



NEWS

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LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BRETT JOHNSON

Hello TCCWRT members,

We got off to a great start with 70+ attending our third Tuesday of the month meetings (two of them this fall) at the Knights of Columbus (KOC, or Bloomington Event Center)! Our September out-of-town speaker had five of her in-law relatives attend from the area.

We have many new members, one which we introduced at our October meeting as an on-line zoom attendee. Please pass on the word to friends and family that we are now multi-channel, with some attending our meetings in person, and some remotely. Snowbirds can watch from their favorite retreats in the south!

We will be hosting another Saturday Symposium, this one on April 1, 2023, at the KOC. The general theme is logistics and transportation. To date, we have speakers lined up for subjects like 'The Great Locomotive Chase' and one on 'horses and mules in the Civil War.' As these are firmed up, we will get the word out to you. Hopefully, you will be able to attend and encourage others too.

Brett Johnson, President

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

What notable Union general was born in Spain?

(See page 6 for the answer)



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING: NOVEMBER 15, 2022

“The Louisiana Tigers” - Scott Mingus

One of Robert E. Lee’s best, and most controversial, brigades in the Army of Northern Virginia – the Louisiana Tigers. They played a key role in the Gettysburg Campaign. Their storming and seizure of a vital fort in the Winchester defenses forced Union commander Robert Milroy to abandon the town, opening the way north to the Potomac River for Lee’s forces. The Tigers were perhaps the single unit most feared by the Northern press, and some of their exploits will be recounted, followed by a discussion of their ill-fated attack on Cemetery Hill during the Battle of Gettysburg.



Scott Mingus is a retired scientist and executive in the global pulp and paper industry. He has written 23 Civil War and Underground Railroad books. His biography of General William “Extra Billy” Smith won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History. He has also written several articles for Gettysburg Magazine and other historical journals. Scott has appeared on

C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PCN, and other TV networks. For more than a decade, he has written a blog on the Civil War and Underground Railroad history of York County (www.yorkblog.com/cannonball). He has written six scenario books for Civil War miniature wargaming.

2022-2023 ROUND TABLE SPEAKER SCHEDULE

2022

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 –NOVEMBER

6th 1872 – Union Major General George Gordon Meade dies at the age of 56.

- 7th 1861 – Union and Confederate forces clash at Belmont, Missouri.
- 7th 1863 – Battle of Rappahannock Station, Virginia
- 8th 1861 – James Murray Mason and John Slidell, Confederate diplomats on their way to Britain and France, are taken from the British mail packet RMS Trent as contrabands of war.
- 12th 1861 – The Confederate blockade runner “Fingal,” purchased in England, arrives in Savannah, Georgia.
- 21st 1862 – Confederate Secretary of War George W. Randolph replaced by James A. Seddon.
- 29th 1864 – Sand Creek Massacre, Colorado Territory.
- 30th 1863 – Confederate General Braxton Bragg, commander of the Army of Tennessee, resigns his command.

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – NOVEMBER

- 2nd 1828 - Major General Bryan Grimes C.S.
- 8th 1830 - Major General Oliver Otis Howard U.S.
- 9th 1825 - Lt. General Ambrose Powell C.S.
- 16th 1822 - Major General Charles Smith Hamilton U.S.
- 21st 1817 – Brig. General Richard Garnett C.S.
- 29th 1815 - Major General Stephan A. Hurlbut U.S.

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/2 Clark Hauschild
- 11/7 Gerry Briggs
- 11/7 Brian Glass
- 11/12 Julie Williams
- 11/29 Kirk Sikorowski

Artifacts of Slavery and Freedom

The United States' so called "original sin" was slavery. Even in the context of the time, it gave lie to ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence. Americans were hardly the first to claim ownership of other human beings, and would be far from the last. While behind Europe in outlawing slavery, we were ahead of at least a few other American nations and colonies. And we continue to try, after a century and half, to come to terms with the multi-generational legacy of human bondage.



