



The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

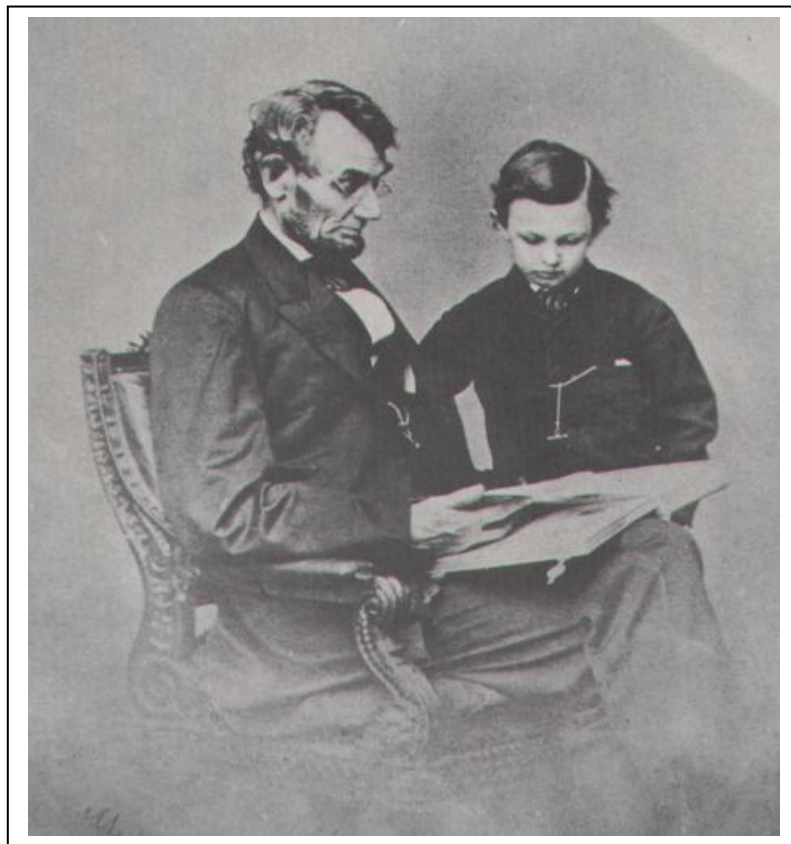
Capital District Civil War Round Table

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CDCWRT's web site: www.cdcwrt.org

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Lincoln and Tad study a Brady album in this photograph by Anthony Berger, Brady's Gallery, Washington, D.C., Tuesday, February 9, 1864. One of the most popular Lincoln portraits, this is the only close-up of him wearing spectacles. It was issued in huge quantities in many variations, with and without Brady's permission. The unknown artist retouched the scene to change the album into a family Bible. The changes were probably made to evade Brady's copyright. Only two photographs were signed by Lincoln with the unusual inscription, "A. Lincoln & Son." Both were presented to Gustave E. Matile, undersecretary to John Hay.

FEBRUARY MEETING

**Friday February 11th
Guilderland Library
2228 Western Ave.**

**SOCIAL HOUR 6-7PM
BUSINESS MEETING 7-7:30PM
LECTURE 7:30-9PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

Our next meeting of the calendar year will be held on Friday, February 11th, at the Guilderland Public Library. We had hoped to have a famous "Lincolnologist" as our speaker, but this fell through. Instead, John Valley has agreed to be our speaker on short notice.

John's topic will be, "BILLY YANK & JOHNNY REB LIVE AND BREATHE IN 2005 – WHY THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR STILL FACINATES PEOPLE." John is librarian and professor of U.S. military history at Sienna College. In keeping with Lincoln's birthday on February 12th, John will include some Lincoln anecdotes in his presentation.

He recently spoke at the Guilderland Library when the Gettysburg battle-flags were on display for one day. Attendance was very light because of inclement weather and this editor's memory lapse in forgetting to note the date of the event in the December newsletter. Those of us present heard an informative and entertaining lecture without notes. This man is a teacher in the truest sense. Come and decide for yourself. I guarantee you will leave with the same impression.

PAST EVENTS

The Potpourri Meeting in January was attended by 55 people, who sat enthralled by the presentations by Bob Mulligan and Mike Spaulding. Who knew that so many were interested in Civil War gaming and action figures? In addition several other members brought in items for display, including some artifacts obtained by artist and sculptor, Ron Tunison. The Civil War movie, *Horse Soldiers*, was shown to a very small audience because of inclement weather. The movie may be shown again at another time.

UP-COMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 26th, the 4th Annual Underground Railroad History Conference will be held at the Schenectady High School. This conference was held at St. Rose College last year, but it has outgrown the college site. The conference topic is: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: DISCOVERIES & EMERGING STORIES. There will be 27 workshops for adults and families, including a family-friendly opera entitled, "Friends of Freedom: An Underground Railroad Story. Lunch will be available for a small fee. Online registration is available at www.ugrworkshop.com.

