



Welcome back from our two month sojourn. This month’s meeting promises to be one of particular interest for the Michigan Regimental. It’s been quite a while since we’ve had a ‘**Show and Tell**’ program where any of our regulars can participate in the presentation and have a chance to shine. Because we may have a large number of contributors, the format will be that each person takes no more than 5 to 8 minutes to show off his/her favorite Civil War item. Following each presenter a two minute question and answer session will take place. In order to allow everyone to show off their article, strict adherence to the time limit will be necessary.

Past programs have included swords, photographs, rifles, medical equipment, a saddle, personal effects of a relative, and even Colonel Edward Baker’s bowie knife taken from his body after his death at Ball’s Bluff. Each item has its own story, and chances are you’ll see something never before displayed or discussed.

As usual, this type of program depends wholly on you. So dust off your most venerated relic and bring it in for exhibit and discourse. However, even if you do not have any items to show off, you’ll want to be in attendance since this soiree is always entertaining and educational. Plan on an engaging evening, and mark your calendars for ‘**Show and Tell,**’ **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26.**

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The MRRT expresses its thanks to our September speaker, Ken Baumann, for his excellent presentation, “With Dr. Gray on the March to the Sea, or ‘Every Old Hog Has to Find an Acorn Sometime.’” Ken told the remarkable story of Dr. Gray, the surgeon of the 60th Illinois, by reading selections from his unpublished memoirs. (An apology is in order from “Old Sarge” who incorrectly stated in the Newsletter that Ken formerly worked as a horticulturist in Jackson Prison. This should be amended to Milan Federal Penitentiary.)

**FALL FIELD TRIP:** Over 50 folks ventured to the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg on the weekend of October 20-21. The weather gods totally cooperated as it rained the day before we started and two days after we left. In between we were treated to two absolutely beautiful days for our guided trip. John Heiser, who led us around, was at his sensational best with descriptions, anecdotes, and poignant stories concerning the bloodiest battle in American history. On Saturday we traversed the first two days of the battlefield, concentrating on the opening segment of fighting, the railroad cut, Culp’s Hill, the Wheatfield and Peach Orchard, and Little Round Top, with special attention geared toward the death of John Reynolds and the defense on the second day provided by the 20th Maine. That evening we took in a scrumptious meal at the Carriage House Inn in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Once again Carroll Tietz has provided us with an array of after-dinner photographs. (You might want to say a special “Thank You” to Carroll for taking on this laborious task each year.) Sunday, we walked in the National Cemetery, made the same trek as Pickett’s Charge, and visited the Cavalry Battlefield for a look at the monument honoring the Michigan troopers under George Armstrong Custer. (We suffered no casualties except for a bloody elbow sustained by Al Oakes during Pickett’s Charge.) All those who made the trip appeared to greatly enjoy themselves. Just ask one of the veterans who made the trip for any details. Photographs and stories should abound at this month’s meeting.

Although informal discussions of next year’s trip took place, our 2008 destination has yet to be determined. Since we normally alternate theaters, thoughts of a Western trip should be on the agenda. We will discuss this at a future meeting, so have your ideas in mind. (Does Vicksburg sound appealing? We haven’t been there since 1998.)

**YEARLY DUES:** It’s that time of year again. At our September meeting the membership voted unanimously to raise ALL YEARLY DUES TO \$20. We haven’t had a dues raising in over twenty years, and due to the prohibitive costs of mailing and the fine quality of the colorful sheets used in our newsletters, this move seemed inevitable. For your



convenience we have once more included in this month's newsletter an envelope to be mailed back to Carroll with your check. Please make the check out to CARROLL TIETZ (and not to the MRRT).

**QUIZ: All questions pertain to Union generals, in the format: "What did you do after the War?" (We'll do Confederate generals at another time.)**

