



The 22nd Michigan Infantry was recruited from the Fifth Congressional District, consisting of Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer, and Sanilac counties. The regiment mustered in at Pontiac on August 29, 1862, with an enrollment of 997 officers and men under the command of the former governor, Colonel Moses Wisner. Within a year and a half, Wisner perished from typhoid fever on January 4, 1863, in Lexington, Kentucky. He would be replaced by Colonel Heber Le Favour of Detroit.

Perhaps no other Michigan infantry regiment performed such stellar service in the entire war as did the 22nd at Chickamauga. On the second day of the fighting the entire Federal army was in danger of melting away, and the 22nd, along with the 21st and 89th Ohio regiments, were to be the sacrificial lambs to save the remainder of the army at Snodgrass Hill. Colonel Le Favour would later write: “[During] the second charge the rebels drove the brigade to the bottom of the hill. [The 22nd] was reformed, marched up, and again took the crest. The regiment was out of ammunition and word was sent to General [Walter] Whittaker to that effect. ‘You must use your steel,’ was [his] reply. The regiment rushed forward with fixed bayonets and empty muskets, under a most terrific fire of grape and musketry, received the counter charge of the enemy, repulsed and drove them at every point.”

During this action three color bearers of the 22nd were killed and several wounded. Color Sergeant Philo G. Durkee was shot through the breast and face, and fell dead. Corporal Richard Stansell, of the color guard, from Co. H, grasped the colors from the dead man’s hand, but had scarcely raised them when a ball passed through his head killing him instantly. Another nameless Michigan man raised the flag, only to have his left arm ripped off by a solid shot. Corporal Jotham Vincent, of Co. C, lifted the colors, and a moment later received a ball in the thigh wounding him severely. First Sergeant William F. Atkinson took the colors, handing them to Sergeant Oscar Kendall, Co. C, who carried them the rest of the day. Casualties throughout the regiment were staggering. Nearly one hundred men fell in this, the first two minutes of real combat the 22nd had ever seen. In the twilight the remaining men of the 22nd tried to drive off the remaining Rebels, but soon the Confederates had the Michigan men surrounded. Fourteen officers and 247 men became prisoners.

One of those captured was Captain Alonzo M. Keeler of Company B, who hailed from Shelby. Keeler’s diary recorded the events of that Sunday, September 20: “We slept on our line without blankets and nearly without rations—Heavy frost—At 9oclock we were ordered to march to reinforce Gen [George] Thomas—At 1-1/2 P.M. we were brought against the rebel Gen [William] Preston—The 22d was engaged in the most terrific fire for 4 hours—We lost heavily in killed and wounded and were all taken prisoners.” Ten days later Captain Keeler recorded in part, “Arrive in Richmond and take up our abode in Libby Prison at 8 P.M.—This in 10 days is a wonderful change—Now we cannot step on the sacred soil of the old Dominion—When shall we be free again—”

On **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**, the MRRT will welcome **Robert and Cherie Allen** who will present “A ‘Guest’ of the Confederacy: The Civil War Letters and Diaries of Alonzo M. Keeler, Captain, Company B, 22nd Michigan Infantry.” The program will be based on their book by the same title. Bob and Cherie have been researching Civil War soldiers buried in Macomb County cemeteries for over ten years. They have utilized the State Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan in Lansing as well as the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor. Visiting various Civil War battlefields in both theaters of action has enhanced their information as well. They are active members of the Israel B. Richardson Civil War Round Table and have won numerous medals and citations for their exemplary community service. Bob and Cherie have also received rave reviews from other Round Tables who have witnessed their fascinating presentation. You’ll want to be in attendance for this one.

Last month the Michigan Regimental’s own **Larry Jackson** gave a dazzling performance on “The Battle of Trevilian Station.” Larry filled the talk with little-known facts and stories which added to the excellence of the program. He also



had numerous slides of the battlefield as well as a number of artifacts dug up at Trevilian—all of this plus one of the most passionate speakers you will ever witness. Great job, Larry!

FALL FIELD TRIP: In approximately one month from now about forty of us will be heading to Virginia for the weekend of October 17-18. Our destination is the battlefields of The Wilderness and Spotsylvania, our guide the incomparable Frank O'Reilly. You too can be a part of this—all you need to do is let Jerry Maxwell know that you are interested, and he'll take care of the rest. Give him a call at 248-363-1710. It just might be your favorite weekend of the year!

QUIZ: Michigan Regiments and Men....

