



**On MONDAY, September 30, the MRRT welcomes Brian Egen from the Henry Ford. His presentation will be “Gettysburg Behind the Scenes”.** The Roundtable will complete this year’s discussion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with a behind the scenes review on making of the movie *Gettysburg*. Brian played the role of the ‘Cocky Lieutenant’ in the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine. He had a speaking role with Jeff Daniels, who portrayed Colonel Chamberlain. Brian’s presentation will provide a glimpse of the personalities, logistical concerns, and ‘movie magic’ involved in making the film.

Brian Egen has worked in a variety of positions at the Henry Ford in Dearborn since 1992. For thirteen years he managed Greenfield Village’s Agriculture Programs, including the Firestone Farm. Currently, Brian is the Program Development Officer at the Henry Ford. He is directly responsible for the Civil War Remembrance program over the Memorial Day weekend and the Historical Baseball Programs. Brian serves on the Michigan Historical Commission and in September 2012 was appointed chairman of the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. Brian has significant experience in film-making. He has served as director and assistant director on several National Park documentaries, History Channel episodes, and more including an award-winning independent film, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*.

**The Roundtable would like to thank our six participants at the August Show and Tell.** Their presentations were entertaining and informative.

**John Fundukian** – John showed us a Civil War Colt pocket pistol manufactured in 1862 in Hartford, Connecticut. The pistol is nickel-plated, 31 caliber, cap & ball, and weighs 1 ½ lbs.

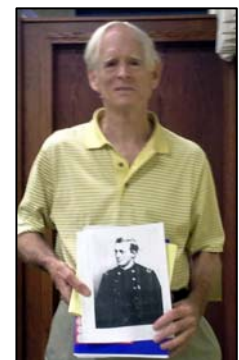
Regular Union soldiers used this type of pistol. John has not fired it. We thank John for sharing!



**Brandon Wright** – Brandon showed us an 1862 Union non-commissioned officer’s sword. The sword’s sheath is very brittle. The sword was made in either New York or Massachusetts. This weapon was purchased locally and may be worth \$400 to \$500. We thank Brandon for sharing!



**Chuck DuCharme** – Chuck shared with us more information on his Civil War ancestor, John Snider Cooper. Mr. Cooper joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Ohio in 1861, later becoming a Lieutenant Colonel of the 107<sup>th</sup> Ohio. His regiment chased Stonewall Jackson across the Shenandoah Valley and was involved at Second Bull Run and Gettysburg. He was born in Mt. Gilead, Ohio, where Chuck has done significant research on his ancestors. We thank Chuck for sharing his story!



**Brian Mayer** – Brian shared with us a newspaper article from Frederick, Maryland, dated July 7, 2013. The article discussed the fate of the old light-up map at the Gettysburg Visitor Center. The fifty year old map was rescued from the scrap heap as the Visitor Center did not want it anymore. Significant repairs were required, including removing asbestos, several broken lights, and the control system was missing. Scott Rolan purchased the 12 ton map at auction for \$14,000. Repairing the map is proceeding with students working on electrical issues. The present plan is to display it in Hanover. We thank Brian for sharing this very interesting article with us!





**Robert May** – Robert discussed with us the ordeal a Civil War soldier went through when his arm or leg was amputated. Usually, the surgeon would use a saw to cut off the arm or leg. The soldier would probably have only a little alcohol to deaden the pain. Usually, the nerves are damaged. The soldiers went through a lot of nerve pain afterwards. We thank Robert for sharing his insight on this human aspect of the Civil War!



**Gene Kramer** – Gene shared with us The Reenactor’s Journal for September 1992. There were articles on children’s clothing, medical, and musical aspects of the Civil War. The November 1992 issue discussed Civil War food and the Perryville reenactment. The question, *is reenacting expensive?*, was discussed. The December 1992 issue of The Reenactor’s Journal discussed a painful subject, Civil War dentistry. Additionally, some Confederate re-enactors were very sloppy – no one wants to be a private. An article discussed recognition and how to obtain it. We thank Gene for some insight into the world of reenacting.



**QUIZ: The questions below all involve the film, Gettysburg:**

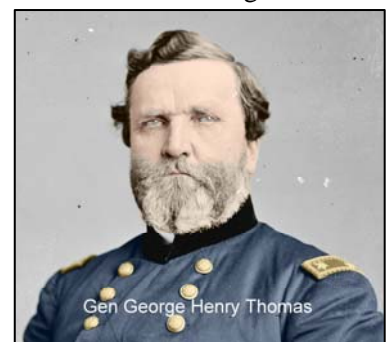
1. Which scenes from the movie ‘Gettysburg’ were filmed on the actual battlefield?
2. Which Gettysburg road was used to represent the Emmitsburg Road on the film set?
3. What is noticeably different about the Lutheran Seminary set shown in the film and why?
4. Which non-credited role/character did historical consultant/historian Brian C. Pohanka play during the filming?
5. Which famous painting did director Ron Maxwell re-create using Tom Chamberlain and Confederate prisoners that actually occurred in 1864?

