



Let’s start this newsletter with a hearty thanks to Mollie Gallate, Linda Gerhardt and Jeanie Graham for their outstanding efforts and a most excellent visit to the battlefields of First and Second Manassas. Here’s a group picture at the Stone Bridge. More to follow later in the newsletter.



Before we go too much further, the season is once again upon us—and no, it’s not the upcoming Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays. It’s time to confirm the importance you place on being an

MRRT member and renewing your memberships—and it’s still only \$20. Your subscription does more than simply pay for administrative necessities (e.g., meeting room, speaker expenses, and newsletter costs); over this last year we’ve also made substantial contributions to preservation efforts (i.e., Gaines Mill & Tom’s Brook) as well as providing seed-money for the Jerry Maxwell Award start-up. Don Kadar, our treasurer, will take cash or a check made out to him at this upcoming meeting or you can mail your renewal check to Don’s home at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178

An old adage is *a penny saved is a penny earned* so there is one additional method to minimize costs and that’s by subscribing to the [email version](#) of this newsletter. That alone represents a savings between \$9 & \$10 per person per year. It’s understood this isn’t the appropriate or even desired option for everyone—and that’s okay—but for those able and willing, simply send an email to ncarver55@gmail.com.

On MONDAY, November 26, the Roundtable welcomes Jeff O’Den, who will present his documentary film, “The Civil War: A Forlorn Hope” to the Roundtable. The film covers the history of African-American sailors who served in the Federal Navy during the Civil War. A major emphasis of the film is the political struggle of abolitionists and African-Americans to allow black men to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War. Several myths will be discussed, including ones depicted in the movie “Glory”.

Jeff is an author, writer-director, historical documentary filmmaker, Emmy-nominated writer/producer and published writer in the July/August 2011 issue of Michigan History Magazine. He has produced four Civil War related documentary films. Some of his other activities include membership on the Detroit Historic Sites Committee and as a former Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy.

QUIZ: All Questions Pertain to the “Missouri Surprise of 1864, the battle of Fort Davidson”:

1. Who was the most well-known African-American abolitionist?
2. Why didn’t President Lincoln free the slaves living in Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation?
3. Who was the Union hero of the Battle of Port Hudson?
4. Which was the first African-American regiment authorized by the U.S. Secretary of War?
5. To who did the famous term “40-Acres and a Mule” apply?



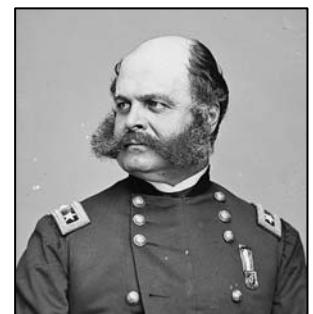
The MRRT would like to thank Rufus K. Barton, III, for his outstanding presentation, “Missouri Surprise of 1864, the battle of Fort Davidson”. R.K. presented the Roundtable a well-researched talk and video presentation on the battle of Fort Davidson, Missouri. Missouri’s role in the Civil War has been neglected by most historians. There were three phases of the Civil War in Missouri. Missouri had more than 400 battles within its boundaries during the war, only Tennessee and Virginia had more.



- **First phase:** Both sides raised militia units to fight various battles. The Union Army sent men to Jefferson City to replace the pro-Confederate government. Missouri became the 13th star on the Confederate flag in November 1861 despite Union control of the state.
- **Second phase:** Confederate General Sterling Price was defeated at Pea Ridge, Arkansas in March, 1862. Afterwards, a guerrilla war began in Missouri as most rural residents were Confederates. Union Special Order #11 resulted in the depopulation of 5 western Missouri counties. The James Brothers and Quantrill’s activities help make it a murderous time.
- **Third Phase:** The battle of Fort Davidson would soon be enjoined as Confederate General Sterling Price invaded Missouri with 12,000 men, the largest cavalry raid of the war. The raid had two objectives; capture of St. Louis and its vast Union supplies and install a Confederate government in St. Louis. General Price weighed nearly 300 lbs. and frequently rode in an ambulance. He had no artillery and a third of his men no weapons. Union forces, commanded by General William Rosecrans, were scattered around the state, primarily fighting guerrillas. A 4500 man veteran brigade came from Arkansas as the Confederate invasion began. The Confederate objective became Fort Davidson, instead of the more important St. Louis. The fighting began on Sept, 27, 1864 with 1000 Unionists commanded by General Thomas Ewing crammed inside. The Confederates lost 1200 – 1500 men on the first day. That night the Union army escaped, ending the battle. The raid failed resulting in St. Louis being out of reach of the Confederates.

