

MEMBER RENEWAL

The MRRT begins its 57th year in 2017 – and this month is a great time to show your support by renewing (or becoming a new member!) your membership. Membership remains \$20 a year – or \$5 for students. Checks should be made out to Treasurer Jeanie Graham (the bank does not like checks made out to the RoundTable) and can be mailed to her home at 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326; or simply bought to the meeting and given to Jeanie. Cash is always welcomed.

Our Monday, November 28, 2016 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library with MRRT member Gary Rembisz discussing “Black Feathers in Black Hats; the 24th Michigan Infantry”. Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

The Roundtable welcomes new member, Gary Rembisz, who will speak on “Black Feathers in Black Hats: The 24th Michigan Infantry”. Gary will share with us the remarkable saga of the 24th Michigan

Infantry, the most famous Michigan regiment during the war. The regiment was formed in Detroit during August 1862, in response to a riot sparked by Confederates from Windsor, Canada. Outstanding efforts at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg earned the respect of the other regiments in the Iron Brigade. Gary is the author of a historical novel, Black Feathers in Black Hats. He earned a Master’s Degree from Eastern Michigan after retirement. He is a recent new member of the Roundtable, helping the coffee sergeant.



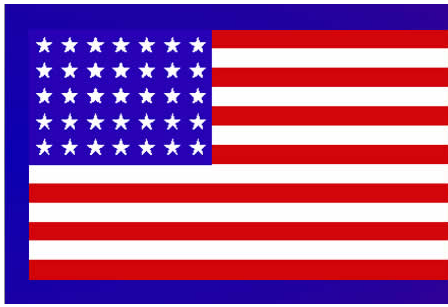
The Michigan Regimental Roundtable would like to extend its sincere thanks to Rufus Barton for his interesting presentation on Border Wars – Missouri and Kansas. Rufus noted that in this theater of the war as elsewhere, chance played a pivotal role in the outcome. **If Missouri had seceded with the other slave states prior to the attack on Ft. Sumter, the outcome of the entire conflict might have been different.**



Missouri had long been a slaveholding state starting with the French importing slaves in the early eighteenth century. Most slaves in the state worked on smaller farms, not plantations and the crop they labored on was hemp, not cotton or tobacco. By 1860, slaves made up 10 % of the population. Slavery, not states’ rights, was the primary issue in Missouri. The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 guaranteed strife in the west. Because of this, undeclared warfare between the free-soil “Jayhawkers” and the pro-slavery “Bushwhackers” was underway in Kansas from the mid -1850s on.

A convention called by the pro-slavery Missouri Governor Claibourne Jackson failed to deliver a definitive decision to secede. Soon the state had rival state governments supported by armed forces. The Union held the strategic area around St Louis which had a large pro-Union German population while areas in the south and west were Confederate territory. In 1861, Jayhawkers under James H. Lane attacked the town of Osceola, looting and executing a number of civilians. In retribution, Charles Quantrill committed even greater atrocities in 1863 at Lawrence murdering almost all of the men and boys and burning the town.

In response to the Lawrence massacre, Union General Thomas Ewing earned the enmity of many Missourians by ordering the forced evacuation of all residents in the rural areas of 4 counties bordering Kansas on the supposition that they were harboring and supporting the rebels. The Union soldiers in carrying out the order engaged in indiscriminate destruction and looting. The evicted residents, regardless of their sympathies, became destitute for the rest of the war. In 1864, Sterling Price led the last Confederate attempt to reconquer Missouri with the intent of capturing St. Louis thus delivering a highly visible Confederate victory prior to the Northern elections in November. He unwisely let himself be diverted from driving on St. Louis to attack Ft. Davidson near Pilot Knob. The smaller Federal force under Ewing



bloodied the attackers and gained time then retreated at night after blowing up their entrenchments. Price decided he would be unable to capture St. Louis and began a devastating retreat back into Kansas.

After the war, the victorious “radical” republican Missouri state administration created a constitution which made anyone who had supported the rebels a second class citizen. Bitterness against their harsh treatment during and after the war lingered among residents of some areas of the state long after the guns fell silent.

MRRT Minutes for September 26, 2016: Call to Order 6:40 pm, about 25 present for business meeting **Pledge** Dedicated to the Patriot Guard Riders who escorted the ashes of a veteran of the 20th Maine from Oregon to Maine in August **Introduction of Guests and New Members** None **Secretary’s Report** accepted **Preservation** No update **Newsletters** No update **Website** Updated monthly **Trip** 40 are signed up to go to Antietam, including our favorite couple from Maine. Jeanie is refunding \$15 to each participant for Saturday’s lunch. We will be stopping in Harper’s Ferry for lunch on our own. Many chose to put their refund into a preservation fund. There will be a 7:30 Friday meeting with Scott at the hotel. **Program** Jim is working on 2017. **Items of Interest** None **New Business** None **Old Business** None The business meeting was shortened to allow members to get home to watch the first Presidential debate.

