



# ALLIES

Newsletter for Members and Friends of the Military Historical Society of Minnesota

Allies

Summer, 2011

Vol. XIX, No. 3

## 'Valuable Service'

*Native Minnesota soldiers featured in new Civil War Exhibit at the Military Museum*

Stephen E. Osman

American Indians have a long history of service in the armed forces based on their proud warrior tradition. The Civil War was no exception, but few modern Minnesotans know that Ojibwa (Chippewa), Dakota (Sioux) and Ho Chunk (Winnebago) men from our state helped defeat the Confederacy.

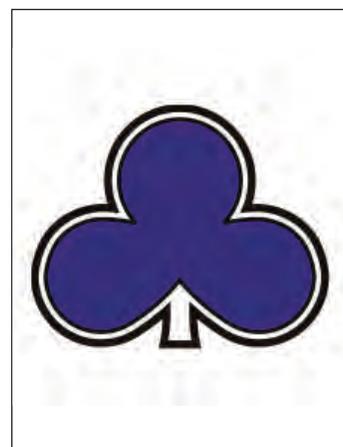
Mixed blood David Twiggs of the First Minnesota promised to shoot his father, Confederate General David Twiggs, if he saw him. The Renville Rangers, partially Dakota and mixed blood, fought at Fort Ridgely and Wood Lake before joining the Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. And the Douglas Guards from the White Earth Ojibwa reservation became the nucleus of Company G of the Ninth Minnesota. According to the regimental historian, "The

Indians of the company did valuable service during the summer as videttes [sentries], scouting over the country, traveling at night and lying concealed and on watch during the day time. Subsequently, while in the South, Company G gained a high reputation as skirmishers and flankers, in which service they were never equaled."



Ba Be Wab, veteran of the Fourth Minnesota Regiment in the Civil War, had his picture taken at the 1924 state fair.

By 1864, with the draft in full swing, even more native Minnesotans joined up when white recruits became scarce. Some responded to bounties and some to payments as substitutes. One of these was Ba Be Wab, sometimes known as Peter Parker, who took the place of State Treasurer Charles Scheffer (it was possible during the Civil War to pay someone to take your place if you were drafted or likely to be drafted). Sent into the Fourth Regiment as an individual replacement, Ba Be Wab fought at the Battle of Altoona and marched to the



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Two Native Americans are featured in the new exhibit at the Military Museum at Camp Ripley. At top, Hachinwakanda or Lightning Bolt, a Dakota warrior is shown as he might have looked during the Dakota Conflict which raged across southern Minnesota in 1862.

At left is an Ojibwa soldier as he might have looked serving in one of the Minnesota regiments in the Civil War.

sea. In old age, the proud veteran attended the 1924 Minnesota State Fair where he was photographed. Ba Be Wab is memorialized with a mannequin in the new exhibit.

In August 1862 the tragic Dakota Conflict broke out, devastating the state. During six weeks of warfare, several pitched battles and countless skirmishes and ambushes were fought across southern Minnesota, leaving nearly 800 dead and 23 counties depopulated. Hostile Dakota warriors were finally driven from the state after the Battle of Wood Lake near present day Granite Falls. But the continuing threat of raids required militarization of the western border and the diversion of thousands of Minnesota recruits to patrol duty and long expeditions across Dakota Territory. A company of Dakota Scouts, recruited from friendly Dakota, mounted and wearing artillery jackets, manned U.S. Army outposts on our western border.

The four Minnesota Dakota tribes—Mdewakanton, Wahpekute, Sisseton and Wahpeton—fielded hundreds of men for combat under Little Crow in 1862, but hundreds more actively or passively opposed the fighting. Dakota warriors of 1862 typically fought with double barrel shotgun, knife and tomahawk while wearing costumes that differed somewhat between the upper and lower bands. Our museum figure represents Hachinwakanda, or Lightning Blanket, a Mdewakanton who fought at Fort Ripley and lived to tell his story in old age.

