

Late on the afternoon of July 1, 1863, 61-year-old Confederate General Isaac Ridgeway Trimble pointed toward Culp's Hill and stated emphatically to Richard Ewell, "General, there is an eminence of commanding position....I advise you to send a brigade and hold it...." Ewell, however, showed hesitation and even impatience. Then, Trimble, in a state of great excitement supposedly shouted, "Give me a Brigade and I will engage to take that hill!" When Ewell offered no answer, Trimble roared, "Give me a good regiment and I will do it!" When Ewell again demurred, Trimble stalked off in anger, refusing to serve under such an officer.

Native Virginian, Isaac Trimble graduated from West Point in 1822 (number 17 of 42). After serving ten years in the Regular Army, he resigned in 1832. For the next three decades Trimble engaged in railroad engineering primarily in Maryland and Pennsylvania. When the Civil War broke out, he offered his services to the Confederacy. Eventually given an infantry brigade, Trimble performed splendidly during Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. At Cross Keys he blunted a Union assault, then seized the initiative with a counterattack.

During the Second Manassas Campaign, Trimble led two of his exhausted regiments on a forced night march to capture the Union supply depot at Manassas Junction. Stonewall Jackson stated, "I regard that day's achievement as the most brilliant that has come under my observation during the present war." Later, during the battle, Trimble was hit in the left leg, some three inches above the ankle, by a sharpshooter's bullet. Dr. Hunter McGuire, who examined the wound, stated that the projectile was a Belgian explosive bullet, but recommended that no amputation was necessary. Recovery was slow as Trimble developed severe infection of the skin and inflammation of the bone. Ugly boils, which had to be lanced and drained, appeared around the ankle as well.

Trimble returned to the Army of Northern Virginia in June of 1863 without a command. His confrontation with Richard Ewell on the first day at Gettysburg remains legendary. Later given command of Dorsey Pender's Division, Trimble participated in the July 3 attack in what the National Park Service correctly calls the "Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Charge." Wounded again in the same left leg, Trimble underwent an amputation performed by Dr. McGuire. Soon captured by the Federals, Trimble spent nearly two years as a prisoner mostly at Johnson's Island.

Our speaker this month, Dave Jordan, will present "Trimble at Gettysburg," a look at this ferocious fighter during June and July of 1863. A native of Georgia, Dave had five ancestors who fought in the Confederate Army (none of them under Isaac Trimble.) Dave received his Bachelors of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech and a Masters of Science in Engineering from Purdue University. He is President and Temporary Newsletter Editor of the Kalamazoo Civil War Round Table, and is currently working on a biography of Isaac Trimble.

This promises to be an excellent program. Circle the date—**MONDAY, JUNE 25**.

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#### ODDS & ENDS:

- Fall Field Trip—Room on the bus remains available for the trip to Richmond (Sat./Sun. October 20-21). Sign up at this month's meeting. For those who have already signed on, please submit a check of \$40 (made out to Carroll Tietz) to Jerry Maxwell.
- Auction in July—July marks the return of our world famous auction. Please go through your Civil War books and relics and contribute to one of the highlight events of the year. All proceeds go to our treasury.

The MRRT wishes to thank last month's speaker, Jerry Maxwell, for his presentation, "The Lost Hat: Jeb Stuart's Revenge at Catlett Station."

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QUIZ: All questions pertain to the Army of Northern Virginia—

1. Which 2 of these names, normally associated with the Western Theater, fought at First Manassas? A) States Rights Gist B) Patrick Cleburne C) Alexander P. Stewart D) Edmund Kirby Smith E) Lloyd Tilghman
2. The leader of the famous Stonewall Brigade, Charles Winder, was killed at Cedar Mountain. Who was his replacement, killed at Second Manassas? And, who was the next replacement, killed at Chancellorsville?
3. Besides Isaac Trimble, what other two Confederate generals were captured at Gettysburg?
4. When James Longstreet was seriously wounded in the Wilderness, who took his place as temporary head of the 1st Corps? And, which of James Longstreet's Major Generals did "Old Pete" remove from command and blame for the failures of the Knoxville Campaign?
5. A clash with a subordinate general caused Stonewall Jackson to threaten resignation in January 1862. Who was the man Stonewall accused of "neglect of duty" and "subversive conduct"? Also, which political figure talked Jackson into changing his mind?
6. Following the Battle of Antietam, Robert E. Lee recommended 4 brigadiers to be promoted to Major General. Two were approved, two were not. Name them:
7. Which 2 Confederate generals were captured on May 12, 1864, at the "Mule Shoe" of Spotsylvania?
8. Which 3 Confederate generals were killed or mortally wounded during the carnage at Antietam?
9. Which 3 Confederates were guilty of negligence by attending a shad bake on April 1, 1865?
10. When Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville, which 3 generals replaced him at the same battle?

