# MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL ROUND TABLE



Golden Anniversary Celebration

1960-2010

Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 MONAGHAN'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL 1981 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI



Fling out the old banner, let fold afterfold, Enshrine a new glory as each is unfurled; let it speak to our hearts still as sweet as of old, the herald of Freedom all Over the world. Let it float out in triumpn, let it wave overhead, the noble old ensign, its stripes and its stars; It gave us our freedom, o'er shadows our dead. Gave might to our heroes, made sacred, their soars. Let it wave in the sunbeam unfurl in the storm, our guardian at morning, our beacon at night, when peace shines in splendor athwart her bright form, or war's bloody hand holds the standard of might. Unfurl the old banner, its traitors crush down, let it be the banner that covers the brave, the star spangled banner, with glory we own, 'tis too noble a banner for tyrant and slave.

#### Golden Anniversary Conference Schedule......1 MRRT's 50 Years and how we Survived .....2-6 MRRT current officers, leaders and Golden Anniversary committee......6 25th Silver and 50th Year of Programs ......7 Roll of Presidents - Silver 25 years 1960-1985 and Golden 50 years 1985-2010 ......8 Michigan Regimental Fall Field Trips......9 Autographs, memorabilia ......12 \$\$\$\$\$\\K\$\$\\K\$\$\\K\$\$\\ Saturday, May 15, 2010 Monaghan's Knights of Columbus Hall 19801 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 12:00 Noon Opening festivities will commence with light refreshments served all afternoon 1:00 P.M. Dr.William Anderson, our first guest speaker, will present a commentary on "Women in the Civil War" 2:30 P.M. Our own Jerry Maxwell "John Pelham and the West Point Class of 1861" 5:30 P.M. Guest speaker John Gibney presents James Longstreet and the Legacy of Confederate Defeat" 6:30 P.M. Golden Anniversary evening celebration begins, open bar followed by dinner. 8:00 P.M. Dr. Weldon Petz, also one of our own. His most recent endeavor in 2009 was serving on the Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bi-Centennial Committee. He will speak on "Round Tables, Relics. and Remembrances"

# MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL ON ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

"If we have expertise in any area of the Civil War, let us always be ready to share it, remembering humbly, that all the true 'experts' have long departed."

### THE HISTORY OF THE MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL THE FIRST 25 YEARS

The birth of the Michigan Regimental Round Table occurred on Friday, January 8, 1960. The Civil War Centennial was in its inception, and Dwight Eisenhower was serving out his remaining months as President of the United States. Six of the original founders met at the home and later the office of Don Limpert, a building contractor in Troy. Don's idea of a group perpetuating the Civil War caught on and quickly five more joined in to discuss the beginnings of our Round Table.

### MRRT FOUNDING MEMBERS

Founded January 8, 1960

King Abbott Don Limpert Ray Russell
Bill Bennett Frank Limpert Don Smith
John Bruhns Jon Phillips Jess Yeager
John Hooper Terry Roach

Four of the original eleven were responsible for our unique identity. Ray Russell takes the honor for naming us the "Michigan Regimental Round Table." It was Ray as well who believed that the words "Civil War," so universal to other Round Tables, should not be a part of our official name. Jess Yeager originated our official insignia of the eagle, cartridge box, and the Union and Confederate flags. John Hooper took Jess' basic idea and rendered it into the finished

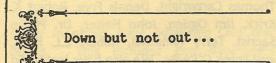
design that we all now recognize. King Abbott, who designed and produced our first membership certificates and cards, made the insignia a principle part of these pieces. Some years later, in 1974, Abbott Gibney had the insignia reproduced as a jacket patch for the membership to wear proudly.

By 1962 we had 17 members. The Detroit News featured Don Limpert as "one of the state's leading Civil War hobbyists and researchers." Founder Don Smith was praised in the same article for his book on the Twenty Fourth Michigan Infantry. Ray Russell was noted as being "recognized as a leading authority on Michigan's role in the Civil War."

