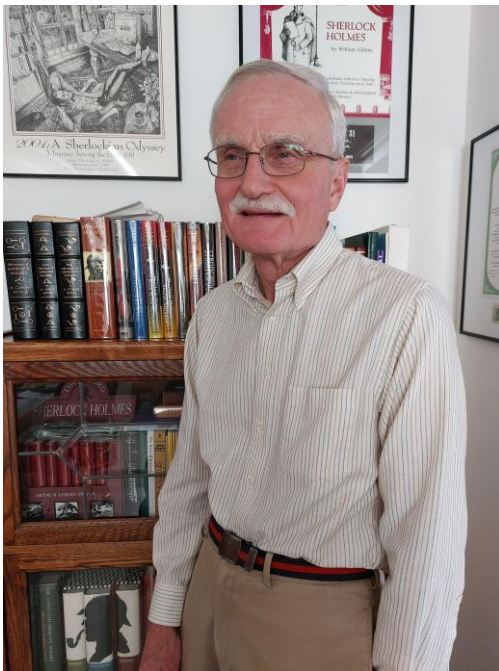


Issue 69: January 2026

MEMBER PROFILE: MIKE ECKMAN



Mike Eckman joined the TCCWRT in 2001 soon after attending one of the symposiums held at Fort Snelling. He became interested in the Civil War during the centennial when Life magazine published a series of articles about the war. He remembers collecting the Confederate money that was included in boxes of Cheerios in 1954 and, in fact, still has some of these bills. His collection also includes the first day cover for the 1961 Fort Sumpter 4 cent postage stamp and the Postal Service 1994 Classic Collection of 32 cent Civil War stamps.

He belongs to several literary and historical groups and has spoken and written about Sherlock Holmes, Mark Twain, Winston Churchill, P. G. Wodehouse, and others. Mike's paper "Mark Twain and the American Civil War" was published in the *Mark Twain Journal* Volume 51, Numbers 1 and 2. The article describes how

Samuel Clemens avoided the war, took the pen name Mark Twain, and later claimed veteran status by publishing his humorous "The Private History of a Campaign that Failed" in *The Century Magazine*.

Mike served in the Army in 1970-1971 and was stationed at the Office of the Actuary in the Pentagon. He began his actuarial career before being drafted and, after another draftee washed out of basic training, he was assigned the position in the Pentagon. Mike's original orders were for Vietnamese language school. While he was stationed at the Pentagon, he was able to visit many battlefields. The most memorable experience was walking through the Wilderness, seeing signs of the fox holes, and trying to visualize what the fighting must have been like.

While his ancestors didn't arrive in the U.S. until the 1880s, his wife, Colleen, had a great-great-grandfather, Captain David Baker, who fought with the 8th Kansas and was captured at Chickamauga.

He enjoys the TCCWRT meetings and symposiums and the fine speakers. He also enjoys talking to other members where he finds additional knowledge, informative discussions, opinions, book recommendations, and travel tips.

An area of special interest is the notion that the fighting may have stopped but the issues have not been resolved. This has led to a great deal of writing about the Civil War and Reconstruction and continuing discussion of the issues. Michael Vorenberg in his book, *Lincoln's Peace*, considers the various end dates proposed for the war and does not find the arguments for any of them compelling. In a sense, the war has not ended.

Mike was born and grew up in south Minneapolis; attended the University of Minnesota; worked as an actuary in New York City, Arlington, VA, Fort Wayne, IN; and moved back to Minneapolis in 1981. He and Colleen have two sets of identical twins and four grandchildren including identical twin grandsons. He and Colleen enjoy traveling, and Mike has visited all seven continents. He has had the pleasure of taking many Civil War tours and experiencing great guides such as Ed Bearss. Mike considers travel and the study of history to be complementary.

STEVEN SCHIER'S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

In the 1860 presidential election, Republicans, led by Abraham Lincoln, supported what?

(See page 11 for the answer)

OUR JANUARY MEETING – JANUARY 20, 2026

Parole of Prisoners of War in the Civil War – Stefan Lund, Ph.D.



