



Last call to sign-up for the October 27-28 field trip to the battlefields of First and Second Bull Run. Should you have the time and inclination to join the thirty one members slated to go, contact one of the trip coordinators. You can find their contact information and all other particulars on our website at: www.farmlib.org/mrrt/annual_fieldtrip.html.

On MONDAY, September 24, the Roundtable welcomes MRRT member Rufus K. Barton, III. Rufus will discuss the *“Missouri Surprise of 1864, the battle of Fort Davidson”*. The crucial struggle for control of Missouri has been neglected by most Civil War historians over the years. Rufus will explain that while President Lincoln said he had to have Kentucky, the Union occupation of Missouri saved his “bacon”. The Battle of Fort Davidson on September 27, 1864 was the opening engagement of Confederate Major General Sterling Price’s raid to “liberate” his home state. The battle’s outcome played a key role in the final Union victory in Missouri.

Rufus grew up in the St. Louis, Missouri area and his business opportunities brought him to Michigan in 1975. Rufus was also an U.S. Army Lieutenant and a pilot for 30 years. Studying the Civil War is one of his hobbies.

The MRRT would like to thank William Cottrell for his exceptional presentation, “Lincoln’s Position on Slavery—A Work In Progress”. Bill presented the MRRT a thoughtful and well researched presentation on the progression of Abraham Lincoln’s thinking on the slavery question and how it culminated in action during his Presidency. He began by showing Lincoln as a man of reason, logic and reverence for the law as evidenced in a speech at the Young

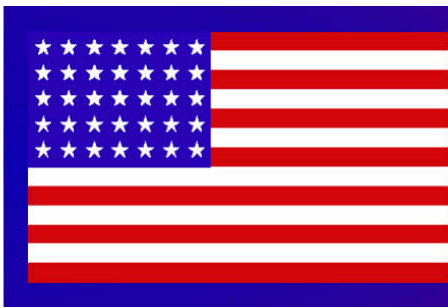


Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois, in 1838—*“Passion has helped us; but can do so no more. It will in future be our enemy. Reason, cold, calculating, unimpassioned reason, must furnish all the materials for our future support and defense.”* As a man of reason, Lincoln demurred abolitionism activism as evidenced while at the age of 28 serving in the Illinois General Assembly he wrote—*“They believe that the institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy; but that the promulgation of abolition doctrines tends rather to increase than to abate its evils.”*

Following his election to the House of Representatives in 1846, Lincoln spent little time with the slavery issue but for an aborted bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia with

compensation for the owners, enforcement to capture fugitive slaves, and a popular vote on the matter. Following his first term, Lincoln returns to Illinois, now somewhat a scorned man due to his vocal opposition to the popular Mexican War while serving in Congress. In the many following years, he and family established themselves in Springfield while Lincoln traveled the Eighth Judicial circuit. These proved to be formative years for Lincoln as he further developed and refined his opinions on slavery and the other great issues of the day.

The pro-slavery 1854 Kansas—Nebraska Act brought Lincoln back into public life in his opposition to it. This lead to his run in 1858 for the Senate in opposition to Stephen A. Douglas. The 1858 campaign against Douglas put the slavery issue front in center, not only in Illinois but nationally. Lincoln’s position can be found in his Peoria debate—*“Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature - opposition to it, is his love of justice. These principles are an eternal antagonism; and when brought into collision so fiercely, as slavery extension brings them, shocks, and throes, and convulsions must ceaselessly follow.”* Although losing the Senate race, Lincoln established himself as a national figure, a reputation that ultimately lead to his election as President in 1860.



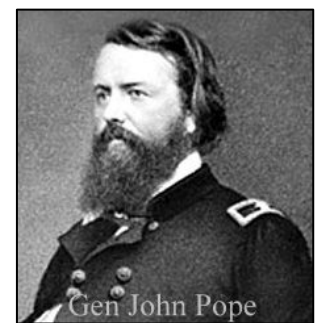
Upon becoming President, Bill paints the picture of Lincoln, a man of reason and law, dealing with a war he feared was taking on the character of social revolution. Although principled in his anti-slavery views—*"I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I can not remember when I did not so think, and feel."*—Lincoln also had a war to prosecute, and that included 3.6 million slaves in the South providing the Confederates a resource that needed to be removed. As a Henry Clay acolyte at the start of his administration, Lincoln initially tried to deal with slavery through gradual emancipation. After failing to win support among the states for paid emancipation and leading black leaders for colonization (e.g., Frederick Douglas), Lincoln concludes a bold departure was required. This ultimately proves to be the July 1862 Emancipation Proclamation.

QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to the “Missouri Surprise of 1864, the battle of Fort Davidson”:

1. What did Kentucky and Missouri have in common, besides being slave states and staying in the Union?
2. How many men were in each army during the Battle of Fort Davidson?
3. What was unique about Missouri during the Civil War?
4. What were the major objectives of Confederate Major General Sterling Price’s Missouri raid?
5. Why did Union General Ewing decide not to surrender Fort Davidson?

MRRT Minutes for August 27, 2012: The **Call to Order** was 6:35 pm. The **Pledge** was dedicated to Neil Armstrong, Jerry Maxwell and Weldon Petz. There were no **Guests or New Members** introduced. **Preservation Report:** The CWT is trying to save 120 acres at Perrysburg NBP. The purchase price is \$1.1 million but there is a match of 13.58 to 1. Five acres of the Mt. Defiance battlefield has been saved. An archaeological investigation has begun at the site of Camp Douglas in Chicago. The historic headquarters of both Union and Confederate generals in Winchester, VA, has been purchased and will be restored after having been damaged by heavy snow in 2007. **Trip Report:** 31 members are signed up for the trip to Manassas. **Items of Interest:** The Michigan marker went up in Depot Town in Ypsilanti, and a temporary marker is up at South Mountain with a permanent one to be installed at a later date. Chuck has a biography of General Ulysses Grant given to him by Hudson Meade and signed by R.A. Alger. Jerry’s book is still getting rave reviews. The event at Pine Grove Historical Museum last month was a “booming” success. The firing of Ron’s cannon was definitely noticed. Well over 400 people were in attendance. **New Business:** Renewal of our Fort Wayne membership was discussed and the motion was passed. **Secretary’s Report:** The July 30, 2012 report was accepted.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (September 1862): **1 Sep:** The final battle of Second Bull Run occurs at Chantilly, VA. The Confederates are victorious and Pope’s army retreats towards D.C. US Gens J.J. Stevens and Phillip Kearny are killed in action. In the West, the KY legislature in fear of an attack on Lexington by CSA Gen Kirby Smith, adjourn and relocate to safer environs at Louisville. **2 Sep:** Lincoln appoints McClellan commander of the Army of Virginia and forces guarding D.C. over the reservation of many in his cabinet to include Stanton. **3 Sep:** Pope files a report with Halleck alleging McClellan failed to provide support. In the West, Kirby Smith occupies Frankfort, KY. **7 Sep:** The Confederate forces positioned at Frederick, MD, causes fear among the citizens of nearby Baltimore, Hagerstown and Harrisburg. **8 Sep:** Gen Lee issues a statement to the citizens of MD *“We know no enemies among you, and will protect all, of every opinion. It is for you to decide your destiny freely, and without constraint.”* **10 Sep:** McClellan advances on the Confederate forces at Frederick. **13 Sep:** McClellan comes into possession of Lee’s ‘Lost Order’ outlining his forces dispositions at Harper’s Ferry, South Mountain and Hagerstown. **14 Sep:** The Battle of Crampton’s Gap opens the Antietam Campaign. **15 Sep:** Harper’s Ferry is taken by the Confederates and 12,000 Union soldiers taken captive. The fort’s commander, Gen Dixon Miles is killed in the fighting. **17 Sep:** The numerically superior forces of McClellan are arranged along the Antietam Creek in a face-off with





Lee's army. In what is considered "the single bloodiest battle of the war", McClellan's hold the ground at the end of the day. In the West, CSA Gen Braxton Bragg accepts the surrender of Munfordville, KY. **18 Sep:** Gen Lee and his army retreat south to VA and the resumption of a defensive posture. **19 Sep:** In the West, CSA Gen Sterling Price and Gen Rosecrans clash at Iuka resulting in the Confederate troops retreating south. **21 Sep:** Gen Bragg begins moving his troops to combine them with those of Kirby Smith's. This provides Union forces the opportunity to retake Munfordville. **22 Sep:** Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation and thereby fundamentally changes the moral pinning's of the war. **24 Sep:** Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus for individual interfering with volunteer enlistments, resisting militia drafts or guilty of disloyal practice or affording comfort to rebels. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

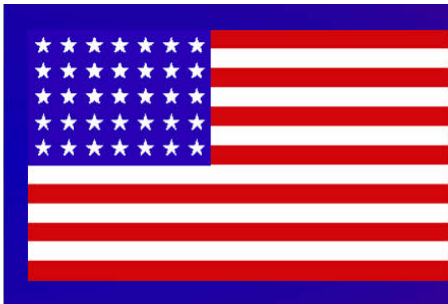
Civil War Essentials: As with last month, this space is dedicated to our upcoming trip to Manassas. This month we look at Second Bull Run. I found an appropriately brief and well-done write-up from *My Brother's Face* written by Charles Phillips and Alan Axelrod.

