

**Sadly, long-time member Raymond (Ray) Droste passed away on August 10<sup>th</sup>. We really enjoyed his company at our meetings and on our field trips for many years going back to the 1980's. We extend our deepest sympathies to Ray's family.**

**Trip: Our trip to Perryville on October 10<sup>th</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup> is only 6 weeks away. The cost is \$100 for the battlefield tour and \$40 for Saturday's banquet at the Shaker Village. Please write a check to Jeanie Graham for \$140 if you are participating in both parts of the tour. Jeanie's mailing address is: Jeanie Graham, 29835 NorthBrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Jeanie's telephone number is 248-851-9320. Your checks are due at the August meeting. Please make your reservation at the Hampton Inn – Danville (859)-236-6200.**

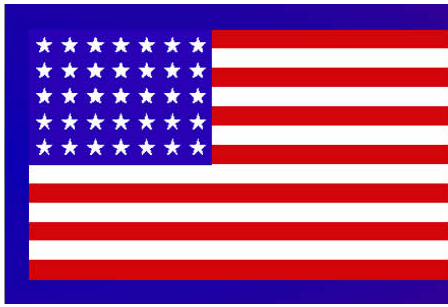
**The Roundtable welcomes MRRT member Jeff Glass, who will present "John Bull and the Yankees: British/U.S. Relations before and during the Civil War" on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.** Jeff will discuss some of the adversarial interactions between the U.S. and Britain that often troubled their relations in the pre-war years. He will discuss several incidents during the Civil War, including the cotton embargo, the RMS *Trent* affair, the *Florida & Alabama* raiders, the "Laird rams" and several episodes arising from the efforts of Confederate spies in British North America (Canada). Some of the factors which probably caused Britain not to intervene in the conflict will be summarized. France's attitude and actions during the war will be reviewed. Jeff is from the Pittsburgh area where he earned degrees from Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh. He is a Vietnam veteran. Jeff has retired from Ford Motor Product Planning. He and his wife enjoy 2 children and 2 grandchildren.



**The Roundtable congratulates Annika Gidley, recent graduate of North Farmington High, and the 2015 Maxwell Award winner.** She sent us the following thank you note. "My name is Annika Gidley. I graduated from North Farmington High this year with the class of 2015. In the fall I plan on attending Hope College in Holland, Michigan. My plan is to double major in English (and I haven't yet decided what the second will be but I'm leaning towards economics, history or classics) and to minor in Spanish. I don't yet know exactly what I want to do career-wise but am very interested in either working in publishing (I love books!) or continuing my education to get my doctorate and become an university professor. Thank you very much for the award!!" Our best wishes to Annika as she pursues her career.

**The Roundtable would like to thank long time members Ron Cleveland and Larry Jackson for their insightful and humorous presentation "The Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of 2 Michigan Relic Hunters".** Larry and Ron shared lots of anecdotes about their many digs (both started relic hunting in 1979) and displayed and commented on their prized collections of finds.

Larry emphasized that relic hunting can become a compulsion and that it attracts people from all different backgrounds – young and old, women as well as men, and from all walks of life. The thrill of the hunt and the joy of the find, however modest, are the common bonds which promote camaraderie. It was clear from their talk that first-timers have made important finds on their first outing and that areas previously searched by others can still yield surprise finds. Larry



related two funny stories, one about the time Ron managed to incur a “wardrobe malfunction” when his overenthusiastic pursuit of a lead caused him to fall over a log. The other involved a scary encounter he himself had with a rifle-toting local, the sight of which inspired Larry to wisely adopt a protective Southern accent. He said that while many private property owners allow relic hunters to search on their land, a few adamantly refuse.

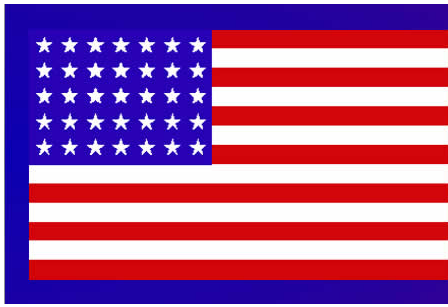
Ron reviewed the “tools of the trade” which include metal detectors (some ex-GI’s started hunting by using WW2 mine detectors), pin pointers which are small detectors used to refine the search of holes dug where the big detector indicates a hit, and probing rods including some used to retrieve a core sample from the search area.

