

Southern journalist Edward A. Pollard’s book **The Lost Cause**, published in 1866, first defined “*lost cause*” as the South’s failed attempt to peacefully dissolve a Federal Union it believed had been formed as a voluntary association. To the men and women of the defeated Confederacy, the War for Southern Independence assumed sacredness akin to religion. Proud and determined, the people of the South, subjected to military occupation and hated political legislation during ten years of harsh Congressional Reconstruction, refused to be conquered in spirit. The Southerners labored vigorously to keep sacrifices fresh in the hearts of its youth. Those of the war generation saw the conflict as one to preserve their civilization. They were neither willing nor able to see their defeat as anything but subjugation by Northern industrial might and superior manpower reserves.

From the pulpit, in the classroom, in literature, and at home grew the myth of an idealized past, of an “*Old South*” blessed with pastoral simplicity trampled by Northern aggressors guilty of betraying the democratic principles on which the Founding Fathers had based the Constitution. Politicians “reminded” voters unceasingly of their subjugation at the hands of invaders. Veterans became venerated as heroes, patriotic organizations were formed, magazines flourished to retell the battle stories, holidays were established to honor great leaders, and relics of the Confederacy were preserved as monuments to a just cause that fell before avarice and materialism.

At first Northerners angrily interpreted the South’s refusal to submit meekly as an arrogant lack of repentance to which the conquerors felt entitled. For Southerners, belief in the Lost Cause gave meaning to their sacrifices, infusing them with the self-righteousness of a superior race struggling to survive under the yoke of an oppressor, albeit a generous one. The Lost Cause mentality proved to be the psychological salvation for a South dominated by former Confederates and “*unreconstructed*” Rebels. It endured well into the 20th Century and beyond.

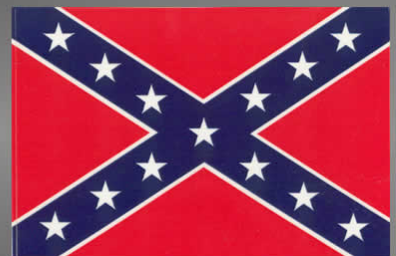
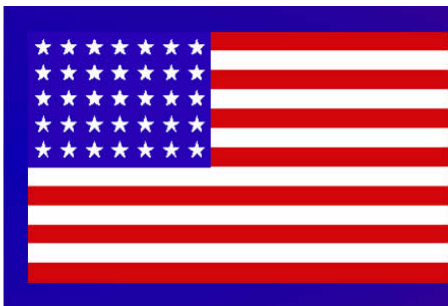
This month, our speaker will be **Dr. Michael Stevens** from Grand Rapids. His topic, “*Literature of the Lost Cause*,” traces the changing perception of the Confederate cause in Southern Literature before, during, and after the Civil War. Authors, such as, Sidney Lanier, William Faulkner, and Forrest Carter will be cited in this investigation into Southern self-understanding. Generous amounts of excerpting will give you all a flavor for the Lost Cause genre. Dr. Stevens is an Associate Professor of English at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. He teaches Freshman Rhetoric, Foundations of Inquiry, Introduction to Literature, Creative Writing, American Literature, Sports in Literature, Russian Literature, Religious Communities and Culture. Michael’s great-great-grandfather, George J. Matson of the 15th New York Cavalry, is buried right in the family plot a few miles from where Mike grew up.

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Michael has received rave reviews from other Round Tables for his “animated and entertaining” programs. You’ll want to join us for his presentation on **MONDAY, JULY 28**.

The MRRT wishes to thank last month’s speaker, **Jerry Maxwell**, for his program, “*‘Blood-Stained to the Elbows’: Civil War Medicine and Surgery*.” A lively crowd attended, and pleasantly no one became ill from the presentation.

FALL FIELD TRIP: Nine folks (out of 35 who’ve signed up) still owe a bus deposit of \$90 for our sojourn to Vicksburg on October 11-12. PLEASE have your check, made out to Jerry Maxwell, available at this month’s meeting. Included in this month’s mailing is a Lunch/Dinner menu with the various costs listed. Simply check off which meals you are taking and have another check for Jerry with the necessary amount. Room on the bus is still available, so if you are interested, simply call Jerry at 248-363-1710 for your reservation.



