

## MEMBER RENEWAL

**The MRRT begins its 56<sup>th</sup> year in 2016—and this month would be a great time to show your support by renewing your membership. 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.

**Sadly, well-known Civil War historian Wiley Sword died on November 9<sup>th</sup> at age 77. He wrote several books about Western campaigns. He lived in the Detroit area for many years and spoke to our Roundtable during the 1990's.**

**The Roundtable welcomes long-time MRRT member John Moore, PhD, who will present “The Business and Economics of the American Civil War” on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

John will discuss the potential economic causes of the war, how the USA and CSA paid for the cost of supporting the armies in the field, and the long-term economic consequences of the war for the United States. Dr. Moore's PhD at Wayne State was on the impact of industrialization on antebellum tariff policy. His bachelor's degree was from Notre Dame. Effective January 2016, John will become the Associate Dean of the Richard Devos Graduate School of Business at Northwood University in Troy, MI.



**The Michigan Regimental Roundtable would like to thank long-time member Bee Friedlander for her informative presentation “Animals and the Civil War”.**

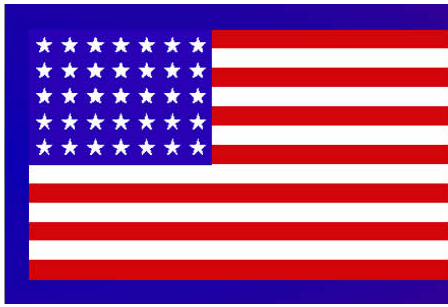
Prior to the war, several observers had reported that some slaves in the South were seen to be cruel to draft animals, perhaps reflecting the brutality with which they themselves were treated, while others had pets or owned their own farm animals. During the Civil War, perceptive officers realized that there was a special relationship between soldiers and animals, including pets, mascots, and ordinary military horses and mules.

Ordinary dogs, cats and more exotic species were adopted as mascots and proudly displayed by many units on both sides of the conflict. Some, such as Old Abe, the eagle mascot of the 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin regiment, attained near-superstar status -- Abe survived the war, was immortalized in a stone carving at Camp Randall, Wisconsin and died at a ripe old age in 1880 after his owner turned down a large cash offer from P. T. Barnum. Some canine mascots became the subject of books and even a movie. Other adopted animals wound up being eaten like Robert E. Lee's pet hen and pets that necessarily had to be sacrificed to hunger in prison camps. One dog, Major, a regimental mascot had a habit of snapping at Minie balls as they whizzed by him – the one success he had in catching one proved fatal.



Exotic mascots include a squirrel mascot of the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan, several bears and hogs, and a Confederate camel which became a casualty during the siege of Vicksburg. Someone's pet alligator was reportedly aboard the ill-fated steamer *Sultana* when it blew up and sank.

A number of animals were depicted in monuments erected after the war, the most quaint being a nest of small birds. Especially appropriate is the fairly recent equine memorial to the horses and mules which served, suffered and died during the war.



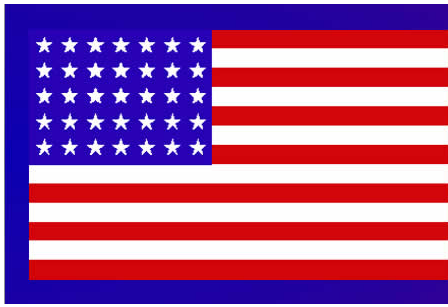
Lincoln, Grant and Lee were all known for their affection for animals. Grant relates in his memoirs that he was sickened by a Mexican bullfight he attended. Lee's reaction to the sight of a distant forest fire was to express sympathy for the wildlife in the area. Both generals were quick to discipline soldiers who were seen to abuse or neglect animals. Except for a handful of famous leaders' horses such as Lee's Traveler, Stonewall's Little Sorrel and Sheridan's Rienzi, these animals lived and died in obscurity. Surviving documents make it clear that the war was worse for the animals than for the human participants. Despite the efforts of some leaders including both Lee and Grant to ensure humane care for them, neglect, disease, and deliberate abuse added to their inevitable battle casualties. One source estimates that nearly 3 million horses and mules were used in the war and that they suffered a horrific 50% fatality rate. At war's end, an anti-cruelty awareness gathered momentum in the United States. Bee attributed this to two sources – the growing influence of Britain's long established anti-cruelty movement and the abolition of human slavery which many saw as a parallel to animal abuse.