**MRRT Minutes for August 26, 2013:** The **Call to Order** was at 6:40. **Introductions of Guests and New Members:** Tony Morris and Don Connelly attended from Lafayette, IN and new members Barbara and Ernie Abel. **Treasurer’s Report:** There are ninety paid MRRT members for 2013. As approved in July, a check for \$100 was sent in support of the MSU archives. **Preservation Report:** According to Ed Bearss, the most significant tract of ground saved by the CWPT is the 109 acres at Reed’s bridge near Chickamauga NMP. The property is valuable because of the conflict between the Union forces of Colonel Robert Minty and Bushrod Johnson one day prior to the battle of Chickamauga. **Trip Report:** We have twenty eight paid and five more we’re still waiting on. Doug Bostick has added Dr. Steven Wise and “Skipper” Keith to our tour. Both will bring their expertise to our tours of Charleston, Battery Wagner, and James and Morris Islands. He has also added a special treat to our Saturday night dinner, a one act play depicting the real stories of two soldiers who were at the battle of Battery Wagner. Doug will be joining us for a short orientation on Friday night at the Hampton Inn. Mollie has promised to contact him about special dietary requests for lunches for the two days. **Items of Interest:** Civil War Days at Fort Wayne are Sept 14-15. Roundtable members, reenactors, historians and educators are asked to participate. Contact Larry for more information. The Fifth Michigan Band will be at the National Cemetery in Holly on Sept 14. The cemetery buries seventeen veterans and spouses daily. The **Minutes for July 22, 2013** were approved.

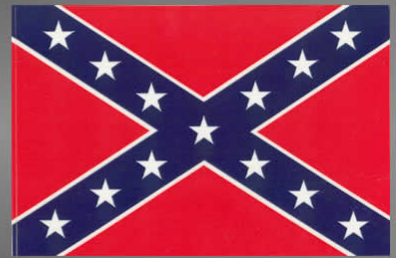
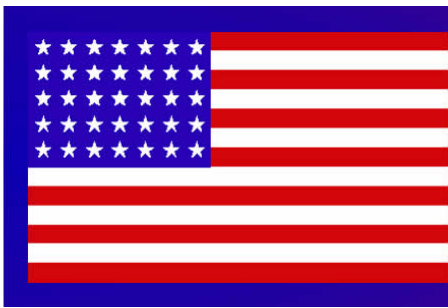
**Civil War Sesquicentennial (September 1863): 1 Sep:** On the Eastern front, the bombardment against Sumter continues with the union pouring in 627 rounds into the fort, further reducing the walls to rubble but the Confederates continue to hold. In the West, Rosecrans Army of the Cumberland begins a 4-day long crossing of the Tennessee River, largely unopposed. **2 Sep:** Burnside’s troops occupy Knoxville unopposed, providing a resource to Rosecrans if needed



in his operation against Bragg's Army of the Tennessee. **5 Sep:** Rosecrans convinced that Bragg is abandoning Chattanooga splits his troops into three groups as it moves through gaps in the Georgian mountains south of the city. On the international front, England finally gives in to Washington's demand to stop outfitting the Confederate navy with the seizure of two newly built ironclads in Liverpool's Laird shipyards. This essentially eases the diplomatic crisis between Washington and Britain. **6 Sep:** As Rosecrans troops close on Chattanooga, Bragg evacuates the city. Around Charleston, Beauregard concludes it would be too costly to defend Battery Wagner and Gregg and abandons them. The union force captures these two forts the next day. **9 Sep:** Bragg sets in motion a plan to bag Rosecrans separated forces in detail. Meanwhile, Longstreet's troops depart Lee's army and begin their railroad journey to reinforce Bragg. **10 Sep:** Bragg launches his initial attacks against Rosecrans forces but they are done too early and the plan ineptly executed, failing to achieve objectives. **12 Sep:** Rosecrans realizes the peril his separated army faces with the concentrated Confederate force facing it and orders it to reunite. **12 Sep:** Bragg directs Polk to attack Crittenden the following day at Lee and Gordon's Mill on Chickamauga Creek. **13 Sep:** Bragg finds Polk has not followed his plans and Crittenden units have successfully concentrated. **15 Sep:** Meade has advanced his Army of the Potomac to Culpeper Court. **17 Sep:** Rosecrans has concentrated his forces around Lee and Gordon's Mill and his forces are now within reinforcing distance to one another. Bragg on the east bank of the Chickamauga Creek develops his battle plan to turn the Union left flank, getting behind Rosecrans and cutting his retreat to Chattanooga. **18 Sep:** Longstreet's troops arrive from Virginia to reinforce Bragg. Rosecrans and Bragg spend a busy day positioning troops for the upcoming battle. **19 Sep:** As dawn arrives, Union and Confederate forces find themselves facing one another along a six mile front. A Union Captain writes *"Through that forenoon we saw the constantly moving columns of the enemy's infantry and saw battery after battery as they moved before us like a great panorama. In such moments men grow pale and lose their nerve. They are hungry but they cannot eat; they are tired, but cannot sit down. You speak to them, and they answer as if half asleep; they laugh, but the laugh has no joy in it."* On this day the bloodiest battle of the Western Theater begins nearby the Chickamauga River, a Cherokee Indian name meaning 'River of Death'. By the end of the day, losses are high on both sides but neither side has gained significant advantage. **20 Sep:** As this day develops at Chickamauga, the Confederates find a gapping hole in the Union line vacated by Wood. Longstreet's troops exploit the gap, breaking the Union line in two and causing disorder. As Union troops flee towards Chattanooga, [Gen George Thomas](#) holds the Federal left on Snodgrass Hill, repelling waves of Confederate attacks until withdrawing at nightfall towards Chattanooga. On this day, Thomas will hereafter be known as the 'Rock of Chickamauga'. **21 Sep:** Bragg moves slowly allowing Rosecrans to organize his defense. Lincoln wires Burnside to *"Go to Rosecrans with your forces, without a moment delay."* Burnside facing opposition himself stays. **22 Sep:** Lincoln mourns the death at Chickamauga of his brother-in-law, CSA Gen Ben Hardin Helm. Bragg occupies Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain. The Union forces just days earlier in the chase of Bragg, find themselves besieged in Chattanooga. **23 Sep:** Lincoln and his cabinet act to move two corps of Hooker's to the aid of Rosecrans. **28 Sep:** Rosecrans deflecting his own shortcomings, levels charges at McCook and Crittenden who are ordered to Indianapolis for an inquiry—both are exonerated. **30 Sep:** Bragg seeing that the Union is not evacuating Chattanooga orders Wheeler to conduct cavalry raids on the Union lines-of-commutations. For information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.



