TCCWRT
Twin Cities Civil War Round Table

NEWS

Issue 79: November 2026

TCCWRT MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026
****Buffet at 6:00 PM****
****Speaker at 7:00 PM****
Dinner & Presentation $30.00
Presentation Only $10.00

DINNER RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY NOVEMBER 4, 2026
(952) 380-6066 or EMAIL info@tccwrt.com

BUFFET MENU
Bone-in Chicken Breast with Gravy
Swedish Meatballs
Mashed Potatoes
Deluxe Vegetable Medley
Garden Salad
Dinner Rolls

LOCATION
Fort Snelling Plank Museum & Visitor Center
200 Tower Avenue, St. Paul, MN

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson

By Chris Mackowski, Ph.D.

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War and the series editor of the award-winning Emerging Civil War Series, published by Savas Beatie. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and

Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. Chris has authored or co-authored nearly two dozen books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War. His latest book is *Atlas of Independence: John Adams and the American Revolution.*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: JEREMY SOLOMON

TCCWRT MEMBERS WITH NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/2 William Heise

11/3 Gerry Briggs

11/13 Gary Carlberg

11/17 Jim Joyce

11/29 Kirk Sikorowski

Happy Birthday, Members!

From the Dusty Collection #69
Julian Scott's Drummer Boys

Famed Vermont Civil War artist Julian Scott (1846-1901) created scores of hyper-realistic paintings of battle and camp life. When his St. Paul descendants' Summit Hill area mansion sold several decades ago, a large number of Scott's former painting props and working sketches entered the local antique market. Two of these artifacts are significant as they were used in one of his most beloved paintings, that of a youthful Union Army drummer boy in winter camp. The prop drum is today in the collection of a good friend, while the overcoat rests in an acid free box in this author's collection. Both artifacts are featured in several of Scott's drummer boy paintings.

Julian Scott was only 15 when he joined the Third Vermont Infantry as a musician in 1861. A year later in April 1862 his regiment attacked a Confederate field fortification protecting the Warwick River. With wet cartridges they were forced to rely on only their bayonets and were soon driven back into the river. Those wounded in the assault struggled in the water as their comrades retreated. The unarmed young Julian Scott jumped back into the water and eventually pulled 11 of his comrades to safety. For his heroic actions at age 16 he was presented with the Medal of Honor in 1865. Already interested in art, Scott recorded his comrades and camp life in sketches while in the army and continued after being mustered out for a severe leg wound.

As a teenaged veteran Scott studied at the New York Academy of Design, and then in Paris and in Germany. Returning to the US, he set up his studio in New York and then eventually in Plainfield, New Jersey. His fame grew as both a Civil War battlefield artist but also recording portraits of Native Americans painted on a western expedition during the 1890 Census.

Several of Scott's drummer boy paintings depict teenaged musicians playing cards. While there were no decks of cards among the artist's props, we can only assume that he was a recreational card player and may well be representing his own youth as an army musician. Typical is *A Friendly Game of Freeze Out*, painted 1886. The poker term "Freeze Out" is *To make a wager that is sufficiently large so as to convince a given player or players to fold, especially when the wager is intended to reduce the number of players continuing rather than end the hand immediately.*

The drum that Scott used in his paintings was originally carried by a drummer in the 7th Regiment, National Guard State of New York. That inscription is hand painted on one side below the state seal. The famed 7th Regiment was formed in 1806, served in the War of 1812, and then was activated for a dozen public emergencies. During the Civil War it mustered into Federal service several times for terms of 30 days or three months, finally mustering out for good in July 1863. The regiment again entered Federal service in 1917 and saw combat in France as part of the 27th Division. Scott always depicts the back side of the drum in his paintings to represent a generic drum.

The artist's original Civil War overcoat also survives in excellent condition. It is unusual in being made of jean cloth, sky blue wool on a brown cotton thread warp. That's the reason for the brownish tone to the cape. This is an infantry pattern overcoat, single breasted with an elbow length cape and a standing collar. The cavalry or mounted pattern was double breasted with a cape that extended down to the sleeve cuffs and a taller stand or fall collar.

Two more of Julian Scott's paintings are variations on his same theme of youthful musicians playing cards. *Drummer Boys Playing Cards* was painted in 1891, and there again is that familiar drum and overcoat.

A Break Playing Cards, painted in 1881, adds an observant officer, a zouave in his red fez, and again the overcoats and the red trimmed drum.

This set of Union patriotic playing cards was purchased by the author at age 16 for the princely sum of $2.50. Today it is displayed along with a variety of typical soldier possessions at the new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum. Cards like these were sold by army sutlers, and many were thrown away prior to battle because some considered them sinful.

And not just drummer boys filled their idle time by playing cards. Here Julian Scott depicts an infantryman in shirtsleeves and a cavalryman in full uniform sharing *A Friendly Game* painted in 1894. Note that the drum is still present, now serving duty as a base for the impromptu table/bench the soldier's use for their game.

BRUCE COOPER'S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

On November 8, 1861, the British mail packet RMS Trent was intercepted by a U.S. Naval ship. Two Confederate diplomats were taken from the Trent creating a diplomatic incident known as the Trent Affair. What was the name of the U.S. ship that stopped the Trent and who commanded it?

(See page 9 for the answer)

New Policy for Non-Diners

The Board of Directors has instituted a new policy allowing members to attend a meeting without dining. This policy is a result of some members expressing that sometimes they don't know until the last minute if they can attend or other special circumstances. We want to accommodate those requests.

The cost is $10 at the door. This revenue will help to defray the cost of the rental facility. Bringing in your own food is prohibited.

The Board hopes that members will continue the tradition of the TCCWRT's "dinner/presentation" format and participate in the buffet meals, but they understand that an occasional special circumstance occurs.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Stephen Osman was recognized for his outstanding work developing the Civil War exhibit at the new Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum.

Kellie Gormly delivering her presentation on the Swope Manor in Gettysburg.

Civil War Resources Links

American Battlefield Trust

Civil War Book Review

Library of Congress

National Archives

MN Historical Society

National Park Service

Sons of Union Veterans Civil War Database

West Point Online Atlases

Civil War Round Table Congress

Wikipedia Maps by Hal Jesperson

BRUCE COOPER'S CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:

USS San Jacinto commanded by Captain Charles Wilkes

OUR 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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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: earlofbruce@hotmail.com