

*“Future years will never know the seething hell and the black infernal background...and it is best they should not. The real war will never get into the books.”* Thus wrote the Civil War poet and nurse Walt Whitman. Born on Long Island on March 31, 1819, Whitman lived most of his early life in Brooklyn. Becoming a journalist Whitman wrote articles for a variety of newspapers and ultimately published **Leaves of Grass**, a collection of 12 poems that was poorly received by the public. With the firing on Fort Sumter Whitman succinctly noted *“all the past we leave behind.”* After the results of First Bull Run, he cynically wrote: *“Where are the vaunts, and the proud boasts with which you went forth? Where are your banners and your bands of music, and your ropes to bring back prisoners? The sun rises, but shines not.”*

When his brother George of the 51st New York Infantry was wounded in 1862, Walt traveled to Washington D.C. to be with him. It was a trip that would change his life. Volunteering as a nursing aide in a veteran’s hospital, Whitman found himself deeply engrossed in attempting to assist the wounded soldiers. On September 8, 1863, he wrote his mother: *“I believe no men ever loved each other as I and some of these poor wounded sick and dying men love each other.”* Whitman supported himself as a part-time clerk and used much of his time and efforts in raising funds for soldiers’ relief.

During his long hours in the nation’s capital, Whitman became enamored with Abraham Lincoln, and in particular the President’s face. *“I see the president almost every day....I see very plainly [his] dark brown face with its deep-cut lines, the eyes always to me with a deep latent sadness in the expression....None of the artists or pictures has caught the deep, though subtle and indirect expression of this man’s face. There is something else there. One of the great portrait painters of two or three centuries ago is needed.”* Whitman was at home in Brooklyn when word of the assassination came. *“Mother prepared breakfast—and other meals....but not a mouthful was eaten all day by either of us. We each drank half a cup of coffee; that was all. Little was said. We got every newspaper, morning and evening....and passed them silently to each other.”* Whitman first published **O Captain! My Captain!**, a tribute to the martyred President, in the New York *Saturday Press* in 1865. Strangely, it was the only one of his poems to gain public acceptance during his lifetime. Whitman died in Camden, New Jersey on March 26, 1892, five days before his 73rd birthday.

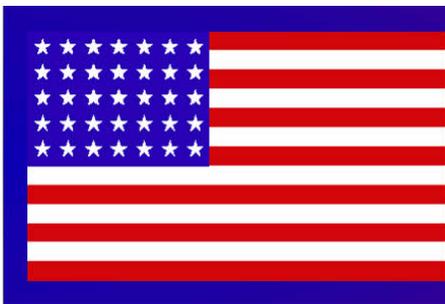
This month—**MONDAY, APRIL 27**—the Michigan Regimental proudly welcomes **Bill Grandstaff**, the founder and president of the Israel B. Richardson Civil War Round Table in Rochester, as our guest speaker. His topic, of course, will be **“Walt Whitman.”** Bill served in the illustrious 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne as a gunner in a helicopter outfit during the Vietnam War. Bill’s interest in the Civil War concerns “the average men and women,” people he calls “peripheral histories.” “We all know Whitman for his poetry,” states Grandstaff, “but that was of little interest to me. What I found interesting were his visits to the Washington hospitals to assist wounded soldiers. He would bring treats....but more importantly he brought encouragement and concern for the soldiers and their problems....It has been documented that his efforts saved the lives of many soldiers. This struck a note with me for I had done similar things in Nam in my off-duty hours. [Whitman’s] story deserves to be told.” And tell it he will. You absolutely won’t want to miss this presentation.

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The MRRT expresses its thanks to last month’s speaker, **Dave Ingall**, for his excellent program, *“Traveling Civil War Mississippi.”* Dave’s presentation contained slides and narration concerning Jefferson Davis, historic homes, generals, battlefields (particularly Vicksburg, Champion Hill, and Brice’s Cross Roads), and the lovely antebellum homes of Natchez. We thank Dave for his expertise and hope to have him back in the future.

The **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** will again be in session at 5:30 P.M. before our regular meeting.

**FALL FIELD TRIP:** Our trip to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville is planned for the weekend of Saturday/Sunday, October 17-18. Guiding us around will be the premier expert on this area, historian Frank O’Reilly. We will visit the



upper pontoon crossing of the Rappahannock, Chatham Manor, the Slaughter Pen Farm, Marye’s Heights, the Lee/Jackson bivouac site, Jackson’s Flank March and Catherine’s Furnace, Hazel Grove, and Jackson’s wounding site. Of special interest we will be given a Saturday night candle-light tour of Guiney Station where Jackson died.

Last month 45 people signed up for the trip. More seats are available on the bus, so we will pass the list around again at this month’s meeting. Also, this month the Motel Phone Number will be made available so you can begin calling in your reservations.

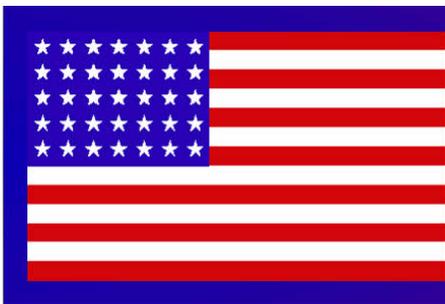
**YEARLY DUES:** Treasurer Carroll Tietz will make his return from Florida to this month’s meeting. For those of you who haven’t paid your dues (\$20), here’s your opportunity to take care of business.