**Civil War Essentials - Fort Sumter:** For those of you heading to Charleston that have not been to Fort Sumter, here's a recommendation you make time to do so. The *Fort Sumter Tours* is the authorized National Park Service concessionaire. The trip to and from the fort is about 30 minutes each way and plan on spending an hour with a NPS Ranger while there. You can make reservations with *Fort Sumter Tours* at their website (<http://fortsumtertours.com/>) or call 800-789-3678. The cost is \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors 62 years and older.



- Fort Sumter was built following the war of 1812 to shore up coastal defenses and was named after the Revolutionary War hero, General Thomas Sumter.
- The fort's construction was still unfinished at the time MAJ Robert Anderson relocated his troops there after abandoning Fort Moultrie on December 26, 1860.
- An attempt by the steamer *Star of the West* to resupply food, material and soldiers was repulsed January 8, 1861.
- Realizing Anderson's command would run out of food by April 15, 1861, a second attempt to resupply the fort was attempted under the command of Gustavus Fox. The first ships reached the Charleston Harbor by April 11, 1861 but this attempt also failed.
- On April 11, 1861, Beauregard demanded Anderson to surrender the fort. He refused and the Confederates opened fire on Sumter Friday, April 12, 1861 at 4:30 am. The fort returned fire at about 7 am with the limited ammunition on hand. On Saturday, April 13, 1861, the fort was surrendered. The only casualties were two Union soldiers mortally wounded when the 47<sup>th</sup> shot of 100 shot salute prematurely exploded. The *Star of the West* returned garrison members to New York.
- April 7, 1863 began the Federals next effort to retake Sumter and Charleston when Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Point led the largest deployment of ironclads up to that time. This action was ultimately unsuccessful and the *USS Keokuk* was badly damaged and sank the next day 1400 yards off the tip of Morris Island
- August 17-23, 1863, Sumter was fired upon from Morris Island nearly reducing it to rubble but it still held.
- On September 8, 1863, Rear Admiral John Dahlgren launched a boat assault against Sumter manned by 400 sailors and marines but that attack too was repulsed.
- The fort never surrendered but General Sherman's advance through South Carolina finally forced the Confederates to evacuate Charleston on February 17, 1865 and abandon Fort Sumter. The Federal government formally took possession of it on February 22, 1865.



### QUIZ Answers:

1. No combat scenes were filmed on the battlefield. The Pickett's Charge approach, some of General Buford at the Cemetery and Colonel Chamberlain on the boulder on July 3<sup>rd</sup> were filmed on the battlefield.
2. The Pumping Station Road
3. The façade used/recreated in the film is the east façade (less windows) of the original building when it should be the west façade facing the First Day's battlefield.
4. Union General Alexander Webb
5. Winslow Homer's "Prisoners from the Front" painting of General Francis Barlow questioning Confederate prisoners.

**Mark your calendars for Brian Egen's "Gettysburg behind the Scenes", Monday, September 30.** Coffee and cookies will be available at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:45 pm, Farmington Public Library. Check out our website at [www.farmlib.org/mrrt/](http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/). Note that the next meeting and newsletter will be November 2013.