

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 26, 2019. We meet in the basement of the Farmington Library (corner of Grand River Avenue and Farmington Road) at 6:30 pm. **Our speaker will be long-time member, Larry Hathcock, who will share with us the story of “Detention and Death on the Delaware River”!**
Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

Our trip committee is accepting payment for our trip to Savannah, Georgia. EVERYONE MUST PAY FOR THE TRIP BY THE SEPTEMBER 30TH ROUNDTABLE MEETING. A check for \$255 will cover the cost of our bus fees, various tour stops, Saturday and Sunday lunches, and Saturday evening banquet. If someone wants to go just on Saturday and Sunday’s tours the cost is \$200 and if an individual wants to sign up just for the Saturday banquet the cost is \$55. Checks maybe brought to the meeting or mailed to our Treasurer, Jeanie Graham at her home: 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2326. PLEASE MAKE THE CHECKS OUT TO JEANIE GRAHAM AS THE BANK WILL NOT ACCEPT CHECKS MADE OUT TO THE ROUNDTABLE.

Trip Itinerary - Friday, Nov. 8th, OPTIONAL Savannah River Boat Cruise – Narrated 90-minute Harbor Sightseeing Cruise at 1:00 pm at a cost of \$24.95 per person (www.savannahriverboat.com). Please make your own reservations.

Saturday, Nov. 9th – Guided trolley tour through Savannah’s 270 year history Old Fort Jackson Civil War Militia Program. Fort Pulaski

Sunday, Nov 10th - Guided tour through Savannah Historic District Fort McAllister

Hotel – Hampton Inn & Suites-Savannah/Midtown, 4 miles from the historic district. The nightly rate is \$129. **Their telephone number is 912.721.3700.** Our group code is C-MRR. Rooms are available from Thursday night through Sunday night.

Saturday Banquet – Vic’s on the River. Cost is \$55, including gratuity.

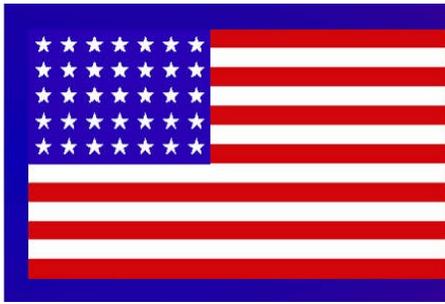
If you want to sign-up or have questions, please call Jeanie (248.225.7596), Linda (586.588.2712) or Mollie (313.530.8516). Mollie’s e-mail is mmgalate@gmail.com

A reminder: Each participant must provide their own transportation to and from Savannah.

The Roundtable welcomes the return of long-time member Larry Hathcock, who will discuss “Death and Detention on the Delaware River”. Both Union and Confederate prison camps were very tough for their unlucky inhabitants. Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River became a Union prison camp for captured Confederate soldiers and Union political prisoners. Even though Fort Delaware was probably better than most other camps, 2,500 men died there. The Confederate dead were buried at Finn’s Point National Cemetery across the Delaware River. Larry will discuss the history of Fort Delaware and the lives of the prisoners during their stay there. Two of Larry’s ancestors were prisoners at Fort Delaware, one died and the other survived. This will be a great talk on a very interesting topic that does not receive a lot of attention!

Larry is a retired school teacher and a past President of the Roundtable. He has spoken to our Roundtable on several topics, especially on the Navy during the Civil War.





The MRRT found President Abraham Lincoln's (Fred Priebe) recounting of his experiences around his 1864 reelection campaign insightful and entertaining.

He started by recalling the situation in the late 1863 elections. Unlike the 1862 by-elections which had not gone well for his administration, the Republicans had recovered some ground in 1863. **Recent Union military victories, a strong economy and legislative actions, such as the Homestead Act and the creation of the Dept. of Agriculture, contributed to a feeling of progress being made.** However the Radical Republicans still strove for the harshest possible measures to deal with the South.

At this time, Lincoln had not yet declared for a second term. No president since Andrew Jackson had served two terms. There were still many critics of Lincoln; James Gordon Bennett of the *NY Herald*, who supported US Grant as the preferred candidate, referred to him and his record as a “joke”. Grant later assured the President that he would never oppose him for the nomination. **Other rivals strove for the nomination however. Foremost was Salmon Chase, his capable and ambitious Treasury Secretary.** Chase was upright but humorless. Chase's supporters, including Sen. John Sherman and James Garfield, issued an anonymous pamphlet criticizing Lincoln, but this tactic backfired. A number of key state conventions supported Lincoln for nomination and Chase withdrew from the race. Ben (“Spoons”) Butler and John Fremont both put themselves forward as candidates, but neither had a sufficient following to be a threat. **The Convention endorsed Lincoln to run for a 2nd term.**



