



Over 1000 monuments, markers, and tablets dot the landscape of the Gettysburg Battlefield. Some, like the Pennsylvania State Monument located on Cemetery Ridge, are enormous and cannot be missed. Others are small, located in difficult terrain, or off the beaten path, and are thus often overlooked by the general public. The state of Michigan has ten markers, representing our fighting units—1 artillery (9th Battery of the Michigan Light Artillery), 8 infantry (the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 16th, and two to the 24th), and of course, the magnificent monument on the East Cavalry Battlefield that honors the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th Cavalry regiments. By contrast, the state of Pennsylvania has 131 markers or monuments for her soldiers—12 artillery, 14 cavalry, and a whopping 105 for infantry. Occasionally the exact placement of a monument leads to heated debate. The classic example is the 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry memorial at the Angle, the position of which was determined by a protracted and bitter lawsuit that went all the way to the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court.

Monument placement started in 1867 when the 1st Minnesota Infantry set a memorial urn in the National Cemetery. Next on August 1, 1878, a small tablet was placed on the south slope of Little Round Top to the memory of Federal General Strong Vincent at the spot where he fell mortally wounded. The following year a marker was positioned on the edge of Spangler’s Meadow to honor the men of the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry. Over the next thirty-five years other Federal regiments sought to pay tribute to their respective units by placing memorials around the battlefield.

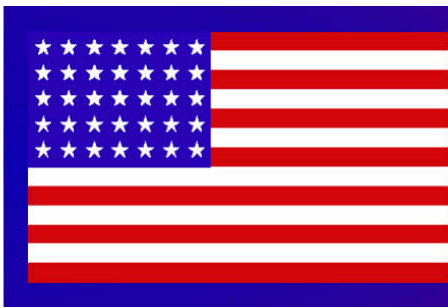
After the 50th anniversary of the battle in 1913, Confederate veterans sought to memorialize their soldiers by placing monuments of their own at Gettysburg. The first attempts failed as indicated by the efforts of Alabama Colonel William Oates, who tried in vain to get a monument to his regiment behind Joshua Chamberlain’s line. Eventually, the southern states settled on the idea of creating a single memorial from each state. Virginia led the charge by erecting its superb memorial, topped by Robert E. Lee on his horse, Traveler, in 1917. Finally, in 1982 the last of the Confederate states became represented with a memorial. The most complete story on the battlefield can be found in the hundreds of tablets and markers put up by the National Park Service in the early 1900’s. Their charge was to write in Bronze and Granite, “*without praise and without censure,*” the history of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. They obviously succeeded.

On **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30**, **Steve Hawks** of the Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table will present “***Mostly Missed Monuments and Markers of Gettysburg***.” Steve first appeared before the MRRT in September of 2001 when he presented “The Union Surrender at Harpers Ferry.” A multi-media producer, Steve is the author and producer of the award winning CD-ROM documentary, “12 Roads to Gettysburg.” Steve promises to take us to all the hidden spots to show where the unnoticed markers exist. It should be a fascinating evening!

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The Michigan Regimental expresses its thanks to our September speaker, Dave Jordan, for his excellent program, “Civil War Cycloramas.” Dave’s presentation was extremely informative on a topic that has not been discussed at any of our previous talks. The positive response by the audience was indicated by the amount of questions asked at the end.

FALL FIELD TRIP: The “Warriors” have returned! Forty-six of our stoutest braved the inclement weather on Saturday and Sunday, October 17-18 to traverse the Battlefields of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. Frank O’Reilly was his usual superlative self as he guided us through the wind and rain. Among all of the special places we visited were Chatham, the site of the 7th Michigan Infantry’s marker where they crossed the Rappahannock on pontoons, the actual spot where Stonewall Jackson incurred his mortal wound, and the Slaughter Pen Farm, recently acquired by the National Park Service. On Saturday night we were treated to the exclusive candlelight vigil at Guiney Station where Stonewall Jackson died. Frank was at his absolute best in describing this touching moment.



Two more important items came out of this trip. One, next year’s Fall Field Trip will be at Spotsylvania and the Wilderness. Frank O’Reilly has agreed to guide us, and the folks who witnessed Frank’s superb efforts will testify that he is the best. Two, Jeanie Graham was selected as the MRRT’s historian. This will entail Jeanie recording all of the year’s significant events: programs, awards won, publication of books by members, and any other items that might occur in the next 25-year history of our Round Table.

The **50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** will again be in session at 5:30 P.M. before the regular meeting commences at 6:30. This meeting will be of significance as we close in on our May celebration.

YEARLY DUES: Your newsletters this month contain a small envelope for this year’s upcoming dues. Simply place a check for \$20 inside [made out to Carroll Tietz], put a stamp on the envelope, and mail it. Pretty simple.....

QUIZ: All questions pertain to Gettysburg markers and monuments.....

