

Issue 24: April 2022

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MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

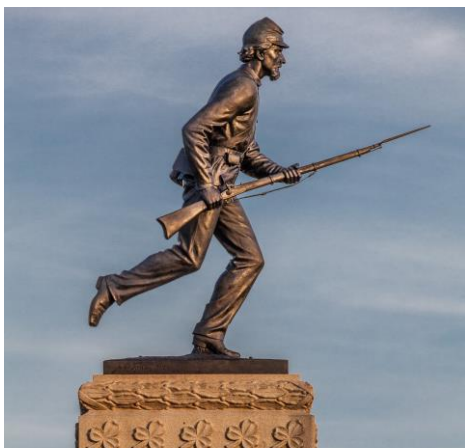
JERRY OGDahl



Jerry with a map showing all the places he's visited.

By Lana Blumhoefer

Our featured member this month is Gerald (Jerry) Ogdahl. Jerry initially became interested in WWII because his father and uncles served. He followed in their footsteps and enlisted in the Army in 1965. He trained as an infantry soldier but applied for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned into the Quartermaster Corp in 1967. His first tour of duty in Vietnam was as a 2nd Lieutenant. His post headquarters there was called Long Binh, which was involved in the Tet Offensive in 1968. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam and received several awards and medals including the Bronze Star.



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

Over the next 30 years while he was on either active duty or the Army Reserve, he and his family lived in Germany, traveling the world, particularly Europe. He especially enjoyed traveling to Norway, the home of some of his ancestors. When he and his family came back to America, they also lived in many places including North and South Carolina, Virginia, and California. He enjoyed military life and when he retired he had reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

While stationed at Fort Lee, he visited the Petersburg battlefield in Virginia and a small seed of interest in the Civil War was planted. He joined the TCCWRT in 2012 after attending as guest of Rod Myers, his long-time Army friend whom he had first met at Fort Bragg in 1975. What he most enjoys at our monthly meetings are the speakers and says that he learns something from each speaker. He also finds interesting the transition of Napoleon maneuvers to more modern battlefield maneuvers, and also the impact new infantry weapons and more accurate artillery pieces had on the Civil War battles.

Jerry has ancestors who lived in the New Ulm, MN area during the US-Dakota war. They are listed as survivors in the book "*Dakota Dawn*" by Gregory Michno. He has toured the Ft. Ridgely and Wood Lake battlefields.

Born in Glenwood, MN, Jerry learned the construction business from his father, along with accounting from his mother. He earned a finance degree from St. Cloud State University. His military education includes Officer Candidate School, Officer Advance Course, and Organizational Effectiveness Staff Officer Course and Command General Staff College, both of which were the equivalent of Master's degrees. While on active duty he also got a Master of Science System Management from the University of Southern California.

One fun fact about Jerry is he was selected to be an escort officer for the Bob Hope Christmas Show in Vietnam in December 1967. He had the privilege to escort Barbra MacNair and Miss World (Madaline Hartog-Bel from Peru).

His current hobbies include photography and woodworking. Jerry currently lives in Bloomington.

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

Which states experienced the most fighting events during the Civil War?

(See the last page for the answer)

2022 MINNESOTA CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, April 2, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

Bloomington Event Center

Sponsored by the Rochester, St. Croix Valley, Cannon Valley, Central Minnesota, Hiawatha Valley, Litchfield G.A.R., Minnesota Valley, Albert Lea and Twin Cities Civil War Round Tables.

Program

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions and Announcements, Stephen Osman
9:10 a.m.	The US Army Ordnance Board and Early History of West Point Museum (with Reflections on the Museum of the Confederacy Collections), Les Jensen
10:00 a.m.	Minnesota Civil War Round Tables Brief Introductions
10:15 a.m.	Break (Browse tables of books and memorabilia for sale.)
10:30 a.m.	Gettysburg Rebels: Five Native Sons Who Came Home to Fight as Confederate Soldiers, Tom McMillan
11:15 a.m.	Civil War Cycloramas, David Page
Noon	Lunch Break
1:00 p.m.	Armistead and Hancock: Behind the Gettysburg Legend of Two Friends at the Turning Point of the Civil War, Tom McMillan
1:45 p.m.	Home Sweet Home: A Study of Soldier Housing, Les Jensen
2:30 p.m.	Discussion: The Future of the Minnesota Civil War Symposium
2:45 p.m.	Closing Announcements

