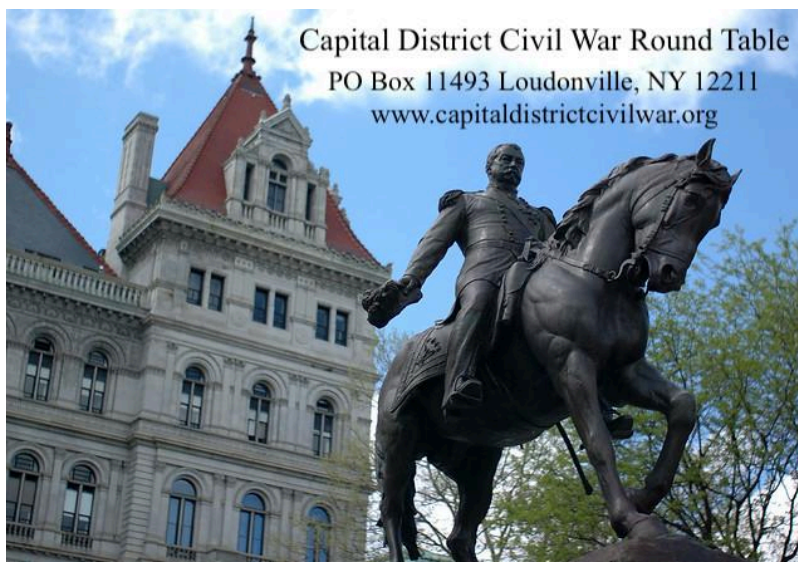


The Dispatch

Volume 42, Number 1

January 2025



CDCWRT DONATIONS NOW TOTAL \$2,362,997.76 IN ACTUAL AND MATCHING FUNDS

2024 Donations

\$500 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve land in Kentucky and Tennessee at a \$117 to \$1 match (value of \$58,500)

\$400 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve land at five critical sites in N. Carolina, W. Virginia, and Tennessee at a \$50 to \$1 match (value of \$20,000)

\$100 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve 64 acres of land at four Virginia battlefields at a \$37 to \$1 match (value of \$3,700)

We have donated \$225,995.26 in actual funds over the past forty-one years for battlefield and historic preservation.

JANUARY MEETING

Friday, January 10, 2024

**AT THE WATERVLIET
SENIOR CENTER**

**Potpourri Night and
Book Sale**

Social Hour	6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Presentation	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

POTPOURRI NIGHT

We will have three short presentations in addition to an extended book sale. Many of the books will be recent acquisitions from our departed friend J.J. Jennings' collection that we haven't had available at previous meetings.

Stacy Kilts, Bob Mulligan, and Joe Thatcher will each share their knowledge on a range of topics, including the Confederate coal torpedoes that have been mentioned as part of several recent presentations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14: Dan Flynn will speak on the development of the cavalry sword from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War

March 14: Debra Bruno will present "A Hudson Valley Reckoning"

April 11: Chris Carola will speak on the 77th NY Volunteer Infantry

DUES ARE DUE

As you will notice, the Round Table's annual membership form is attached to this newsletter. The membership year begins January 2025. Anyone who wishes to renew or join at the meeting may bring the completed form and payment to the meeting, preferably in an envelope so the check and form don't get separated. Memberships and donations can always be mailed to the Round Table's P.O. Box. Payments received in December will be deposited in January. Donations to the Operating Account and/or Preservation Account are always welcome.

CDCWRT'S 2025 ELECTIONS

The election will be held at the January meeting, and any member in good standing (dues paid) may be nominated from the floor for any board position. The slate of nominations is:

President: Mark Koziol (current V. P.)

Vice President: Bruce Reed

Treasurer: Stevel Muller (continuing in this position)

Secretary: Shawn Connery

At-Large: Matt George (current Program Chair)

At-Large: __ (open) __

At-Large: __ (open) __

BOARD UPDATE

The Board met on December 16 via Zoom. Prospective Board members Bruce Reed and Shawn Connery joined the current Board. Much of the meeting was spent finalizing the transition of

(continued on page 4)



Membership Form

2025 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Membership Dues All dues go into the Operating Account to pay for newsletters, program expenses, and the use of the meeting space. (circle appropriate level)

Regular memberships can choose between emailed or mailed newsletters.

Regular: \$35

Student memberships come with only emailed newsletters.

Student: \$10

Additional Donation for the Operating Account _____

Donation for the Preservation Account _____

(Preservation money pays for donations to preserve historic sites/lands, rental of the storage shed, and the Round Table's insurance)

Total: _____

Newsletter Preference: Email _____ OR Mailed Copy _____

_____ Email/Mailing address is the same as last year

If not: _____

Please mail your payment to: CDCWRT
P.O. Box 11493
Loudonville, NY 12211-0493

* Early payments will be held and deposited in January.

* Credit/Debit card payments can be made through www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org

(continued from page 2)
responsibilities from retiring Board members to other Board members.

Another topic of continued discussion was days and times for Round Table meetings. As was discussed at the November membership meeting, winter meetings on dark Friday nights might inhibit some members from attending. The new Board will continue to discuss alternatives with the membership to grow meeting attendance. There has been no decision to change the currently-scheduled presentations.

Finances continue to be a significant part of Board meetings. Over the course of 2024 the Preservation Account's income exceeded its expenses. With a positive balance, the Board voted to make two additional donations to the American Battlefield Trust. We donated an additional \$300 for five sites in N. Caroline, W. Virginia, and Tennessee, bringing the total donated to that (50:1 match) campaign to \$400. We also donated \$100 to preserve 64 acres of land in Virginia (a 37:1 match). This brings the total 2024 donations to the ABT to \$1000.