The first issue of the Michigan Regimental Round Table's newsletter came out in October of 1965. (Lyndon Johnson's administration was nearly beginning its second year.) Abbott Gibney, the first newsletter editor, affectionately known as "Old Sarge," stated in the crudely typed 2 page edition, "We were delighted to have several ladies among our guests at our September meeting." Each newsletter cost 6 cents to mail, dues listed as \$2 per year. In October of 1969 Mrs. Bernard Glenn of Fowlerville was made an honorary member

as her father had served in the 20th Michigan Infantry. Along with Dr. Marion Roberts, whose father was a member in the 56th North Carolina Infantry, our Round Table boasted the rare distinction of having members who were first generation descendants of soldiers on both sides.

Until February of 1966 we were meeting at old Congregational Church Woodward in Birmingham. Because the building was scheduled to be torn down, we moved to another Congregational Church on Woodward at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Eventually we held our meetings in the basement of a bank on 13 Mile Road and Telegraph. We later spent six months in a classroom at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Next we met at the Alexander Hamilton Insurance Complex off 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. From there we migrated to Fort Wayne in Detroit, our most historic meeting place. Unfortunately, our membership dwindled considerably over



the next 20 months. Finally, we found the Farmington Hills Public Library on 12 Mile Road before moving to our current facility at the Downtown Farmington Library (off Grand River and Farmington Road).

Our meetings, then as now, consist of a relatively short business meeting followed

by a guest speaker. Most often our speakers come from within our own group as numerous members have a particular interest or expertise. Possibly the most requested talk of the first 25 years was "Food of the Civil War Soldier." given by Art Stewart. Art, an industrial food specialist, prepared authentic hard tack, salt pork, corndodgers, and other wartime fare. In December of 1974, by popular demand, Art presented this program for the record fifth time.

Perhaps the highlight of every year is the Annual Field Trip, a tradition begun in 1973 to the Shenandoah Valley. We provided no local guides, and without a bus, we traveled the battlefields in an uncertain caravan of cars (often as many as eight to ten vehicles). Certainly one of the most memorable early trips occurred in 1976 as only five folks ventured to Atlanta. Interestingly, only three were members. But, who among them would ever forget being led to the then remote Pristine Pickett's Mill battleground by Dr. Phillip Secrist in a driving rain storm where each of us found his first minie ball within thirty minutes. (Most of our clothing had to be desroyed from the residual effects of the red Georgia clay.)

Other highlights included the Michigan Regimental's celebration of Founder's Night at the Botsford Inn in Farmington on April 15, 1977. Following dinner we honored six of the original founders in person.

Then in 1984 we organized the Silver Anniversary Committee to establish our 25th Anniversary Ceremony for the following year. The committee consisted of Ron Cleveland, Joe Comps, Dave Finney, Abbott Gibney, Mil Lent, Jerry Maxwell and Carroll Tietz. We are proud that three of those members (Ron, Jerry, and Carroll) are not only still members of the Michigan Regimental but are serving on the 50th (Golden) Anniversary Committee.

The Silver Anniversary Celebration was an allday affair held on Saturday, April 29, 1985, at the Botsford Inn with more than 100 people in attendance. Our speakers included Jerry Maxwell who presented "Controversial George Armstrong Custer" and David Finney who gave a first person account of a Michigan soldier in Co. F of the 7th Michigan Infantry. Following dinner our keynote speaker, Robert K. Krick of Fredericksburg Battlefield, spoke "Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign." The program was emceed by Joe Comps with the remainder of the evening hosted by the Michigan Regimental's President and Co-founder, Ray Russell.

We were a young and proud organization as indicated by the statement made in the 25th Year Program by Abbott Gibney: "Picking Up Steam and Headed for 50."

# HISTORY OF THE MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL ROUND TABLE

#### THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Three years after our 25<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration we actively participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-West Civil War Conference held in Plymouth on April 29-30, 1988. Four of the six speakers came from our own membership: David Finney "Michigan at Gettysburg," Jerry Maxwell "Rob Wheat and the Louisiana Tigers," Wiley Sword "Andy Webb at Gettysburg," and the keynote speaker Dr. Weldon Petz "Eyewitness to the Gettysburg Address."