Knives and shovels are also employed. A compass is needed as many searches take place in heavily wooded areas where getting lost is easy. Snakes and poison ivy are two of the hazards hunters must deal with – Larry had an encounter with a poisonous snake (it missed him) which caused him to be extra cautious thereafter. Finding a weapon has been Ron’s unfulfilled dream; once he uncovered what he believed was the muzzle end of a pistol but it turned out to be only the handle of a pipe wrench!

Early relic hunters frequently had the benefit of consulting with eye-witnesses to battles, indeed several notable Civil War veterans such as Joshua Chamberlain, of Little Round Top fame, were avid hunters. Initially the National Park Service allowed relic hunting on Park grounds but it was outlawed when the number of hunters became unmanageable. Some organized digs involve a large number of hunters on the same property. There are unwritten rules about respecting the space of others and ensuring all digs are properly restored. Responsible hunters frequently pay land owners back by removing trash as well as the customary monetary payment.

The last “war story” told was of the time Ron decided to hunt at night and while in a field of uncertain ownership, he saw a vehicle approaching him. Fearing that it might be the landowner, he decided to lie down and conceal himself. The driver exited his car and walked directly toward him. Ron could not believe the man had spotted him at night in his camouflage clothes. The mystery was solved when the driver proceeded to stop and relieve himself perilously close to where he lay!

**MRRT Minutes for July 20, 2015:** The **Call to Order** 6:40 p.m., about 25 people present for the business meeting with 35 present for the speakers’ presentation. **Refreshments** Thanks to George Crouch for doing the July refreshments **Pledge** The pledge was dedicated to the victims of the Chattanooga tragedy **Introduction of Guests and New Members** None **Secretary’s Report** Accepted **Newsletters** None **Preservation** A motion to donate \$250 to the Civil War Trust for the preservation of Reed’s Bridge and Brown’s Ferry at Chattanooga was approved. **Trip** 33 people have signed up for the trip. The tour is \$100 and dinner at the Shaker Village is \$40. Please send your check made out to Jeanie Graham to Jeanie Graham, 29835 NorthBrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 **Future Programs** Jim is working on 2016’s speakers. **Items of Interest** Larry received a Lincoln statue from Weldon Petz’ collection. The annual Ice Cream Social at the Wisner House in Pontiac was held on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Member Ron Cleveland planned to bring his cannon. George Crouch commented on the desire to scrub history by removing the monuments of the Confederacy. He made the point that the Confederate legacy of defeat with dignity is a key part of the American culture. Confederate heroism is remembered through the various battlefield and Southern town monuments. Discussion will continue. **New Business** None



**Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to John Bull and the Yankees relations before and during the Civil War.**

1. Who was the British Prime Minister during the U.S. Civil War? What is his other distinction?
2. What other power lent unintended moral support to the Union in its uneasy relationship with Britain & France?
3. James D. Bulloch, the able Confederate agent in Britain, was related to which future U.S. President? What else is unusual about him?
4. Who was the otherwise famous (infamous) foreign correspondent of the *New York Tribune* in the period leading up to the Civil War? Which side did he support?
5. What was John Slidell's (one of the Confederate envoys seized on the RMS Trent) other failed diplomat mission?

**There are several Kentucky Civil War sites within a reasonable driving distance from Danville, KY (where our hotel is located). Camp Nelson** is located in Nicholasville, KY (on US-27 between Lexington and Danville). Camp Nelson was a very important supply base for several Union armies during the war. More than 400 acres of the original 4,000 acre campsite have been preserved. The only surviving building is open for tours.

**City of Lexington, KY** Lexington was the home and burial place for several Civil War era individuals. Henry Clay's mansion Ashland and Mary Todd Lincoln's childhood home are in Lexington.

**Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site – Hodgenville, KY** 60 miles west of Danville, KY. The Knob Creek boyhood farm is included in the site.

**Richmond, KY Battlefield State Park** – Approximately 50 miles east from Danville, KY, off I-75 South. The Rogers House serves as the visitor center. Here fighting took place on August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland (Confederate) had a dog (Grace) as their mascot when they were involved in fighting on July 3, 1863 at Culp's Hill, Gettysburg.** Ten years later Brigadier General Kane recalled the attack in a poignant footnote. "A pet dog charged with the Maryland regiment: Ran ahead of them when their progress was arrested and came in among the boys in blue. At first, some of my men said, he barked in valorous glee; but I myself first saw him on three legs between our own and the men in grey on the ground as though looking for a dead master, or seeking on which side he might find an explanation of the tragedy he witnessed, intelligible to his canine comprehension. He licked someone's hand, they said, after he was perfectly riddled. Regarding him as the only Christian-minded being on either side, I ordered him to be honorably buried". Memo: The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland (Confederate) monument on Culp's Hill was the first Confederate monument on the Gettysburg battlefield. However, the monument was changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maryland because the 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland (Union) monument was already on the battlefield.

