



NEWS

Issue 17: September 2021

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MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH SALLY RUBINSTEIN



Sally Rubinstein has been a member of the TCCWRT for about 20 years, served as President from 2007 to 2009, and has been facilitating the book raffle before each meeting for the last 12 years. She's a lifelong history student and earned a Master of Arts in history from the University of

Nebraska at Omaha and was a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Minnesota. She was working as an editor at the Minnesota Historical Society Press when in 1999 the director asked her what topics the Press had not yet covered. She knew that they had not published anything about the American Civil War. She got the assignment, and her interest in the Civil War grew from there, leading to the publication of a dozen books by the Press.

She passed on her interest to her husband, Mitch, and their daughter, Rebecca, who researched and spoke on the soldier vote at the April 2021 symposium. Rebecca's research was subsequently published in *Minnesota History* magazine. Sally's ancestral connection to the War is her great-great-grandfather W. C. A. Bain from Indiana who served as a doctor in the Civil War. She also notes that her house in St. Paul was built in 1884 by Judson Wade Bishop, the Colonel of the Second Minnesota Regiment.

What Sally finds most interesting is the astonishing role Minnesota played in the War. As one of the newest states in the Union with a small population, it still sent about 25,000 men to fight for the North, playing significant roles in the



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

major battles of Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Nashville. She's proud that in every battle Minnesota soldiers fought in, they helped hold the line. She also feels it noteworthy that Minnesotans were the first to enlist, and Minnesota also had the last surviving Union veteran – Albert Woolson, who died in Duluth in 1956.

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

What Minnesota regiment formed late in the war had all volunteers and no draftees?

(See the last page for the answer)

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING – 9/21/2021

“Milliken’s Bend: Fighting for Freedom on the Mississippi”

– Linda Barnickel

Early on the morning of June 7, 1863, a brigade of Texans under Gen. Henry McCulloch assaulted a Union outpost at Milliken’s Bend, Louisiana, just a few miles upstream from Vicksburg, Mississippi. Defending the post was a brigade of newly-emancipated slaves who had joined the Union army, many of them with less than a month of freedom, and even less training. The onslaught they faced would result in some of the greatest losses, proportionally, during the entire war – by some measures even exceeding that of the notably famous 1st Minnesota at Gettysburg. And yet few have heard of Milliken’s Bend. What happened there, why has it been so forgotten, and why is it worth remembering?

Linda Barnickel is an archivist and freelance writer, with master’s degrees from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and The Ohio State University. She is the author of *Milliken’s Bend: A Civil War Battle in History and Memory* (LSU Press, 2013) which received the Jules and Frances Landry Award from LSU Press for “outstanding contribution to Southern studies,” and the A.M. Pate Jr. Award from the Fort Worth Civil War Round Table for “outstanding original research” on the Trans-Mississippi. In addition, her articles have appeared in *North and South Magazine*; *Civil War News*; *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*; and elsewhere, and she compiled the records of Battery G, 2nd Illinois Light Artillery in the book: *We Enlisted as Patriots* (Heritage Books, 1998). Learn more about her work at: lindabarnickel.com or millikensbend.com.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – SEPTEMBER

2nd 1862 – Major General George B. McClellan restored as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

3rd 1861 – Confederate troops invade Kentucky. Ending the state’s neutral status.

4 th	1864 – Confederate Cavalry General John Hunt Morgan killed in Greenville Tennessee
10 th	1863 – Union troops capture Little Rock, Arkansas.
17 th	1862 – Battle of Antietam, Sharpsburg Maryland.
19 th -20 th	1863 – Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia
22 nd	1862 – Lincoln issues the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – SEPTEMBER

7 th	1815 – Major General Howell Cobb C.S.A
9 th	1819 – Major General Martin Luther Smith C.S.A
13 th	1813 – Major General John Sedgwick U.S.A.
17 th	1820 – Major General Earl Van Dorn C.S.A.
27 th	1824 – Major General William (“Bull”) Nelson U.S.A.

2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

October 19, 2021

“Bleeding Kansas” Nicole Etcheson

November 16, 2021

“Black Confederates” Larry Babits

December 21, 2021

“How Christmas Won the War” George Romano

January 18, 2022

James Longstreet in Chattanooga and Knoxville” COL (ret) Ed Lowe

February 15, 2022

“U.S. Grant in Missouri: The Re-education of a Civil War Legend” Dave Page

March 15, 2022

“Competing Memories of the Civil War” Caroline Janney

May 17, 2022

“Trust in God and Fear in Nothing: Confederate General Lewis Armistead” Wayne Motts

MEET YOUR 2021- 2022 TCCWRT BOARD PART ONE PRESIDENT: BOB SVACINA



A former member of TCCWRT and a friend, Bob Waterloo, advised me if I would be interested. I was, and my wife Pat and I joined the Round Table in 2018.

