

Issue 12: April 2021

2020-2021 BOARD

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First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

MINNESOTA CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

Saturday April 3, 2021, 1 PM

Please join us this Saturday afternoon for a Zoom hosted mini-symposium featuring three of our 2020 Symposium speakers plus more.

The event is FREE for members of the several Minnesota Civil War Round Tables. It begins promptly at 1 PM this Saturday April 3, 2021. The sign-on link is at the bottom of this message. You can participate on your computer or listen in on your phone.

Between the three speaker presentations we will learn about the new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum outside Camp Ripley and their planned new exhibits, including an enhanced Civil War gallery.

We will also do our usual introduction from each Minnesota Round Table. Please be sure your organization has one spokesperson to briefly tell us how you have been coping with the past year and your plans for the future.

Stephen Osman, moderator

Schedule

- 1:00 Introduction
- 1:10 *Minnesota's Lesser-Known Generals*, Brian Pease
- 1:50 The New Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum Project
- 2:00 *Legislating for the Soldier Vote*, Rebecca Rubinstein
- 2:40 Greetings from Minnesota's Civil War Round Tables
- 3:00 *Technology and the Civil War*, Arn Kind
- 3:40 Final Remarks and Preview of 2022

***ZOOM INFORMATION WAS EMAILED MARCH 29, 2021**

**FOR THOSE WITHOUT COMPUTER ACCESS,
YOU MAY DIAL IN ON YOUR PHONE BY CALLING: (312) 626-6799**

2020-2021 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

May 18, 2021 – John Haymond:

“The Infamous Dakota War Trials of 1862: Revenge, Military Law, and the Judgment of History.”

Great News: John Haymond will be live and in person at our May meeting at the Bloomington Event Center.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – APRIL

6 th -7 th	1862 – Battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing), Tennessee
8 th	1862 – Island No. 10 near New Madrid, MO falls to Union forces.
9 th	1865 – Gen Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant At Appomattox Court House, Virginia
10 th -11 th	1862 Battle of Fort Pulaski, Georgia
12 th	1861 Confederate forces bombard Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor initiating the Civil War
14 th	1865 John Wilkes Booth shoots President Lincoln at Ford’s Theater in Washington D.C.
15 th	1865 President Lincoln dies at age 56, becoming the first President to be assassinated
19 th	1861 President Lincoln declares a blockade of Southern ports
30 th	1863 Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia begins

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – APRIL

1 st	1823 – Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner C.S.
10 th	1806 – Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk C.S.
10 th	1827 – Gen. Lewis Wallace C.S.
22 nd	1831 – Major Gen. Alexander McDowell McCook U.S.
27 th	1822 – General of the Army, Ulysses S. Grant U.S.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT BOB SVACINA:

Hello members. We are planning a live meeting again at the Knights of Columbus in May. In an undocumented survey of the board members, we all have had or are scheduled to have both vaccines. It is time to be normal again. At the May meeting we will have our annual meeting and a live speaker. We will observe whatever assembly requirements are in place in that time.

There will be another announcement by Carol about a historical book event at the May meeting – watch your emails.

The board has been defining the board positions and committees that will keep the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table going. The committees and chairs are:

Technical Committee – Bob Svacina

Membership Committee – Carol VanOrnum

Marketing Committee (to outside community) - Ken Flies

Programs Development Committee – Brett Johnson

Advisory Council – Darryl Sannes

If you have a way with computers, a way with words, a way with people or unique ideas we would love to hear from you and we are looking for help in the committees. For more details see below.

Twin Cities Civil War Round Table Board of Directors Proposed Positions and Committees

Reasoning

In most organizations there is a BOD composed of officers and directors. Officers are those appointed, hired or elected to execute the bylaws of the organization and directives of the BOD. Directors may or may not be officers; in our case officers are also directors.

Since it is the officers' responsibility to execute the directives and bylaws, we propose that the officers be encouraged to chair the committees that execute the bylaws, work and directives of the organization. This seems to be a key element to the sustainability and growth of many successful round tables. We would propose this be written into the descriptions of officer/director responsibilities.

We think these committees and responsibilities are essential to the survival and growth and will set a good precedent for the future. We think this could also encourage members to participate in the execution of committee tasks.

