

**Our Monday, August 27, 2018 meeting will be at 6:30 PM in the basement of the Farmington Library (corner of Farmington Road and Grand River Avenue). Our speaker will be Mark Laubacher of Galena, Ohio, who will speak on “A Surgeon’s Life aboard *USS Monitor*”!**

**Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>**

**Everyone is invited to a Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM meeting at the library to discuss ways to increase the marketing and membership of the Roundtable. Please share your ideas with us.**

**Our trip committee is accepting payments for our trip to Chattanooga & Chickamauga. EVERYONE MUST PAY FOR THE TRIP BY THE SEPTEMBER 24TH MEETING. A check for \$195 will cover the cost of our tour guide, bus fees, and Saturday night banquet. If someone wants to go just on the battlefield tours the cost is \$150 and if an individual wants to sign up just for the Saturday banquet the cost is \$45. Checks maybe brought to the meeting or mailed to our Treasurer, Jeanie Graham at her home at 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326. PLEASE MAKE THE CHECKS OUT TO JEANIE GRAHAM AS THE BANK WILL NOT ACCEPT CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE ROUNDTABLE.**

**A few spots are available on the battlefield tour bus for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Chattanooga & Chickamauga. Contact Linda Gerhardt (586.588.2712), Jeanie Graham (248.225.7596), or Mollie Galate (313.530.8516) to sign up for the trip or ask for additional information. Mollie’s e-mail is [mmgalate@gmail.com](mailto:mmgalate@gmail.com)**

**Trip Itinerary – Saturday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Chickamauga Campaign Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – Lookout Mountain & Chattanooga Campaign**

**Hotel – Hampton Inn, 1000 Market St., Dalton, GA 30720**

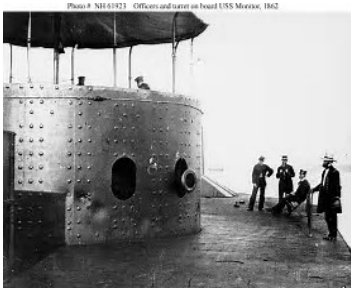
**Hotel Telephone: (706) 226-4333 State that you are with the Civil War Tour Group (CWT) Rate per night \$104+taxes – good for Friday night, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday night, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. Departure date is Monday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. We do not have to stay at the Hampton Inn on Sunday night for the lower rate. King study and double rooms are available.**

**Cutoff date for hotel reservations is October 18, 2018.**

**Saturday Night Banquet – Polly Claire’s at the Historic Dent House, circa 1854 - \$45 per person.**

**Our Monday, August 27, 2018 program will feature Mark Laubacher of Galena, Ohio (north of Columbus) discussing “A Surgeon’s Life aboard the *USS Monitor*”. David Carmichael Logue, MD, became the first surgeon to serve on the *Monitor*. He treated the crew for a broad range of illnesses and injuries. Seasickness and poisonous gases including hydrogen, carbonic acid and carbon monoxide had to be dealt with. Climatic conditions during the spring and Summer of 1862 increased the sometimes unbearable, temperature and bad air inside the vessel. Several sailors became**

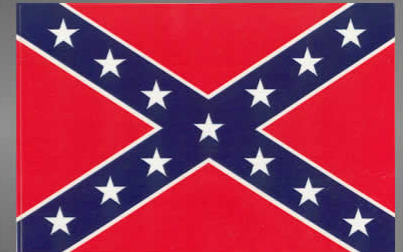
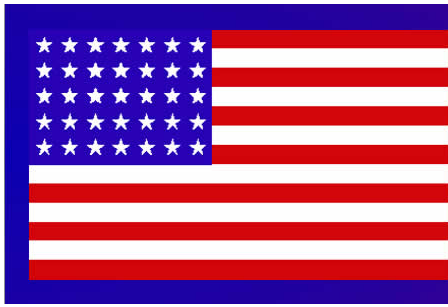
**ill from drinking the water from the polluted James River. This will be a very interesting presentation as Mark shares with us the story of how Dr. Logue handled this unique medical situation!**