**MRRT Minutes for September 28, 2015:** The **Call to Order** 6:35 pm, with 40 people present for the business meeting **Pledge** Dedicated to long-time member Bob Newill, celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday **Introduction of Guests and New Members** Speaker Bea Freelander's large "fan club" **Secretary's Report** Approved **Newsletters** Bob Newill read from the Indianapolis Hardtack, Cincinnati Canister, Cleveland Charger, and NYC Dispatch **Preservation** No report **Trip** The Friday meeting at the hotel is in the conference room at 7:30 pm. Our guides are Chuck Lott and Darryll Smith. Saturday we leave the hotel at 9:00 to visit Merchants' Row in Perryville, then tour the Bottom House on the battlefield and have lunch there. A wagon will then take us around the battlefield. Sunday will feature a talk by Stuart Sanders at the Bottom on the effects of the battle on the civilian population in the area. Saturday night's banquet will be at Shaker Village. We hope to visit the McDowell home and the Goodknight Family Cemetery **Website** Gerry Furi updates the website for us **Program** Jim has scheduled 6 of the 10 speakers for 2016 **Items of Interest** None **Old Business** None **New Business** None

**Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to "The Business and Economics of the American Civil War".**

1. Who sponsored the Land Grant Bill that resulted in the establishment of Michigan State University?
2. Who sponsored an 1861 tariff bill that raised tariff rates for the first time in twenty years?
3. What three Civil War figures are pictured on different denominations of U.S. paper currency?
4. Who is the man most responsible for floating U.S. bonds during the Civil War?
5. In which cities were the two most significant Confederate iron works complexes located?

**News from the Front July 2, 1863 Your Billy Yank Reporter "The Redemption of Colonel George Willards' Harpers Ferry Cowards"** It is now mid-June 1863 and General Lee's army is once again moving north. General Hays is ordered to march his brigade to Gum Springs on June 25<sup>th</sup> to join the Army of the Potomac. The brigade was designated the Third Brigade of the Third Division of the Second Corps. The Second Corps was being reorganized at this time with General Hays being placed in command of the Third Division of the Second Corps. George Willard, as senior colonel, was given command of the brigade. The men were proud to be added to the Second Corps. However, as they marched with their new corps they were still tainted with the epithet "Sand-Box" soldiers or "Harpers Ferry Cowards". The New Yorkers had lived with the shame of Harpers Ferry for 9 months and were chafing to pitch into somebody to remove this stigma from their reputation.



After hard marching the Third Division had arrived at Gettysburg and was at their “reserve” position at the Bryan House near Ziegler’s Grove at 8:00 a.m., July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The battle on the Federals’ left flank commenced at about 4:00 p.m., July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Barksdale’s attack did not begin until after 5:00 p.m., but once started the results were devastating for the Yankees. Barksdale’s Mississippians crushed Graham’s Brigade in the Peach Orchard and turned to roll up Humphrey’s Division on the Emmitsburg Pike and was now driving toward Cemetery Ridge. General Hancock was desperately looking for fresh troops to blunt the attack. Hancock sent an aide to General Hays asking for a brigade. Hays said to Col. Willard, “Take your brigade over there and knock the hell out of the Rebs”.

