

MEMBER RENEWAL

2014 is right around the corner as the MRRT enters its 54th year—and it's also time once again to renew our MRRT membership. Renewal, or new membership, remains \$20 a year—or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Don

Kadar and can be mailed to his home at 61895 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178; or simply brought to the meeting and given to Don or Jeanie Graham. Cash is also welcomed.

On MONDAY, November 25, the MRRT welcomes Dr. Gerald E. Turlo from Wayne State to present ‘Civil War Medicine’. At the onset of the American Civil War the Medical Department of both North and South were ill prepared to handle the multitude of sick and wounded. During the early battles, men were left in the fields without medical care. Ambulances, medical supplies, and hospitals were limited and inadequately supplied with necessary items. Dr. Turlo will be sharing with us the story of how the armies learned to cope with this situation during the war.

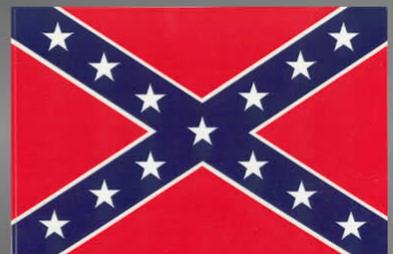
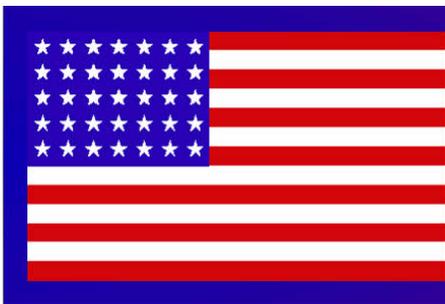


Dr. Turlo is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Wayne State Medical School in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He has been a Civil War reenactor for 12-15 years and is President of the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. E. He is also a board member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons and a member of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

The Roundtable would like to thank Brian Egen from Henry Ford for his engaging presentation on ‘Gettysburg Behind the Scenes’. Not all MRRT speaking engagements require an in-depth discussion of Civil War battles, figures or historical perspectives, as Brian’s *Gettysburg Behind the Scenes* proved. Brian presentation made for an entertaining evening’s discussion on how the movie was made, interesting movie tidbits, innocent gossip, and movie making insight. Some random points and observation included:

- The movie, based on Michael Shaara’s book *Killer Angel*, was initially planned as a TV mini-series but Ted Turner was so pleased with the rushes that he made it into a theatrical release
- 3,000 reenactors were used for Pickett’s Charge on the actual grounds at Gettysburg—all other combat filming was done off-site from the National Park to include the close-ups used for Pickett’s Charge
- For historical movies like this one, film makers (according to Brian) are delighted to use reenactors—because unlike actors, they (reenactors) are orderly in movement around and between sets, disciplined, and have a command change
- The reenactors for this movie were frequently required to change uniforms to portray both Yankee and Rebel troops; marching scenes where too few reenactors were available they simply had those that went by the camera to reform to the rear and march past again
- Reenactor friendly/accessible actors included Sam Elliot and Martin Sheen; less so, Tom Berringer and Jeff Daniels
- Ted Turner and Ken Burns had cameo roles in the movie—Ted Turner portrays CSA Colonel Waller T. Patton and upon being mortally wounded, grabs the wrong side of his chest from were the bloody wound was





- Brian’s brother and uncle were reenactors in the movie—in fact, Brian’s brother was knocked unconscious in a scene with 20th Maine at Little Round Top
- Brian auditioned and was selected for a speaking role as the 20th Maine ‘Cocky Lieutenant’; e.g., “Colonel Sir, my men are getting low on ammunition.”



An enjoyable evening was had by all. The group photo shows Brian’s Cocky Lieutenant on the far left along with several of the actors to include Ken Burns standing on the right side of the table.

