



NEWS

Issue 33: January 2023

2022-2023 BOARD

President: Brett Johnson

Vice President: Tom Hutchinson

Past President: Bob Svacina

Sec./Treas.: Carol VanOrnum

At Large Directors:

Lana Blumhoefer, Steve Cook

Bruce Cooper, James Mewborn

Rod Myers, Heather Paulson

NEWS Editor: Bruce Cooper

MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

KIKI SONNEN
BY LANA BLUMHOEFER



Kiki with her Llewelin Setter "Chicory"

Our featured member this month is Kiki Sonnen. Kiki has been a member of the TCCWRT since 2014. She first became interested in the Civil War during the centennial 1961-1965 and reading Bruce Catton's books.

Her great-grandparents lived in New Ulm at the time of the U.S.-Dakota war. Her great-grandmother gave cookies to the Dakota children and their mothers who came to the door asking for food. When the Dakota attacked, they left their home untouched but did burn the neighbors' homes and killed some of these same neighbors. Her great-grandparents later left that area



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

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

How many incidents of sexual misconduct can be found in Civil War court martial records?

(See last page for the answer)

OUR JANUARY MEETING: JANUARY 17, 2023

“The Turning Point: The Wilderness and Spotsylvania” – John C. Fazio



The twin battles of The Wilderness and Spotsylvania on May 5-19, 1864, could arguably constitute the true turning point of the Civil War, despite the fact that the first of them was a Confederate victory, because they forever extinguished the possibility that the Confederacy could win the war. That possibility was already remote by virtue of major Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, in July, 1863, but neither of those battles sealed the Confederacy's fate, as demonstrated by the later Confederate victory at Chickamauga (September,

1863). The fate was sealed when General Grant turned south at the Brock Road-Plank Road intersection, toward Spotsylvania Court House, after his defeat in The Wilderness, rather than northward to re-cross the Rapidan, lick his wounds and regroup, as the long train of mediocrities before him had done. Grant promised Lincoln there would be no retreat, and he meant it. “I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer,” he wired Henry Halleck. And he did.



John C. Fazio has a B.A. and J.D. from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He joined his wife, Mary, in retirement in 2016 after practicing law for 50 years. He is a student of history, with an emphasis on European and American history and with an even greater emphasis on the most defining event in American history, the Civil War. He is a member of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable and has been its president. He is also a member of the Lincoln Forum, the Surratt Society, the Cleveland Grays and the Western Reserve Historical Society. He has taught Civil War history at Chautauqua Institution, frequently speaks on the war and other subjects before Roundtables and other groups and has written and published more than 40 articles on the war and other subjects. In addition,

he has written Decapitating the Union: Jefferson Davis, Judah Benjamin and the Plot to Assassinate Lincoln, after five years of research and writing.

(Image of Spotsylvania by Thure de Thulstrup.)

2023 ROUND TABLE SPEAKER SCHEDULE

2023

- February 21: “The Underground Railroad” – Chris Crutchfield
- March 21: “Clara Barton: Civil War Battlefield Nurse” – Leslie Goddard
- April 1 Annual Civil War Symposium
- May 16: “The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners ...” – Lorien Foote

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY –JANUARY

- 2nd 1904 – Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet dies in Gainsville, Georgia at the age of 82.
- 6th 1861 – Florida state forces seize the Federal Arsenal at Apalachicola.
- 9th 1861 – The merchant ship “Star of the West” is fired upon by cadets from the Citadel Academy causing the ship to abandon its mission to resupply Fort Sumter.
- 9th-11th 1863 – The Battle of Arkansas Post (a.k.a. Fort Hindman), Arkansas.
- 12th 1865 – Francis Preston Blair Sr. meets with Confederate leaders in Richmond to negotiate peace. The meeting leads to the Hampton Roads Conference.
- 18th 1862 – The Confederate Territory of Arizonia is formally organized by the Confederate Congress.
- 25th 1872 – Confederate Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell dies in Spring Hill, Tennessee at the age of 54.