At the outset of the American Civil War both factions had much they had to figure out on the fly, including what to do with the men they captured in battle. The combatants settled on a parole system, by which captured soldiers would be dismissed to return home, sworn to an oath not to take up arms again until informed that their

government had agreed to exchange them for some number of their adversaries. This system broke down after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, as rebel leadership refused to treat Black Union soldiers as soldiers, instead threatening to enslave captured USCT soldiers and execute their white officers. The breakdown of this exchange relationship gave rise to prisoner of war camps across the country, including the notorious Andersonville prison in

Georgia, as both sides found it a challenge to feed and house thousands of captured combatants. This talk will trace how the treatment of prisoners of war changed over the course of the conflict; what was the parole system, why it broke down, and the development of prison camps as a replacement. It will also highlight the soldiers' experiences; what it meant to be captured in battle, and the experience of being paroled or imprisoned.



Stefan Lund completed his doctorate in history at the University of Virginia, where he studied at the John Nau III Center for Civil War History and received his degree in 2022. He is currently a Social Studies teacher at North Branch Area High School and produces American Ambition, a podcast about American history. He lives in Minneapolis and is an avid Twins fan.

OUR 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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 1860 – 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 JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/5 Yvonne Compart

1/16 Mark Haidet

1/13 Jim Uecker

1/24 Paul Hodnefield

1/13 Leroy Burggraff

Happy Birthday, Members!

From the Dusty Collection #61 ***Minnesota Regimental Histories***

Stephen E. Osman

Civil War soldiers served in organized units: companies of approximately 100 men, infantry regiments of approximately 1,000, heavy artillery and cavalry regiments of approximately 1,200, light artillery batteries of around 150, and battalions of around 500 men. Most soldiers stayed in the same units for their 3-month, 1-year, or most commonly 3-year term of service. Those units were usually regionally based. Members of the same company might be schoolmates, part of the same religious congregations, or farmers in the same county. Sharing a common military experience, they longed to reminisce with comrades in Grand Army of the Republic posts, at state and national veteran encampments, or during annual recognition at county and state fairs. Fortunately, they also recorded their stories.

Regimental histories were a natural outcome of this urge to remember; some were published even before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. As the veterans reached middle age, motivated individuals and regimental committees raised funds to write and publish histories specific to their organization's role in the War. Many hundreds were produced by the turn of the century. An excellent collection of those from Minnesota and other states is in the Minnesota Historical Society library. Many of those 19th century publications have been reprinted, and a growing number can now be found on the internet.

Minnesota, with a population that grew from 200,00 to 250,000 during the war years, fielded around 25,000 soldiers in 22 distinct organizations. Only about half of those are represented by formal regimental or unit histories – but thankfully the number continues to grow. This brief article will survey those various publications. Additional resources on Minnesota Civil War soldiers can be found in the 1866 State Adjutant General Report which lists each soldier, his enlistment origin and his brief service history:

<https://archive.org/details/annualreport01minn/mode/2up>

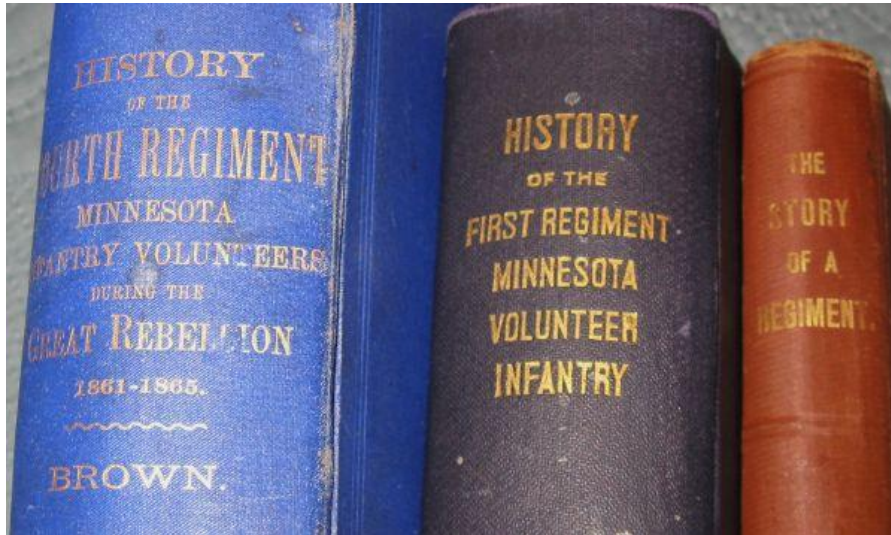
A short history of each unit (from Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion) can be found here: <https://www.civilwararchive.com/unionmn.htm>

Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars was published in 1890, with a roster of each unit. But its most useful feature was an engaging short history of each Minnesota organization prepared by a veteran of that unit. It is now also available on line:

<https://archive.org/details/minnesotacivil01minnrich>

Some years back Park Genealogical Books published most of those 1890 individual unit histories and rosters as stand-alone softbound references which can still be found in the secondary market. Park's 1997 printed compilation of the Adjutant General report is much harder to find but remains an essential reference for looking up Minnesota soldiers. Another useful reference is the federal government's 1890 Special Census of Veterans. Minnesota's compilation survived the disastrous fire that destroyed much of the 1890 Census. Veterans recorded their unit, length of service, and any service-related disabilities. Long available only on hard to read microfilm, the census is now part of several online resources. One additional reference on Minnesota units is the six volumes titled Glimpses of the Nation's Struggle published by the Minnesota Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States between 1889

and 1908. This organization of officer veterans encouraged its members to prepare and deliver



papers on aspects of their military service. Many of the published papers were very well written and remain excellent reads. The rare six volumes were reprinted by Broadfoot Publishing some years back.

What follows is an abbreviated bibliography of book length published works on Minnesota units and soldiers, with

apologies in advance for any titles missed. Please note the Twin Cities and other Minnesota Round Table members and former members who have contributed works to this bibliography! A few units have yet to receive book length treatment. Can you help fill this gap?

The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, not surprisingly, has generated much ink:

Bassett, M.H., From Bull Run to Bristow Station, St. Paul, 1962.

Haiber, William and Haiber, Robert, Thunderbolt in Blue: The History of the First Minnesota Regiment of Volunteers, Poughquag (NY), 1992.

Hoffbeck, Steven R., "Colvill Smiled." The Legend of the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Regiment at Gettysburg, Barnesville (MN), 2025.

Holcombe, Return I., History of the First Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, 1861 - 1864, Stillwater, 1916.

Imholte, John Q., The First Volunteers: History of the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, 1861 - 1865, Minneapolis, 1963.

Jorgenson, Wayne D., Every Man Did His Duty: Pictures and Stories of the First Minnesota, Minneapolis, 2012.

Krom, Richard G., The 1st MN...Second to None, Rochester, 2010.

Leehan, Brian, Pale Horse on Plum Run: The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Gettysburg Campaign, June/July 1863, Minneapolis, 2000.

Moe, Richard, The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers, New York, 1993, St. Paul 2001.

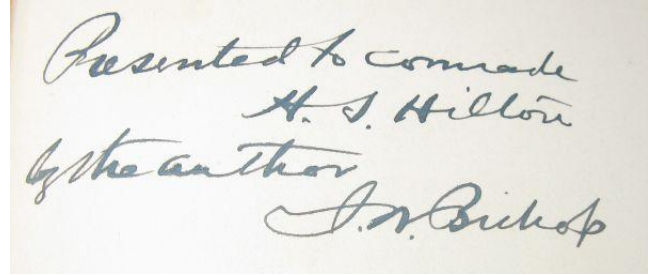
Paulson, Gary, Soldier's Heart, Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers, New York, 1998.

Wright, James A. (Steven J. Keillor, ed.), No More Gallant A Deed: a Civil War memoir of the First Minnesota Volunteers, St. Paul, 2001.

The Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Bircher, William (Newell L. Chester, ed.), A Drummer-boy's Diary, Comprising Four Years of Service with the Second Regiment Minnesota Veteran Volunteers, 1861 - 1865, St. Cloud, 1995.

Bishop, Judson W. (Newell L. Chester, ed.), The Story of a Regiment, Being a Narrative of the Service of the Second Regiment, Minnesota Veteran Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War of 1861 - 1865, St. Cloud, 2000. [Colonel Bishop presented a signed copy of the original 1890 printing to each surviving veteran.]



Pendergast, T. H., Pen Pictures from the

Second Minnesota: Personal Recollections of a Private Soldier and Marching Thro' Georgia, Roseville (MN), 1998.