On Saturday, March 5th, the Colonie Women's and Men's Republican Clubs will sponsor a bus trip to the Military Academy at West Point. The trip is open to the public, including members of red and blue states, on a first come basis. The buses leave from the Colonie Public Library at 8:00am and returns 5:00pm. It includes a guided tour, lunch at Hotel Thayer, and a tour of the Museum. Cost is \$50. For security reasons, full name and date of birth must be listed along with payment. A photo ID will also be necessary.

On Saturday & Sunday, March 19-20th, the Annual Cover Mania Stamp Show will be held at the Quality Inn (soon to be the Clarion) just off Everett Road, exit 5, I-90, from 9:00am to 5:00pm. This show is open to the public, and is one of the largest cover shows in the northeast. There will be many dealers of stamps, first day covers, commemorative covers, postcards, coins, ephemera, and old letters. The RT has always had an information table at this event. Volunteers to staff the table are needed. Please contact Matt George, Sue Knost or Joe Stracuzzi.

On March 4-6th, at Hampton Roads, there will be the Monitor and Merrimack re-enactment. For those local Monitor history enthusiasts, this will be a great opportunity to participate in this 143rd Anniversary of this important naval engagement.

CDCWRT Meeting, Friday, March 11th, is entitled “Recollections of War: Tilly Pierce at Gettysburg.” Our guest speakers will be Terry and John Latschar. John is Superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park. He will introduce his wife, Terry, who portrays Tilly, a young woman of Gettysburg. Tilly witnesses the battle and its aftermath. She helps with nursing care for the wounded, becomes a nurse, and an invited speaker at GAR events after the War.

On Friday to Sunday, April 1-3, at Gettysburg, the National Park Service with Eastern National will present the fifth in a series of symposiums entitled, “To Bind Up the Nation’s Wounds: Caring for Them Who Shall Have Borne the Battle.” With well over one million casualties, the American Civil War became one of the bloodiest conflicts in American history. Charles Teague holds a Master of Divinity and will speak on 19th Century religion. George Wunderlich,

Executive Director of the Civil War Medical Museum, will talk on the health of the U.S. in the 1850’s to 1860’s. Dr. Adrian Wheat will talk about Confederate military medicine. Wayne Motts, licensed battlefield guide, will present a program on Civil War pensions. Licensed battlefield guide, Susan Boardman will discuss Camp Letterman. The Fredericks Ladies Relief Society will interpret and depict the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Eric Dean, author of *Shook Over Hell*, will talk about post-traumatic stress disorder and the Civil War soldier. Rebecca Lyons, Park Ranger at Gettysburg, will talk about the director of the nursing corps. Don Steele will examine the Confederate veteran. Artist Amy Lindenberger will discuss her work, “Hard Road to Travel.” CDCWRT member, Dr. Matt Farina, will talk about the wounding and death of “Stonewall” Jackson and Joshua Chamberlain. More details on this symposium will follow in subsequent newsletters.

The program begins on Friday afternoon and ends Sunday morning. Registration is \$100 and includes continental breakfasts for Saturday and Sunday, lunch Saturday, and snacks for breaks, plus handouts and a 15% discount in park bookstores. There will be an optional banquet Saturday night at the Pike Restaurant for \$22. Brochures will be available at the Round Table meetings.

The Round Table Spring Trip will also be on this same weekend. Sue Knost will be arranging the bus trip to Gettysburg. Participants may attend the conference or go on a battlefield tour. At this time the bus trip will be \$100 for transportation, plus \$100 for the conference or the battlefield tour. Hotel costs will be about \$85/night without tax. There will be more details in next month’s newsletter. If you wish to attend, the deadline for conference

registration is March 25th, but the **deadline for the bus will be Friday, March 11th. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 MUST be made by the 11th. If the trip is cancelled, the deposit will be refunded. Mail reservation to CDCWRT, attention Sue Knost.**

Saturday, April 9th, is the 140th Anniversary of the Surrender at Appomattox. While no trip is planned, a small group of RT members is planning a quick trip to Virginia to carry out a commemorative postal cancellation. Details will follow.

THERE WILL BE NO APRIL 8TH MEETING OF THE CDCWRT. Instead, we invite members to attend the **Full Duty Banquet of the Vermont roundtable in Montpelier on Saturday & Sunday, April 23rd & 24th. The guest speaker will be the acclaimed Civil War artist, Don Troiani.** Mr. Troiani is America's most collected military artist. Additionally, he served as the Civil War uniform and equipment consultant for the movie, *Cold Mountain*, and has been military advisor on the A & E History Channel's *Civil War Journal*, and the miniseries, *The American Revolution*.

