

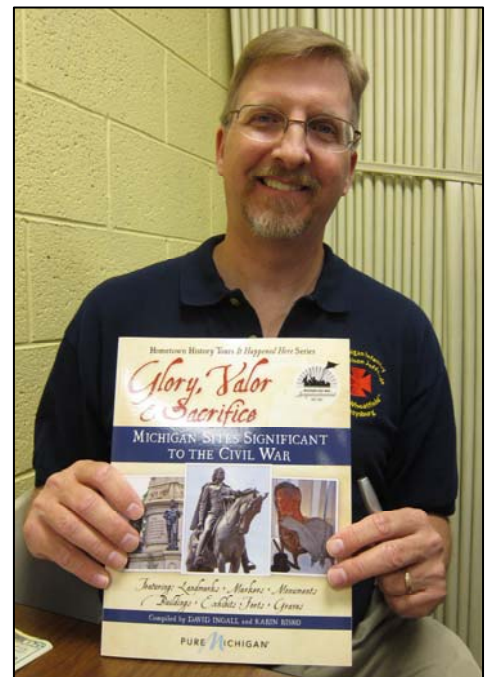


On **MONDAY, August 26**, the MRRT brings back the ever-popular **Show and Tell!!** This is your chance to bring-in and tell us about your Civil War relic(s). Another opportunity is for you to tell us about an ancestor, North or South, that you’ve been researching; or you can speak about how a favorite Civil War book created a life-long hobby. Whatever your Civil War story, we look forward to hearing from you.

The Roundtable would like to thank **David Ingall** for his entertaining and informative presentation of **“Michigan’s Significant Civil War Sites”**.

For a state where not one Civil War battle was fought, Michigan played a prominent role and the footprint of that can be seen in the many monuments, artifacts and cemeteries scattered across the state. David took us on a brief tour of some of the more significant sites and seeded his comments with many delightful anecdote of Michigan soldiers and their experiences in that costly war.

Dave provided us with his Top 10 lists of significant Civil War sites (*perhaps your rankings might differ?*). The **‘Best Monument’** goes to the Muskegon Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Hackley Park, Muskegon. This imposing 80’ monument commands center stage at Hackley Park and is flanked on its four corners by statues of Lincoln, Grant, Farragut and Sherman. The **‘Best Equestrian Statue’** goes to the Custer Equestrian Statue on the corner of Elm and Monroe Streets, Monroe. The unveiling on June 4, 1910, was attended by President Taft and Custer’s widow, Elizabeth Bacon Custer. The **‘Best Michigan Cemetery’** for Civil War era grave sites goes to Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. There are over 600 men who served the Union buried there to include 28 generals, 3 Medal of Honor winners, and other prominent



figures of that time to include Zachariah Chandler. The final category for Best **‘Civil War Destination’** goes to the Jackson Civil War Muster. In fact, if you’ve never attended this, your opportunity for this worthwhile experience is right around the corner. On August 24 and 25 the Jackson Civil War Muster kicks-off in high gear with reenactments of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. To find further information on this, go to website <http://civilwarmuster.org/>.



Dave also regaled us with pithy anecdotes about Michiganders and their role in the war to include that the 4th Michigan Infantry had three colonels killed during the conflict and more men killed in battle than died of disease—which was unusual. Tom Custer was the first U.S. soldier to receive two Medals of Honor; Captain Jonathan Walker’s hand was branded SS for helping slaves escape; Confederate Major General John Pemberton served at Fort Makinac prior to the war; and John Huff (14th Michigan Cavalry), who shot and mortally wounded Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, is buried at the Willow Grove Cemetery in Armada.

To learn more about interesting Michigan sites significant to the Civil War, check out “*Glory, Valor & Sacrifice*” by David Ingall and Karin Risko. It’s available at <http://hometownhistorytours.com>.

