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History Remembered, Inc.

A Civil War History Partner

Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular

April 2012

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In This Issue

Income Tax

**Scheduled
Events**

**Interesting
Websites**

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*The Military Order
of the Loyal Legion
of the United States,
Michigan Commandery*

*Sons of
Union Veterans
of the Civil War,
Department of Michigan*

Michigan Remembers the Civil War -

Between 1861 and 1865, the month of April witnessed some historic events. Of course 1861 saw the opening salvos of what was going to be one of America's greatest challenges - to be divided and to allow slavery or to be united under one flag and slavery ended.

The Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862 would be the bloodiest battle of the war up until that time. The Union forces would suffer over 13,000 total casualties and the Southern forces over 10,000.

The later part of April 1863 would find both armies preparing for another bloody engagement near Chancellorsville and The Wilderness.

The month of April in 1864 would have two decisions made that would negatively impact the treatment of Prisoners of War on both sides. On the 17th, Ulysses S. Grant ended the practice of prisoner exchanges as he felt it was "...prolonging

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the war." On April 20, 1864, the War Department ordered a reduction in the amount of rations given the Confederate prisoners because of reports of mistreatment of Northern prisoners by the South.

April of 1865 would signal the end of the Civil War.

While each of the above events are an important part of our history, one event in July of 1862 still affects us every April - Income Taxes.

Respectfully,
Bruce B. Butgereit, Executive Director
History Remembered, Inc.
Grand Rapids, MI

Income Tax -

From Civil War Trust: The first Federal income tax was levied to help pay for the Union war effort. In the summer of 1861, Salmon P. Chase reported to the Congress that he would need \$320 million over the next fiscal year to finance the war. He thought he could put his hands on \$300 million by borrowing part of it and raising the rest through existing taxes and sale of public lands. He left it up to Congress to come up with a way to raise the remaining \$20 million.

After weighing their options, the House Ways and Means Committee drew up a bill to tax personal and corporate incomes. This bill, the first income tax measure in the United States, called for a 3% tax on incomes over \$800. Although the bill quickly passed in both the House and the Senate, it was never put into operation. Still, it paved the way for the next bill of its kind.

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Detroit GAR
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In 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed a bill that imposed a 3% tax on incomes between \$600 and \$10,000 and a 5% tax on higher incomes. The bill was amended in 1864 to levy a tax of 5% on incomes between \$600 and \$5,000, a 7.5% tax on incomes in the \$5,000-\$10,000 range and a 10% tax on everything higher. This bill was repealed in 1872 and declared to be unconstitutional.

The Confederacy also collected income taxes. It authorized its first national income tax measure in 1863. The Confederate bill that finally passed after great debate was a graduated income tax. It exempted wages up to \$1,000, levied a 1% tax on the first \$1,500 over the exemption, and 2% on all additional income.

For a great article on the subject, please visit this website:

[National Archives Tax Records](#)

Another good article (lengthy but filled with interesting facts) on financing the war can be found here:

[Tax Analysts](#)

For a brief history of the Internal Revenue Service, please visit:

[IRS](#)

Scheduled Events -

April 14: 56th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

(Oakridge
Cemetery,

Springfield, Illinois). Sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Parade to and wreath laying at the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln.



Lincoln Tomb

To date there are 112 events scheduled for 2012. Be sure to share with us the details of your event so it can be posted on our webpage.

[History Partners Website](#)

Interesting Websites -

Good Friday and the Civil War:

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New Estimates for Death Toll in Civil War:

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