The Operating Account balance is \$2,440.86. This time of year is when the Operating Account reaches its lowest level as there are typically no new memberships coming in at the end of the year. In 2024 this fund's expenses exceeded its income by approximately \$1000 dollars. This fund pays for speakers, which is the largest expense in the Round Table's budget. Dues are the primary source of income for this account. If you are considering making an additional donation to the Round Table, please strongly consider donating to this account so we can continue to provide excellent speakers.

REMEMBERING THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION from the National Archives

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/299998?q=Emancipation+Proclamation>

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."

Despite this expansive wording, the Emancipation Proclamation was limited in many ways. It applied only to states that had seceded from the United States, leaving slavery untouched in the loyal border states. It also expressly exempted parts of the Confederacy (the Southern secessionist states) that had already come under Northern control. Most important, the freedom it promised depended upon Union (United States) military victory.

Although the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in the nation, it captured the hearts and imagination of millions of Americans and fundamentally transformed the character of the war. After January 1, 1863, every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom. Moreover, the Proclamation announced the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, enabling the liberated to become liberators. By the end of the war, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom.

From the first days of the Civil War, slaves had acted to secure their own liberty. The Emancipation Proclamation confirmed their insistence that the war

for the Union must become a war for freedom. It added moral force to the Union cause and strengthened the Union both militarily and politically. As a milestone along the road to slavery's final destruction, the Emancipation Proclamation has assumed a place among the great documents of human freedom.

The original of the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 is in the National Archives in Washington, DC. With the text covering five pages the document was originally tied with narrow red and blue ribbons, which were attached to the signature page by a wafered impression of the seal of the United States. Most of the ribbon remains; parts of the seal are still decipherable, but other parts have worn off.

*** commentary from Rosemary Nichols ***

A draft of the Emancipation Proclamation was auctioned at the great Sanitary Fair and Bazaar in Albany on March 11, 1864 in Academy Park. The Fair was to raise funds for the "Sanitary Commission for the Benefit of our Sick and Wounded Soldiers."

The high point of the Bazaar was a lottery for the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln in his own hand. William Seward, then Secretary of State and former NYS governor and U.S. senator, persuaded Lincoln to donate the draft. 5,000 tickets were sold at \$1 each. The winner was Gerrit Smith, a well-known abolitionist and member of the lottery organizing committee, who donated it back to the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

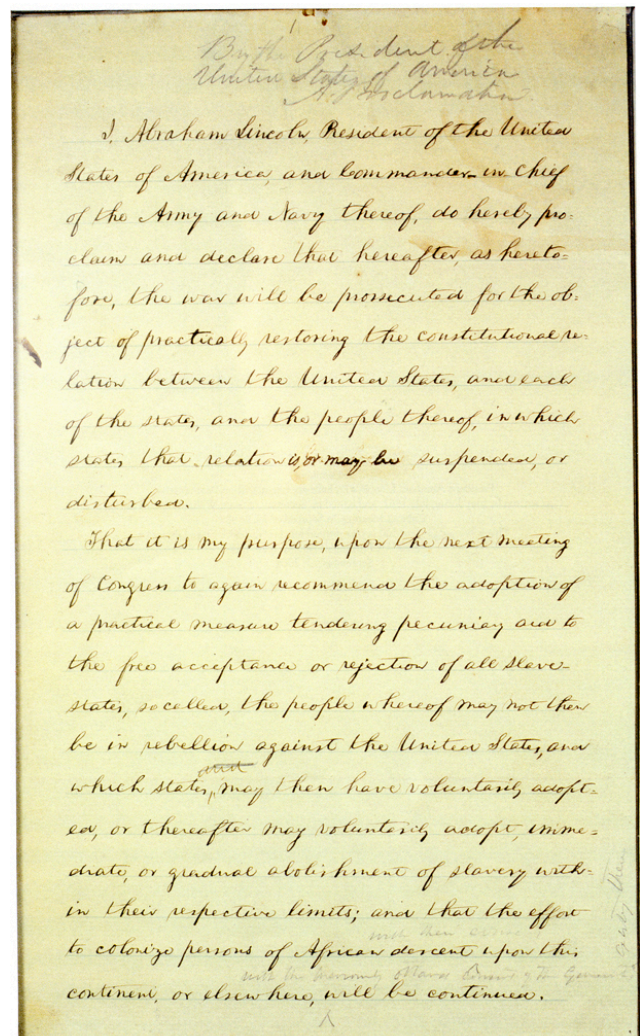
After a series of protracted high stakes negotiations following Lincoln's death,

the Proclamation was purchased for \$1,000 by the NYS Legislature, with the proviso it remain in Albany. As a result of a fire in Chicago in 1871, the Albany Emancipation Proclamation is the only surviving Lincoln original. (Thankfully, it was rescued in the great Albany Capitol fire of 1911.)

Periodically the draft is displayed by the NYS Museum. It is well worth a visit.

Image of the draft of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation from the NYS Library

<https://nyslibrary.libguides.com/pep/pepnys>



**CDCWRT
P.O. BOX 11493
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211**

Created in 1984, the Capital District Civil War Round Table is an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held monthly in various locations in the Capital District. This newsletter is published eleven times per year. Annual dues are \$35. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.

Contact the Capital District Civil War Round Table through
our website: **www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org**
or email: **cdcwrt@hotmail.com**

THE OFFICERS

President	Erin Baillargeon	Vice-President	Mark Koziol
Treasurer	Steve Muller	Secretary	(open)
At-Large	Rik Scarce	At-Large	(open)
At-Large	(open)		

THE NONCOMS

Program	Matt George	518-355-2131	Jbuford63@aol.com
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Refreshments	Dean Long and Luanne Whitbeck		
Webmaster			
Education	Matt George		
Newsletter	Rosemary Nichols and Erin Baillargeon		