



NEWS

Issue 23: March 2022

2021-2022 BOARD

President: Bob Svacina

Vice President: Brett Johnson

Past President: Ken Flies

Secretary/Treasurer:

Carol VanOrnum

Director: Darryl Sannes

Director: Stephen Osman

Director: Nancy Johnson

Director: Lana Blumhoefer

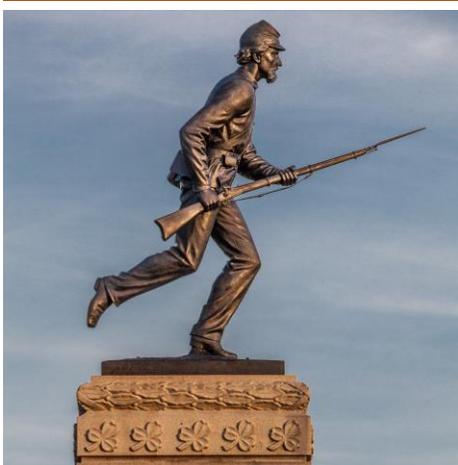
Director: Bruce Cooper

NEWS Editor: Bruce Cooper

MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

YVONNE COMPART

Our featured member this month is Yvonne Compart. Yvonne first became aware of the TCCWRT when she and her late husband, Roger, would dine at the Fort Snelling Officers' Club on the same nights that the round table met. Neither were members at the time. Yvonne shared that Roger, who was a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, "was good with history and we would travel to other countries, including Mexico and Sweden. Roger could speak Spanish and we would walk the villages, and he always knew the history of the places we traveled to." After Roger died in 2012, Yvonne looked for something to fill her time. She remembered the TCCWRT and joined in 2014. She enjoys learning about the Civil War and is most interested in the battle sites of Fort Sumter and Gettysburg. She enjoys the round table meetings and the speakers, but she especially enjoys socializing with others at the meetings.



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

Yvonne grew up on a farm near Nicollet, MN. She helped her family milk up to 30 cows there and did other farm work to help out. Her father bought her six purebred Jersey cows for her to raise. As a member of

4H, she showed her cows at county fairs and the state fair. She was particularly fond of Dolly and Flora.

She lives in Bloomington and is most proud of her working career as a speech therapist in the Hastings area school system for 42 years. Yvonne enjoys gardening with a raised garden bed. She plants rhubarb, asparagus, chives, and also plants tomatoes and green beans to wind upward on two lattices. “I get a lot of use out of that soil,” she says.

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

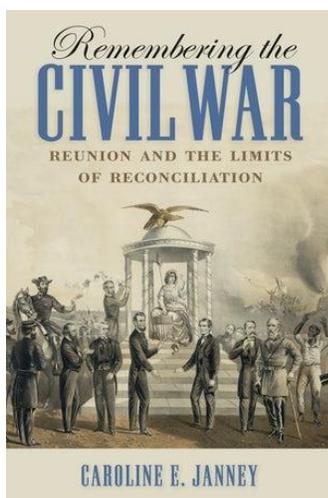
What battle flag did the First Minnesota infantry regiment capture at Gettysburg?

(See the last page for the answer)

OUR MARCH MEETING – 3/15/2022

“Competing Memories of the Civil War”

Caroline Janney



Appomattox has long served to mark the end of the American Civil War. Yet closely examining the spring and summer of 1865 reveals a far more contentious, uncertain, ambiguous, and lengthy ending to the American Civil War than previously understood. It underscores the complexity of decisions made by the US army, civilian authorities, and soldiers from Lee’s army as well as the unintended consequences of those decisions. Rather than serving as a clear ending to the conflict, the surrender of Confederate forces brought into stark relief many of the legal, social, and political questions that had plagued the war from the beginning. Most importantly, what followed the surrender would offer the first real test of how a democracy might end a civil war.



