, a test oath. In early 1865, this requirement was extended to all practicing before the Supreme Court.** In July, 1865, President Johnson granted Garland a personal full pardon. Because he could not truthfully take the required test oath, he realized he could not practice before the Court. He petitioned the Court asking to be admitted to the bar without taking the oath.

The cases were argued in March, 1866. **Both were decided in favor of the plaintiffs by narrow 5-4 margins.** Although the legal arguments of the opinions were complex and prolix, the main points made by the Court majority were that a pardon could not be defeated or infringed by legislative action and that these test oath laws were a form of *ex post facto* (after the fact) punishment for deeds committed in the past. [Mr. Garland, who assisted in preparing the arguments for his case, subsequently held a number of high offices including U. S. Attorney General under President Grover Cleveland.] **The bitterness between the two sides would of course continue, but the Federal courts helped defend the legal rights of the former rebels in the newly reunited country.**

### **Quiz Answers:**

1. Corinth, Mississippi was where the Mobile & Ohio Railroad – linking Mobile, Alabama to the Ohio River, intersected with the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. The 2<sup>nd</sup> railroad connected Memphis to Richmond, VA.
2. General Albert S. Johnston was very experienced, having served in five different wars for three nations over a period of 34 years of military service. President Davis said, “*If Johnston is not a general, then we have no general*”.
3. General Grant said, “*The troops with me, officers and men, needed discipline and drill more than they needed experience with the pick, shovel and axe....*”
4. General Grant wanted to avoid any major battles until the union with General Buell’s Army of the Ohio was complete. As a result, the Union Army did not send out any scouts or regular patrols to determine what the Confederates were doing. No vedettes were in place to provide an early attack warning.
5. The Confederate Army needed three days to march the 23 miles to Pittsburg Landing. The major consequences were that Buell’s Army was a lot closer to Pittsburg Landing when the Confederate attack began. Also, the Confederates had eaten almost all of their 3 days of rations.

