



NEWS

Issue 57: January 2025

2024-2025 BOARD

President: Rod Myers

Vice President: Mark Pridgeon

Past President: Tom Hutchinson

Sec./Treas.: Carol VanOrnum

At Large Directors:

Phil Baker, Lana Blumhoefer,

Bruce Cooper, Brett Johnson,

James Mewborn, Aidan Ruch

Bob Svacina, Gary Wittnebel

NEWS Editor: Bruce Cooper

MEMBER PROFILE OF THE MONTH MITCH RUBINSTEIN BY LANA BLUMHOEFER



Mitch Rubinstein is our member profile of the month, and he shares his story.

History has been my lifelong interest. I was born in Chicago, Illinois, where I attended college at the University of Illinois Chicago majoring in history. I came to Minnesota in 1967 to attend graduate school at the University of Minnesota where I earned the M.A. and Ph.D. in European diplomatic history. I worked for a while at the Minnesota Historical Society where I learned much about the state's history. I later became interested in the Civil War, especially Minnesota's role in the conflict, through my wife, Sally, who edited books on the topic for the Minnesota Historical Society. Our mutual interest in the Civil War led us to join the round table in 2000. I subsequently served as Secretary-



First Minnesota Monument at Gettysburg

Treasurer from 2004-06, Vice President 2011-12, and President 2012-14. I enjoy the Round Table for the variety of presentations on unfamiliar topics or with new perspectives on familiar ones regarding the Civil War.

In addition to Sally's work in Civil War history, our daughter, Rebecca, made a presentation to the Round Table on the soldier vote in Minnesota during the conflict. An article on the topic subsequently appeared in *Minnesota History*. Rebecca also started to compile the locations of graves of Civil War soldiers from Minnesota, a project that dovetailed with similar efforts by others. She and I have worked with members of the Round Table and others who are interested in developing a database with information on individuals who served in Minnesota's military units during the Civil War. Such a database would be a valuable tool for researchers examining family histories, the histories of individual units, and other facets of the conflict. Though work on the project came to a halt, I am hopeful that efforts will resume.

None of my ancestors had a connection to Civil War as my parents immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. A personal experience related to the Civil War that I have not often shared occurred when I was a youngster on the south side of Chicago. In 1961, my high school ROTC unit participated in Memorial Day observance at a nearby cemetery. As we approached the entrance, we saw protesters picketing what we later learned was a commemoration of Confederate POWs buried at the cemetery. The ROTC instructor, evidently unaware of the nature of the event beforehand, was livid after learning that the unit had officially engaged in a ceremony that honored Confederates.

Sally and I live in the Ramsey Hill (also known as Cathedral Hill) neighborhood of Saint Paul, which is rich in Civil War History. The Soldiers and Sailors monument with the statue of Josias King, reputed to be the first volunteer in the Union Army, sits just east of the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The Cathedral itself was the legacy of Archbishop John Ireland, who served as Chaplain to the Fifth Minnesota Infantry Regiment and appears in the painting in the Governor's office depicting the regiment in the Battle of Corinth in October 1862. Two neighborhood residents who appear in other paintings in the Governor's office are Colonel Judson W. Bishop leading the Second Minnesota Infantry Regiment in the assault up Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga in November 1863 and Colonel Christopher Columbus Andrews leading the Third Minnesota Infantry Regiment entering Little Rock in September 1863.

Sally and I had the opportunity to visit many sites where Minnesota units served in the Civil War. Of the battlefields that we visited, Gettysburg had an enduring impact. Near sunset we arrived at the site where the First Minnesota Infantry undertook its suicidal charge to protect the Union line from a Confederate advance on the second day of the battle. This site was known as Plum Run. The 1st Minnesota was ordered to hold back the Confederates from Alabama who outnumbered them by 3 or four to one until more of the Union troops could get to their location. There were a total of 262 of the 1st Minnesota who lost 215 to wounded, missing, or killed at this battle. An otherworldly calm settled around us as we contemplated this momentous event in our nation's history.

STEVEN SCHIER'S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Under the Compromise of 1850, which state came into the Union?

(See the last page for the answer)

OUR JANUARY MEETING – JANUARY 21, 2025

“Copperheads vs. President Lincoln 1864” – – Stefan Lund, Ph.D.



After a year and a half of fighting some Northerners began to express increasing concern about the direction the Civil War was taking. In the lower Midwest, Democrats lamented the growing human cost of the war, the expansive powers wielded by the federal government, and President Lincoln's decision to free the enslaved people of the rebel states. Vilified by soldiers and Republicans as "Copperhead" snakes, many at the time saw the anti-war faction of the Democratic Party as a serious threat to the Union war effort, while the Copperheads themselves

declared they sought only to return the Union to its pre-war status quo. In a moment of candid desperation Lincoln referred to them as the "fire in the rear." Dr. Lund will discuss the role of the Copperheads in the Civil War political landscape; why they inspired such anger in Union soldiers, why their rivals regarded them as such a danger, and how they and the rest of the Democrats nearly defeated Lincoln's re-election campaign. Though small in number, the Copperheads' shadow looms large over the political world of the Lincoln administration.