Quiz Questions: This month’s questions and answers pertain to “The 24th Michigan Infantry”

1. True or False: The 24th Michigan carried only one flag into battle. Most other volunteer regiments also carried a state flag.
2. The 24th Michigan was awarded how many Congressional Medals of Honor at Gettysburg? A) 43 B) 21 C) 85 D) None
3. The 24th was part of the Honor Guard at whose funeral?
4. The 24th had what percentage casualties at Gettysburg? A) 80% B) 66% C) 43% D) 34%
5. True or False Approximately 200 men of the 1,039 that left Detroit on August 29, 1862 returned to Detroit to be mustered out of the Union Army.

Michigan at Gettysburg – Part 3

Michigan Sharpshooters

Composed of the 1st U.S. Sharpshooters, Companies C, I, & K and the 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters, Company B. The 1st U.S. was commanded by Lt. Col. Casper Trepp. The 2nd U.S. was commanded by Homer Stoughton. Assigned to 2nd Brigade (Ward), 1st Division (Birney), 3rd Corps (Sickles).

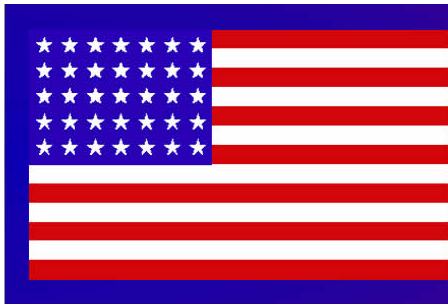
The Sharpshooters were engaged on the morning of July 2nd with portions of Wilcox’s Confederate Brigade in Pitzer’s Woods. During the early afternoon these regiments formed the skirmish line from the Snyder House to the northwest where they connected with the 3rd Michigan skirmish line near the Rose Farm. The men withdrew back to the brigade line during Longstreet’s assault. The monument to the Michigan Sharpshooters is on the west slope of Little Round Top.

9th Michigan Battery

The Battery was commanded by Captain Jabez Daniels. The battery included 119 men serving 6 ordnance rifles. The battery lost one man killed and four wounded. 23 horses were killed.

The Battery was attached to the 1st. Brigade, Horse Artillery, Army of the Potomac. James Robinson commanded the Brigade.

The 9th Michigan was dispatched to its position on the artillery line forming along Cemetery Ridge. This new unit was itching for a fight. On July 3rd the battery participated in the cannonade and the repulse of Pickett’s Charge.



The battery expended 322 rounds of shot, shell, and canister. The monument to the 9th Michigan Battery is on Hancock Avenue across from the Pennsylvania Monument.

Michigan Cavalry Brigade



1st Michigan Cavalry was commanded by Col. Charles Town
5th Michigan Cavalry was commanded by Col. Russell Alger
6th Michigan Cavalry was commanded by Col. George Gray
7th Michigan Cavalry was commanded by Col. William Mann
The Brigade brought 2,344 men to the Gettysburg field, incurring 257 casualties.

On July 3rd, the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, with its new commander of 3 days, Brigadier General George Custer, helped to defeat Confederate General Stuart in his attempt to thrust around the Union Army's right flank.

The Michigan Cavalry Brigade's monument is east of Gettysburg on the East Cavalry Battlefield.

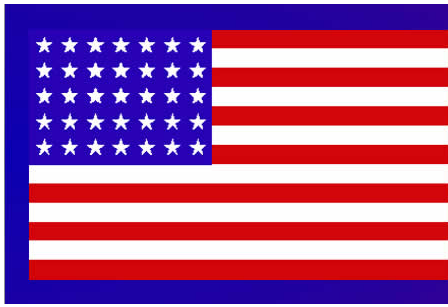
Quiz answers for "The 24th Michigan Infantry"

1. True The original 24th Michigan Infantry flag was replaced by two flags on April 27, 1864.
2. D None
3. Abraham Lincoln
4. A 80%
5. True

"1862 Maryland Campaign" field trip The Roundtable completed an outstanding tour of the main sites of the 1862 Maryland Campaign, including the climactic battle of Antietam. Our tour guide, Scott Patchen, was great once again leading almost 40 participants (including our new members from Maine!) through three states, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia. The weather was excellent except for some rain on Saturday morning, primarily at the first stop, the Best Farm, where Special Orders 191 was found by Indiana soldiers. Saturday included visits to Turner's Gap, Fox's Gap, and South Mountain. We toured Harper's Ferry during our lunch stop. Saturday's night dinner at the 250 year-old Old South Mountain Inn was terrific.

Sunday's tour was an immersion into the Battle of Antietam. Scott pointed out that Lee's Headquarters (now the National Cemetery) were almost right on the battlefield while General McClellan's headquarters at the Pryor House was a long ways from the actual battle. Unfortunately, Burnside's Bridge was undergoing repairs. The Union Army could have easily forded Antietam Creek elsewhere and advanced with fewer casualties. The National Park Service and the Civil War Trust have made major progress in recent years preserving the battlefields.

We thank Jeanie, Linda, and Mollie for putting together another outstanding trip! The hotel, bus, and eating arrangements were outstanding. Based on past experience, we will discuss 2017's trip during the January 2017 meeting and have a final vote at the February meeting.



Vol. LVI, No.
10

Michigan Regimental Round Table Newsletter—Page 4

November 2016

