

## Issue 20: December 2021

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*First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg*

### MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

#### BOB PAOLI

By Lana Blumhoefer



Bob Paoli is our featured member of the month. He first joined the TCCWRT in 1990 after he retired from his career as a sales representative with Cessna Aircraft. His friend, Bernie Cahill who was already a member, is the one who got him

interested to join. Bernie also got him interested to join the WW II round table group. Bob met Bernie while they served in Vietnam.

Bob had been a faithful member to come to our meetings until he had a stroke last April. He feels bad that he is no longer able to come to our meetings, but he still enjoys getting the newsletter and keeping in touch.

What he finds most interesting about the Civil War is how hard the Union troops fought against the Confederate troops. They did their best to keep our nation together. His favorite battlefield that he has learned about is Gettysburg.

He does not have any ancestors in the Civil War that he is aware of since his father's side of the family came here from Italy in the 1890s and his mother's side came from Ireland also in the 1890s. He was born and raised in Kansas.

He remembers hearing on the radio about Pearl Harbor being attacked when he was about four years old and he says that memory gave him the desire later to serve in the military.

He is very proud of his military service to our country. One of his favorite sayings is “Duty First.” He joined the Kansas Army National Guard in 1955 while he was a senior in high school. He went to OCS in 1958 and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1959.

While he was in the Kansas National guard in 1968, President Johnson called 180,000 into active duty to go to Vietnam. He was first sent to Fort Carson, Colorado for eight months and then was sent to Vietnam where he was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, “the Big Red One.” He served with this 1<sup>st</sup> division for one year and was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and Two Army Bronze Star medals for his time in combat with the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, including a battle at a support base called Oran. After his time in Vietnam, he was also on active duty at Army schools in Ft. Benning, Georgia. After his three years of active duty, he returned to the Kansas National Guard where he overall served for 13 years and reached the rank of Captain.

In 1972, his civilian employer Cessna Aircraft transferred him to Minnesota. He then transferred to the Minnesota Army National Guard where he retired from the military in 1979 at the rank of Major.

After he retired from his civilian job in 1990, he wanted to educate young people on the importance of our military and veterans. He would go to his daughter’s (who was an elementary teacher) second grade classes on Veterans Day and talk to them about his military career and the importance of all veterans and what they had all done to make our country “the freest nation in the world.” He would also give them all a small US flag and explain what the flag meant to our country and show them how to salute the flag properly when they would say the Pledge of Allegiance. He also spoke to various high school classes.



Thank you, Bob, for your service to our country and always putting “Duty First.”

### STEVEN SCHIER’S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

What prominent party in a famous Supreme Court case contributing to the outbreak of the war lived at Fort Snelling in the 1830s?

(See the last page for the answer)

### OUR DECEMBER MEETING – 12/21/2021

#### “How Christmas Won the War” – George Romano



The Civil War had a profound effect on American culture and one of those effects was how the Civil War changed the Christmas holiday in America. Christmas was part of that war and waged four “campaigns” during the course of the war. The country would never be the same, and the Christmas holiday too would be changed forever. Come hear the story of the four “campaigns” of Christmas and how the war changed the celebration of Christmas and how, in the end, Christmas does indeed win the Civil War.

*George Romano has had an interest in the Civil War since growing up 20 minutes away from the Chickamauga Battlefield site in NW Georgia. He is past President of the Rochester Civil War Round Table and the past President of the Board of the Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association. The WLBPA is dedicated to preserving and commemorating the 1862 Dakota War Wood Lake Battlefield site (near Granite Falls) for future generations. An annual speaker at the Rochester Civil War Roundtable, George has also been a guest presenter at other Roundtables in the Twin Cities, Winona, Wasioja, Mankato, New Ulm, St Cloud, Lichfield, Hastings, and Stillwater. George is a member of Toastmasters and is a Distinguished Toastmaster. He lives in Rochester and is now retired from IBM as a Consultant.*

### THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> 1864 – General John Schofield’s Union army evacuates Franklin and retreats to Nashville.

- 6<sup>th</sup> 1864 – Lincoln appoints Salmon P. Chase Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 9<sup>th</sup> 1861 – Congresss establishes a Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.
- 11<sup>th</sup> 1861 – Historic fire burns a large swath across Charleston, South Carolina.
- 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 1862 – The Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia.
- 15<sup>th</sup> 1864 – Battle of Nashville, Tennessee begins.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 1862 – James Hunt Morgan’s Confederate cavalry begins their Christmas Raid in Kentucky.
- 26<sup>th</sup> 1860 – Major Robert Anderson evacuates Fort Moultrie moving his command to Fort Sumter.
- 26<sup>th</sup> 1861 – Unionist Native American forces battle Confederate forces at Chustenahlah, Indian Territory (Oklahoma)
- 26<sup>th</sup> 1861 – President Lincoln orders the release of Confederate diplomats, Mason and Slidell, effectively ending the Trent Affair.

## **CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – DECEMBER**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 1826 – Major General William Mahone C.S..
- 10<sup>th</sup> 1822 – General Thomas C. Devin U.S.
- 16<sup>th</sup> 1825 – Major General Henry Heth C.S.
- 19<sup>th</sup> 1814 – Edwin M. Stanton, U.S. Secretary of War.
- 19<sup>th</sup> 1817 – Brig. General James Jay Archer C.S.
- 25<sup>th</sup> 1821 – Clara Barton

## **2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

### **January 18, 2022**

“Black Confederates” Larry Babits (Please Note Change in Speaker Schedule)

### **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**

TBD (speaker cancelled)

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Season’s Greetings and Happy Holidays.

