

Excellent Speaker Series for the US Civil War Sesquicentennial (2011 –2015)

## **John Michael Gibney**

Rally ‘Round the Flag Boys! Civil War Battleflags symbolized home, family, and freedom to both sides in the Civil War. Here are some of the stories.

What They Wore: Yankees in gray, Rebs in Blue, Red pants and turbans, and green coats and rubber buttons, all of these and more are presented and available for trying on.

Michigan in the Civil War. For a small backwoods area, Michigan played a pivotal role in the war.

The Common Soldier in the Civil War: the story of the men who gave their last full measure.

The Irish in the Civil War. Both sides had significant presence from Irish soldiers

The Battle of Gettysburg: undoubtedly the most significant three days in American history. This is the story of the men and women that contributed to that lasting legacy.

Those Damned Black Hats: the story of the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan of the Iron Brigade. This is the story of the best regiment in the history of the United States Army.

Elmer Ellsworth and the Cult of the Zouaves: Find out how one small and very unmilitary man changed how America went to war and influenced fashion until the modern day.

High Tide at Gettysburg? The debate still rages and here is more fuel for the fire. Was it at Perryville, Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, the Wilderness, the March to the Sea?

The Sharpshooters Deadly Art: Utilizing the concepts of deadly accurate “sniping”, these were the best shots, using the best arms, and best technology of the first modern war

Yankees in the Cellar. As a counter point to a journalist’s take on reenacting, a veteran living historian tells what public history and reenacting is all about and why it often is more effective than “academic” history.

John Brown: Hero or Mad Man? The debate goes on with powerful arguments for both sides.

Joseph Stanfield’s Diary: A remarkable man and his diary of events that made the 16<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry one of the State’s best regiments.

Come On You Wolverines! Custer and the men of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade

The Longstreet Lecture: The best commander in the Confederate Army was James Longstreet find out the surprising reasons why and this man’s remarkable career.

Marble vs. Mud: The story of US Grant and RE Lee that has never been told. Find out who these men really were utilizing the latest research on their fascinating careers research.

John Gibney is one of the Civil War History Partners' Steering Group for Michigan's Civil War Sesquicentennial (150). He is also an adjunct Instructor in the Graduate Historic Preservation Program at E M U, and Civil War lecturer at Washtenaw Community College. A Civil War reenactor since 1960, he participated in the filming of the movies Gettysburg, Glory, and Gods & Generals, and acted as a participating historian for Producer/Director Rodney Brown's "the Michigan Experience: the Civil War Years". John was a founder of the Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table and gives public living history talks to benefit Michigan's Save the Flags Task Force and the Civil War Trust.

John's expertise in the artistry of diorama construction has won several national awards. His diorama of Peeble's Farm is on permanent display at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. He was the 1999 Teacher of the year for the Michigan Adult and Community Education Association. He received the VFW's Michigan Secondary Teacher of the Year and the National Citizenship Education Award in for 2000-2001. In May of 2005, the State of Michigan voted a legislative tribute for John for his involvement in the preservation of Michigan Battle flags.

## **“Contact the Colonel”:**

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John Gibney presenting a talk on Michigan Civil War Battle Flags for Remembrance Day 2009 at Greenfield Village