The Bloomington Event Center (Knights of Columbus Hall), 1114 American Blvd. W., Bloomington, MN 55420, is SE of the Highways 494 & 35W interchange. Take the Lyndale Ave. exit south from 494 and turn west at the first light onto American Blvd

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – APRIL

2 nd	1865 – Confederate General A.P. Hill killed near Petersburg, Virginia.
6 th	1862 – Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston killed at the Battle of Shiloh.
12 th	1864 – Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederate forces capture Fort Pillow.
13 th	1861 – Union forces inside Fort Sumter surrender to the Confederates.
16 th	1862 – Slavery is abolished in the District of Columbia.
18 th	1862 – Union Navy begins the bombardment of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, 70 miles below New Orleans.
19 th	1861 – President Lincoln declares a Naval blockade of southern ports.
22 nd	1861 – Robert E. Lee takes command of Virginia state forces.
24 th	1863 – Tax-in-Kind on one-tenth of all produce passed by Confederate Congress.

26th 1862 – Surrender of Fort Macon, North Carolina

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – APRIL

1st 1823 – Lt. General Simon Bolivar Buckner C.S.

6th 1828 – Major General Charles William Fields C.S.

10th 1833 – Brigadier General David McMurtrie Gregg U.S.

12th 1828 - Briadier General Richard Arnold U.S.

16th 1816 – Major General Edward Johnson C.S.

20th 1827 – Major General John Gibbon U.S.

27th 1822 – Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant U.S.

2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

May 17, 2022

“Trust in God and Fear in Nothing: Lewis A. Armistead, CSA” Wayne Motts

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.