At present we have the designated four officers chairing committees:

Bob Svacina – President – Technology

Brett Johnson – Vice President – Programs

Carol VanOrnum – Sec/Treasurer – Membership

Ken Flies – Past President – Marketing

Also, Darryl Sannes would chair the Advisory Committee.

All other directors on the BOD would be obligated to serve on one or more committees.

OFFICERS

President

Act in accordance with the By-Laws of the TCCWRT

Preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board
Arrange for transportation of speakers from and to the hotel (if applicable)
Act as host to the speaker at the meetings
Perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board
Shall accept and appoint committee appointments as approved by the Board.
Appoints special committees as recommended and approved by Board.

Vice President

Act in accordance with the By-Laws of the TCCWRT
In absence of president, VP shall exercise the powers and duties of the president
Review and sign off on annual treasurer's report
Chair of Program Development Committee

Secretary/Treasurer

Act in accordance with the By-Laws of the TCCWRT
Maintain accurate and complete records of meetings of members and Board.
Distribute meeting notices and other information
Maintain accurate and complete financial records.
Events coordinator duties
Perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.
Past President
Inform and assist president in execution of duties as requested.
Assist President in development and execution of committee roles.
Work with Committee chairs at the direction of the President.
Directors at Large
Act in accordance with the By-Laws of the TCCWRT
Perform duties as may be designated by the Board.
Serve as members of the Advisory Council
Therefore, we propose the following committees, their descriptions, and their Chairs.

COMMITTEES

Technical Committee – Chair: Bob Svacina

Member(s): Brett Johnson, Darryl Sannes
Record zoom meetings for distribution all meetings
Maintain YouTube channel
Update website as requested by Board
Meeting logistics, i.e., presenter resources

Membership Committee – Chair: Carol VanOrnum

Member(s): Nancy Johnson, Bruce Cooper, Bob Svacina, Lana Blumhoefer
Develop ideas and programs to increase membership and attendance at meetings
Create monthly newsletter for distribution to members (Bruce)
Maintain and update private group page on Facebook (Bruce)
Greet new members at meetings; give orientation information
Coordinate membership outreach for Board to contact members for check-in (Nancy)
Send condolence notes and other communications (Nancy)
Coordinate book raffle (Carol)

Marketing Committee – to outside community – Chair: Ken Flies

Member(s): Nancy Johnson, Stephen Osman

Maintain and update Facebook page (Nancy)
Communicate with news media, schools, outside round tables, history societies, etc.
Advertise events/symposium
Develop outreach programs to increase membership and meeting attendance

Merchandise:

- Find merchandise source for TCCWRT apparel
- Develop merchandise list and plan for sale of merchandise
- Be in charge of selling, accepting payment, and distribution of merchandise.
- Work with Technical Committee to get on website

Programs Development Committee – Chair: Brett Johnson

Member(s): Darryl Sannes, Stephen Osman

Speaker development

Symposium coordination

Research and recommendation of endowments

Development of trips or other special events

Speaker share with other round tables

Advisory Council – Chair: Darryl Sannes

Reports to the President

Operates as advisors on matters important to the Board

Attends board meetings if appropriate

Recruits additional council member

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP!

Are you on Facebook? If so, please consider joining our Civil War Round Table - Twin Cities Group. On our Group page you will find posts shared from some of the best Civil War history organizations in the county including the American Battlefield Trust, Civil War Chronicles and Emerging Civil War. As a group member you can post and share any Civil War related items (photos, stories, questions) you wish. If you are already on Facebook, make sure you the search for our group and ask to be a member.

STEVEN SCHIER'S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

What benefits did the second Minnesota regiment get for reenlisting in December 1863?

(See the last page for the answer)

From the Dusty Collection #10 *Some Shiloh Relics*

Having just finished Timothy Smith's excellent book, [Shiloh: Conquer or Perish](#), I remembered a few Shiloh artifacts long in the collection. Then friend and TCCWRT member Steve Schier suggested I should write something on Minnesota's First Battery's remarkable service at that 1862 battle. So at his prompt, the Shiloh relics get pushed to the top of the future article list.

