Rochester Civil War Round Table Newsletter

Rochester Civil War RoundTable Newsletter December 2021

Greetings to all!

Please remember to pay JERRY SWANSON your membership dues for 2021-2022. Dues should be paid the first 3 months of our program season which runs from September 2021 to June 2022. Annual dues are $30 for an individual and $40 for a family. Students are admitted free. Thank you.

On Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 pm, the History Center of Olmsted County will host National Geographic photographer, Michael Melford. He will be showing images from a story called, "The Battle to Save the Battlefields." Timeless images of significant battlefields and the stories behind them will be presented. Tickets are $5 for non-members and free for members.

Gettysburg and Old Ironsides

Major General Andrew Atkinson Humphreys was invaluable to the Union Army at Gettysburg. On day two, Major General Daniel Sickles ordered Humphreys' division to a locale near the Emmitsburg Road. This was in advance of the "fishhook" position put forth by Major General George Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac. It left Humphreys' division vulnerable and isolated.

As the Confederate assault started late in the afternoon of July 2, 1863, Major General Humphreys' men were threatened on the left by a portion of Confederate General William Barksdale's brigade. Then threatened on the right flank and front by two additional Confederate brigades. Thinking his men could not hold that position, they were ordered to retreat. Humphreys skillfully managed the careful retreat of his division. His leadership during this retreat was

Bill") a U.S. fleet of six frigates was to be built. Humphreys' design to build large, strong, nimble frigates was chosen by Secretary of War Henry Knox.

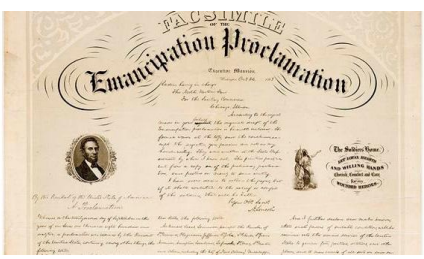
Old Ironsides

Included in his selection was the title of "Master Constructor of the United States." Joshua Humphreys would oversee the building of the Navy's first frigates. They fought in the Quasi-War with France and the Barbary Wars. The greatest fame gained by Humphreys' frigates was during the War of 1812 with the USS Constitution---"Old Ironsides."

Years later, his son Samuel, Major General Andrew Humphreys' father, would also serve as a master constructor.

The November 2021 presentation was given by living historian SHANE CHRISTEN. The topic was "Tools That Built America." Early tools were handmade, very expensive, and made to last forever. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, mass production lowered the cost of tools.
SHANE demonstrated several tools which were vital to the building of America. Among them were a felling hatchet, a spudder to strip bark, an adze, a spoon bit, an angle chisel, and a plumb bob.

Thank you SHANE for a very interesting presentation!



Our guest speaker for the December 15 RCWRT meeting will be LANNY WITTER presenting "President Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation." The Emancipation Proclamation was issued January 1, 1863. It declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and hence forward shall be free."

LANNY WITTER is providing the door prize. PAUL VELSOR is contributing snacks and drinks.

See you at the History Center, Wednesday, December 15 at 7p.m.