On my mother’s side I can go back Hardy Pace. He was a cofounder of Atlanta, Georgia and Pace’s Ferry across the Chattahoochee River. This was the site of a skirmish in the Atlanta Campaign for General Oliver O. Howard’s IV Corps.

I served in the Navy Reserves and the Air National Guard. My educational background was in Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. I added an MBA in courses of my choosing. I’ve had various positions in engineering, sales, and management in the electrical industry and specifically in industrial and process automation.

My interest in the Civil War began in my American History class in high school. The subject was okay, but what was really interesting was the French Second Empire mansion of Major General Grenville M. Dodge that he had built in 1869-1870. It was only about 100 yards out the southeast window of my class room. My high school sat on land the General once owned. The Y M C A where I learned to swim was sponsored by the General. The Carnegie Grant Library, that I used often through high school, was built with extra Dodge money to make it the largest and most expensive Carnegie Grant Library in Iowa.

What really hooked me on the Civil War was the time I spent researching the Battle of Pea Ridge at the Iowa Historical Society. The writings were by Ed Bearss, of when the then, Colonel Dodge, was twice the deciding factor in the battle. Mr. Bearss was a rookie tour guide at Vicksburg when he wrote it.

Since then, I’ve made it a priority to visit Civil War sites in my travels: Shiloh, Tupelo, Corinth, and the fort at the entrance to Mobile Bay. My wife and I have visited several museums of Civil War leaders. Last year produce a twenty-two YouTube video on the museums:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FtL7PUudbE>

VICE PRESIDENT: BRETT JOHNSON



Brett's interest in the Civil War was sparked in 2005 when his boss passed on Michael Schaara's Killer Angels to him she had received from a management course. He later joined the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table in 2015.

He received his B.A. in Economics from St. Olaf and an MBA from the University of MN and worked in finance and systems development at Control Data and Target.

Brett's interests include traveling and camping. His two adult children could claim that he dragged them to more battlefields than any of their history teachers had seen! More recently, Brett has taken annual one-week trips to southern Civil War battlefields with a high school friend who lives in Dubuque, IA. The biggest surprise on one of the trips was when he saw the baseball field in Hot Springs, AR, a favorite spring training grounds 100 years ago, where Babe Ruth hit his first 500-foot home run!

Brett has also learned that he has an ancestor who fought with the 5th MN for General Sherman, which included digging trenches in Vicksburg, MS.

Brett has been an avid reader of the Economist magazine since going on a college junior year abroad in Oxford. His most recent Civil War reading, in the summer of 2021, was Lincoln on the Verge, a fascinating chronicle of Lincoln's 13-day trip to Washington D.C. to assume the Presidency. His favorite historical author is Robert Massey, who has written massive volumes on many subjects and people, including Peter the Great, and Castles of Steel (WW1 battleships). Brett is excited that his wife has recently taken interest in the Civil War as well, and she will be joining the Round Table for the 2021-2022 season.

PAST PRESIDENT: KEN FLIES



Ken is the Past President of TCCWRT and chairs the TCCWRT Marketing Committee and a member of TCCWRT since 2008; and is also a past member of the Hiawatha and Rochester round tables. Ken's Civil War pedigree includes numerous relatives, ranging from generals to privates, serving in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota regiments. He is a member of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society and has lectured frequently, locally and nationally, especially on the Battle of Nashville and the XVI Corps. Civil War writing efforts include the production of a play, *The Guerillas from the Greenwood* and the poem *An Ode to a Soldier Long Forgotten* that won the Editor's Choice awards of the National and International Libraries of Poetry.

In 2011-2015 Ken served with the Minnesota Governor's Sesquicentennial Task Force, conducting commemorative services, and obtaining new granite markers, for 14 of the only 20 Minnesota soldiers killed in the war and returned for burial in Minnesota. In 2014 Ken established the first ever marker by any state on the Nashville Battlefield where 98 Minnesotan were killed. In 2014 he placed three State historical markers in his hometown of Plainview, Minnesota, noting the exploits of a unique company of Civil War soldiers.

In 1962, Ken was the youngest first ever Peace Corps Volunteer from Minnesota at age 19. He has been involved in the start-up and development of more than a dozen companies and organizations domestically and internationally. He is the author of two books: *Into the Backlands* and *Retrieving Isaac and Jason*. In 2002 he was recognized by Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty as an outstanding rural entrepreneur and in 2012 by Governor Mark Dayton for his entrepreneurial contributions to the State of Minnesota. Ken is widowed and resides in Eagan, Minnesota.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: CAROL VANORNUM



Carol has been a member of the TCCWRT since 2010. As a child, her family took many road trips, stopping at Civil War battlefields. It was the seed that was cultivated into a love of Civil War history. After reading *Killer Angels*, she became fascinated by the personal relationships developed throughout the Civil War between soldiers, generals, politicians, and the families back home. She has been secretary/treasurer of the TCCWRT since 2011. In 2017, the TCCWRT Board sent her to Manassas to attend the first annual CWRT Congress, an organization which was created to help Civil War round tables thrive and survive.