Growing up in central Illinois and volunteering at the local county museum, I was impressed with the importance of Shiloh to those Illinois boys of the 1860s. The horrific battle was a two-day stand-up slug fest between tough, second generation pioneer farm boys from the Midwest and down the Mississippi Valley. In April 1862 it was the biggest and the bloodiest battle in American history to that time. And today its carefully preserved rural and heavily wooded battlefield remains very much as it looked 160 years ago.

And yes, Minnesota had a major role in the battle, helping to anchor the left of Gen. Benjamin

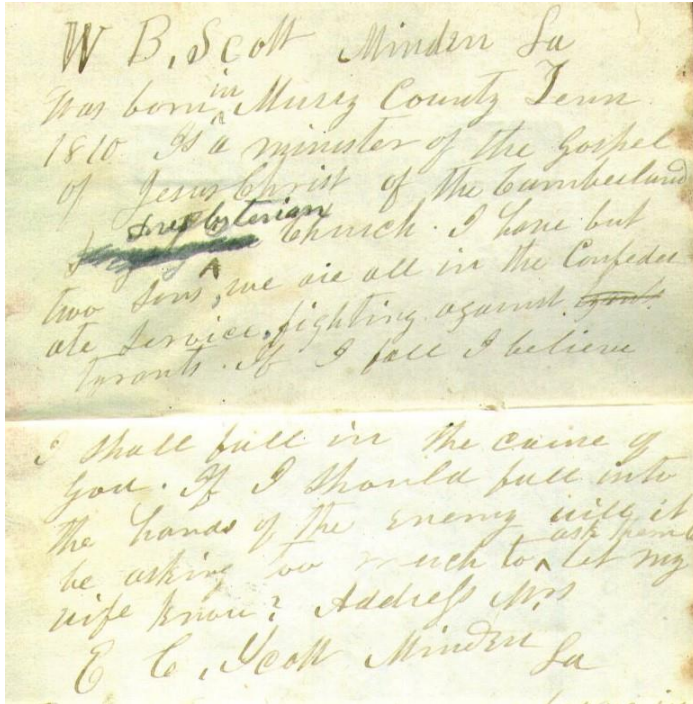


Prentiss' line at the Hornet's Nest before narrowly escaping to be part of Gen. U. S. Grant's final defensive line near Pittsburg Landing. Part of the Battery's armament was rifled bronze guns, unusual considering that iron shells would be fired through softer bronze tubes. One of the somewhat undersized wooden carriage trails had broken so the disabled piece was abandoned back some distance from the battle line. The Minnesota battery was firing James patent shells with percussion fuses, and the lead sabot (surrounding the shell in order to engage the rifling) had slipped and jammed as the shell was being rammed down the barrel. The crew

could not pull the shell out, but also could not hammer it down the barrel for fear of that sensitive percussion fuse. Yet another of the battery's cannons was now disabled and just when needed most!

Minnesota pluck and ingenuity kicked in as the crew took the jammed piece back to the other disabled cannon, then using the drill manual went through the choreographed steps to trade the 800-plus pound brass barrels between the two pieces. All this was done under rifle fire from the approaching Confederate army. Back to the line they went and continued to fight until ordered to withdraw. Today that site is marked by an impressive granite monument with bronze figures of heroic Minnesota gunners. It was a memorable stop on our 2019 bus tour of the battlefield.

The broken and later repaired cannon carriage had a personal connection to my own direct ancestor. In October 1862, as the First Battery fought back from their outpost at Chewalla Tennessee toward Corinth Mississippi with the Confederate Army in hot pursuit, it was closely supported by Ford's Independent Illinois Cavalry. At the little bridge over Indian Creek just outside the Federal earthworks, the cannon's trail broke yet again. The cavalymen, probably including my ancestor, helped to roll the tube into the steep banked creek so the rebels could not get it.



