

The group PRE-MEETING SUPPER
at **STATION 885** in PLYMOUTH
is now at **5:30 pm**...
The earlier start time is so folks can
get to the meeting on time 😊



ABOUT the ALCWRT

- The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table is the oldest Civil War Round Table in Michigan, founded in 1952. Our JUBILEE (65th) anniversary was September, 2017.
- Meetings are each 3rd Thursday, September through May (except December), **7:30 pm**, at the Charter Township of Plymouth City Offices, 9955 N. Haggerty, in the Chamber Council Room.
- For more information, contact ALCWRT President Liz Stringer at stringerL@aol.com
- Our web site is ALCWRT.org
- Like us on **FACEBOOK**...!
"Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table"

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WILLIAM COTTRELL

will be the featured speaker for the **FEBRUARY 21st** meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table. His topic:

LINCOLN and the DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE

Bill's presentation will deal with the role of public opinion in Lincoln's selection of this founding document as paramount in his political mantra, as exemplified by three key political speeches.

William Cottrell is an Army veteran and Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528 in Plymouth. He has worked as a volunteer Docent in the Lincoln Exhibit of the Plymouth Historical Museum for almost ten years, and is a graduate of Wayne State.

Thanks to Gary Rembisz for his enlightening presentation to us in January: "**The 24th Michigan Men Were Not So Different from Us**"

WITH SORROW -- **Bonnie Priebe** passed away January 11th.

Her funeral was held January 19th at St. Michael's Lutheran church in Wayne, MI. Here is a loving tribute from a friend in the re-enactment community, which echoes the feelings of all her friends. She will be missed.

A Friend Remembers Bonnie -- *I have spent this last week trying to adequately express what Bonnie means to me. This is no easy task as Bonnie meant so many different things to so many different people. I first got to know Bonnie as Mary Todd Lincoln. It was through this impression that I saw her love of history and discovered that she had a heart of a true patriot. In her working life she was a teacher and always remained in her heart and soul a teacher. Whether it was presenting a Civil War tea or organizing a modern social activity she was always a consummate professional. I will remember Bonnie as a kindred spirit and a treasured friend. She took such a joy and pride in her family, her home, and her friends. I pray that I will have as close a walk with God as she had so that I will see her beautiful smile again in a perfect and forever world.*

-- **Elise Parker** (aka Sarah Emma Edmunds, aka Frank Thompson)

LINCOLN's PEERS: Bismarck, Napoleon III, Queen Victoria and Henry John Temple

Lincoln lived from 1809 to 1865, and held political offices from 1838 until his assassination as President in 1865 at the conclusion of the US Civil War.

Who were the leaders of Germany, France, and England when Lincoln was president?

OTTO von BISMARCK

Otto von Bismarck was born in 1815 in what was then the Prussian province of Saxony, west of Berlin. King Wilhelm I appointed him Minister President of Prussia in 1862, a position he held until 1890 (except for a short break in 1873). He resigned in 1890 due to conflicts with the new King Wilhelm II over social programs. He spent his final years writing his memoirs, *Thoughts and Memories*, a work praised by historians but in which he continued his feud with Wilhelm II by using it to continue to attack the new King's policies. He died in 1898, and as a final snub to Wilhelm II, had his sarcophagus inscribed "A loyal German servant of Emperor Wilhelm I".

BISMARCK's LEGACY -

Von Bismarck is known as the Iron Chancellor for his powerful rule at home and diplomacy of *realpolitik* (pragmatism). Historians credit his achievements in 1862 to 1871 as "the greatest diplomatic and political achievement by any leader in the last two centuries", one of the most important being the creation of the modern German state.

Unification of Germany – For centuries since the formation of the Holy Roman Empire, Germany had existed as a collection of hundreds of separate principalities and Free Cities. Others had tried to unify these states and cities without success. Bismarck initiated short wars against Denmark (1864) and Austria (1866), which expanded his set of allies. By 1867 Bismarck had succeeded in dissolving the German Confederation, an association of territories in existence since 1815, and forming the North German Confederation, a federal state. He, of course, was named Federal Chancellor of this first German national state. Next, with the support of the still-independent South German states, the German Confederation defeated France in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War. At the war's conclusion, which gained him the territories of the Alsace-Lorraine, he formed the German Empire in 1871, unifying Germany with himself as Imperial Chancellor. He also retained control of Prussia. The new German nation excluded Austria, which had been Prussia's main opponent for predominance among the German states. The modern nation of Germany was born.

NAPOLEON III

Napoleon III, aka Louis Napoleon, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, was born in 1808 in Paris. After the fall of his uncle in 1815 at Waterloo (in present-day Belgium, then part of the Netherlands) and restoration of the Bourbon monarchy, all family members of the Bonaparte dynasty were forced into exile, first to Aix (France), then Baden (east of Alsace), and finally Switzerland. He received some of his education in Germany, so for the rest of his life he spoke French with a slight but noticeable German accent.

