

Our Monday, August 29, 2016 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library with Dave Ingall discussing “Detroit Civil War Sites & Stories”. Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrmt>

THE MONEY FOR OUR OCTOBER 8th and 9th TRIP TO ANTIETAM IS DUE AT THE AUGUST MEETING. The cost is \$145 for our tour guide Scott Patchen, the bus, and all park entrance fees. Saturday night’s dinner at the Old South Mountain Inn is optional, with an additional cost of \$45. **Tour participants may write one check for \$190 or separate checks for the tour and dinner.** Please make your checks out to **Jeanie Graham**. You can give the check to her at our meeting or mail it to her at: Jeanie Graham, 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills MI 48334-2326.

Please advise the trip committee of your choice for Saturday’s banquet: Prime Rib, Salmon, or Vegetarian.

Each participant can still make their hotel reservations at the Hampton Inn – Frederick, Maryland, telephone number 301-696-1565. Request the MCR block rate of \$149/night + tax for a king size room or \$159/night for a queen size room (good until September 7, 2016), or you can choose another hotel. The pre-tour meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn on Friday, October 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

Questions? Call Mollie (313.530.8516), Linda (586.588.2712), or Jeanie (248.225.7596).

The Roundtable welcomes back our friend, Dave Ingall, who will speak on “Detroit Civil War Sites & Stories”.

When the Civil War erupted, Detroit answered the challenge by providing troops, food, supplies, armaments, and training sites. Dave will explore Detroit’s collection of Civil War monuments, markers, cemeteries, buildings, documents, and museums. Dave will share with us The Underground Railroad, several famous generals who lived in Detroit, a regiment that was created in response to a riot, Confederate sabotage efforts, a fort designed by the creator of Arlington National Cemetery, and the story of the last surviving African-American soldier.

Dave has spoken to our group on several occasions. He was born in Monroe and now lives in Temperance, MI. His historical research interests focus on the Civil War, Michigan in the Civil War, and General George Armstrong Custer, a Monroe native. He has researched 25 relatives that participated in the Civil War and the lives of many other Monroe County Civil War veterans. He is co-author of *Michigan Civil War Landmarks*, published by History Press in April 2015.

We look forward to Dave’s great presentation on several very interesting local topics!



The Michigan Regimental Round Table appreciates Chuck Lott taking time from his family visit to Michigan to present “**The 11th Michigan Regiment of Volunteer Cavalry – Our Forgotten Warriors**”. The 11th was the last cavalry regiment raised by Michigan during the war. Chuck has a particular interest in this unit because one of his ancestors was a member.

Chuck emphasized that the real life of a Civil War cavalryman was not the glamorous glory-filled one often depicted in movies and books. Marching speed was at a walk – perhaps 4 miles per hour with periodic stops. The horse had to be fed and watered every night before its rider could think of himself. The animals broke down frequently so that the cavalymen walked as much as rode. The days were long as a result.



The 11th was raised around Kalamazoo in August 1863. Its initial strength was 921 officers and men. Simeon Brown was the commanding officer. Training was fairly elemental with a 6 week tour around southwestern Michigan being the chief means of shaking down the regiment.

The training period ended in December 1863 and the regiment was sent to a camp near Lexington, Kentucky. By March 1864 the unit had already lost about 50 men, mostly



through illness. **Then it began its task of patrolling Kentucky on counter-guerilla missions and encountering small raids by regular Confederate forces.** During the year, the 11th was brigaded with a Kentucky cavalry regiment and a US Colored Cavalry regiment. They encountered and defeated Morgan's forces at Mt. Sterling in June 1864. Later that year they took part in Stephen Burbridge's abortive raid on Saltville, Virginia. Their brigade was successful in a difficult uphill attack in its part of the assault on the Confederate defenses at Saltville but Burbridge decided to retreat with the other two brigades and neglected to inform them! Now outnumbered, they were forced to conduct a fighting retreat back toward Kentucky as a result. After that they were again assigned to counter-guerilla patrols.

