



On Thursday, January 10, 1861, the Florida State Convention in Tallahassee passed an Ordinance of Secession by a vote of 62-7, thus becoming the third state to leave the Union. That night in Tallahassee a large torchlight parade celebrated the event. Secession had been on the minds of most Floridians for some time. Governor Madison Starke Perry had urged reorganization and rearming of the state militia following John Brown's October, 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry. At the same time he called for an "*external separation from those whose wickedness and fanaticism forbid us longer to live with them in peace and safety.*" He later warned Floridians to prepare for the "*emergency of the approaching [1860] Presidential election,*" and announced Florida's readiness to "*wheel into line with the gallant Palmetto State, or any other Cotton State...*"

Of the eleven Confederate states Florida's population was the smallest, showing 140,424 in the 1860 Census. Of this number 77,747 were white, 61,745 black with 932 Free Negroes. The state would furnish 21 military organizations—14,000 to 15,000 men—to the Confederacy. Over 1300 would be killed or died of wounds, and 1100 more died of disease. About 1200 white Floridians and almost as many blacks served in Federal armies.

The 1500-mile Florida coastline would prove problematic for both sides: the North in trying to blockade it, the South in its attempt to defend it. Cattle and salt were two of Florida's primary substances for the Confederacy. A Union officer boasted that the destruction of some saltworks near Pensacola during a Federal raid "*hurt the South more than would have the loss of Charleston.*" And the demolition of saltworks on Florida's St. Joseph's Bay was hailed by the New York *Herald* as "*a greater blow than capturing 20,000 troops.*"

Governor Perry's successor, John Milton, worked tirelessly to help his state during the war. An unbending advocate of states rights, he labeled secession, "*the most glorious event in the history of Florida.*" When he finally gave up hope for Confederate victory, Governor Milton committed suicide in Marianna, Florida on April 1, 1865. His beloved state would be readmitted to the Union in June of 1868.

On **MONDAY, AUGUST 31**, the Michigan Regimental welcomes guest speaker, **Paul Taylor**, for his presentation, "**Discovering the Civil War in Florida.**" (The title is taken from Paul's latest book on the Civil War.) The talk will begin with an overview of the political, military and geographic realities in Florida at the beginning of the war. Paul will then proceed in a year-by-year fashion to discuss the where, when, and why of the military actions that occurred in Florida.

Paul is an insurance professional and Civil War historian who is the author of four books on the Civil War, including, "*Give My Love to All Our Folks*": *Civil War and Post-War Letters of Clinton DeWitt Staring and Charles E. Staring*; *Glory Was Not Their Companion: The Twenty-Sixth New York Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War*; *He Hath Loosed the Fateful Lightning: The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly) September 1, 1862*, and his latest endeavor, *Discovering the Civil War in Florida: A Reader and Guide.*

Make certain you mark your calendar for a most unusual presentation....

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Our thanks to last month's speaker, **Richard Cahow**, for his fine program: "*Letters of Sam Hodgeman, 7th Michigan Infantry.*" Richard's program received outstanding accolades from many who attended.

The **50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** will once again be in session an hour before the regular meeting commences at 6:30 P.M.



FALL FIELD TRIP: Presently 48 people have signed up and paid the bus expenses for our October 17-18 excursion to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. [These checks will be turned in to Carroll Tietz at this meeting.] Because some folks earlier dropped out, we have room on the bus for others. You are strongly encouraged to sign up, or if you've already done so, to bring along a friend who might be interested in having a great time cavorting around two of the most important battlefield areas in the country. We haven't been to the Fredericksburg/Chancellorsville battle sites as a group since 1990, and this time we will be led around by THE authority, Frank O'Reilly. It doesn't get much better than this, so, if you haven't signed up, you might want to rethink your decision.

Included in the newsletters of those who've signed up are the Dinner Choices (and prices) for Saturday night. Please check your dinner preference, sign your name, and give this sheet, along with a check (made out to either Jerry Maxwell or Carroll Tietz) to Jerry at this month's meeting.

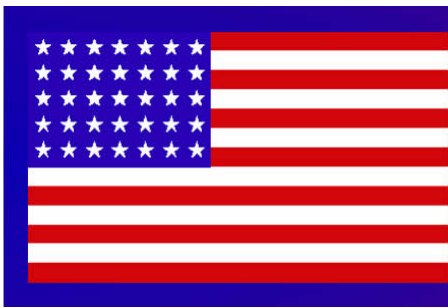
QUIZ: All questions pertain to Florida during the Civil War.....

