



NEWS

Issue 47: March 2024

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MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH PHILIP BAKER BY LANA BLUMHOEFER



Chickamauga Battlefield Park at the second Minnesota Monument on Horseshoe Ridge

Philip Baker joined the TCCWRT in 2017 after retiring and moving with his wife to Blaine to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. Phil enjoys the camaraderie with all of the very interesting and sociable people. He feels the lectures are quite interesting and the meals are very good. Prior to moving north, Phil had been a member of the Kansas City CWRT.



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

Phil first became "hooked" on the Civil War when he and his family took a trip in 1963 to Lancaster, PA, to tour Amish sites and Gettysburg National Military Park. His family took a photo of him sitting on a gun tube of a cannon near the cemetery. In the times he has been back to Gettysburg he can still pick out that same cannon.

He is a retired US Army officer and pays close attention when reading about battles and the decisions the general officer leaders were making. He finds this most interesting about the Civil War, as the processes those commanders used to make those decisions are still quite relevant to today's senior military combat leaders.

Phil graduated from West Point in 1975. He was commissioned as an Armor Officer, so his assignments to combat units were to tank battalions. He was stationed at several places in the United States and Germany. His last assignment was as a Military History Instructor at the Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He feels lucky he was paid as a Lieutenant Colonel teaching what had been up to then his hobby! He retired from the military in 1995. He finds it interesting that in his 24-year Army career he was never deployed to a combat zone. Vietnam ended while he was still at West Point, he was later in one of the combat divisions in Germany that did NOT deploy to the first Gulf War, and he was already retired when the War on Terrorism began.

Phil's favorite Civil War battlefield is Chickamauga. He became acquainted with this battle while attending the US Army's Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, KS. While there he wrote his master's thesis on a certain aspect of this battle. He also took an elective at the college called the "The Staff Ride." They studied the battle in the classroom for several weeks and then spent three days walking and discussing the actions on the actual site. He later returned to Ft. Leavenworth a few years after graduating and became a member of that same Staff Ride Team, so he has walked this battlefield many times. For the past four years he has gone to Chickamauga every March to take part in a two-day seminar, which is presented by a park ranger and David Powell, who many consider today to be the foremost authority on Chickamauga.

His second career was as a high school math teacher and soccer coach for 20 years at an all-boys Catholic school in Kansas City, Missouri. He also volunteered at Kansas City's World War I Museum for 10 years.

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

The Confederates assumed that European countries would do what?

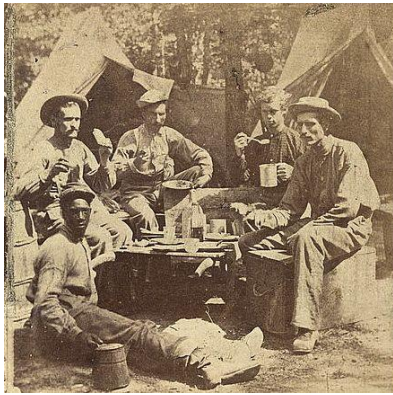
(See page 4 for the answer)

OUR 2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

April 27 th	Minnesota Civil War Symposium – G.A.R. Hall, Litchfield MN
May 21 st	“U.S. Colored Troops at War” Dr. David Wright Falade

OUR MARCH MEETING: MARCH 19, 2024

“Food and Hunger During the Civil War” – Prof. Anne Rubin



“Food and Hunger in the Civil War South” explores what ordinary people ate as the war disrupted the Confederate food supply. Elite Confederates became known for their substitutes for coffee, sugar and other staples, but this project also takes on the problem of hunger from the bottom up, prioritizing the struggles of ordinary people, both black and white. Too, it carries the story of wartime starvation into the challenging early years of Reconstruction, through the so-called Famine of 1867. Food came to symbolize patriotism and resistance, self-reliance and dependence, and gives us a powerful window into a tumultuous period.