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The following are all stories pertaining to Ulysses S. Grant—

One night during the Federal drive on Richmond in 1864, Grant noticed that bonfires had suddenly sprouted all along the Confederate lines. When he inquired about this, his scouts informed him that the Southerners were celebrating because George Pickett's wife had given birth to a son. "Haven't we some kindling on this side of the line?" Grant asked. "Why don't we strike a light for young Pickett?" Soon, answering bonfires were glowing along the Union lines. A few days later, under a flag of truce, Federal soldiers delivered a baby's silver service, engraved: "To George Pickett, Jr. From his father's friends, U.S. Grant, Rufus Ingalls, George Suckley."

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Grant's close friend, William Tecumseh Sherman, had this to say about his commanding general: "I'm a damn sight smarter than Grant; I know more about organization, supply and administration and about everything else than he does; but I'll tell you where he beats me and where he beats the world. He don't care a damn for what the enemy does out of his sight, but it scares me like hell."

Sherman also said of Grant: "He stood by me when I was crazy. I stood by him when he was drunk. Now we stand by each other always."

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Following Grant's victories at Forts Henry and Donelson, his appearance and attitude seemed to change. Even the veterans observed the change when he came up to Pittsburg Landing to inspect them. As one historian writes, "Mostly it was the aura of fame that had been gathering around him in the month since the news from Donelson first set the church bells ringing. He was Unconditional S. Grant now, and his picture was on the cover of

*Harper's Weekly*. There was a hunger for particulars about him, for instance how he 'generally stood or walked with his left hand in his trousers pocket, and had in his mouth an unlighted cigar, the end of which he chewed restlessly.' The cigar was an example of the change that stemmed from fame. Learning that he had kept one clamped in his teeth that critical afternoon at Donelson, whenever he was not using it like a marshal's baton to point the direction for attack, readers had sent him boxes of them to express their admiration, and since Grant had never been one to waste things, least of all good tobacco, the long-stemmed meerschaum that had given him so much satisfaction in the past was put away while he concentrated on smoking up those crates of gift cigars. One other change he had made on his own. His beard, which formerly had reached down past the second button of his coat, had been clipped short. It seemed to the soldiers, observing him now, a gesture not unlike that of a man rolling up his sleeves in preparation for hard work."

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Following the Civil War, Grant was given three fine houses by the people of Philadelphia, New York City, and Galena, Illinois in gratitude for his victories. New York also gave him \$105,000. Grant earned \$25,000 each year in his first term as President, but Congress doubled his salary to \$50,000 per year on March 3, 1873, the day before his second term began. Amazingly, in 1884 Grant's assets amounted to the \$81 he had in his wallet and the \$130 his wife, Julia, had stored in a cookie jar. Where had all of Grant's money gone? His life savings had been lost in the collapse of Grant and Ward, a firm founded by the ex-president's son, Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., and Frederick Ward, dubbed the "young Napoleon of Wall Street." In reality Ward was a fast-talking swindler who had duped the father and son. Ward then had the audacity to tell the ex-president on May 4, 1884, that he needed an immediate \$150,000 loan to save the dying firm. The embarrassed Grant went to call on William Henry Vanderbilt, hat in hand. Ward pocketed the money and later went to jail; Grant was \$150,000 in debt. His swords and souvenirs were lost as security for the loan he was unable to pay. Only donations from his admirers allowed Grant to pay his grocery bills.

To make matters worse, Grant was diagnosed in October of that year with throat cancer, incurable and fatal. Since July of 1884 Grant had been working on his *Personal Memoirs*—now it became a macabre race between death and completion of his story. In April of 1885 he suffered a severe hemorrhage that left him apparently dying. With great determination, and using cocaine for the excessive pain, Grant temporarily recovered and returned to work. He finished his *Memoirs* shortly before he died on July 23, 1885, at age 63. His two-volume *Personal Memoirs* totaled nearly 300,000 words. The first royalty check—for \$200,000—was paid to his widow, Julia, on February 27, 1886, by Mark Twain's publishing company. Eventually, Grant's family would receive another \$250,000 for his writings.

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#### QUIZ ANSWERS:

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| 1. States Rights Gist and Edmund Kirby Smith                  | 2. Will Baylor and Elisha Franklin Paxton   |
| 3. James Jay Archer and James Kemper                          | 4. Richard Anderson and Lafayette McLaws  |
| 5. William Loring and Gov. John Letcher                       | 6. George Pickett and John Bell Hood (approved)<br>Isaac Trimble and Jubal Early (rejected)   |
| 7. Edward "Allegheny" Johnson and<br>George "Maryland" Stuart | 8. William E. Starke, Lawrence O'Bryan Branch, and<br>George B. Anderson (died on October 16) |
| 9. George Pickett, Tom Rosser, and Fitzhugh Lee               | 10. A.P. Hill, Robert Rodes, and Jeb Stuart   |

REMINDER: **MONDAY, JUNE 25** for Dave Jordan's presentation of "Trimble at Gettysburg." Meeting place is the Farmington Public Library on Liberty Street (just a block southwest of Grand River and Farmington Road). Meeting time is 7:30 P.M. See you there.....