Well over a thousand Native Minnesotans fought in the Civil War, and in our own civil war at home. Visit the new Minnesota's Two Civil Wars exhibit to learn more about this and other little known stories of our state's military history.



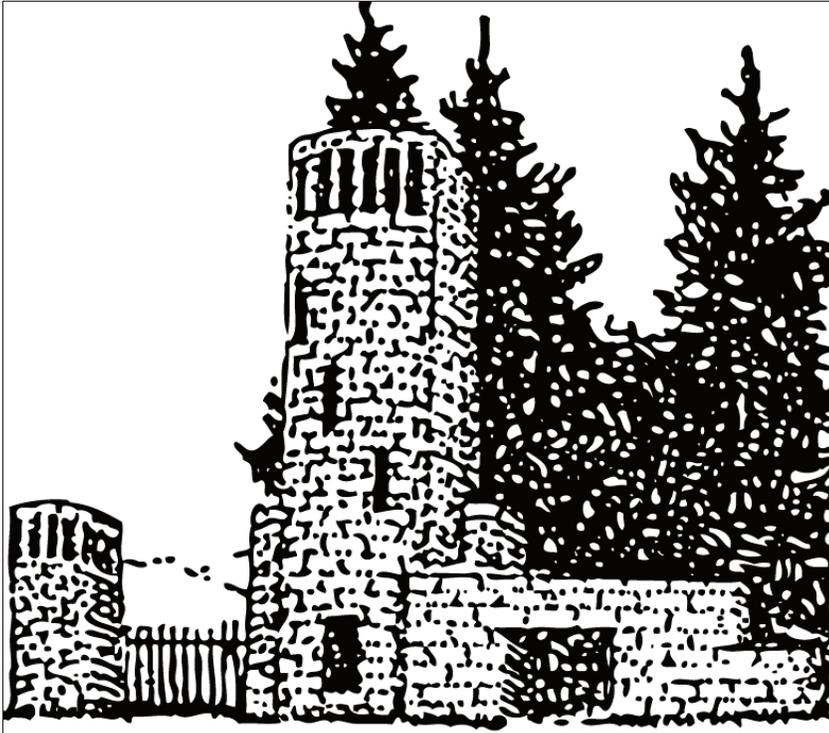
Civil War historian and author Steve Osman spoke during the opening ceremony for the new Civil War exhibit at Camp Ripley. Joining him on the platform were, from left, the Military Historical Society's Board Chairman Nick Ostapenko, Curator Doug Bekke, historian and former legislator Dean Urdahl, and Minnesota's Adjutant General Rick Nash.

## ***Over 600 people take in opening of new Civil War exhibit***

Over 600 people visited the museum on July 9 for the official opening of our new special exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. Entitled "Minnesota's Two Civil Wars: 1861-1866," it tells of Minnesota's involvement in the War between the States as well as the 1862 Dakota War and its aftermath.

In addition to the new exhibit, opening day events included speeches, demonstrations by Civil War reenactors, musical performances authentic to the period, and picnic lunches.

This is the most ambitious exhibit ever launched by the museum and will be the largest such exhibit available in Minnesota during the Civil War's Sesquicentennial. Don't miss it.

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## Ripley plans open house

On Sunday, September 18, 2011, from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Camp Ripley will once again hold an Open House, inviting the public to visit, enjoy themselves, and learn more about the many things that take place on post. Held every other year, this year's Open House will pay special tribute to Vietnam veterans with a special ceremony at 1:00 p.m. Other activities include a classic car show, inflatable obstacle course, rock wall climbing, DNR environmental display, Minnesota State Patrol display, and plenty of up-close military equipment. Of course, the Minnesota Military Museum will also be open.

### MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA - Application for New or Renewed Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you have had military experience, in which branch of service? Check all that apply:

US Army  US Navy  US Marine Corps  US Air Force  US Coast Guard  
 Other Highest rank achieved \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Active Former Retired

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

##### Individual/Household

Regular (\$25/yr.)

Sustaining (\$50/yr.)

Life (\$350. May be paid in four installments of \$90 each. Tell us if you want this option.)

