

Meditator searches battlefield for clues to past Lives

By DIANE ABRAMS

Many believe history repeats itself. Michael Gramlich of Birmingham says he has re-lived part of the Civil War.

It all began with a book so vivid to him that it prompted a journey to a nationally preserved battleground. It was there that Fletcher Pratt's "A Short History of the Civil War" came to life for Gramlich through intense meditation.

"I read that book from cover to cover as if my life somehow depended on it," said Gramlich. "Certain events of the war seemed to draw me to read them over and over again."

The part of the book that he became most interested in was the battle of Chickamauga. The battlefield is a nationally preserved site on the border of Georgia and Tennessee. There were 43,000 casualties there during the civil war.

Obtaining permission from Chickamauga Park Authorities to spend the night on the battlefield, Gramlich and his 14-year-old son Brian, also a meditator, set out last month to see what would be revealed.

"Gramlich has been researching and practicing various meditational techniques since 1957 — even before it became popular. He lectures and teaches at the Alpha Omega Center, Oakland Community College and Macomb Community College."

"THERE ARE MANY WAYS of meditation," he said. "One that is certain familiarity simply by reading certain parts of history. I attribute this to the fact that they've been there before in another lifetime."

Convinced that Chickamauga was a part of a past life, Gramlich was obsessed with finding out as much as he

could about the battle that took place 115 years ago.

With \$15 between them, he and his son made their first stop St. Mary's Living Love Center in Kentucky. From there they went to Knoxville and then on to Chattanooga to visit a friend who is minister of the Unity Church there.

Gramlich, ordained in the New Esoteric World Church, Universal Life Church and Mother Earth Church, is currently planning to start his own church.

"We did a healing workshop in Chattanooga to help others reduce tension and relieve ailments through a therapeutic touch. Anybody is capable of doing this," he said. "Once someone learns it, they usually feel very good, like they've discovered another area of competence."

FOLLOWING THEIR EXPERIENCES in Chattanooga, the two drove seven miles to the place that had captivated Gramlich for so long. The rangers at Chickamauga had arranged to have the area blocked off.

With a scene already clear in his mind, Gramlich took his son to Reed's Bridge, a place he believes he was directly involved in during the Civil War. As it turned out, the place he picked out was directly under a highway bridge.

"It would have been impossible for me to have been there," said Gramlich. "But a family in the area told us the bridge had originally been 100 feet up stream, so we could have been sharpshooting from where I thought it was."

Gramlich says the picture in his mind was matched by the reality before him. He meditated throughout the day and into the night and visited the different battlefields in the area.

"I saw myself on a bank, and a Confederate soldier was swimming across



Michael Gramlich saw a vision of himself fighting in the Civil War. (Staff photo)

the stream to attack me," said Gramlich. "I shot first and killed the soldier, who turned out to be a 15-year-old kid. I discovered that the boy was my 9-year-old son, Scott, in this lifetime."

This was the first of a number of meditational experiences Gramlich was to have on his visit in Chickamauga. Previously, he had arranged to have people from Detroit, Birmingham and Chattanooga meditate with him from where ever they were when he spent his first night on the battlefield.

"At 9 p.m. that night, all the people who were meditating sent energy to me," said Gramlich. "I felt as though I could see the different people in my mind. There was a sense of peace and

timelessness, even spacelessness."

Gramlich said he heard part of an old hymn that his minister friend had sung that morning in Chattanooga. The line, "I'll fly away," kept running through his head.

At this point, he said he had a sudden shift of perspective. When he looked down at the battlefield, it was filled with light.

"I THINK I WAS HEALED at this field," he said. "And all the people who were meditating with me in different states had a combination healing."

Feeling good about his meditational experience, he fell into a deep sleep. However, it didn't last long. At 1 a.m. he was awakened by intense pain in his right leg and thigh.

"I couldn't breathe and had an immense cold," he said. "I scarred the daylight out of my son and myself. I somehow made it to my car and turned on the heater. My son covered me with a sleeping bag."

Once he was in better control, Gramlich and his son went for a ride to different battle sites. His leg still hurt badly.

"I think I was probably shot at Chickamauga in a previous life, at the same place we were camping," said Gramlich. "What's more is I think it was my oldest son, Brian, who shot me."

Gramlich believes he has lived at least 1,000 lives before this one. This is a minimum, he said, adding that everyone has lived at least as many.

"The earth has been here at least one million years, so if you come back just once a year, that would average out to 1,000 lives," he said.

He attributes familiar feelings of places and people to experiences of other lifetimes.

"Our lives are tangled in this way,"

'I saw myself on a bank and a Confederate soldier was swimming across the stream to attack me. I shot first and killed the soldier, who turned out to be a 15-year-old kid. I discovered that the boy was my nine-year-old son, Scott, in this lifetime.'