1. Which two states seceded before Florida?
2. What was the only major battle fought in the state of Florida on 20 February 1864? And, what was another name for this battle?
3. At this battle which Federal general's division of the X Corps landed at Jacksonville and which Confederate general opposed him, forcing the Federals to withdraw with 203 killed, 1152 wounded, and 506 missing?
4. Which Confederate vessel, secretly built in England, was the first cruiser constructed abroad for the Rebels and went on to capture 37 Union ships? And, what was the original name for this ship and who was its first commander?
5. Which 3 Federal generals were born in Florida?
6. Which 2 Confederate generals were born in Florida?
7. At which fortress at which location were the four Lincoln conspirators who weren't executed taken?
8. Name the conspirator who died there of yellow fever in 1867. And, name the other 3 who were eventually pardoned by President Andrew Johnson.
9. Which 2 Federal generals are buried in Florida?
10. Which 9 Confederate generals are buried in the state?

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Few generals in the Civil War were afflicted with more ailments and injuries than Federal Cavalryman William Woods Averell. Born in Cameron, New York on November 5, 1832, Averell graduated from West Point in 1855 and then served on the frontier for the next six years. On October 9, 1857, while chasing a wounded deer across the Arkansas River, his horse turned a half somersault while falling into a deep hole. Averell was carried under the water and kicked in the head by one of the horse's hooves. A sergeant rescued him from drowning. A year later, on October 8, 1858, Averell was shot through the middle of his left thigh by a Navajo Indian. The bullet passed through the leg carrying fragments of clothing into the wound. Both the entrance and exit wounds measured nearly two inches in diameter. The wounds were dressed by candlelight but for hours the bleeding could not be stopped. After three weeks he was able to get around on crutches.

On December 7, Averell fell from his crutches and landed on his injured leg. He sustained a compound fracture of the left femur. Strapped to a bed, he was not allowed to turn or move for ten days. During that time the building caught on fire, and both he and the bed had to be dragged to safety. In two months he was able to sit up. On February 8 he was placed in an ambulance drawn by four mules on a 180-mile trek to Albuquerque. A sack made of buffalo hide protected him when the temperature dropped to 20 degrees below zero.



In April of 1861 Averell presented himself ready for Civil War duty. By September of 1862 he was appointed to the rank of brigadier general. That same month he contracted malarial fever. His sister came to nurse him and reported him as weak and “*out of his mind.*” Soon bilious diarrhea set in, and she requested that their father send herbs, including red raspberry leaves, for relief. Averell later reported for duty but was so debilitated that his surgeon would not even let him read dispatches. Finally recovering sufficiently, he returned to duty.

On May 10, 1864, near Wythesville, Virginia, Averell received a glancing wound on the forehead from a musket ball. Within four months he again suffered from dysentery and malaria. He resigned from the army in May of 1865. His left leg was permanently shortened from his earlier wound, and he suffered neuralgic attacks of his scalp due to his old head wound.

Averell’s post-war career proved more positive than his Civil War career. Appointed U.S. Consul General of Canada from 1866-1869, he then became president of a large manufacturing company. A prominent inventor in several industrial fields (steel, asphalt, paving, electrical power), he acquired considerable wealth. William Woods Averell died at age 67 on February 3, 1900, at Bath, New York, and was buried there.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. South Carolina (20 December 1860) and Mississippi (9 January 1861)
2. Olustee and Ocean Pond
3. Truman Seymour and Joseph Finegan
4. *C.S.S. Florida* and *Oreto* (commanded by John N. Maffitt)
5. Edmund Jackson Davis (St. Augustine), John Bailie McIntosh (Fort Brooke), and Louis Douglass Watkins (Tallahassee)
6. James McQueen McIntosh (Fort Brooke and killed at Elkhorn Tavern on 7 March 1862) and Edmund Kirby Smith (St. Augustine)
7. Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas off Key West
8. Michael O’Laughlin and Ed Spangler, Samuel Arnold, Samuel Mudd
9. Joseph Alexander Cooper (Orange Park, Magnolia Cemetery) and Martin Davis Hardin (St. Augustine, National Cemetery)
10. Theodore W. Brevard (Tallahassee, Episcopal Cemetery), Robert Bullock (Ocala, Evergreen Cemetery), Joseph Finegan (Jacksonville, Old City Cemetery), Jesse Johnson Finley (Gainesville, “Old Cemetery”), Evander McIver Law (Bartow, Oakhill Cemetery), William W. Loring (St. Augustine, Loring Park), and Samuel Gibbs French, Edward Aylesworth Perry, William Miller (all three at Pensacola, St. John’s Cemetery)

Make sure you’ve circled the date for this month’s meeting—**MONDAY, AUGUST 31**—for **Paul Taylor’s** program, “*Discovering the Civil War in Florida.*” The meeting will begin 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/mrrt/>.