

The 3rd Michigan Cavalry was officially mustered in at Grand Rapids on November 1, 1861, with an enrollment of 1163 officers and men. Congressman Francis W. Kellogg of Grand Rapids served as its first colonel but shortly resigned his command of the unit. The regiment, now under Lt. Col. Robert H.G. Minty of Detroit, left for St. Louis, Missouri on November 28 and upon arrival was stationed at Benton Barracks. In March of 1862 the 3rd Michigan had joined John Pope's forces and participated in the capture of Island No. 10.

In September of 1862 the regiment gallantly fought at the Battle of Iuka, Mississippi. Here Captain Lyman George Willcox of Co. B wrote: *"I...formed my men behind the brow of the hill, dismounted a portion, and poured an irregular fire into the enemy's left flank and upon those who showed themselves in our front with considerable effect, twenty-two having been afterwards found, who must have fallen by our hands."* Of the same encounter General William S. Rosecrans stated: *"During the action five privates of the 3rd Michigan Cavalry beyond our extreme right, opened fire, [and] captured a rebel stand of colors."*

Eventually promoted to major, Willcox, a native of Detroit and Rochester, and the 3rd Michigan Cavalry fought at the Battle of Corinth where the Union Army of the Mississippi, commanded by Rosecrans, drove back the Confederates under General Earl Van Dorn. The Michigan troopers continued to enhance their reputation for duty and battle throughout the remainder of the war. At the end of the war the last Confederate army east of the Mississippi was surrendered by General Richard Taylor to General E.R.S. Canby, whose escort was provided by the 3rd Michigan, at Citronelle, near Mobile, Alabama.

The 3rd, now under the command of Col. John K. Mizner of Detroit, was mustered out at San Antonio, Texas on February 12, 1866. It arrived back in Michigan at Jackson on March 10 and was paid off and disbanded on March 15. During 4 ½ years of service, 414 members of the regiment died, including 30 killed or mortally wounded, and 384 who died of disease. Major Lyman George Willcox had resigned on September 20, 1864.

Our guest speaker this month is Julia A. Cramer, who will present "Across the Bloody Chasm: The Legacy of Lyman George Willcox." Julia, who has written a book with the same title, will present portions of Willcox's 2 ½-hour speech, entitled "The South in War Times," given during the midst of the war. Willcox's personal contribution to the war effort will also be discussed, especially his accomplishments at the Battles of Iuka and Corinth. The entire talk will be given from the Voice of Willcox's wife, Azubah, as Julia dresses in 19th Century garb and assumes the role of his spouse. Julia, who hails from Melvin, Michigan and teaches in the Peck Community School system, has two B.A. degrees from the University of Michigan-Flint and a Master's degree in American Culture, Rackham Degree, from U of M. She is presently working on a Master's Degree in Civil War studies from American Military University. An accomplished musician and song writer, Julia will open and close her presentation with two of her own original Civil War songs.

Come hear Julia A. Cramer—as Azubah Willcox—tell a fascinating story on **MONDAY, APRIL 25.**

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The MRRT expresses its thanks to last month's speaker, **Larry Arnold**, for his fine talk "*Another Look at Sheridan.*" Larry was able to defend the controversial Phil Sheridan quite well.

ODDS & ENDS:

- **FALL FIELD TRIP**—Last month 38 folks signed up for the trip to Harpers Ferry/Antietam for Saturday and Sunday October 22-23. Our guide will be Dennis Frye, an honorary member of the MRRT and one of our absolute favorites. Since more people will be signing up this month, NO MONEY will be collected until the May meeting.



- **ELECTIONS OF MRRT OFFICERS**—Congratulations to Jim Burroughs for his election as President. (Jim will also continue to serve as Program Chairman.) Mollie Galate will stay on as Secretary; Jeannie Graham remains as Vice President and Carroll Tietz as Treasurer. A special thank you is in order for the excellent leadership provided by outgoing President Norm Carver.

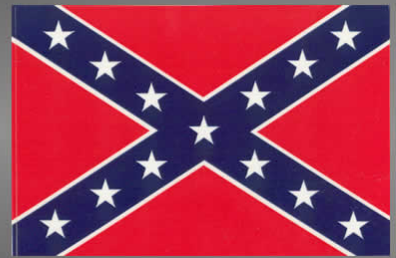
QUIZ: All questions pertain to Michigan in the Civil War.....