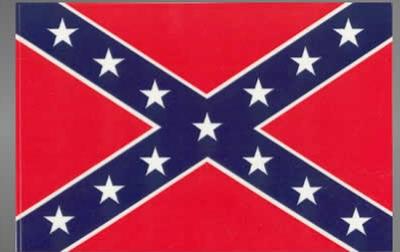
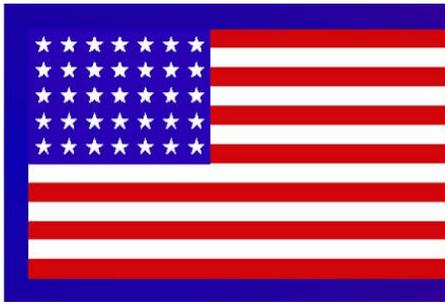
However, events in the first part of 1864 did not bode well for the President's chances. Many aspects of the war were not as favorable as had been hoped – **the Overland campaign was proving very bloody and slow, Jubal Early was loose in the Valley and briefly threatened Washington City.** Lincoln was attacked by both political doves and hawks. There was ongoing backlash from the Emancipation Proclamation and from Lincoln's suspension of the writ of *Habeas Corpus*. Hard lining Radicals like Thaddeus Stevens, Zachariah Chandler and Ben Wade continued to assail Lincoln as being too soft on the South. There were even calls for a new convention to choose a different nominee. On August 28, a despondent Lincoln wrote the following: “*This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to co-operate with the President-elect, as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration; as he will have secured his election on such ground that he cannot possibly save it afterwards.*” He sealed this statement in an envelope and kept it.

The Democrats were also in a dilemma before the election. They were split between “war Democrats” that supported the war to restore the Union, but not emancipation, and the “peace Democrats” that sought a negotiated peace. The two sides could only agree that Lincoln's administration must go. **They finally chose George B. McClellan as their candidate with a party platform based on ending the war.** However, just days after McClellan's nomination, William T. Sherman forced the Confederates out of the key city of Atlanta, Georgia. Soon after, Sheridan succeeded in clearing the rebel forces out of the Valley. **These events and other military progress undercut the Democratic stance that the war was a failure.**

The November 8 election gave the President a convincing victory. Lincoln was proud that the U.S. had held a free election in the middle of a civil war. Lincoln received a telegram from Grant stating that the successful election was as important as a major battle victory.

Lincoln then pondered how to reunite the two sides when the war finally ended. He rejected the Radicals' harsh solutions and believed malice would be self-defeating. He began to consider how God's will was at work in the course of events.

These concepts formed the framework of his 2nd inaugural address. President Lincoln did not expect this speech to be popular since it suggested that the war was a result of iniquities on both sides. **History, however, has justly considered it one of his finest speeches.**



Minutes - July 29, 2019 Meeting President George Crouch began the meeting at 6:30 pm with 40 people attending. **Pledge of Allegiance** Dedicated to Union soldier, Martin Keane, who was wounded and died in August 1863 Keane was the only casualty in a skirmish with Confederate John Morgan in Ohio. Dedicated to three U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan **Treasurer's Report** the Roundtable has paid for our 2020 room rental. The July 2020 meeting will be one week earlier than normal. **Newsletters** No newsletters issued in July 2019 **Preservation** the Roundtable voted to donate to the Civil War Trust \$50 each for the Gettysburg, Perryville, and Stones River battlefields. The Trust is saving the Plank Farm property at Gettysburg and the Valley of Death at Perryville. **Items of Interest** Dr. David Stoddard toured the Corinth and Shiloh battlefields. The annual Jackson, MI reenactment has been cancelled for this year. Sponsorship and other issues need to be resolved for 2020. The proposal to donate to the Olustee, Florida Michigan monument has been put on hold for further research. **Speaker** The Roundtable thanks President Abraham Lincoln (Fred Priebe) for his outstanding presentation on his tough 1864 re-election campaign.

Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to Civil War prison camps:

1. How many prisoners of war were there?
2. Why did Union General Grant end the prisoner exchange program?
3. What happened to the Confederate soldiers captured at Vicksburg, MS and Port Hudson, LA?
4. What was the effect of the Union Army organizing African-American regiments on the prisoner exchange program?
5. Who were some of the well-known Confederate generals imprisoned at Johnson's Island, Ohio?

Civil War Essentials – Lieutenant Justin E. Dimick – Truest Soldier The future Lieutenant Justin E. Dimick (1840-1863), one of the fourteen children of U.S. General Justin Dimick, enrolled at West Point in 1856. The road to graduation would prove to be very rough and rocky.

Justin "earned" numerous demerits and was a ringleader of mischief. He earned a reputation for climbing out of the barracks windows after "lights out" and spending the night drinking and carousing at Benny Havens – a notorious nearby saloon.