1. On May 16, 1861, the 1st Michigan Infantry arrived in Washington, D.C. Who was its leader and supposedly what was President Lincoln's reaction to their arrival?
2. The 1st Michigan Cavalry was mustered in on September 13, 1861. Who was its commander? And, when the 3rd Michigan Cavalry was mustered in at Grand Rapids, who was its commander? Also, when the commander soon resigned, who replaced him?
3. What was the nickname of the 17th Michigan Infantry? And, why was it given to these men?
4. On August 26, 1861, Company C of the 1st U.S. Sharpshooters was mustered into federal service at Detroit. Which New Yorker organized this unit? And, what would qualify a man to join this unit?
5. Which Michigan unit was called on to squelch a riot in Detroit, touched off by the trial of a black man on rape charges? And, when George Armstrong Custer was appointed to the rank of brigadier general and given command of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, who did he replace?
6. What was the Stanton Guard, mustered into federal service at Detroit on May 10, 1862? And, which Detroit brigadier general, the son of a former Detroit mayor, was killed while leading Union forces in repulsing a Confederate attack on Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on August 5, 1862?
7. What was Michigan's first three-year regiment? And, who was its first commander?
8. What was the nickname of the 8th Michigan Infantry? And, why did it earn this name?
9. What was the nickname of the pontoon bridge over the Tennessee River which opened Chattanooga for Union supplies and communication? And, why was it given this name? Also, what other unit assisted in its construction?
10. Who was reportedly Michigan's first wounded man in the war? And, where and when did this happen?

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The opposing commanders at the Battle of Chickamauga endured strangely different outcomes. Although he lost the battle and was removed from command, **William Starke Rosecrans** never lost his popularity with his soldiers. The great occasion for him was when he attended the meeting of the Chickamauga Memorial Association on September 19 and 20, 1889, at Crawfish Springs, twenty-six years after the battle. John Brown Gordon was then Governor of Georgia and though he had not been at Chickamauga, but with Lee in Virginia, he represented the Southern Army. The Grand Barbecue was held on the twentieth, attended by 10,000 veterans in blue and gray. Thirty tables were laid out, each 250 feet long, making 7500 running feet of table space covering ten acres. Rosecrans and Gordon, on "*full-blooded and magnificent horses,*" rode with the grand marshal and aides in the military procession. The 4th Artillery Band of the United States Army played "*Dixie*" and 10,000 voices joined in the Southern battle song, treasured in after years by both armies. Rosecrans and Gordon were seized by the veterans and lifted to the top of one of the barbecue tables. Gordon spoke and Rosecrans responded, addressing his "*comrades on both sides.*" "*Old veterans cried like infants*" as they crowded around Rosecrans and clasped his hands. "*Old Rosey*" retained his popularity all the way to his death on March



11, 1898. Pneumonia had taken his life on his ranch in California at age 78. He was buried first in Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles, then reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery.

Braxton Bragg, who won this great battle, was never popular with his men. To the end he remained an embittered and irascible man. He was a more pitiful figure after the war, broken by poverty and pinched for companionship. All through his later life he seemed to be groping for a friendly hand. The Reconstructionists ejected him promptly from the job he obtained as superintendent of the New Orleans waterworks. He tried railroading, life insurance and other jobs. It was noticed that the one thing he retained was his unflinching integrity. On September 27, 1876, he was walking down the street in Galveston, Texas, when he suddenly fell to the ground “*without uttering a word.*” Within fifteen minutes he was pronounced dead at the age of fifty-nine. A family physician thought death was due to “*paralysis of the brain.*” A steamer took his remains to Mobile, Alabama where he was interred in Magnolia Cemetery. His faithful wife, Elise, did not join him there until 1908, surviving him for thirty-two years. Bragg’s death saved him from a final ignominy at the hands of the U.S. government. In 1881 Congress refused an appropriation to purchase his papers. Braxton Bragg’s name evokes bitterness among scholars and historians to the present day.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Col. Orlando B. Willcox and “Thank God for Michigan”
2. Col. Thornton F. Brodhead of Grosse Ile and Col. Francis W. Kellogg of Grand Rapids/Lt. Col. Robert H.G. Minty of Detroit
3. “Stonewall Regiment” and in the fighting at South Mountain, Maryland, this regiment drove Confederate troops out of positions behind stone walls
4. Hiram Berdan and 10 consecutive shots had to hit a target at 200 yards, “the average distance not to exceed five inches from the center of the bullseye”
5. 27th Michigan Infantry and General Joseph T. Copeland of Pontiac
6. A company of 86 officers and men, organized to guard three political prisoners from Tennessee who were confined in Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island. It was mustered out 4 months later. And, Thomas Williams
7. 2nd Michigan Infantry and Col. Israel B. Richardson
8. The “Wandering Regiment” and in November of 1862 it fought the enemy in South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland, and in 1863 in Mississippi and Tennessee
9. The “Michigan Bridge” and it was built almost entirely by the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. Also, the 21st Michigan Infantry
10. Private Mathias Wollenweber of the 2nd Michigan Infantry and on July 18, 1861, at Blackburn’s Ford, Virginia

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Make sure you show up at this month’s meeting—**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**—to continue to help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary Year. We will be welcoming **Robert and Cherie Allen** who will present “A ‘Guest’ of the Confederacy: The Civil War Letters and Diaries of Alonzo M. Keeler, Captain, Company B, Twenty-second Michigan Infantry.” The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there.

Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.