By December, they were transferred to Stoneman's force and they were part of his various raids from then to the war's end. Toward the end, the aim of the raids into Virginia and North Carolina was to deny Lee's army any chance of finding an unspoiled area to retreat to and continue the fight, so destruction of food, supplies, railroads, etc. was the objective and only scattered skirmishes took place. **The last major action of the 11th was the wanton destruction of Asheville, North Carolina.**

Altogether, the 11th spent 14 months in the field and marched more than 4500 miles. Throughout its existence, the 11th had a total of 1579 officers and men on its rolls. **Although it never participated in a major battle, it recorded 43 skirmishes of various sizes and suffered 28 combat fatalities.** Over 200 other soldiers died of disease during its deployment, typical non-combat losses for Civil War units.

MRRT Minutes for July 18, 2016: The Roundtable did not have a formal business meeting because of a power failure at the Farmington Library. Through the efforts of Jeanie Graham and the Library we were able to meet at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington on Grand River Avenue. We thank Jeanie. The Library refunded our \$30 rental fee for the month and the Roundtable donated it to the Church. Approximately 30 members heard a brief first-person presentation from Ken Baumann on the Battle of Perryville. Our October trip to Antietam was discussed. Then, our Perryville tour guide, Chuck Lott, then made his presentation on the Michigan 11th Cavalry.

Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to "Detroit Civil War Sites & Stories"

1. What act of Confederate sabotage started on the docks of the Detroit River?
2. Who was the "Irish Brigade" priest who was born in and grew up in Detroit?
3. What Union veteran event happened in Detroit in both 1891 and 1910?
4. Which two famous Civil War generals lived in Detroit prior to the outbreak of the Civil War?
5. John R. Street in Detroit is named for which Union general's father?

Civil War Essentials – Michigan at Gettysburg – Part 1

Michigan contributed over 2,600 men to the Union Army at the Battle of Gettysburg. They were made up of seven infantry regiments, four cavalry regiments, one artillery battery, and four companies of sharpshooters. The infantry regiments were the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 16th, and 24th Michigan. The cavalry regiments were the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th regiments. The artillery battery was the 9th Michigan Battery, First Artillery, First Brigade Horse Artillery, Cavalry Corps. The four companies of sharpshooters were as follows:

1st. U.S. Sharpshooters, Co. C, I and K.

2nd U.S. Sharpshooters, Co. B

1st Michigan Infantry

240 enlisted + 21 officers = 261 total

5 killed + 33 wounded + 4 missing = 42 casualties

Regiment was assigned to the 1st Brigade (Tilton), 1st Division (Barnes), 5th Corps (Sykes)



The 1st Michigan was commanded by Colonel Ira Abbot, who was wounded on July 2nd. He was replaced by Lt. Colonel William Throop. **The regiment fought on July 2nd in the Rose Woods with their brigade. The regiment withdrew to the Trostle Woods, where they spent the night of July 2nd.** The Brigade was sent to the south end of Little Round Top on the morning of July 3rd to relieve Vincent's Brigade. The 1st Michigan Monument is on Sickles Avenue at the Rose Woods.

3rd Michigan Infantry

267 enlisted + 19 officers = 286 total

7 killed + 31 wounded + 7 missing = 45 casualties

5th Michigan Infantry

262 enlisted + 21 officers = 283 total

19 killed + 86 wounded + 4 missing = 109 casualties

These two regiments were part of the 3rd Brigade (DeTroбриand), 1st Division (Birney), 3rd Corps (Sickles).

The 3rd Michigan was commanded by Colonel Bryon Pierce who was wounded and replaced by his brother, Lt. Colonel Edwin Pierce. The 5th Michigan was commanded by Lt. Colonel John Pulford.

The Brigade was posted on July 2nd, along Rose Run at the base of Stony Hill. The 3rd Michigan was sent to the west to form a skirmish line near the Rose House. After heavy fighting, the 3rd was withdrawn to the Taneytown Road. The Brigade was moved to a reserve position on Cemetery Hill on July 3rd, where it did not participate in the fighting.

The 3rd Michigan's monument is in the southeast corner of the Peach Orchard. The 5th Michigan monument is on Sickles Avenue at the Rose Woods.