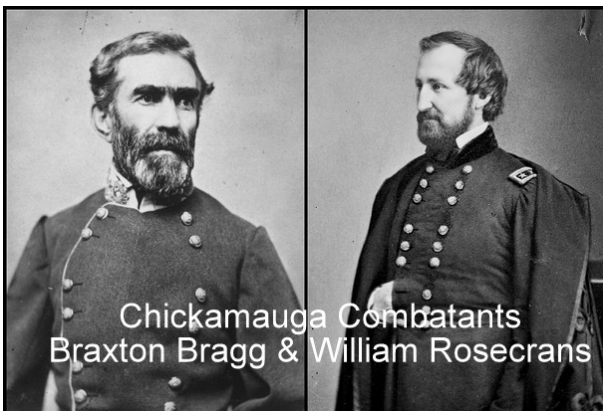


QUIZ: With thanks to last month’s speaker, Dave Ingall, we have five more questions on Michigan’s significant role in the Civil War:

1. Michigan was the leading supplier of which valuable natural resource to the Union Army?
2. Which Union general at Gettysburg was living in Detroit when the war started?
3. Name the horse buried in Coldwater’s Oak Grove Cemetery?
4. Which Grand Rapids dentist was wounded several times and became a major general during the war?
5. Which well-known Black abolitionist lived and is buried in Battle Creek?

MRRT Minutes for July 22, 2013: The **Call to Order** was at 6:50. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Michigan soldiers at Gettysburg. **Newsletter Report:** Bob read two months of newsletters from the Cleveland Charger, NYC Dispatch, Toledo Mini Bulletin, Cincinnati Canister, and the Indianapolis Hardtack. **Preservation Report:** The Civil War Trust is trying to save twelve acres of battleground at Gettysburg; the site of fighting between Ohio and Louisiana troops on July 2, 1863. They’re also trying to save the last three acres of ground at Ball’s Bluff. The purchase price is \$500,000. They have raised all but \$50,000 of it in Federal, State and local grants. The match is 10 to 1. **Trip Report:** One of our guides, Dana McBean, is retiring and will not lead us on our October trip. However, he and Doug have found a replacement in Dr. Stephen Wise, the author of “*Gate of Hell, the Morris Island Campaign.*” If you have an interest in Morris Island, this is the trip for you! Dr. Wise advises to come prepared to do some walking and battlefield tramping. “*Nobody is going to be bored.*” Dana will still be involved with a 150th anniversary James E. Taylor Sketchbook military staff ride and tours from Aug 7 to Dec 17, 2014, with Dr. Joe Whitehorne and maybe Scott Patchan. If you wish to be put on the contact list, contact Mollie. We have rooms reserved for Friday and Saturday at the Hampton Inn Charleston-Mount Pleasant/Patriot’s Point for \$132 per night. There are other hotels nearby, but the bus will leave from the Hampton Saturday and Sunday mornings. The number for reservations is 843 881-3300. The cost is \$300 per person for the tour, including a boat tour of Charleston Harbor, Morris Island and landing on Morris Island, and three meals including the Saturday night dinner at The Washington Light Infantry Armory. Payment must be made in full by the August meeting. **Items of Interest:** The Oakland County Pioneer Historical Society is hosting a reenactment of the battle of Chickamauga at the Wisner House in Pontiac on Saturday July 27 from 11 am to 5 pm. Wisner was the colonel of the 22nd Michigan. Larry visited the Mall of America and found the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul a great museum of Minnesota’s contribution to the Civil War. It also contained a special exhibit on the US-Dakota War of 1862. This latter event led to the largest mass execution in U.S. history. The **Minutes for June 24, 2013** were approved.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (August 1863): 1 Aug: Union forces prepare for offensive operations in Charleston Harbor. Confederate attacks on Federal shipping along the Mississippi are on the rise. D.D. Porter is made a rear admiral and placed in charge of Union naval forces on the river. **6 Aug:** The CSS Alabama captures the Sea Bride near the Cape of Good Hope. **8 Aug:** Following the South’s retreat from Maryland a month earlier, a dejected and ill Robert E. Lee offers Jefferson Davis his resignation. Davis refuses writing “*our country could not bear to lose you.*” **12 Aug:** The Federal forces continue offensive operations against Confederate positions in and around Charleston Harbor. **16 Aug:** The **Chickamauga Campaign** is set in motion as Rosecrans moves from Tullahoma towards Chattanooga and Bragg’s army. Meanwhile troops under Burnside begin moving from Lexington to join with Rosecrans in a hoped pincer movement on Bragg. **17 Aug:** Fort Sumter receives its first major artillery blows from the Union





