



NEWS

Issue 38: June 2023

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LAST UNION VETERAN CEREMONY

I have the honor to invite you to the Last Union Veteran ceremony for Albert Woolson in Duluth on August 12th. Albert is not only the Last Union Veteran from St. Louis County; he is the Last Union Veteran in the USA!

If available, we are asking the members to attend in Civil War uniform or appropriate period civilian attire.

The Last Union Veteran ceremony will be at the Park Hill Cemetery, 2500 Vermillion Road, Duluth, Minnesota.

- 10:45 the Civil War reenactors and Honor Guard marches in
- 10:55 the F-16s from the Duluth Base fly over
- 11:00 SUVCW Last Union Veteran ceremony starts
- The SUVCW National Commander, or his representative, has been invited and we anticipate he will speak a few words
- The Governor and MN Senators and Representatives will be invited, one may speak
- 1st Minnesota Regiment Volunteer Infantry has been invited to perform "Rest on Arms"
- Battery I, US Light Artillery fires
- American Legion Honor Guard fires

At 1:00 there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the Albert Woolson statue at The Depot, 506 West Michigan Street in Duluth. This will be followed by a



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

reception in the Great Hall. In the Great Hall there also will be an exhibit on Albert Woolson, exhibit on the Civil War soldiers from the county, and other displays such as the GAR in Minnesota, SUVCW Camp 56, Civil War reenactors, and American Legion Post 28 (Albert Woolson was a charter member).

This event is sponsored by the SUVCW Camp 56, St Louis County Historical Society and the American Legion Post 28





In F, C & L,

Gary Carlberg

Commander

SUVCW Camp 56

(651) 214-7086

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

What orator spoke for two hours before Lincoln rose to deliver the Gettysburg address?

(See last page for the answer)

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/7 - Jim Sullivan

6/7 - Gerry Brandt

6/8 - Tom Albin

6/9 - Stuart Harder

6/10 - Richard Pfohl

6/15 - Dan Sherry

6/16 - Gary Peterson

6/22 - Joel Malmberg

6/25 - David Peterson

6/26 - Wally Droegemueller

FAMILY OF FOUNDER, DR. ALBERT SCHROEDER, DONATE TO TCCWRT

The three daughters (and son-in-law) of Dr. Albert Schroeder attended the May meeting to honor their father. Dr. Schroeder was one of the founders of the TCCWRT. To everyone's surprise, they presented a check for \$2,500 to the TCCWRT from their family foundation.



Left to right: Carter Green, Nora Schroeder Pearson, Beth Schroeder Green, and Louise Schroeder Dowling.



TCCWRT Webstore Product of the Month!

SPORT-TEK DRI-MESH POLO



Our double poly mesh construction wicks moisture better for superior breathability and comfort.

\$30.50

- 100% polyester double-knit mesh
- Double-needle arm seams, shoulders and hem
- Taped neck
- Flat knit Collar
- 3-Button placket with pearlized buttons
- Open hem sleeves
- Side vents



ORDER BY JUNE 26TH AND PICK UP YOUR MERCHANDISE AT THE JULY 18TH PICNIC!

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – JUNE

- 8th 1861 – Tennessee secedes from the Union, joining the Confederacy.
- 9th 1863 – Battle of Brandy Station, Virginia
- 10th 1861 – Opposing forces engage near Big Bethel, Virginia.
- 17th 1861 – Union forces win the Battle of Boonesville, Missouri, thus gaining control of the Missouri river valley.
- 17th 1861 – Union and Confederate forces engage at Vienna, Virginia
- 17th 1863 – Union ironclads USS Nahant and USS Weehawken, along with gunboat USS Cimmerone capture the Confederate ram CSS Atlanta at the Battle of Wassaw Sound.

19th 1864 – The Confederate ship CSS Alabama is sunk by the Union ship USS Kearsarge off the coast of France.

26th 1862 – Battle of Mechanicsville, Virginia. First of the Seven Days Battles.

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – JUNE

4th 1815 – Brigadier General Paul Jones Semmes C. S.

8th 1813 – Admiral David Dixon Porter, U.S. Navy

8th 1824 – Brigadier General William Montgomery Gardner C.S.

13th 1814 – Captain Charles Linn, C.S. Navy

17th 1811 – Ninian Pinkney, U.S. Navy Surgeon

17th 1830 – Brigadier General Richard Montgomery Gano C.S.

