



NEWS

Issue 65: September 2025



Mark Your Calendars for a Rare Opportunity



Our Sister CWRT, **The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg**, has invited us to join in opening their season with a Zoom presentation by

Gary Gallagher on *Common Misperceptions of the Civil War in 2025*

The evening of Wednesday, September 24, 2025

This is a rare opportunity to hear the renowned Gary Gallagher speak on the Civil War. Mr. Gallagher no longer travels to CWRTs to speak in person.

Topic: Americans cling to many misperceptions about the Civil War that get in the way of a solid understanding of the origins, progress, and outcome of the conflict. Gary Gallagher will discuss some of the most widely held by addressing four key questions. First, was United States victory inevitable because of an overwhelming advantage of men and material resources? Second, was Gettysburg the war's great turning point? Third, did the loyal citizenry of the United States make emancipation an equivalent goal to restoring the Union? Finally, was there a "lost moment" for genuine racial equality in the war's aftermath?

Bio: Gary W. Gallagher is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War Emeritus at the University of Virginia. He taught at Penn State University for twelve years before joining the faculty of the University of Virginia in 1998. He is the author or editor of more than forty books.

Professor Gallagher has participated in more than five dozen television projects in the field of Civil War history, and he's received many awards. Active in the field of historic preservation, he was the first president of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, twice served as a member of the Board of the Civil

War Trust, and has given testimony about preservation before Congressional committees on several occasions.

A Zoom link will be emailed to all of our members when it becomes available from the CWRTF. Don't miss this special event!

STEVEN SCHIER'S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Under the Missouri Compromise, Missouri came into the Union as a ?

(See page 12 for the answer)

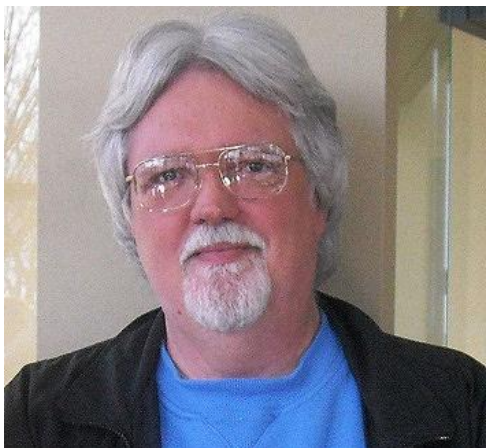
OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING – SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Nashville: Sirens Song of the Western Confederacy – Greg Biggs



1864. This program details the city's importance and each of the five attempts to retake Nashville for the Confederacy.

In December, 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee laid siege to the massive Union fortifications and garrison of Nashville. In a two-day fight, that army was all but destroyed. Their arrival at the city's door was the culmination of Confederate strategy that began when the city was captured by Union forces in February, 1862. Nashville, thereafter, became the "Siren's song" for Confederate strategy in the west luring Confederate offensives no less than five times from 1862 through



Greg Biggs has studied military history for over 50 years. He is a former Associate Editor of Blue & Gray magazine, which has published several of his articles. He has also been published in Civil War Regiments, North-South Trader and Citizens' Companion and in Sons of Confederate Veterans programs in Tennessee. He is also an authority on Civil War flags and consults with museums, auction firms, and private collectors and has contributed to books on Georgia and Tennessee Civil War flags. Greg also has done research on flags and military events for several noted Civil War authors including Eric Wittenberg, Dave Powell, Tim Smith, Gordon Rhea, Dan Masters, Art Bergeron and others. Greg is a Civil War tour guide

for campaigns of the Western Theater for the U.S. Army and Civil War groups and is President of the Clarksville Civil War Roundtable as well as Program Chair of the Nashville Civil War Roundtable. He lives in Clarksville, TN with his wife Karel, a recently retired middle school teacher, and their three cats named for Civil War cavalry officers – Minty, Rucker and Ashby.