MRRT Minutes for September 24, 2012: The **Call to Order** was at 6:35 pm. The **Pledge** was given in honor of Chris Stevens, our ambassador killed in Afghanistan. **Trip Report:** The trip to Manassas is all set for October 27-28. Scott Patchan will be our guide for the battles of First & Second Manassas. There will be a meeting at the hotel on Friday night at 7:30 pm to discuss times and to pay for lunches. Dinner on Saturday night will be at the City Tavern in Old Town. **Program Report:** Jim is working on next year and is nearing completion on lining up guest speakers. **Items of Interest:** Bob Miller, a former MRRT member, has recently passed away. The Newell’s send their regards. A new movie about Lincoln and directed by Steven Spielberg is soon to be released. There is an exhibit in Frankenmuth on the War of 1812 and Michigan Medal of Honor Winners. Ken went metal detecting in Mobile Bay and found Fort Powell very interesting. **Secretary’s Report:** The September 24, 2012 report was accepted.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (November 1862): **5 Nov:** Abraham Lincoln replaces McClellan with Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac. After months of prodding and resupplying the young commander with unending requests, Lincoln is quoted as saying “*sending reinforcements to McClellan is like shoveling flies across a barn.*” **8 Nov:** Gen Benjamin Butler is removed and replaced by Nathan Banks as Head of the Department of the Gulf. **10 Nov:** McClellan gives his farewell address to the Army of the Potomac... “*I wish you to stand by Burnside, as you have stood by me, and all will be well.*” **14 Nov:** Burnside reorganizes placing Sumner, Hooker & Franklin in charge of the three wings of his army. **18 Nov:** Burnside and his army arrive at Falmouth, VA, on the banks of the Rappahannock River across from Fredericksburg. **21 Nov:** Burnside issues a request to the Fredericksburg mayor to surrender and when that is rejected,