*Anne Sarah Rubin is a Professor of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she was the 2016-2017 Lipitz Professor of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. She was also the Associate Director of the Imaging Research Center from 2017-2020. Dr. Rubin received her AB from Princeton University and her MA and PhD from the University of Virginia. Her most recent book is the co-edited memoir, *The Perfect Scout: A Soldier’s Memoir of the Great March to the Sea and the Campaign of the Carolinas* (University of Alabama Press, 2018). Her study of the place of Sherman’s March in American culture and history, entitled *Through the Heart of Dixie: Sherman’s March in American Memory* was published in September 2014*

*by UNC Press. The project also has a multimedia component, which can be found at <http://www.shermansmarch.org>. She is currently working on a project called *Confederate Hunger: Food and Famine in the Civil War South, 1860-1868*.*

*Dr. Rubin’s first book, *A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy* (UNC, 2005), received the 2006 Avery O. Craven Award from the Organization of American Historians, for the most original book on the Civil War era. She was a co-author of the award-winning *Valley of the Shadow*, an interactive history of the Civil War in two communities. She has also published numerous essays and journal articles.*

*Dr. Rubin was President of the Southern Association of Woman Historians 2022 and has been a member of their Executive Council from 2014-2016 and 2020-2023. She served as President of the Society of Civil War Historians from 2012-2014 and was a member of its Advisory Board from 2014-2016. She has served on the Maryland State Archives Legacy of Slavery Project Advisory Board and the Editorial Board of *Civil War History*. She is also an OAH Distinguished Lecturer.*

Her personal website can be found at <http://annesarahrubin.com>.

THIS MONTH IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY – MARCH

- 3rd 1862 – Union forces march on New Madrid, Missouri.
- 5th 1864 – The Confederate government orders all merchant ships to give half their freight capacity to government shipments.
- 6th 1862 – President Lincoln asks Congress to provide funds to those slave states willing to start a gradual freeing of their slaves.
- 11th 1862 – President Lincoln fires General-in-Chief George B. McClellan.
- 15th 1861 – President Lincoln’s Cabinet meets to discuss the pros and cons of re-supplying Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.
- 26th 1863 – West Virginia votes to begin the gradual emancipation of its slaves.

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – MARCH

- 10th 1824 – Major General Thomas James Churchill C.S.
- 11th 1840 – Brig. General Edmund Kirby U.S.
- 16th 1802 – Brig. General George A. McCall U.S.
- 19th 1827 – Brig. General Johnson K. Duncan C.S.
- 20th 1823 – Brig. General John Echols C.S.
- 30th 1823 – Brig. General Joseph F. Knipe U.S.

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/10 - Craig Sharpe
3/10 - Paul Purman
3/14 - Matthew Pennington
3/16 - Beth Geis
3/16 - Lyle Thorpe
3/17 - Margie Hendriksen
3/17 - Tom McManus
3/29 - Ken Flies
3/29 - Ray Horton III

STEVEN SCHIER’S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

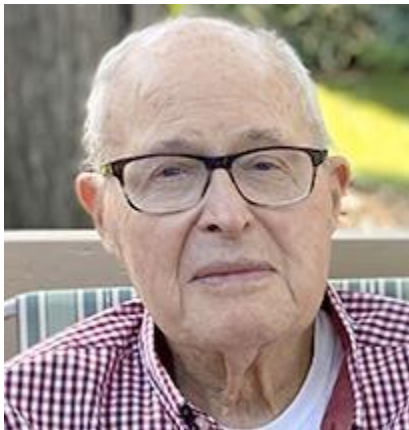
Intervene, but none did.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER



New member Linda Bryan

LONG TIME MEMBER, THOMAS MCCLELLAN, DEAD AT 91



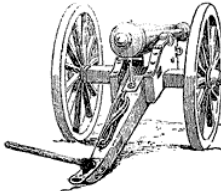
Thomas McClellan, age 91 of Roseville, MN. passed away peacefully on January 26, 2024 with his daughters at his side. Preceded in death by his beloved wife, Barbara. Survived by daughters, Anne (Rick), and Martha (Mike); grandchildren, Dan (Gillian), Natalie (Eric), Will (Maggie), Thomas (Emily), and Matthew; great-grandchildren, Sydney, Fiona, and Arthur; and brother (Bob). A proud graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Tom joined State Farm Insurance in 1956 and spent the next four decades building a career in underwriting operations. He earned both his CPCU and CLU designations and mentored countless colleagues. He always said the greatest thing that happened to him in his working career was meeting his wife, Barbara, the "sunshine of his life."

He faithfully served Olivet Church as moderator and senior deacon, and served on both the stewardship and finance committees. To all of these endeavors, he brought his characteristic calm, unflappable manner and pragmatic, yet compassionate, outlook. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and former colleagues.

