

MEMBER RENEWAL

The MRRT celebrates its 58th year in 2018 – and this month is a great time to show your support by renewing your membership! (Or becoming a new member!). 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](mailto:29835); or simply bought to the meeting and given to Jeanie. Cash is always welcomed.

Our Monday, November 27, 2017 meeting begins at 6:30 pm at the Farmington Library. Dr. Gerald Turlo from Wayne State will speak on “Alternative Medicine-A Medical Civil War”.

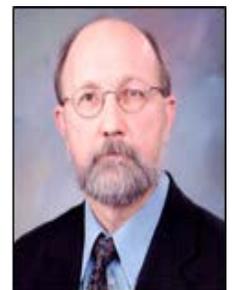
Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>



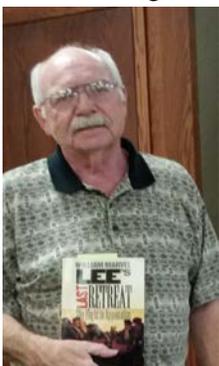
Sadly, long-time member Carroll Tietz passed away on October 6th, 90 years old. Carroll was our Treasurer for many years and the “official photographer” of our yearly field trips. Carroll was always very friendly and a great help for the Roundtable. A World War 2 veteran, Carroll is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean, and their children, grand-children, and great-grandchildren.

George Crouch is retiring as coffee sergeant after our November meeting. We need someone to help us with coffee during 2018! Our thanks to George for his great coffee work for many years.

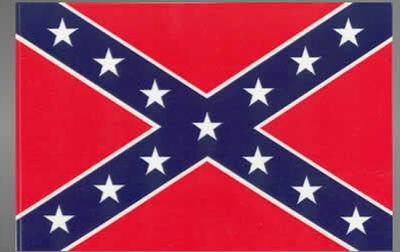
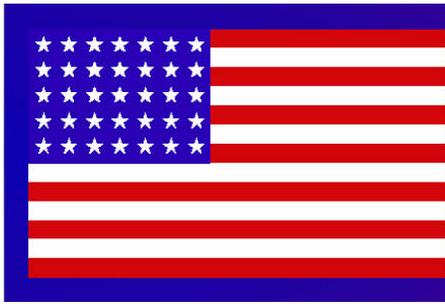
The Roundtable welcomes back as our November 27, 2017 speaker, Dr. Gerald Turlo from Wayne State, who will speak on “Alternative Medicine – A Medical Civil War”. Dr. Turlo will discuss alternative medical practices with an emphasis on homeopathic medicine and its ‘civil war’ with traditional Allopathic medicine, and its impact on medicine during the Civil War and in the state of Michigan. Dr. Turlo is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Wayne State Medical School in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He has been a Civil War reenactor for almost 20 years and is a member of the 17th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. E. He is a board member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons and a member of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland.



The Michigan Regimental Roundtable thoroughly enjoyed Larry Hathcock’s presentation of “The Last Veterans of the Blue & Gray”. Larry was drawn to the subject because he is related to the man most experts now believe was the last surviving Confederate soldier.



The 1957 Congressional establishment of the Civil War Centennial Commission elevated national interest in, among other things, whether any veterans might still be alive. A man named Walter Williams, born in Mississippi but residing in Houston Texas, was still alive and claimed to have been a Confederate soldier. Williams became a celebrity of sorts in the South. He was named an honorary Confederate general by then President Eisenhower – a singular honor to be sure –and was given what amounted to a state funeral when he died in 1959. On his 1932 application for a state veteran’s pension, Williams claimed to have served for almost a year before Lee’s surrender, mostly in Hood’s Texas Brigade. Because Confederate records were sketchy, verifying or disputing such claims was difficult. Today many experts doubt he was as old as he claimed based on available census records which show a birth date of about 1854/55. It is therefore unlikely that he was



actually a soldier in the war.

Another claimed oldest Confederate veteran was John Salling from Virginia who died several months before Williams in 1959. However the census records suggest a birth year around 1856 – he claimed to have been born in 1846.

A more credible candidate was Pleasant Riggs Crump (left) from Alabama who served in the 10th Alabama from late 1864 on. The 10th was part of Mahone's Division. Crump's first combat was at Hatcher's Run in February, 1865 when Lee's army fended off another of Grant's attempts to get past the Confederate right flank to cut the vital railroads supplying Petersburg and Richmond. During the last pivotal battles of the siege at Fort Stedman and Five Forks, Mahone was located in the middle of the Confederate perimeter. As Robert E. Lee withdrew from his defenses in early April, Mahone headed west and joined Longstreet's Corp as the Confederate Army tried to out run their pursuers. The 10th was involved in several battles as the retreat continued. **In the end, Lee was forced to surrender and Crump was one of the Confederate soldiers who was paroled and allowed to go home where he became a farmer.** Crump died in 1951 just after his 104th birthday.



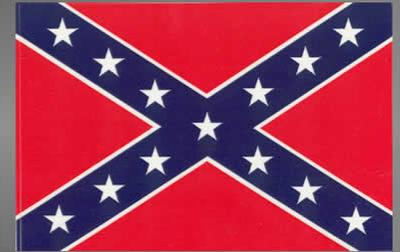
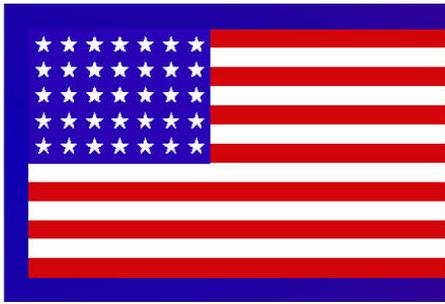
The last surviving Union soldier was Albert Woolson, born in 1850, who served as a drummer boy in a Minnesota artillery regiment. Woolson was a regular at GAR events and died in 1956. Because of Woolson's youth and position, and because his regiment was a garrison unit, **most experts believe James A. Hard of the 37th New York Infantry was the last surviving combat veteran of the Union Army.** Hard is believed to have been born in 1843 and died in 1953.