1. One of the Civil War's "boy generals," he served in the Spanish-American War and the Boxer Rebellion. He also served as President Theodore Roosevelt's representative at the coronation of King Edward VII and volunteered to serve in World War I at age 81. And, which famous Confederate cavalryman did he defeat at Selma, Alabama?
2. This 1861 West Point graduate won a Medal of Honor for his actions at First Bull Run. After the war he embarked upon a political career in Mississippi which ultimately tarnished his Civil War fame. Elected to the Senate and later governor, he also served in the Spanish-American War. At his death in 1933, he was the last surviving general from either side. And, who was his infamous father-in-law?
3. He served as a member of the military commission which tried the Lincoln conspirators and was president of the court-martial that condemned Henry Wirz. He was appointed as governor of the New Mexico Territory and is credited with incarcerating Billy the Kid. And, what famous novel did he write?
4. This one-armed, "praying general" was appointed the first Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau and was instrumental in establishing a Negro university, named for him, as well as Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee. And, with which fierce Indian chief did he negotiate a peace treaty in 1872?
5. Graduating first in his West Point class in 1862, he displayed a highly successful Civil War career. He became a superb Indian fighter and was able to defeat the great Comanche chieftain, Quanah Parker. His career included 7 wounds, the last of which helped lead to his insanity and premature death at age 48. And, what nickname did the Comanche give him because of the hideousness of one of his wounds?
6. This Medal of Honor winner married a niece of William T. Sherman, earned the final capture of Geronimo, became general-in-chief of the army, served during the Spanish-American War, and died in 1925 at age 85 while standing for the National Anthem at a circus performance. And, which U.S. President openly despised him?
7. This cavalry general served in both Civil War theaters and once escaped Confederate capture while in his underdrawers. After the war he was selected as minister to Chile, appointed by Andrew Johnson. He died in Santiago in 1881 and is buried at West Point. And, with which Federal general, the ambassador to Peru, did he clash?
8. Heading the XX Corps he was blamed for one of the North's worst defeats, but he was later officially exonerated by a court of inquiry. Yet, he never resumed field command. After the war he served as an aide to Sherman on the frontier. In 1896, he represented the U.S. at the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II in St. Petersburg, Russia. And, which battle in the Civil War cost him his military career?
9. After the war he became Secretary of War and Superintendent of West Point where he served as president on the board which exonerated Fitz John Porter. And, as Secretary of War, where did he recommend the U.S. build a famous naval base?
10. This Irish revolutionary twice resigned from the Army of the Potomac. After the war he was appointed territorial secretary and acting governor of Montana. On July 1, 1867, during a drunken spree, he fell, naked, to his death from the deck of a steamboat into the Missouri River. And, where is he buried?

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In honor of our Gettysburg trip please allow a favorite story, first told in the April 1985 newsletter, to be repeated. A few additions and changes have been made.....



The University Greys, the college-boy company from the University of Mississippi, had been placed in the center of the line just below the crest of Seminary Ridge. Their tailored frock coats and matching pants with the bold red trim were now worn and frayed, faded beyond recognition. Now, as the Federal shells landed near and among them, one of the Greys, young Jeremiah Gage, sat calmly gazing out over the Union lines. He had limped onto this field, still suffering from a hip wound received over a year earlier. Through the bursting shells, his messmate shouted, “*Jere, get your damn ass down. Are you crazy?*” Suddenly, a 24-pound shell exploded before them. The earth shuddered. Pulverized dirt and jagged chunks of iron streamed over the University Greys. Jere Gage toppled over.

Dr. Joseph Holt of the 11th Mississippi, anticipated that the afternoon would be busy and set up his dressing station in a shelter behind the ridge. Soon stretcher bearers began bringing in the wounded. Among the first was an athletic young man with reddish golden hair, “*a princely fellow,*” the doctor called him, with a calm manner and delightful smile. The doctor ripped away Gage’s blood-drenched sleeve and exposed a shrapnel wound that had practically torn the arm off. Jere Gage raised his eyes, questioning the surgeon about his condition. “It’s no scratch, son,” reassured the doctor, “*but you’re going to be all right.*”

Gage smiled weakly. “*Oh, no, doctor. That’s nothing. Here is where I’m really hurt.*” He turned back the blanket covering his body. The shell fragment had plowed across his abdomen, exposing his intestines and gouging out his pelvis with such searing ferocity that the wound had not even hemorrhaged. “*How long have I got to live?*” inquired Gage. The doctor stared down at his patient and meekly replied, “*You have a few hours.*”

Still smiling, Gage said bravely, “*I am in great agony. Let me die easy.*” Surgeon Holt prepared a drink heavily laced with opium, but asked first, “*Do you have any message to leave?*” With a startled look, Gage blurted: “*Oh my God. My Mother! Quick doctor, I want to write. Please help me sit up.*” Assisting Gage, the doctor put a pencil between the wounded man’s fingers. Something compelling in this handsome, doomed man drew the orderlies and other wounded around him as he wrote. “*On the battlefield, July 3, 1863: My dear mother. This is the last you may ever hear from me. I have time to tell you that I died like a man. Bear my loss as best you can.....Remember that I am true to my country and my regret at dying is that she is not free.....you must not regret that my body cannot be obtained. It is a mere matter of form anyhow.....Send my dying release to Miss Mary.*” He finished the letter and read the last line aloud: “*I dip this letter in my dying blood.*” He pulled his blanket back and pressed the back of the page into the wound. He then signed “*Jere S. Gage, Co. A, 11 Miss.*” Then he raised his cup to a group of soldiers. “*I do not invite you to drink with me,*” he remarked wryly, “*but I drink a toast to you, to the Southern Confederacy and to victory.*”

## QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. James Harrison Wilson and Nathan Bedford Forrest
2. Adelbert Ames and Benjamin “Beast” Butler
3. Lew Wallace and *Ben Hur*
4. Oliver Otis Howard and Cochise
5. Ranald Mackenzie and “Bad Hand”
6. Nelson Miles and Theodore Roosevelt
7. Hugh Judson Kilpatrick and Stephen Hurlbut
8. Alexander McCook and Chickamauga
9. John M. Schofield and Pearl Harbor (Schofield Barracks is named for him)
10. Thomas Meagher and his body was never found

Don’t forget to circle the date—**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26**—for ‘**Show and Tell**’ night. We’ll start the meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). Hope to see you there, and to all our friends, Have a Great Holiday Season! Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>