Louis Napoleon was the first elected President of France, and served from 1848 to 1852. (He was elected soon after his escape from prison, where he had been incarcerated after his second coup attempt against King Louis-Phillippe). When the constitution prevented him from being re-elected, he seized power and formed the Second French Empire, becoming its first and only Emperor from 1852 to 1870. When Bismarck defeated the French in the Franco-Prussian War, Louis Napoleon went into exile. He died in England in 1873.

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LOUIS NAPOLEON's LEGACY -

Louis Napoleon's legacy as President of France is mixed. He gets better marks for his domestic achievements than for his foreign exploits.

Domestic achievements – Louis Napoleon is credited with transforming France into a modern state, industrializing and modernizing to better compete with other European nations. He modernized the French banking system, expanded the railway system and the French merchant marines, and implemented modern agriculture policies which turned France into an agricultural exporter. He negotiated trade agreements with other European nations. His social reforms granted French workers the right to strike and to organize. The list of required subjects in public schools was expanded, and women were admitted to study at the Sorbonne. He commissioned infrastructure projects to improve sanitation in cities. He commenced the grand reconstruction of Paris, transforming the city from a warren of medieval streets and alleys into the modern city we know today.

Foreign exploits - Louis Napoleon had less success in his attempts to reassert French influence in Europe and around the world. In Europe, he allied with Britain and defeated Russia in the Crimean War (1853–56). His regime assisted in Italian unification (recall that the boundaries of the nation we know today as Italy did not take shape until 1861), and added the territories of Savoy and Nice to France for his efforts. Napoleon III doubled the area of the French empire in Asia, the Pacific and Africa. His attempt to expand to create a Second Mexican Empire, however, ended in total failure. It's this Mexican venture that intersects with our US Civil War history.

Napoleon III and General Phil Sheridan - In 1862, Louis Napoleon, allied with Austria's Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian and encouraged by Mexican monarchists, sent troops to Mexico in an attempt to establish the Second Mexican Empire. Resistance from Mexico's republican government, led by Benito Juarez, hampered their efforts. At the end of the US Civil War in 1865, the US government demanded that France leave Mexico. General Philip H. Sheridan and 50,000 troops amassed at the border and helped to resupply Juarez. Napoleon was stretched thin, with troops in Algeria and in Rome (guarding the Pope against Italians who wanted to annex Papal territory), and with a wary eye on Prussia (recall Bismarck would initiate the Franco-Prussian War just a few years later). Napoleon realized his predicament and withdrew his troops from Mexico in 1866. Maximilian was overthrown and executed a year later.

QUEEN VICTORIA

Queen Victoria was born in 1819 at Kensington Palace in London, fifth in line to the throne behind her father and his three brothers. Due to early deaths and lack of heirs, she ascended to the throne in 1836 at age eighteen, and reigned for sixty-three years until 1901. Her reign was a period of industrial, cultural, political, scientific, and military change with the United Kingdom, and was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire. When her husband Prince Albert died in 1861, she went into an extended period of mourning and seclusion.

PRIME MINISTER HENRY JOHN TEMPLE

Henry John Temple (aka Palmerston, as he held the title of 3rd Viscount Palmerston) was born in 1784 in his family's Westminster house to the Irish branch of the Temple family, though the family rarely visited their estate in Ireland. He was educated abroad, at the Harrow School, at Cambridge, and in Edinburgh. He was first elected to office as a Member of Parliament in 1807. He would go on to serve as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs three times, as Home Secretary, as Leader of the Opposition, and twice as Prime Minister.

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John Temple died in October 1865, two days before his eighty-first birthday, after suffering chills and fever. He was the fourth person not of royalty to be granted a state funeral (the others are Sir Isaac Newton, Lord Nelson, and the Duke of Wellington). He's buried at Westminster Abbey.

TEMPLE and the US CIVIL WAR -

Temple's years as Prime Minister coincided with Lincoln's rise to the White House and with the US Civil War. Though he opposed slavery and the slave trade, his lifelong hostility towards the United States made him a Confederate sympathizer. He believed a breakup of the union would weaken America and so enhance British power in the world. He knew, too, that the Confederacy would be a valuable and extensive market for British manufacturing interests.

Proclamation of Neutrality – In May 1861 Britain issued a proclamation of neutrality, recognizing the Confederacy as a belligerent but not as a sovereign state. US Secretary of State William Seward had threatened to treat any country that recognized the Confederacy as a separate sovereign state as hostile to the US. Seward knew that war with the US was not in Britain's interest, as it needed American corn more than it needed Confederate cotton. Temple ordered reinforcements to the Province of Canada; he was sure the North would make peace with the South and then invade Canada. Temple was pleased about the Confederate victory at the First Battle of Bull Run, but fifteen months later said this about developments: *"...the American War... has manifestly ceased to have any attainable object as far as the Northerners are concerned, except to get rid of some more thousand troublesome Irish and Germans. It must be owned, however, that the Anglo-Saxon race on both sides have shown courage and endurance highly honourable to their stock".*

The Trent Affair – Public outrage and a diplomatic crisis resulted from the November 1861 Trent Affair. A US Navy warship stopped the British steamer *Trent* and seized two Confederate envoys on their way to Europe. Temple called the US Navy's action "a declared and gross insult", demanded the release of the two diplomats, and ordered 3,000 troops to Canada. He wrote to Queen Victoria in December 1861 that if his demands were not met, *"Great Britain is in a better state than at any former time to inflict a severe blow upon and to read a lesson to the United States which will not soon be forgotten."* He predicted war between Britain and the Union. Why? He incorrectly assumed that the Irish controlled Northern newspapers and, because of their hatred for Britain, would excite the masses so much that it would be politically impossible for Lincoln and Seward to meet Britain's demands. War, he thought, would then follow. When the US did not declare war on Britain, Temple was convinced it was because of the extra troops he had stationed in Canada.