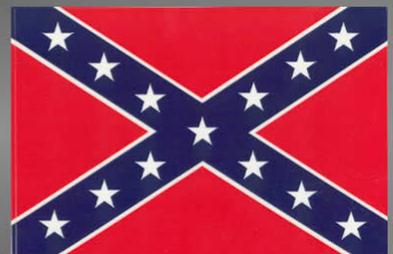
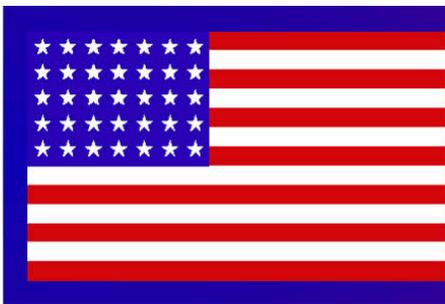
QUIZ: The questions involve CW Medicine.

1. Why did Confederate wounded usually heal faster than Union wounded?
2. What was the most common surgical procedure performed during the Civil War?
3. Which injuries during the Civil War were felt to be fatal?
4. Which weapon caused the most injuries as seen in the military hospitals?
5. What were some of the medical advancements achieved during the War?

MRRT Minutes for September 30, 2013: The **Call to Order** was at 6:45. The **Pledge** was dedicated to our hard working lawmakers. **Introductions of Guests and New Members:** Jack Zatirka and Charlie Warren’s friend, Dave DeLong. **Newsletter Report:** Bob read from the Toledo Mini Bulletin, Cleveland Charger, Cincinnati Cannister and NY Dispatch. **Trip Report:** There will be a meeting at the Hampton Inn at 7:30 to meet with Doug Bostick and get our itinerary. We will leave the hotel at 8 am so please don’t be late. Due to the government shutdown we won’t be able to go inside Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney is off limits because the pelicans are still nesting. The boat ride to Morris Island will be on Sunday morning. Doug suggests bringing a light jacket. **Items of Interest:** According to Jack Zatirka, research help is available at the Michigan Electronic Library, mel.org and at msu.edu from civil war archives. Greenmead has a living history exhibit on October 19-20. Ron Cleveland took his cannon to Brandy Station for the 150th anniversary. The

Loomis Battery was at Chickamauga for their 150th anniversary and was very well received. Jack Mason’s book ‘*Until Antietam*’ about Israel Richardson suggests Lincoln may have offered him command of the Union Army if he had survived. This is purportedly based on the writing of a





witness at the hospital where he died of pneumonia. He’s buried in Pontiac. **Old Business:** At the next meeting we will revisit the timing of our coffee break and decide whether to continue with it at the beginning of our meeting or go back to having it between the business meeting and the speaker. The **Minutes for August 26, 2013** were approved.

Trip Report: The Roundtable had a successful trip to Charleston, SC. All 32 participants (including 2 guests from Maine) enjoyed themselves immensely. Our four tour guides, Douglas Bostick, Ed Grimball, Willis “Skipper” Keith, and Stephen Wise, Ph.D., were terrific. They kept us going on an ambitious schedule with several stops at locations off the beaten path. A book was provided to enhance the understanding of the significance of each stop. Several of the stops were unavailable to the general public. Stops included:

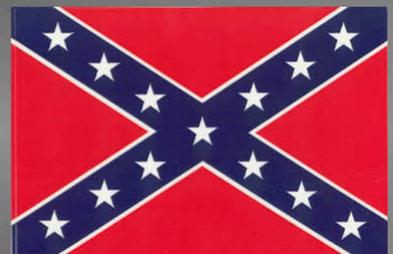
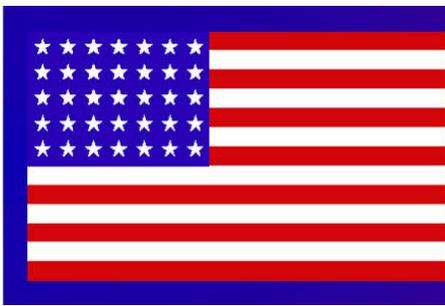


- James Island – which included stops at the Stono River, Fort Pemberton, and Fort Johnson
- Fort Lamar – site of Battle of Secessionville June 16, 1862
- Charleston historical district bus tour which concluded at The Battery
- Tour and Dinner at the Washington Light Infantry Armory
- Boat tour for Morris Island – going by Fort Sumter and Castle Pinckney – Morris Island is the location of Battery Wagner, the site of the famous attack by the 54th Massachusetts
- Fort Moultrie tour
- CSS H.L. Hunley Museum – probably the highlight of the trip



