

In April 2009 our good friend, **Bill Grandstaff**, gave a program to the Michigan Regimental on Walt Whitman. The poignancy and compassion in the presentation weren't overlooked by anyone in attendance. This month—**MONDAY, MARCH 28**—Bill will be returning for another outstanding program, entitled, *“Three You Know, the Fourth You Don't.”* As Bill has stated, *“It is easy to follow the generals, leaders and soldiers explaining how the war changed their lives. But what of the civilians? I want to discuss the lives of three famous and one not so famous individual and how they reacted to the fighting and viewed the consequences of the war.”*

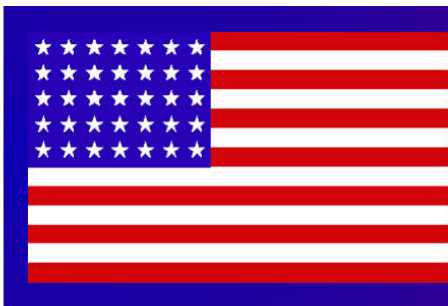
Bill's notable three are Mark Twain, Louisa May Alcott, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. **Mark Twain**, the noted humorist and writer, did not always find something to smile about in the war, as he was told of a man shaking hands with a friend when an exploding shell suddenly left him holding a disembodied hand. **Louisa May Alcott** served as a nurse at Union Hotel Hospital in Washington, D.C. The conditions appalled her: *“A more perfect pestilence box than this I never saw—cold, damp, dirty, full of vile odors from wounds, kitchens, and stables.”* **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, of Puritan ancestry, who, unlike many New England intellectuals, refused to support John Brown's raid, and believed that slavery could not *“be remedied by human contrivances”* but would, over time, *“vanish like a dream.”* The unknown and mysterious fourth will be introduced by Bill at the end.

Bill was drafted into the US Army, 3rd Brigade of the illustrious 101st Airborne Division in a helicopter outfit in Viet Nam. After his tour of duty, Bill attended Oakland University and received a Bachelor's Degree in American History.

So circle the date now—**MONDAY, MARCH 28**—it's a program you won't want to miss!

QUIZ: Match the writers, artists, photographers, nurses, etc.

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| ____ 1. Thomas Nast | A) Took the last photographs of R.E. Lee in uniform on the back porch of Lee's home |
| ____ 2. Mary Boykin Chesnut | B) English war correspondent; earned the nickname “Bull Run” for his panic-stricken flight from that battle field |
| ____ 3. William Gilmore Simms | C) Edited three southern newspapers prior to the war; sent to France as a propagandist by Jeff Davis but soon lost his popularity there |
| ____ 4. Paul Hamilton Hayne | D) Cartoonist who joined <i>Harpers Weekly</i> in middle of the war and helped bring down Tammany Hall |
| ____ 5. Edwin de Leon | E) South Carolina novelist, switched from writing obscure romances to more profitable genre of pamphleteering |
| ____ 6. Sarah Emma Edmonds | F) British correspondent from <i>The London Times</i> who covered the Army of Northern Virginia |
| ____ 7. Allen Christian Redwood | G) Well-born Charlestonian poet who wrote on the exploits of Stonewall Jackson and John Hunt Morgan. |
| ____ 8. William Howard Russell | H) Wrote <i>Diary from Dixie</i> ; friend of Jeff Davis's wife, Varina; husband, James, served on Beauregard's staff at Fort Sumter |
| ____ 9. Francis Lawley | I) Artist; fought in the Army of Northern Virginia; worked for <i>Century Magazine</i> and <i>Harpers Monthly</i> |
| ____ 10. Mathew Brady | J) Used the alias “Franklin Thompson”; fought in 2 nd Michigan Infantry; published wartime adventure, <i>Nurse and Spy in the Union Army</i> |



The MRRT wishes to thank last month’s speaker, **Ken Baumann**, for once-again reading some of the unpublished excerpts of Dr. Gray, surgeon of the 60th Illinois—especially the incidents pertaining to the Lincoln Assassination as well as Dr. Grays’ transfer to Director of an Army Hospital in Eastern Tennessee.

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To Colonel Will Baylor of the Stonewall Brigade went orders to move forward from the woodline, cross the two-hundred wide field and plug the breach at 2nd Manassas. William S. Baylor was a thirty-one-year old attorney who, despite his presence on most of Jackson’s battlefields, still held the position of the Commonwealth’s attorney for the city of Staunton. On the night of August 29th he had convened a prayer meeting on this very field with the words, “*I know the men are tired and worn but I cannot rest tonight without asking God’s mercy on us for tomorrow.*”

Now he ordered his men out into the field in the face of the decidedly unmerciful Yankee fire. The Virginians’ line quivered at the initial wave of lead and hovered in disorder along the woodline for several moments. Baylor rushed to the flagbearer of the 33rd Virginia and grabbed the standard. “*Boys, follow me!*” he yelled. The line started forward again. “*It was a splendid sight,*” remembered one soldier. “We did follow him, shouting and firing, out into the field, only to see the brave man shot down, wrapped in the flag he carried, pierced by many bullets and dead.”

With Baylor down, the Stonewall Brigade faltered again and fell back into the woods. Baylor’s death and the brigade’s hesitation inflamed Captain Hugh A. White of the 4th Virginia. White was a friend of Baylor’s who had led the prayer service the night before. Now he ran to his fallen commander and grabbed the stained colors of the 33rd. He brandished them and bade the men of the brigade to follow him. Oblivious to the disordered condition of the brigade’s line, White rushed forward and disappeared into the roiling clouds of smoke that by now obscured the field. Only a few men of the brigade followed—those who feared for White’s life. Minutes later they found the captain, face down, his hands clasped about his face. He was dead, the second officer to fall wrapped in the mottled folds of the 33rd Virginia’s flag.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. D Thomas Nast
2. H Mary Boykin Chesnut
3. E William Gilmore Simms
4. G Paul Hamilton Hayne
5. C Edwin de Leon
6. J Sarah Emma Edmonds
7. I Allen Christian Redwood
8. B William Howard Russell
9. F Francis Lawley
10. A Mathew Brady

So plan on coming out on **MONDAY, MARCH 28**—for **Bill Grandstaff**’s presentation of “*Three You Know, the Fourth You Don’t.*” It’s a guaranteed winner. The meeting will be, as usual, at the downtown Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). It all starts at 6:30 P.M.

Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>

Old Sarge