

Issue 26: June 2022

2022-2023 BOARD

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First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

STEVE COOK

by Lana Blumhoefer



Our featured member of the month is Steve Cook. He joined our group in 2004 following his attendance at our symposium. He decided to join because he has always been interested in history, especially the Civil War. He particularly likes

being a member of a group with similar interests. He enjoys sharing and learning through social interactions as well as the topical presentations.

What he finds most interesting about the Civil War is the incredible impact it had on individuals, their families, and on our society as a whole, at the time. Also, he is amazed at the many inventions that came about because of the war which led to other post-war developments.

As far as he is aware, the ancestors that fought in the Civil War were his great grandfathers' two brothers who enlisted in Michigan and were deployed to Ohio. Steve's favorite battlefields are Shiloh and Gettysburg.

One thing that most people don't know about him is that at one time he was a Chorister in the Canterbury Cathedral Choir School.

He grew up in the Rochester and also the Macalester/Groveland areas of St. Paul. He currently lives with his family on a hobby farm in Inver Grove Heights where he raises 5 goats, 2 llamas, 12 ornamental chickens, 2 dogs, and 2 cats.

A number of years ago he served on our Board of Directors and was Secretary/Treasurer. He has recently been elected to serve on the board again and is happy to do so.

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

Which future US Presidents served in the Civil War?

(See page 5 for the answer)

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

Here are the newly elected officers for the 2022-2023 year:

President: Brett Johnson

Vice President: Tom Hutchinson

Secretary/Treasurer Carol VanOrnum

Past President: Bob Svacina

At-Large Board Members (Two-year term ending May 2023): Lana Blumhoefer, Bruce Cooper

At-Large Board Members (Two-year term ending May 2024): Steve Cook, James Newborn, Rod Myers, Heather Paulsen

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY –JUNE

2nd 1861 – General Pierre G. T. Beauregard takes command of Confederate forces in northern Virginia.

8th 1862 – Battle of Cross Keys, Virginia.

8th 1864 – Lincoln nominated for a second term as U.S. President.

9th 1862 – Battle of Port Republic, Virginia

11th 1900 – Confederate spy Bell “LaBelle Rebelle” Boyd dies in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

13-15th 1863 – Battle of Second Winchester.

20th 1863 – West Virginia joins the Union as the 35th state.

27th 1864 – Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – JUNE

1st 1806 – Brig. General John Buchanan Floyd C.S.

1st 1831 – General John Bell Hood C.S.

3rd 1808 – Jefferson Davis C.S.

12th 1798 – General Samuel Cooper C.S.

14th 1805 – Brig. General Robert Anderson U.S.

26th 1819 – Major General Abner Doubleday U.S.

SOME PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR MAY 2022 MEETING:



Aiden Kelleher: 2022 History Day winner.



Outgoing President Bob Svacina



New Members: Chad Cox, Barry Rosinsky and Roger Stusse

TCCWRT SUMMER PICNIC 2022

We had such a great time – Let's do it again!

TCCWRT Annual Picnic

Tuesday, July 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Wabun B, Minnehaha Park (same as last year)

Join us for our Second Annual TCCWRT Picnic

Good food and a trivia contest! Prizes!!

Meat for sandwiches, utensils, and non-alcoholic beverages
will be provided.
We need desserts, salads, other sides (buns, chips, brown beans,
etc.)

For dishes requiring a serving spoon, please bring one.

Please email/call Lana Blumhoefer to sign up!

First come, first served.

Lanarae27@yahoo.com or (952) 228-3929

RSVP by July 12th

Map to Wabun B:

https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/_asset/jcyws1/minnehaha_park_picnic_map.pdf

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/5 Mark Pridgeon
6/7 Gerry Brandt
6/7 Jim Sullivan
6/9 Stuart Harder
6/15 Dan Sherry
6/16 Gary Peterson
6/16 Erich Mische
6/22 Joel Malmberg
6/25 David Peterson
6/26 Wally Droegemueller

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

Seven future U.S. presidents served in the Civil War: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Chester A. Arthur, and Andrew Johnson.

Wounded in Battle

Stephen E. Osman

In 1879 Civil War veteran John King of the 92nd Illinois Mounted Infantry began publishing his Notes from a Soldier's Diary in a local newspaper. With 92 serialized articles, King described Union soldier life in a graphic mix of chronological, thematic and incident related pieces. Due to the small circulation and limited run of the northern Illinois newspaper, few are aware of this trove and it has never been edited for book length reprint. A good friend sent me photocopies many years ago, and I've transcribed one article for our newsletter.