The Emancipation Proclamation – When Lincoln announced in September 1862 his intention to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, there were debates about intervening as a humanitarian move to stop what many in Europe thought would result in a race war. But at the same time Britain had other geopolitical concerns closer to home, due to the overthrow of the Greek king, and growing threats from Russia. The British declined France's suggestion of a joint intervention in America to avert a race war (which did not materialize after the Proclamation), and instead gave priority to threats closer to home in Europe. After this, Temple rejected all further efforts of the Confederacy to gain recognition as a sovereign state by the British.

The CSS Alabama – In July 1862, a law officer's report advised Temple to detain the raiding ship *CSS Alabama*. Why? The *Alabama* had been built in Britain, which was ruled a breach of Britain's earlier declaration of neutrality. The *Alabama* had already put to sea, though, before Temple's detention order reached it. The *Alabama*, as well as other raiders fitted out in Britain, proceeded to capture or destroy many Union merchant ships. The US sought reparations from Britain for its complicity in constructing the raider, but Temple refused to pay. After Temple's death his successor Gladstone acknowledged the US claim and agreed in arbitration to pay \$15,500,000 in damages in 1872. This ended the dispute and led to a treaty that restored friendly relations between Britain and the United States.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Here's a quick quiz based on Gary Rembisz' presentation on the **Men of the 24th Michigan** at our January meeting.

- (1) What was the cost of a ticket to Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Ball, and how many people were admitted per ticket?
- (2) The accoutrements of Iron Brigade soldiers included a haversack.
How many meals would a haversack hold, and how did soldiers combat weevils in their crackers?
- (3) What were the winter quarter housing called, and how were they constructed?

WHAT DID WE LEARN -- answers

- (1) A ticket to Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Ball cost \$10, and would admit one gentleman and two ladies.
- (2) A haversack could hold eight meals, which included salt pork, essence of coffee, and crackers.
To rid their crackers of weevils before eating, soldiers would drop them into hot coffee.
Soldiers were supposed to wash the lining of their haversacks regularly.
- (3) Structures that were part log and part tent (for the roof) were called shebangs, and were the typical winter quarters.

UPCOMING EVENTS in 2019

65th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: OCTOBER 14, 2019

The celebration of the ALCWRT's 65th year will be held Monday, October 14, 2019, with a dinner-and-speaker event at the beautifully renovated and restored **GAR Building** in Detroit. Our speaker will be **A. Wilson Greene** whose recently published book on the Petersburg campaign -- "**A Campaign of Giants**" -- got a very favorable review in the Wall Street Journal in August, 2018.

SPRING TRIP – 2019:

Liz announced at recent meetings that she's targeting [spring 2019 for a group trip to Kentucky](#). Stay tuned for exact dates and details.

CWRT CONGRESS – Sept. 20-22 in St. Louis

The following announcement was shared from our friends in the Ann Arbor Round Table:

The 2019 Civil War Round Table Congress will be held at the Missouri Civil War Museum September 20-22 in the newly remodeled 1918 Exchange Building. The host round table will be the CWRT of St. Louis.

For details and further information, please go to www.cwrtcongress.org.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

Here's a look ahead at some of the upcoming programs that Brian Mayer has arranged for us:

MAR. 21:	Steven Ramold	"The Controversy Over the Sherman/Johnston Surrender"
APR. 18:	Dr. E. Lawrence Abel	"John Wilkes Booth and the Women Who Loved Him"
MAY 16:	Curt Fields	"General Ulysses S. Grant: The Man Behind the Uniform"

THIS and THAT ...

* VISITOR's WELCOME ...

~ The ALCWRT welcomes friends, relatives, acquaintances...

~ We're always looking for new members, and visitors are **always welcome..!**

* ANNUAL DUES –

~ Worley is always happy to collect your dues

~ **\$20** for a single ~~ **\$30** for a couple

~ Dues are payable by the calendar year (January through December)

* **WEBSITES for other nearby roundtables** are posted on ALCWRT.org.

* **STATION 885** – Yes, the group still meets for dinner prior to the monthly meetings... All are welcome!

NEW DINNER TIME: 5:30 pm – so everyone can get to the meeting on time 😊

* REFRESHMENTS for FUTURE MEETINGS –

~ Let Liz know if you're interested in bringing refreshments to a future meeting.