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – JANUARY

- 4th 1808– Captain Thomas Jefferson Page C.S. Navy
- 5th 1822 – Major General Joseph B. Kershaw C.S.
- 14th 1806 – Commodore Matthew F. Maury C.S. Navy
- 22nd 1832 – Lt. Commander George Belkap C.S. Navy

27th 1826 – Lt. General Richard Taylor C.S.

30th 1816 – Major General Nathaniel Banks U.S.

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2 Larry Grewach
1/5 Yvonne Compart
1/5 Jane Koenig
1/7 Terri Rand
1/8 Ron Angevine
1/13 Leroy Burggraff
1/13 Tara Harl
1/28 Joyce Hinderks

GRANDPARENTS NIGHT! PLAN AHEAD!

Clara Barton is coming to town for our March meeting! We're inviting you to bring a grandchild*, grandniece or nephew, or even your grown child to our March 21, 2023, meeting.



Leslie Goddard will present Clara Barton: Civil War Battlefield Nurse and will attend in period attire. This is a perfect way to share your Civil War enthusiasm with the young ones and just maybe ignite that history spark. Here's her program and we can guarantee you it's G-rated.

Long before she founded the American Red Cross, Clara Barton earned fame as the first woman to serve as a nurse on the front lines of a battlefield. This living-history program brings to life the story of Barton's work during the American Civil War, including her decision to solicit and deliver supplies to soldiers and her experiences working under fire at battlefield hospitals. Her stories — funny, poignant and sometimes heartbreaking — reveal the medical conditions of Civil War soldiers and the courage required for a woman to defy conventions during a national crisis.

*Suggesting 12 years or older, but you be the judge.

The Search for Private Anderson

Stephen E. Osman

A recent email from my brother mentioned a friend whose family was from Minnesota, and whose Civil War veteran ancestor, Tolleff Anderson, had been born in Norway. Would I be able to check Minnesota records to identify his unit? Why of course...

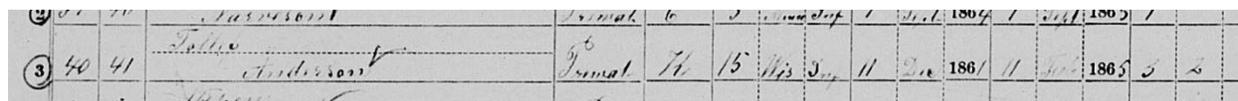
The first source to check of course was the rosters compiled by the Minnesota Adjutant General and published just after the war. The rosters by unit are also in Volume 1 of Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1890, but the 1930s alphabetical index is rather difficult to find.

Fortunately, the Minnesota Adjutant General's Report was painstakingly transcribed by Mary Bakeman of Park Genealogical Books and published in a paperback edition. Looking through my heavily thumbed copy I could find no Tolleff Anderson from Freeborn County.

As part of the 1890 US Census a Special Census was taken of military veterans or their surviving spouses. A tragic fire burned up much of the 1890 Census records, but a few pieces survived, including Minnesota's Veterans Census. Because it had never been transcribed, I always had to use it by laboriously going through the several microfilm rolls of the manuscript compiler pages, arranged by county and township. The sheets for each township name the soldier, his unit, his rank, and note any service-related disabilities. Fortunately, in recent years the census has been published online and is available after free registration at Familysearch.Org, part of the LDS genealogy empire. Here is the link to the census search engine, but you'll need to do a free registration first:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1877095>

Entering "Anderson" and "Minnesota" I got a positive hit in Freeborn County:



3	40	41	Tolleff Anderson	Private	15	11/23	11	1861	11	1865	5	5
---	----	----	------------------	---------	----	-------	----	------	----	------	---	---

Tolleff Anderson was not in a Minnesota unit, but rather the all-Norwegian 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry under command of Colonel Hans Heg. That famous unit is very well documented in several books and opens more avenues of research through Norwegian genealogical resources. The 1890 census lists Anderson as a private in Company K of the 15th Wisconsin, enlisted 11 December 1861 and discharged 11 February 1865, and in 1890 suffering from chronic diarrhea. Several of the other veterans listed on the same Freeman Township, Freeborn County enumeration page also had Norwegian names and had served in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and regular army units.

