

Our Monday, July 18, 2016 meeting begins at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Farmington Library. We are meeting one week earlier than normal. Please visit our website at <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt>

The Roundtable thanks Gary Rembisz, a new member, for agreeing to help George Crouch with the coffee.

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2016 DUES to Jeanie Graham. Your \$20 will help us with our preservation efforts and our operating expenses.

Our trip committee is collecting money for the October 8th and 9th trip to Antietam. The cost is \$145 for our tour guide Scott Patchen, the bus, and all park entrance fees. Saturday night’s dinner at the Old South Mountain Inn is optional, with an additional cost of \$45. Tour participants may write one check for \$190 or separate checks for the tour and dinner. Please make your checks out to Jeanie Graham. You can give the check to her at our meeting or mail it to her at: Jeanie Graham, 29835 Northbrook, Farmington Hills MI 48334-2326. Please advise the trip committee of your choice for Saturday’s banquet: Prime Rib, Salmon, or Vegetarian. The trip committee must have your money by the August 29, 2016 Roundtable meeting.

Each participant can make their hotel reservations at the Hampton Inn – Frederick, Maryland, telephone number 301-696-1565. Request the MCR block rate of \$149/night + tax for a king size room or \$159/night for a queen size room (good until September 7, 2016), or you can choose another hotel. The pre-tour meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn on Friday, October 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

Questions? Call Mollie (313.530.8516), Linda (586.588.2712), or Jeanie (248.225.7596).

Participants must provide their own transportation from Michigan to Frederick and back home again.

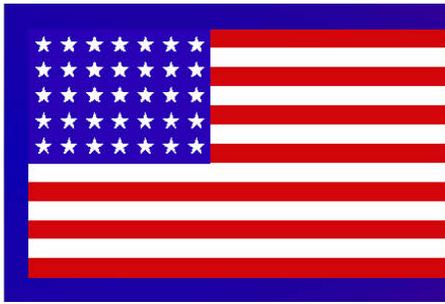
The Roundtable welcomes our 2015 Perryville Battlefield tour guide, Chuck Lott, who will share the story of the “11th Michigan Cavalry” with us. The 11th Michigan Cavalry is a regiment that most of us know little about. From its organization in Kalamazoo and Detroit in December, 1863 to the end of the war, **the 11th Michigan Cavalry spent most of its time in Kentucky and participated in over 40 engagements.** The regiment performed other duties, including cattle drives in Kentucky and Tennessee and fighting Confederate guerrillas. We all enjoyed having Chuck as our tour guide on our Perryville field-trip last fall. Chuck (gentleman on the right in the picture) will be visiting his family in the Lincoln Park area and our Roundtable. Chuck will provide us with an interesting discussion of a relatively unknown Michigan unit.



The Michigan Regimental Roundtable wishes to extend its sincere thanks to Jack Dempsey and Brian Egen for their informative and insightful talk on Michigan at Antietam. The talk was based on their book of the same name. Proceeds of the sale of the book will go to support the placement of a Michigan monument on the Antietam battlefield.



They began their talk by noting the frightful casualties **incurred during the Civil War – recent estimates of deaths equate to about 2.5% of the total US population at the time. At Antietam, an estimated 22,700 men were casualties – still the bloodiest single day in US history!** The inspiration for the book came from a visit to the Battlefield several years ago when Jack was informed by a NPS ranger that Michigan had only a minor role in the battle. In fact, there were eight Michigan units involved in the campaign of which two – the 7th and the 17th Michigan Infantry regiments - were in the thick of the fighting and suffered



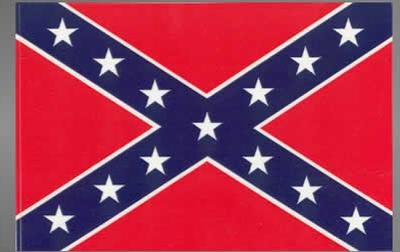
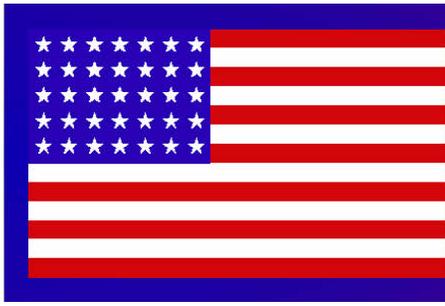
serious losses. The remaining units were mostly in reserve and escaped major casualties. In total, 85 Michigan soldiers were killed.