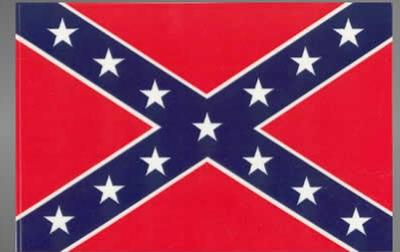
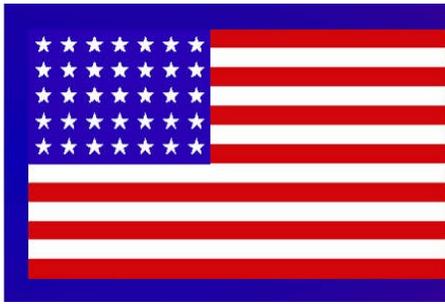
One day in ethics class, Justin made a speech before the professor arrived. He told his fellow cadets, "*The virtues are what we are, the duties are what we do, what we are is more important than what we do. Thus the virtues are more important than the duties.*" Justin then ended his talk by hurling his textbook across the classroom and shattering a window at the same moment the professor arrived.

Justin then received orders to clean up the glass, discuss virtue, and return to his dorm room under arrest. He was then dismissed from West Point.



His father, General Dimick – a Mexican War veteran – was able to get Justin back in the Academy. This led to a second dismissal in March 1859. Finally, on his third attempt Justin Dimick graduated from West Point on June 24, 1861. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 6th U.S. Infantry. A quick promotion earned a transfer to the 1st U.S. Artillery. He began the war with the reputation as a soldier whose well-known father had bailed him out of trouble more than once.

Lieutenant Dimick began the Civil War drilling Federal recruits in Washington. He fought at the First Battle of Bull Run in July, less than one month after graduating. During most of 1862, Dimick served as the adjutant for the 1st U.S. Artillery, mostly on garrison and guard duties prior the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. By the Battle of Chancellorsville during May 1863 he commanded Battery H of the 1st U.S. Artillery.



During the morning of May 3rd the Battery supported the U.S. Third Corps. Captain Osborne's official report described Lieutenant Dimick's actions during the battle. *"After holding this position for upward of an hour, his men fighting bravely, but falling rapidly around him (his horse was shot under him) and our infantry crowding back until his flanks were exposed. I gave him the order to limber and fall back."*

Then Captain Osborne described what happened next at the battery prepared to retreat. *"In doing this his horses became entangled in the harness, and in freeing them he receive a shot in the foot. This wound he hid from his men, but in a moment received one in the spine, and from the effects of it died two days later."*

Captain Osborne wrote a tribute for Lieutenant Dimick, *"He was an educated and accomplished officer, just building into the full vigor of manhood. As a line officer he has shown fine abilities and on the battle-field was unsurpassed for gallantry."*

Lieutenant Dimick went from a young man who was expelled from West Point twice, reinstated twice with the assistance of his influential father, and then distinguished himself with his bravery and leadership at the Battle of Chancellorsville. All of this happened within four years.

Quiz Answers:

1. The number of prisoners varies, historian James Ford Rhodes determined that 194,000 Union soldiers were imprisoned by the Confederates and the North imprisoned approximately 215,000 Confederates. The estimate is that 24,436 Southerners and 22,576 Northerners died.
2. By 1864, there were more Confederate prisoners than Union prisoners. General Grant believed that exchanges helped to alleviate the acute Confederate manpower shortages.
3. After the Vicksburg and Port Hudson surrenders, 35,000 Confederate soldiers were released on parole, primarily because of the logistics involved in transporting the prisoners north. The Federals charged that these men were restored to duty in violation of their paroles.
4. The South refused to allow captured African-American soldiers to be included in the soldier exchange program. The North retaliated by refusing to make any prisoner exchanges at all.
5. Some of the Confederate generals imprisoned at Johnson's Island included Isaac Trimble, James Archer (both captured at Gettysburg), Edward "Alleghany" Smith, and Thomas Benton Smith. Johnson's Island initially held only Confederate officers. Up to 15,000 men were imprisoned on the island, with "only" 200 dying, primarily because of the harsh winters and disease.

Civil War Essentials – The Transcontinental Railroad Golden Spike

The Golden Spike signaling the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad by the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads was driven on May 10, 1869 near Promontory Point, Utah. Several former Union soldiers participated in building the railroad.

1. **Union Major General (and Corps Commander) Grenville Dodge** was engineer for the Union Pacific. He served as General Grant's Intelligence Chief in the Western Theater. General Dodge was commander of the XVI Corps during the Atlanta Campaign.
2. **Captain Arthur MacArthur** helped provide security for the ceremony. He was a company commander in the U.S. Army's 36th Infantry which provided the security. Arthur won the Medal of Honor and was the father of legendary General Douglas MacArthur.
3. **Brothers Union General Jack Casement and Union Colonel Dan Casement** had prominent roles in building the railroad. General Jack Casement was the project's construction leader and Colonel Dan Casement handled the financial affairs of the project.
4. **Andrew Russell** was the photographer of the event. He was a photographer for the Union Military Commission during the Civil War. Herman Haupt used Andrew's photographs in his reports.