

SPECIAL NOTICE: This month's meeting will be held one week earlier than normal: **MONDAY, MAY 21.**

On Tuesday, August 19, 1862, the usually jovial Jeb Stuart began a somewhat somber letter to his wife, Flora. "I had a very narrow escape yesterday morning." He went on to explain that he and five of his staff officers spent the night at a crossroads waiting for the brigade of General Fitz Lee to rendezvous with them. "At sunrise yesterday," continued Jeb, "a large body of cavalry from the very direction from which Lee was expected approached. Of course I thought it was Lee as no Yankees had been about for a month, but as a measure of prudence I sent down two men to ascertain. They had not gone 100 yards before they were fired on and pursued rapidly by a squadron. I was in the yard bareheaded, my hat being on the porch. I just had time to mount my horse and clear the back fence, having no time to get my hat or anything else. I lost my haversack, blanket, talma, cloak and hat, with the palmetto star. Too bad, wasn't it? I am alright again, however I am greeted on all sides with congratulations and 'where's your hat!'"

Stuart then added a solemn promise: "I intend to make the Yankees pay dearly for that hat!"

Within a matter of days, Jeb exacted his revenge!

Our program this month is entitled, "The Lost Hat: Jeb Stuart's Raid on Catlett Station," as presented by long-time MRRT member Jerry Maxwell. This will be Jerry's sixteenth program to the Michigan Regimental. It should be a fun evening, so circle the date, **MONDAY, MAY 21.**

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QUIZ: Cavalry Raids.....

1. Which Confederate general raided Ulysses S. Grant's supply base in December of 1862 during his march on Vicksburg causing Grant to retreat back toward Memphis, and where did this raid occur?
2. Which Union general led a highly successful raid against one of the Confederacy's most vital munitions depots in March of 1865 and in the process defeated Nathan Bedford Forrest? Also, where did this raid take place?
3. Which Union general was ordered by Joseph Hooker to raid Robert E. Lee's communication and supply lines in April of 1863? And, when the raid miserably failed, who replaced him?
4. Which Confederate general led a daring and audacious raid in early October of 1863 against William Rosecrans' supply lines in the Sequatchie Valley of Tennessee? And, which Ohio general unsuccessfully pursued him?
5. Which Confederate guerrilla cavalry chieftain led a raid on Lawrence, Kansas in August of 1863, and which particular Kansas "Jayhawker" leader were the "Bushwhackers" after?
6. Which Confederate general successfully raided a series of Union forts and depots at New Creek, West Virginia in November of 1864? And, which Union colonel was found guilty of neglect and dishonorably discharged only to be elected to Congress where he had his dismissal revoked and was then honorably mustered out of service?
7. Which Union general led his "Mule Brigade" into northern Alabama in April of 1863, and which Confederate general forced his surrender with a simple ruse to make his own cavalry look bigger?
8. Which Confederate led the longest cavalry raid of the war (over 700 miles) into Ohio in July of 1863, and where was he ultimately defeated by Union general Edward Hobson?
9. Which 2 Union officers led a failed raid on Richmond in March of 1864 which supposedly would burn the Confederate capital, release Federal prisoners, and kill Jefferson Davis and other Southern leaders?

10. Which Union general rode through Mississippi in April of 1863 wreaking havoc on Confederate communications and what unusual characteristic made him an unlikely cavalryman?

The Michigan Regimental wishes to thank Chancey Miller for last month's fine program, "Civil War Heroes Remembered at Elmwood Cemetery." As evidenced by the numerous questions posed to Mr. Miller, the presentation was a thorough success.

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#### FALL FIELD TRIP:

Last month 46 people signed on for the October trip to Richmond. We'll be guided on Saturday, October 20 by Robert Krick, Jr., through the "Seven Days" Battles. The next day Judy Anthis will show us Hollywood Cemetery followed by a tour through The Confederate White House and Museum. It should be a power-packed weekend, and we still have room on the bus for a few more stalwarts. So come to this meeting, find out why the fall trip is one of our finest traditions, and add your name to the list.

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While serving as a cadet at West Point, Jeb Stuart befriended New York-born, George Lucas Hartsuff, who was two years ahead of the future Confederate cavalryman. Although a New Yorker by birth, Hartsuff moved with his family to a farm in Livingston County, Michigan at age twelve. Appointed to the U.S. Military Academy in 1848, Hartsuff graduated number 19 of 43 in the class of 1852. His career in the military is little known today, and his name is certainly not one of the most auspicious, yet Hartsuff proved a capable warrior.

