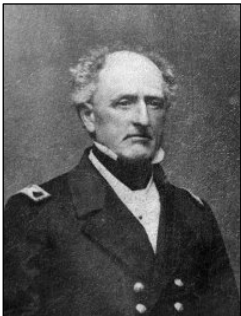


Our fall trip, “Five Forks to Appomattox”, is quickly approaching and it’s time to send in your payment to be included in another great MRRT trip. Cost of the tour is \$180 per person which includes guide Scott Patchan, all entry fees, and local bus transportation on the tour route. The optional Saturday night banquet is at historic **Crab Louie’s** and an additional \$40. If we get another 5-6 people signing up, the trip cost reduces to \$155 giving each person a \$25 refund. **Make checks payable to Jeanie Graham** (not MRRT) and bring to the August meeting or mail to Jeanie at 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 before August 30. Any questions email/phone to Jeanie at 248-851-9320 or grahamjeanie@hotmail.com; Linda at 586-749-6075 or lindagerhardt@comcast.net; or Mollie at 313-530-8516 or mmgalate@gmail.com. For further info, check our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/pdfs/2014fieldtrip.pdf.

On MONDAY, August 25, the MRRT welcomes our good friend Bill Grandstaff, who will speak on “Franklin Buchanan – Temper, Temper”. Admiral Franklin Buchanan (1800-1874) was the



only Admiral in the Confederate Navy. He was the Commander of the James River Squadron that included the first Confederate ironclad, the CSS Virginia. Bill will share with us some of Admiral Buchanan’s temper displays that had a major impact on his career. This should prove to be a fascinating talk as Bill discusses one of the more obscure and interesting characters of the Civil War!



Bill launched the **Israel Richardson Roundtable** in Rochester fifteen years ago and presently serves as President and newsletter writer. He was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Oakland County Pioneer Historical Society. Bill is also a member of the Romeo Planning Commission and a trustee of the Romeo District Library.

The Roundtable would like to thank Peter J. D’Onofrio PhD for his informative and entertaining presentation of “Medical Advancements of the Civil War”. Peter discussed several

medical topics including how did an individual actually become a doctor? The usual process was one or a combination of the following: 1-reading medical textbooks to the point of self-claimed proficiency; 2-apprenticeship to a local doctor (similar to how Abraham Lincoln became a lawyer); or 3-enrollment in medical school for 6 to 8 months over a two year time period. For this later method, it consisted of 12 lectures/classes that were repeated the second year . . . surgery was not taught. If the candidate wrote an acceptable thesis the second year, they’d become a MD.



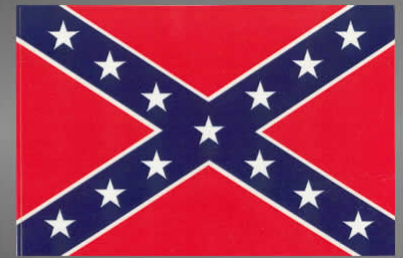
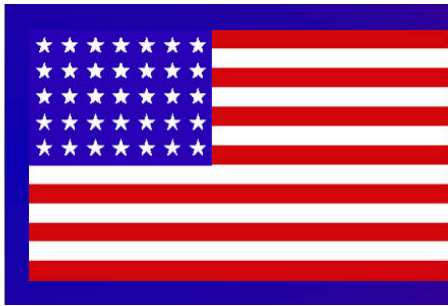
Female nurses became very important during the War. Dorothea Dix, head of Union nurses, did not want attractive women as nurses. Nuns did especially well because of the training they received. Nurses greatly improved soldier care, especially in large general hospitals in major cities. There were 4,000 nurses in Union hospitals.

Anesthesia was universally used for amputations by 1865. Chloroform (86%) use was greatly preferred over ether (14%) due to ether’s highly volatile nature. Amputations were used for 50% of gunshot wounds to limbs . . . and probably should have been used more often.

Sterilization and the cleanliness of instruments used for amputations were not established during the war. Disease killed twice as many soldiers as battle wounds did. Most of the developments recognizing and treating of disease came after the war ended. Improved sanitation was the only development during the war that reduced disease.