offensive. The artillery bombardment will last for eight days and although the fort is damaged, few casualties are incurred and no significant wall breaches are made. **18 Aug:** Abraham Lincoln tests fires the new Spencer Repeating Carbine. **21 Aug:** Rosecrans reaches the Tennessee River outside Chattanooga and begins preparation for offensive operations against Bragg. William Clark Quantrill and 450 irregulars raid Lawrence, KS. The resulting carnage leaves 150 civilian dead, 30 wounded, and the town a smoking ruin. **23 Aug:** The union offensive ends against Sumter. Although a hulking wreck, the Confederates still hold it. **26 Aug:** A Union offensive against Battery Wagner in Charleston Harbor fails but is subsequently taken on this day in a second effort. **29 Aug:** The H.L. Hunley sinks on a test run in the Charleston Harbor killing 5 crewmen. **30 Aug:** Federal shelling of Sumter begins again. For information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

Civil War Essentials: With the annual MRRT trip only a couple months away, we'll turn our attention to Charleston. This month we'll look at the H.L. Hunley submarine with a little help from a slightly edited 'Old Sarge's' newsletter write-up from September 2005.

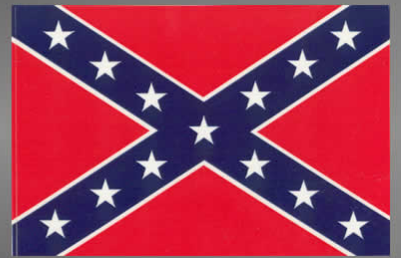
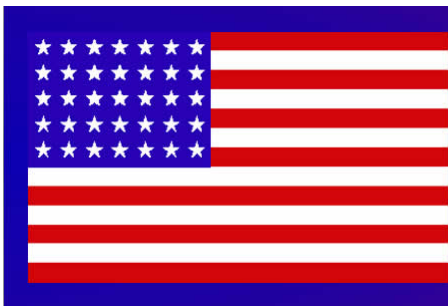
History was made on Wednesday, February 17, 1864, as a tiny submarine, the CSS Hunley, became the first of its kind to sink an enemy vessel, the USS Housatonic, off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina. The creator of this underwater vessel was Horace L. Hunley of New Orleans. For her construction Hunley hired engineer W.A. Alexander who left a detailed account of her building and operation. Roughly 40-foot in length and 4-feet in diameter, the Hunley possessed a propeller shaft that up to eight crewmen cranked by hand. Diving fins and ballast tanks aided in its surfacing and submerging. Its only weapon was a spar torpedo, a copper cylinder containing 90 pounds of gunpowder that would explode on contact by means of a percussion and friction primer. Originally attached to a 200-foot line and hauled through the water, the floating torpedo proved to be as much of a menace to its own crew as to the enemy. Consequently, the mine was mounted on a downward mounted pipe attached to the bow. Thus equipped, the little Hunley was ready for war. Finally on the night of February 17, 1864, the Hunley



approached the 1240-ton Housatonic. Although armed with a 100-pound Parrott rifle, three 30-pounder Parrott rifles, one 11-inch Dahlgren smoothbore, two 32-pounder smoothbores, and three howitzers, the Housatonic succumbed in five minutes to the torpedo of the Hunley. Unfortunately, the Hunley itself went down, taking its crew with it, for the final time.

