



# NEWS

## Issue 34: February 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

#### LARRY PEARSON BY LANA BLUMHOEFER



Our featured TCCWRT member this month is Larry Pearson. Larry is a Minnesota native, born and raised here, grew up in Richfield and now has been a resident of Bloomington for over 40 years.

Around 1985, he and some of his family were on a trip to Washington, D.C. and other historic locations in the East when he decided to stop for a day at Gettysburg. He had read about the battle and wanted to look at the area where it took place. Nothing like that had ever happened in Minnesota. He was immediately



*First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg*

fascinated by the monuments and the sacred feeling of the battlefield. He's been deeply interested in the Civil War ever since that visit.

He became aware of the TCCWRT when his good friend, Mark Pridgeon, invited him to join about 20 years ago. He and Mark are battlefield tramping companions after three trips to see most of the battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Over the years, Larry has enjoyed the meetings, meals, and numerous friends he's made in the TCCWRT.

Also, subsequent to joining the round table, Larry heard about some old, retired professor of history at St. Thomas University who thought he knew something about the Civil War and was offering a five-year series of classes for elderly folks about that war. Meeting Dr. Joe Fitzharris and attending those and even more classes offered by him has been a special highlight of Larry's involvement in local Civil War programs.

Another special part of the TCCWRT for Larry is the involvement of his daughter, Annalisa. She joined a few years ago and attends almost every monthly meeting. Larry is very proud to have her involved and interested in something he cares about very much.

Finally, because all the ancestors he knew about came over from Sweden in the beginning of the last century, he thought he didn't have any ancestral connection to the Civil War. However, with his wife's help and ancestral research, he discovered a few years ago that his maternal grandmother was of English origin, not Swedish and her grandfather (Larry's great, great grandfather) immigrated from western England in the early 1840s, settling in Grant County, Wisconsin. His name was James Edward Greenhalgh (green-haw) and he fathered nine children, one of whom was named General George Washington Greenhalgh, according to Ancestry and the 1860 census (full name included the title). Unfortunately, General George died when he was 20 years old.

In 1864, at age 41, James Greenhalgh enlisted in the 12<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry (maybe to get away from all those kids – who knows) and joined the regiment in Atlanta with Sherman's army.

He was with them all the way through the March to the Sea, the Carolina's campaigns and the Grand March in Washington. James and his regiment were mustered out in July of 1865. Fortunately, he survived his service, returning to Wisconsin and had four more children including Larry's great grandfather, John Henry Greenhalgh.

Gettysburg is still Larry's favorite battlefield of all he's visited in the East. He's been there at least a half-dozen times over the years, including attending a few weekend seminars to learn more about the battle. Because of age and mobility issues, he hasn't been back for a while but hopes to get there at least one more time.

In the meantime, he will continue to enjoy the TCCWRT meetings. In addition to a group of friends from his church, Oak Grove Presbyterian in Bloomington, he has friends and co-

workers, particularly Dr. Glenn Corliss, from his 25 years of employment at General Mills, whom he regularly sees at the TCCWRT.

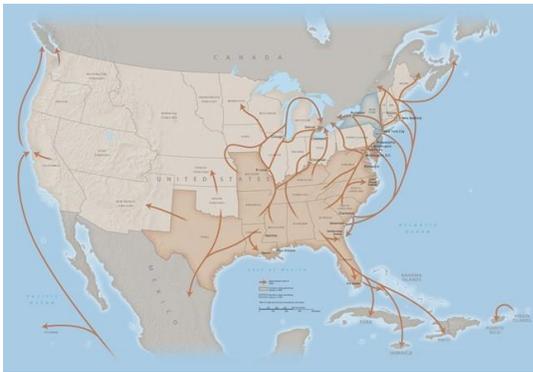
### STEVEN SCHIER'S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

What percentage of Union Army soldiers were immigrants?