**QUIZ: Writers, Artists, Composers, Photographers.....Part II**

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| 1. George Alfred Townsend | A) Editor of the pro-secessionist <i>Review</i> out of New Orleans, one of the most influential Southern periodicals of the Antebellum years.  |
| 2. Al Waud                | B) Photographer born in Ireland. Worked for Mathew Brady and then Alexander Gardner. Died of tuberculosis on 14 January 1882.  |
| 3. John Esten Cooke       | C) British journalist. Wrote for the <i>Illustrated London News</i> . Traveled with the Army of Northern Virginia. Disappeared in the Sudan in 1883 while covering a war in Egypt.                           |
| 4. Paul Philippoteaux     | D) Wrote for the New York <i>Herald</i> and New York <i>World</i> . Nicknamed “Gath” to his readers. His <i>Life, Crime, and Capture of J.W. Booth</i> sold as a 25-cent paperback and is now highly prized. |
| 5. J.D.B. DeBow           | E) Staff officer to Jeb Stuart. Wrote <i>A Life of Stonewall Jackson</i> and novels such as <i>Surrey of Eagle’s Nest</i> .  |
| 6. Frank Vizetelly        | F) Editor of the <i>Memphis Appeal</i> , the Confederacy’s most famous newspaper. Captured late in the war by James Harrison Wilson.   |
| 7. Benjamin F. Dill       | G) Most prolific Civil War combat artist. Joined <i>New York Illustrated News</i> , then <i>Harper’s Weekly</i> .  |
| 8. Edward Pollard         | H) Artist who painted the mammoth Cyclorama of the Battle of Gettysburg. Died in Paris on 2 July 1923.   |
| 9. Edwin Forbes           | I) Artist for <i>Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper</i> . Specialized in sketching daily camp life and horses.   |
| 10. Timothy O’Sullivan    | J) Editor of <i>Richmond Examiner</i> , an anti-Jeff Davis paper. Produced a 4-volume history of the war, later condensed into a single volume, <i>The Lost Cause</i> .                                      |

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Confederate artillerist R. Snowden Andrews suffered a horrible wound at Cedar Mountain. A piece of shell tore apart the wall of Andrews’ abdomen on the right side as the major straddled his horse. With enough presence of mind to press one arm over the gaping wound and clutch his horse’s neck with the other Andrews could fall to the ground without being entirely disemboweled. Everyone who saw the mangled artillerist knew that he was dying, and various surgeons pronounced the wound fatal. Two country doctors, Thomas B. and William H. Ammiss, who happened to be brothers, agreed to take on the patient. Upon examining the wound, Thomas Ammiss found Andrews “*completely disemboweled, his intestines covered with dust, hen-grass, sand and grit.*” When the two doctors concluded that Andrews was beyond their



help, Andrews angrily replied: “*I once had a hound dog that ran a mile with its guts out and caught a fox, and I know I am as good as any damned dog that ever lived, and can stand as much.*” With that bold pronouncement the doctors ordered stretcher-bearers to carry Andrews to the James Garnett house a couple of miles to the rear.

In great agony Andrews was taken to the Garnett home and there he was placed on the dining room table. It was now nearly midnight, almost seven hours since Andrews had suffered the wound. The ghastly tear in Andrews’ abdominal wall proved to be only one of two wounds once the gore was cleared away. The savage piece of shell had continued its path across the top of the major’s thigh, cutting it open near the hip. Dr. William Amiss carefully cleaned both wounds, washing the mass of dust and debris from Andrews’ intestines and abdominal cavity. Dr. Thomas Amiss then replaced the organs and sewed the wound shut with “*...cotton and a common calico needle, the only instrument available...*” Andrews himself held the wound’s edges together during the sewing.

The major’s wife, Mary Lee Andrews, was staying in Baltimore with her three children when she learned of her husband’s mortal wounding. Quickly Mary prepared to go to her husband’s side. Leaving two of her children behind, Mary took along her unweaned baby and a nurse. Arriving the next morning, Mary and her husband enjoyed a touching reunion; it was the first time Snowden had seen the seven-month-old baby. Amazingly, the inevitable peritonitis did not appear, and Snowden’s vicious wounds healed within five weeks. In a few weeks he was limping about on crutches. Eventually he wore a silver plate over the wound. By the spring of 1863 a miraculously healed Andrews returned to field duty wearing the second star of a lieutenant colonel. Within a short time another wound knocked Andrews out of service again as a bullet hit him on June 15, 1863. Recovering, he was sent to Europe on ordnance duty. Upon inspecting the results of the first wound, German surgeons reached the conclusion that the finely-powdered dust which so completely covered the wound and intestines proved an antiseptic which led to the use of dust as an antiseptic during the Franco-Prussian War.

Andrews not only survived his dreadful wound and a second wound and the rest of the war, he also survived the nineteenth century. After the war he was a leading architect in Baltimore, where he died on January 6, 1903. On a visit to Richmond Andrews came across one of the surgeons who had been pessimistic about his survival. When Andrews reminded the doctor of their earlier encounter, the surgeon refused to believe the story and lost a bottle of wine in a friendly wager. The stained and torn jacket Andrews wore in the face of the guns at Cedar Mountain is now on display at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore.

**QUIZ ANSWERS:**

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|---------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| 1. George Alfred Townsend | D | 6. Frank Vizetelly     | C |
| 2. Al Waud                | G | 7. Benjamin F. Dill    | F |
| 3. John Esten Cooke       | E | 8. Edward Pollard      | J |
| 4. Paul Philippoteaux     | H | 9. Edwin Forbes        | I |
| 5. J.D.B DeBow            | A | 10. Timothy O’Sullivan | B |

A last reminder for this month’s meeting—**MONDAY, APRIL 27**—Bill Grandstaff will present “Walt Whitman.” Make certain that you circle your calendar now. We are still at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River at Farmington Road). The meeting starts at 6:30 P.M. but you are welcome to show up early.

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