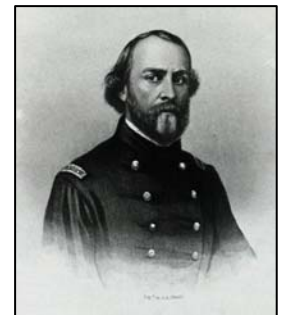


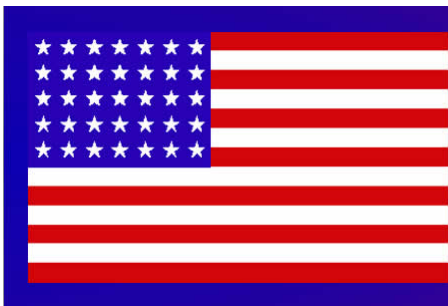
orders that he evacuate women, children, injured and the infirmed. **22 Nov:** Gen Summer reverses Burnside's demand of the mayor on the condition that there be "*no hostile demonstrations from the town people.*" **27 Nov:** Gen James Blunt's 5000 Federals route Gen Marmaduke's 8000 rebels at Cane Hill. AK.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (December 1862): **1 Dec:** Abraham Lincoln gives the State of Union discussing the conduct of the war as well as proposed constitutional amendments addressing the slavery issue. He pointed out that "*...we cannot escape history...for giving freedom to the slave; we assure freedom to the free.*" **4 Dec:** As an adjunct to the Fredericksburg Campaign, Federal forces once again take Winchester, VA. **6 Dec:** Abraham Lincoln orders the execution of 39 Sioux Indians convicted in their role in the Dakota War of 1862—also known as Sioux Uprising—that led to the deaths of 450 white settlers. **7 Dec:** John Hunt leads a successful raid against union forces at Hartville, TN resulting in 2096 casualties to Col Moore's troops. This same day, Confederates were also successful in the Battle of Prairie Grove, AK. **10 Dec:** Following the July Senate lead, the House of Representatives passes a bill creating the state of West Virginia. **13 Dec:** Federal forces launch its assault at Fredericksburg. The union attacks south of the city and across the Rappahannock River, fighting through Fredericksburg and then assaulting Confederate positions along Marye's Heights. One Union soldier says "*It was a great slaughter pen...they might as well have tried to take Hell.*" The attack failed leaving 12700 Federal casualties to 5300 for the Confederates. **15 Dec:** Gen Benjamin Butler departs New Orleans but with little regret from that city's inhabitants. **16 Dec:** Gen Nathan Banks assumes command of Butler's Federal Department of the Gulf. Lincoln delays the execution of the 39 Sioux Indians. **17 Dec:** An intra-cabinet squabble between Chase and Stewart leads to both proffering their resignation to Lincoln—he refuses to accept them. Gen Grant issues his infamous General Order No 11 centering illegal trade in his area of operation at the feet of Jews. **20 Dec:** Gen Grant's supply base at Holly Springs, MS, is attacked and taken by the Confederate troops of Gen Earl Van Dorn. This inflicts a significant blow to Grant's efforts to take Vicksburg. **26 Dec:** Gen Sherman's troops are positioned on the Yazoo River north of Vicksburg. 38 of the 39 Sioux Indians are hung—one was granted a reprieve. This action remains through today as the single largest mass execution in American history. **27 Dec:** Sherman clashes with Confederate defenders and Union gunboats shell battery positions at Haine's Bluff. **29 Dec:** Sherman's outnumbered troops are turned away in fighting at Chickasaw Bayou, just north of Vicksburg. Sherman states "*I reached Vicksburg at the time appointed, landed, and failed.*" **30 Dec:** The USS Monitor (pictured) is lost off the coast of Cape Hatteras in stormy weather. **31 Dec:** Lincoln signs the bill establishing West Virginia as a state. The Battle of Stone River commences pairing Union forces under Gen Rosecrans and the Confederate's under Gen Bragg. The battle is initiated by Bragg but after intense fighting back and forth, evening finds the Northern forces still on the field undefeated and ready for the resumption of the fight. For further information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit website <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.



Civil War Essentials: This month we'll look at two stories told by our guide Scott Patchman during our weekend at Manassas. The first is a little known story about Sullivan Ballou. Last month we published his last tragic letter to his wife Sara and in closing stated he was buried next to his wife in their hometown in Rhode Island. However, here's the rest of the story—as Paul Harvey might have said. The story is about the desecration of Ballou's body by Confederate troops, taken from its burial site at Sudley Church. The story came to light when the young RI Governor William Sprague (who also was at the 1861 battle) returned to the site March 1862 to retrieve the bodies of several 2nd RI officers left behind on the battlefield. Accompanying Sprague were soldiers involved in the battle, and two that witnessed the burial of Ballou and his commander, Colonel John Slocum, of the 2nd RI troops.





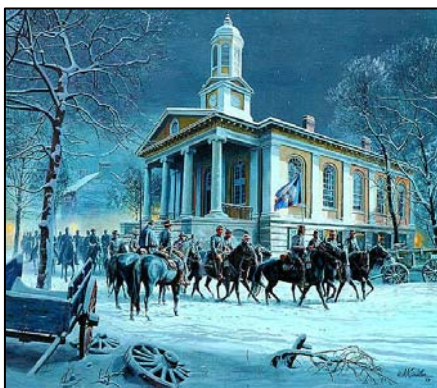
Backtracking here slightly, both Col Slocum (head wound) and Maj Ballou fell wounded while fighting bravely in battle on March 19, 1861. In Ballou's case, he was astride his horse Jennie in front of his regiment when a 6-pounder solid shot tore off his right leg and killed his horse. Both men were evacuated to the Sudley Church which had been set-up as a hasty field hospital. Both men succumbed to their wounds, Slocum on July 23 and Ballou, five days later on July 28. They were buried side by side just yards from Sudley Church.