The banquet will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, and a block of 50 tickets have been put aside for the Round Table. The banquet will feature living historians in period dress, a color guard, and a live performance of Civil War period music. A fund raising raffle will have three major prizes: a reproduction 50 caliber percussion Pennsylvania rifle, a four-day, three-night getaway at the Jerico B&B in Marlinton, West Virginia, and a Don Troiani print, ***Put the Boys In***, depicting the VMI Cadets at the Battle of New Market. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 a piece, and winners need not be present.

The Round Table has a bus available, and can do the whole trip for \$139 double occupancy, or \$179 for single occupancy. This includes bus trip, room at the Capitol Hotel, banquet ticket, and some touring Sunday. Drinks and snacks will be provided on the bus, but plan on bringing your own brown bag lunch for Saturday. Those who wish to drive themselves, may still purchase tickets from the Round Table block for \$25.00 a piece. More details will follow in subsequent newsletters.

The May Meeting of the CDCWRT will be held on Friday the 13th at the Guilderland Library. The speaker and topic will be announced later.

Monday, May 23rd, is Game Day at Cooperstown. The RT usually participates in the day's activities, and raises monies for preservation by selling our special cachets and T-shirts. Volunteers are being sought.

The June Meeting of the CDCWRT will be held on Friday, June 10th at the Guilderland Library. The topic will be announced at a later date.

Peterboro Civil War Days will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 11th and 12th. This small village on route 20 near Syracuse was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Each year the village sponsors a Civil War weekend with encampments, presentations, entertainment and period foods. A number of Civil War groups participate, including the RT with a commemorative postal cancellation. This is always a pleasant weekend in the spring with a nice drive to the village.

Gettysburg – 142nd Anniversary – Friday, July 1st to Monday, July 4th. This is always an exciting event with many tours

provided by the Park Service, free lectures by authors at the Greystone Bookstore tent, and the daily re-enactments. This is also a major event for the RT to raise money for preservation activities. The RT will have a block of rooms in the nearby motel. Rates will be higher this year however. Budget cuts for the Park Service may also impact upon the number of guided tour available to the public. More details will follow.

Civil War Days in Troy will be held on Saturday, July 9th and Sunday July 10th. The site will be in Troy's Prospect Park. This has been held at the King Solomon Masonic Temple the past several years, but it had become popular and has outgrown that site. Prospect Park allows for a larger venue. Activities include an encampment and a re-enactment of a Civil War battle. There will be other types of entertainment. The RT will need volunteers for our information tables.

On Sunday, July 17th, the Round Table will have its annual picnic at Thatcher State Park, south of Albany. The picnic will be at the Horseshoe 2 area, which is near the swimming pool. Reserve this date now.

Sunday, July 31st, is Induction Day at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The RT will have a booth for sales of cachets and T-shirts. Volunteers are being sought.

Chamberlain Days in Maine will be held on Wednesday, August 10th through Saturday, August 13th. President, Matt George has attended this activity several times. He states it is a great experience for Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain fans, and will give anyone more details about the event.

BOARD MEETING

At the Board Meeting in January, the Board reviewed the calendar of events for the balance of the year through summer. It was reported that RT member, Chris Kolakowski, has garnered yet another title at CWPT headquarters. Chris was initially a real estate associate, and then he added to that, responsibilities in heritage tourism. His new title is Policy and Transportation Co-coordinator, in which he acts as a liaison between CWPT and local and state governments. He still retains some responsibilities in the other areas. CWPT concluded a most successful year which included the preservation of acreage in three battlefield that are dear to our Round Table—Trevilian Station, White Oak Road, and Chancellorsville. A total of 18,182 acres have been saved in nineteen states.

CWPT has received a large proportion of our preservation donations. However the Trust has been given a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, its highest rating. Charity Navigator is America's premiere independent evaluator of charities, and was praised by Reader's Digest as the charity innovation of the year in its listing of the *100 Best Things about America in 2004*.

Board member, Rosemary Nichols hosted the meeting and provided a multiple course Spanish dinner. (Are you sure you don't want to serve on the Board sometime?)

Please note the names and phone number of the new officers and board on the mailer page. E-mail address will be added later.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

This is an easy one. **What is the connection between Proctor & Gamble and the Civil War?**

CIVIL WAR QUIZ

This is a matching quiz. The Battle of Antietam is also known as Sharpsburg. Match the following battles from the list below.