SAVE THE DATE: 3RD ANNUAL TCCWRT PICNIC - JULY 18, 2023



Tuesday, July 18, 2023, from 4:00 to 7:00

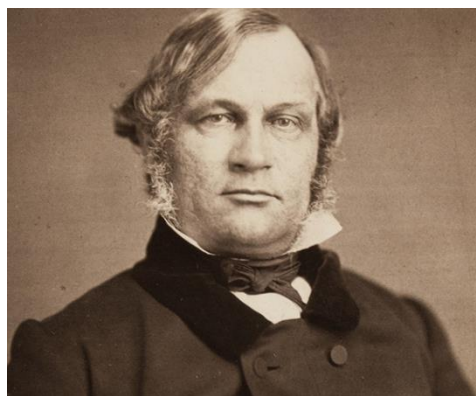
Wabun B picnic area, Minnehaha Park

Food! Fun! Maybe a Trivia Contest!

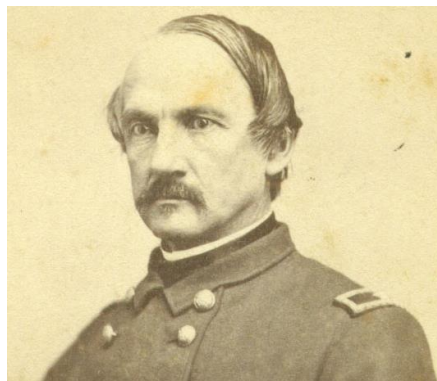
From the Dusty Collection #30 Governor Ramsey and the Stolen Overcoats

Stephen E. Osman

Amicable but fierce political rivals, Minnesota's first governor Democrat Henry Hastings Sibley and second governor Republican Alexander Ramsey, guided the state's response to a national



civil war and a horrific Indian conflict. Following the 1862 massacres and continuing militarization of the state, an evolving relationship between military and civilian



leadership extended down to mundane affairs that sometimes challenged these

two lawyers on whom the future of Minnesota now depended.

Nearly 2,000 Dakota dependents were then interred below Fort Snelling; part of the Sixth Minnesota Infantry spent the winter guarding and protecting those unfortunates who would be exiled to Dakota Territory in May 1863. The unit was ably commanded by 31-year-old Colonel William



Crooks, a West Point graduate and railroad engineer born into the prominent fur trade family of Ramsey Crooks.

Helping to manage Fort Snelling and the new Department of Dakota's District of Minnesota were several detailed veteran officers like Captain Mark Downie, commander of the First Minnesota's Infantry's Company B and now back home on convalescent leave after falling seriously ill on the Peninsular Campaign.



The strapping 6 foot 2 inch Downie is pictured here *in his overcoat* with much shorter Captain Jasper Searles. Both Captain Downie and Colonel Crooks were self-assured, knowledgeable and experienced officers.

On 12 December 1862 Governor Ramsey wrote to General Sibley (headquartered nearby at St. Paul's International Hotel.)

I am informed that at a dinner at St. Anthony last night some officers from Fort Snelling were present and severely beat and mistreated a German by the name of Abraham Hammon and afterward had him taken to Fort Snelling and placed in the guard house from which he has not yet, my informant says, been discharged.

As the said Hammon was in no way connected with the army or in any way subject to the orders of the officers of the post, if the facts as stated are true, a most outrageous assault has been perpetrated on him, and I trust that you will see at once that he has his discharge from the unjust and illegal confinement imposed upon him and that a proper and full investigation is had into the circumstances of the case.¹

Sibley responded immediately, and sent a rider out the Fort Road with his orders. Two days later Sibley's acting assistant adjutant general, Captain R. C. Olin, received a reply from Fort Snelling post commander Colonel Crooks:

I will briefly state the facts in the case. A complimentary ball was given by the citizens of St. Anthony and Minneapolis to Company "B" of my regiment on the evening of the 11th inst. By my permission, the company attended the ball in a body. I also attended, accompanied by the Major, Adjutant and several other officers stationed at this post. [The ball was held at the famous Winslow House in St. Anthony, shown below.]



Nothing marred the festivities of the joyful occasion save the highly outrageous conduct of a person in uniform, afterward ascertained to be a citizen.

On entering, I placed my overcoat and that of Capt. Downie in charge of the first Sergt. of Company "B"², who placed them in a place of security. When ready to return to the Fort same clothing was not to be found – after a search of nearly two hours, I was informed that the citizen in uniform, whose name I know not, but is

undoubtedly the "German" named by the Governor, was known to have abstracted the overcoats during the absence of the Sergt. on whose charge they were left.

I was also informed by respectable citizens that said German had been detected in similar acts before, and that my only course was to compel him by force to produce the coats. After repeated demands and receiving equivocal and impertinent replies to an extent beyond my power of endurance, I myself chastised the individual who then only turned over my coat. Someone took him to the Fort and detained him until morning of the 12th in the hope of influencing him to an

¹ National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 109, M345 Documents relating to civilians who came into contact with the Army during the Civil War, including deserters, thieves, and spies. (Accessed on Fold 3.)