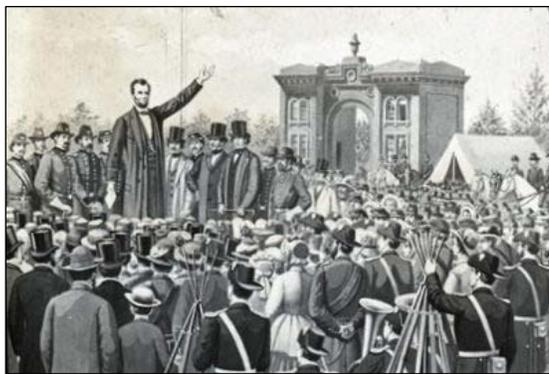
The Roundtable thanks Mollie, Linda, and Jeanie for arranging this outstanding trip.

Civil War Sesquicentennial (October-November 1863): 2 Oct: On the Chattanooga front, Hooker’s men begin arriving at Bridgeport to support Rosecrans’ besieged troops. A logistic marvel, Federal forces within the next two days move 20,000 men, 3,000 horses and mules to Bridgeport over some 1,159 miles of rail in just over a week. Unfortunately for the Federals, Bragg’s men close the crossing between Bridgeport and Chattanooga forcing the Union reinforcements to go the long way around on a muddy northern route. **3 Oct:** A 6-day bombardment of Fort Sumter ends with little discernable impact on the fort. **5 Oct:** Confederate raids all around eastern Tennessee begin to take a toll on Rosecrans’ besieged troops at Chattanooga as rations and feed becomes scarce. Back at Charleston, the Confederates attack the USS New Ironsides with a semi-submersible steamship—the David. The USS New Ironsides is not critically damaged. Two of the David’s crew are captured and the remaining two escape. Interestingly, although there were several efforts during the war using submersibles by both sides, in general more fatalities were inflicted on the crews than the enemy. **10 Oct:** Jefferson Davis arrives near Chattanooga to view the battlefield and mediate the growing conflict between Bragg and his generals. **14 Oct:** On the Eastern Front, Lee attempting to cut-off Meade’s forces has A.P. Hill engage the Federals near Bristoe Station. The outcome is inconclusive but Lee’s forces are disproportionately the loser. **15 Oct:** At Charleston Harbor, the Hunley sinks for the second time killing its seven man crew and its inventor. **16 Oct:** Grant is appointed commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi and ordered from Vicksburg to Chattanooga. **17 Oct:** Grant is given the opportunity by Stanton to select his commander for the Army of the Cumberland. He bypasses Rosecrans and



selects Thomas. **18 Oct:** Thomas, succeeding Rosecrans, declares “*We will hold this town (Chattanooga) till we starve.*” **23 Oct:** Grant arrives at Chattanooga and Jefferson Davis removes Bragg’s quarreling subordinate, General Polk. **24 Oct:** Grant issues orders to open the ‘*cracker line*’ to help relieve the besieged troops at Chattanooga. **27 Oct:** Hooker’s troop during the early morning hours, float pontoons down the Tennessee River to Brown’s Ferry to open the ‘*cracker line*’. **28 Oct:** Having failed to prevent the ‘*cracker line*’ from being established, Bragg orders Longstreet to attack Hooker at Wauhatchie. What ensues is a confusing and rare night attack that ends with little in the way of results for the Confederates. **29 Oct:** Efforts at Charleston to bombard Sumter continue but the fort refuses to surrender. Sumter has increasingly become a symbol of Confederate resistance the more the Federals try to take it. **30 Oct:** The Federal steamship Chattanooga arrives with ration and feed.

