

The 1862 invasion of Maryland represented perhaps Robert E. Lee’s most daring move of the war. In the face of a powerful opponent, he split his army into four parts in a daunting race against the clock. Knowing the caution of George McClellan, Lee was satisfied that he could put his army back together before meeting the Army of the Potomac. The discovery of an errant copy of Special Orders No.191, however, dramatically changed the course of events.

One of the Confederate wings consisted of two divisions, under the command of Major General Lafayette McLaws, the sixth ranking officer in the Army of Northern Virginia (behind Lee, Longstreet, Jackson, D.H. Hill, and the absent Richard Ewell). McLaws faced a challenging set of orders: his troops were to march into Pleasant Valley, north of Harpers Ferry, and seize the critical position atop Maryland Heights. Timing and execution were crucial. McLaws readily perceived the importance of his mission. “So long as Maryland Heights was occupied by the enemy,” he wrote, “Harpers Ferry could never be occupied by us. If we gained possession of the heights, the town was no longer tenable to them.”

McLaws’ position was key to the entire operation. Not only did he face the enemy in the front, but he was constantly in danger from the enemy in his rear, the only one of the three wings advancing on Harpers Ferry so jeopardized.

The Georgian, Lafayette McLaws, was a West Point graduate (class of 1842, #48 of 56) who had served in the Mexican War. He was a first cousin by marriage to Confederate general Richard Taylor. A steady and solid commander in the Civil War, he received workmanlike compliments from his fellow officers. Edward Porter Alexander noted: “Few of our generals equaled him in...the pains he took in many matters of little detail.” Alexander further described McLaws as “very painstaking [and] having a good eye for ground.” Moxley Sorrel commented: “[McLaws was] not brilliant...or quick...[but] he could always be counted on and had secured the entire confidence of his officers and men.”

Now McLaws needed to demonstrate his mettle as he faced his most difficult assignment thus far in the war. Furthermore, another consequence of the Lost Order was a surprise visit by the Federal VI Corps, commanded by William B. Franklin, at Crampton’s Gap. McLaws forces in Pleasant Valley were immediately transformed from the hunters to the hunted.

This month on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25**, MRRT member, John Moore, will present “Lafayette McLaws Visits Pleasant Valley.” John is the vice president and chief financial officer of The BOSC Group and has taught in the Finance and Economics department at Walsh College for 10 years. A graduate of Notre Dame, John recently finished a Master’s Degree in military history at American Military University.

Mark your calendar now and plan on being in attendance for a fun evening.

* * * * *

Our thanks to September speaker, Larry Hathcock, for his informative and detailed program, “The *C.S.S. Alabama*.”

* * * * *

ODDS & ENDS:

- **FALL FIELD TRIP**—Nearly 50 veterans ventured to Shiloh Battlefield for the weekend of Saturday/Sunday, October 19-20. The weather wasn’t perfect, but these hearty adventurers braved the elements and consumed such delectable comestibles as catfish, country ham, chicken, and more catfish. Hopefully our travelers will have some photographs to show and stories to tell. Ask them about the trip and plan on being in the Shenandoah Valley in the fall of 2003.

- As we near the end of the year, one thought persists—when do we pay our dues? January of 2003 marks the beginning of our 43rd year, but Treasurer Carroll Tietz will take your checks this month. It’s still the best bargain in town: \$15/year (regular) and \$10/year (seniors and students).

* * * * *

QUIZ: All questions pertain to the Army of Northern Virginia

1. Which 2 of Lee’s generals were transferred for less than stellar performances during the Seven Days Battles? A) John Magruder B) Samuel McGowan C) Alexander Lawton D) Benjamin Huger E) Robert Hoke F) Samuel Garland
2. During the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862, Stonewall Jackson lost his cavalry commander near Harrisonburg. Name him and his replacement.
3. After Gettysburg who was Lafayette McLaws referring to when he wrote his wife: “[He is] a humbug, a man of small capacity, very obstinate, not at all chivalrous, exceedingly conceited, and totally selfish”? And, of whom was General Evander Law referring to when he wrote that he had caught him in an “infamous lie” and suggested that “[he] is most certainly on the wane both in and out of the army....I believe we can oust him”?
4. Which 2 Confederate generals were killed at Fredericksburg?
5. Which of James Longstreet’s brigadier generals was killed by his own men in the volley that seriously wounded Old Pete at the Wilderness? And, which general of the Texas Brigade did Longstreet blame for the failure at Wauhatchie, Tennessee and was ultimately transferred from his command?
6. In which battle was Joseph E. Johnston severely wounded on May 31, 1862? And, who immediately replaced him for one day until Robert E. Lee arrived to take command?
7. Who replaced JEB Stuart when he died on May 12, 1864? And, which Confederate general led the counterattack at the “Crater”?
8. When Lafayette McLaws captured Maryland Heights, who captured the other elevation overlooking Harpers Ferry and which elevation was it?
9. Which Confederate general was mortally wounded, shot through both lungs at Cedar Creek in October, 1864, and died at Phil Sheridan’s headquarters? And, who replaced him but was killed at Hatcher’s Run the following February?
10. Name the 6 Confederate generals who were killed or mortally wounded during the Gettysburg Campaign:

* * * * *

The Michigan Regimental congratulates the Abraham Lincoln Round Table for beginning its 51st year. This Round Table, the fourth founded in the United States and the oldest in the state of Michigan, officially began on September 20, 1952. Its original list of seven founders included William Springer, Florence Doty, Frank Howard, Ernest Huthwaite, Arthur Smith, Tom Starr, and Weldon Petz. Mr. Springer served as the first President and Dr. Petz is the only surviving founder. The collections of these illustrious and dedicated scholars are today in various museums and university archives.

Thirty-one people attended the first meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 1952, to hear Dr. Louis A. Warren present “Lincoln at Gettysburg,” in honor of the exact day of the 89th anniversary of Lincoln’s famous speech. The Lincoln Round Table originally met in the Logan County Courthouse in Greenfield Village, using candlelight and oil lamps which dimly illuminated the room. Some of the early speakers included General U.S. Grant III, Bruce Catton, William Longstreet, Dr. Richard Mudd, John Pemberton (the general’s grandson), and Lloyd Ostendorf.

Again, the Michigan Regimental salutes the Abraham Lincoln Round Table for its superlative 50-plus years and for showing us the way.

* * * * *

On October 30, 2002, Julia Wheelock, a Civil War nurse, was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. A special dinner was held to honor the various inductees at the Novi Hilton. Congratulations to Dr. Weldon Petz for his endeavors in obtaining Miss Wheelock's admission to this prestigious group.

* * * * *

Few more colorful characters existed in the Army of Northern Virginia than Thomas Kinloch "Flintlock" Fauntleroy. Hailing from Clarke County, Virginia, Fauntleroy served in the First and Sixth Virginia Cavalries before transferring to the Stuart Horse Artillery in October, 1861. But it was his appearance, personality, and demeanor that delighted those who met him. "He was a very striking character," remembered Edward Porter Alexander. "He combined in himself the reddest head, the most freckled face, the worst crossed eyes and the most terrible stammering I ever heard, with the most perfect sang-froid and self possession, and absolute freedom from self consciousness, that I ever met." Alexander further recalled that Fauntleroy once attended a ball in a small town and asked one of the local belles for the next dance. Unbeknownst to Fauntleroy the lady stammered just as badly as he did. When she stuttered that she could not dance with him because she was already engaged, Fauntleroy supposed she was making fun of him, and angrily replied: "d-d-dam fool—I couldn't help it."

His career in the military began as a courier. Once while stationed at Fairfax, Fauntleroy and another courier lay in the grass exchanging stories. Fauntleroy complained that he wished that President Jefferson Davis would promote him from private to lieutenant. The other courier mentioned that Davis himself was on a nearby porch talking with a general and said, "Why don't you go and ask him?" Never one to back away from peril, Fauntleroy walked up to the porch and brazenly asked Davis "please to make him a lieutenant." Davis, somewhat taken aback by this approach, proceeded to ask Fauntleroy a series of questions and finally agreed that when he returned to Richmond, he would send back a commission. Without faze, Fauntleroy stammered, "N-n-n-now Mr. President, can I *rely* upon you?" The official commission, bearing the President's signature, arrived in a few days.

Following the war Fauntleroy took up residency in Rushton, Louisiana where he became a Methodist minister.

* * * * *

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. A) John Magruder and D) Benjamin Huger
2. Turner Ashby and Beverly Robertson
3. James Longstreet and James Longstreet [in a letter to Lafayette McLaws]
4. Thomas R.R. Cobb and Maxcy Gregg
5. Micah Jenkins and Jerome Robertson
6. Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) and Gustavus W. Smith
7. Wade Hampton and Billy Mahone
8. John G. Walker and Loudoun Heights
9. Stephen Dodson Ramseur and John Pegram
10. Lewis Armistead, William Barksdale, Richard Garnett, Dorsey Pender, Paul Semmes, Johnston Pettigrew

A reminder to attend our upcoming meeting—**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25**—at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). John Moore will present "Lafayette McLaws Visits Pleasant Valley." The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. Hope to see you there.

Don't forget to check out our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.

And to all our friends, Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season!