OUR 2025 – 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September 16, 2025	“Nashville: Siren’s Song of the Western Confederacy” – Greg Biggs
October 21, 2025	“Belmont to Fort Donelson” – Curt Fields (Zoom)
November 18, 2025	“The Real Horse Soldiers” – Tim Smith
December 16, 2025	“Sherman’s Woodticks: The Remarkable Travels of the Eight Minnesota Infantry During the Civil War” – Paul Hodnefield
January 20, 2026	“Parole of Prisoners of War in the Civil War” – Stefan Lund
February 17, 2026	“Had it Been a Defeat Instead, the Nation Could have Scarcely Lived Over” Battle of Stones River 1862-1863 – Chris Kolakowski
March 17, 2026	“The Union in Peril: Lincoln and the Secession Crisis 1960 – April 1861” – Ian Iverson
April 25, 2026	Annual Symposium
May 19, 2026	“Disunion in the Confederacy or What If Lincoln Lived?” – Brian Jordan

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY`

9/4 Blake Duerre	9/24 Lance Teachworth
9/11 Chad Cox	9/26 Lee Tourtelotte
9/19 Nancy Harder	9/28 Charlotte Shover
9/22 Mike Kirsch	9/29 Dick Shover
9/23 Brad Peterson	

Happy Birthday, Members!

A Minnesota Artilleryman at Shiloh: Newly Transcribed Letter

Stephen E. Osman

Many of us have visited the huge Shiloh Battlefield and stood at the impressive monument marking the site of Minnesota's stand along the Sunken Road. But we can only imagine the horrors that those newly trained artillerymen faced in their first battle.

The original letter transcribed below was recently discovered in a Minnesota collection and has never been published. Vermont native Frederick L. Haywood was living in Taylors Falls when he volunteered for the First Battery, Minnesota Light Artillery in October 1861. The battery mustered at Fort Snelling but did not receive their untrained horses, equipment, and cannons until they arrived at St. Louis in November. The next spring they were part of U.S. Grant's army camped at Pittsburg Landing Tennessee. The Confederate army was just a few miles away entrenched at Corinth, Mississippi.



The First Battery was armed with six cannons. Four were bronze "James Rifles" made from six pounder M1841 smoothbore guns that had been rifled. The other two were bronze 12 pounder howitzers. The howitzers fired solid shot, case shot, or canister for close range anti-personnel use. The rifled cannons fired a longer-range James patent iron percussion shell. (The example shown was actually fired by the Battery at Shiloh.) The guns even had names: number three for example was called *The Mountain Ranger*. During the height of the action at the sunken road, one cannon broke its wooden carriage while another had a percussion fused shell jamb half way down the bore – dangerous to try to ram into place! Cannoneers, under rifle fire, traded out the good 884-pound barrel onto the good carriage and went back into the fray. Pretty astounding for their first battle!

Frederick Haywood writes under extreme conditions just after the Confederates had retreated back to their camps at Corinth.

Pittsburg April 8th 1862

Dear Brother;

We have had a terrible fight with the rebels which lasted two days and we have cleaned them out so bad that they will not get over it for a long time. Our force here could not have been more than 60,000 strong while prisoners say that Beauregard had 100,000. The Minnesota Battery was in Gen. Prentiss's Division. We had been transferred the day before. They attacked our division about 6 o'clock Sunday morning the 6th. The attack was made within 1/4 of a mile of

our company and camp. Ours was the first Battery engaged. We were in the hottest of it until four in the afternoon. My gun fired 120 rounds with good effect too.

We were over matched at all points and at four o'clock we were driven in towards the river but we retreated in good order. Buell came up just then with fresh forces and took a position on a rise of ground. The tired men rallied in their rear. About 100 pieces of artillery were planted there and when the rebels came up anticipating an easy victory, we gave them such a reception that they were forced to retire with great slaughter. They encamped in the woods only two miles from us in our own tents. Both armies slept on their arms. I laid down under my gun with a single blanket over me and slept soundly.

The fight was renewed at daybreak and lasted until three in the afternoon when they were completely routed and fled in confusion, hotly pursued by our infantry and cavalry. We hear all manner of reports in regard to the fight. Some prisoners say that Beauregard and Johnson are both killed, another report says that Beauregard is a prisoner. It is impossible to ascertain the loss on either side at present. I have been out in the woods this morning. The dead and wounded rebels cover the ground everywhere. From what I have been able to see myself, I think their loss must be double that of ours. Three guns of our Battery were disabled but we brought them all in. We could not spare the secesh any of them. They took some of our artillery the first day, but we got it all back the next and some of theirs beside. I have no time to give you a description of the horrors of that dreadful battle.

