



NEWS

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First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

MARK PRIDGEON



Our featured member of the month is Mark Pridgeon.

Mark has been a member of the TCCWRT since approximately 2000 and served as President during the 2011-2012 season.

Mark became interested in the Civil War at the age of ten. His family took a trip

to Washington, D.C., stopping for a day in Gettysburg. His dad hired a battlefield guide who drove them around the battlefield and gave an amazing account of the battle. Noting the family was from Minnesota, the guide emphasized the famous charge of the First Minnesota. Mark also remembers looking out from Little Round Top and seeing the whole field laid out in front of him. He already had an interest on history but this trip really “set the hook.”

He shared an interest in the Civil War with his mother, who has since passed. He remembers past conversations about McClellan blowing his chance to destroy Lee’s army at Antietam by not attacking simultaneously along the whole front and not

committing his entire army. Both she and Mark were avid watchers of the Ken Burns Civil War documentary series, after which they would talk and compare notes. He fondly remembers that after the Antietam episode aired, she called him on the phone and exclaimed, “That son of a bitch.”

Mark had several ancestors in the Civil War.

William Manwell died April 6 or 7, 1862, at the Battle of Shiloh at Pittsburgh Landing.

Henry George Murray, also from the 12th New York infantry, was killed at the Second Battle of Bull Run on August 30, 1862.

John Wesley Benjamin Lt Col of the 157th NY Regiment. He was wounded in the leg at Gettysburg. Family legend has it that this leg wound especially bothered him in his later years and made him grumpy.

When asked what Mark finds most interesting about the Civil War, his answer is “EVERYTHING!!!!!!” His favorite battlefields are Gettysburg and the Richmond area. He loves reading about the campaigns, battles and politics of the time. He especially enjoys learning about President Lincoln’s management of generals and other politicians.

Mark was born in Dallas, Texas, but at the age of three told his parents that he wanted to see snow and wanted to move where there was snow. They first moved to Denver but the snow there melted after only a day or two, so they then moved to Minnesota where he says the snow does not melt, it just wears out.

Mark is a proud Gopher fan. Go Gophers!!!!

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

What percentage of Civil War soldiers were volunteers rather than draftees or regular army?

(See page 9 for the answer)

OUR OCTOBER MEETING: OCTOBER 18, 2022

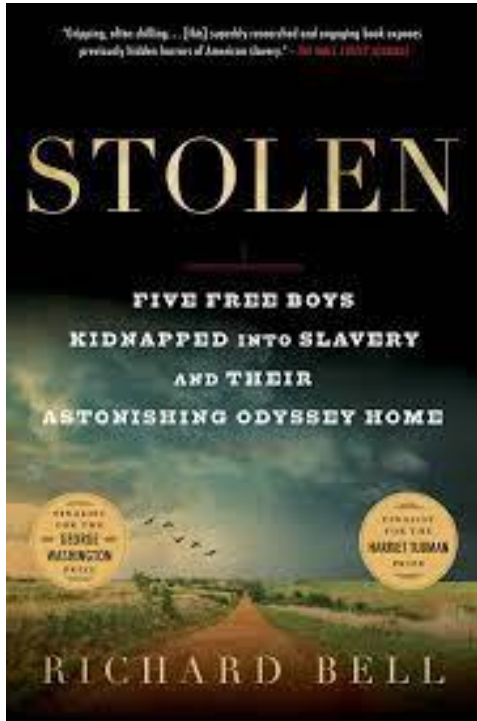
“Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home”

Richard Bell

Philadelphia, 1825: five young, free black boys fall into the clutches of the most fearsome gang of kidnappers and slavers in the United States. Lured onto a small ship with the promise of food and pay, they are instead met with blindfolds, ropes, and knives. Over four long months, their kidnappers drive them overland into the Cotton Kingdom to be sold as slaves. Determined to resist, the boys form a tight brotherhood as they struggle to free themselves and find their way home. Their ordeal— an odyssey that takes them from the Philadelphia waterfront to the marshes of Mississippi and then onward still—shines a glaring spotlight on the Reverse Underground Railroad, a black-market network of human traffickers and slave traders who stole

away thousands of legally free African Americans from their families in order to fuel slavery's rapid expansion in the decades before the Civil War.

*Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of the book **Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home** which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. He serves as a Trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.*



2022-2023 ROUND TABLE SPEAKER SCHEDULE

2022

- November 15: “The Louisiana Tigers” – Scott Mingus
December 20: “Out to Work: Women and the Civil War ...” – Dr. Lisa Marie Rude

2023

- January 17: “The Turning Point: The Wilderness and Spotsylvania” – John C. Fazio
February 21: “The Underground Railroad” – Chris Crutchfield
March 21: “Clara Barton: Civil War Battlefield Nurse” – Leslie Goddard
May 16: “The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners ...” – Lorien Foote

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY –OCTOBER

- 1st 1864 – Confederate spy Rose O’Neal Greenhow drowns in the Cape Fear River weighed down by \$2000 in gold sewn into underwear and hung around her neck.
- 7th 1864 – The U.S.S. Wachusett captures the C.S.S. Florida at Bahia, Brazil.
- 10th 1862 – Confederate President Davis asks Virginia to draft over 4000 Blacks to complete fortifications around Richmond, Virginia.
- 11th 1862 – Union and Confederate forces skirmish near Helena, Arkansas.
- 12th 1870 – Confederate General Robert E. Lee dies at the age of 63 in Lexington, Virginia.
- 16th 1859 – Abolitionist John Brown leads a raid on Harpers Ferry Virginia.
- 17th 1863 – President Lincoln calls for 300,000 more volunteers to join the Union army.
- 24th 1862 – Union Major General Don Carlos Buell replaced by Major General William Rosecrans as commander of the Army of the Ohio.
- 29th 1885 – Union Major General George B. McClellan dies at the age of 58 in West Orange New Jersey.

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – OCTOBER

- 27th 1828 – Major General Jacob Dolson Cox U.S.
- 27th 1829 – Brig. General Christopher Columbus Andrews U.S.
- 31st 1831 – Major General Daniel Butterfield U.S.

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

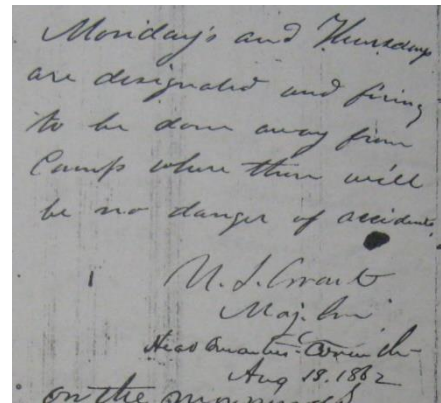
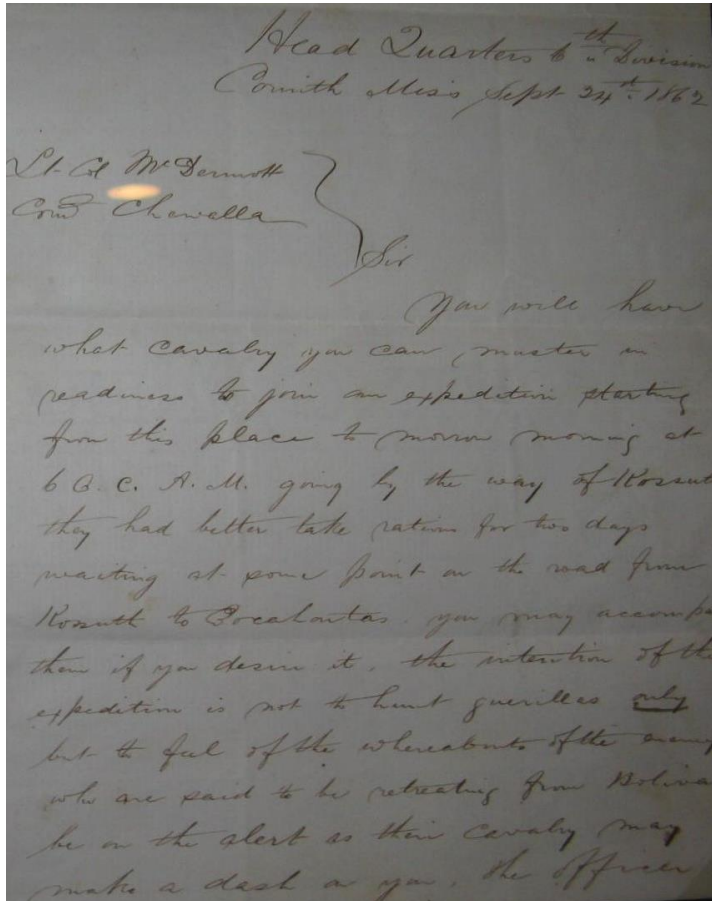
Carol VanOrnum	10/6
Brett Johnson	10/9
Jim Coughlin	10/12
Glenn Corliss	10/16
Dave Tabert	10/17