Second Bull Run – August 29-30, 1862



"Fed up with McClellan's timidity after the Seven Days campaign, Lincoln finally relieved the Young Napoleon, replacing him with two veterans from the West. Henry "Old Brains" Halleck became General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army, and John Pope took over McClellan's troops north and west of Richmond. A condescending braggart, Pope was not only unpopular with his fellow officers; he was as despised by the common Union soldier as McClellan was beloved. Confederate soldiers hated Pope for the harshness with which he treated Southern civilians. As soon as it was clear that McClellan no longer threatened Richmond, Lee—again defying traditional military doctrine—split his command in two and headed north to 'suppress' the 'miscreant' Pope.

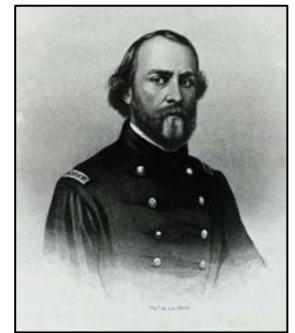
Stonewall Jackson caught up with Pope's troops on August 9 at Cedar Mountain near Culpeper Courthouse in Virginia and fought them to a standstill that may be counted a Confederate victory. J.E.B. Stuart struck next, raiding Pope's headquarters, confiscating \$35,000 in cash, a notebook indicating the disposition of the Union troops, and Pope's dress coat. In a long, clockwise flanking march that was fast becoming a typical Lee stratagem, Jackson first turned west, then east on August 26 to lead his 25,000 men on a remarkable two-day, fifty-six-mile journey to cut Pope's railway communications. Though Herman Haupt, the North's railroading wizard, had the tracks repaired and the trains running within four days, Pope was not equal to Haupt's engineering genius. In fact, while the tracks were being repaired, Pope



had lost all trace of Jackson. He found him two days later, ensconced on Stony Ridge, overlooking the Manassas battlefield of the year before.

Boasting he would ‘bag the whole crowd,’ Pope launched an attack on August 29. The Rebels held, though late in the battle many of them were reduced to hurling rocks at the Yankees, having run out of bullets. Convinced they would flee, Pope was promising a relentless pursuit for the next day just as the second half of Lee’s command, under Longstreet, arrived at 2 P.M. Five divisions stormed into the Union flank along a two mile front. By the time it had ended, the Union had suffered some 16,000 casualties, more than five times the number killed, wounded, or missing at the first Manassas. Lincoln, his troops demoralized, his cabinet openly critical, his political enemies in an uproar, reluctantly sent the disgraced Pope off to fight Sioux in Minnesota and gave McClellan back his command.”

On the eve of our trip to the battlefields of First and Second Bull Run, I’m including the incomparable letter of Sullivan Ballou to his wife Sarah. You are probably familiar with it from Ken Burns’ *The Civil War* series. Sullivan wrote this letter one week prior to the first battle of Bull Run where he lost his life on July 21, 1861. At the time of his death, Sullivan was 32 and served as a Major with the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry. His wife Sarah was 24. They had two sons. Sarah never remarried and died at the age of 80 in 1917 and is buried next to her husband. I believe this letter portrays a universal humanity and the consequence of deadly conflicts, great and small, then and now.



July the 14th, 1861, Washington DC
My very dear Sarah

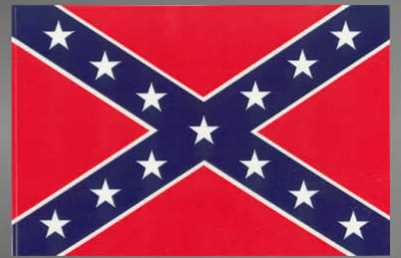
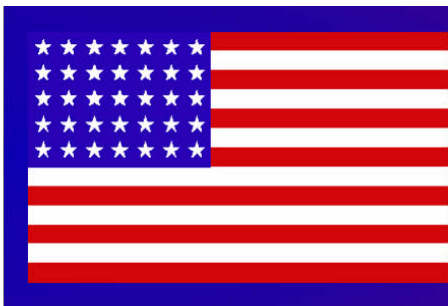
The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days—perhaps tomorrow. Lest I should not be able to write you again, I feel impelled to write lines that may fall under your eye when I shall be no more.

Our movement may be one of a few days duration and full of pleasure—and it may be one of severe conflict and death to me. Not my will, but thine O God, be done. If it is necessary that I should fall on the battlefield for my country, I am ready. I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in, the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how strongly American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the Government, and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution. And I am willing—perfectly willing—to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this Government, and to pay that debt.