**Mark Laubacher, RN, paramedic is a Certified Specialist in Poison Information at Children’s Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. He is a faculty member at the Grant Medical Center Paramedic Program in Columbus. Mark is active**



**in several Civil War organizations, including the Society of Civil War Surgeons, National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland, and the Society of Civil War Historians, He has delivered a presentation on Civil War snakebites.**



**The Roundtable thanks all the members who participated in the very entertaining and educational return of our Show and Tell!** Participants included:

- . Jim Burroughs – a Civil War era sword in good condition found farming in the Kalamazoo area.
- . Ernie Abel – Sheet music for “*The Drummer Boy of Shiloh*”. Almost every battle during the war inspired sheet music.
- . Gary Pritchard – showed us the ledger book of Company H, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Light Artillery – Williamston, MI and Civil War diary of Thomas Bain. The diary will be donated to the University of Michigan.
- . Larry Hathcock – had photo of his great grandfather, Confederate William Torrance and his pension application.
- . George Crouch and Wayne Smith – brought the books, The Soldier in Our Civil War, Volumes 1 and 2, published in 1865. A neighbor gave this to George when he graduated from high school.
- . Ken Baumann – brought U.S. Model 1861 infantry cartridge box from the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps and a fuse plug and fuses from the *USS Cairo*.

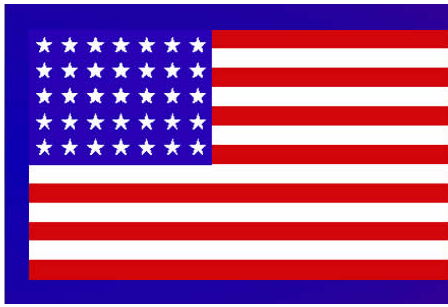
**MRRT Minutes for June 25, 2018:** **Call to Order** 6:40 pm. Approximately 25 people arrived for the business meeting. More people arrived for the outstanding speaker. **Pledge** dedicated to the Special Forces member recently killed in Mogadishu. **Introduction of Guests and New Members** Duane Getzmeier has renewed his lapsed membership! **Treasurer’s Report** North Farmington High School handed out the Maxwell Award. The head of the History Department (one of Jerry’s former students) tries to find someone Jerry would have liked. **Secretary’s Report** accepted **Preservation** No report **Newsletter Report** Bob had one newsletter from the NYC Dispatch. **WEB report** The July meeting will be TWO weeks early. **Program** July’s program will be the return of Show and Tell! Jim is making progress on the 2019 speaker program. **Items of Interest** Larry Hathcock recently visited the World War I Museum in Kansas City and met someone who had Jerry as a teacher! Ken Baumann said that Jerry thought that this was the best World War 1 museum. David Stoddard visited Antietam, North Anna River, Petersburg and Chancellorsville in 4 ½ days. Great trip! George Crouch suggested that we save our questions for the speaker(s) until he or she has finished. Bea thinks that clapping can be annoying.

**MRRT Minutes for July 16, 2018:** **Call to Order:** 6:40 pm with approximately 30 people participating in our meeting, TWO weeks earlier than normal. **Pledge** dedicated to David Speaker, 111<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, Co. A, who had been buried in a potters’ field, then reburied with honors **Introduction of Guests and New Members** John Snyder, friend of Ken Baumann’s. **Secretary’s Report** updated next month **Preservation** The Civil War Trust is working to save two acres on Oak Ridge, at Gettysburg. They are also trying to save 50 acres at Yorktown, which includes the site of Washington’s siege to trap Cornwallis. The Trust has raised 98.7% of the \$5,645,000 price tag. The Roundtable has not spent any money on preservation this year. **Program** Jim is making excellent progress on our 2019 speaker program. **New Business** We had a good discussion on ways to increase our membership. Suggestions included creating an advertising newsletter for the Farmington Library Bulletin Board and the local newspaper. Bee recommended that we from a group to speak at other service meetings to help attract new members. **We agreed to have a meeting at 6:00 pm prior to our August meeting to discuss ideas to improve marketing of the Roundtable. Everyone is invited.**