**News from the Front July 2, 1863-Your Johnny Reb Reporter**

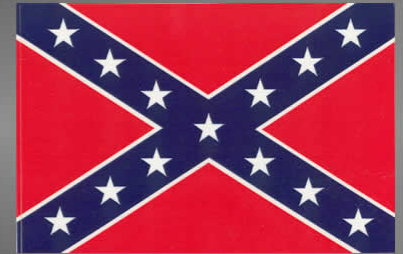
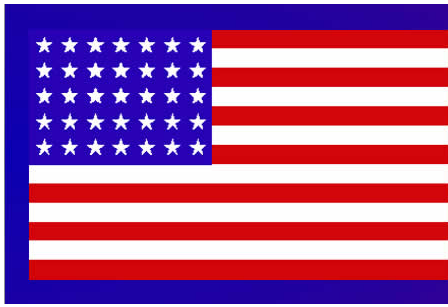
The South lost a brave and important leader this day. General William Barksdale was mortally wounded while leading his brigade during General Longstreet's July 2<sup>nd</sup> fight at Gettysburg.

His brigade was composed of four Mississippi regiments with just over 1,600 men was considered one of the best in the Army of Northern Virginia. Their strongest and most colorful asset was William Barksdale himself. He had been one of the most violent secessionist fire-eaters in Congress during the 1850's. In 1858 he was involved in a brawl on the floor of the House of Representatives which featured his wig being torn from his head.

After the long march and counter-march, Barksdale's brigade was at last in position to attack opposite the Peach Orchard. As he waited







impatiently, Barksdale pleaded with General Longstreet, “I wish you would let me go in General. I would take battery in five minutes.” The orders to advance were finally delivered by Captain Lamar of McLaws’ staff.

Barksdale, in front of his brigade, led them through the Peach Orchard into the left flank of Andrew Humphrey’s Union division. As the brigade swept across the open fields routing the Federals, they were incurring severe casualties of their own. Not stopping to organize or realign their regiments the brigade plunged in the Plum Run thicket. There, they ran headlong into Willard’s fresh brigade, which had just arrived from the Union II Corps. This was too much for the spent Mississippians and they were halted and began to fall back towards the Emmittsburg Road.

Barksdale, still in the van of his brigade, was almost frantic with rage at the repulse of his Mississippians, and was trying to make his fleeing men stand. This of course made him a prominent target and after many shots were fired at him, some hitting his foot and leg, the General fell from his horse with a ball through his chest.

As his brigade retreated back across the Emmittsburg Road, Barksdale was left, half alive, to be picked up later that evening by a detail of the 14<sup>th</sup> Vermont.

Barksdale was taken to a field hospital on the Taneytown Road where he died that night. He asked, “Tell my wife I fought like a man and will die like one”.

A Union lieutenant who was familiar with Barksdale on the floor of Congress recognized his body as it lay in the sunshine that morning. “But without the wig which Speaker Grow once knocked off in the Hall of Representatives”.

The South will truly miss his devotion to duty and his leadership.

1. Henry John Temple, Lord Palmerston. He was born in 1784 and first became Prime Minister in 1855 at age 70. He is the oldest 1<sup>st</sup> time Prime Minister.
2. Czarist Russia. A Russian fleet made a courtesy call at Union ports in 1863. The fleet had been sent to North American waters to prevent it from being bottled up in port in case war broke out in Europe. The visit made especially the French nervous that Russia and the U.S. were going to become allies.
3. His half-sister was the mother of Theodore Roosevelt. He remained in Britain after the war, dying there in 1901.
4. Karl Marx became the *New York Tribune’s* London (which meant the world) correspondent in 1851. He supported the Union and argued that Lincoln should put slavery at the forefront to gain support in Britain and Europe.
5. John Slidell was named by President Polk as minister to Mexico in 1845 but the Mexican government refused to receive him. He was sent to try to buy California and other Mexican possessions.

This will be another great meeting on Monday, August 31st, with MRRT member Jeff Glass presenting “John Bull and the Yankees – British/U.S. relations before and during the Civil War” at the Farmington Community Library. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Also, check-out our website at <http://history.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.