The seminar provided ways to improve your Civil War round table. The ideas she brought back were implemented, such as creating an updated logo, a vibrant website, a Facebook page, and more.

In the summer of 2020, Carol was invited to be on the Board of the CWRT Congress (first woman!) as the Director of Communications. Her role includes creating a quarterly newsletter, *The Light Post*, an annual report, and other media opportunities. She enjoys seeing and sharing how other round tables around the country and world find ways to keep their round tables active.

It wasn't until a few years ago that she discovered she had Confederate ancestors. The King family hailed from Roswell, GA. She has four 5X- great uncles who fought and died or were wounded in the war; two other uncles served in the ministry and medical field. Her G G G grandfather, Barrington King, operated a textile mill which was burned by General Sherman's army. Her main interest and research is Sherman's Atlanta campaign as it made its way through Roswell, and she gives lectures on that episode.

Carol lives in the Hopkins area with her rescue dog, Mittie, who is named after Mittie Bulloch, the mother of Teddy Roosevelt and a true Southern belle.

Presented by the Christian Commission

On a recent father-son trip to the massive Show of Shows military collector event in Louisville we turned up these two little volumes on one of the 2,000 tables of antique merchandise. The corps badges on the one booklet caught my eye, but it was the inscriptions inside that made the sale. The books had been presented in 1864 to a badly wounded Michigan soldier as he recovered in a Philadelphia hospital. His signature and mention of the US Christian Commission generated this story which connects several related artifacts.

The United States Christian Commission was founded by members of the national Y.M.C.A. after casualties from First Bull Run in July 1861 filled Washington D.C. and other northern hospitals. Its mission was to do moral, religious and charitable work among the Union armies, and especially in hospitals. The Commission distributed Bibles, booklets and tracts in camps, on ships and in hospitals, but also handed out food, clothing, hospital stores and delicacies. It helped supply Christian chaplains to military units and aided in their work. Over \$6,000,000 was

collected by mainly women volunteers in multiple denominations, with most of it disbursed in supplies during the last year of the war.

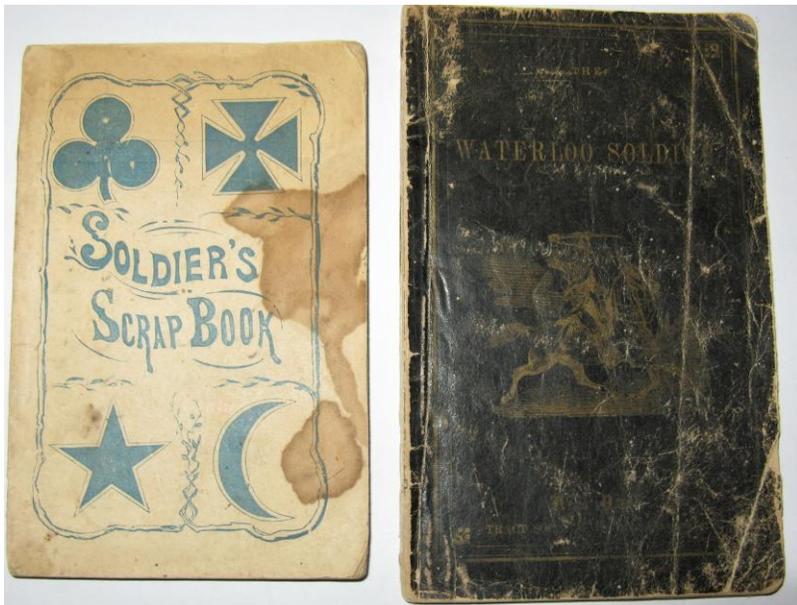


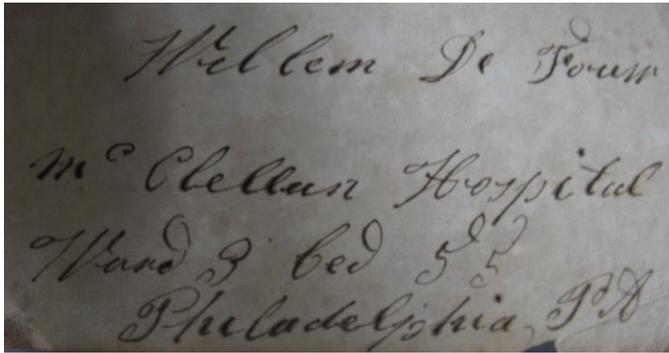
Volunteer delegates did the field work and wore a small silver identification badge on their civilian clothing.