Of Michigan senior officers, General Israel Richardson, commanding a division in the Second Corp, was the perhaps the most notable Michigan officer at Antietam where he was wounded. He had been prevented from achieving a breakthrough by an unwise order from McClellan. There is a tradition that President Lincoln visited him after the battle and promised him command of the Army of the Potomac but Richardson later died of his wounds. General Orlando Willcox commanded a Division in the Ninth Corp. **General Alpheus Williams moved from command of his Division to take over the Twelfth Corp after General Mansfield was mortally wounded.** Other notable Michigan senior officers included Henry Hunt who reorganized the Army's artillery arm, General George Hartsuff who led a brigade in the First Corp, and Colonel Norman Hall who moved up from the 7th Michigan Infantry command to take over a brigade after General Dana was wounded. Hall had been in the Fort Sumter garrison at the beginning of the war and would be a brigade commander at Gettysburg. Other notables present included Colonel Samuel Pittman of McClellan's staff who authenticated Lee's "lost order" which motivated McClellan to attempt to defeat Lee in detail, Custer who was then an ADC to McClellan, and **John Bagley, a civilian who arrived as the battle was winding down and helped organize aid for wounded soldiers.** Bagley, who wrote an account of his impressions of the battlefield, later became governor.

A famous Alexander Gardner photo contrasting the grave of a Union soldier with the unburied body of a Confederate set off a fascinating search for the identity of the Federal soldier. **Careful research suggests it was Lt. John A. Clark of the 7th Michigan, a native of Monroe.**

A celebration of Michigan at Antietam was held in August, 2012. Since then, through a connection with a private land owner along the Hagerstown/Dunker Church Pike, **a small easement has been obtained to locate the proposed monument.** Recently the CWT purchased the property and turned it over to the NPS. The easement location is about where the 7th Michigan crossed the road to enter the West Woods. The search for funding, and for an artistic theme are now underway.

MRRT Minutes for June 27, 2016: The **Call to Order** 6:35 pm, with 30 people present for the business meeting **Pledge** Dedicated to the victims of the Orlando massacre **Introduction of Guests and New Members** guest Judy McIntosh, coauthor with Dave Finney of the book, Remembering Michigan Soldiers **Secretary's Report** Approved **Newsletters** No report **Trip Report** Trip details are covered on Page 1 of the Newsletter **Preservation** Joe Epstein reported that the Civil War Trust (CWT) is involved with 8 preservation efforts, including 335 acres at the site of General Hancock's fight at the Brock Road in the Wilderness as well as the site of General Jackson's Chancellorsville attack. Funds are also being provided by the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust and assorted large donors, resulting in a 5 to 1 match. Other efforts will save a total of 313 acres: 1 acre at Williamsburg, 6 acres at Gaines Mill, 3 acres at Ream's Station, 12 acres at White Oak Road, and 289 acres at Saylor's Creek. The purchase price is \$889,000, of which the CWT must provide only \$91,000. **Website** Gerry Furi continues to do a great job updating the website for us every month **Program** Our July speaker is Chuck Lott, our Perryville tour guide. He will speak on the 11th Michigan Cavalry. **Items of Interest** Larry Hathcock saw the new movie, *Free State of Jones*. Larry said that there some fuzzy history but it captured the feel of the time. Ken Bauman is publishing his new book, The Hillsdale Soldier, about the 64th Illinois Cavalry. George Crouch recommends Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day, by William Frassanito. **Old Business** None **New Business** None

**Quiz Questions: This month's questions and answers pertain to "Michigan Cavalry Units in the Civil War"**

1. How many Michigan cavalry units participated in the Civil War? How many units were in the famous Michigan Cavalry Brigade led by General Custer at Gettysburg?
2. What was the role of the 11th Michigan during the Confederate collapse in April and May 1865?
3. How many states did the 11th Michigan fight battles in?
4. Which Michigan counties provided most of the men for the 11th Michigan? Where was the regiment mustered in?
5. Which state or district did the 11th Michigan spend most of its' time during the War?

Civil War Essentials – West Virginia secedes from Virginia!

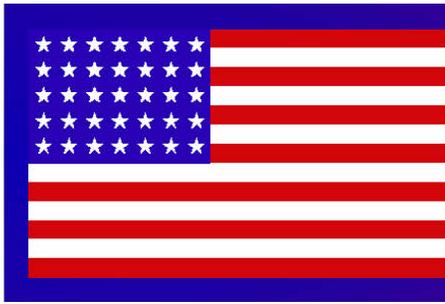
Two states entered the Union during the Civil War – Nevada and West Virginia. Nevada came in via the traditional route – created from a US territory after meeting prescribed criteria. West Virginia was different. **Prior to the war, what we know today as West Virginia had been part of the state of Virginia since the US was founded.**

Although part of the Old Dominion, the character of the northwestern portion of Virginia was different from the tidewater area. It is far more mountainous and most of the rivers run west or north to the Ohio rather than the eastern shore. This, and the difficult communication across the Alleghenies, helped orient settlers there more to the west instead of the east. European explorers and settlers started arriving 50-60 years after the coastal settlements like Jamestown. Many settlers came from Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the north and had little in common with the aristocratic leaders from the coast. **The terrain and the background of these settlers resulted in the economic/social base of the west being far different from the slave labor-based agriculture of the east.** The 1829 Virginia constitution required property ownership for voting and included 3/5 of the slave population in apportioning the state's Congressional representation. These factors plus the close proximity of the capital, Richmond, ensured that the east controlled state politics and channeled most internal improvement funding to favor their area. As a result, west state resentment simmered well before the war.