##### Organization

Regular (\$500)

Sustaining (\$1,000)

##### Corporate

Regular (\$1,000)

Sustaining (\$3,000)

Individual memberships are annual except Life memberships. All contributions of \$500 or more in a single year and all Life memberships are recognized on a plaque in the museum lobby.

#### PROCEDURE

**Pay by check or credit card:** Download this form and mail with your check (payable to the Military Historical Society of Minnesota) to Minnesota Military Museum, Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN 56345. You can also mail this form without payment and follow up by calling the museum at 320-632-7374 with your credit card information. **Pay online:** GiveMN.org is a simple, secure way to become a member by paying online. Go to [www.givemn.razoo.com/story/Military-Historical-Society-Of-Minnesota](http://www.givemn.razoo.com/story/Military-Historical-Society-Of-Minnesota) and follow the prompts.

**Your membership is fully tax deductible. We salute and thank you for your support!**

## Curator's Notes By Doug Bekke



On July 9th, the museum had a very successful opening for its new exhibit, Minnesota's Two Civil Wars, remembering the 150th anniversary of the war between the North and the South and the war between Minnesotans, the 1862 Dakota War. This event marked the end of three years of planning and one year of intense work, fundraising, acquiring the artifacts, building the exhibit cases, researching, writing, and assembling. As is often the case, the work continues until the evening before the opening. By Saturday morning everything was in place.

Early morning rain, a dead battery on a critical piece of machinery and a little too much wind all contributed to last minute tensions and anxiety, but by 11 a.m. everything was in place on schedule for our outside opening program. Board President Nick Ostapenko welcomed the hundreds of people in attendance. The museum's great supporter, Major General Rick Nash, the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, followed Ostapenko, and spoke on the legacy carried forward by those who serve today. Minnesota State Legislator, historian, and author, Dean Urdahl, spoke next on the Civil and Dakota Wars. I read comments sent by Senator Amy Klobuchar, and I made a few curators' comments on our individual roles in preserving history. The program closed with a presentation by Steve Osman, museum board member, historian, and author on Minnesota's Civil War soldiers complete with musket firing.

Throughout the event we had wonderful period music provided by the Manitou Band from St Olaf in Northfield, and from the Hillgrove Ensemble from the Twin Cities. We also had great support from one of the nation's most professional reenactment groups, The 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The morning program was followed by lunch under the parachute provided by the Camp Ripley Snack Bar, to the accompaniment of the period musicians.

The afternoon had two presentations by 1st Minnesota re-enactors. The first was by Jim Moffet on the use of drums and bugles to maneuver troops and signal news and commands on the field during the Civil War. The second program was by Arn Kind on the life of a Civil War soldier, recruiting, training, and on how modern people can gain a first hand understanding of the past through reenacting experiences. Both presentations were better than first class and held a large audience.

Thanks to all the individuals, organizations and businesses that contributed financially to this project, and thanks to the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to complete this first phase of the Civil War exhibit. Special praise goes to Steve Osman for his unparalleled efforts in fundraising, research, acquiring artifacts, and caption writing. Work on phase two of the exhibit will start shortly and will introduce additional exhibit items and an electronic media element. We are currently working to raise the \$15-\$20,000 needed to complete this phase, and your support is vitally needed.

Other projects I hope to complete soon include much delayed changes to the Spanish American War exhibit, updates and additions to the Vietnam exhibit, and completion of the exhibit on Minnesota State medals and awards, U.S. valor and achievement awards, and U.S. badges. Are you interested in supporting these projects?

Over the past year, we have been able to increase our curatorial staff by bringing on board Doug Thompson to assist in documenting and cataloging artifacts. In the future we hope to find the financial resources to significantly increase our staff with other highly qualified individuals who can then effectively supervise the work of an increased number of volunteer workers. Our workload is huge and since there is always more history, there is always more work.

Many museum visitors remark that it is one of the best military museums they have ever seen. It is a museum that Minnesotans can be proud of. The Museum's mission, to honor the citizens of the State of Minnesota who have served in the military to defend the nation, is a very large mission. The museum can only move its mission forward if it has your support. Too many people think or hope that someone else will support the museum. Someone else is you, and if you believe in our mission we need your support.