² Likely Francis Wheeler, promoted to First Sergeant 1 October 1862 and commissioned second lieutenant in June 1864. He died at St. Louis 30 December 30 1864.

extent that would place the gallant Captain of the 1st Minnesota in possession of his much needed overcoat. He however plead and swore ignorance and was released.

I consider that he was served just as he deserved and am satisfied that without the proceedings instituted, I should have been forced to return to the fort, coatless, to the very great prejudice of my health.

I am sir,

With much respect.

Your Obt. Servt.

Wm. Crooks

Col. Comdg. Post³

The investigation, and confession, by the post commander put both General Sibley and Governor Ramsey in a bind. Both apparently chose to table the complaint. One possible explanation can be found in a confidential letter from Sibley's commander, Major General John Pope, who asserted "One half the population consists of Irish and Catholic Dutch who to a man are disloyal – there are at least thirty thousand of them in this city [St. Paul] alone."⁴ Sibley's terse reply to the Ramsey was the last official action filed in the governor's official papers:

Your communication of the 12th inst. relating to the case of Abraham Hammon, a German citizen, was referred to the commanding officer at Fort Snelling with instructions to report all the facts in the case to this Head Quarters, with names of officers if any who were engaged in the alleged assault.

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the report made by Co. Wm. Crooks, the commanding officer at this post.⁵

Captain Downie never found his overcoat and had to buy another, an expensive proposition in that time period. Officers purchased their own uniforms and a heavy wool coat with cape would have run \$25 or more, nearly a month's pay for a common laborer. He and Colonel Crooks no doubt took some satisfaction in the drubbing they gave the military imposter and thief that night at the Winslow House.

A thorough check of area newspapers⁶ around the time of the invitation ball reveal nothing on what might have actually transpired. And surprisingly little can be gleaned about Abraham Hammon. He does not show up in the 1860 or the 1870 Minnesota census, nor in Minneapolis or St. Paul city directories of the period.⁷ The only mention is a Sibley County resident of that name in the 1865 census, curiously indicated as then being in the army. Yet no military records

³ Governor Ramsey Papers, Minnesota Historical Society.

⁴ Major General John Pope to J. B. Fry dated 17 July 1863. National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 393, Part 1, Entry 3438, Letters Sent, Department of the Northwest.

⁵ Governor Ramsey Papers, Minnesota Historical Society.

⁶ The Minnesota Newspaper Hub provides a fun searchable data base of scores of early state papers. It can be filtered by date, title, subject, etc. <https://newspapers.mnhs.org/jsp/browse.jsp> The search for Hammon two decades ago was through the physical papers, but a recheck of this on line resource also proved futile.

⁷ City directories of the Civil War period can be searched on line: Minneapolis <https://box2.nmtvault.com/Hennepin2/> or St. Paul <https://box2.nmtvault.com/StPaul/jsp/browse.jsp>

corroborate this and the only other Abraham Hammons served elsewhere in the Ohio Infantry and the Indiana Cavalry.

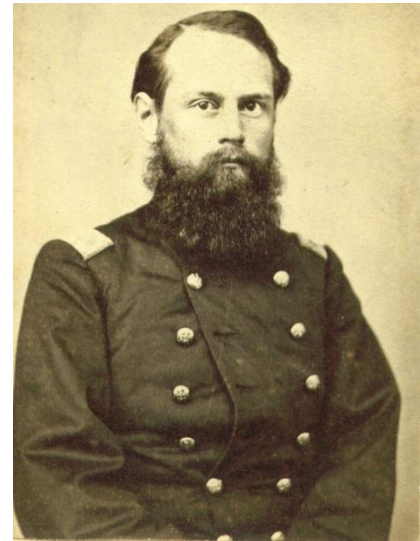
Mark Downie returned to the First Minnesota in February 1863 and was seriously wounded in the regiment's famed charge at Gettysburg with two bullets through his right arm, a bullet in his left foot and a shell fragment in his chest. Only partially recovered, he returned east to command what was left of the regiment in October 1863. The next year he was commissioned as lieutenant colonel to command the First Battalion Minnesota Infantry until their muster out. His war wounds continued to trouble him, and he died in Florida in 1879.

William Crooks was commissioned to command first the Seventh and then the Sixth Minnesota at Governor Ramsey's personal invitation when word of the Dakota massacres was received. After two years in Minnesota the Sixth was ordered to Helena Arkansas and there lost heavily from disease. In 1865 they saw active service in the campaign to capture Mobile Alabama. Crooks returned to railroad management through the 1890s, and served terms in both the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives.



Major Mark Downie is pictured here with volunteer staff officers of the District of Minnesota when he returned with the First Minnesota at its muster out in February 1864. To his far right is Captain Rollin Olin, Sibley's adjutant general, who handled the correspondence related to the evening at the Winslow House.

The unpublished photo of Colonel William Crooks on the right is from a photo album assembled by Captain Olin.



STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

Edward Everett.

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