— Michael Gramlich

said Gramlich. "Friends, relatives and even enemies are all bound together as part of a learning group."

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE is the purpose of life, according to Gramlich.

"I believe in a cosmic God that includes you and me and everything that exists — past, present and future," he continued. "There is nothing that is not God."

After driving around for a while, Gramlich and his son returned to Reed's Bridge. He stood in meditation at the stream of the River of Death on the Confederate side.

Chickamauga means, "river of death" in Cherokee. It got its name because many of the original settlers who bathed in the river had small pox. The Cherokee Indians, too, used the river for bathing and would often pick up small pox from the settlers.

Standing at the River of Death, Gramlich had the impression of tremendous turmoil, fear and anger. He was deep in meditation.

"I saw a horse with his front hoofs darting into the air. He was going up because the rider had been shot in the heart," he said. "It was my bullet that killed him."

BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS in this life, Gramlich said he seems to have received it. He plans, however, to go back to that site, either to do more work or to find out through more meditation who the soldier was.

"I went back to the campsite and watched the moon rise over the tall Georgia pines," said Gramlich. "The next morning I felt peace and beauty."

Before leaving Chickamauga, Gramlich and his son went into the superintendent's office. They spent 45 minutes talking with the man who made their stay possible.

They then returned to Chattanooga and the Unity Church to share their experiences.

"PART OF MY MISSION NOW is to have people intentionally meditate in groups, and, as a group, help heal the world," he said. "If there are enough people doing it, there won't be a problem. The world is close to a turn-over now."

Gramlich foresees a return to the Garden of Eden, only this time with knowledge.

"There is a lot negativity in the world. If people put their efforts into this universal healing, it may not solve the world's problems, but it would certainly make it more bearable," he said.

Local students finish Hillsdale

Kimberly Orr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Orr, 20935, Westfarm Lane, Northville, and graduate of Farmington High School, graduated from Hillsdale College during commencement ceremonies May 19. Orr earned her BA in early childhood education with an elementary teaching certificate.

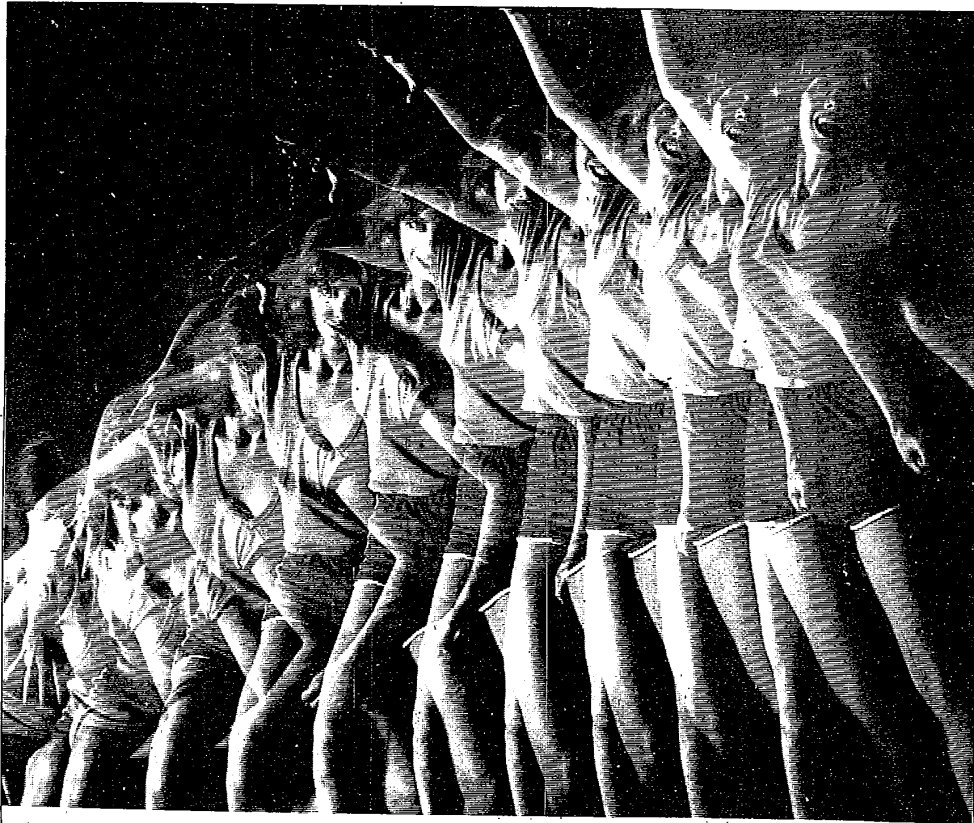
Michael G. Roehrig, son of Mrs. Elaine Roehrig, 32172 Loomis, Farmington, a graduate of North Farmington High School, received his BA in economics and business administration, with paralegal certification.

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