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Michigan Regimental Round Table Newsletter—Page 1

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**Our Monday, September 24, 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 David Ingall of Tecumseh, Michigan, who will speak on “The Battle of the Little Big Horn”!**

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

**Everyone is invited to a Monday, September 24th 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.**

**EVERYONE MUST PAY FOR OUR TRIP TO CHATTANOOGA & CHICKAMAUGA 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)

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.**

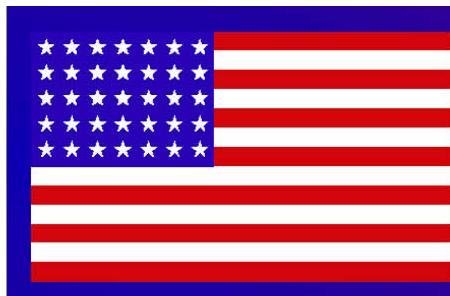
**Our Monday, September 24, 2018 program will feature our friend David Ingall discussing “The Battle of the Little Big Horn”.** This famous battle did not develop or end in the manner generally depicted in Hollywood movies or history books. **David will share with us the many twists and turns in the 1876 cavalry campaign and battle itself, that led to the defeat of the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry led by George Custer of Monroe, Michigan.** He will share with us the known facts and debated theories so that we can make our own judgments about what really happened and who's to blame! This will be another fascinating presentation!

**David has spoken to our Roundtable on several occasions on various topics, including George Custer during the Civil War. He was born in Monroe and now lives in Temperance, MI.** David has researched the lives of 25 relatives that participated in the Civil War and the lives of many other Monroe County Civil War veterans. He is co-author of *Michigan Civil War Landmarks*, published by the History Press in 2015.



**The Roundtable thanks Mark Laubacher for his outstanding presentation on “A Surgeon’s Life aboard the USS Monitor”.** During the eleven months of the ironclad *USS Monitor*’s active duty there were three surgeons, fulfilling the requirement that every U.S. ship must have a surgeon. **Daniel Carmichael Logue, M.D., son of a doctor, was the first surgeon. His grandfather was a bodyguard for General George Washington.**

**Dr. Logue, 29 years old, was appointed an acting assistant surgeon in January, 1862. He went to the New York Navy Yard in February and then joined the *USS Monitor* crew on March 6, 1862.** Dr. Logue had to design the



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medical pannier of equipment and medications for a ship of 50 men. He selected Jesse M. Jones as his surgeon's steward.

The turret was made of 8 inches thick iron with a diameter of 20 feet and a height of 9 feet. Two cannon with 8 men each were in the turret. Each member of the turret crew, 21 in total, had a specific job to do.

**Dr. Logue's first duty was to treat the sea sickness of many men on March 7<sup>th</sup>.** The men were moved to the top of the turret and laid down on the railroad rails. Then, at 4:00 pm the ocean water entered the engine room via the blower pipes causing the engines to stop working. The 11 firemen inhaled carbon monoxide from the coal-burning engines. **Dr. Logue treated the men for both the sea sickness and poisonous gases with brandy as the antidote.**

**Primary blast injuries were caused by blast or shock waves of air moving through the turret after solid shot from the CSS Virginia hit the turret nine times during the epic battle on March 9, 1862.** Traumatic brain injuries from concussion, ruptured organs, and pulmonary contusions were possible.

**Secondary blast injuries were caused by objects flying around the inside the vessel and striking crew members.**

Both penetrating and blunt trauma occurred.



(Left picture – USS Monitor officers, Dr. Logue is 2<sup>nd</sup> on the right, 2<sup>nd</sup> row.)

**Tertiary injuries were caused when the air inside the turret was displaced, creating a blast wave.** Men were knocked to the floor or caused the men to hit solid objects. As a result, closed head trauma occurred.