Peter said that the Civil War proved to be “*the watershed of Medicine*” for a variety of reasons, including:

- triage was used to assist and prioritize the wounded
- bleeding was abandoned



- detailed medical records were kept for the first time; i.e., the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion
- the first organized Ambulance Corps was created
- separate hospitals were created for specific problems
- civilian hospitals copied Civil War hospitals for the next 75 years
- the Sanitary Commission set the pattern for the Red Cross' future work

Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to the life of Admiral Buchanan:

1. What were some of his accomplishments before the Civil War?
2. How did he end up in the Confederate Navy?
3. Why was he unable to command the C.S.S. Virginia during its famous battle with the U.S.S. Monitor?
4. What other major naval battle did he participate in?
5. True or False – Confederate Secretary of the Navy Mallory wanted the C.S.S. Virginia (Merrimack) to blockade New York harbor after the Battle of Hampton Roads.

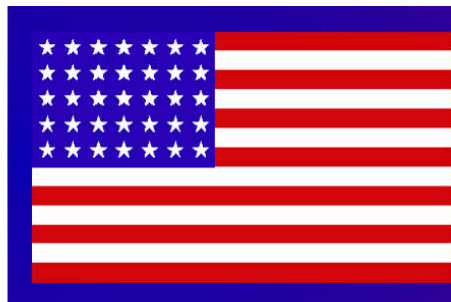
Minutes for July 21, 2014: The **Call to Order** was at 6:35 pm. The **Pledge** was dedicated Bob Nelson. **Preservation Report:** The group Franklin Charge is trying to purchase 2 acres of land on the Franklin TN battlefield for \$2.8 million. The CWT is attempting to purchase and restore the site of Lee's headquarters for \$5.5 million. Joe didn't mention where the headquarters is, but it currently houses a Quality Inn and a brewing company. \$1.1 million is needed by the end of 2014. The price tag for 665 acres at North Anna is \$3.14 million, but the trust only needs to raise another \$314,000 with a 10 to 1 match. The Jefferson Davis State Historical site is now under the control of Irwin Co and is open Wed-Sun from 9-5. A monument will be placed at Antietam in honor of Michigan soldiers. The site has been donated and will be on private property for now but may be annexed in the future. Every MI regiment present at the battle will be listed on the monument. A vote will be taken at the Aug meeting on a donation from the MRRT. Joe proposed \$5 from each dues paid. **Items of Interest:** The Ice Cream Social at the Wisner House in Pontiac is July 26. Ron's cannon will be there so 'dogs beware'. Larry has brochures of the Alabama Civil War Trail. The **Minutes for June 30, 2014** were amended to recognize that it was Chuck, not Larry, whom told the group about Jefferson Davis's birthday being a holiday in the South. On that note, the minutes were approved.

Civil War Essentials: The case of **CSS Major Henry Wirz**, commander of Camp Sumter (i.e., Andersonville). He was one of only three 'war criminals' executed following the Civil War. The other two were Robert Cobb Kennedy (Confederate conspirators in the plot to burn New York on November 25, 1864) and Champ Ferguson (organized a guerrilla company that killed civilians believed to be Union sympathizers).

Henry Wirz was born on November, 24, 1823 in Zurich, Switzerland; educated in Italy and Zurich; practiced medicine in his native land although there are no indications he formally completed a medical education. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1849 and established a medical practice in Kentucky where he met and married a widow with two daughters. Following the marriage, the family moved to Louisiana where he established a successful medical practice and he and his wife had a daughter.

In 1861, he enlisted as a private in Co A, 4th Bn of Louisiana Volunteers and was wounded in the right arm during May 1862 at the Battle of Seven Pines. After recuperating from his wound, on his return to duty he was promoted to Captain for bravery on the battlefield. Due to his lingering arm injury, he was assigned to General John H. Winder's command. Winder was in charge of Confederate prisoner of war camps. Initially Wirz served at Libby Prison.