TCCWRT MEMBERS APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Steve Cook

4/10 Ron McDaniel

4/12 Bob Wicklem

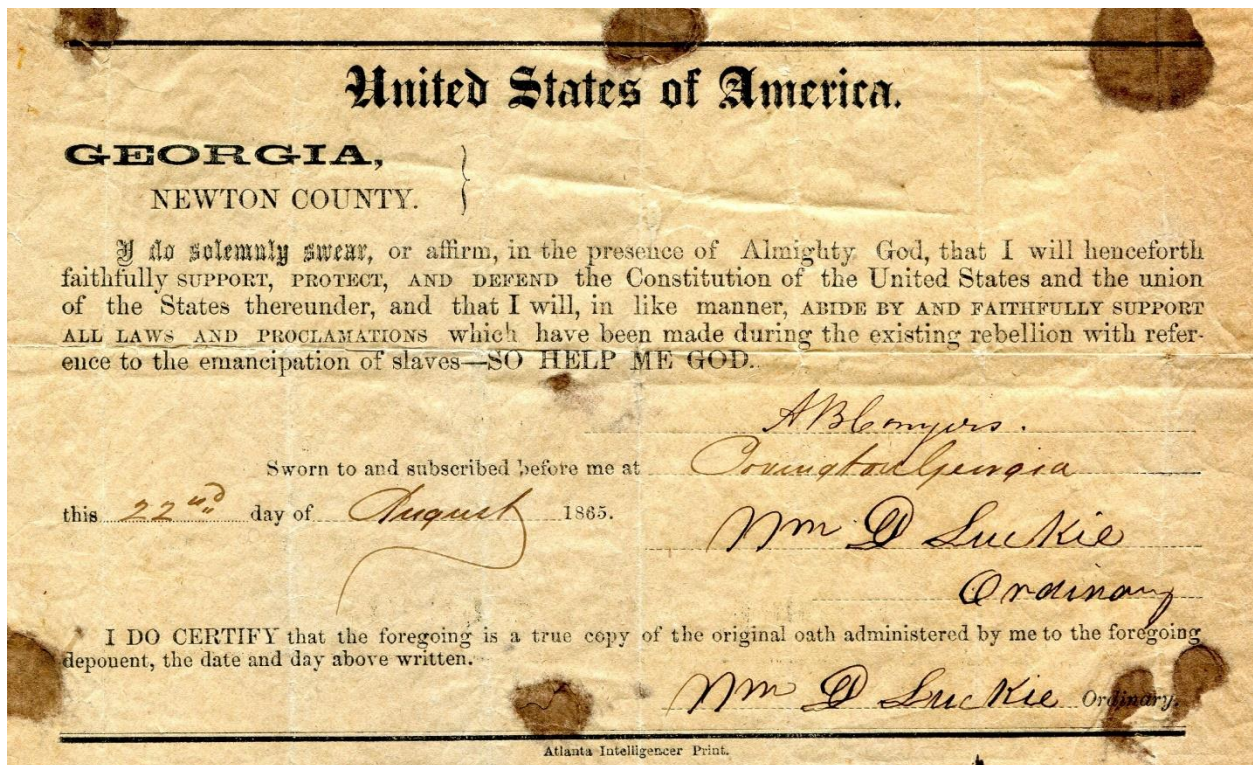
4/16 Bruce Cooper

4/17 Pat Koppa

A Few Civil War Paper Artifacts

Our March Round Table speaker brought to mind some paper artifacts found back during the Civil War Centennial. The annual Threshermen's Reunion in Pontiac, Illinois featured a small flea market that I eagerly scouted while my parents enjoyed the rest of the fair. My childhood purchases were modest but included the first two interesting little pieces of paper below.

In the weeks and months following the Confederate surrenders Federal authorities cobbled together a system to reintegrate former enemies into national political life. This included paroles, pardons and oaths of allegiance. The latter were required for higher ranking rebel military officers and politicians, former US military or civil officers and for wealthy landowners. Later, many other ex-Confederate soldiers were coerced into publicly affirming their loyalty.



This oath of allegiance was a lucky \$2 find tucked away now for probably 60 years. Until this article I assumed the "A. B. Conyers" named had been a sergeant in the 3rd Georgia Infantry. But now I know it was signed by Amanda B. Conyers, 57-year-old Kentucky born wife of a very prosperous Covington Georgia planter, Dr. William D. Conyers. The 1860 Census values the couple's real estate at \$12,000 and their personal wealth as \$54,000 – no doubt largely in human property. Hence the requirement for her to sign an oath of loyalty! The 1870 Census shows the then widow's personal wealth at only \$7,000 thanks to Emancipation. Dr. Conyers' son and namesake, by the way, was killed at Spotsylvania Court House commanding Cobb's Legion.

The New York draft enrollment below was another inexpensive flea market find, and a scarce item seldom saved by families. David Collin, Jr. was 40 and a prosperous farmer with 7 young children living near Manlius, New York in 1864, and probably escaped the draft. The records of soldiers from that town include a probable brother who served a full enlistment, but not David.

By the middle of the Civil War manpower needs became critical. The 1861 rush to enlist was dampened by heavy casualties and slow progress on numerous bloody battlefields. Bounties were offered by local communities and funds were raised to provide family support for those who would sign up.

STATE OF NEW-YORK,
County of *Chandaga*

NOTICE OF ENROLLMENT.

To *David Collin Jr*

Sir:—Take Notice, that you have been enrolled as liable to do Military duty in the
85 Regimental District of this State. If you claim exemption for any
reason, you must file a written statement of such exemption, verified by affidavit, in the office
of the *Town* Clerk of the *Town* of *Manlius*.
on or before the fifteenth day of August next.

Dated at *Fayetteville* this *11th* day of
July 1864.

H. S. Hall
Enrolling Officer.

But it was not enough and so in 1863 America's first wartime military draft was established. All white men between the ages of 20 and 45 were required to register. Draft quotas were established for each location. But if a man was drafted in one of the lotteries he faced several choices. Those of means could either pay a \$300 commutation fee (about \$5,000 today) to be



skipped. In 1864 this became an annual requirement. A draftee could also hire a substitute. Minnesota's state treasurer for example hired an Ojibwe mixed blood man to serve in his place.

The bounty, draft and substitute systems were wrought with scandal. Both substitutes and so-

called bounty jumpers enrolled, collected their money, and then disappeared to repeat the operation elsewhere. Drafted men were often considered suspect and tended to desert at a much higher rate than volunteers. In Minnesota ultimately very few men were drafted but the Fort Snelling command was worried enough to build a fenced enclosure to confine their draftees.