MRRT Minutes for September 24, 2017: Call to Order 6:40 pm, about 25 present for business meeting, including Nancy Duffield. Great to see you back, Nancy! **Pledge** Dedicated to the last Civil War veterans, Albert Woolson for the North and Pleasant Riggs Crump for the South **Introduction of Guests and New Members** Jay Peak, Nancy's son-in-law visited **Treasurer's Report** Accepted **Secretary's Report** Accepted **Preservation** the CWPT is working on saving 20 acres at different sites at Gettysburg, with a \$1 million price tag. The Trust only needs to raise about \$400,000 due to a 5 to 1 match. **Newsletters** Bob read from the Indianapolis Hardtack, the Cleveland Charger, the NYC Dispatch and the Cincinnati Canister **Website** Shiloh will be on the website this year **Trip Report** we have a full bus with 36 paid.

Subway is providing our Saturday lunch. There may be enough money to cover Sunday's lunch as well **Program** Jim has 4 great speakers lined up for 2018 **Items of Interest** David Stoddard reported on trips to Gettysburg and Glorieta Pass, NM. Glorieta Pass has 2 ½ miles of new interpretive trails. Gene participated in the Civil War encampment at Greenmead in August. Attendance was low because it was very warm. Linda went to Greenfield Village for an evening at the Robert Frost home. It was very well done and will be repeated at other Village homes.

George read the book Sovereign Duty which discussed the role of states' rights in the U.S. Constitution. He said that it was a worthwhile but dry read. **New Business** None **Old Business** There was another lively discussion about the removal of Civil War monuments with comments from both sides. George thinks that history is being rewritten so as to not offend people. Monuments make us think and may even spark interest in the Civil War and why these monuments are important. Bee thinks the monument controversy has been coopted by the wrong people. If it only needed a monument to bring interest we would be swamped with new members. The subject has been too politicized and can be a poisonous topic at meetings. Larry believes that all history should be taught, the good, the bad, and the ugly. If all history is exposed we can decide for ourselves what was right and wrong.

David said that monuments can offend people of color and can be taken down by the people who own them. But they can inspire interest in children and so should remain in appropriate places like cemeteries and battlefields.

**Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers also pertain to the Battle of Shiloh.**

1. Which two Federal generals died at the Cherry Mansion in Savannah, Tennessee?
2. Which 2 of these battlefield areas are not associated with Shiloh battlefield? Purdy Road, Round Forest, Fallen Timbers, Fraley Field, Manse George Cabin, Lafayette Road, Woolf Field
3. Which Federal general, stationed near Crump's Landing, took the wrong road and arrived too late to help Grant on the first day of fighting?
4. Who led General Albert Sidney Johnston's four army corps in the attack on General Grant's army?
5. What was the name of Albert Sidney Johnston's horse, and which governor of Tennessee tended to Johnston as he lay dying?

33 of us enjoyed a tremendous field trip to the Shiloh National Military Park and Corinth, Mississippi. Our tour guide, Keith Willingham of Muscle Shoals, AL, was very knowledgeable and able to explain to us a complicated battlefield. We thank Ken Baumann for introducing us to Keith! Our bus driver, Curt, was tremendous.

Some of the highlights of the field trip include:

- **Keith and Ken explained to us how an artillery battery worked.** Several men and their animals had to work closely together to fire a shot at the enemy. Each man was trained to do a specific, vital task. We were reluctant to move onto the next stop because there were so many questions and comments regarding artillery.
- **Driving through the park we saw a bald eagle flying around!** The Shiloh Park includes a bald eagle breeding area!
- **We enjoyed a great dinner at Hagy's Catfish Hotel Restaurant.** Some of us remembered eating there on our last trip to Shiloh in 2002.
- **Driving back to the Hampton Inn on Saturday night we stopped on the Shiloh battlefield.** The quiet enabled us to contemplate the thousands of wounded and dead soldiers laying there after the Sunday, April 6, 1862 battle. There were probably ghosts watching us!
- **Our Sunday trip to Corinth, MS was very informative.** The National Park guide at the Visitor's Center provided us with a terrific bonus tour of the remains of Battery Robinette. Our trip provided an understanding of the inexperienced Confederates three day trip from Corinth to the Shiloh battle field. Lunch at *Cracker Barrel* was an experience as the restaurant was too crowded for us on our first visit. We returned to conquer the restaurant on our second try, thus avoiding the rain.
- **We visited Indian mounds inside the Shiloh Park.** Keith said that the mounds were the prime living areas for the Indian chiefs. The mounds were not a burial area.

Our guide, Keith, is interested in hearing from us. His e-mail is UncleKeith16@aol.com He welcomes any comments or questions that we may have.

The Shiloh Battlefield website is www.Shilohbattlefield.org/searchops.html there is a lot of information available, including the various battlefield monuments.

Quiz Answers:

1. Generals Charles F. Smith and William H.L. Wallace
2. Round Forest (at Stones River) and Lafayette Road (at Chickamauga)
3. General Lew Wallace – future author of Ben Hur.
4. Generals Leonidas Polk, Braxton Bragg, William Hardee, and John Breckinridge (former Vice-President of the United States)
5. "Fire-Eater" and Governor Isham G. Harris