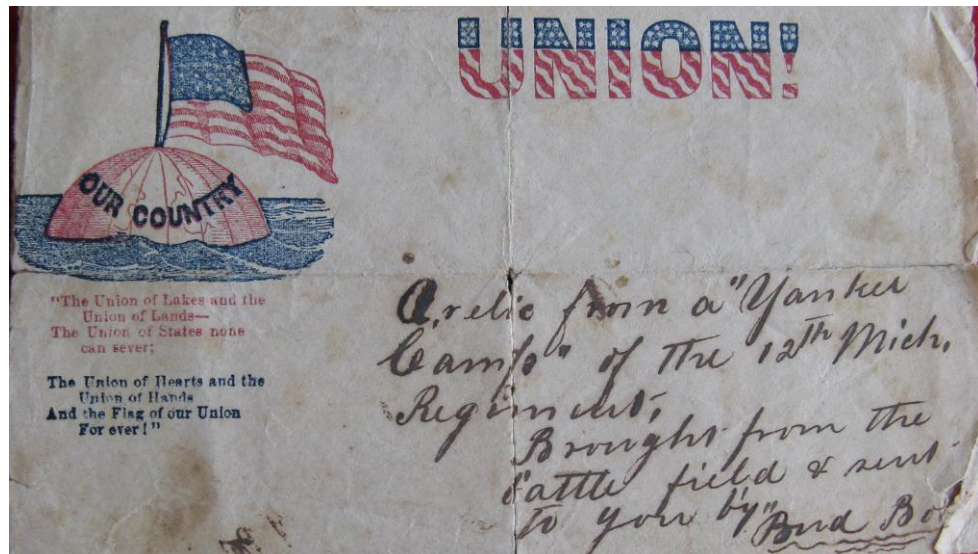
A Captured Envelope

While a freshman at St. Olaf the mail brought me a split open cardboard box with old papers sticking out. My college professor aunt in Houston had spotted her elderly neighbor tending a backyard bonfire. Curious, she soon discovered Civil War letters being burned, gathered up what she could, and sent them all up to me. I skipped class for two days just to read through and catalog the documents! The papers had originated from two intermarried Confederate families: a captain in Wade's Battery, Mississippi Light Artillery, and a captain and his two sons in the 19th Louisiana Infantry. Minister Winfrey B. Scott,

commanding the Claiborne Grays, was then 52. He was later killed in 1864 at New Hope Church Georgia. A heartfelt entry in his journal summed up his sentiments:

W. B. Scott, Minden La. was born in Mury County Tenn 1810. Is a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ of the Cumberland, Presbyterian Church. I have but two sons, we are all in the Confederate Service fighting against tyrants. If I fall I believe I shall fall in the cause of god.....