Schmid, Benedict, The Benedict Schmid Civil War Diary: For the Time of May 28, 1864 - July 21, 1865: Company G, Second Regiment of Minnesota, Excelsior (MN), 1976.

Westcott, Chester R., The Civil War Diary of Chester Rockwell Westcott and Letters to His Sister, Susan Westcott, Los Altos Hills [CA], 1986.

Wheaton, George A., Letters of George A. Wheaton as transcribed by his Grandson Robert K. Dougan and wife Martha, Rancho Mirage (CA), 1998.

The Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Andrews, Alice E. (ed.), Christopher C. Andrews...General in the Civil War. Recollections, 1829 - 1922, Cleveland, 1928.

Bowler, James M. (Andrea R. Foroughi ed.), Go if You Think it Your Duty: A Minnesota Couple's Civil War Letters, St. Paul, 2008.

Fitzharris, Joseph C., The Hardest Lot of Men: The Third Minnesota Infantry in the Civil War, Norman (OK), 2019.

Mattson, Hans, Reminiscences: The Story of an Immigrant, St. Paul, 1892.

The Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Anderson, Peter D., (Peterson, Ralph C.E., ed.), Marching Barefoot, A Collection of Civil War Letters written by Peter Daniel Anderson to his wife and children in Scandia, Minnesota, Minneapolis, 1991.

Baldwin, Ray, Looking Back, Marshall (MN), 1993.

Brown, Alonzo L., History of the Fourth Regiment of Minnesota Infantry Volunteers During the Great Rebellion, 1861 - 1865, St. Paul, 1892.

Young, Eric, Houle, Thomas (ed.), The Letters of Eric (Wedmark) Young, 1858-1866, Sioux Falls, 1992.

Young, Eric, Houle, Thomas (ed.), Additional Letters of Eric (Wedmark) Young from 1858-1866, Sioux Falls, 1992.

The Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Connolly, Alonzo P., A Thrilling Narrative of The Minnesota Massacre and the Sioux War of 1862-63, Chicago, 1896.

Hill, Alfred J. (Theodore H. Lewis, ed.), History of Company E of the Sixth Minnesota Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, St. Paul, 1899.

Patten, Floyd J., "Good Company H!": incidents in campaigns of the Sioux Outbreak, Marshall (MN), 1962.

The Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Hickerson, Perry J., The Boys in Blue: An Account of the Hickerson Brothers in the Minnesota Indian and Civil Wars (1862-1865), 2007.

Kelley, Duren F., Offenber, Richard S. and Parsonage, Robert R. (eds.), The War Letters of Duren F. Kelley, 1862-1865, New York, 1967.

Scantlebury, Thomas, Wanderings in Minnesota During the Indian Troubles of 1862, Chicago, 1867.

The Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Hodnefield, Paul, Sherman's Woodticks: The Adventures, Ordeals and Travels of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry During the Civil War, St. Cloud (MN), 2023.

Paxson, Lewis C., Diary of Lewis C. Paxson, Stockton, N.J., 1862 - 1865, Bismark, 1908.

Sanford, Paul, Sioux Arrows and Bullets, San Antonio, 1969.

The Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Clapp, E. L., Andersonville: six months a prisoner of war, giving a true description of the prison . . . list of the Andersonville dead, giving the number of the grave, name, rank, company and regiment, date of death and disease, of all the Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota soldiers, who died there during the summer of 1864., Milwaukee, 1865. (reprint, Madison, 1993)

Lundstrom, John B., One Drop in a Sea of Blue: The Liberators of the Ninth Minnesota, St. Paul, 2012.

Lyon, William F., In and Out of Andersonville Prison, Detroit, 1905.

The Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

Ahsenmacher, Henry, The Civil War Diary of a Minnesota Volunteer, Henry Ahsenmacher 1862 - 1865, St. Paul, 1990.

Glanville, Amos E. (John K. and Carrol G. Glanville, eds.), I Saw The Ravages Of An Indian War: A diary written by Amos E. Glanville, Sr., Company "F", 10th Minnesota Volunteers, August 26, 1862 to July 20, 1863, Leoti (KS), 1988.

Hart, James and Smith, John, Tales of the Tenth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteers, 1862-63, Henderson (MN), 1996.

