



It is with deepest regret the Michigan Regimental Roundtable announces the passing of our leader and mentor, **Jerry Hollis Maxwell**. A member of our group since 1972, Jerry passed on October 29, 2011, following a heroic battle with lung cancer. He was sixty nine years old.

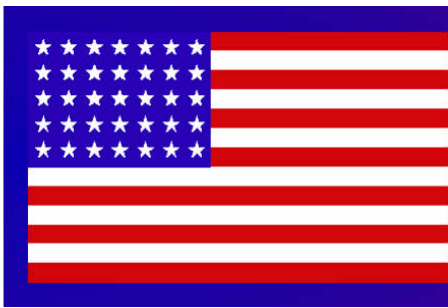
Our roundtable gratefully remembers the countless hours Jerry put in to ensure not only the success of our Roundtable in general, but also to plan and implement our yearly field trips, and to author our monthly newsletter. We fondly remember Jerry’s entertaining presentations to the Roundtable, always the highest attended night of the year!

Jerry completed and published his book this year after years of endeavor; ***The Perfect Lion: The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham***. The book has received flattering reviews form the Civil War community. It reads just like Jerry spoke when giving his presentations.

Jerry taught history at North Farmington High School for 32 years receiving various awards but most notably the Daughters of the Revolution National Teacher of the Year in 1995. He was also recognized as the Alum of the year from the Eastern Michigan University History/Philosophy Department in 1999. Several of his former students have commented that Jerry was their favorite teacher, either in high school or college.

We extend our sincerest condolences to Jerry’s wife, Carlene, children Brent and Holly, and grandchildren William and Sofia.

It is noteworthy that in this year we also lost Dr. Weldon Petz, a great friend and mentor to both Jerry and our Roundtable. We will always have wonderful memories of these two great historians and their contributions to our roundtable and the historical community.



Jerry Maxwell by Liz Stringer of the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table: Albert Einstein once said "*only a life lived for others is a life worth while*" and our late friend Jerry Maxwell certainly did live the life Einstein so aptly described. While Jerry's passing is something we are all learning to deal with and ultimately accept, it is his intelligence, support, friendship and terrific sense of humor that we will all miss so very much.

The first time I met Jerry was at a Civil War conference where I had drawn the unfortunate task of introducing the seventh and final speaker of the day. I made what I hoped was a stab at some humor at my predicament during the introduction. Afterwards, Jerry came up to me and said "*you just did a great job--and you know why? Because that's exactly what I would have said and I always do a great job!*" Only Jerry with his self deprecating humor and twinkle in his eye could have gotten away with that kind of statement to a total stranger. Needless to say, it was the beginning of a long and very rewarding (for me) friendship.

Since then, Jerry was the person I called when a speaker cancelled at the last minute, when we needed a "*filler*" for a newsletter and a million and one other favors I asked of him over the years. The last time I spoke with him was about two months ago when he called to finally ask a favor of me. He had been asked to speak to a Daughters of the American Revolution group, but they would not finalize the plans without a reference as to his speaking abilities. It was a phone call filled with laughter over a group that had named him National History Teacher of the Year needing any kind of resume, much less a reference. When I asked how he was feeling his reply was "*a little leaner, but even more handsome than ever!*" A typical Jerry remark.

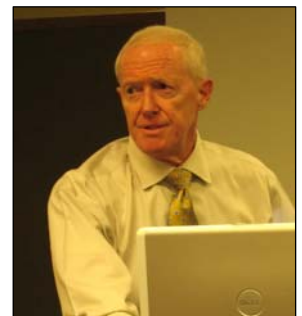
Though Jerry will always be missed, I prefer to remember the good times and all the laughter he provided through his talks, his writings and--most of all--his friendship. And, while our thoughts and prayers are certainly with Carlene and her family, I think we would all like to take this chance to express our thanks to them for sharing Jerry with us all these years.

On **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28**, we are welcoming back author **Paul Taylor** to discuss "**Orlando Poe: Civil War General and Great Lakes Engineer**". Paul is an Insurance professional and an award-winning author of five books pertaining to the Civil War era. His recent biography of Orlando Poe was a recipient of the Library of Michigan's 2010 Notable Books Award and the Historical Society of Michigan's 2010 State History Award. He lives in Southeast Michigan and recently completed a book-length manuscript on Detroit during the Civil War.