MARY OGDahl, WIFE OF TCCWRT MEMBER JERRY OGDahl, HAS DIED

We were saddened by the news that Mary Jean Ogdahl, wife of member Gerald Ogdahl, passed away on February 2, 2024. They had been married for 57 years. A memorial service was held February 22, 2024, in Eden Prairie. Lana Blumhoefer

ANNUAL CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM



Annual Civil War Symposium
Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

Litchfield Opera House

Sponsored by the Rochester, Cannon Valley, Central Minnesota, Hiawatha Valley, Minnesota Valley, Albert Lea, Litchfield G.A.R., and Twin Cities Civil War Round Tables.

Perspectives on What This Cruel War Was Over

8:30 a.m. ***Registration***

9:00 a.m. ***Welcome, Introductions and Announcements***, Tom Hutchinson

9:10 a.m. ***What This Cruel War was Over, the View from the Common Soldier***, Dr. Chandra Manning

10:10 a.m. ***Minnesota Civil War Round Tables Brief Introductions***

10:15 a.m. ***Break*** (Browse books & memorabilia for sale AND Silent Auction.)

10:30 a.m. ***Slavery, Free Speech, the Media and the Road to Civil War***, Dr. Stefan Lund

11:30 a.m. ***Introduction to the G.A.R. and Historic Litchfield Hall***, Danelle Erickson, Director, Museum & G.A.R. Hall

Noon ***Lunch Break***

1:15 p.m. ***Civil War Contraband Camps, Emancipation as a Refugee Crisis***, Dr. Chandra Manning

2:15 p.m. **Slavery vs. States Rights: The Seceding States' Rationale for Disunion**,
Dr. Stefan Lund

3:15 p.m. **Closing Announcements**

The **Litchfield Opera House**, 136 N Marshall Ave. and **G.A.R. Hall & Meeker County Museum**, 308 N Marshall Ave., Litchfield, MN 55355 are located in downtown Litchfield, near the town square. See the “More Information” tab for directions/map/etc.

Registration: \$20 per person. No charge to Students with I.D.

Buffet Lunch (must book in advance): \$15 per person, or lunch on your own at local restaurants.

Motor Coach Transportation from the Twin Cities to Litchfield: \$10 per person. Please see the “Notes on Transportation” (below) for more information on the Motor Coach option and possible alternatives.

To Register: By Zelle or PayPal at **tccwrt.com** or by check payable to TCCWRT with form below to:

Civil War Symposium, 5540 Sanibel Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55343

[Return portion below:

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2024 Civil War Symposium, Litchfield Opera House

Registration Form – pre-registration required to guarantee admission.

Registration deadline to order meals and book Motor Coach seats is April 1, 2024.

Name(s): _____ Email:

_____ Phone: _____

____ Registration(s) @ \$20 ____ Student registration(s) @ \$0 ____ Meal(s) @ \$15
____ Motor Coach @ \$10

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ If you are a Round Table, please list your RT here:

NOTES ON TRANSPORTATION:

The motor coach will depart for Litchfield at **7:00 a.m.** sharp!

The departure location from the Twin Cities is as follows:

Metro Transit Station

I-394 & County Highway 73

1100 Hopkins Crossroads

South Park & Ride

Minnetonka, MN 55305

(Hopkins Crossroads Exit off I-394)

The Return Trip: The motor coach will leave from the Litchfield Opera House at **4:00 p.m.**, with expected arrival at the Metro Transit Station about 5:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT CAUTION: The availability of the motor coach option is contingent upon enough riders registering to defray the cost. A minimum of 40 is required by April 1st in order to commit to the bus company. If 40 riders have not signed by APRIL 1, 2024, the motor coach will be cancelled.

In case of cancellation: (1) your \$10 fee will be refunded: and (2) we will attempt to arrange a ride-share or car-pooling option with members willing to drive with one or more guests.

HELP WANTED

WEBMASTER: Maintain TCCWRT website, using WordPress, on a monthly and annual basis. Training provided.

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR: Picnic planning and other fun stuff.

Contact Carol at info@tccwrt.com for more information!

From the Dusty Collection #37

The Soldier's Housewife Through the Years

An important and universal part of the “basis of discipline” in military units is the care of weapons, equipment and uniforms. Officers, backed by regulations, regularly inspect enlisted



soldiers under their command. This might be a careful check of firearms to ensure perfect cleanliness and smooth operation. It might mean a weekly look through a footlocker or knapsack to ensure that required items are present and contraband not, as captured in this rare photograph. Or it might mean a careful examination of clothing items for

cleanliness and serviceability. Soldiers were and still are allotted a prescribed number of each garment per year, with replacements drawn from the quartermaster and duly noted in each man's record. Draw less than allotted and you earn a credit; draw more and you get a deduction from your pay. It was clearly to each soldier's benefit to keep their clothing well repaired.