Caroline E. Janney is the John L. Nau III Professor of the American Civil War and Director of the John L. Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia. A graduate of the University of Virginia, she worked as a historian for the National Park Service and taught at Purdue University before returning to Virginia in 2018. An active public lecturer, she has given presentations at locations across the globe. She is a speaker with the Organization of American Historians’ Distinguished Lectureship program and a recipient of the Kenneth T. Kofmehl Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from Purdue’s College of Liberal Arts. She serves as a co-editor of the University of North Carolina Press’s Civil War America Series and is the past president of the Society of Civil War Historians. She has published seven books,

including Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation (2013) and Ends of War: the Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox (available summer 2021).

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – MARCH

- 2nd 1861 – Texas joins the Confederacy after Governor Sam Houston is forced out of office.
- 9th 1864 – Ulysses S. Grant promoted to Lieutenant General
- 11th 1863 – Union attempts to by pass Vicksburg's defenses blocked at Fort Pemberton.
- 12th 1864- Union forces under Maj. General Nathaniel begin the Red River Campaign.
- 14th 1862 – New Madrid, Missouri captured by Union forces.
- 18th 1862 – George W. Randolph named Confederate Secretary of War.
- 19th 1865 – Battle of Bentonville, Morth Carolina.
- 25th 1864 – Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacks Paducah, Kentucky.
- 25th 1865 – Battle of Fort Stedman, Virginia.

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – MARCH

- 2nd 1829 – Major General Carl Schurz U.S.
- 14th 1815 – Brig. General Jerome B. Robertson C.S.
- 14th 1833 – Major General John S. Marmaduke C.S.
- 17th 1832 – Brig. General Walter Q. Gresham U.S.
- 18th 1839 – Major General Francis Fessenden U.S.

2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

May 17, 2022

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

Wayne Motts

HELP IMPROVE THE NASHVILLE BATTLEFIELD EXPERIENCE

By Ken Fliés member TCCWRT and BONT

The Battle of Nashville Trust is raising a modest amount of funds through [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) to enhance the current hiking trail experience on the main battle area on Shy's Hill and to place interpretive markers to provide visual reference points for the fighting that occurred there on December 16, 1864. To participate with a donation in this effort go to www.battleofnashvilletrust.org HOME page and click on HELP US IMPROVE THE BATTLEFIELD!

The Battle of Nashville Trust is a private non-profit organization has been able to acquire, preserve, and manage portions of the battlefield, one of which includes the eastern slope and top of Shy's Hill where the most decisive action occurred. The preservation of this area of the battlefield is critical and sacred to the history of Minnesota's role in the Civil War. The decisive action in this area was initiated and executed in large measure by the 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th Minnesota regiments, that led to the destruction of the Confederate Army of Tennessee in what many historians call "*the decisive battle of the Civil War.*"

Exploits of the Minnesotans at Nashville

On December 16, 1864, 98 Minnesotans died in the fighting. This was the deadliest day of battle for Minnesota soldiers in any battle in American history. Fully one-third of the casualties at Nashville were Minnesotans, albeit only the four mentioned regiments were in the battle, while Ohio, Illinois and Indiana all had 30 or more regiments at the battle.

While these four regiments were engaged in the battle, the 8th, 11th, and a company of the 2nd were involved in supporting action around Nashville at the time of the battle. Thus, seven of Minnesota's 11 infantry regiments in the War were participants in some manner at Nashville. To see a comprehensive overview of Minnesota at Nashville go to www.battleofnashvilletrust.org and click on FEATURES and MINNESOTANS AT NASHVILLE.

Nashville Historical Significance to Minnesota

The Battle of Nashville occurred in what became a growing metropolitan area shortly after the War and thus large portions of the battlefield were not preserved like other major battlefields in more remote areas. Although considered the battle spelling the end to the Confederacy, it has largely been overlooked until recently in history. In Minnesota, however, the exploits of the four regiments of the XVI Corps did not go unnoticed in the immediate aftermath of the War by the men who actually served Minnesota in the War and by its citizenry at the time.

For example, nine counties in Minnesota were named for veterans of the Civil War.

The names given to these counties were: Sibley, Scott, Pope, Lyon, Grant, Wilkins, Cook, Hubbard and Marshall. The only Minnesota men among these that saw action in the south or east: Wilkin, Hubbard, Marshall and Cook were all XVI Corps men, all but Wilkins fought at Nashville. No counties are named for any other Minnesota soldiers in the Civil War despite the well-known heroics of the men of First and Second Regiments and others.