Tales of the Tenth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteers by Two Soldiers, Henderson (MN), 1996

The Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry:

The Eleventh Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry: 1865-1906, Minneapolis, [1906].

The First Company Minnesota Sharpshooters:

Wright, Abraham, History of the First Company Sharpshooters of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 1889.

The First Battery Minnesota Light Artillery:

Christie, Thomas and William (Hampton Smith, ed.), Brother of Mine: the Civil War letters of Thomas and William Christie, St. Paul, 2011.

The First Minnesota Heavy Artillery:

Bassett, Edward H., From Bull Run to Bristow Station, St. Paul, 1962.

Grannis, Edith E.H., New Hampshire to Minnesota: Memoirs of Samuel Higbee Grannis 1839-1933, Wausau (WI), 1962.

Heffelfinger, Lucia L. Peavey, Memoirs of Christopher B. Heffelfinger, Minneapolis, 1922.

The Minnesota Mounted Rangers:

McPhail, Samuel (Donald B. Sayner, ed.), The Orders of Col. Samuel McPhail, 1863, Tucson, 1973.

Brackett's Battalion Minnesota Cavalry:

Bergemann, Kurt D., Brackett's Battalion: Minnesota Cavalry in the Civil War and the Dakota War, St. Paul, 2004.

DINNER PRICES TO RISE

By Brett Johnson

As many of you are aware, prices of many goods/services have been increasing, with some rising at a good clip. Restaurant prices are no exception.

The Bloomington Event Center raised prices by about 5% this fall, and is expected to raise prices again by up to 10% in January, due to rapidly increasing meat costs.

We have been able to hold the price of a meal at \$25 for many years, in part by moving to a luncheon menu instead of a dinner menu, and by holding off on desserts, which are now projected to run about \$6 (with taxes/fees) in January.

But at this point, we have reluctantly concluded that we will need to raise our meal price to \$27.50 in January, to help match the cost increases. One of the things we have talked about is to have our Round Table provide store-bought dessert (cookies or other) so that we could have a treat at times. The Event Center indicated that this would be ok.

SPOTLIGHT ON JANUARY 1862:

- 10th Battle of Big Sandy River, Kentucky
- 18th The Confederate Congress passes the "Organic Act" creating the Arizona territory.
- 19th Battle of Mills Spring, Kentucky
- 26th President Lincoln issues General War Order #1, ordering a Union offensive.
- 30th USS Monitor is launched.

New Minnesota Military and Veteran's Museum Update

Construction is moving along with scheduled completion at the end of February. Here's a recent photo of progress in the dedicated Civil War gallery that the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table is helping to fund.

Text for the Minnesota Civil War gallery, snapshots of artifacts and sample images are being used to create layouts of each exhibit panel. Staff recently created some full-size blowups of draft layouts to see how font size and other elements looked from various distances.

See below:



Round Table member donations are coming in steadily. We have a \$50,000 minimum challenge. To date \$49,875 has been pledged, of which nearly \$36,000 has been received from 35 TCCWRT donors. Some have made several donations!

The challenge runs through 2026, so fully tax-deductible donations span two years. Some of us have used the required minimum distribution (RMD) from our IRAs as a qualified charitable donation (QCD), thus reducing our taxable income. Each donor receives a personal acknowledgement 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 up to the museum.

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

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

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

NEW BOOK ON THE FIRST MINNESOTA JUST RELEASED

AVAILABLE ONLINE

From Barnes & Noble; Amazon; Walmart, Etc.;
or order from your favorite bookseller
through Ingram Spark.

Hardcover - \$26.95
ISBN: 979-8992666915 - 61 B&W PHOTOS - 238 PAGES

Paperback- \$19.95
ISBN: 979-8992666922 - 61 B&W PHOTOS - 238 PAGES

ALSO AVAILABLE DIRECTLY FROM THE AUTHOR - WRITE TO:
stevehoffbeck@yahoo.com for paperback,
ISBN 979-8992666908 - **Autographed - \$15.95 + Postage**
61 Illustrations (24 Color, 37 B&W) - 238 Pages

I read an advance copy and found it quite enjoyable. It includes great biographical material on William Colvill and Martin Maginnis, both of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.

Stephen Osman

STEVEN SCHIER'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

Banning slavery in all the U.S. territories.

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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