From the Dusty Collection #22

An Ancestor's Orders to Battle

Serendipity has played a huge role in my collecting, and no better example is the set of orders that sent my great grandfather into his first battle. Years ago, multiple advertisements for weekly estate sales were published in local newspapers. One ad featured Civil War letters written by U.S. Grant. I assumed high prices and that competition would be there in force, so thought I'd go to another sale first. There I was approached individually by two other "pickers" who each wondered why I was not at the Civil War sale.

Later a third collector friend called me, told me who had bought the letters, and stated in no uncertain terms that that picker was awaiting my call. Finally, I got the message! I made the call, visited the purchaser's cluttered antique shop, and had the four letters in my hand. They had been brought home by an Illinois regimental surgeon who probably purloined them when he realized Grant's star was rising fast.



Two letters, both to Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord and entirely in Grant's hand, dealt with orders for the Battle of Iuka and with discharging sick and wounded soldiers not likely to return to duty. Neither had ever been published. The third Grant order (above) related to cavalry at Corinth, Mississippi practicing with their carbines. Now this was of interest. My ancestor was then stationed at Corinth as a member of Ford's Independent Company of Illinois Cavalry. That small unit was the escort for Major General Halleck after Shiloh, and later at Corinth for Major General Grant.

But the fourth letter (on the left), penned by Sixth Division Commander Brigadier General John McArthur, left me stunned! A deal was quickly made and I left with all four documents and a

few additional artifacts from the Illinois surgeon. That manuscript order from the colorful General McArthur (pictured below) had ordered my ancestor into his first battle!

Headquarters 6th Division

Corinth, Miss Sept. 24th, 1862

Lt. Col. McDermott

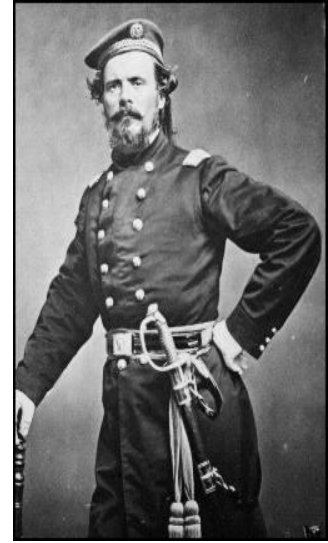
Comd. Chewalla

Sir,

You will have what cavalry you can muster in readiness to join an expedition from this place tomorrow morning at 6 O.C. A.M. going by the way of Kossuth.

They had better take rations for two days awaiting at some point on the road from Kossuth to Pocahontas. You may accompany them if you desire it, the intention of the expedition is not to hunt guerillas only but to feel of the whereabouts of the enemy who are said to be retreating from Bolivar.

Be on the alert as their cavalry may make a dash on you. The officer in charge of the expedition is instructed to wait till your company joins him being not acquainted with the road you can judge of the time and place better than I can. I hope you will be successful in bagging some of them.



Yours truly,

J. McArthur

Brig. Gen. Comd. 6th Div.

Private George Hunter of Ford's Cavalry was with the expedition. He wrote home to the Ottawa Republican newspaper to share a detailed account of the action that followed:

I presume you are aware that our company has been for some time acting as a part of Gen. Grant's escort. Some two weeks ago we were sent out from Corinth, to this place to watch the movements of the enemy in this direction, and to pick up any wandering bands of guerrillas that might be prowling about. Chewalla is a small town on the Memphis R.R. and is about ten miles from Corinth. It is held by the 15th Michigan regiment under the command of Lieutenant Col. McDermott.

Last Thursday we were ordered to go out about ten or twelve miles to where the Bolivar Road crosses the Tuscumbia River, to intercept as we supposed two or three companies of rebels returning from Bolivar, where as you are aware they attacked our forces. The expedition was composed of the 11th Illinois Cavalry, a company of regulars and Capt. Ford's Company. By some blunder, a part of the expedition took the wrong road, and just at dusk we come upon the 11th regiment camped a few rods from the Tuscumbia bridge, their horses unsaddled, their arms scattered around upon the ground, and the men running around in the woods and fields, some in pursuit of corn for their horses and others hunting for a pig or calf on which to make a supper. This, by the way, was the very place where the rebels were expected to appear.