**Other blast injuries included flash burns and crush injuries. Psychological injuries would not become evident until several years later.**

**Afterwards, the USS Monitor was part of a task force that sailed up the James River to attack Drewry's Bluff, assisting General McClellan's Peninsula Campaign.** Unfortunately, the cannon could not be lifted high

enough to hit the target. **The USS Monitor's crew contacted hepatitis from drinking the polluted water in the James River.**

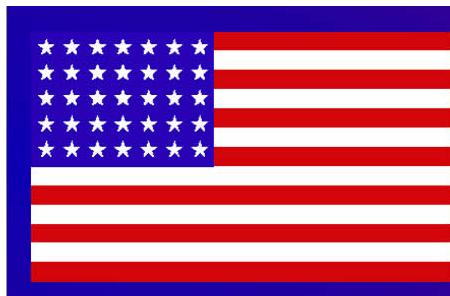
**The USS Monitor continued to have problems. On June 16<sup>th</sup> the galley temperature was 164 degrees, while the engine was 128. By July 1<sup>st</sup>, half the men had gastrointestinal symptoms.**

The *USS Monitor* went to the Washington Navy Yard for repairs on October 3, 1862. **The ironclad sunk off the North Carolina coast on December 31, 1862.**

Dr. Logue resigned from the Navy on October 9, 1862. He established a medical practice on Manhattan. He had a wife and three children.

**MRRT Minutes for August 27, 2018:** Call to Order 6:40 pm. Approximately 30 people present for the business meeting. More people arrived for the outstanding speaker. **Pledge** dedicated to Senator John McCann **Introduction of Guests and New Members** Michael Christeanous and his wife, Roger Heiple – member and GAR expert, and Steve Smithson, friend of Gary Pike. Welcome back, Gary! **Secretary's Report** accepted for the last two months.

**Preservation** Je Epstein reported that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation group is working on Tom's Brook. The Civil War Trust has changed its name to the American Battlefield Trust **Newsletter Report** Bob had one newsletter, from the NYC Dispatch. Ed Bearss, 95 years old, will be their September speaker. **WEB report Up to date Program** Jim has completed the 2019 speaker program. **Fall Trip** 32 people have signed up for the trip with 1/3 paying so far. Please pay by the end of September. Roger Heiple said that the Roundtable's first trip with eight participants was to Johnson's Island, Ohio in either 1963 or 1964. Stockade hinges were found. **Items of Interest** Larry Hathcock said that Professor Bud Robertson of Virginia Tech discussed Confederate monuments on C-Span. Bud said that monuments



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should be used to teach history, not obliterate history. Roger Heiple discussed the proposed Union monument at the Olustee, Florida battlefield. Tentative approval has been given to build the Union monument. A Confederate monument is already there.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regimental Band will perform at Greenmeade Park in Livonia on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan was at the Jackson, MI reenactment on August 25<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>. The number of reenactors participating in Jackson has gone down. **August's Program** the Roundtable thanks Mark Laubacher for his outstanding presentation on Dr. Logue's, experiences on the *USS Monitor*.

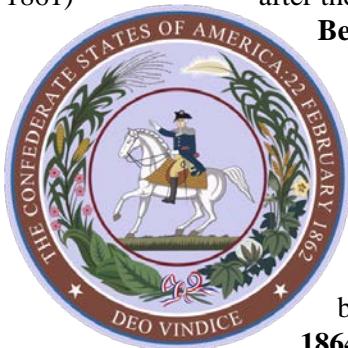
#### **Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to the Battle of the Little Big Horn:**

1. Name the famed Irishman who died at the Little Big Horn who served on Brigadier General John Buford's staff at the Battle of Gettysburg?
2. What was George Custer's actual rank in 1876?
3. What commander's panic driven retreat started the downfall of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in the battle, and what was his final Civil War rank?
4. What was the army's #1 concern when they found the Indian village?
5. The Indian village that the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry attacked was made up mostly of these two tribes.

#### **Civil War Essentials – The Great Seal of the Confederate States of America**

Most of us have seen illustrations of the Great Seal of the United States. That's the spread eagle holding a bunch of arrows in one claw and olive branches in the other. **The Confederate government had a great seal also.**

**The CSA seal design depicted George Washington on horseback surrounded by a wreath composed of various agricultural products including tobacco and cotton.** At the bottom was the Latin motto "Deo Vindice" which has been translated as various phrases such as "With God as (our) Judge" or "God will vindicate". The date - 22 February 1862 - was the date the formal government came into being (replacing the provisional government created at Montgomery in 1861) after the only election ever held in the Confederacy.