1. **Wilson's Creek, MO**
2. **Ball's Bluff, VA**
3. **Kearntown, VA**
4. **Shiloh, TN**
5. **Malvern Hill, VA**
6. **Stone's River, TN**
7. **Appomattox Court House, VA**
8. **Cedar Creek, VA**
9. **Kenesaw Mountain, GA**
10. **Port Gibson, MS**

Alternate names:

- a. **Magnolia Hills**
- b. **Murfreesboro**
- c. **Clover Hill**
- d. **Oak Hills**
- e. **Harrison's Island**
- f. **Lost Mountain**
- g. **Winchester**
- h. **Crew's Farm**
- i. **Pittsburg Landing**
- j. **Middletown**

Earliest postmarked correct matches wins a book prize. Send to Matt Farina, 1176 Delaware Turnpike, Delmar, NY 12054.

CIVIL WAR NEWS

FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

A local group raising money to help purchase the Country Club of Franklin property, has gained pledges for 2/3s of the funding. The land is the eastern flank of the 1864 Battle of Franklin, and is the only open land left on the battlefield. City leaders have agreed to match up to \$2.5 million raised by individuals or organizations to

meet the purchase price of up to \$5 million. The purchase must occur by November 30, 2005. Country club members have fought against the city's involvement in the purchase.

Hood's Army was thrown against the Union position in a charge that makes Pickett's charge pale in comparison. Some 22,000 Confederates charged on a front that was two miles long and one mile wide. There was no artillery "softening" or support. The multiple assaults lasted until midnight, with regimental flanks marked by torch-bearers. This destroyed the Army of Tennessee, and Hood was removed as commander. Gen. Patrick Cleburne, known as the "Stonewall of the West," was killed in the battle.

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The restoration of the cyclorama painting has begun in earnest. It is one of only four cycloramas left in North America. The 121-year-old painting is undergoing a \$9 million restoration, one of the largest and costliest art conservation projects in U.S. history.

When Gen. John Gibbon saw the first, colossal circular painting of The Battle of Gettysburg in 1884 in Chicago, he declared that it was "a sight to see before you die." This original painting is in storage at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, and is up for sale. The one at Gettysburg is a duplicate and was completed a year after the first in 1883. It took French artist Phillippoteaux and 20 other artists two years to complete. In its present "cut-down" version is measures 359 feet long and 27 feet high. The original height of 39 feet was reduced when sky panels were removed. In the restored version, expected in 2007, the cyclorama will be restored to original height, and the foreground will have three-dimensional objects at ground level. It will be similar to the Battle of Atlanta

cyclorama. Say, how much is the original selling for??

EDITORIAL

The following editorial by Fred Anderson and Andrew Cayton appeared in a recent issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. It is too long to reproduce in total, so I have abstracted it. It is controversial, and since I read it, I have given it considerable thought. Neither I, nor the Board, put forth our impressions as an endorsement by the Round Table. I present it simply for you to read and think about.

American Wars for Liberty and Power

The ways in which the Mall (Washington, DC) and its monuments give meaning to the events of American history are clearest in the winter. The majesty of the Lincoln Memorial leaves no doubt about the importance of the 16th president and the Union that he, more than anyone else, preserved. Visitors find within an immense, melancholy statue of the Great Emancipator, bracketed by the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address –majestic phrases that explain the meaning of the great blood sacrifice in American history.

But the Vietnam Memorial makes no such unmistakable statement. As we walk, the black wall seems to rise beside us, as if thrust from the earth by the columns of names that lengthen on its face. At the monument's center the names of the dead hang over us with an almost unbearable weight of sadness. At the turning of the path where the twin walls join, we pause, as so many do, to look back. Because it is winter, the colonnade of Lincoln's Greek temple looms white through the screen of trunks and bare branches, and it is suddenly clear

that the narrowing V of the wall has been sited precisely to direct our gaze upward to the Memorial and to the hillside crosses of Arlington National Cemetery beyond. It also becomes apparent that the black arrow of the wall ahead points directly towards the marble shaft of the Washington Monument. Why was the Korean War Veterans Memorial located in the counterpoint space on the opposite flank of the Lincoln Memorial? Why does the new World War II monument bestride the Mall at the head of the Reflecting Pool, claiming a place as central as Washington's obelisk and Lincoln's Doric shrine?

*The monuments on the Mall speak unmistakably to Americans about the relationships among, and the relative importance of, five wars – the Revolution, the Civil War, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War, and World War II. Even stronger implicit messages can be discerned in the **absence** of national monuments commemorating other conflicts: the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, numerous military interventions in the Caribbean and beyond, and three dozen or more Indian wars by which the citizens of the Republic appropriated lands that native peoples had called home for a thousand generations.*

Every capital city in Europe and the Americas commemorates the glories and sacrifices of military conflict. But while the martial cast of their nation's capital is commonplace, Americans' reactions to it are not; nor has their willingness to elect some former generals to the presidency made them immune to ambivalence about their wars, especially those wars that expanded the geographic domain of the U.S.

(to be continued next month)