**Old Business:** A decision on the Olustee battlefield donation will be made at the August meeting.

**Quiz Questions: This month’s questions and answers pertain to the *USS Monitor*:**

1. What was the size of the *USS Monitor* and how large was the crew?
2. What did the *USS Monitor* do after the famous battle with the *CSS Virginia*?
3. How long did it take to build the *USS Monitor*?
4. What is the present status of the *USS Monitor*?
5. What did Monitor inventor John Ericsson do with his patent rights to the ship?



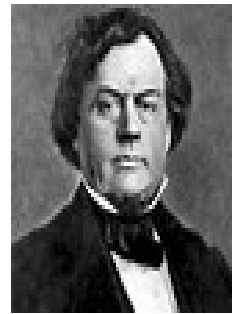
## Civil War Essentials - 2 Unlikely (and unlike) Georgians Who Shaped the Confederacy

**Two friends from Georgia who played major roles in creating the Confederate government were physically and temperamentally poles apart. Alexander Hamilton Stevens and Robert Augustus Toombs had first met as young lawyers in 1835.**



**Stevens (picture left) was a sickly, quiet wisp of a man** (he weighed less than 100 lbs.) who had an extremely keen mind. He had been born into a humble family in 1812. Inheriting his mother's frail constitution (she died young); he suffered from various ailments including rheumatoid arthritis all his life. Lacking confidence due to his size and health, "Little Aleck" pursued learning and the law to earn a living. He never married.

**Toombs (picture right) was Stevens' exact opposite.** Extroverted, physically active, from a slave-holding family, he was born in 1810. He had attended several colleges (expelled once for rowdy behavior) and had achieved only average grades. Always audacious, he and his family had pulled political



levers to allow him to begin practicing law at 19 instead of the statutory 21 years of age. **Whereas Stevens' court room speeches were models of careful reasoning, Toombs often became carried away by his own passion.** Early on he tended to underprepare for trials but he could study and prepare when he chose to.

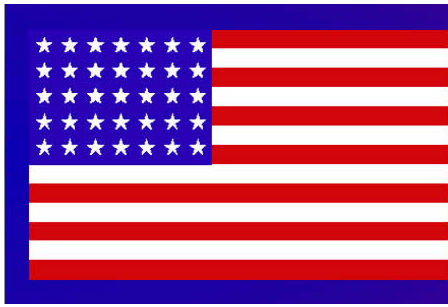
**They became friends over the next several years while riding the circuit through several Georgia counties.** Toombs was initially the more successful lawyer—country juries were often swayed by Toombs' showmanship. Stevens was held back in part by his unimpressive appearance.

Politics was the playground of Southern country lawyers, so **the two soon ran for seats in the lower state house.** Both won against strong opposition based on their support of states' rights. Both were moving toward the new Whig party although neither agreed with the entire party platform. **Once in office, their inherent traits were evident – Stevens said little and then carefully, Toombs was given to colorful, passionate language.** Stevens moved up to the Georgia Senate in 1842. **Both soon began to think beyond state issues to the national scene.** They were elected to the U.S. House in 1845 and were involved in the debate over the proposed Texas annexation, a hot issue of the times.

Throughout the turbulent 1850s both men (Toombs moved to the Senate in 1853) were immersed in the conflict over slavery and its' spread to new territories. For most of the decade, they were in general accord. **Both defended slavery but tried to temper the most radical views of some southerners on this issue.** After creating a Georgia-based Constitutional Union Party, the two shifted to the Democratic Party when both the CUP and the Whig Party collapsed in the mid-1850s.