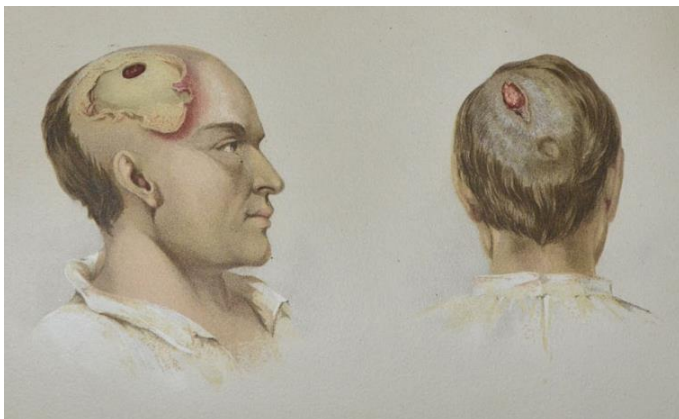
The 92nd Illinois was raised in Ogle, Stephenson and Carroll Counties in late summer 1862. In November they deployed to Kentucky as an anti-guerilla force. The next July part of the regiment scoured the countryside for horses and former slaves, securing 1,700 of the former and 800 of the latter most of whom were immediately enlisted into colored regiments. The horses were used to mount the entire 92nd to become part of the famous Wilder's Brigade. Eventually armed with Spencer seven shot repeating rifles they were a force to be reckoned with.

Corporal King was from Marion Illinois, enlisted August 9, 1862 and mustered out with the regiment in July 1865. His account that follows, original spelling preserved, describes men wounded in battle. Illustrations are from the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion and the US National Library of Medicine.

A warning: some of the descriptions may be jarring.

*Chickamauga Battlefield, Ga
Sunday, Sept. 20, 1863*

As Wilder's brigade was moving back, protecting as far as possible the great drifting masses of wounded men, disorganized men, loaded ambulances, ammunition wagons and artillery, the wounded men attracted my attention. It was a great curiosity to me to know just how a wounded man felt when he was shot. Presuming that many of our readers will be interested in what I saw and learned here, I will give a little space to that point.

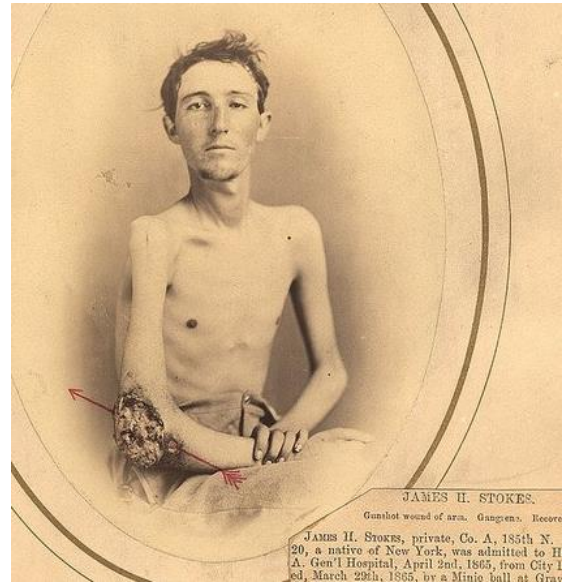


In the first place a healthy man is very hard to shoot and kill instantly. There are but a few places where a man can be shot and instantly killed. If a ball passes through the top part of the brain, crashing through the walls of the skull on both sides, he is killed instantly and never knows what hurt him. Instances have been known where the head has been struck, torn open, and some of the brain oozed out, and still the person lived for a time. Occasionally the person injured

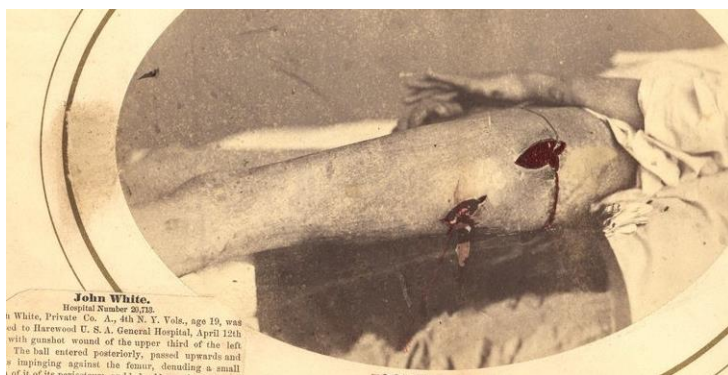
gets partly or passably well. Such cases are usually in the side or back of the head.

Another place where the men are shot and instantly killed is in the heart. But even then the man is not instantly killed, unless the ball passes through and tears open those cavities that hold and pump the blood to the system, or some of the vessels that carry the blood to and from the heart. Then, again, if a ball pierces and severs the main artery anywhere between the heart and base of the brain, he is instantly killed; otherwise, you may shoot a man all to pieces, so to speak, and he will not die quick. I once saw a man that was shot seven different times with seven different guns in less than a minute. He stuck to his horse and ran away, and the rebels failed to capture him.

