

“OH, COULD THEY BUT SPEAK...”

The history and importance of Michigan's Civil War Battle Flags

Resources:

The Effects of the Civil War - **Teacher's Answer Sheet**

Students were asked to determine whether the statements below happened **DURING THE CIVIL WAR**, **AFTER THE WAR**, or had **NO CONNECTION** with the Civil War. They were to circle the correct answer and write a sentence or two explaining their choice.

1. Slavery ended in the United States.

AFTER THE WAR

The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves of the Confederacy, but it was the Thirteenth Amendment (1865) that abolished slavery nationwide.

2. The first military draft was initiated.

DURING THE WAR

Both the North and the South created draft bills, the Confederacy in 1862 (in direct opposition to the states' rights philosophy they were founded on) and the Union in 1863. The draft could be avoided by paying \$300, or by finding a substitute to serve.

3. The American Red Cross was founded.

AFTER THE WAR

The Sanitary Commission ran hospitals on ships, in the field, and out of civilian homes during the war. It also became a strong advocate for improving medical services. With the help of Clara Barton, the Sanitary Commission became the Red Cross.

4. Industry and natural resource mining really expanded.

DURING THE WAR

There was a huge demand by the Government for resources and industry to create war materials. Michigan's Upper Peninsula had a major growth spurt due to the copper mines and immigration of people to work in the mines.

5. Tension and resentment was created between the two political parties.

AFTER THE WAR

In the years following the war, Republicans used their status as the "party of Lincoln" to stigmatize Democrats as the "party of rebellion." After the war it would be nearly fifty years (1912) before a man of southern birth would be elected as President.

6. Both the North and the South issued paper money for the first time.

DURING THE WAR

This created controversy on both sides. The paper money was called greenbacks and caused runaway inflation in the south. Greenbacks funded two-thirds of the Confederate war effort.

7. Women won the right to vote.

NO CONNECTION

Women didn't have the right to vote until 1919 with the passage of the 19th amendment.

8. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) became one of the most influential lobbying groups in the history of America.

AFTER THE WAR

This organization was devoted to aiding Union veterans and had a great impact on post-war politics. They were successful in securing pensions for Union veterans. At one time the federal government was spending more than one-fifth of its total revenue on veteran's benefits. The lobbyist of today can only aspire to match the influence of the GAR.

9. Women entered the workforce in greater numbers.

DURING THE WAR

While the men were off at war, the women took over the farm chores, as well as entering the work force. In 1860 twenty-five percent of teachers were women; by 1880 that number increased to sixty percent.

10. A submarine sinks a ship for the first time.

DURING THE WAR

A number of nations experimented with submarines in the early nineteenth century, but the Confederate Navy was the first to ever sink a ship in battle. On February 17, the HL Hunley, driven by a small hand-cranked propeller, successfully attached an underwater mine to the hull of the USS Housatonic outside of Charleston. The ship sank. However, the crew of the Hunley did not survive, as this small ship was also destroyed, perhaps while attempting to escape.

11. Penicillin was discovered.

NO CONNECTION

Penicillin was discovered in 1928 by Alexander Fleming (1881-1955).

12. The Star Spangled Banner was written.

NO CONNECTION

The words were written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key to a well-known drinking song "To Anacreon in Heaven". It was declared the national anthem in 1931.

13. Plastic surgery and prosthetic limbs were invented.

AFTER THE WAR

The demand was great for these types of surgeries after the Civil War. Many advances were made and many surgeries were performed.

14. Military tactics could not be reported, thus restricting the freedom of the press.

DURING THE WAR

Although the freedom of press is one of America's sacred freedoms, during the war military information containing news of troop movements and other vital information was censored.

15. Dogs were trained as indoor pets.

NO CONNECTION

16. Memorial Day was created to honor Civil War Veterans.

AFTER THE WAR

The first traditions of Memorial Day began in the South; the women of the region began to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers as early as 1865.

17. The first United States income tax was passed.

AFTER THE WAR

The Union's wartime economic policy created a progressive income tax, which became law in 1862. Its early returns were disappointing, but by 1865 it was providing the government with almost one-fourth of its internal revenue. The income tax was repealed in 1872 and was declared unconstitutional in the 1890s. In 1913 the income tax returned with the ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment.

18. The union was preserved.

AFTER THE WAR

It is easy to take this point for granted, but try to imagine the impact that a Confederate victory would have had upon American history.

Bonus: What did Vernors have to do with the Civil War?

From: <http://www.dpsu.com/vernors.html>

All Rights Reserved. Dr Pepper/Seven Up, Inc. Copyright© 2003

Vernors History

Without the Civil War, there would be no Vernors.

Before the conflict began, James Vernor, a Detroit pharmacist, had concocted a new drink. It was a mix of 19 ingredients, including ginger, vanilla and natural flavorings.

When Vernor was called off to war in 1862, he stored the secret mixture in an oak cask in his pharmacy. After returning from battle four years later, he opened his secret keg and found the drink inside had been transformed by the aging process in the wood. It had taken on a zippy, zesty, gingery flavor. It was like nothing else he had ever tasted.

It was Vernors.

For years, the only place one could buy a Vernors was from the fountain in James Vernors pharmacy at 233 Woodward Ave. in downtown Detroit. But demand for the drink continued to grow. Soon, soda fountains throughout the city began selling cold, carbonated Vernors.

Vernor kept an ever-watchful eye on the vendors. When it came to maintaining the quality of his drink, he was a fanatic. Vernors personal scrapbook from the time contains many of the pamphlets he sent to soda fountain owners. Those pamphlets "laid down the law" on how Vernors should and should not be served.

This "quality control" helped build a loyal clientele for Vernors Ginger Soda. Vernor also worked with soft drink manufacturers to make their dispensing machines more practical and affordable.

By 1896, the blossoming popularity of his drink led Vernor to establish his own soda fountain store. In the years that followed, Vernors became available in such distant cities as Buffalo, Toledo, Cleveland and Niagara Falls. The continuing expansion into other markets was both deliberate and methodical.

Just as the process for making Vernors extract requires four long years in oak barrels, there was no rushing the marketing of Vernors. Historical records indicate that James Vernor wanted to be absolutely sure the consistency of his drink would be maintained before he granted any franchise licenses. As a result, his drink enjoyed predictable success in new cities.

A soda fountain owner who wrote to Vernor in 1898 noted that the ginger soda had acquired an enthusiastic following in his city. "Its purity, delicacy of flavor and great refreshing powers have been testified to by thousands of our soda customers," the franchisee wrote. In time, The Vernors Company would open a landmark bottling operation in downtown Detroit to handle its expanding business. This riverfront business became a favorite stopping place for locals and tourists alike in the 1940s. It was here one could sip a fresh Vernors for only a nickel and watch as it was being produced.