While serving in Texas in the fall of 1853, Hartsuff contracted yellow fever that led to bouts with "black vomit." After recovering from the dreaded ailment, he was sent to Florida to serve during the Seminole uprising. On December 20, 1855, he was wounded in a pitched battle. First, after everyone else was either dead or disabled, except for the two soldiers who loaded his weapons while he fired, he was hit in the left arm. Next, he was wounded in the left breast. Ordering the two men to save themselves, Hartsuff attempted his own getaway, and fell into a pond of water. Nearly drowning, he somehow extricated himself and survived for three days with no food nor fresh water. The bullet remained in his chest for the rest of his life and supposedly contributed to his death almost twenty years later.

Later, on September 8, 1860, Hartsuff survived another harrowing encounter. On board the *Lady Elgin*, he was crossing Lake Michigan between Chicago and Milwaukee. On this stormy night, the *Lady Elgin* was struck on its port side by the *Augusta*, a lumber-laden schooner. Water quickly poured in and at least 373 passengers lost their lives. Hartsuff, along with 155 others, were saved from the wreckage and rough waters.

When the Civil War broke out, Hartsuff moved up through the officer ranks to Brigadier General. While at Antietam he took a sharpshooter's bullet in the left hip. He remained on his horse for a few moments, but intense pain, loss of blood, and faintness forced him to dismount. With two soldiers assisting him, Hartsuff attempted to walk to safety. After he collapsed the soldiers placed him on a stretcher and carried him from the battlefield. Removed to a little house a mile from the field, Hartsuff was attended by a surgeon. Attempting to probe the wound with forceps, the surgeon admitted he could not find the bullet, and surmised that the projectile had penetrated the ilium and lodged in the pelvic cavity. Hartsuff was given heavy doses of chloroform and taken to Middletown where five surgeons examined the wound. They, too, could find no evidence of the bullet. While recuperating, Hartsuff was visited by President Lincoln who perked up the general's spirits. His commission as Major General was received on November 19, 1862. However, the wound continued to discharge freely. Months passed before Hartsuff returned to duty in May of 1863.

During August the wound became tender, and a small lesion was present the next month. By November the wound began discharging heavily once more. Still Hartsuff managed to walk with a cane and eventually ride a horse for short distances. When the pain intensified, Hartsuff was sent to Wilmington, Delaware to be examined by experts. The examination revealed scar tissue of the left upper portion of his chest from the old Florida gunshot wound some eight years earlier. The ball had passed through the fleshy part of the arm and into the upper and outer edge of the thorax. Over the lumbar region near the left sacroiliac junction more scar tissue was discovered. With little chance to return to field command, Hartsuff served at a desk job.

On March 12, 1864, Hartsuff suffered an accident to his tibia. A physician examined him sixteen days later and reported that Hartsuff had sustained a laceration of his leg over the flexor muscles of the foot. His condition was worsened by rheumatism. Following the war Hartsuff went back to the adjutant general's department as a lieutenant colonel where he continued to perform desk service. In 1870 he still suffered from rheumatism in the area of his prior wounds and retired the following year "for disability from wounds received in battle." He moved to New York City and on May 9, 1874, developed a cold. The next day he was too sick to leave his bed and the following day developed pneumonia. Delirious, he rapidly grew worse and died on May 16 at age 43, just two weeks before his 44<sup>th</sup> birthday. A postmortem examination conducted by a local coroner revealed the following: the scar in the lung made by the Florida wound was found and it was ascertained that the pneumonia began in that area and had entirely absorbed the lung. The surgeon hypothesized the wound was probably the origin of the pneumonia and the immediate cause of death. Strangely, neither bullet—the one from the Seminole wound in 1855, nor the Antietam wound in 1862—was located. George Hartsuff was buried at West Point.

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#### QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Earl Van Dorn and Holly Springs, Mississippi
2. James Harrison Wilson and Selma, Alabama
3. George Stoneman and Alfred Pleasonton
4. Joseph Wheeler and George Crook
5. William Clarke Quantrill and James H. Lane
6. Tom Rosser and George R. Latham
7. Abel D. Streight and Nathan Bedford Forrest
8. John Hunt Morgan and Buffington Island
9. Judson Kilpatrick and Ulric Dahlgren
10. Benjamin Grierson and he hated horses

Don't forget to circle that calendar date now—Monday, May 21—for Jerry Maxwell's presentation of "The Lost Hat: Jeb Stuart's Catlett Station Raid." The meeting place is the Farmington Public Library on Liberty Street (just a block southwest of Grand River and Farmington Road). Gavel time is 7:30 P.M. Bring a friend and show up early for the fellowship.....