When a ball strikes a man in full force, he is numbed in the parts struck, and the instant pain is not so great as that would be from a light stroke of a carriage whip. The pain comes on gradually. Sometimes a man receiving a flesh wound in an arm or leg in times of excitement does not know it until he sees the blood coming down the coat sleeve or feels it working between his toes in his boot. Those who are shot or hit with what the boys called "spent balls" experienced the most momentary pain. These spent balls either come a long ways and loose part of their force or are shot out of defective guns, or have not powder enough behind them to give them proper force for good execution. These balls usually have force enough to go half way thorough an arm, leg or the body, unless they strike something to partly ward it off. The most painful wound that is possible to inflict, so far as my observation went, is to be shot in the knee joint with a spent ball that has considerable force.



The most painful wound I think that I ever saw was a little after noon of the first day's battle at Chicamauga. A ball had struck a man in the knee in such a way as to pass under and strain up



the knee pan, and got wedged between the knee joints of the large bones, and there lodged. Two of his companions picked him up on the battlefield, took hold of him on both sides just as two small boys would take hold of a larger one to wrestle him down at "side-hold," and walked off with the wounded man. He belonged to one of the infantry regiments. His pain and misery was

severe to the last extremity of human endurance. He writhed, groaned, cried and almost screamed with agony and pain, and occasionally vomited. Other men have had both legs shot away with cannon balls that never suffered the hundredth part of the severe pain that this man did.

Sometimes men get wounded under such peculiar circumstances that the boys after the battle will laugh at the wounded man.

Reuben Edgar was a mess-mate of mine, and at our second position of the first day's fight we were almost side by side, but each of us were behind a small stump, loading and shooting as fast as we could jump into it. Reuben had loaded his gun and rose up to cap and shoot. The stump was small and he rose too high. A ball came just over the top of the stump and struck him full in the breast with a heavy thud as it struck. I heard the ball whiz, heard it strike, and saw "Rube" tumble over onto his face. A streak of sadness passed over me in spite of the din of battle.

"Rube" made a low, guttural, whining noise and I supposed it was sort of a dying, insensible groan. I blazed away and "Rube" lay there nearly dead or dying as I supposed. The ball had



struck in the breast so as to pass over a line of the heart. The rebels began to flank us and word was sent down the line that we were compelled to move back and form a new line.

We were just about to start when "Rube" lifted up his head and in a mournful tone said: "Oh boys, don't let the rebels get me." Two or three boys ran up quickly, raised him straight with one on each side in a resting attitude and started off. "Rube," to his own surprise found that his legs worked as well as ever, and after they had carried him a little way he told them he could walk. They let go of him and "Rube" took a step or two, stopped, threw open his jacket, vest and shirt to take a look at the wound or ball hole in his breast. He looked an instant, passed his thumb and finger over the wounded spot, then looked up with sunshine and smiles and said

"By golly, boys, it didn't go in." A half dozen boys gave a shout of laughter right then and there. "Rube" never heard the last of "By golly boys it didn't go in."

But, after all, "Rube" had been struck with a pretty savage ball. It struck his leather shoulder belt just over his wadded jacket, and it raised a bunch on his breast bone about the size of a hen's egg. It knocked the breath out of him, and his efforts to regain it were what I supposed to be his dying agonies. I happened to be looking towards Edward Lent when the ball struck him. It seemed to make a streak of whiz. It seemed as though you could almost see the balls coming, but not quite. The balls made a frightful whiz or screech. I heard the whiz and saw the dust rise from Lent's jacket. The ball struck between the root of the arm and breast, about midway. The ball went crashing through, tearing flesh and splintering bones. Lent turned deadly pale, staggered and said: "Oh take hold of me." His mess-mate, Catling Wilson, took hold of him, held him up and led him to the rear out of further danger.

When men are first wounded, they are nearly as limber as ever, except in the parts shot, but after a lapse of twenty-four hours their wounds are swollen and the man becomes very pale, and he is stiff and sore all over his body, so to speak.

As we were moving back with the ambulances I saw one man that had been shot in the mouth, the ball crashing through the upper front teeth, passing upwards through the roof of the mouth and coming out at the top of the head where the hair curls or parts in every direction. He sat up straight in the ambulance, blood tricking down from both ends of the wound.

In times of battle, or series of battles, if a man complains of being ill he is treated by the men as a sneak, coward, or a "play-off." That is, if he gets ill during the battle. But a wounded man is treated with all the respect and courtesy at the command of the soldiers. A well soldier would almost die for the wounded one, but the ill man is treated with contempt. It is very unfortunate and a disgrace to be taken ill during a battle.

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