Orders were issued and the brigade moved and formed line of battle about half a mile south of their original position just north of Weikerts Woods. The 126<sup>th</sup> New York formed to the right of the 125<sup>th</sup> New York. Behind the 126<sup>th</sup> was the 111<sup>th</sup> New York, and behind the 125<sup>th</sup> was the 39<sup>th</sup> New York.

As streams of defeated 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps units moved through and around them to the rear Willard’s men knew a strong Confederate force must be approaching. They did not know that this was the brigade that had flanked them at Harpers Ferry. The Mississippians lines of battle were dispersed and in disarray as they had already smashed through two Federal positions and had their eyes on a third.

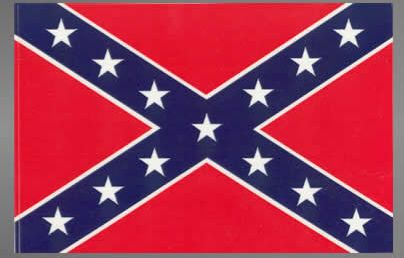
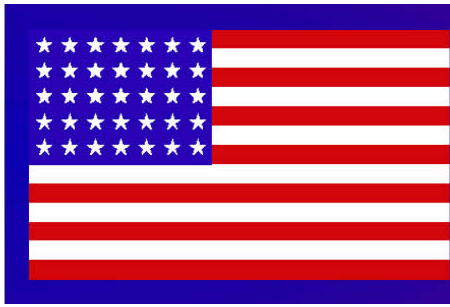
Between the two approaching brigades was a low swale containing Plum Run and small trees and bushes. Because of the smoke and haze of battle visibility was restricted so that when firing commenced the Yankees thought that they must be firing on their own men and a “cease fire” order was given. This respite gave Barksdale’s men time to reload and deliver a volley which was devastating to the New Yorkers. As Confederate artillery and infantry pounded his men Willard ordered them to charge ahead. As they crashed through the swale someone shouted “Remember Harpers Ferry” and the cry was taken up by hundreds of men. The charge was so rapid that many Mississippians surrendered while the remainder ran for the rear. The New Yorkers pursued the Confederates for a short distance but then were ordered to retire by their commander.

Unfortunately, at this time artillery round struck Col. George Willard in the head, killing him instantly. Brigade command was passed to Col. Eliakim Sherrill. The brigade returned to its original position near the Bryan House during the evening of July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Here it performed valiant service in helping to repulse Pettigrew’s North Carolinians on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. High praise was heaped upon the brigade. Hancock wrote that “the brigade’s actions were equal to any regular brigade I ever saw”. The men did well enough for General Hays, their former brigade commander, to tell them that “The Harpers Ferry boys wiped out Harpers Ferry”.

1. Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont
2. Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont. The 1861 tariff raised rates to encourage industry and increase industrial worker’s wages.
3. Abraham Lincoln – present day \$5, U.S. Grant – present day \$50, and Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase, the \$10,000 bill (1928-1934).
4. Jay Cooke
5. The Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond (present-day Visitor Center for the Richmond National Battlefield Park) and Selma, Alabama

**Perryville Trip** Our excursion to Perryville, KY was another very successful field trip for the 27 participants. Our tour guides, Chuck Lott (a Michigan native) and Darryl Smith, were outstanding. The group enjoyed some unique experiences visiting the battlefield sites using both a car caravan and a hay wagon. We explored significant portions of





the battlefield state park that now includes almost 1500 acres compared with 90 acres the last time we visited Perryville in 2000. Highlights included the haunted Deep Bottom house, where we ate lunch, and the Goodknight family cemetery. The final stop at the Goodknight cemetery was the grand highlight of the tour. The wagon trip to the cemetery included crossing a stream into the woods where the cemetery is located. Approximately 300 Confederates were buried there after the battle. Stuart Sanders provided an insightful discussion of the effect of the battle on the local civilians. Saturday night dinner at the Shaker Village Restaurant was terrific. We thank Mollie Galate, Jeanie Graham, and Linda Gerhardt very much for their organizing efforts!