General Orlando Poe (1832-1895) has a major Michigan connection. He was a West Point graduate, 6th in the class of 1856. From 1856 until the Civil War started, he was an assistant topographical engineer, surveying the northern Great Lakes. During the Civil War, he served in both the eastern and western theaters. General Poe was a Northern brigade commander during most of the 1862 campaigns in the Eastern Theater. Eventually, he was transferred to the West and became General Sherman's chief engineer during the Atlanta Campaign and the March to the Sea.

After the War, Orlando Poe became the Lighthouse Board's chief engineer, designing and supervising the construction of several lighthouses on the Great Lakes. His crowning achievement was the design and implementation of the first Poe Lock at the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The MRRT extends many thanks to our speaker last month, David A. Collins. His presentation, "*Absentee Voting Rights for Civil War Soldiers*" paved new territory for understanding the political lynch pinning's for either allowing or not absentee voting by soldiers





during the Civil War. It was particularly informative in the particulars about when allowed, how it was implemented against the backdrop of politics; reminding one of the adage, “no matter how much things change, they stay the same.”

FALL FIELD TRIP: On a beautiful weekend in October, twenty nine MRRT members traveled to Springfield, Illinois for our fall trip with a focus on Abraham Lincoln early years. The walking tour started early on Saturday October 22nd with tours of the Lincoln-Herndon law office, Old State Capitol, and Lincoln’s home. In the afternoon we traveled to Lincoln’s tomb, and then finished the day with a delicious dinner at the historical Maldaner’s Restaurant (established 1894). Sunday morning we toured the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, followed by Lincoln’s New Salem Village in the afternoon. The weather was perfect, tour guides excellent, and a fun time was had by all. A special thanks goes out to Jeanie Grahamn, Mollie Gallate and Ken Bowman for all their fine work in arranging this trip.



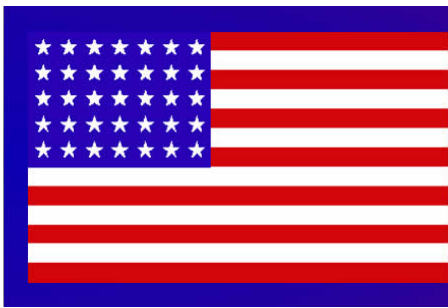
MRRT ELECTIONS: This January it’s time to elect a new MRRT President. **Don Kadar** and Jeanie Grahamn will be assuming the post of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, respectively. After 41 years, **Carroll Tietz** is retiring his position. Job well done!



YEARLY DUES: It’s that time of year again. January 2012 will begin our new fiscal year. To ensure the financial footing of the MRRT enabling the monthly programs and contribution to Civil War preservation, let’s get a quick start by writing a \$20 check made out to Don Kadar and mail it to his home at 61895 Fairland, South Lyon, MI 48178. Alternatively, you can bring a check for \$20 in with you to this month’s meeting.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL (November 1861): General Winfield Scott relinquishes his post as general in chief of the US Army, allowing General George McClellan to succeed him. Days later, a patiently waiting Abraham Lincoln at the home of the new general in chief gets snubbed as McClellan retires to bed without acknowledging his presence. Jefferson Davis is elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederacy. The US Navy successfully concludes the Port Royal operation. Elsewhere, Captain Charles Wilkes of the USS San Jacinto intercepts the British packet Trent and arrests Confederate commissioners James Mason and John Sidwell, creating a serious international incident for the Lincoln administration. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

Don’t forget our next meeting date—**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28** for **Paul Taylor’s** presentation of “*Orlando M. Poe: Civil War General and Great Lakes Engineer.*” The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there!



Also try our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>. Photos from our fall trip will soon be posted.

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM CARLENE MAXWELL: A celebration of Jerry Maxwell's life will be held November 19 from 4 pm to 9 pm at the Embassy Suites Livonia, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia (734-462-6000). We have reserved a bank of rooms under Maxwell. A brief eulogy will be presented at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to sharing our wonderful memories with you. Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to the MRRT, the Brandy Station Foundation (<http://brandystationfoundation.com>), or the Detroit Film Theater at the DIA (Detroit Institute of Arts, Attn: Matthew Breneau, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202-9930). Thank you.

Old Sarge

*Let us cross over the river and sit in the shade
of the trees - RIP*