**(See last page for the answer)**

### OUR FEBRUARY MEETING: FEBRUARY 21, 2023

#### “The Underground Railroad” – Chris Crutchfield



The Underground Railroad was a network of clandestine routes and safe houses established in the United States during the early- to mid-19th century. It was used by enslaved African Americans primarily to escape into free states and Canada. The network was assisted by abolitionists and others sympathetic to the cause of the escapees. The enslaved who risked escape and those who aided them are also collectively referred to as the “Underground Railroad.” (Wikipedia.com)



*Chris Crutchfield is an attorney and is the Deputy Director of Community Relations for Ramsey County Community Corrections. Chris is also an adjunct professor at Inver Hills Community College where he teaches litigation to paralegals. Prior to that, Chris was a partner at the law firm Capitol Heights Law Group where he represented small business and nonprofit clients; was involved in civil rights cases; and successfully secured one of the largest gender equity settlements in Minnesota.*

*Since the mid-1980s, Chris has been involved in outdoor education that focuses on teaching about history. Chris has facilitated the Underground Railroad re-enactments and other cultural outdoor programs for youth since 1988. He was formerly President of the Board at Osprey Wilds (then known as Audubon Center of the Northwoods).*

*Chris lives near Lake Phalen in Saint Paul and enjoys fishing in all seasons. He is married and has five children ranging in age from 9 to 29 years old.*

## 2023 ROUND TABLE SPEAKER SCHEDULE

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 –FEBRUARY

9 <sup>th</sup>	1861 – Jefferson Davis elected Provisional Confederate President.
14 <sup>th</sup>	1891 – Union General William T. Sherman, who famously marched his army across Georgia to the sea, dies at the age of 71.
15 <sup>th</sup>	1905 – Union General and author of the novel “Ben Hur”, Lew Wallace dies at the age of 77.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1861 – The U.S. Paymaster’s Office in New Orleans seized by Louisiana state troops.
20 <sup>th</sup>	1893 – Confederate General Pierre G.T. Beauregard dies at the age of 77.
20-21 <sup>st</sup>	1862 – Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico Territory
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1861 – Abraham Lincoln arrives in Washington D.C. after the long train journey from Springfield Illinois.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1914 – Union General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, commander of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Maine at the Battle of Gettysburg, dies at the age of 85.

## CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – FEBRUARY

7 <sup>th</sup>	1817 – LeRoy Pope Walker, First Confederate Secretary of War
8 <sup>th</sup>	1829 – Brig. General James Alexander Williamson U.S.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1812 – Alexander Stephens, Confederate Vice President
12 <sup>th</sup>	1809 – Abraham Lincoln, 16 <sup>th</sup> U.S. President
16 <sup>th</sup>	1823 – Brig. General John Daniel Imboden C.S.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1807 – George Trenholm, Last Confederate Secretary of Treasury

## From the Dusty Collection #26

### Civil War Veterans Ladder Badges

Member Nancy Johnson brought this little badge to our January meeting for identification, having recently found it among her mother's jewelry. Timing was perfect as I was just then pondering a subject for the next newsletter article!



Ladder badges are so called by collectors for obvious reasons as many have several horizontal bars linked together like a ladder and containing the veteran's name, company, regiment and sometimes even battles they participated in. They were quite popular for wear at late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century reunions and provided an instant introduction among former comrades. The Grand Army of the Republic had half a million members

in the 1880s and so some of these reunions were huge events. Minnesota hosted four National Encampments of the G.A.R. in 1884, 1896, 1906 and 1933.



Nancy's great grandfather Samuel White Baker enlisted in December 1863 for 3 years with Company C of the Second Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry. These 1200 mounted soldiers recruited in the wake of the Dakota Conflict enlisted to man frontier forts and outposts essential to encourage farmers to resettle the 30 Minnesota counties vacated in 1862. In the summer of 1864, the Regiment rode out of Fort Ridgely with the Northwestern Indian Expedition. Joining a second column that moved up the Missouri River, the huge mounted force



decisively defeated Dakota warriors at the Battle of Kildeer Mountain. While Minnesota claims the honor of their First Volunteer Infantry as the senior unit offered to defend the Union, it can also be proud of some of the last volunteer soldiers to be mustered out. Significant numbers of Second Minnesota Cavalrymen were still riding patrols in the summer of 1866, more than a year after Lee surrendered.