Moving on using the 15th Wisconsin lead I soon discovered an extensive online data base of Norwegian born Civil War soldiers. I've had a massive, and quite rare, printed compilation for years, but hesitate to use it. In old Norwegian script the 10-pound 120-year-old volume can be challenging to consult, and the results rather minimal. But to the rescue came volunteers at the

Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Research Library in Madison Wisconsin. Their Civil War Soldiers Record Database provides a wealth of information gleaned from numerous sources that saved me hours of research! Here's what they report on Tollef Anderson. If you want to do your own research, use the "Databases" tab upper.

<https://www.nagcnl.org/database-record/?db=soldiers&dbr=331>

I learned that Anderson had joined Clausen's Guards, named after the regimental chaplain. More on his interesting service is here: <http://iagenweb.org/mitchell/bios/clauswar.htm> Many Company K men were recruited in three southern Minnesota counties. The Research Center's Company K link gives a full roster with links to a biography of each man in the company.

Of course, my brother's friend would be thrilled with all this information, and probably eager to do more genealogy work now that he had place of birth, mother's name, and other useful details



that could access the extensive Norwegian records. But there was more. There are several published works on the 15th Wisconsin and Colonel Heg who was killed in action at Chickamauga. His impressive monument is a key feature of that battlefield, and his statue stands in Madison's capital square. (Yes, that's the statue of the staunchly anti-slavery colonel that was destroyed by "woke" radicals in 2020.) An early unit history was published by Buslett in 1894 and titled Det Femtende Regiment Wisconsin Frivillige.

I like it because it includes scores of original photos of the soldiers themselves. But it has not been translated and can be difficult to find. A more recent history by Ager, Colonel Heg and His Boys: A Norwegian Regiment in the American Civil War, was published in 2020 in English translation by the Norwegian American Historical Society in Northfield.

Veteran Tollef Anderson, despite the chronic diarrhea he reported to the 1890 census taker, fathered at

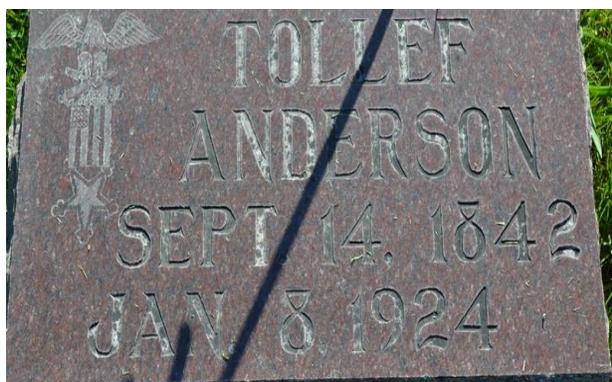
least 10 children and lived until 1924. With the required annual re-certification for benefits, that means there is a very

DEAD NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Anderson, Tollef</i>				
SERVICE: <i>Late rank, Co. K, 15th Regt Wis. Inf.</i>				
TERM OF SERVICE: <i>Enlisted, 1 Discharged, 1</i>				
DATE OF FILING:	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	LAW.	CERTIFICATE NO.
<i>1909 Mar 22</i>	<i>Invalid,</i>	<i>377,918</i>	<i>age</i>	<i>272,731</i>
<i>1890 June 16</i>	<i>Widow,</i>	<i>1215606</i>	<i>5-1-20</i>	<i>946109</i>
<i>1924 Feb 15</i>	<i>Minor,</i>			

thick pension file at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington. The pension indexes are available at a number of sources, but I use www.fold3.com, a paid

subscription service that specializes in military records. Above is a screenshot of the pension file information; the pension and application numbers, name and unit are used to submit requests for photocopies. This process can be expensive and long depending on how backed up NARA staff is and the number of records you want copied. NARA began digitalizing pension records some years back, starting with African American veterans and with the war date pensions for widows and dependents. These can be very useful and are arranged by unit, though are far from complete. Most pension files, however, require either an in person visit or the paid copies process which can be frustrating. Don't get me started on WHY the entire remote process shut down for so long during COVID....