Back to the 1862, with word in March of the Confederate's abandoning their positions around Manassas; the opportunity had arisen to recover some of the soldiers left behind and the resumption of our tale. On reaching Sudley Church, Sprague's two eye witnesses pointed out the burial locations of Slocum and Ballou. A young black girl watching the recovery effort approached the soldiers and asked if they were looking for Col Slocum and if so, they were too late and would not find him. She claimed men from the 21st Georgia Regiment had robbed several graves weeks earlier and dug up Slocum, severing his head from the body, burning the body and throwing his coffin into the creek. The story was confirmed by other sources and upon scouring the area where this was to have occurred, the troops found charred bones; a human femur, vertebrae and portions of pelvic bones. Nearby two shirts were found, one silk and the other striped calico, as well as a blanket with human hair folded within.

Sprague baffled by the testimony that this was the body of Slocum insisted the shirts belonged to Ballou (a friend) and not Slocum. On returning to the grave sites, one of the two graves was found empty but the other contained the clearly recognizable body of the 37-year old Slocum—leaving the only conclusion, the bones were indeed those of Ballou. A young woman from the area who had helped nurse the wounded at Sudley Church claimed she pleaded with the Georgians to leave the dead at peace. Unsuccessful in her efforts, she had cut a lock of hair from Ballou's head with the hope of giving it to someone claiming the body. The hair was turned over to the recovery party. Ballou's returned casket contained charred ash, bone, the blanket containing the tufts of hair and the two shirts—the head was not found.

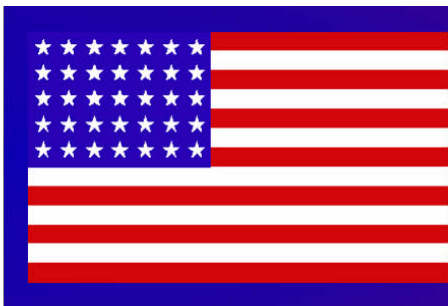
Governor Sprague addressed the U.S. Congress's Committee on the Conduct of the War on April 1, 1862 about the outrage visited upon Ballou. Initially the investigation centered on the possibilities of Indians in the employ of the Confederates having committed this offense as it did not seem possible white men would do such a dastardly thing. However, further testimony from eye witnesses dispelled this notion but whether in fact it was members from the 21st Georgian, or others, was never established.

Our second story is about the Black Horse Cavalry. According to Scott, the Confederate's Black Horse Cavalry threw fear into the hearts of Yankee soldiers facing their wrath. During 1859, the Black Horse Cavalry was initially formed as a



volunteer county militia unit, not unlike many of others at the time in the state of Virginia. According to Billy Payne, a founder, "*The purposes of the organization were well understood and the question was to give it a proper name. I well remember the conversations between Major (John) Scott (a former US Representative) and myself. The first idea was that we were descendants of cavaliers. The company was to be a cavalry troop. I do remember that I called the Major's attention to the fact that the first standard borne by our tribe, the Saxons, when they landed under Hengist and Horsa at Thanit, was the banner of the white horse. It was agreed therefore that a horse, especially typical and representative of Virginia should be adopted. We were all extreme pro-slavery men, but the Major in addition, was in favor of opening the African slave trade and he suggested that the horse should be black, and hence the troop was named the Black Horse Troop.*"