Three were killed in our company and eleven wounded. Among the latter were our Captain and 1st Lieutenant. The Captain fell at the first fire.¹ Two Sergeants were also wounded. When we first were obliged to retire with our guns in the morning the rebels were within 100 feet of us. We gave them a parting shot, limbered up and run like the devil. They were close to our heels. Just then one of the men that rode the lead team on my gun was shot dead and fell off. Another man sprung up in his place. We had gone but a few rods when my horse was killed under me. I caught another without a rider. I had hardly got on when a musket ball cut the side strap of my bridle nearly off wounding the horse in the head slightly. By this time the Devils were within 20 yards of me, and I soon found out what it was to ride for my life. The cannon balls and bullets whistled around my head lively. We retreated about ½ mile and took a new position and held it until we were finally obliged to retire towards the river. A cannon ball struck the ground just in front of me covering me with dirt. Their shot and shell were crashing among the limbs of the trees continually but they fired high and did little damage. I have escaped without a scratch. I never felt cooler in my life than I did after the first fire but during the first few minutes I would just as soon been somewhere else.

They plundered our camp and I have lost everything except what I wore on my body. I had to beg this sheet of paper of one of the boys. We expect to advance upon Corinth as soon as we can repair damage. Please write to Mother for me as soon as you get this. It is almost impossible for me to write under present circumstances. We are destitute of tents and have to sleep on the ground in the open air. Last night it rained hard and I was drenched to the skin but took no cold. I cannot write any more. Love to all.

Your &c

Fred.

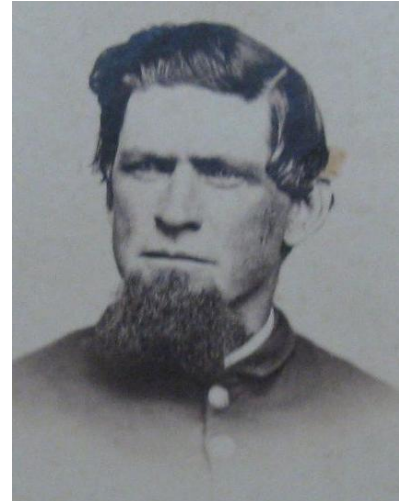
¹ Prussian born Captain Emil Munch commanded the battery. Munch came to Minnesota as an 18-year-old in 1849. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives but resigned to enlist in the Battery on October 16, 1861. A month later the men elected him captain. At Shiloh his horse was killed and while he tried to remove the saddle, he himself was severely wounded in the thigh.

Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey had nothing but good to say about the Battery a month after the battle:

In the recent battle at Pittsburg Landing, we were represented by but a single battery, yet that battery was the first to open fire upon the foe, and while around it battery after battery was taken by the enemy, Minnesota did not lose or once desert a single gun, but was one of the conspicuous few which maintained the fight without flinching to the last.

Close by was a battery whose artillerists fled in a panic at the first shot which struck it, and our brave boys not only worked their own guns, almost unsupported by infantry, in face of the heaviest fire of the enemy, but also manned the deserted guns, and amid all the disgraceful exhibitions of that bloody Sabbath presented a spectacle of unwavering Minnesota pluck to the last.

Fred Haywood survived the war and was commissioned second lieutenant in 1863 after serving as their first sergeant.



And on a personal note, I have my own reasons to thank the First Battery. The Battery's bravery and skill was shown again a few months later in October when Confederates tried to recapture the nearby important rail center of Corinth, Mississippi. The howitzer section and a small Illinois cavalry company worked together all day to delay the Confederate advance which gave Federal commanders time to deploy their defenses. The flag bearer of that cavalry company was named Austin Osman. So perhaps in thanks to the skill of those Minnesota howitzer gunners I'm able today to help remember this most exceptional group of Minnesota volunteer artillerymen.

SPOTLIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 1861: THE FIGHT FOR KENTUCKY BEGINS

- 1st U.S. Grant assumes command of Union forces in southern Missouri.
- 3rd Confederate troops violate Kentucky's neutrality by invading the state.
- 6th In response to the Confederate invasion of Kentucky, Union troops under U.S. Grant occupy Paducah, Kentucky.
- 9th Confederate nurse Sally Tompkins is commissioned an officer becoming the only female Confederate officer of the war.
- 10th-15th Battle of Cheat Mountain near Elkwater, Virginia (now West Virginia).

New Minnesota Military and Veteran's Museum Update

The museum interior is taking shape and everything is still on track for completion end of January 2026, with exhibits to be installed over the following few months. The oversize (macro) artifacts will go inside on September 15. And on September 2, anniversary of the end of WWII, Gun #3 from the USS Ward will be removed from the state capitol grounds for restoration and relocation to the museum. That cannon has deteriorated outside for decades, and the Navy's historical division which owns it would only allow it to remain in Minnesota if it were conserved and displayed indoors. Our museum is a natural location, and that historic cannon which fired the first American shots of WWII will greet visitors to the new museum.

The exhibits team meets bi-weekly to discuss the galleries being designed and written on two-week intervals. Stephen Osman is finishing up text and artifact choices for the Civil War gallery and has gratefully accepted Carol VanOrnum's assistance in proofreading and editing. We'll be requesting several artifacts from the MNHS, including a unique gum tree mortar constructed by the Seventh Minnesota Infantry to bomb rebel trenches at Spanish Fort Alabama in 1865.



Round Table member donations are coming in slow but steadily. We have a \$50,000 minimum challenge and now just over \$46,250 pledged of which nearly \$27,000 has already been received from 30 TCCWRT donors. Have you made your pledge yet?

The challenge runs through 2026, so fully tax-deductible donations span two years. Some of us have used the required minimum distribution from our IRAs to donate, thus reducing our taxable income. Donors will receive an acknowledgement letter from the 501(c)3 museum.

There are three easy ways to donate:

- Visit the museum website and make an electronic donation, noting that you are with the Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable. <https://www.mnvetmuseum.org/new-site-facility>
- Mail a donation to the museum, noting in the check memo "Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable." MN Military and Veterans Museum, Camp Ripley, 15000 Highway 115 Little Falls, MN 56345-4173.
- Or hand a check to Stephen Osman at a meeting to be forwarded to the museum.

Please let Stephen know in all cases that you have donated or that you intend to donate in 2025 or 2026 so that he can add you to the tracking documents. foragecaps@comcast.net

Check the museum web site to see a conceptual fly over and through the new building. <https://www.mnvetmuseum.org/new-site-facility>

Here are two live camera views of the museum under construction: <https://www.mnvetmuseum.org/live-cameras>

**Announcing our Merchandise Store, from
Fully Promoted, will be open
FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY!**

From Wednesday, September 17 to October 1, 2025

**Don't wait! Place your order on Day One –
September 17, 2025**



Twin Cities Civil War Round Table Merchandise Store

Visit our Merchandise Store at
<https://twincitiescivilwar.itemorder.com/shop/home/> or Click [HERE](#)

Headwear, Women's Apparel, Men's Apparel, and Drink wear

FREE pickup or delivery to our Meetings



CIVIL WAR MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY

September 28 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Free

Travel back in time to join Abraham Lincoln and the 1st Minnesota Infantry to honor Civil War Veterans buried at Lakewood. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) will host this special ceremony dedicating 150 new markers for Civil War Soldiers who have been in unmarked graves. Along with the reenactors, the ceremony will feature the Living History Society and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. After the ceremony, enjoy a free, guided walking tour of the graves of soldiers from the 1st and 2nd Minnesota Infantry regiments.

Learn more by reading our [blog post](#) about this meaningful volunteer effort.

This event is free, and all are welcome! Some seating will be provided, but guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

Location

This event takes place in the GAR section at Lakewood Cemetery. [Click here for a GPS link to this location](#) (this will open Google Maps).

