



10th Annual Civil War Symposium

The Tide Turns: 1863

Sat., March 25, 2023

9 am – 5 pm

PROGRAM

- 8:00 am **Registration**
- 8:50 am **Announcements and Welcome**
- 9:00 am ***Lincoln and His Gettysburg Address***
Presented by Bryce Stenzel
- 10:00 am ***Vicksburg Under Siege!***
Presented by Susan Hynes
- 11:00 am ***The Controversial Major General George Meade***
Presented by Gary Carlberg
- Noon **Mess Call**
Music by Lonesome Ron
- 1:00 pm ***The Mystery of Barbara Fritchie: A True Patriot***
Presented by Tamara Thayer
- 2:00 pm ***1st Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery and the Battle of Shiloh
April 6-7, 1862***
Presented by James Olson
- 3:00 pm ***The Weapons, Uniform, Equipment & Life of the Civil War Soldier***
Presented by Arn Kind
- 4:00 pm **Drawing & Civil War Round Table Discussion**
- 4:50 pm **Closing**

Featured Presentations

Lincoln and His Gettysburg Address

Presented by Bryce O. Stenzel

The *Gettysburg Address* is the best-known, and most often quoted speech, of all the ones written and spoken by President Abraham Lincoln. It has been inscribed on everything, from mugs and bumper stickers to the south wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., as well as on memorial plaques in many of the nation's national cemeteries—even right here at the Boy in Blue Civil War Veterans' Memorial in Mankato. It has been recited annually by generations of Americans at Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies throughout the nation.

The *Gettysburg Address* is regarded by many historians, political scientists, and linguists as one of the finest utterances in the English language; a true representation of what it means to be an American in the words “...*government of the people, by the people, for the people...*” However, this was not always the case. It may come as a shock to many people to learn that the *Gettysburg Address* began its life in relative obscurity. President Lincoln was invited to the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery in November 1863, almost as an after-thought. He was not the keynote speaker at the event, nor was he expected to do more than simply say a few words to set aside those grounds for their sacred use.

Lincoln was perceptive enough to realize that he had the rare opportunity to address the nation and explain to the American people why the Civil War—a war that was bleeding the nation dry in both human lives and physical resources was worth fighting for. He reminded his audience, both then and now, of the common heritage shared by both North and South—the sacred belief that “all men are created equal.” He went on to explain that it was for the definition of this principle that the men on both sides had fought, and that the best way to memorialize their sacrifice was to carry the principle of representative government forward; and in so doing the nation would experience “a new birth of freedom.” This is the dramatic story of Lincoln's visit to Gettysburg in November 1863, and the address he gave there—a ringing call to action, on the part of the American people—in 1863, and again, in 2023.

Vicksburg Under Siege!

Presented by Susan Hynes

Vicksburg was the last major Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant and his Army of the Tennessee sieged the city of 5,000, cutting off food supplies and fresh water. Shells rained day and night on Confederate troops defending the city and its terrified civilians. Townspeople dug more than 500 caves into the sides of Vicksburg's many hills, where they took refuge. Diaries from the time tell the story. Everyone lived side by side, rich and poor, masters and slaves. By the end of the six-week siege, inhabitants were reduced to eating mule and even worse.

The Controversial Major General George Meade

Presented by Gary Carlberg, Colonel (Ret)

In this interactive presentation, Carlberg reviews Major General George Meade as a young man at West Point and through the end of the Civil War. He touches on Meade's actions during the battle of Gettysburg. Is there truth to the rumors that he abused his own soldiers when he lost his temper,

such as the "Peach Tree" incident. How was this general in combat? What was it that he did that identified him to Lincoln as a "fighting general"?

Also covered is Meade and the Battle of the Crater during the Siege of Petersburg and his controversial and not as well-known decisions made there. Meade approved the plan to plant explosives in a mine shaft dug underneath the Confederate line. At the last minute he and Grant changed Burnside's plan to lead the attack with an African-American division that was highly drilled just for this complex action and substitute an untrained but experienced white division led by a drunk. How could anything go wrong?

The Mystery of Barbara Fritchie: A True Patriot

Presented by Tamara Thayer, the 4x's great granddaughter of Barbara Fritchie

Barbara Fritchie, a Civil War Patriot, stood up to General Stonewall Jackson and his men. Tamara will portray her great-grandmother as Barbara retells the story of how the confederates came into Frederick, Maryland destroying the flags by burning them in the street or tying them on their spurs as they rode through town on September 5th, 1862, during General Lee's Maryland Campaign. Barbara refused to give her flag up even after they started shooting at her. She didn't run and hide as one might expect from a 95-year-old woman. She stayed at her window waving her flag with pride saying, "you can shoot every grey hair on this old lady's head, but you won't shoot the flag of your country!" You will learn about the mysteries that surfaced shortly after the incident happened. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote the famous poem Barbara Fritchie to celebrate her bravery and the poem was also used to stir up patriotism in the north during the rebellion.

There was an unusual effort to debunk her story from the beginning and other mysteries about her life are still debated today. Why was it so important for the confederates to deflect from the truth on such a simple event, or was it part of something so much bigger? Come and hear both sides of the story and the theories as to why Barbara's actions were important to both the North and the South. After 10 years of research her mysteries are solved.

The 26th North Carolina

Presented by James Olson

The state of North Carolina was one of the largest suppliers of manpower to the Confederacy during the American Civil War supplying about 130,000 soldiers. Among them were the men of the 26th North Carolina Infantry. Formed in 1861, the 26th North Carolina would begin its career as defending the coast of North Carolina. Wracked by disease, boredom, drill, and camp life the 26th North Carolina would become one of the best trained and largest Confederate regiments under the leadership of Colonel Henry King Burgwyn.

From the Battle of New Bern, North Carolina and Malvern Hill, Virginia, they would meet disaster at Gettysburg, and fight bravely at Bristoe Station, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. Out of a unit that had one time numbered 1,200 soldiers, only 120 were left to receive their paroles at Appomattox.

The Weapons, Uniform, Equipment & Life of the Civil War Soldier
Presented by Arn Kind

In 1858 the thirty-second star was sewn onto the nation's flag, as Minnesota became the newest state to join the Union. Within 3 years, the citizens of this state would be called upon to send their young men off to preserve and defend this glorious union. Fourteen months later, while these men were away, another civil war erupted within the boundaries of their own state, as the Dakota fought to regain their lands. Two simultaneous civil wars placed huge demands on the citizens of this state as the flower of Minnesota Manhood fought out east, down south and on the prairies of southern Minnesota. Much has been written about these two conflicts and they are well known. Arn Kind, teacher-historian-reenactor, will give us an idea of what the conflict was like for the typical soldier of this time. What was his uniform, his equipment, his weapons, his food, his daily life like? What were his motivations for enlisting? What were his expectations? What did he expect to accomplish? This presentation will include a "living history" experience that will allow participants to get a feel for what it was like to be a soldier in the ranks.