The Black Cavalry first saw action escorting John Brown to the gallows at Harper Ferry, December 1859. During First Manassas, they were attached to Lt. Col. T. T. Munford's squadron of the 30th VA Cavalry. The impression the 'Terrible' Black Horse Cavalry made upon the retreating Union forces is captured in an anonymous quote published in the



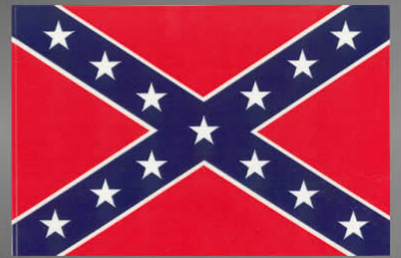
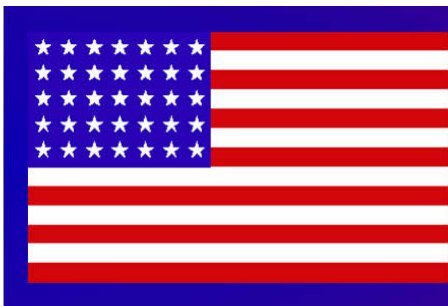
Richmond Inquirer. *“I overheard one of the men sitting on the doorstep of the house describing the charge of the Black Horse Cavalry, part of which, I believe is Captain Scott’s Fauquier cavalry. He said they advanced in a wedge form, then opened, disclosing a battery which fired upon his regiment, and then the cavalry charged upon the regiment, hemming it in on all sides; and, cutting right and left with tremendous blows, each blow powerful enough to take off a man’s head. He said he never wished to see such a charge again.”*

The unit was officially organized as the Virginia 4th Cavalry September 1861 and assigned to General J.E.B. Stuart's, F.Lee's, Wickham's, and Munford's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. During their service, their purported ‘calm courage under fire’ led to them assignments as Gen Robert E. Lee’s and General Stonewall Jackson protective escorts along with all other more traditional cavalry assignments. Admirers of the unit proclaimed them "the bravest of the brave." In all, they were to participate in the majority of the battles engaged by the Army of Northern Virginia up through Appomattox. Three brigadier generals as well as many post-war elected officials launched their careers as Black Horse Cavalry members. If interested in learning more about them, there’s an unpublished book by the late Lynn Hopewell about this famous cavalry company which you can find at:

<http://blackhorsecavalry.org/files/2007-06-18,%202006-07-30-1830%20FCPL%20manuscript%20wo%20Natv%20Sns%20.pdf>

Trip Report: As already indicated, the trip was a rousing success. Scott Patchman, our guide, proved to be most knowledgeable and personable. The weather, even as Sandy was lurking on the horizon, proved to be moderate. The battlefields associated with First & Second Manassas proved to be well preserved and significantly intact. A special thanks to the National Park Services for restoring many of the areas to their original state during the battles. According to Scott, many of the wooded areas previously blocking the views one might have had standing on the battlefield have been removed and hopefully more to follow, allowing the observer to see the field much as one might have back in 1861 or 1862. The Saturday meal at City Tavern Old Town was enjoyed by all and it was heard by one member that this was the best MRRT dining spot in many years. Although only a minor skirmish, it should be noted that the Golden Coral that had agreed to serve the MRRT their Sunday noon meal refused to do so on our arrival. Although a temporary set back, members quickly found several other nearby and willing establishments. Here are two additional photos from the trip—to include one top right of Scott. By January’s meeting we should also have a slide show of the trip up at our website.





QUIZ Answers:

1. Frederick Douglass
2. Those four states did not join the Confederacy.
3. Captain Andre' Callioux of the 1st Louisiana Native Guard. He was killed in action on May 27, 1863 during an unsuccessful attack on Port Hudson.
4. The 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, depicted in the movie, "Glory".
5. The fugitive slaves that aided General Sherman's March-to-the-Sea.

Come out Monday, November 26, to hear Jeff O'Den, present his documentary film, "*The Civil War: A Forlorn Hope*". The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm, Farmington Public Library. Also, check our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.