Our Annual Fall Field Trip continues to be our yearly highlight. From a caravan of cars filled with folks anxious to stop and read the next roadside marker, we have graduated to a streamlined bus with a celebrated guide showing us places the general traveler doesn't always get to see. Our guides have included Chris Calkins. Thomas Cartwright, Dennis Frye, Robert K. Krick, Jim Ogden, John Heiser, Dr. Phillip Secrist, Terry Winschel, Robert E.L. Krick, and Frank O'Reilly. We also have instituted a Saturday night dinner at a first-rate restaurant as a get together before the final day of the trip,. Someone has estimated that our membership has logged about 1,000,000 miles on our field trips. In 1997 we broke tradition by having a Winter Field Trip to Chicago to visit the Lincoln Exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society. The threeday trip was attended by over twenty people who were also given a Chicago Gangster Tour by Jerry Maxwell. This fall in 2010 we will be taking our annual trip to visit Spotsylvania and the Wilderness with Frank O'Reilly as our guide.

As always, The Michigan Regimental Round Table has been represented by our membership as writers, speakers, and award winners. In 2009 Weldon Petz served on the Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee. Weldon, along with Roger Rosentreter, authored a book on our 16<sup>th</sup> President entitled "Seeking Lincoln in Michigan; A Remembrance Trail." Weldon and Roger also edited "Michigan Remembers Lincoln," an anthology of Michigan writers on Lincoln.

Another of Weldon's special projects involves the Plymouth Historical Society's Exhibit "In the Presence of Lincoln." The Society displayed much of Weldon's collection along with on-loan exhibits including the Lincoln family furniture from Springfield and a replica of Lincoln's funeral casket.

Other members have published Civil War books. This includes Ken Baumann's "Arming the Suckers, '1861-1865," "A Compilation of Illinois Civil War Weapons." And, this spring Jerry Maxwell's "The Perfect Lion": The Life and Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham goes to print.

Two of our members also won prestigious teaching awards. Larry Hathcock was awarded the American Legion Teacher of

the Year for 1999. Jerry Maxwell was selected by the Daughters of the American Revolution as the Outstanding American History Teacher in the Nation for 1995. Jerry was also chosen by Eastern Michigan University as the History Department Alumni Award winner for 1999.

Al Oakes, a Michigan Regimental member since 1968, began his "Annual History and Military Memorabilia Show" on Sunday, February 5, 2001. Each year the show has grown in stature with the presentation of antique arms, battlefield finds, and other Civil War artifacts. Centerpieces for the show have included the sword of General Joseph Hooker (from the collection of Tom Singelyn), the original Battery M flag of the 1st Michigan Light Artillery (owned by Ron Cleveland), and the hilt of the sword of Colonel James W. Carr that was shot in half at Gettysburg (owned by Al Oakes).

Special mention also is afforded to our Treasurer Carroll Tietz, a member since 1967, who has served in this capacity for thirty-eight years ,easily the longest serving officer in the history of the Michigan Regimental Round Table.

Unfortunately, over the past 25 years some of our most valued comrades have passed away—Ray Russell, Mil Lent, Abbott Gibney, Ron Emerick, Ray Madigan, Arthur Crouch, Jim Mackie, Martha Sayler, Joe Kawecki, Paul Tootikian, Max Brill, and Bob Ford. All of them are missed.

The Michigan Regimental Round Table has grown to approximately 100 members. As always, anyone interested can attend our meetings and join the organization. In our 50 years we have held nearly 600 meetings. Although we have drawn esteemed speakers from around the country, our membership has provided most of our presentations. Our programs have included round table discussions of favorite battlefields, favorite generals, show and tell, and auctions. We have donated to such worthwhile causes as Battlefield Preservation Funds, and Save the Michigan Civil War Battle Flags in Lansing. We also have added a website:

#### http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/

We firmly believe that our original founders would be proud of how we have perpetuated their ideals. To paraphrase what Abbott Gibney wrote 25 years ago,

"Picking Up Steam and Headed for 75!"

## MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL

CURRENT OFFICERS AND LEADERS:

President: Don Kadar

Vice President: Jeanie Graham

Secretary: Mollie Galate Treasurer: Carroll Tietz

Program Chairman: Jim Burroughs Newsletter Editor: Jerry Maxwell Preservation Chairman: Joe Epstein Fall Trip Chairman: Jerry Maxwell Newsletter Chairman: Bob Newill Website Chairman: Norm Carver Chronicles Keeper: Jeanie Graham



# GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Jerry H. Maxwell (Chairman)
Cathy Hasse (Secretary)
Ron Cleveland (Treasurer)
Ken Baumann
Jim Burroughs
Bee Friedlander
Mollie Galate
John Moore

Bill Seger
Carroll Tietz



# 1985 SILVER ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 24:

Al Pifer, "Stories of a 26th Michigan Soldier"

OCTOBER 29:

Dr. Weldon Petz, "Eyewitnesse to the Gettysburg Address"

NOVEMBER 26:

Chris Calkins, "Rambling in Virginia: The War is Alive and Well"

DECEMBER 9:

Christmas Banquet at the Holly Hotel, Holly, Michigan

JANUARY 28:

Jim Genko, "The Twenty-First Michigan" FEBRUARY 25:

Jerry Maxwell, "Rob Wheat and the Louisiana Tigers"

MARCH 25:

Dr. Roger L. Rosentreter "Father Ab'ram: Michigan"

APRIL 20:

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills, APRIL 29:

Wiley Sword, "Alexander Webb"

MAY 27:

Abbott Gibney, "General James Longstreet"

JUNE 24:

Civil War Round Table Quiz (Kalamazoo - Abraham Lincoln RT - MMRT)

JULY 29:

Show and Tell: An Annual Program AUGUST 26:

Civil War Auction

# 2010 GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF PROGRAMS

January 25:

Tom Nanzig -"Civil War Monuments of Washington, D.C.: Up Close and Personal FEBRUARY 22: Dan Packer - "Lincoln's Connections to Women, Indians, and Michigan"

March 29:

George Gouth -"Those Spencers Who Won the War-Christopher M. Spencer & His Wonderful Rifle"

April 26:

"Dr. John Todd-Lincoln and the Constitution"

May 15:

**50th Anniversary Celebration** 

Monaghan's Knights of Columbus Hall 1981 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI

June 28:

Roger Rosentreter -"TBD"

**July 26:** 

Ron Cleveland -"Civil War Artillery"

August 30:

Larry Jackson Battle of Trevilian Station,
Virginia

September 27:

Robert and Cherie Allen - A "Guest" of the Confederacy-The Civil War letters of Alonzo M. Keeler, Captain, Co. B, 22nd Michigan Infantry

October:

Field Trip - Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia-Guide-Frank O'Reilly

November 29:

Larry Hathcock -"Blockade Runners"

December:

"Happy Holidays!"

## ROLL OF PRESIDENTS

1960 - 1985

1. 1960-1961 Don Smi
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2. 1961-1962: Don Limpert

3. 1962-1963: John Hooper

4. 1963-1964: Ray Russell

5 1964-1965: Mil Lent

6. 1965-1966: John Hooper

7. 1966-1967: Al Nemetz

8. 1967-1968: Al Nemetz

9. 1968-1969: Al Nemetz

10. 1969-1970: Abbott Gibney

11. 1970-1971: Abbott Gibney

12. 1971-1972: George Smith

13. 1972-1973: Dr. Maerit Kallet

14. 1973-1974: Greg Kolasa

15. 1974-1975: Jerry Maxwell

16. 1975-1976: David Finney

17. 1976-1977: Ken Baumann

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18. 1977-1978: Brian Russell

19. 1978-1979: Ken Berry

20. 1979-1980: David Finney

21. 1980-1981: Jerry Maxwell

22. 1981-1982: Ken Baumann

23. 1982-1983: Bill Mason

24. 1983-1984: Bill Mason

Tay at the

25. 1984-1985: Ray Russell

### ROLL OF PRESIDENTS

1985 - 2010

26. 1985-1986: Jerry Maxwell

27. 1986-1987: Mil Lent

28. 1987-1988: Mil Lent

29. 1988-1989: Don Garlit

30. 1989-1990: Don Garlit

31. 1990-1991: Ken Baumann

32. 1991-1992: Ken Baumann

33. 1992-1993: Ken Baumann

34. 1993-1994: Ken Baumann

35. 1994-1995: Marty Brosnan

36. 1995-1996: Marty Brosnan

37. 1996-1997: Neil Martin

38. 1997-1998: Neil Martin

39. 1998-1999: Neil Martin

40. 1999-2000: Garv Pike

41. 2000-2001: Gary Pike

42. 2001-2002: Gary Pike

43. 2002-2003: Norm Carver

44. 2003-2004: Norm Carver

45. 2004-2005: Norm Carver

46. 2005-2006: Jim Burroughs

47. 2006-2007: Jim Burroughs

48. 2007-2008: Jim Burroughs

49. 2008-2009: Jim Burroughs

50. 2009-2010: Don Kadar

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### MICHIGAN REGIMENTAL FALL FIELD TRIPS