50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE: For our convenience the first official gathering will take place in the same room as our MRRT meeting on July 28 prior to the regular meeting. The starting time will be 5:00 P.M. The committee currently consists of: Ken Baumann, Jim Burroughs, Ron Cleveland, Bee Friedlander, Mollie Galate, Cathy Hasse, Jerry Maxwell, John Moore, and Bill Seger. Be on time and we'll conduct some important business.

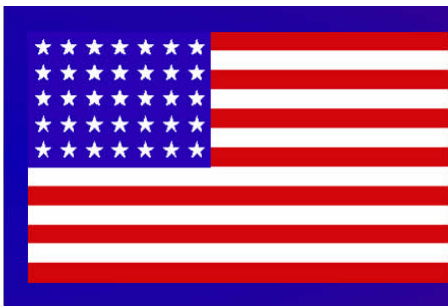
QUIZ: Writers, Artists, Composers, Photographers.....

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| <p>_____ 1. Henry Timrod</p> <p>_____ 2. Winslow Homer</p> <p>_____ 3. George N. Barnard</p> <p>_____ 4. Ambrose Bierce</p> <p>_____ 5. Conrad Wise Chapman</p> <p>_____ 6. George Smith Cook</p> <p>_____ 7. Daniel Decatur Emmett</p> <p>_____ 8. Alexander Gardner</p> <p>_____ 9. Horace Greeley</p> <p>_____ 10. Hinton R. Helper</p> <p>_____ 11. Joseph Howard, Jr.</p> <p>_____ 12. George F. Root</p> | <p>A) Born in Scotland. Took first “dead body photographs” at Antietam. Took more photos of Lincoln (30) than anyone else. Published a <i>Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War</i> in 1865.</p> <p>B) Wrote 28 wartime songs, including “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching,” “Just Before the Battle Mother,” and “Battle Cry of Freedom.”</p> <p>C) Took breath-taking photographs of Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga. In 1866 he produced <i>Photographic Views of Sherman’s Campaign</i>, a \$100 book of 61 photos.</p> <p>D) Wrote the controversial book, <i>Impending Crisis of the South</i> (1857). Chosen by Lincoln as consul to Buenos Aires. Committed suicide in 1909.</p> <p>E) Artist from <i>Harper’s Weekly</i>. Painted battle and camp scenes as well as Maine seascapes and woodland scenes from the Adirondacks.</p> <p>F) Founded the N.Y. <i>Tribune</i> in 1841. Nominated by the Democrats (1872) for President. He lost the election, his wife, his mind, and his life in a month.</p> <p>G) Circus and minstrel show performer who wrote “Dixie,” copyrighted in 1860. Also wrote “Mac Will Win the Union Back.”</p> <p>H) Joined the 9th Indiana Volunteers. Wounded at Kennesaw Mountain. Wrote <i>The Devil’s Dictionary</i> and “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge.” In 1913 he mysteriously disappeared covering Pancho Villa’s revolution in Mexico.</p> <p>I) South Carolinian called the “poet laureate of the Confederacy.” Wrote “The Cotton Boll” and “Ethnogenesis.” Died of tuberculosis.</p> <p>J) Called “the Photographer of the Confederacy.” Before the war managed Mathew Brady’s N.Y. studio. Photographed Fort Sumter and its officers.</p> <p>K) New York <i>Times</i> journalist who wrote the fraudulent story of president-elect Lincoln passing through Baltimore “in a Scotch cap and military cloak.”</p> <p>L) Nicknamed “Old Rome,” he painted camp life scenes. His 31 paintings represent the finest work produced by a Confederate artist during the war.</p> |
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About 400 women on the Union side fought as soldiers, having passed the cursory physical examinations administered by tired and harried physicians. An unknown number of Southern women, disguised as men, did the same. Females fought from the beginning of the war to the final surrender. They served in both the Eastern and Western Theaters. They were wounded, maimed, and killed in action, and just like men with whom they served, they inflicted their share of pain and death. The following tales render some of the accounts that show this was not strictly a “man’s war.”