Although extremely rare today, one original did turn up several years ago at a local antique show and was a welcome discovery.

The two little booklets that we found at the relic show are very typical of those distributed by the Commission. *Soldier's Scrap Book* is a series of short anecdotal Christian readings. *The Waterloo Soldier* purports to be the reminiscences of an elderly veteran of that battle with accounts of his conversion to active Christianity.

Both booklets are inscribed with the name and unit of the owner, William DeFauw. That

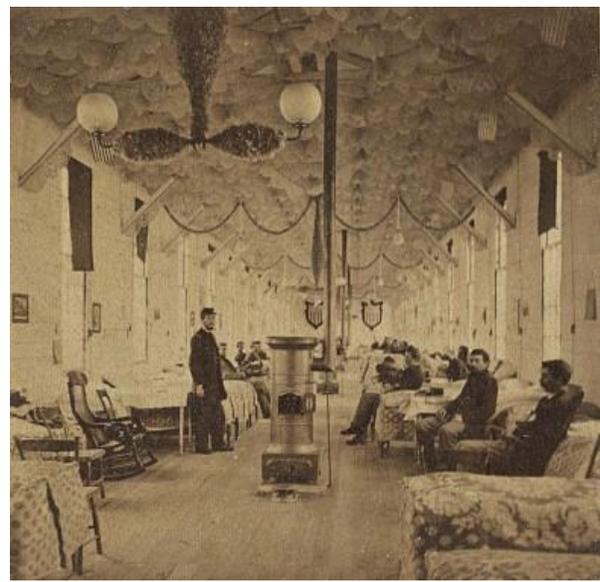




William De Fauw
McClellan Hospital
Ward 3 bed 55
Philadelphia, PA

unusual name pointed to exactly one Union Army soldier, born in the Netherlands and living near the still heavily Dutch community of Holland, Michigan. His unit, the hard fighting 8th Michigan Infantry, was sent home for a one-month veterans' furlough in January 1864. On February 27th they recruited the 27-year-old farmer William DeFauw to help refill the ranks. He was mustered into federal service with numerous other recruits two days later.

The 8th Michigan returned to the front in early March 1864 and fought through Grant's Campaign from the Rapidan to the James River that spring. Their first major battle was The Wilderness, May 6. There the regiment lost 99 men killed, wounded or missing including its colonel, killed in action. Among the seriously wounded was new recruit William DeFauw. The regimental surgeon would have dressed his wound and sent him to the rear by ambulance. With thousands of other casualties, he endured a painful week-long journey north.



Private DeFauw eventually was taken to McClellan Hospital in Philadelphia, one of a number of massive "modern" pavilion style facilities for long term care and convalescence. Each ward was arranged like a spoke of a wheel to maximize light and ventilation. DeFauw lay in Bed 55 in Ward 3. We are fortunate that a photographer recorded images inside one of this very hospital's wards so we know what his room probably looked like. And you can even see a civilian volunteer probably from the Christian Commission, seated among the wounded soldiers.

The convalescent DeFauw was still hospitalized as the war ended and until discharged by surgeon's certificate of disability on July 8, 1865. Many such seriously wounded veterans

succumbed to their injuries shortly after discharge, and thus were not included in official compilations of Civil War deaths. Modern researchers have now estimated those deaths to be closer to one million rather than the traditional estimate of around 750,000. Nearly every home in our nation of 32 million citizens was directly impacted by the war.

But DeFauw was among the lucky. He married Pieterella Vanden Berg in 1867, fathered 11 children and lived a long life in Holland Michigan until his 1921 passing. His widow lived another 9 years, and their youngest child until 1981.

And while the Christian Commission was most active in the eastern theater, its delegates also served the western armies. When my g-g-uncle was killed in the charge at Missionary Ridge in November 1863 his comrades sent his knapsack home to the family. The surviving items were



passed on to me a century after Uncle Will's death, and among them was a well-thumbed copy of *The Christian Banner* handed to him by a Commission delegate somewhere in Tennessee.

TCCWRT MEMBERS: SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11th Chad Cox
17th Jim Hinderks
18th Nancy Harder
24th Sally Rubinstein
28th Charlotte Shover

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

11th Minnesota regiment

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS'S THE LIGHT POST

Here is a link to the Archive of the CWRT Congress's newsletter: "The Light Post"

In the August issue:

Queensland, Australia – From Across the Pond! Meet ACWRTQ

and CWRT Leadership: The Importance of Strong CWRT Leaders

https://mcusercontent.com/4ed2502d26ff277723afd52f5/files/oe6186e2-f7f1-0cc2-1d73-69d73be87c6e/LightPost_Aug_2021.pdf

CONTACT US:

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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