Because of his European heritage and education, Jefferson Davis selected Wirz as a special minister to Europe. He served in this capacity until returning to the Confederacy in January 1864. Again he reported to Gen Winder and by April 1864 was appointed commander of Camp Sumter where he served for a little over a year.

Camp Sumpter/Andersonville was established in Sumter County, Georgia, near the Andersonville railroad depot. Initially the camp was conceived as a temporary prison for holding captured Union soldiers for exchange. As opened, it enclosed

16.5 acres of land encircled by a 15-foot high fence around an open stockade. By June 1864 it was enlarged to 26.5 acres. The first 500 Union prisoners arrived February 25, 1864 followed by frequent and numerous prisoner arrivals daily. This hastily built camp was not equipped from the start to handle a permanent and quickly growing prisoner population. Conditions went from passable to nightmarish quickly. By time of its closing in May 1865, some 45,000 Union prisoners were incarcerated there with approximately 13,000 of these dying. Its peak population was reached in August 1864 when the camp held 32,000 prisoners, four times the camp's capacity. The principle causes of prisoner deaths were due to disease and malnutrition (i.e., scurvy, diarrhea, and dysentery) but exposure, brutality and a host of other reasons contributed.

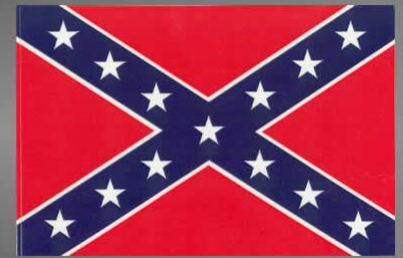
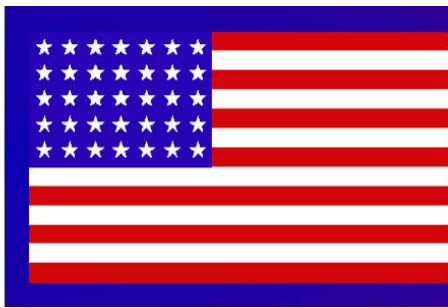
Wirz was cognizant of the unhealthy condition of the camp.

During his tenure, he made some improvements to the camp and attempted others. He also frequently requested greater support from his superiors but these requests were generally denied as the resources were either not available or more urgently needed for the war effort. Regardless of effort, the camp situation continued to deteriorate. To the positive side, he was instrumental in aiding the prisoners with the removal of the predatory *'Raiders'* from the stockade and during July 1864, sent five prisoners to the Union authorities with a petition written by the inmates asking the U.S. government to negotiate their release. Above all, Wirz emphasis was on securing the camp's prisoners and preventing escapes.

Henry Wirz was captured in May 1865 and brought to trial. Charges included conspiracy to injure the health and destroy the lives of soldiers in the military service; for murder in violation of the laws and customs of war; and for purportedly committing thirteen murders personally. On this latter charge, they were allegedly committed by revolver; physically stamping and kicking the victim; confining prisoners in stocks; beating a prisoner with a revolver; and by chaining prisoners together. Other charges included ordering guards to fire on prisoners and unleashing dogs on escaping prisoners. Wirz was described at the trial as greeting prisoners at the camp by *"brandishing a pistol, cursing at them in his heavily accented English, and threatening to shoot them personally if they attempted to escape or broke the camp rules . . . coupled with the harsh discipline he imposed on the prisoners, which included ball-and-chaining them for even minor infractions . . ."*

Wirz was found guilty of conspiracy and on 11 of the 13 counts of murder and sentenced to death. He was hanged at the Old Capitol Prison (located near the U.S. Capitol) on November 10, 1865. Eleven days following his execution, it was discovered that Felix de la Baume (a key prosecution witness), was actually Felix Oeser (a deserter from the 7th NY Volunteers), perjured himself for a federal job. There is controversy to this day whether Henry Wirz received a fair trial but there can be no controversy to the horror that was Andersonville.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (August 1864): 1 Aug: Grant issues orders to Sheridan to clear the Shenandoah Valley of Confederates. **3 Aug:** Sherman again unleashes A.J. Smith on Nathan Bedford Forrest. **5 Aug:** Sen B. Wade and Rep



