



On Wednesday, April 12, 1865, the defeated Army of Northern Virginia marched through the village of Appomattox Court House to surrender its arms to the Army of the Potomac. The Federal high command had ordered *“the ceremony to be as simple as possible, and that nothing should be done to humiliate the manhood of the Southern soldiers.”* Beginning at 6:00 A.M., nearly 25,000 Rebels proudly advanced through the lines of watchful bluecoats they had recently fought. The procession lasted about ten hours without incident. *“We suffered no insult in any way from any of our enemies,”* recalled one Rebel veteran. *“No other army in the world would have been so considerate of a foe that it had taken so long, so much privation, so much sacrifice of human life, to overwhelm.”* Another Confederate complimented the victorious Yankees, who *“acted with so much consideration, and like good soldiers, and good Americans can only act, did not show their exultation they must have felt.”* A Union general noted *“an awed stillness, and breath holding, as if it were the passing of the dead.”*

The last Confederate unit proceeded toward the famous Triangle to stack its arms at 4:00 P.M. As it passed between the Federal soldiers, a Southern officer later remembered that *“someone in the blue line broke the silence and called for three cheers for the last brigade to surrender....but for us this soldierly generosity was more than we could bear. Many of the grizzled veterans wept like women, and my own eyes were as blind as my voice was dumb.”*

Nearly two weeks earlier, Robert E. Lee’s army had suffered a loss at the Battle of Five Forks. This defeat crumpled the Confederate right wing, forcing Lee to order the evacuation of the defensive lines protecting the key Virginia cities of Richmond and Petersburg. Over the next eight days, Lee’s weakened forces sought to avoid a full-scale confrontation with the powerful armies under the command of Ulysses S. Grant. Lee headed his forces west in an effort to push around Grant’s flank, hoping to join forces with Joe Johnston’s army in North Carolina. After a week of severe struggle, Lee recognized that his efforts had failed, resulting in the surrender at Appomattox on April 9.

This month, guest speaker, **Tom Nanzig** will present *“The Road to Appomattox,”* a then-and-now slide tour of the last week of the war in the Eastern Theater. Tom will use period photographs, prints, and sketches as well as photos he has taken at many of the sites along the route. Although born in Grand Rapids, Tom lived in Farmville, Virginia twenty years ago. While there he was asked to develop a week-long Elderhostel class concerning the Appomattox Campaign for Longwood College. Tom is a co-founder and current president of the Ann Arbor CWRT. He is also the author of the regimental history of the 3rd Virginia Cavalry and the recently published history of the 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, *The Badax Tigers*.

So circle the date—**MONDAY, AUGUST 26**—for what promises to be an exceptional evening.

* * * * *

If you were not in attendance at last month’s meeting, you missed a dynamic presentation by **Larry Jackson**. Larry explained how he acquired a simple Civil War photograph of two Michigan cavalymen that set him off on *“The Journey,”* to identify them and piece their stories together. His quest to finish their stories lasted nearly two years and led him to a variety of places in the state of Michigan as well as other parts of the country. Larry’s passion for his endeavor was clearly evident to the audience. A great talk.....

* * * * *

FALL FIELD TRIP: Almost everyone who signed up for the Shiloh Trip submitted a \$45.00 check to Trip Chairman Jerry Maxwell. **IF YOU DID NOT, PLEASE DO SO THIS MONTH.** Also, another check for \$42.00 (covering 2 lunches and a Saturday night dinner) is due at this month’s meeting.

**QUIZ: All questions pertain to the surrender at Appomattox Court House**

1. Which officer did Robert E. Lee take with him into the surrender meeting at the McLean House? And, which Confederate orderly went along to hold their horses as the proceedings transpired?
2. Which two Federal officers led Lee and his companions to the village of Appomattox Court House for the surrender?
3. What Indian, serving as Grant's secretary, transcribed the official copies of the surrender document, and to which tribe did he belong?
4. Which general from each side was given the honor of leading their respective armies during the surrender of Confederate weaponry on April 12?
5. What object was called the "Silent Witness" of the treaty proceedings? And, what happened to it after the proceedings ended?
6. Which 2 of these Federal generals were not at the treaty proceedings? A) Seth Williams B) Phil Sheridan C) Rufus Ingalls D) John Rawlins E) Horatio Wright F) George Meade G) Edward O.C. Ord
7. Which 2 of the following are not true concerning Lee and Grant at the treaty proceedings? A) shook hands B) Lee surrendered his sword C) spoke of the Mexican War D) Grant smoked a cigar E) Grant wore a new uniform F) Grant introduced the Union officers in the room to Lee
8. Which newspaper correspondent, Grant's favorite, claims to have been in the surrender room? And, which notable 21-year-old staff officer of Grant's watched the proceedings from the porch of the McLean House?
9. During the treaty proceedings, Lee sat at a nearly-square marble-topped table; Grant sat at an oval wooden table with spindle legs. Where are these historic tables today?
10. Which of Lee's staff officers respectfully declined Lee's request to attend the treaty proceedings, and on what feeble grounds did he refuse?