As the country split along sectional lines for the 1860 election, their friendship was under increasing strain. **Toombs moved to the pro-secession camp and made bellicose speeches during and after the failed Charleston Democratic convention.** He foresaw a larger political role for himself in a new separate country and persuaded many old-line southern Whigs to support secession. **Stevens, while continuing to defend slavery, urged that all factions compromise to preserve the Union.** This was not to be. The Democrats split up and fielded several candidates which ensured a Lincoln victory

**Stevens' despair over the breakup of the Union gave way to resignation. He concluded that he should help make the best of the coming creation of the Confederacy.** On their way to the Montgomery convention to form the new country, the two former friends did agree that the delegates must not only create a new constitution but (exceeding the instructions of the state legislatures) constitute themselves as a provisional congress to act as a temporary government. In the coming crisis, they knew there would be no time for a careful legalistic approach to setting up a government. **Little Aleck had no desire for high office** but was asked to develop procedural rules for the new congress. Having succeeded at that, **Stevens then virtually drafted the provisional constitution alone** and, using parliamentary skills honed in his



Washington years, successfully guided it through the congress. Interestingly, part of the debate over the new constitution was whether Free states would be allowed to join the new country – no.

**Stevens thought that Toombs might represent ideal presidential material** – neither too radical on slavery nor abhorrent to ardent secessionists. Most other delegates agreed except Mississippi's who pushed for Jefferson Davis. Robert Toombs himself believed he would be chosen. Both were too complacent. **Toombs had indulged his long standing fondness for alcohol during parties in Montgomery.** By the vote, Toombs after-hours behavior had damaged his reputation. The Georgia caucus looked at Stevens as an alternative. But Tom Cobb, a political enemy of Stevens, spread a lie that his brother, Howell Cobb, would be nominated by the Georgian delegates. This led other states to switch to Davis as their preferred candidate. **Thus, Robert Toombs, who had actively sought the presidency, found himself on the outside and Aleck Stevens, who had no aspirations, became Vice President to Jeff Davis,** a man he and Toombs had had past conflict with. He knew that Davis rarely listened to advice from others and so it would prove in Richmond. **Toombs reluctantly became the Secretary of State in the provisional government, a position he didn't want and was ill-suited for.**

**When Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion drove Virginia out of the Union, Davis sent Stevens to Richmond to help woo Virginia to the Confederacy.** As an inducement for the still-divided state to join, Aleck suggested that Richmond might assume a major role in the future. With this hint, the state agreed to join and Governor Letcher offered the state's capital as the new country's capital. Despite the Confederacy's growing strength (North Carolina and Arkansas soon followed Virginia); Stevens remained depressed and worried, fearing the onset of bloodshed. He and Toombs urged Davis to gather cotton and use it to fund the government, but Davis had other views.

**Once the Confederacy was "up and running", both Toombs and Stevens saw their roles dwindle. Toombs' disagreements with Davis and his cabinet over fiscal policy, plus his disdain for his duties as Secretary of State soon drove him out of the executive** and he became a part-time soldier (wounded at Antietam as a brigade commander) and gadfly critic of Davis for the rest of the war. After the war he never asked for a pardon. He concentrated on his law practice instead of politics. **Stevens' criticism of Davis's policies, such as conscription and the suspension of *habeas corpus* drove the two further apart although Aleck remained Vice President. His last major duty was to head the Confederate delegation at the failed February 1865 peace conference with Lincoln.** Briefly imprisoned, then pardoned, he returned to the US Congress in 1873.

#### Quiz Answers:

1. The *USS Monitor's* length was 179 feet and the beam was 41 feet, 6 inches. The crew included 49 men, of which 10 were required to be officers.
2. After the battle with the *CSS Virginia*, the *USS Monitor* supported the Union Army on the Peninsula, was involved in the battle of Drewry's Bluff, and then joined the blockade off the North Carolina where it was wrecked on December 31, 1862.
3. The *USS Monitor* was built in 101 days at the Brooklyn Naval Yard. The ironclad was designed by Swedish born engineer and inventor John Ericsson.
4. The *USS Monitor's* wreck was discovered off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 1973. A partial salvage has resulted in the guns, gun turret, and engine being on display at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia.
5. Engineer Ericsson gave the *Monitor's* patent rights to the U.S. government as his "*contribution to the glorious Union cause*".