1. The 1st Michigan Cavalry had the distinction of capturing Jeb Stuart's famous plumed hat. Who commanded this regiment and where was he killed?
2. Who was inaugurated as the thirteenth Governor of Michigan on January 2, 1861? And, which Democratic candidate had he defeated 87,906 to 67,221 the preceding November?
3. Who was the Mayor of Detroit when the race riot began on March 6, 1863? And, which Michigan regiment arrived to help quell the rioting?
4. On March 20, 1863, the Governor of Michigan signed a bill to establish what two courses at Michigan Agriculture College?
5. Which Lieutenant Colonel, commanding the 5th Michigan Infantry, was killed at Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863? And, on June 29, 1863, 23-year-old George Armstrong Custer was promoted to Brigadier General. What other two men in the Union cavalry, one from Michigan, were promoted as brigadiers on the same day?
6. Which Michigan infantry unit lost 387 of 584 men, the heaviest loss suffered by any Union regiment, at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863? And, which commander of Battery A of the Michigan Light Artillery was killed the preceding day?
7. With Union troops in Chattanooga nearly starving in October of 1863, the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics constructed a pontoon bridge over the Tennessee River which allowed food to flow into the city. What nickname was given to the pontoon bridge and which Captain engineered the construction?
8. On February 17, 1864, the 1st Michigan Colored Infantry was mustered into service in Detroit. Who was authorized by the War Department to organize this group and where was the unit sent for duty in the South?
9. Which commander of the 8th Michigan Infantry was killed at the Battle of the Wilderness? And, which colonel of the 4th Michigan Infantry was mortally wounded there dying the following day?
10. Which of the following was the official declaration of the Michigan Republican Party platform in 1864? A) "A Vote Against Lincoln Is A Disloyal Vote" B) "Down With The Confederacy By Any Means Possible" C) "The Union Must Be Upheld" D) "Unconditional Surrender Is The Only Terms To Armed Traitors" And, which Democratic candidate was defeated for Governor of Michigan in 1864?

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Some tales of Michigan soldiers.....

Two men of the 5th Michigan Infantry went out for several miles in Virginia on a foraging expedition. In their hunt they found some flour in sacks, and each appropriated one. On their way back to camp they noticed what seemed to be a storehouse adjoining a plantation. Entering the building, they found a barrel partly full of what they thought was buckwheat flour, and preferring it to the wheat flour, emptied their sacks and refilled them from the barrel. They then continued back to camp. The following morning they went to work on making pancakes, expecting to have an unusually fine breakfast. The flour was placed in a dish, and water and other ingredients supplied, when the stirring commenced; but the flour became suddenly thick and began hardening. Looking at the dish in amazement, one of the soldiers was unable to remove the contents. Then, turning it upside down, he dumped out the contents, hard as a brick. One then said to the other, "*Plaster of Paris!*" No doubt the two Michigan men ate something else that morning.



As the 24th Michigan Infantry marched toward Gettysburg, a couple of soldiers stepped out of the ranks and confiscated two geese hoping to feast that night at dinner. Not knowing where to hide the birds, a drummer boy quickly suggested that if he removed the head of his drum, the captured birds would fit in nicely. Shortly afterward Colonel Henry A. Morrow rode up and noticed that the boy was shirking his normal drum whacks. “*Why don’t you beat that drum?*” Morrow inquired. “*Colonel,*” said the startled musician sheepishly, “*I want to speak to you.*” Morrow rode closer and leaned down for a response. “*Colonel, I’ve got a couple of geese in here,*” the boy whispered. Morrow straightened up and gravely said in a loud voice, “*Well, if you’re sick, you can’t play,*” and rode on. Most likely Colonel Morrow and a few others enjoyed a fine repast of roasted geese that evening.

In January of 1863 Henry J. Raymond of the *New York Times* was accompanying the Army of the Potomac into Virginia. Henry’s brother, Francis, was serving in the 24th Michigan Infantry. One day Henry received this shocking telegram: “**Your brother’s corpse is at Belle Plains.**” Hastening to the army as fast as humanly possible, Henry found his brother not only alive but in vigorous health. It seems as though the telegrapher had misspelled the word corps to corpse.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Col. Thornton F. Brodhead of Grosse Isle. He was mortally wounded on August 30, 1862, at Second Bull Run and died on September 2. He is buried at Elmwood Cemetery.
2. Austin Blair and John S. Barry
3. William C. Duncan and the 27th Michigan Infantry
4. Military Tactics and Military Engineering
5. Edward T. Sherlock of Detroit and 25-year-old Elon Farnsworth of Green Oak, Livingston County and 29-year-old Wesley Merritt
6. 22nd Michigan Infantry and 1st Lieutenant George W. Van Pelt of Coldwater
7. The “Michigan Bridge” and Perrin V. Fox of Grand Rapids
8. Henry Barns of Detroit and Hilton Head, South Carolina
9. Colonel Frank Graves of Niles and George W. Lombard of Hillsdale
10. D) “Unconditional Surrender Is The Only Terms To Armed Traitors” and William M. Fenton of Flint

A reminder for this month’s meeting: **Julia A. Cramer** will present “*Across the Bloody Chasm: The Legacy of Lyman George Willcox*”—**MONDAY, APRIL 25**. The meeting will begin shortly after 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). Come early and enjoy the fellowship....

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