

We've got 28 enthusiastic MRRT members and friends heading to Richmond for the October 24-26 fall trip, "Five Forks to Appomattox". Final cost is **\$163** for the guided tour plus \$40 for Saturday's banquet. Come to the September meeting ready to pay your balance with checks made out to Jeanie Graham (not MRRT). Any questions about what you owe or if you can't make the meeting, email/phone Jeanie at 248-851-9320 grahamjeanie@hotmail.com. Other trip questions - email/phone Linda at 586-749-6075 lindagerhardt@comcast.net, or Mollie at 313-530-8516 mmgalate@gmail.com. For further information, check our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/pdfs/2014fieldtrip.pdf.

On MONDAY, September 29, the MRRT welcomes long-time member Don Garlit to present "Southerners Speak Out on Secession". Don will discuss what Southern leaders actually said about secession at that time. We will find some surprises as the leaders had much to say. Join us for what is sure to be an entertaining and enlightening evening on the causes of the war.



Don is a former President of the MRRT and a member since 1984. Now retired, he spends much of his time volunteering with history and animal-sheltering groups. He serves as Treasurer of RedRover, a national animal sheltering group. Don has a tough decision on who to root for during the football season as he has degrees from Michigan State, Michigan, and Ohio State (in that order).

The Roundtable would like to thank Bill Grandstaff for his informative and engaging presentation on "Franklin Buchanan – Temper, Temper". Bill brought to life one of the most interesting and obscure personalities of the Civil War . . . Franklin (Old Buck) Buchanan (1800-1874). His grandfather was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Buchanan became a midshipman on the USS Java at age 15. The ship's captain was Oliver Hazard Perry. By 1841 Buchanan was promoted to Commander. As an 'old-school' sailor, he was disappointed when flogging was eliminated in the U.S. Navy.



Commander Buchanan was appointed the first Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1845. During his term as Superintendent from 1845-1847, no one dared to drink around him. Today, the Superintendent's home is called the Buchanan House.

After leaving the Academy he commanded the USS Germantown. Buchanan was part of the fleet Admiral Perry took to Japan during the 1850's to open trade with the Japanese. Commander Buchanan met with Japanese officials and delivered a special letter from

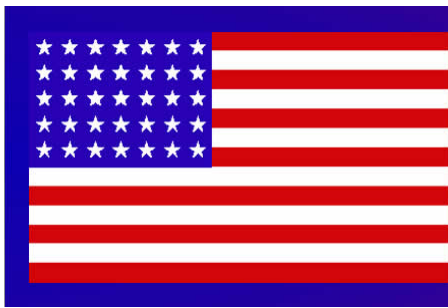
President Fillmore. During the voyage, Commodore Perry reversed two of Buchanan's disciplinary actions . . . relegating his opinion of Perry as have "gone from worthwhile to worthless".



In 1859 Buchanan became commander of the Washington Naval Yard, a prestigious post. With the advent of the Civil War, Franklin submitted his resignation to Secretary Welles because he was sure that Maryland would secede from the Union. When it didn't, he tried to rescind his resignation but Secretary Welles refused his request and removed Buchanan from the Navy list.

Buchanan soon thereafter joined the Confederate Navy. Naval Secretary Mallory put him in charge of personnel and supplies. When the war started, the Confederate Navy had only five or six ships and few sailors.

Secretary Mallory bypassed the seniority list to appoint Buchanan commander of the James



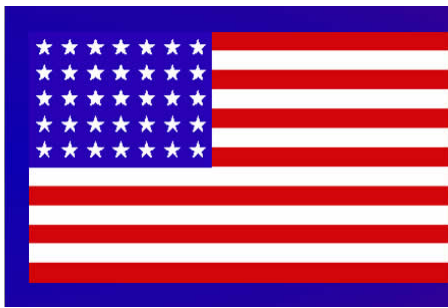
River Squadron in 1862, which included the new ironclad C.S.S. Virginia, because he wanted an aggressive leader. The C.S.S. Virginia went into action on March 8, 1862 with an unreliable engine. During the first day of battle, the C.S.S. Virginia captained by Buchanan sank the USS Cumberland in 35 minutes and destroyed the USS Congress. By coincidence, Buchanan's brother, a Union Naval paymaster, was onboard the Cumberland but survived the sinking. During this same day, an angry Buchanan got into a tit-for-tat with on-shore troops and, unfortunately for him, was hit in the thigh by a musket shot from a 20th Indiana soldier. The wound caused him to miss the first Ironclad Battle the next day. His temper had gotten the best of him.

Franklin Buchanan became the only Admiral in the Confederate Navy. He fought Admiral Farragut on Mobile Bay in 1864, was wounded and captured by the Union Navy.

Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to Southern Secession:

1. How many states issued a Secession Ordinance (whether valid or not)? Hint: The answer is more than 11.
2. How many states issued a "Causes" document to explain their secession action?
3. What is the common name for the speech Vice President Stevens gave in Savannah, Georgia in March 1861, discussing several secession issues?
4. How many states had a general voting referendum on secession (as opposed to voting for delegates to a secession convention).
5. Did President Davis say "*All we ask is to be let alone*" during his Inaugural

Minutes for August 25, 2014: President Larry Hathcock called the **meeting to order** at 6:30 pm. The **Pledge** was dedicated to the father of Jean Helton, a WWII veteran. **Guests and New Members** included introduction of our newest member, Diane Abbott. She is a member of the Abraham Lincoln Roundtable but was interested in summer meetings (the ALRT takes a break during the summer months). She lives in St. Clair Shores and winters in Florida. Diane came to the meeting with Lucy Beard and is the author of the book "*Honor Unbound*" that explores the life of *Emma Edmunds*, the Michigan woman who disguised herself as a boy and enlisted as Frank Thompson. **Preservation Report:** Joe Epstein reported that fundraising is closed on Cold Harbor (6 acres saved); Stones River (0.12 acres saved); Glendale (3 tracts saved); Mansfield, Appomattox Courthouse, Bentonville and Petersburg (306 acres saved). Fund raising drives are currently underway for Port Republic, North Anna and Lee's Headquarters. The CWT is also attempting to save "*the blackest part of the bull's eye*" at Harper's Ferry. This is a 13 acre plot that was the scene of Jackson's bombardment of the Union lines that forced Miles to surrender. The cost of this site is a hefty \$2.425M. The trust has raised 93% of the needed funds from grants and private donations but \$123K is still needed at a 19.4 to 1 match. A motion to donate \$150 to the Harper's Ferry project was made by Jim Burroughs, seconded and passed. **Newsletter Report:** Bob Newill gave updates from the Toledo Minie' Bulletin; Cleveland Roundtable; Cincinnati Canister, and New York Dispatch. **New Business:** 1- On weekends, CSPAN is broadcasting very good American History shows, including the Civil War and the War of 1812. 2- Gene Kramer reports that Green Meade in Livonia will have a 200th Anniversary celebration of the Star Spangled Banner on Sunday, September 4, beginning at 2 pm. The celebration will include a replica flag, visits from the mayor and a state representative, the Livonia Civic Chorus, and the Schoolcraft College Band. 3- Jeanie Graham reports PBS has shown a special on the discovery of Camp Lawton in Georgia. 4- Larry Hathcock says a book on the re-enactors from Michigan called "*American Civil War: The Michigan Experience*" is available for \$25.99 plus shipping and handling. The book includes lots of photos of Michigan in the Civil War. 5- Jackson will be forming a new Civil War Roundtable. The Organizing Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 16, for those who are interested. President Larry Hathcock adjourned the Business Meeting at 7:00 pm. The **Minutes for July 21** were approved as presented in the newsletter.



Civil War Essentials: This month we look at “famous” horses that served during the war. Only a few of the more than 1 million horses that served became famous . . . almost all were associated with the leading commanders.

The most famous horse of the war was General Robert E. Lee’s horse *Traveler*. Lee had several horses but Traveler was his favorite. Traveler was strong and quick, with exceptional endurance. Lee purchased him for \$200 in 1861. He said of Traveler, “. . . *he could dilate upon his sagacity and attention and his invariable response to every wish of his rider. He might even imagine his thoughts through the long night marches and days of battle through which he has passed.*” After the war Traveler lost many hairs from his tail to souvenir hunters. He marched in Lee’s funeral in 1870. A year later, Traveler stepped on a nail and developed lockjaw resulting in



his being put to sleep to end his suffering. Today, his remains are buried close to General Lee’s grave.



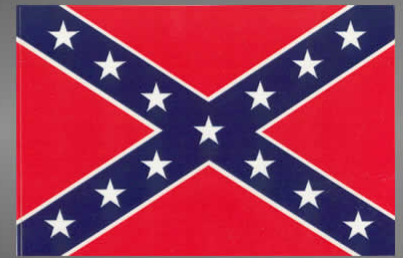
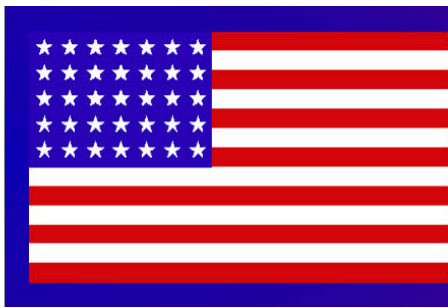
Union General U.S. Grant’s horse was *Cincinnati*. Grant also rode many other horses during the war to include one named *Jeff Davis* taken from a farm owned by Joseph Davis, brother of the Confederate President. Cincinnati became Grant’s most famous horse. He said Cincinnati was “*the finest horse that I have ever seen*”. Cincinnati was descended from *Lexington*, a record breaking thoroughbred. Grant turned down an offer of \$10,000 in gold for the horse. Cincinnati lived at the White House with President Grant.

General “Stonewall” Jackson’s favorite horse was *Little Sorrel*. Little Sorrel and “Stonewall” were a great team. Even though Jackson was a mediocre rider, the small horse was a good fit for him. Little Sorrel was strong, almost tireless, and not easily spooked in battle. The general was riding him when he was mortally wounded in 1863. After the war, Little Sorrel ended up at Virginia Military Institute (VMI), where he became the Cadets’ mascot. He died in 1886 at the age of 36. His hide is in the VMI Museum with his bones buried at VMI near General Jackson’s statue.