First, I want to thank those who have contributed to the visual upgrade program. They are: Brett Johnson, Ron McDaniel and Steve Schier. I will give an update at the December 21st “How Christmas Won the War” by George Romano meeting. In regard to the visual upgrade, my hopes are that we will nearly double the screen’s viewing area and project with more lumens at a higher contrast.

If the upgrade can be accomplished, it opens a new aspect of photography to our meetings. Maybe at our social hour we can see pictures of monuments at Vicksburg, Pea Ridge, Gettysburg, Antietam Creek, and so many other places, or actual Civil War photography.

One of my favorite quotes from President Abraham Lincoln is “*Let the people know the truth and the country is safe.*” The antonym of **truth** is a **lie** and that is exactly what rewriting history is, whether it is for the good or bad. Arguably there is no good or bad history. History should be as accurate as possible just like a weight, charge, or constants in physic. I feel welcomed when I am with you on Tuesday night. We have a whole room of people interested in truthful history and preserving it.

## **TCCWRT MEMBERS: DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to all our members with December Birthdays!

12/17	Phillip Baker
12/21	Gerald Ogdahl
12/28	Craig MacIntosh
12/29	Larry Pearson

## **OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Please welcome our new members.

Blake Duerre and Terri Rand

## Two Confederate Belt Buckles from Minnesota

The so-called Confederate States of America struggled to adequately supply its troops in the field and was never able to supply standardized uniforms or equipment. Consequently, great variety exists in the surviving artifacts of the Confederate Army. Every few years another example of a Confederate waist belt plate seems to turn up in Minnesota, but usually I'm too late or too many dollars short to add them to the collection. But these two Western Theater examples did land in the display case.

The Rope Border CS was the product of an unknown middle south manufacturer and gets its name from the decorative border inside the rim. Die struck from medium weight brass sheet and not filled with pewter like the Federal US plate, the rope border had 3 soldered on hooks made from scraps from the stamping. Most excavated plates are missing one or more of these hooks and so complete ones, and especially not dug up, are somewhat scarce.



This one was brought home by Private William Hubbard of Company C, 6<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry. He saved it along with his own US belt plate with his name scratched on the back. The 38-year-old Hubbard was recruited into the 6<sup>th</sup> in February 1864 and joined them at their miserable camp



*Camp Buford Helena Ark. Sixth Minnesota Infantry. 1864*

at Helena Arkansas. The Regiment was so devastated by disease that only 26 out of more than 800 could report for duty at one point that summer. The survivors moved to St. Louis then New Orleans and finally fought at Fort Blakely opposite Mobile Alabama in April 1865.

The second CS buckle is known as the Army of Tennessee style; most excavated examples came from their former campsites. The plate was sand cast with the three hooks projecting straight up. During the cleanup and finishing process the hooks were smoothed and rounded leaving distinctive circular marks at their base. They were then folded over. But this fold left the metal brittle and so the hooks frequently broke. The front of the plates were originally filled with black paint to highlight the letters.



This particular buckle has an interesting history. Back in the 1940s a Carver County farm boy was climbing around in his family's barn and found this buckle on one of the rafters. Some 65 years later he asked me to appraise it for him, and a few years after that called me back to see if I was interested in buying it myself. With the great story it was hard to pass up!

The original owner of this East Union farm was John Goetz, born in Baden Germany in 1829. As a 30 year old he enlisted in Company H of the 9th Minnesota Infantry. He shared a year of service in Minnesota before the Regiment's southern marches and battles, including the terrible



retreat from Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi. There, over 250 members of the regiment were captured. Nearly half of those men died at Andersonville Prison. The war weighed heavily on John Goetz's already troubled psyche even as he raised 5 children and step children on his prosperous farm. One morning in November 1884 he drank his morning coffee and walked to the barn. His family found him there hanged from a beam.

The veteran's funeral was two days later and "a very large funeral procession followed his remains to its last resting place." But as a suicide he was not



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY MIKE VANNETT

## Goetz grave is blessed



About 90 parishioners, relatives and an American Legion Post 57 Honor Guard attended the blessing of John Goetz's grave last Sunday at the Guardian Angels Catholic Church cemetery. Goetz, a Civil War veteran, died of suicide in 1884, so he wasn't buried on consecrated ground (as reported in the Oct. 28 Chaska Herald). The Rev. Paul Jarvis blessed the grave to highlight the issue of suicide and bring Goetz into the cemetery.

allowed to be buried on consecrated ground of the Guardian Angels Catholic cemetery and so his grave was in a ravine just outside the fence. And there he still lies today.

However, in 2010 parish priest Rev. Paul Jarvis familiarized himself with Goetz's story and took action in recognition of changing attitudes toward suicide among military veterans.

That November he consecrated the ground in the ravine that holds John Goetz's remains. The moving ceremony was attended by the Guardian Angel's congregation, veterans' organizations and several Goetz descendants.

# HELP WANTED!

## TECH HELP NEEDED

No experience necessary.

Help needed for A/V setup, recording, and transferring to YouTube. Inquiries to President Bob Svacina, [bob\\_svacina@msn.com](mailto:bob_svacina@msn.com).

Pay: One official Twin Cities Civil War Round Table coffee mug

### STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

Dred Scott

**CONTACT US:**

**Twin Cities Civil War Round Table**

[info@tccwrt.com](mailto:info@tccwrt.com)

<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: [earlofbruce@hotmail.com](mailto:earlofbruce@hotmail.com)**