As soon as our company arrived, Capt. Ford like a true soldier as he is, enquired of the officer commanding the 11th if he had pickets out. He said he had not, upon which our Captain immediately threw out pickets from his own company, to guard against surprise, and selected a camp ground. He then gave the order to dismount and unsaddle, and by the time the men were



fairly dismounted, a yell broke out from the woods in every direction, as though ten thousand devils had broke loose from Pandemonium. Crack, crack, bang! bang! went the rebel guns, and in an instant, our company found themselves surrounded by two or three thousand rebels, who with guns pointed at us demanded our immediate and unconditional surrender.

Capt. Ford with the coolness which he has ever manifested when surrounded by danger, quietly gave the order to mount, and while the rebel officers were trying to find him, supposing of course he had surrendered, he had got his men all mounted, and finding that it was utterly

useless to attempt to form them there, in the midst of the rebels, commenced retreating, hoping to be able to get them into line, when he should get upon more favorable ground. While trying to get his men in some kind of shape, he was completely surrounded by rebels, one of whom shot at him twice, when one of our men drew his pistol, and shot the rebel through the heart.

By this time it had become so dark that it was impossible to distinguish the rebels from our own men, and Col. McDermott having ordered a retreat, our company made the best retreat they could under the circumstances, some of them actually riding along by the side of the rebels, who could only be distinguished by close observation of the color of their clothes.—Every man in the company testify to the coolness and bravery of Capt. Ford, with one exception and he was seen near the head of the column calling out with all the strength of lungs he had, “boys, boys, what the --- are you running for?” At the same time putting the spurs to his horse, making Flora Temple time. The main part of our company arrived in camp about twelve o’clock at night, while others straggled in during the next fore noon... How we ever escaped without being all either killed or taken prisoners is almost a miracle. The 11th lost nearly all their horses and many of them were taken prisoners. The same thing with the regulars. We had not a man wounded, and but three taken prisoners, and those three may come in yet.

It is not for me to say upon whom rests the blame of this most perfect surprise; but I am satisfied that Capt. Ford will never camp with his company in an enemy’s country, without first throwing out strong picket guard to give the alarm should the enemy appear. The force that attacked us, is supposed to have been two or three regiments on their way from Bolivar to Ripley where the rebels are supposed to be in strong force. We have all the hard work we want to do; but the boys are all willing to do all they can to put down this rebellion.



For the next week Austin Osman (left) and Ford's Cavalry were in the saddle day and night as Major General Rosecrans army anticipated the coming attack on Corinth. On October 2, 1862, the Confederate Army under General Earl Van Dorn assaulted them at their Chewalla, Tennessee outpost. The cavalymen doggedly retreated toward Corinth on the 3rd, making several stands with a section of the First Minnesota Battery and helping to slow the Confederate attack along the narrow road to Corinth. At Cane Creek, just below the immense Corinth fortifications, they burned the bridge and helped the Battery dump one of its damaged cannon tubes into the steeply banked creek. And on that fortified line just outside of town they fought for several hours before slowly moving back to the inner line of fortifications.

And here was yet another piece of serendipity. Decades ago, a Mississippi buddy invited me to metal detect a part of that entrenched Corinth line. He took us to Blue Cut where the railroad passed through the fortified ridge line. The pasture where we dug is now covered with suburban homes. Still known as Oliver's Hill, that is where Second Brigade Commander Colonel J. M. Oliver and a mixed force of cavalry and infantry had tried

to stem the Confederate tide, spearheaded there by the 33rd Mississippi Infantry. Cane Creek crosses the field in this recent photo, with Oliver's Hill in the tree line right rear.



We each found a few bullets that had been fired at that spot by attacking Confederates. But it was not until years later that I learned that Ford's Cavalry had defended that same area during the attack. Any one of those bullets could have ended my family line on October 3, 1862!



NEW MEMBER



Lance Teachworth

Former TCCWRT member Lance Teachworth has rejoined after a several year hiatus.

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

About 90%. Of the 3 million soldiers in the Civil War, 1% were regular army, 9% were draftees or substitutes, and the rest were volunteers.

CONTACT US:

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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