4th Michigan Infantry

376 enlisted + 27 officers = 403 total

25 killed + 64 wounded + 76 missing = 165 casualties



The 4th Michigan was included in the 2nd Brigade (Sweitzer), 1st Division (Barnes), and 5th Corps (Sykes). The regiment was commanded by Colonel Harrison Jeffords who was mortally wounded on July 2nd. He was replaced by Lt. Colonel George Lumbard. **On July 2nd, the regiment fought in the Wheatfield with the 2nd Brigade.** Colonel Jeffords was fighting hand-to-hand for the regimental flag he received a bayonet wound which became fatal. The Brigade was withdrawn to an area north of the J. Weikert Farm, where they remained for the remainder of the Gettysburg battle. The 4th's monument is on DeTroбриand Avenue at the south end of the Wheatfield.

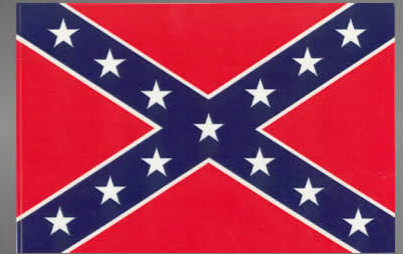
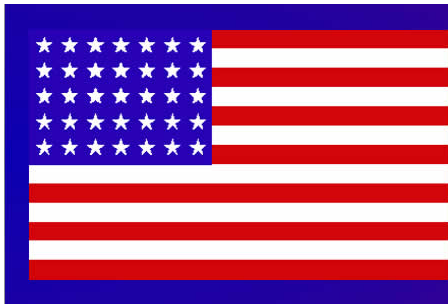
7th Michigan Infantry

151 enlisted + 14 officers = 165 total

21 killed + 44 wounded = 65 casualties

The 7th Michigan was assigned to the 3rd Brigade (Hall), 2nd Division (Gibbon), 2nd Corps (Hancock)

Lt. Colonel Amos Steele commanded the 7th Michigan until he was killed during Pickett's Charge and was replaced by Major Sylvanus Curtis. The 7th Michigan was on the Cemetery Ridge line just south of the copse of trees. It was at their



position, that on July 2nd that Wright's Georgia Brigade tried to breakthrough but was repulsed. **The 7th was one of the Union regiments that fought Pickett's Charge.**

The 7th Michigan monument is on the west side of Hancock Avenue south of the copse of trees.

Civil War Ballooning – Part 2



The 1862 Peninsula Campaign saw the most extensive use of balloons. Union aeronauts gathered intelligence during the various battles of the Peninsula Campaign. Professor Lowe's equipment consisted of 4 wagons, two deflated balloons, and an apparatus for generating hydrogen gas. He personally directed artillery fire from 1,000 feet above the ground. The aeronauts were able to see downtown Richmond, 7 miles away. **The Gaines' Mill battle was significant because for the first time both sides used balloons.** The Confederate balloon, *Gazelle*, was brought from Richmond by train and was used to observe Union troop movements.

Several Union officers went up in the balloons, including Generals McClellan, Fitz John Porter, John Sedgwick, Baldy Smith, John Reynolds, and Joseph Hooker. **George Custer went up in a balloon with Professor Lowe. Custer said that he was reluctant, if not terrified of going up in the balloon. At first he sat as low as he possibly could in the balloon, wondering if it was safe. Eventually, he went up by himself, both at night and at daybreak. Daybreak was the best time to go up, because counting Confederate campfires was easier.** **The Balloon Corps was disbanded in 1863.** One problem was the logistical difficulty of filling the balloon with gas. Professor Lowe had a difficult time with the Union officers overseeing his operation. Communicating with generals in a combat situation was difficult. There were questions about the cost, usefulness, and even accusations of financial wrongdoing. The Balloon Corps was disbanded after the 1863 Chancellorsville campaign. Edwin Porter Alexander, the Confederate artillerist said that it was a grave mistake to disband the Balloon Corps. Professor Lowe was working on aircraft design when he died in 1913, shortly before reconnaissance flights began during World War 1.

Quiz answers for "Detroit Civil War Sites and Stories"

1. Abduction of the steam boat, *Philp Parsons*
2. Father William Corby
3. National Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Encampments
4. Union Generals U.S. Grant and George Gordon Meade
5. General Thomas Williams