1. Which statue of a Union general stands atop Little Round Top? And, what is the significance of the spot where the Soldiers’ National Monument stands?
2. Which state monument reads at its base: “Your Names Are Inscribed On Fames Immortal Scroll”? And, which animal is depicted on the Irish Brigade’s monument near the Wheatfield?
3. Which 3 Federal generals’ equestrian statues were created by sculptor Henry K. Bush-Brown?
4. Which Confederate state monument on Seminary Ridge depicts 5 Rebel soldiers looking toward and pointing at Cemetery Ridge? And which sculptor created this work of art?
5. Which marker depicting a Federal soldier charging the Confederate lines represents a regiment that lost 82% of its men? And, which Federal general has a marker with a diamond-shaped emblem at the spot he was wounded near the Trostle barn?
6. Which Confederate general has a monument depicting him shortly after his mortal wounding along Cemetery Ridge? And, which Federal officer is shown at the same spot giving the Confederate water and solace?
7. Which enormous state monument with an equestrian statue on top was created by F. William Sievers? And, which image of a famous person did sculptor J. Otto Schweizer create?
8. Which “man of God” is depicted with a statue along Cemetery Ridge? And, which Federal soldier, the longest living of all Union men, is depicted near Ziegler’s Grove?
9. Which famous civilian has a statue created by Albert G. Bureau along McPherson Ridge? And, which monument to both sides is located on Oak Hill along North Confederate Avenue?
10. Which Confederate state monument was the last to be dedicated on Seminary Ridge on July 3, 1982? And which person has an equestrian monument, dedicated on July 3, 1998, in Pitzer’s Woods?

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Patrick Henry O’Rorke, born in County Cavan, Ireland, came to the U.S. and settled in Rochester, New York. He gave up an apprenticeship as a stonecutter to enter West Point at age 21. His classmates soon predicted that he was destined to become their most famous general. He graduated Number 1 of 34 in his June, 1861 class. He became colonel of the 140th New York Infantry on September 19, 1862. Cited for bravery at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, he was a man of singular gifts and attractiveness, a favorite among his comrades and superiors. As one of his contemporaries penned: “*He was a man of noble character, and had nothing of the wild Irishman about him.*”

At Gettysburg Paddy O’Rorke rode a small brown horse and wore a “soft hat,” military cape, and white gauntlets. As he rode among his men, O’Rorke shouted, “I call on the file closers to do their duty, and if there is a man this day base



enough to leave his company, let him die in his tracks. Shoot him down like a dog.” On Thursday, July 2 O’Rorke and his beloved 140th New Yorkers were called into action at Little Round Top by General Gouverneur Warren to stop the advancing Texans. O’Rorke and his 546 men rushed at an angle up the east slope of Little Round Top in a column of fours. When O’Rorke reached the crest, he found its surface too rough to ride over easily, so he dismounted and turned his horse over to an orderly. The arrival of the 140th was dramatic as the regiment had received new Zouave uniforms on June 3, and the men were “jaunty but tattered” in baggy blue trousers, red jackets, and fezzes. The instinct of the New Yorkers was to halt and fire, but O’Rorke ordered them forward. Drawing his sword, he yelled, “Down this way, boys!” and the 140th trailed after him. The column scrambled down the hill in considerable disorder until they reached to 40 feet from the Confederates panting up the slope in their front. Here the head of the column halted and loaded while the rear companies strung into a ragged line to their right. O’Rorke shouted, “Here they are men, commence firing!”

An eyewitness described the action: “Here victory was snatched from the grasp of [the Rebels] by the impetuous valor of the troops under O’Rorke, who, having received a volley from the Confederates, clubbed their muskets and, with a wild shout of desperation, pushed upon them, who, but a moment before, were the victors, and drove them down the hill....Here O’Rorke fell a victim to his courage.” A Confederate about 40 feet away spotted O’Rorke and shot at him; O’Rorke fell with a minie ball through his neck. Many of his men from Companies A and G returned the fire immediately, and after the battle the curious counted 17 holes in the dead Confederate’s body.

The 140th New York suffered 133 casualties; O’Rorke and 27 of his officers and men lay dead. But they had tipped the scales in the defenders’ favor. General Warren paid O’Rorke a simply tribute: “He was glorious.” His body was taken to the Lewis A. Bushman farm where it was buried. O’Rorke’s wife came as soon as possible and took her husband’s body home to Rochester, New York for its final interment. At Gettysburg a monument marks the spot where Patrick O’Rorke was killed on July 2, leading a bayonet charge that helped save Little Round Top.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Gouverneur Warren and where Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address
2. Alabama and Irish Wolfhound
3. George Meade, John F. Reynolds, and John Sedgwick
4. North Carolina and Gutzon Borglum
5. 1st Minnesota Infantry and Dan Sickles
6. Lewis Armistead and Frederick Fuger
7. Virginia Monument and Abraham Lincoln
8. Father William Corby and Albert Woolson
9. John Burns and Eternal Peace Light Memorial
10. Tennessee and James Longstreet

A last reminder of this month’s meeting—**Steve Hawks** will be presenting “*Mostly Missed Monuments and Markers of Gettysburg.*” Plan on being in attendance on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30** at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road) for our last meeting of 2009. The meeting starts at 6:30 P.M. Be there early for a good seat.

Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.

Since we won’t meet again until January of 2010, have a wonderful Holiday Season!