* * * * *

Up until its time the Battle of Shiloh was the bloodiest struggle ever fought on the North American continent. In merely two days of fighting losses staggered statisticians. In killed, wounded, and missing, the Federals totaled 13,047. Confederate losses stood at 10,694. Thus, the two sides lost 23,741 men. Putting these numbers into perspective, the total American casualties in three of the nation's previous wars—the American Revolution (8 years) 10,623; the War of 1812 (3 years) 6765; and the Mexican War (2 years) 5885—were 23,273.

The following anecdotes are from the Battle of Shiloh.....

Confederate Captain Benjamin Vickers of Memphis was no doubt thinking much of the time about his fiancée, Sallie Houston, as he marched to the defense of the South at the Battle of Shiloh. There in the midst of one of the many Rebel charges he suffered a mortal wound. Sallie, even though she knew he was about to die, insisted upon their marriage, which was solemnized ten days after the battle and a few days before his death.

With the rapid concentration of so many men at Pittsburg Landing it was inevitable that accidents would occur, some of them fatal. One soldier in the Fourteenth Iowa who had just come up the Tennessee River on the steamer, **Autocrat**, watched in horror as a fellow soldier on the **Hiawatha** fell into the water and drowned before anyone could save him. He was not the only one to suffer such a fate, for several drownings have been recorded. Major General Charles F. Smith lost his balance and fell while getting into a rowboat. His shin was badly skinned. Infection set in, and he died in the Cherry Mansion on April 25, 1862, one day after his fifty-fifth birthday.



One Confederate regiment, unable to withstand the withering Union fire, broke rank and, as it raced headlong for the rear, ran directly through the ranks of a regiment advancing behind it, even trampling that command's color-bearer in the mud. Worse yet, the men of the elite Orleans Guard Battalion, were advancing into the battle wearing their dress uniforms—which, unfortunately, were colored blue. The Confederate regiment they were supporting saw the blue uniforms coming and opened fire on the Orleans Guard. The Louisianans, led by their Creole Major Leon Querouze, immediately began returning the fire. When a distraught staff officer came riding up frantically screaming, "*Cease fire!*" and explaining that they were shooting fellow Confederates, the major replied: "*I know it! But dammit, sir, we fire on anybody who fires on us!*"

Thomas Hains of Company E of the Eleventh Iowa felt a minie ball pass through the creased crown of his hat. Upon discovering the four holes made by the missile, he placed the hat upon his ramrod and hoisted it in the air, shouting to the rest of his company to see what a close call he had survived. Almost at the same instant a shell burst immediately above his head and killed him instantly.

In the partial shelter of a ravine a regimental surgeon was attempting to minister to the wounded, cutting out bullets and dispensing morphine to the most severely injured. Suddenly, what he described as "*a cyclone of musketry, shot and shells*" swept the ravine, tearing the intestines out of a man who was already suffering from a gunshot wound in the leg. Blood and flesh spattered everywhere. An injured soldier, whose wound the surgeon had just dressed, was still partially elevated, resting on one arm, and witnessed the ghastly scene. "*This is a hell of a place for a hospital,*" he muttered.

In many cases relatives came to claim the bodies of their dead kinfolk. Among these was Samuel Stokes Rembert III, who drove a team of horses and a wagon from his farm in Shelby County, north of Memphis, in search of his eldest son, Andrew. Somehow finding the boy's body, Samuel brought it back home and buried it on the family property. Years later Andrew's brother, Sam, erected a monument over the gravesite. The monument, still a striking sight today, is in the form of a kneeling angel and stands nearly 12 feet in height. On the stone is a bitter epitaph: "*Three Generations of Remberts. To my dear parents and loving sisters and my noble, gentle, brilliant and brave brother, killed for defending home against the most envious lot of cut throats that ever cursed the face of the earth.*"

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Colonel Charles Marshall and Sergeant George W. Tucker [some sources say Private Joshua O. Johns]
2. General Orville Babcock and his orderly, Captain William M. Dunn
3. Ely Samuel Parker and the Seneca Tribe
4. Joshua L. Chamberlain and John Brown Gordon
5. A rag doll belonging to Lula McLean (Wilmer's daughter) and the soldiers took it outside and played catch with it [some sources say Gen. E.O.C. Ord took it as a souvenir].
6. E) Horatio Wright and F) George Meade
7. B) Lee surrendered his sword and E) Grant wore a new uniform
8. Sylvanus Cadwallader and Robert Todd Lincoln
9. Lee's: in the Chicago Historical Society Museum and Grant's: in the Smithsonian Institute
10. Walter H. Taylor and he said he'd already ridden through the Federal lines twice that same morning

Don't forget to circle the date for this month's meeting—**MONDAY, AUGUST 26**—for **Tom Nanzig's** program, "*The Road to Appomattox.*" It's our usual meeting place: the Farmington Public Library at Grand River and Farmington Road. Everything starts at 7:30 P.M. See you there..... And try out our website at: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.