General Phillip Sheridan’s horse *Reinzi* helped save the day at the Battle of Cedar Creek in 1864. Reinzi was given to General Sheridan shortly before a raid on Reinzi, MS . . . hence the origin of his name. He was black except for three white ankles, strong and fast. October 19, 1864, Sheridan was on his way back from WA following a meeting with Lincoln and Grant when a surprise attack by Early was launched on his army at Cedar Creek. While riding back to the army from Winchester, Sheridan learned of the attack. Reinzi’s twelve mile ride that day helped seal what was to become a Union victory. Afterwards, Reinzi’s name was changed to *Winchester*. Today, he is on display at the National Museum of History in Washington.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (September 1864): 1 Sep: Hood and the Army of Tennessee evacuate Atlanta. **2 Sep:** Besought by manpower shortage, Lee suggests to Jefferson Davis that white laborers in the army be replaced by black



slaves. **3 Sep:** In recognition of the fall of Atlanta and the victory at Mobile Bay, Lincoln declares 5 Sep a national day of celebration. **4 Sep:** CSA John Hunt Morgan is killed in a clash with troops commanded by Gen Gillem. **5 Sep:** Louisiana citizens go to the polls this day ratifying a new constitution abolishing slavery. **8 Sep:** George McClellan accepts the Democratic nomination for president. **16 Sep:** Grant and Sheridan meet at Charles Town, WV, to discuss the military situation in the Shenandoah Valley. On the Western front, Gen Nathan B. Forrest leaves Mississippi with 4,500 men to harass Sherman's lines of communication and will continue to be a disruptive force up through the beginning of November. **19 Sep:** Sheridan attacks, and after a faulty start, forces Early's Confederates in a retreat at great loss from Winchester, VA. In the Trans-Mississippi Theater, CSA Sterling Price leads a cavalry force of 12,000 men into Missouri. **22 Sep:** Sheridan, following-up his success at Winchester, attacks Early's forces at Fisher's Hill, dealing the Confederates a decisive defeat. **24 Sep:** After defeating Early rather decisively, Sheridan returns to his mission of destroying the food resources in the valley. **27 Sep:** Price attacks a Federal garrison commanded by Thomas Ewing Jr. at Pilot Knob. Although Price out numbers the Federals, he is badly beaten but escapes under cover of darkness. **29 Sep:** At the Petersburg siege, Union troops capture Fort Harrison but fail in their efforts to take Fort Gilmore.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (October 1864): **2 Oct:** At Petersburg, after a 4-day fight, Union forces successfully conclude their operation at Peebles' Farm, extending the Federal line several miles westward. Early's confederates fight off an attack by Sheridan's troop near Saltville. After the battle, over 100 prisoners, mostly blacks, are put to death by their Southern captors. **5 Oct:** Union defenders at Altoona, GA, in a heroic defense, repulse Confederate troops under CSA Gen French. **6 Oct:** George Custer's cavalry successfully fends off an attack by Rosser's cavalry at Brook's Gap. **7 Oct:** The USS Wachusett captures the CSS Florida at the Brazilian port of Bahia. **9 Oct:** After incurring cavalry attacks for several days, Sheridan unleashes Custer and Wesley Merritt against their Confederate counterparts. **12 Oct:** Rear Adm David Porter assumes command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. **14 Oct:** Sterling Price continues his campaign in Missouri, calling on the citizens to redeem the state to the Southern cause. **17 Oct:** CSA Gen Beauregard assumes command of armies east of the Mississippi. **19 Oct:** In the valley, Early's troops surprise Gen George Crook by an attack to his left flank causing the Federals to retreat in disarray. Sheridan, returning from a meeting in WA with Lincoln and Grant, hears the sound of battle and meets the stream of stragglers, rides towards Cedar Creek. Taking charge of his forces, Sheridan counterattacks late in the afternoon, forcing the Confederates into a disorganized retreat. **20 Oct:** Lincoln establishes Thanksgiving as a national holiday. **22 Oct:** Back at the Trans-Mississippi campaign, Federal troops close in on Sterling Price's Confederates from three sides. Engagements between the forces ultimately drive Price out of Missouri and end the Confederate's last threat to the region. **27 Oct:** Union Naval Lieutenant William B. Cushing leads a dashing expedition up the Roanoke River to blow-up the Confederate ram Albermarle. **31 Oct:** Nevada becomes the 36th state.

For info on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit seekingmichigan.org/civil-war.

Quiz Answers:

1. 13; including all 11 seceding states and "invalid" ordinances from Kentucky and Missouri.
2. Only 4 (South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas)
3. The "Cornerstone" speech
4. Only three – Texas, Virginia, and Tennessee. Virginia voted no the first ballot.
5. No, he said this during an address to the Confederate Congress in April 1861.

Come out Monday, September 29, at the Farmington Community Library, to hear Don Garlit present "*Southerners Speak Out on Secession*". The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Check-out our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.