After the First Battle of Bull Run, a Confederate soldier from Georgia wrote home to his wife that “there were a great many fanatic women in the Yankee Army—some of whom were killed. I was pointed to one of their graves. I knew that I could not be mistaken as to the spot for her foot was sticking out of the ground.” Numerous other women fought at this



opening battle including Louisa Hoffman with the 1st Ohio Infantry and a woman known as Charlie, described as large, course featured, and stubborn, as well as Sarah Emma Edmonds, alias Pvt. Franklin Thompson, who served with the 2nd Michigan Infantry. At least one Loreta Janeta Velazquez, alias Lt. Harry T. Buford, fought with the Confederacy. Five women are known to have fought at Gettysburg, two Union and three Confederate, two of whom were casualties of Pickett's Charge. One of them was severely wounded, unable to move herself from the pasture. That evening, a Union private from New Jersey, who was detailed to guard Emmitsburg Road, listened to her screams of agony. He later wrote that it was the "most awful sound" he had ever heard. The other woman was killed in the charge, her body later found by a Union burial detail. At Vicksburg, Jennie Hodges, alias Pvt. Albert D.J. Cashier of the 95th Illinois Infantry was captured at a Confederate outpost during a reconnaissance around the city but managed to escape by seizing a gun from one of her guards, knocking him down, and outrunning the others. After the war Jennie stated that no one ever saw her naked. Others remembered that she had a bunk mate, even though she did not particularly want one. Years after the war Jennie spent time in a mental institution before dying on October 10, 1915. Some questioned Jennie's sanity from the beginning. One of her comrades from her army days, Eli Brainerd, disagreed, "*His mind seemed to be alright but his actions seemed to be a little funny. I suppose that was because he was a woman.*"

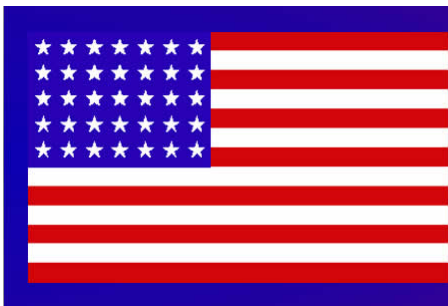
For many of those who did pass the physical, death was the inevitable result. Pvt. Mark Nickerson of the 10th Massachusetts Infantry recalled finding a Southern woman killed during the Battle of Antietam:

A Sergeant in charge of a burying party from our regiment reported to his Captain that there was a dead Confederate up in the cornfield whom he had reason to believe was a woman. He wanted to know if she should be kept separate, or brought along with the others. The Captain....ordered that she be buried by herself. The news soon spread among the soldiers that there was a woman among the Confederate dead, and many of them went and gazed upon the upturned face, and tears glistened in many eyes as they turned away. She was wrapped in a soldier's blanket and buried by herself and a head board made from a cracker box was set up at her grave marked "unknown Woman CSA." Nothing in my experience up to that time affected me as did that incident. I wanted to know her history and why she was there. She must have been killed just as the Southerners were being driven back from the cornfield.

A woman soldier identified only as Emily served with a Michigan regiment and was shot in the side at the Battle of Lookout Mountain. She was carried to the surgeon's tent, and her sex was discovered when the wound was examined. The surgeon told her that nothing could be done to save her. Emily's colonel happened to be in the same tent, and he convinced her to tell who she was, so her parents could be notified of her death. Accordingly, Emily dictated a note to her father: "*Forgive your dying daughter. I have but a few moments to live. My native soil drinks my blood. I expected to deliver my country, but the Fates would not have it so. I am content to die. Pray, pa, forgive me. Tell ma to kiss my daguerreotype.*" Emily was buried near the battlefield.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

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| 1. Henry Timrod I | 7. Daniel Decatur Emmett G |
| 2. Winslow Homer E | 8. Alexander Gardner A |
| 3. George N. Barnard C | 9. Horace Greeley F |
| 4. Ambrose Bierce H | 10. Hinton R. Helper D |
| 5. Conrad Wise Chapman L | 11. Joseph Howard, Jr. K |
| 6. George Smith Cook J | 12. George F. Root B |



A last reminder for this month's meeting: **MONDAY, JULY 28** for **Dr. Michael Stevens'** presentation "*Literature of the Lost Cause.*" The meeting starts at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). See you there.....Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrirt/>.