Minnesota also had four men who served in action in the Civil War that became governors in the post-Civil War period. Of those who were in Minnesota volunteer regiments, only one - John Lind - who served less than a year late in the War in the Third Minnesota Infantry, was not from one of the Nashville regiments. The Third Minnesota however for a time was in the XVI Corps with the Nashville regiments at Mobile, thus making all the Minnesota post-Civil War Governors XVI Corps men.

The three other post-Civil War governors, in addition to Lind, were Governors Lucius Hubbard, William Marshall and Andrew McGill. Hubbard was originally with the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, Marshall with the Seventh and McGill with the Ninth. Hubbard and Marshall would be Brigade Commanders at Nashville. McGill resigned due to disability in August of 1863 after only one year of service. Again, other than Lind, no other soldiers from Minnesota regiments other than the four directly engaged Nashville regiments would be elected as governors after the War.



When Minnesota veterans - whose inputs were paramount in the design of the magnificent Minnesota State Capitol - commissioned artwork for the Governor's suite at the new Capitol, it was the painting of the Battle of Nashville for which they selected Howard Pyle, the most renowned American landscape artist of the times, to paint it. This painting today is considered the finest Civil War painting ever done or for that matter possibly of any historical military action.

Nashville's Recognition of the Minnesotans

While most Minnesotans today have little knowledge of the exploits of the Minnesotans at Nashville, folks in Nashville and with the Battle of Nashville Trust have not forgotten the role of the Minnesotans. There are only three flags on the battlefield put there by the Battle of Nashville Trust. These are: the American flag, the stars and bars of the Confederacy and the state flag of Minnesota. There are no other state flags, Union or Confederate, not even Tennessee are on the battlefield. The only markers or monuments at Nashville are the Minnesota Monument in the National Cemetery and the Minnesota marker on the battlefield, placed there in 2014 by Governor Dayton's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.



Support the Nashville Battlefield Trust's Efforts

As mentioned in the introduction, the preservation and conservation work of the Battle of Nashville Trust is totally dependent upon donations and membership dues. Given Nashville's historical significance to Minnesota in the Civil War, you are encouraged to donate to the current maintenance efforts and also to become a member of BONT to preserve this most sacred ground to Minnesota military history. For an annual dues of only \$20 per individual or \$25 per family you can become a member, receive their quarterly newsletter, two free passes to historical Traveler's Rest, invitations to special events and a 20% discount on merchandise. Go to www.battleofnashvilletrust.org and click on ABOUT and DONATE OR JOIN. Help to keep this treasured piece of Minnesota history alive for generations to come.

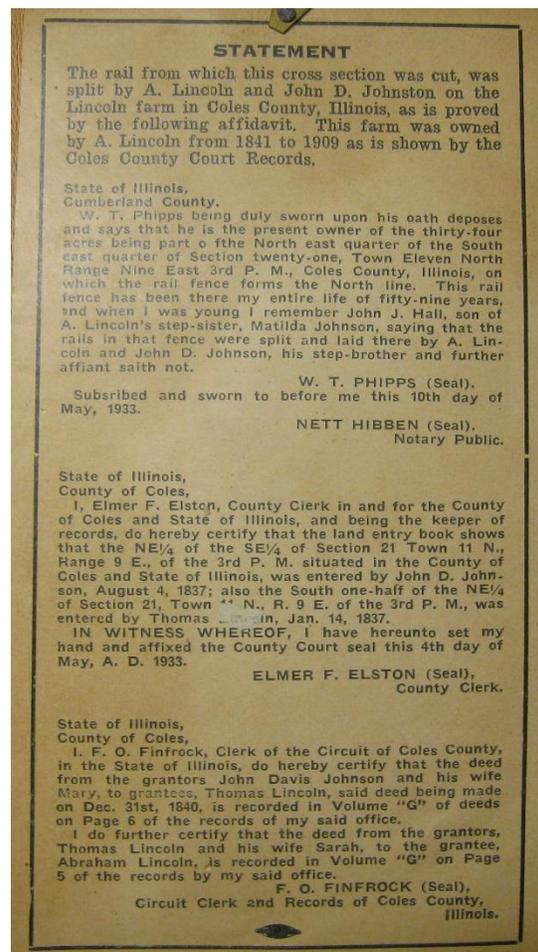
TCCWRT SUMMER PICNIC 2022: SAVE THE DATE

Our summer pick will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 4:00 PM. More details to come.