Civil War paper includes a vast array of artifacts, many still reasonably priced and in good supply. We were a literate nation and soldier's letters described the boredom of camp life and terror of the battlefield. Many were saved to remember wartime service or loss. This letter was solemnly passed to me at age 12 by my grandmother after I promised to keep it in the family. It sadly announces the loss of her uncle killed in the charge up Mission Ridge. The money he had on him when he was shot, mentioned and enclosed in the letter, was even saved. William Kain's mother received a pension after his death, and the rocking chair purchased with the first pension check has quieted several new generations of her descendants.

Newspapers were the main source of national and military news. Because most were printed on cotton rag paper they have survived well and in quantity. Harper's and Leslie's illustrated newspapers provided sometimes fanciful glimpses of life with the

armies and local papers often reprinted soldier's letters home. And thanks for massive projects to scan historic newspapers, most are available on microfilm and an ever-increasing number on the internet. Visit

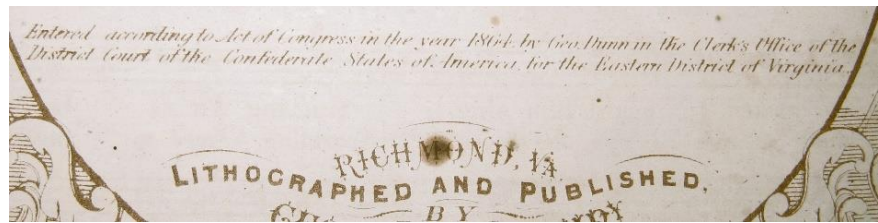
<https://newspapers.mnhs.org>

or

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers> to start searching.



Music was the principal entertainment of Civil War Americans with many middle-class households owning a piano. Sheet music was produced in quantity and many featured beautiful lithographs on their covers. One of my favorite Civil War songs has always been Aura Lea. This 50-cent purchase at a 1970 Northfield flea market was especially welcome thanks to its unexpected Confederate copyright line.

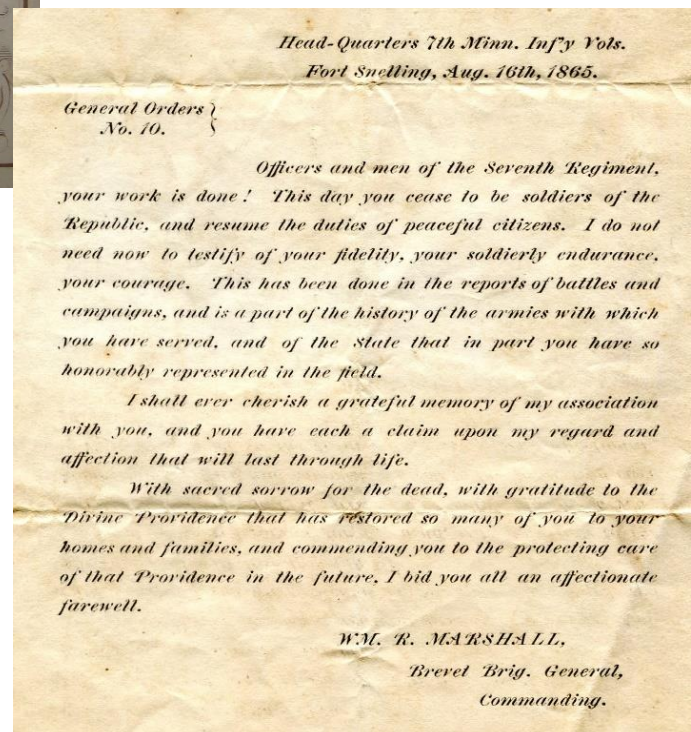


This little sheet was read to the men of the 7th Minnesota Infantry as they mustered out at Fort Snelling and a copy was then handed to each veteran. Written on back is the name of the soldier who received it. The document was an inexpensive eBay find just a few years back.

Civil War paper is still inexpensive, easy to find, and takes little space to display and store. Keep your eyes open and some may come your way.

The army ran not only on its stomach but also on paperwork. Company officers were personally responsible for government property and funds in their hands, and so kept duplicate copies of every document. So, while official copies are still housed in the enormous National Archives in Washington, millions of duplicates reside in attics, local historical societies and private collections. They are a common but always interesting find at antique and book shows.

Published army orders are also common, but less so are broadside orders printed locally for specific units.



NEW MEMBERS:



New members: Terri Rand and Gary Carlberg

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

Virginia experienced the most fighting during the Civil War—more than 2,100 events, followed by Tennessee (1,400) and Missouri (1,100).

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