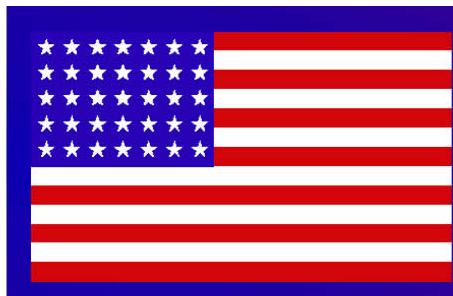


**Because there were no skilled craftsmen to make the physical seal dies domestically, Confederate Secretary of State Judah Benjamin sent instructions in May 1863 to England to have them and an accompanying iron press made by the London engraver who made Britain's royal seals.** The 4" diameter silver seal dies and their press cost about £ 122 (\$700 US) to make.

In due time the seal dies and press (and a supply of sealing wax) arrived in Bermuda from England. A fast blockade runner was chosen to convey the seal from Bermuda to Wilmington, North Carolina. The craft made three attempts to penetrate the Union blockade. Three times it failed. **Although the dies eventually reached Richmond in late 1864, the press did not so they could not be used.** When Richmond fell in April 1865, the dies were concealed by a loyal woman from seizure by Federal troops. **So to this day, the dies for the Confederate great seal reside in a museum in Richmond but its embossing press remains in Bermuda.**

#### **Quiz Answers:**

1. Captain Myles Keogh
2. Lieutenant Colonel
3. Major Marcus Reno. His rank at the end of the Civil War was Brevet Brigadier General.
4. That the Indians would not fight, but scatter in every direction, preventing their capture.
5. The Lakota (Sioux) and Cheyenne.



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**Civil War Essentials - John Wesley Powell (1834-1902) was a Union soldier, geologist, explorer of the American West, college professor and director of several scientific and cultural organizations.**

#### **Experiences Prior to the Civil War**

John was born in Mount Morris, New York in 1834, the son of a poor preacher. The family lived in Ohio, Wisconsin, and finally Illinois. **He undertook a series of adventures when he reached adulthood. In 1855, he spent four months walking across Wisconsin. A year later, he rowed the Mississippi River from St. Anthony, Minnesota to the sea. During 1857, he rowed down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi River, traveling north to reach St. Louis, Missouri.**



**John attended three colleges over a period of seven years, but never earned a degree. In 1860, John was on a lecture tour when he decided that the Civil War was inevitable. He studied military science and engineering to ready him for the coming war. One of his goals was to help abolish slavery.**

#### **Civil War Experience**

**John Wesley Powell enlisted in the 20<sup>th</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry when the war started.**

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant with a skill set in topography, cartography, and engineering. He recruited the 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Light Artillery's Battery F and became its captain.

**Captain Powell was seriously wounded in the right arm at the battle of Shiloh in April, 1862. The surgeons amputated his right arm, but incorrect surgery techniques resulted in lifelong pain from the wound.**

He quickly returned to active duty in February 1863, commanding artillery batteries for General Sherman and serving on General George H. Thomas's staff. Captain Powell fought at the Siege of Vicksburg, the Atlanta Campaign and the Battle of Nashville. **He was promoted to Major and commanded an artillery brigade during the Atlanta Campaign. When the war ended John was promoted to brevet lieutenant colonel.**

After the war, Mr. Powell became a geology professor at Illinois Wesleyan University and a lecturer at Illinois State Normal University. He gave this up to explore the American West.

#### **Exploring the American West**

The one-armed veteran headed west to discover and map this great area. His first trip was to Colorado where he climbed Pikes Peak and the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.

In 1868, he and ten others (five of them Civil War veterans) started on the Green River in Wyoming on a trip that would take them down the great Colorado River. They entered the Grand Canyon on August 5<sup>th</sup>, charting the river and becoming the first known Americans to see the canyon from the river and survive. Going through the Colorado River's fierce rapids John Powell was strapped to his chair on the boat, either directing or helping to steer with his good left arm! Mr. Powell led a group of naturalists on his second expedition through the Grand Canyon during 1871-1872. He wrote a book, *The Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons*, in 1875.

John became director of the Bureau of Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institute in 1879 and remained there until he died in 1902. He also became the second director of the U.S. Geological Survey, a post that he held for 13 years.

He married Emma Dean in 1861 with no children resulting from the marriage.

John was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.