## ALLIES

### Artifact Donation Honor Roll (May 1 through July 31, 2011)

*The museum gratefully acknowledges donations of artifacts from the following:*

Craig Anderson ▪ Charles Benda ▪ Rayne Brandt ▪ John Breitlein ▪ David W. Cline ▪ Sue Denuchio ▪ Lyle Doerr ▪ Patricia Drephal ▪ Rita Faust ▪ Harold Fiala ▪ Jim and FlorAnn Grettum ▪ Roger Hanson ▪ Jimmie G. Holtz ▪ Ina M. Larson ▪ Earl H. Lillestrand ▪ Paul Meyer ▪ Terry and Judy Nelson ▪ Daniel Ojeda, Jr. ▪ Sidney K. Schmuckler ▪ DeWayne Schwanke ▪ Jeannette Schwanke ▪ Roger and Kristin St. George ▪ Ken Streiff ▪ Marvin Tenhoff ▪ Doug Thompson ▪ Kyle Ward ▪ Dolores Wielinski ▪ Donald Wilson ▪ Doug Wortham

### Artifact Donations (May 1 through July 31, 2011)

**Uniforms:** Blouse, USA WWII suntan (2) ▪ Blouse, USA dress green (3) ▪ Cap, garrison ▪ Cap, service, USA green (2) ▪ Cap, USN white ▪ Coat, USN dress blue ▪ Coat, USN khaki ▪ Jacket, Eisenhower ▪ Jumper, USN (2) ▪ Overcoat, USA green ▪ Shirt, USA suntan (5) ▪ Shirt, USA khaki (3) ▪ Trousers, USA dress green (3) ▪ Shirt, USA wool ▪ Trousers, USA khaki (3) ▪ Trousers, USN utility white ▪ Trousers, USN khaki ▪

**Equipment:** Field Pack (2) ▪ Holster

**Miscellaneous:** Bag, clothing ▪ Bag, suit, USAAC ▪ Books ▪ C rations ▪ 1864 Lincoln campaign button ▪ Chaplain's organ ▪ DVDs ▪ Field manuals ▪ First aid items ▪ Magazines ▪ Maps ▪ Medals ▪ Newspapers ▪ Patches ▪ Pens ▪ Pencils ▪ Photographs ▪ Pillow top, souvenir ▪ Poster ▪ Scarf, Camp Ripley souvenir ▪ Trench art ▪

**Weapons and related items:** Bayonet ▪ Mortar round ▪ Pistol, Czech ▪ Pistol magazines ▪ Rifle, Japanese Arisaka ▪ Sabre



Museum visitors on July 9 get a lesson in the Manual of Arms, circa 1861.

## Memorials

(May 1 through July 31, 2011)

**Given by:**

Sidney K. Schmuckler  
Dale W. Smith  
Betty Masoner

**In Memory of:**

William A. Bierman  
William T. Felber  
Melvin Clarence Hyry, Sr.

## Contributions Honor Roll

(May 1 through July 31, 2011)

**Renewing Members:** David Adamson ▪ Dennis Fjeld ▪ Marge Fletcher ▪ Merl Fletcher ▪ Joe A. Forberg ▪ Earl M. Jensen ▪ Doug B. Johnson ▪ Robert Keppel ▪ Robert G. Rupp ▪ John Sistrerman ▪ Robert F. Strom ▪ John Sturner ▪ Robert G. Swetz, Sr. ▪ Edward Weismann

**New Members:** Win Anderson ▪ Richard Esser ▪ Dave Geister ▪ Hal Gorder ▪ Tim Meininger ▪ Rich Rinker ▪ Darryl Sannes ▪ Derald Steinbrecher ▪ Melody C. Swofford ▪ Jeff Thielen

**American Legion:** Post 119, Byron ▪ Post 15, Detroit Lakes ▪ Post 381 Auxiliary, Eden Valley ▪

**Donations:** Jim Bennett ▪ Dave and Pam Hanson ▪ Bea Manka ▪ Wendy K. Osman ▪

## Please notify us of address changes

Please notify the museum if your mailing address changes so we can keep our mailing lists current. Changes in mailing rules recently enacted by the U.S. Postal Service require that any of our newsletters with incorrect addresses be returned and we must pay the postage. In order to keep mailing costs down, we must make every effort to maintain our mailing lists properly.