Some Souvenirs of Father Abraham

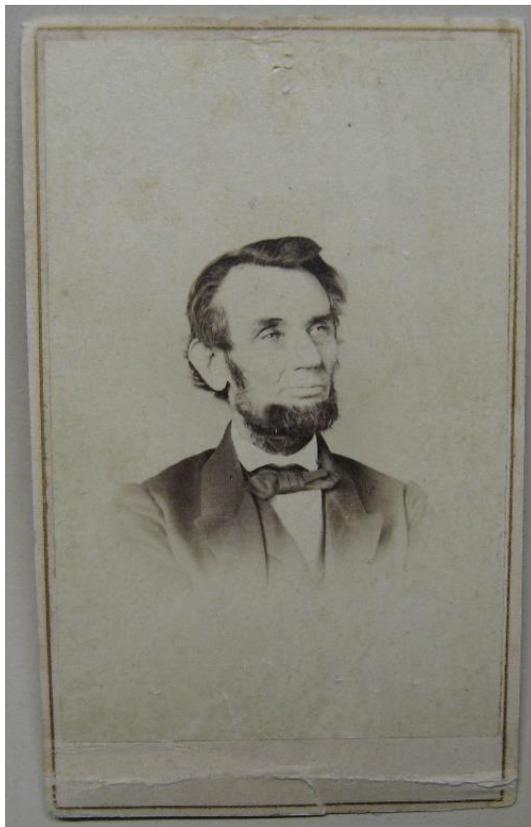
America's most beloved president has fueled over 150 years of avid collecting. Growing up in Illinois I was bitten by the Lincoln bug early though never actively sought those usually expensive artifacts. But a few came my way by chance or luck and here illustrate the variety of items one can discover with a little time and effort.

Political candidate Lincoln was known as The Railsplitter. An exciting feature of the Logan County Fair held in Lincoln Illinois was its annual rail splitting contest. Until you see one of these competitions you have no idea how fast two competing axmen can each produce four fence rails from their log. During the 1860 Campaign and for decades after hucksters harvested old rail fences purported to have been split and built by young Mr. Lincoln and marketed fragments as souvenirs. This piece originally sold at the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress fair turned up at a central Illinois flea market not far from where it was split in Coles County according to the affidavits on the back.



During college I used to metal detect a large Illinois campsite that several ancestors had passed through during the war. Back then the site was corn fields and pastureland; today it is mostly

covered by suburban homes and an ever-expanding national cemetery. One small find was several inches down – too deep for a Lincoln penny like initially thought. Research proved it to be a rare 1864 Lincoln Campaign token. With the scarcity of coinage during the war commercial, patriotic and political tokens, fractional currency and even encased postage stamps helped fill the need for pocket change and were widely circulated. And this one provides a historical trivial lesson: our common term “O.K.” was just as popular during the Civil War.



Lincoln was our most photographed president and the beardless portrait taken by Hessler of Chicago circulated nationwide. Many untouched Civil War era photo albums still have a photo of the president in the front, or some sort of 1865 memorial photo in the back. Mass produced cartes de visite turn up regularly, though prices have risen a bit from the dollar or two of my youth. Several good references document the chronology of those portraits which show the dramatic aging toll four years in office took on Mr. Lincoln.

This image is a particularly scarce one, especially with the pencil note on the back “Taken by us at Washington, Feb. 1864.” Wenderoth and Taylor of Philadelphia made the image at the White House, and it was later reissued many times in heavily retouched versions. First generation copies are very uncommon.