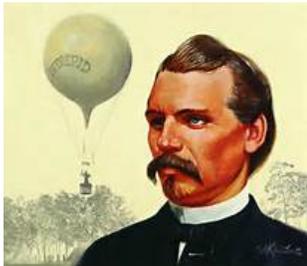
John Brown's famous assault on the Harpers Ferry Arsenal in 1859 was the preamble to the Civil War. By April 1861, Virginia voted to secede and join the new Confederate States. Of the 49 delegates from what would become the future state, 17 voted for and 30 against the Ordinance of Secession (2 abstained). The majority from the east ensured that it would pass but immediately a meeting in Clarksburg recommended that each county in northwestern Virginia send delegates to a convention in Wheeling. At the second such convention **in June 1861 (after Virginia voters had ratified the Ordinance), a declaration passed declaring the existing state government void because of its illegal actions and the "Restored Government of Virginia" was created.** Forming a new state from part of an existing one was not permitted under the Federal Constitution unless the original state consented (Massachusetts had in creating Maine). The Restored government acted to give Virginia's "consent" to the creation of Kanawha, soon after renamed West Virginia. The formation of the new state government was based on an October 1861 election which (for once) favored the northwest with few secessionist voters bothering or daring to vote.

War came early to West Virginia. A series of small but crucial engagements took place in the summer and early fall of 1861. The first on June 3, 1861, at Philippi, is claimed to be the first land battle of the war. It was followed by Hoke's Run and Rich Mountain (which started George McClellan's rise to power) in July and Cheat Summit Fort in mid-September. All were nominally Union victories and helped the new state government to assert its authority over most of the modern state. Additional small battles and raids occurred over the next 3 years but the existence of West Virginia was never seriously threatened.

The breakaway state applied for admission to the Union. A measure calling for gradual emancipation of the state's few slaves was approved in early 1863 as a prerequisite to approval - slavery was completely abolished in early 1865.



West Virginia formally became the 35th state in the summer of 1863 after Lincoln issued the necessary proclamation. Many disputes remained between the two states after the war including pre-war debt and a court case about jurisdiction over Berkeley and Jefferson Counties which lay east of the Potomac River. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of West Virginia in 1871.



Civil War Ballooning, Part 1 – Thaddeus Lowe (1832-1913) was a self-taught scientist whose goal was to fly a balloon across the Atlantic Ocean. Thaddeus educated himself, developing a fascination with chemistry. A lecture on gases focused his desire to build balloons. He sent the family cat aloft in a basket connected to a kite. During the 1850's he began to build balloons and give exhibitions, even taking paying customers aloft into the heavens. Mr. Lowe (who called himself Professor Lowe) began a test flight in a two-foot high wicker basket suspended from a gas-filled balloon from Cincinnati, Ohio on April 20, 1861, shortly after the surrender of Fort Sumter. He crossed over the Blue Ridge Mountains,

eventually landing in South Carolina after covering 900 miles in 9 hours. Most of the residents thought that he was a spy. Fortunately, one of the residents had flown in one of Lowe's balloons and convinced the authorities to release him. Professor Lowe and his balloon were allowed to travel to Cincinnati.

Professor Lowe traveled to Washington to perform a demonstration attended by President Lincoln. He successfully ascended in his balloon and observed Confederate troops across the Potomac with his spyglass. President Lincoln then approved the formation of the Balloon Corps with Professor Lowe as its leader. **The United States had created its first Air Force!**

Eventually, **the Union Army had seven balloons while the Confederates had one, the *Gazelle*.** They ranged in size from the *Union* and *Intrepid*, with 32,000 cu. Ft. of lifting gas and room for up to 5 people, to the *Eagle* and *Excelsior*, with 15,000 cu. Ft. of lifting gas and room for 1 person. The smaller balloons could get up in the air quicker while the larger balloons carried telegraph equipment for quicker communication. Balloons were tethered to the ground. None of the balloons were shot down while the Union eventually captured the Confederate balloon.

Quiz answers for “Michigan Cavalry Units in the Civil War”

1. There were 11 Michigan cavalry regiments in the Union Army. The famous Michigan Cavalry Brigade primarily included the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th Regiments.
2. The 11th captured remnants of the Confederate Treasury and Jefferson Davis's cavalry escort in May 1865.
3. Five - Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.
4. Most of the men in the 11th Michigan Cavalry were from Livingston and Genesee Counties. The regiment was organized in Kalamazoo and mustered in on December 10, 1863.
5. The 11th Michigan was in the Kentucky District from December 1863 to February 1865. The regiment then moved to East Tennessee until the end of the war.