## Updated contact information being sought

We are making a concerted effort to update our contact information for all members and supporters of the museum, and we need your help. Please send us an email that includes (1) your name; (2) your preferred email address; and (3) your current phone number. We would occasionally like to also correspond with you via email. It will be confidential and not shared with others. Are you a snowbird? Would you like to receive our mailings at an alternative "winter address? Give us your winter address and tell us when we should use it for postal mailings.

Also, would you rather get this newsletter electronically? Please let us know and we will send it to you that way. We will continue to mail a "hard" copy of ALLIES to you unless you request otherwise, but you can help us save on printing, postage, and handling costs if you receive your copy electronically.

Thanks for your support. We look forward to hearing from you.

<u><i>In Memoriam</i></u>		
In Memory of:	_____	
Given by:	_____	
Address:	_____	
City:	State:	ZIP:
<b><u>Please indicate here name and address of member of family to whom we can send notice of your gift:</u></b>		
Name:	_____	
Address:	_____	
City:	State:	ZIP:
<b>Make checks payable to:</b> Minnesota Military Museum 15000 Hwy. 115, Camp Ripley Little Falls MN 56345		
<b><u>Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes</u></b>		

**ALLIES**

**Allies** is published for the members and friends of the Minnesota Military Museum.

Nicholas Ostapenko, **President**  
Jeff Thielen, **Executive Director**  
Doug Bekke, **Curator**  
Leland P. Smith, **Archivist**  
Sandy Erickson, **Administrator**  
Al Zdon, **Editor**

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**Military Historical Society of Minnesota**  
**C/O Minnesota Military Museum**  
**Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy. 115**  
**Little Falls MN 56345-4173**

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**DSN: 871-7374**  
**Fax: 320-632-7797**  
**Email: connect@mnmilitarymuseum.org**  
**Website: www.mnmilitarymuseum.org**

## **Remember us when writing your will**

The mission of the Minnesota Military Museum is to document, preserve, and explain military history as it was lived by Minnesotans, in all branches of service and on the home front, in time of peace and war, from Minnesota’s early frontier years to the present day. Through exhibits, programs, and publications the museum seeks to foster awareness of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped our state and national experience, and to instill appreciation for the service and sacrifices of our state’s military men and women.

Although our mission statement is fairly straight forward and easy to understand, accomplishing the mission takes hard work and hard cash.

By providing for the Minnesota Military Museum in your Will or Trust you insure future generations always have a place to go to help them remember the role Minnesotans have played in the military.

There are many ways you can “Bequest” money to the museum. By definition a bequest is the transfer of wealth by means of a will or a trust upon a donor's death. Bequests can take several forms such as:

- Specific bequest - a certain amount of cash, securities, or property.
- General bequest - property that is similar to all other items distributed, usually cash.
- Percentage bequest - a stated percentage of the donor's estate.
- Residual bequest - all or a portion of what remains of the estate after specific and general bequests are distributed.

Besides a straight bequest, you can also set up a trust that will benefit the museum during or after your lifetime. Another way to leave money is to name the museum as beneficiary of an insurance policy or as the recipient of your IRA or retirement fund.

All bequests received by the museum will be deposited into our Endowment unless otherwise requested by the donor.

We urge you to consult your attorney when preparing your will or trust and ask about the tax benefits if you decide to help insure the future of the Minnesota Military Museum.

Your advisor may wish to know that the Minnesota Military Museum is the primary activity of the Minnesota Military Historical Society, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 (Tax ID # 41-1308785), educational organization presently housed at 15000 Highway 115 Little Falls MN 56345.