Ladder badges were manufactured by urban jewelers and by itinerant merchants at veterans' encampments. Minnesota veteran Robert C. Eagles set up his wares under a tent and probably produced some of the very badges pictured in this article. Eagles served 1865-1865 with the First Battery Minnesota Light Artillery and may have been injured in service as he wears a prosthesis on his right foot. His various wares included veteran ladder badges, corps badges, and reunion pins. Eagles displayed the German silver generic shapes on a board, then punched the individual letters and numbers and assembled the components on demand. Customers could select a simple inexpensive badge like the one purchased by Nancy's ancestor, or more ornate examples with multiple pieces and ornate decorations.



Some of Eagles' original tools shown in this second photograph are today in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. And in my own collection are a few other Minnesota veteran ladder badges discovered over the years in antique shops, estate sales and antique shows.

Our state fielded three light artillery batteries during the war, and here are badges worn by veterans of the First and the Second Battery. The First Battery fought heroically along the



sunken road at Shiloh and later at Vicksburg, Atlanta, and marched to the sea under Sherman. The arrow suspension bar proclaims their membership in the Seventeenth Corps of the Army of the Tennessee.

The Second Battery was raised in March 1862 and headed south that spring. They fought at Perryville and Chickamauga but were dismounted and served as infantry around Chattanooga for the last year of

the war. The badge's drop is a five-pointed star that symbolizes the war time insignia of

the Twentieth Corps, Army of the Cumberland. These corps badges would have been instantly recognized by other veterans of those organizations.



The Eight Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was one of several regiments being formed when the Dakota Conflict broke out in August 1862. After two years of service garrisoning the defensive line of forts stretched north to south across the center of Minnesota, they were mounted on Canadian ponies and joined the Northwestern Indian Expedition. Not until their return to Fort Snelling in late

summer 1864 were they finally sent south to fight Confederates. The Eighth had the distinction of marching more miles than any other Minnesota unit. This rare photograph shows Company A in line at Bridge Square in Anoka and was probably taken in late 1862. A veteran of Company F wore this German silver this badge to reunions.

A final veterans badge was worn by Hugh Curry who joined the Second Company of Minnesota Sharpshooters the last day of 1861. Serving with him was Nancy Johnson's great uncle, Samuel Baker's older brother. Members of the 101-man sharpshooter company had to demonstrate accuracy in target shooting and the enthusiasm required of members of an elite organization. The Second Company was an extra company in Berdan's First Regiment of Sharpshooters, and so was attached to the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry as Company L, their eleventh company. They did skirmisher and specialty duty for the Regiment. At Antietam the company entered the fight with 42 men, of whom 20 were shot within 10 minutes! Severely depleted after Gettysburg, the Company was eventually assigned as provost guard for Second Division, Second Corps Headquarters and remained in that assignment until the few survivors mustered out in March 1865.



Curry had been captured at Reams Station the previous August but survived the war to proudly wear this badge to reunions – despite its misspelling of both Berdan's and Currey's names. The shape of the badge is a trefoil, symbol of the Second

Army Corps. And the “Co. L” bar at top proudly proclaims his service with the famed First Minnesota Regiment.

### **TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2/9 Larry Koenig

2/10 David Murphy

2/14 Linda Huntzicker

2/16 Dennis Garoutte, Kiki Sonnen, and Kirk Simpson

2/17 Bob Huber

### **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.

## 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.

## NEW MEMBERS



L to R: Jim and Teri Joyce, Keith Robideau, Phil Carruthers, and Mark Jensen

## MINNESOTA ANNUAL CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM – SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2023

### Feeding War with Mule, Ship, and Locomotive

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements, Brett Johnson
- 9:10 a.m. Naval Advances of the Civil War, Dave Page
- 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. The Effie Afton (Railroads) Trial of 1857, George Romano

11:15 a.m. Uncle Sam's Webbed Feet: Union Gunboats and Supply Transport on Western Waters, Dr David Gerleman

Noon Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Railroads in the Civil War, Leroy Harris

1:45 p.m. Engines of War: The Horsing of Civil War Armies, Dr David Gerleman

2:30 p.m. The Great Locomotive Chase (The General), George Romano

3:15 p.m. Closing Announcements

To register, go to [www.tccwrt/meetings/symposium](http://www.tccwrt/meetings/symposium). Click [HERE](#)

### **STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:**

Nearly one-third.

### **CONTACT US:**

**Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable**

[info@tccwrt.com](mailto: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](mailto:earlofbuce@hotmail.com)**