Any study of the Civil War has to include a look at slavery which – despite southern revisionist attempts – remains the undisputed cause of the war. By 1860 the United States has a population of around 31.5 million people, of whom nearly 4 million were held in slavery. The 1850 and the 1860 Census enumerated those enslaved people on slave schedules under the name of the owner. Rarely were individuals recorded by name – only age, sex and sometimes occupation. Still these schedules offer research opportunities in several excellent on-line compilations.

A close friend owned this wonderful image of two African born enslaved senior [non] citizens and it took great persuasive efforts to add it to the collection. But this couple must have been much loved to have justified the expense of an ambrotype back in the 1850s. Their names are lost to history as is what probably was a fascinating story.

Back in my college days I was able to purchase a small collection of slave papers that still await in-depth research. Most are records of annual hires of individual enslaved people, including children, to others. As "rented property" their lives were likely far from pleasant. There are several data bases currently being compiled from these sorts of papers to

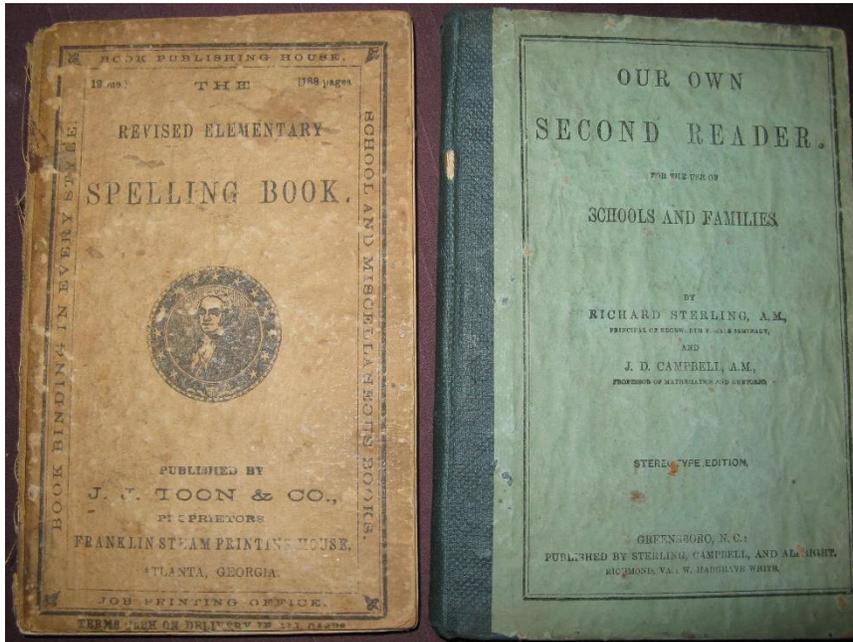
engaged in the Cyclor Business or any other on the

Slaves	By whom hired	amt to be paid	amt to be paid per year	Security
Billy	A C Henry	80 00		Bond W-1
Leandra	Westerly Hart	112 00		Bond Land
Griffin	Wm L Gatewood	61 00		Bond No
Emanuel (old)	Winton Hart	16 00		Bond Land
Jacks (old)	James Healy		15 00	See Below
Mitty (old)				
Sam				
Phob	A C Henry		30 00	Contract
Caly				
Hannah	Ro Staff	30 75		Bond Past
Wm Hamilton	H D Faulkner	25 00		Bond B
Bellinda (old)				
Base	W Hart	40 00		Bond Land
Martha	A C Henry	35 00		Bond Wm
Hayette	A C Henry	25 00		Bond Land
Caly & child	J Y Burston	25 00		Bond No
Emeline	Ro Staff	9 50		
Wm	W Hart	41 50		Bond Land

try to flesh out the record of millions of otherwise anonymous enslaved Americans from the ante bellum period.