About the Organizers

[Colvill Camp](#) is the Minnesota chapter of the SUVCW. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a Congressionally Chartered organization formed in 1881 by the Grand Army of the Republic. Among the purposes of our order is the perpetuation of the memory of the men who saved the Union and honoring all who have patriotically served our nation in any war.

Here is the web link for the event:

<https://www.lakewoodcemetery.org/event/civil-war-marker-dedication-ceremony/>

SHARE YOUR CIVIL WAR TRAVEL PHOTOS AND TRAVEL LOGS ON FACEBOOK

Do you have great photos and stories from your Civil War travels? Why not share them on

Facebook. The TCCWRT has two pages. A Group (Private) page (**Civil War Round Table-Twin Cities Group**) and a Club page (**Civil War Round Table - Twin Cities**). Members of the Group Page can post their photos or travel logs anytime. Not a member of the Group page? You can go to the Group page and apply for membership. Membership is open to all TCCWRT members. We are currently revamping the Club page (**Civil War Round Table - Twin Cities**). More information on sharing your photos and stories will be coming in future editions of the newsletter.

OUR 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: **Mark Pridgeon**

Vice President: **John-Erich Mantius**

Secretary: **Carol VanOrnum**

Treasurer: **Jerry Ogdahl**

Past President: **Rod Myers**

At Large Members:

Phil Baker, Brett Johnson, James Mewborn, Aidan Ruch, Gary Wittnebel, Lana Blumhoefer, Bruce Cooper, and Bob Svacina

Webmaster: **Ron Whitehead**

NEWS Editor: **Bruce Cooper**

CIVIL WAR WEEKEND AT THE LEDUC MANSION BY STEPHEN OSMAN

The LeDuc Mansion Historic Site in Hastings along Highway 61 and operated by the Dakota County Historical Society is hosting their annual Civil War Weekend on September 6-7, 2025. Here is the schedule of event for the two days.

- 10:15AM Opening Ceremony & Flag Raising
 - At the Flag pole
- 10:30AM School of the Soldier & Infantry Drill
 - At the Union Army Recruitment & Training Tent
- 11:00AM Firing Demonstration with the First Minnesota
- 11:15AM Cannon Firing Demonstration with Battery I
 - At the Flagpole
- 12:00PM Letters from 1864 – Read by William and Mary Leduc
 - In the Parlor
- 12:30PM School of the Soldier & Infantry Drill
 - At the Union Army Recruitment & Training Tent
- 12:30PM Civil War Medicine Demonstration
 - Medical Tent
- 1:00PM Reading of the Gettysburg Address By Mayor Mary
 - In front of the Porch
- 1:30PM Simmons Shed Sewing Bee
- 2:00PM General Leduc's Inspection

- Starting at General Leduc's Tent
- 2:00PM Election of 1864 presentation and mock election
- 2:30PM Apple Press Demonstration
- At the Camp Kitchen
- 3:00PM School of the Soldier & Infantry Drill
- At the Union Army Recruitment & Training Tent
- 3:30PM Drill with the 1st Minnesota
- 4:00PM Cannon Firing Demonstration with Battery I
- 4:30PM Military Closing Ceremony
- At the Flagpole

Through Out the Day:

Cabinet of Curiosities

Scavenger hunt

William Leduc's Body Armor Display

-At 1st Minnesota Regiment

Quilt Display

Historic Gun Presentation in



JOIN OUR TEAM!

We're looking for a TECH person to help the TCCWRT grow to become video/media visible. No experience necessary, but if you've got it - all the better!

Assist with SOUND, CAMERA, VIDEO PREPARATION AND EDITING, and caring for the HARDWARE equipment.

Contact Bob Svacina at bob_svacina@msn.com, James Mewborn at jfmewborn1@gmail.com, or Brett Johnson at brettbjohn@hotmail.com.

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

Slave state

Explanation:

Under the Missouri Compromise, Missouri came into the Union as a slave state. The Missouri Compromise was an agreement passed in 1820 that allowed Missouri to enter the Union as a slave state, while Maine entered as a free state, maintaining the balance between slave and free states. Additionally, the compromise also established a line, known as the 36°30' parallel, where slavery would be prohibited in any new states formed from the Louisiana Territory north of that line.

CONTACT US:

Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable

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<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