But most young men entering service had no experience in sewing, even to replacing a button! Mothers and wives had looked with pride at their own needlework and kept civilian sons and husbands well presented in public. But as Civil War composer Henry Clay Work expressed in his humorous song “Grafted Into The Army”

*And these are the trousers he used to wear --
Them very same buttons -- the patch and the
tear -*

*But Uncle Sam gave him a bran' new pair
When they grafted him into the army.*

Millions of young men were now on their own to repair and even tailor their clothing. Civil War trousers, for example, came in only four standard sizes. Some fitting was usually necessary. Essential to the task was a pocket sewing kit, known affectionally as a “Housewife.” These kits were lovingly made by the ladies back home, were assembled by Sunday school groups and sent in bulk to the front and were even sold by enterprising sutlers. Housewives were considered essential.



Over the years I've owned many military sewing kits and have kept a few favorites. One unique piece was acquired through serendipity. Purchasing an early cartridge box sight unseen via mail order auction I was surprised to



find a small pin cushion included in the lot. An old label identified it to a regular army officer, whose initials matched those in pins around the edge. That officer, Lieutenant Charles C. Minor of the Fifth Infantry, served at Fort Snelling from 1827 to 1830 and died at Fort Towson Indian Territory in 1833. The

1895 dated label reads *A pincushion of my uncle Charles L. C. Minor, worked for him by his sweetheart L.D. who later jilted him.* Today his little pincushion is treasured and preserved only a few miles from where it served a lonely and jilted bachelor officer nearly 200 years ago!

Sewing kits were also common in the civilian world, and collecting them has long been a shared quest. The variety of these little kits is endless both in the multiple styles encountered and the unlimited samples of period fabrics. Here are a few that we both enjoyed finding.





But the Civil War military kits are especially popular. Many, like this one, were made of waterproof material and lined with silk from a loved one's favorite gown. Found at the Kane County Illinois flea market, it carries the remnants of an old museum label that once told a story now forever lost.

We found our absolute favorite housewife in a trunk of souvenirs brought home by Sergeant Mark Judkins of the 4th US Light Artillery. The little kit was tucked inside a patent writing portfolio once owned by a member of the famous 6th Massachusetts Infantry who ended up in an artillery unit that served next to Judkin's battery. As we carefully unrolled the piecework housewife and checked the several pockets, we found a tiny



cross-stitched sampler with the maker's initials and the inscription *When This You See, Think of Me*. I carried an exact replica, complete with the sampler but with Wendy's initials, in my reenacting haversack for decades and often used it.



Soldier's carried housewives through the Spanish American War, World War I and World War II. Local Red Cross chapters and church sewing circles produced them for free distribution. These three identical, completely hand sewn WWII



examples above were saved by the family of a lady who probably made hundreds of them. Not just American soldiers valued a housewife. On the right is an unusual example last used by a Japanese soldier on Okinawa in 1945.

And come to think of it, there's a small housewife in the box of trinkets I carried home from active duty so many years ago....

HERE'S A LOOK BACK AT FEBRUARY'S PRESENTATION:

Last month's speaker spoke about the Second Texas's dead at Corinth. Below is a newspaper article from the time that refers to photos taken shortly after the battle. Contributed by new member, Linda Bryan. Thanks Linda.

VIEWS AT CORINTH.

We have seen a series of photographic views taken at Corinth after the late battle. No. 1 represents the inside of the fort upon which Colonel ROGERS, of the Second Texas, planted the Confederate flag, and where he was immediately shot, falling into the ditch. The rebels silenced the guns of the fort for a time, but were repulsed with great slaughter. No. 2 represents the outside view of the fort, with abattis, &c., over which the enemy charged. No. 3 is another fort, with a partial view of Corinth, the freight house, the hotel. No. 4 is a horrible picture, representing a number of dead Confederates, including Colonel ROGERS, as they were taken from the ditch in front of the fort upon which they charged. No. 5 is the inside of the fort after the fight, the ground strewn with dead men and horses.

Link to the February 20, 2024 presentation:

<https://youtu.be/oOUwEfDrrPI>



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