Around 2,300 individual stories of formerly enslaved people were collected during the Depression by the Federal Writers Project. Some of these include images, and many were audio recorded. The Library of Congress maintains this fascinating collection:

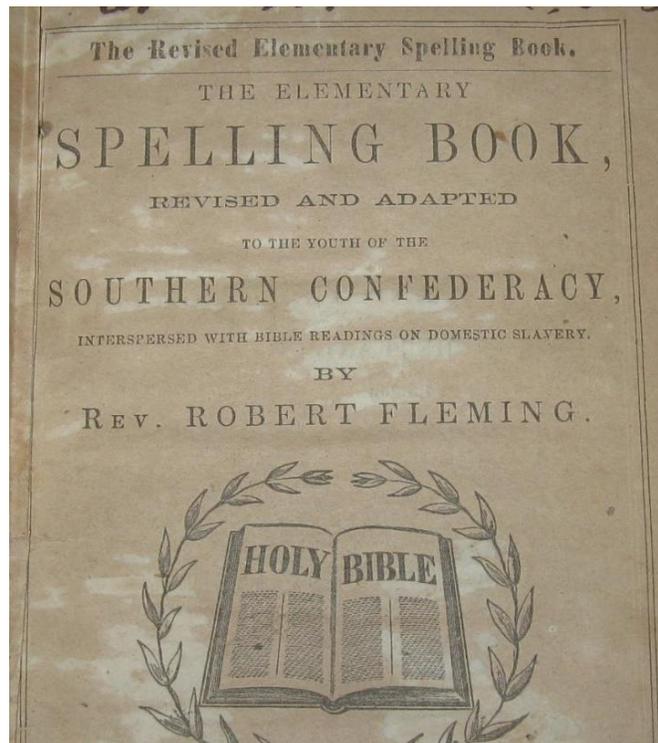
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>



The abundant literature produced before the war included anti-slavery newspapers and tracts, novels like Uncle Tom's Cabin and several slave narratives. All are collectible today. Considerably scarcer are printed materials from the south that defend the institution of slavery. Even children's reading books carried a message to young Confederates that slavery was moral and defended in

the Bible. The title page of this volume published in Georgia says it all:

Enslaved people had long self-emancipated and during the Civil War more than a million fled to Union lines. A quarter of those refugees were eventually employed by the Army. Here in Minnesota the process was expedited by both a desperate need for army teamsters to drive mule drawn wagons and by an organized effort in St. Louis to transplant refugees north to several midwestern states. General U. S. Grant supported early efforts to turn refugees who flooded his lines into useful free citizens. Several hundred, including wives and children, were sent by steamboat to Fort Snelling in 1863, quadrupling the area's African American population.



When General Sibley's "contraband" teamsters returned from the 1863 Expedition against the Dakota a number immediately joined the army. Their stated place of residence – "Fort Snelling" – gave them the curious distinction of being the largest group of enlistees reporting *that* place as home when they enlisted in the First Regiment of Iowa Infantry of African Descent!

African American men rushed to join the Army and increased their numbers in the Navy as soon as their enlistment was finally sanctioned in 1863. By war's end they comprised an astounding ten percent of the Union Army, with 179,000 serving on land and 19,000 in the Navy. For many of these proud soldiers freedom was not a gift, but rather something to be fought for.



Many Minnesota men served as officers in the United States Colored Troops including the grandfather of our late member Rich Miller. His company's non-commissioned officers are pictured here.



And my first Civil War musket, purchased at age 12 for all of \$25 turned out to have a USCT connection. In the ramrod channel was scratched a name: W. A. Paskin. Not until the soldier data bases appeared on line was I able to identify Private Wilkes Paskin, age 25, who enlisted at Helena Arkansas in 1863. His service in the 46th US Colored Infantry was cut short when he died of small pox the next year.

Of the 40,000 African American troops who died during the war, 75% were victims of disease rampant in their encampments. The National Archives holds the muster rolls and later pension records of the Union Army and Navy and has recently begun digitalizing them starting with the USCT. Their availability on line will provide wonderful opportunities to further tell this part of our rich Civil War story.

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

George Meade, born December 31, 1815, in Cadiz, Spain where his father was a US naval agent.

NEW MEMBERS



Barbara-Ann March, Mark Casper, David Kelley and Meg Narducci. Not Pictured: Bob McClellan

CONTACT US:

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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