2 Nov: Lincoln is invited to make ‘*a few appropriate remarks*’ at the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg. **4 Nov:** Bragg makes a huge tactical error, sending Longstreet’s corp and Wheeler’s cavalry to Knoxville where Burnside still resides. Grant recognizing this moment, decides against reinforcing Burnside but attacking Bragg’s weakened forces at the soonest opportunity. **7 Nov:** In a continuation of the Bristoe Campaign, Meade sends his troops across the Rappahannock near Kelly’s Ford. The first attack is unsuccessful but a two brigade attack at dusk succeeds, to include a rare bayonet attack. The Confederates lose 2,000 men; defeated they fall back to their pre-Bristoe positions and status quo is resumed. **9 Nov:** Lincoln attends a production of *Marble Heart* starring John Wilkes Booth. **12 Nov:** Longstreet and Wheeler arrive at London, TN, and are directed to attack Burnside at Knoxville. **16 Nov:** Longstreet fails to block



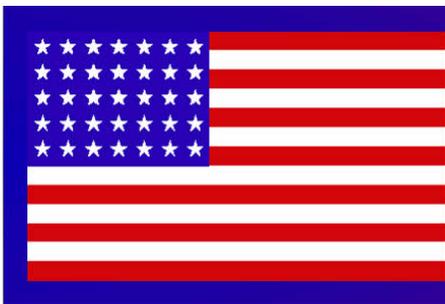
Burnside’s retreat into Knoxville. **17 Nov:** Lincoln begins preparing his Gettysburg dedication speech. **18 Nov:** Lincoln departs by train to Gettysburg. **19 Nov:** Edward Everett, the principal speaker, delivers his two hour speech dedicating the Gettysburg cemetery. He’s followed by Lincoln’s ‘*little speech*’. **21 Nov:** Lincoln becomes ill with a mild form of smallpox and comments “*At last I have something I can give to everybody*”. In Chattanooga, Grant finalizes his plan but Bragg remains unconcerned and comments to a worried bystander, “*Madam, are you mad. There are not enough Yankees in Chattanooga to come up here. Those are all my prisoners*”. **23 Nov:** The Battle of Chattanooga begins. **24 Nov:** Sherman has taken a hill just short of Missionary Ridge and prepares for the next day; meanwhile; Hooker has success in

a diversionary attack on Lookout Mountain in what becomes known as the *Battle Above the Clouds*. **25 Nov:** With Sherman on the northern flank, Thomas in the center, and Hooker at Lookout Mountain, the Union route the Confederates, handing victory to Grant. Chattanooga and surrounding area is now firmly in the Union hands. **27 Nov:** John Hunt Morgan and some of his officers escape their detention at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus and head south to rejoin the Confederacy. **29 Nov:** Longstreet launches an attack on Ford Sanders with the goal of dislodging Burnside at Knoxville. The plan fails. **30 Nov:** Jefferson Davis accepts Braxton Bragg’s resignation.

For information on Michigan sesquicentennial events, visit <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>.

Civil War Essentials - Christmas stories: With Christmas fast approaching, it seems appropriate to recycle some vintage Jerry Maxwell from January 2004.

On Christmas Day in 1860, a diarist in Camden, Arkansas sadly wrote: “*Another Christmas has come around in the circle of time but it is not a day of rejoicing. Some of the usual ceremonies are going on, but there is a gloom on the thoughts and countenance of all the better portion of our people.*”



In Nashville in 1862 Colonel John Beatty of the Third Ohio Infantry tried to make the best of a Christmas away from home. *“At the expense of one dollar and seventy-five cents, I procured a small turkey and had a Christmas dinner,”* he wrote, *“but it lacked the collaterals, and was a failure.”* Colonel Hans Heg of the Fifteenth Wisconsin spent a more boisterous evening. Invited to a Christmas party in an appropriate schoolhouse near camp, Heg and the brigade surgeon dressed two of the soldiers as women, and the colonel made an entrance *“just as if I had a lady on my arm.... We kept the house roaring for a good long time.”* Heg thought his men jolly that night despite rumors of an impending advance; perhaps his merry disposition, made merrier by the free-flowing liquor, prevented him from seeing things as they really were. Colonel Charles Manderson of the Nineteenth Ohio had a different viewpoint of the evening. Homesickness crept into all efforts by his men at merrymaking, until it became the *“all-pervading complaint.”* As Manderson observed from his tent: *“The men gathered about the camp fires during the evening hours with abortive attempts at merriment, soon to be given up, and then to talk in whispers of friends and family and home. The bugle calls, holding out the promise that balmy sleep might bring forgetfulness, were welcomed; although tattoo seemed a wail, and lights-out a sob.”*



In the opposing army the officers of the Twentieth Tennessee Infantry on Christmas Day bought a barrel of whiskey for the men. The result was not too merry. One soldier of the regiment reported: *“We had many a drunken fight and knock-down before the day closed.”* Nobody was seriously injured. When the men sobered up, everybody was friendly and, perhaps, the soldiers had gotten in a little more preparation that would be helpful for combat.