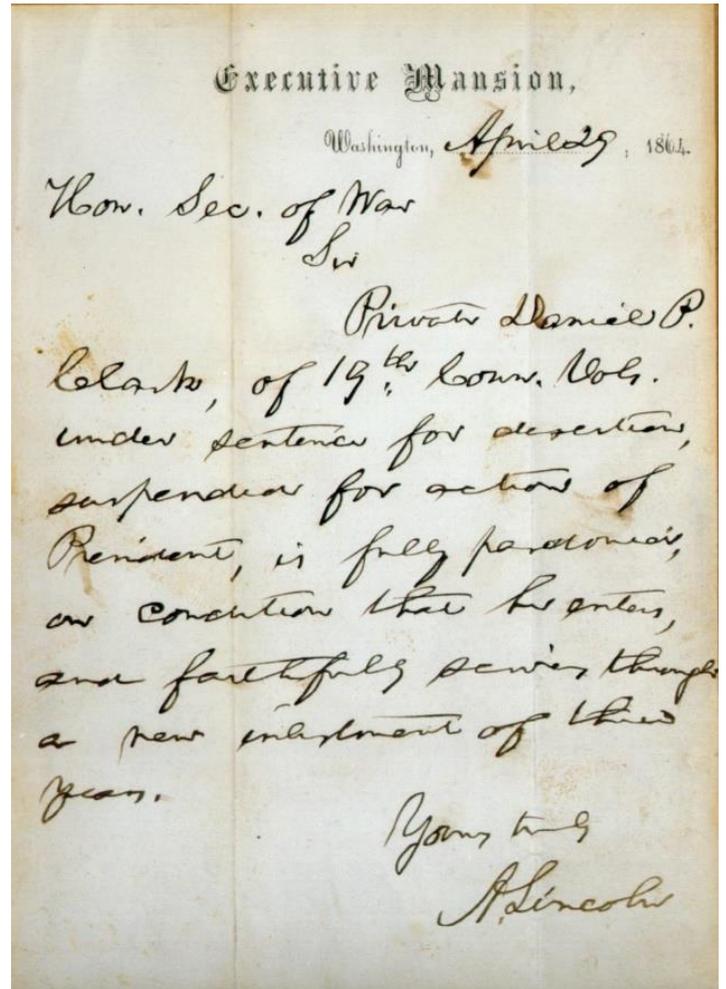


Other popular photographs included Lincoln's Springfield home, now operated by the National Park Service. Even Lincoln's old horse Bob was photographed in front of the house after the martyred president's funeral.

Lincoln documents are especially popular, and some serendipity brought this one my way. Many years ago, a former collector set up at the semi-annual Chicago Civil War Show. This gentleman had stopped collecting in 1956, saw a newspaper notice of the show, and bought one table to dispose of his long-neglected collection. I happened to be in front of his table when he set out this Lincoln letter with its \$300 price tag. Standing nearby was the manager of Chicago's famous Abraham Lincoln Book Store but my hands were faster.

The document – 22 words in Lincoln's hand on Executive Mansion stationery – pardons a young man under sentence of death for desertion. The letter is well documented in a 1947 auction catalog and is now scanned as part of the Lincoln Papers collection in Springfield. Unfortunately, the associated court martial papers are missing at the National Archives so I've been unable to do much further research on the fortunate soldier to whom Lincoln gave a second chance.

The tragic assassination of the president in April 1865 produced another huge wave of collectibles. Word reached St. Paul the following day and the entire state was soon in mourning.



The St. Paul Daily Press, voice of the Republican Party, had extensive coverage. Other newspapers likewise put out special editions, though the New York Herald editions shown on the

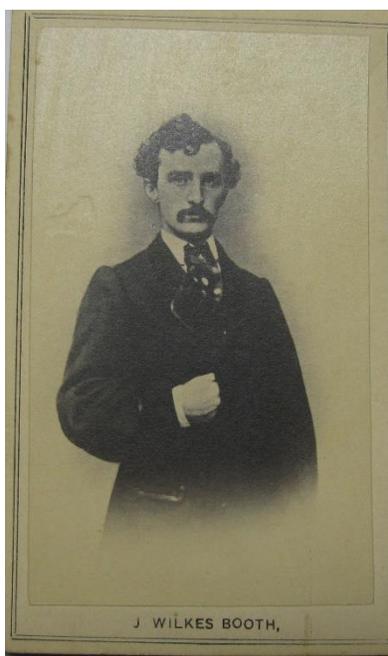


right are both later copies.