But, my dear wife, when I know that with my own joys I lay down nearly all of yours, and replace them in this life with cares and sorrows—when, after having eaten for long years the bitter fruit of orphanage myself, I must offer it as their only sustenance to my dear little children—is it weak or dishonorable, while the banner of my purpose floats calmly and proudly in the breeze, that my unbounded love for you, my darling wife and children, should struggle in fierce, though useless, contest with my love of country.

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me to you with mighty cables that nothing but Omnipotence could break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly on with all these chains to the battlefield.

The memories of the blissful moments I have spent with you come creeping over me, and I feel most gratified to God and to you that I have enjoyed them so long. And hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes of future years, when God willing, we might still have lived and loved together and seen our sons grow up to honorable manhood around us. I have, I know, but few and small claims upon Divine Providence, but something whispers to me—perhaps it is the



wafted prayer of my little Edgar—that I shall return to my loved ones unharmed. If I do not, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, and when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless and foolish I have often been! How gladly would I wash out with my tears every little spot upon your happiness, and struggle with all the misfortune of this world, to shield you and my children from harm. But I cannot. I must watch you from the spirit land and hover near you, while you buffet the storms with your precious little freight, and wait with sad patience till we meet to part no more.

But, O Sarah! If the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they loved, I shall always be near you; in the brightest day and in the darkest night—amidst your happiest scenes and gloomiest hours—always, always; and if there be a soft breeze upon your cheek, it shall be my breath; or the cool air fans your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by.

Sarah, do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for me, for we shall meet again.

As for my little boys, they will grow as I have done, and never know a father's love and care. Little Willie is too young to remember me long, and my blue-eyed Edgar will keep my frolics with him among the dimmest memories of his childhood. Sarah, I have unlimited confidence in your maternal care and your development of their characters. Tell my two mothers his and hers I call God's blessing upon them. O Sarah, I wait for you there! Come to me, and lead thither my children.

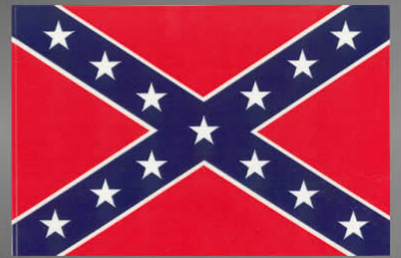
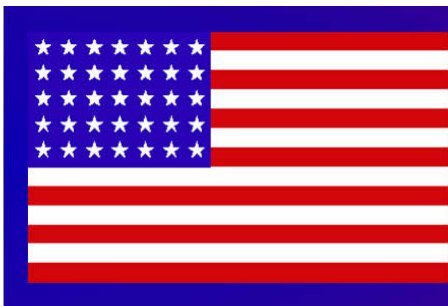
Sullivan

Items of Interest:

1. Gary Pritchard passes along that the 17th Michigan will dedicate its Michigan new marker in Depot Town in front of the Thompson Block building on the corners of E. Cross Street and N. River Street, Ypsilanti, on September 22 at 10:00 am. All are welcomed. Google Depot Town Ypsilanti for a map.
2. All are invited to the Civil War Encampment Weekend at Van Buren Park (located on the I-94 South Service Drive, Rawsonville Road Exit 187), Belleville, Michigan this upcoming October 5-7. Costs are \$5 per person or \$10 Weekend Pass (Fri-Sun).
3. If you didn't have the chance to hear Jack Dempsey present "*Michigan & the Civil War: A Great and Bloody Sacrifice*" this last May, he'll be giving the same presentation at the Milford Public Library (330 Family Drive, Milford, MI 48381) between the hours of 6:30-8 pm, Thursday, October 11. There is no charge to attend.

QUIZ Answers:

1. The Confederate flag of 13 stars issued on November 28, 1861 included both Kentucky and Missouri.
2. The Confederates had 12,000 men, of which 3,000 were unarmed. The Union garrison of Fort Davidson had only 1,500 men and seven cannon. The Union commander was Brigadier General Thomas Ewing, brother-in-law to General Sherman.
3. Missouri had the largest percentage of the military age population of any state fighting in the war, on either side. Also, all of the iron used by the Union for its Mississippi River fleet of armored gunboats came from Pilot Knob (site of Fort Davidson).
4. The key objective was to capture St. Louis with its massive military depots and induce the "Southern sympathizing" population to join the ailing Confederate cause. The second objective was to capture Jefferson City and install a Confederate governor and legislature.
5. General Ewing was concerned about the fate of both his African-American soldiers and himself. He issued General Order #11 and had used Union cavalry to force thousands of Missouri civilians into Arkansas for allegedly helping Confederate bushwhackers.



Come out Monday, September 24, to hear Rufus K Barton III, present “Missouri Surprise of 1864, the battle of Fort Davidson”. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm, Farmington Public Library. Also, check our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.