Stefan Lund, PhD is a teacher and editor from Minneapolis. His essay "Inexcusable by Us as Soldiers: Wartime Dissent and the 1863 Keokuk Soldier Mob," appeared in the Annals of Iowa (2021), and he has edited multiple educational texts with Oxford University Press. Dr. Lund holds a PhD in history from the University of Virginia where he studied press censorship during the American Civil War.

2024-2025 TCCWRT PROGRAMS

February 18, 2025	“The Battle of Chickamauga” By David A. Powell
March 18, 2025	“Early Baseball and the Civil War” By Bruce Allardice
April 12 2025	Minnesota Civil War Symposium Bloomington Event Center
May 20, 2025	“The Victor of Gettysburg: General George Gordon Meade” By Jennifer M. Murray, Ph.D.

THE TCCWRT COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NEEDS YOU

The board of the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table approved a college scholarship program starting with 2025 high school graduates. The goal of our scholarship is to increase interest and knowledge of American history with special emphasis on Minnesota soldiers and units in the Civil War. Details of the scholarship program will be announced at future meetings and if you have interest in being part of the scholarship committee, please contact, Darryl Sannes, darryl73@aol.com.

CIVIL WAR BIRTHDAYS – JANUARY

7 th	1816 – Brigadier General Stephen Miller U.S. (Fourth Governor of Minnesota 1864-65)
8 th	1815 – Brigadier General George W. Morell U.S.
9 th	1788 – Rear Admiral George Cambell Read U.S. Navy
27 th	1830 – Brigadier General William H.F. Payne C.S.
31 st	1818 – Brigadier General William R. Peck C.S.

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH JANUARY BIRTHDAY

1/5 Yvonne Compart	1/16 Mark Haidet
1/5 Jane Koenig	1/24 Paul Hodnefield
1/8 Ron Angevine	1/28 Paul DeMuth
1/13 Jim Uecker	1/28 Joyce Hinderks
1/13 Leroy Burggraff	

Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable Supports Civil War Gallery at Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum

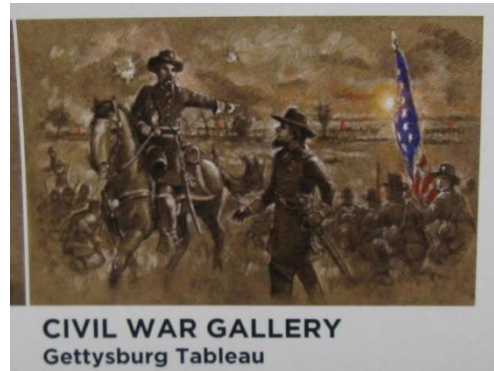
This is the first of regular updates on construction and exhibit design progress for the new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum. The TCCWRT board of directors has accepted the challenge from the Museum to lead fund raising efforts for the Civil War gallery. To date we have secured donations or offers totaling \$21,600 toward a challenge of \$50,000.



We will be writing to each of the other Minnesota Round Tables to encourage them to join this effort. The appeal runs through 2026 so all fully tax-deductible donations can be applied across at least two years. The TCCWRT will track and channel all

donations to the Museum which as a 501(c)3 organization will promptly generate individual recognition letters.

Construction is under way on the Museum site just off Highway 371 east of Camp Ripley. Completion is scheduled for early 2026 with grand opening that summer. Meanwhile an exhibit design committee is working with contractors to develop the galleries that will tell the story of Minnesota's veterans.



For further information on this project or to contribute to the challenge, please chat with Stephen Osman at a meeting. He's part of the design committee, and is the Museum board liaison with the Roundtables. And to read more about the new museum, watch for regular updates on their web site:

<https://www.mnvetmuseum.org/new-site-facility>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Right to Left: Greg Burns, Lee Tourtelotte, Susan Martland and President Rod Meyers

Be a Part of the Celebration!



HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY TCCWRT!

Register for the January 21, 2025, meeting and help us celebrate. There will be a short program starting at approximately 6:00 p.m., so come early, grab some popcorn and a beverage, and ENJOY.

BATTLE OF NASHVILLE REMEMBERED BY BRETT JOHNSON

A small group of people, including 8 or so from the TCCWRT, gathered at 11 am on December 16, at the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Memorial located in Summit Park, within view of the State Capitol. The presentation began with the singing of the National Anthem, backed by a full military color guard. Our very own TCCWRT Board member Ken Flies delivered the keynote talk about the MN regiments key participation at the Dec 1864 Battle of Nashville. The program ended with a bugle playing taps.

Kudos to Ken for a job well done!





TCCWRT MEMBERS TOUR THE WEISMAN MUSEUM BY BRETT JOHNSON

In mid-November, a group of TCCWRT members attended a Univ Of MN Weisman Museum of Art tour of some annotated sketches of the Civil War originally published between 1866 and 1868 in Harpers. We all discussed what we thought of the sketches which contained extra figures that were basically black silhouettes added by a modern artist known for provocative work. One sketch was of the scene of where General McPherson was killed in the Battle of Atlanta in July 1864. Another was of Union soldiers parading down the streets of New Orleans, after winning the battle there. New Orleans townspeople watching the processing were not amused.

We talked about 4 of the sketches in detail, among 15 or so portrayed in the gallery.



STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

California

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