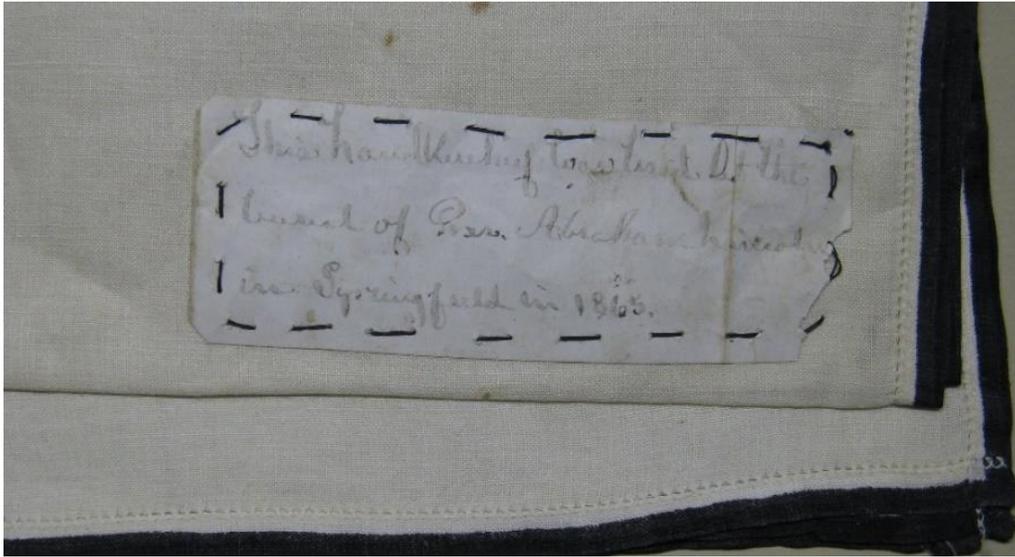
One is brown, brittle wood pulp paper which is a dead giveaway. The other is printed on correct white rag paper but carries a later commercial advertisement on the back and features an engraving of a beardless Lincoln never present in original editions. Both types of late 19th century copies turn up with regularity in the hands of disappointed novice collectors.

The popular CdV image of Lincoln and son Tad was re-issued in 1865 with a black border of mourning. Photos of assassin John Wilkes Booth were widely distributed, but images of Sergeant Boston Corbett – the soldier who killed Booth – are far less common. This one sat unidentified in an antique shop awaiting purchase by someone who recognized him.

The black bordered pocket handkerchief was worn at Lincoln's funeral in Springfield and treasured by a local family in memory of the burial ceremony at



Evergreen Cemetery.



A large photo of crowds lined up to view the president lying in state in Chicago turned up in Minneapolis a few years back, no doubt saved by a family member who stood in that line. Lincoln's actual funeral car was displayed in Columbia Heights until it burned in 1911. Small souvenir pieces sometimes turn up, and an exacting replica of the car is on display in Duluth.

And of course, every Lincoln collection has to have one of the Deringer pistols like the one that killed President Lincoln. The single shot muzzle loading percussion pistol was the original "conceal carry" defense weapon of the Civil War era. It fired a round lead ball about .45 inch in diameter from its 2-inch barrel and so was effective only at close range. But just imagine how different the Reconstruction Era would have been were it not for that little pistol. The south would certainly have been treated differently, but what of the former slaves if Lincoln had completed his second term?



The actual weapon used by assassin Booth is currently on display in the excellent museum located in the basement of Ford's Theater in Washington. A visit to the theater, the museum, and the Peterson House just across the street where Lincoln died is a well spent two hours on any trip to the capital city.



TCCWRT MEMBERS MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/10	Craig Sharpe
3/17	Tom McManus
3/29	Ray Horton III
3/29	Ken Flies

HELP WANTED!

TECH HELP NEEDED

Help needed for A/V setup, recording, and transferring to YouTube. Inquiries to President Bob Svacina, bob_svacina@msn.com.

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

NEW MEMBER:



New member: Tara Harl

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

28th Virginia Regiment

CONTACT US:

Twin Cities Civil War Round Table

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: earlofbuce@hotmail.com