1973 Shenandoah Valley

1974 Perryville

1975 Manassas/Antietam

1976 Chattanooga to Atlanta

1977 Petersburg to Appomattox

1978 Fredericksburg

1979 Chancellorsville

1980 Richmond to Petersburg

1981 Petersburg

1982 Antietam/South Mountain

1983 Shiloh

1984 Chickamauga/Missionary Ridge

1985 Shenandoah Valley (1864)

1986 Vicksburg

1987 Petersburg to Appomattox

1988 Richmond

1989 Atlanta/Kennesaw Mountain

1990 Fredericksburg/ Chancellorsville/Spotsylvania 1991 Cedar Mountain/Brandy Station

1992 Shiloh/Corinth

1993 Harpers Ferry/South Mountain/Antietam

1994 Chickamauga/Chattanooga

1995 Gettysburg

1996 Franklin/Stones River

1997 Petersburg to Appomattox

1998 Vicksburg

1999 Shenandoah Valley (1862)

2000 Perryville/Lexington

2001 Seven Days Battles/ Richmond

2002 Shiloh/Corinth

2003 Shenandoah Valley (1864)

2004 Chickamauga/Chattanooga

2005 Antietam/Harpers Ferry

2006 Franklin/Spring Hill/ Nashville

2007 Gettysburg

2008 Vicksburg

2009 Fredericksburg/Chancellorsville

2010 Wilderness and Spotsylvania

## ROSTER OF MEMBERS

George & Muriel Allen

Daniel H. Basinski

**Kenneth Baumann** 

Lucie Beard

**Vivian Blaine-Price** 

Joanne S. Bonds

Fredrick H. Brohn

**Martin Brosnan** 

Geoffrey M. Brown

Ed G. Buckberrough

William Burke

**James Burroughs** 

**Norman Carver** 

**Manford Cetner** 

**Ron Cleveland** 

Richard T. Cronin

**George Crouch** 

**Evelyn Crouch** 

**John Davis** 

Larry T. Davis

Alfred V. Diebel

**Raymond Droste** 

**Charles Ducharme III** 

**Guy & Nancy Duffield** 

William F. Dunn

Joseph A. Epstein

**Mark Farrell** 

Mick Feeser

**Mason Ferry** 

John C. Fix

**Beatrice Friedlander** 

**Dennis Frye** 

**Howard Fundukian** 

John Fundukian

Mollie & Sam Galate

**Don Garlit** 

**Jeffrey Glass** 

Jeanine Graham

**Bob Guenther** 

**Andy Gyurscik** 

**Cathy Hasse** 

**Larry Hathcock** 

Jean Helton

**Larry Hoeflein** 

**Bud Huysken** 

Larry Jackson

Deanna & Les Jones

**Thomas Johnston** 

Nick Kachman

Don Kadar

Ernest Kain, Jr. George Kopp Charles Kramer Dr. William H. Krieg Mac E. Lipon, Jr. lanet Mackle **Neil Martin** Jerry Maxwell William J. McCann Bruce McColl Frank McPhillips **Hudson Mead** Paul A. Meyering

Richard G. Micka

John Moore

Thomas L. Morelli

**Barbara & Jerry Moore** 

**Mary Morshead** Robert L. Nelson Dr. Thomas R. Neblett Robert F. Newill Robert & Anna Newill Al Oakes John O'Brien Larry O'Donnell John R. Perian Weldon Petz Bill Phillis Joe Pietsch **Gary Pike Gary Prichard** Roscoe A. Pudlik John Renick **Eugen O.I Rothacker** 

Donald A. Rupp Karen Schulte **William Seger** Richard Shaul **Norman Seurinck** Ine Shellhaas **Tom Singelyn Wayne Smith Tom Taepke** Robert E. Thorne, Sr. **Carroll Tietz** William E. Yenglin **Brad Vincent** Lynn Wells Mae Wright Michael Wright Patrick Wright



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