A final source proved the most fun. The web site www.findagrave.com/ is extensive and growing thanks to an army of volunteers who record and photograph even the smallest cemeteries. With the information from the Genealogical Center compilation, I did a quick search for Glenville First Lutheran Cemetery. Among the many Andersons was Tolleff, with a picture not only of his grave but also of him in uniform at enlistment. It was likely from that 1894 regimental history.



So I did a quick enhancement, corrected the reversed orientation, and did a light colorization - all fast and easy using a variety of free online web sites. Were the image just a little sharper to start with, I could have even animated it using the Myheritage.com web site's tools. Now that gets really spooky when you have a long-gone ancestor looking at you, turning their head and then smiling! You can register for free, then play around with their software and get a small number of downloadable results before they eventually ask you to register.



Have fun with that web site but don't blame me for wasting your next couple of hours:

https://www.myheritage.com/deep-nostalgia?tr_id=m_61y5yra7fy_31o9twu8jd

ITEMS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT THE SYMPOSIUM

Plans are currently being made to have a Silent Auction at next April's Symposium to benefit future symposiums. If you can donate Civil War related items or collectables, high quality

books, DVDs, CDs, art prints, etc. Also services, meals, B&B stays, whatever you might have access to and might want to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Let's help guarantee a bright future for our Annual Symposium by donating what we can to the Silent Auction. Details about donating items will be coming in future issues of the newsletter.

Observations of Lincoln's Funeral

Submitted by Gerry Briggs

This letter is written by Sophia Briggs to J. W. Briggs and Mrs. John G. Briggs on May 7, 1865. Sophia was the sister of John G. Briggs.

Lincoln Funeral 1865

Springfield, IL, May 7th

Dear Brother and Sister,

Perhaps you would like to know something of the scenes through which I have passed during the week. We had to wait in Bloomington until 2 A.M. for a train and then wait two hours at the Depot for the train. So it was 4 when we left Bloomington. Got into Springfield about 7 Wednesday morning. I went to the ladies I boarded with before and as soon as could get ready went to the Depot to see the funeral train come in. I got just as good a place as one could have where I had a clear and fair view of all the funeral train which was handsomely draped particularly the one containing the remains. The hearse which was magnificently drawn by six beautiful black horses. The coffin was born to the hearse by soldiers. Procession formed and passed ? into the State House where the remains lay in state until 1 A.M. I went to take a view in the afternoon and at six o'clock and about eight in the evening. The face cold in death looked just as I supposed it would. The coat and necktie were like the ones in my picture and I think very likely were the identical ones. A crop of flowers lay on his coffin and flowers around him.

Hester you wanted to know something about his coffin. I think it was black silk velvet ornamented with silver. The room was beautifully draped with black silk velvet and white silk. It was the most solemn and impressive spectacle I ever witnessed. I had a good view of the funeral carriage as it passed slowly and sadly along. The military, clergymen, surgeons and physicians, Guard of Honor, Hearse and Pall bearers, his horse led by two grooms ?, members of Christian ?, and other ? delegations from Universities and Colleges, members of the legal professions, members of the medical profession, Representatives of the ?, Masons, Oddfellows, firemen, and a long line of others all draped in mourning and draped flags and banners muffled drums and bands playing appropriately while the alternate strokes of the bell and gun added to the solemnity of the occasion. Never did I witness anything so solemn and never will forget the scene.