The 19th Louisiana was at Shiloh and

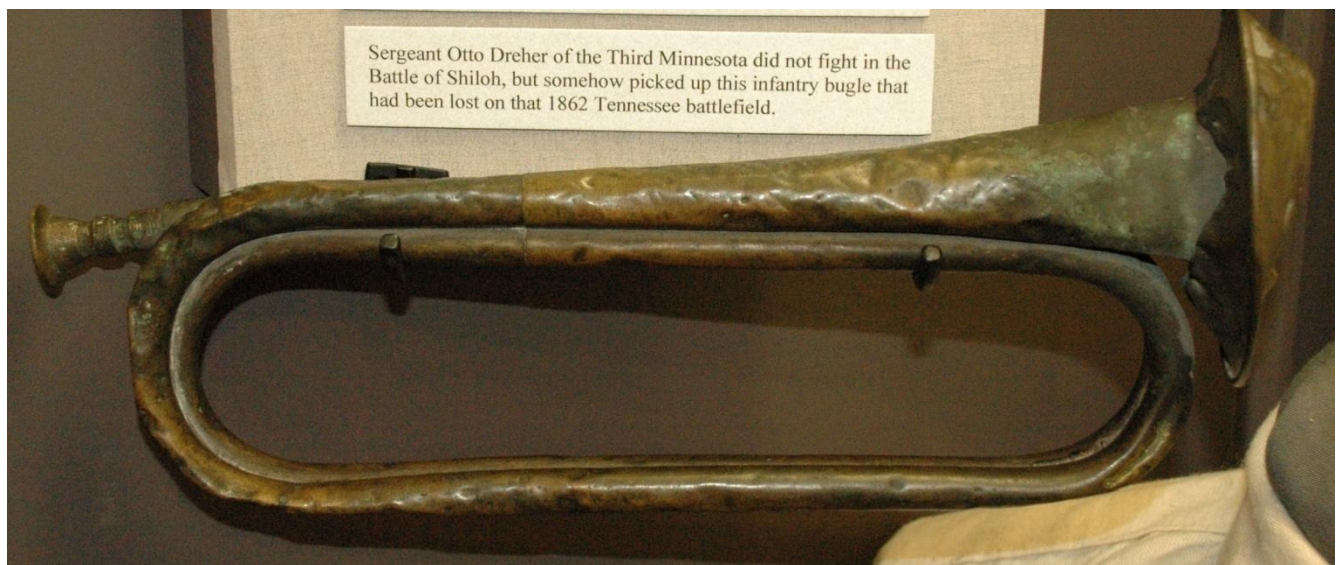


there one of the Scott boys picked up a patriotic envelope as they overran the camp of the 12th Michigan Infantry on Sunday morning April 6. The 12th Michigan was part of Col. Everett Peabody's Brigade of Brig. Gen. Benjamin Prentiss' Sixth Division of U.S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee. They were camped the farthest south of the army along the East Corinth Road. Peabody had wisely sent out patrols at 3 AM which soon discovered the approaching Confederates. He threw his brigade into line while Grant's army was slowly discovering that they really were under major attack. Peabody's men were hit hard, overwhelmed and pushed back through their camps, eventually being trapped and captured hours later along with much of Prentiss' Division.

The 19th Louisiana, meanwhile, was part of Gen. Braxton Bragg's Second Corps, then the second line of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston's attacking Confederates. Marching forward through the Union camps, rebel soldiers took the time to rummage through tents and knapsacks, gather up plunder, and even consume breakfasts abandoned during the dawn attack. Fortunately, our soldier took the time to write a note on the front of the envelope before he sent it home. This allows us to put that little envelope in a specific place at specific time that April morning in 1862.

An Infantry Bugle

The Civil War uniforms and souvenirs of a Third Minnesota officer ended up stored in a St. Paul garage where a friend discovered this bugle and passed it on to us. A card tucked inside the bell says that it was found on the battlefield of Shiloh. That battlefield was littered with thousands of pieces of equipment as the Union army was pushed north out of their camps the first day, and then pushed Confederates back through the camps the next day. While we will never know which unit the bugle belonged to, we can say with certainty that it last played reveille at dawn on April 6, 1862.



T. Lyle Dickey's Frock Coat



Both of my parents were from Ottawa Illinois and ancestors on both sides of the family served in local Civil War units. Colonel T. Lyle Dickey, a well-known Ottawa lawyer and later judge, went to war with his sons in the 4th Illinois Cavalry. At Shiloh he commanded most of Grant's mounted forces, though they saw little combat. Dickey's daughter Anne had married his middle-aged law partner, William H. Wallace. Both men had served together in Mexico with the 4th Illinois Infantry back in 1846. The talented and charismatic Wallace initially commanded the 11th Illinois Infantry,



then its brigade, then finally Grant's Second Division of the Army of the Tennessee.

Mrs. Wallace had traveled with determination and a certain amount of bluff to Pittsburg Landing for a surprise visit to her husband, father and brothers, but she arrived in the midst of the battle. There, General Wallace was shot from his horse, mortally wounded as Prentiss' line collapsed. He was discovered still alive the next day and moved to a makeshift hospital boat where his wife found him. The couple shared the general's last hours at the Cherry Mansion, in nearby Savannah Tennessee.

Colonel T. Lyle Dickey's double breasted cavalry field officer frock coat was once owned by an old time Ottawa collector and came to me many decades ago. It is completely hand sewn, probably by a local Ottawa tailor, and was the one he wore at Shiloh and in his photograph with a younger daughter, Belle. Colonel Dickey later served on the Illinois Supreme Court and died in 1885 at his mansion, The Oaks, still standing in Ottawa.

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

\$400, a 30-day furlough and designation as a "veteran volunteer" regiment.

CONTACT US:

Twin Cities Civil War Round Table

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<https://tccwrt.com/>

**Can you contribute to a future newsletter? Writers are wanted to submit Civil War related articles to this newsletter.
Please submit your drafts to Bruce Cooper: earlofbuce@hotmail.com**