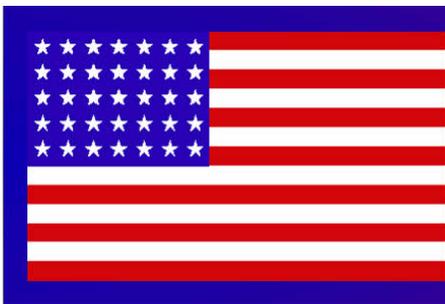
The Christmas season was certainly not a pleasant one for Captain Jim Womack of the Sixteenth Tennessee Infantry. His diary reveals that he was evidently depressed much of the time. The worst came on December 17, when he finally got an opportunity to ride to McMinnville to visit his sister Martha, who had been sick for several

days. He arrived to learn that she had died only days before. Womack, himself, took a bullet in his right arm only a few days later at the Battle of Stones River.

The Social highlight of Christmas at Murfreesboro was the gala ball at the town square, given on Christmas Eve by the First Louisiana and Sixth Kentucky regiments. The new courthouse was elaborately decorated. To soldier Spencer Talley the ball was *“a most delightful time. We had the best band of musicians in the army and our table was loaded with the best things that Murfreesboro could afford.”* Reports of the ball reached the Union army in Nashville where it was said that the arrogant Rebels had spread the United States flag upon the floor, the drunken revelers doubly desecrating “Old Glory” by dancing upon it.

QUIZ Answers:

1. Union doctors usually cleaned out maggots with chloroform. Confederate doctors did not do this which was good because maggots are scavengers that eat only dead tissue. Another result of this was that Confederate hospitals smelled better.
2. Amputations were as much as 75% of the procedures performed.
3. Injuries of the head, neck, spine, chest and abdomen
4. The rifled musket
5. The first field hospitals were created, a system to transport the wounded to the hospitals began, and the first wooden ambulances came into use. Surgical techniques were developed to care for the numerous injuries incurred during battle.



Mark your calendars for, Monday, November 25. Coffee and cookies will be available at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:45 pm, Farmington Public Library. Check out our website at www.farmlib.org/mrrt/.

2014 Speakers For Michigan Regimental Roundtable		
<i>Month</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
January 27, 2014	Jack Renick - MRRT member	General Daniel Sickles: Heroic Scoundrel
February 24, 2014	William Cottrell - MRRT member	From Lincoln to Andrew Johnson-Reconstruction or Restoration?
March 31, 2014	Fred Priebe - Abraham Lincoln actor	Why Did He Wait So Long?
April 28, 2014	Jody Egen - Director of Museums and Cultural Affairs - Wyandotte, MI	Michigan Soldier's Aid Society
May 19, 2014	Joseph Obidzinski - Livonia, MI	Second Battle of Fredericksburg - May 1863
June 30, 2014	Liz Stringer - Abraham Lincoln Roundtable	Picketts' Charge
July 21, 2014	Peter J. D'Onofrio, Ph.D. - Reynoldsburg, Ohio	Medical Advancements of the Civil War
August 25, 2014	Dr. Scott Stabler - Grand Valley State University - Grand Rapids	General O.O. Howard, USA - Chancellorsville and Gettysburg
September 29, 2014	Don Garlit - MRRT Member	Southerners Speak Out on' Secession
October 2014	Field Trip (No meeting)	TBD
November 24, 2014	Bill Seeger - MRRT Member	Battle of Gettysburg: Little Round Top Fallacies
December 2014	Holiday Break	None

Note that there will not be a meeting in December—the next meeting and newsletter will be January 2014.