H.W. Davis issues the Wade-Davis Manifesto contesting Lincoln's pocket veto of Congress's punitive reconstruction bill. The issue is whether the President or Congress will control reconstruction. Also on this day, **Adm Farragut** leads the Federal fleet against Mobile Bay. The fleet comes under fire from Fort Morgan and must also pass through a field of underwater torpedos (i.e., mines). Following the sinking of the *Tecumseh*, 63 year old Farragut, standing high on the *USS Hartford*, is alleged to have said "*damn the torpedos, full speed ahead.*" During the engagement, the *CSS Tennessee* is disabled and surrenders. The Union takes control of the bay and over the upcoming days takes Forts Gaines and Powell, although Fort Morgan holds out until the end of the month. **7 Aug:** A cavalry engagement between W.W. Averell and *CSS McCauland* at Moorefield, WV, results in a Federal victory. **9 Aug:** Back at Mobile Bay, Union troops begin a siege of Fort Morgan. **10 Aug:** At Atlanta, Hood dispatches his cavalry under Wheeler to harass Sherman's lines of communication. Unfortunately, this also takes the cavalry away from him for the upcoming events in and around Atlanta. **12 Aug:** The *CSS Tallahassee* captures six Union vessels off New York and seven off New England. It also captures four additional two days later. **18 Aug:** For the second time, Grant refuses a Confederate request to exchange prisoners. This cuts-off a ready supply of returning forces to the Confederate cause but also dooms many Federal prisoners. At Atlanta, Sherman sends Kilpatrick's cavalry to attack Hood's lines of communications south of the city with hope of forcing the Confederates out. Heavy resistance ultimately foils this effort. **19 Aug:** In Petersburg, A.P. Hill attacks Warren's troops south of the city and forces the Federals to withdraw to positions at Glove Tavern. In the Shenandoah Valley, Sheridan and Early continue skirmishes around Winchester. **21 Aug:** Back at Petersburg, in a desperate attempt to take back the Weldon Railroad, A.P. Hill attacks Warren. The Confederate attack fails. In the Western Theater, Nathan Bedford Forrest takes Memphis and holds it for the day. To date, Union actions against Forrest have been woefully ineffective. **23 Aug:** The last of the three Mobile Bay forts fall as the Federals take Fort Morgan. This leaves the only available open Confederate port at Wilmington, NC. **25 Aug:** Having taken 31 Union vessels in three weeks, the *CSS Tallahassee* returns to the port at Wilmington, NC. **29 Aug:** The Democratic National convention meets in Chicago. Copperhead Clement Vallandigham gives the keynote address. **31 Aug:** The Democrats in Chicago nominate George McClellan for president. Back at the Atlanta Campaign, Hood's Confederates attack Howard's Army of the Tennessee near Jonesboro but were repulsed. For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit seekingmichigan.org/civil-war.



Quiz Answers:

1. He sailed around the world and participated in Admiral Perry's expedition in the 1850's; became the first superintendent of the Naval Academy; and served 45 years in the U.S. Navy before the Civil War.
2. Franklin Buchanan was a Marylander. He resigned his commission because he was certain the State would secede and join the Confederacy. When that did not happen, he tried to retract his resignation but the Union Navy refused his request. He therefore joined the Confederacy.
3. During the first day of fighting (March 8, 1862) of the Battle of Hampton Roads, he was wounded by a gunshot to his thigh from a Union infantryman and thus was unable to participate the next day in the famous ironclad battle.
4. The Battle of Mobile Bay – August 5, 1864. He was wounded and taken prisoner. After being exchanged in Feb., 1865, he spent the rest of the war on leave.
5. True.

We hope to see you this coming Monday, August 25, at the Farmington Community Library to hear Bill Grandstaff present "*Franklin Buchanan – Temper, Temper.*" The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. For back copies of newsletters, information on the October field trip, and a myriad of all things MRRT, check-out our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.