The H.L. Hunley was built July 1863 in Mobile, Alabama. It under went successful testing by attacking a coal flatboat in Mobile Bay and thereafter shipped by rail to Charleston, SC. Upon arrival, it was seized and turned over to the Confederate army although never officially commissioned. On a training mission August 29, 1863, it sank for the first time when its commander, Lt. John Payne, inadvertently depressed a dive lever sending it to the depths with hatches open. Lt. Payne and





two other crewmembers escaped but five others perished. The Hunley was raised and on October 15, 1863 again sank while on a training mission. This time with its designer, H.L. Hunley, at the helm, who perished along with the other seven crewmembers. Again it was raised. On February 17, 1864, it went on the successful but ultimately fateful mission, sinking the USS Housatonic as well as itself being lost to the depths for a third time. In the three sinkings, twenty one crewmembers were lost. This time it would stay on the bottom until located in 1995 and raised on August 8, 2000. The H.L. Hunley now resides for study and viewing at Warren Lasch Conservation Center, North Charleston, SC. The eight recovered crewmen, that included Lieutenant George Dixon, were buried at Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston.

A few other brief points: The Hunley was crewed by eight men, seven providing power by hand-cranking the propeller and the eight, the commander, steering and guiding it. It was equipped with two watertight hatches, one forward and one aft, atop two short conning towers equipped with small portholes. The hatches were very small, making entrance to and egress from the hull difficult. Following its second sinking and the loss of Horace Hunley, General Beauregard issued an order that the submarine was no longer to attack her target underwater. This led to the revised location of the spar torpedo on the downward mounted pipe attached to the bow. There's also evidence (i.e., a spool of copper wire and components of a battery) from the raised Hunley that the spar torpedo was actually electrically detonated—not by contact.

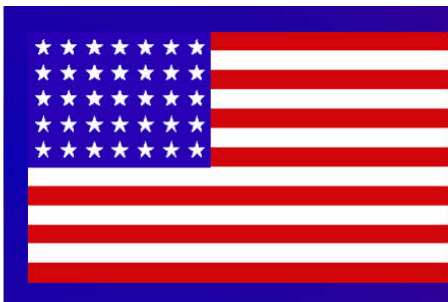


Several theories have been put forward as to why the Hunley sank although no conclusive evidence among them has been accepted as the one true cause. One version has it that the Hunley survived the attack and subsequently signaled the shore with prearranged blinking blue lights—and thereafter perished for unknown reasons. The lantern excavated with the Hunley did not have a blue lens placing some doubt on this theory. Another is the Hunley was rammed by the USS Canandaigua but again the lack of damage to the excavated hull does not support this theory. Another theory, and one recently used in a TV special, is that a .58 caliber minie ball fired from the USS Housatonic penetrated a viewing port and hence let in water, floundering the Hunley and sending it to the bottom with all hands on board. Another theory, and somewhat supported by a copper sleeve found on the end of the torpedo spar, is that the Hunley may have been as close as 20' to the exploding torpedo, thereby concussing the crew and leading to its sinking.

For more information and interesting stories about its design, history, recovery, and crew, visit the Friends of the Hunley website at <http://www.hunley.org/>. A particular interesting story is that of Lieutenant George Dixon, Shiloh and a gold coin.

QUIZ Answers:

1. Copper.
2. Major General George G. Meade.
3. "Old Sam" from Loomis' 1st Michigan Light Artillery.
4. Major General Byron Root Pierce.
5. Sojourner Truth.



It's your time to participate, Monday, August 26, for our 'Show and Tell'. Bring your artifacts and stories! 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.

Visit our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/ for information on the upcoming trip to Charleston.

About Us Newsletters Our History Our Officers Annual Field Trip Other Civil War Links



Michigan Regimental Round Table: Our Annual Field Trips

2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2004	2003
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

2013 Annual Field Trip: Charleston, South Carolina



October 4-5, 2013, the MRRT will travel to Charleston, South Carolina, to visit the battle sites in and around the city. The trip will include visits to Fort Moultrie, the sites associated with the Battle of Secessionville, a boat tour of Charleston Harbor and Morris Island plus a narration of the attack on Fort Sumter. The Saturday group dinner will be held at the Washington Light Infantry Armory. Tour guides will be Doug Bostick and Dana MacBean. [Click here](#) for the trip flier providing complete trip information to include itinerary and costs.

©2013 Gerald M. Furl. All Rights Reserved.