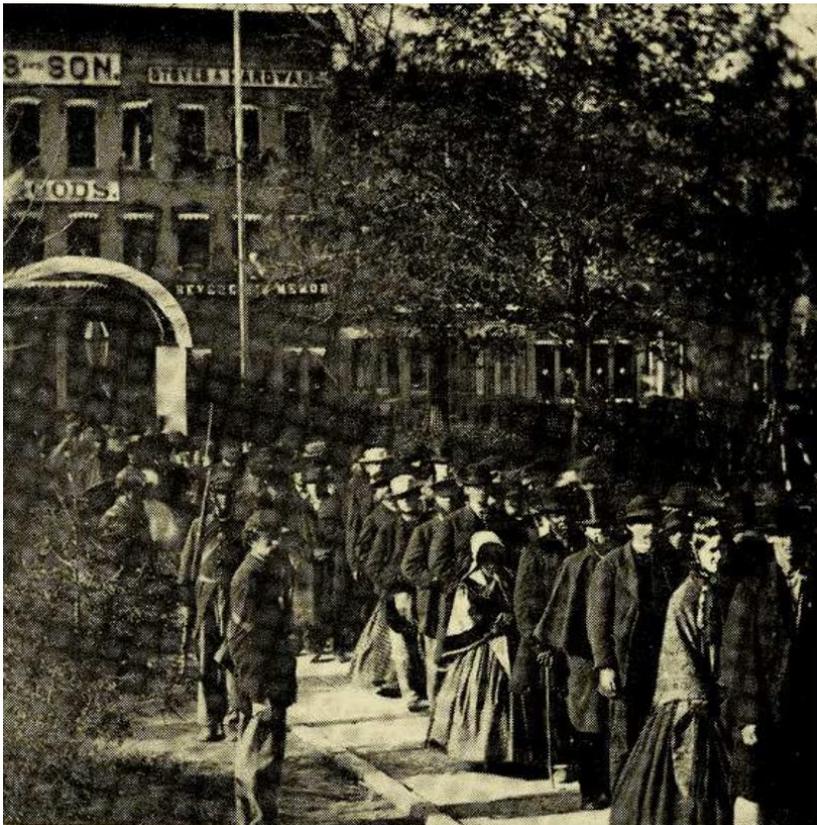
When I looked upon that face and those scenes and thought how good and great he was and then thought how many hard things his enemies had said and that they had taken his life away, my heart almost broke.

I would like to tell you more but must leave the subject. I arrived here half past one Friday spent until seven looking for a boarding place without getting one, staid over night at the hotel and set out in the morning again. At last I got a place and got my baggage here. Before dining went out with my pictures in the afternoon. I intended to write you in the evening but my room was so dirty that I washed all the furniture and around the doors and windows before I could go to bed. It is one of the poorest places I ever had. Everything is so dirty. She has a table full of eatables but nothing fit to eat. I cannot eat the butter at all and what is worst we have nothing but rainwater to drink without filtering. If I don't get poisoned with dirt shall be glad. The knives and forks and spoons are awful. I shall get through here as soon as I can. This is a nice place I should think. I have been to church this morning. I have thought much of you though I have had many other things to think of. If there are any letters in the office for me please send them to this place. Use your judgement about sending any from Mrs. Buttre and Mom. ? you may have received. Perhaps you better ? Send brothers. Give my love to the children and a kiss for each.

Yours truly,

Sophia

P.S. The State House was beautifully draped with black and white evergreens. Indeed the whole city was draped in deep mourning. I have a fine view of the ? from my window. I had a good view of Governor ? as he passed by me. The last time I saw he observed me and I could not help bowing to him which he politely returned.



Mourners lined up to view Lincoln's body at the statehouse in Springfield

TCCWRT PRESIDENTS HONOR CAROL VANORNUM

President Brett Johnson, Past President Bob Svacina and Vice President Tom Hutchinson honored longtime Secretary/Treasurer Carol VanOrnum with a generous contribution to the Roswell (Georgia) Historical Society. Carol has deep family roots to the Roswell, Georgia area. Carol received the thank you letter from the Society, beautifully framed, at the December meeting. She also received a free dinner.



STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

Over 100,000.

CONTACT US:

Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable

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