

P.O. Box 11493 Loudonville, New York 12211
www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.com

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

JANUARY MEETING
SATURDAY JAN. 10, 2026

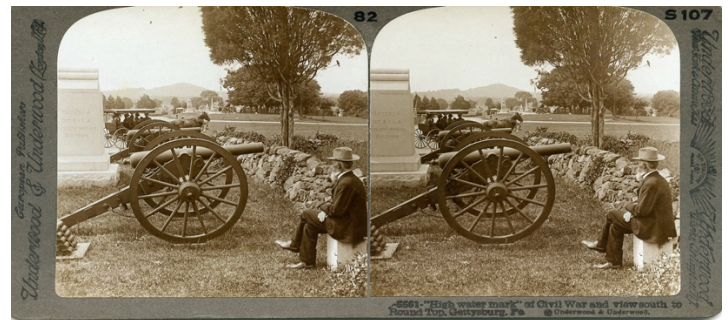
WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER



1501 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NEW YORK

SOCIAL HOUR 10:30AM
BUSINESS MTG 11:00AM

*Presentation Begins After The
Conclusion of the Business Meeting*



Terrible Earnestness and the Reality of War: Civil War Era Stereo Cards

by Stuart Lehman

Join us for a presentation that will explore Civil War Stereoviews and various other photographic techniques and how they were used to document the war, inform, influence, entertain and sometimes hoodwink the public. We will examine the roles of renowned photographers such as Brady, Gardiner, and O'Sullivan and lesser-known figures such as William Mumler and Jeremiah Gurney.

Actual 19th Century stereoscopes and stereoviews will be available to examine after the program.



CDCWRT Member & Civil War Buffs President Stuart Lehman

Stuart W. Lehman has worked in the historical field for over 30 years at a variety of historic sites such as Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park, Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site and Senate House State Historic Site. He recently retired as a Curator for the Office of General Services at the New York State Capitol, where he still does tours and programs as a volunteer. He has done living history as a Revolutionary War period doctor and as a Civil War soldier of the Veteran's Reserve Corps. He collects stereoviews, as well as other historic artifacts and documents. He lives in Guilderland, New York with his wife Ruth and six cats.

In addition to the wonderful presentation by Stuart Lehman, January's meeting will also feature our annual election of officers for the 2026 Executive Committee. All members are welcome to vote.

January Meeting Raffle Books

Gettysburg: Then & Now
by William Franssanito

Introduction to Civil War Photography
by Ross J. Kelbaugh

The Civil War: A History in 3-D
by Richard Copley

Libby Prison Breakout
by Joseph Wheelan

Upcoming Presentations

February 14, 2026
Civil War Medicine: Myth & Memory
ZOOM presentation at the WSC
by Dr. Matt Farina

March 14, 2026
The Virginia Campaigns of 1862
ZOOM presentation at the WSC
by Chris Kolakowski

April 11, 2026
*The History of the 125th NY Vol Infantry
Through Artifacts*
by Mike Marchand

May 9, 2026
*John Wilkes Booth & His Sister Asia Booth Clark: A
Special Relationship*
by Lisa Samia

June 13, 2026
*Gettysburg's Unknown Soldier: The Life, Death &
Celebrity of Amos Humiston*
by Mark Dunkleman



Capital District Civil War Roundtable 2025 Year End Report

- Roundtable (RT) ended the year with over \$7,000 in the bank.
- RT received over \$700.00 in donations in memory of Matt George. We donated \$500.00 in Matt's memory to Battlefield Trust to preserve

Revolutionary War battlefield lands in Johnston, NY.

- The membership meeting change from Friday night to Saturday morning meetings proved successful.
- Decreased expenses by not booking too many out-of-town speakers for 2024-2025 meetings. We have two possible speakers that will require honorariums and lodging costs for the May 10 and June 14 meetings.
- RT booked its first Rev War speaker- NPS Park Ranger Garrett Cloer from Saratoga Springs Battlefield Park. More Rev War speakers are being planned for in future talks.
- Matt George passed away in June. He willed to the RT his extensive collection of CW books, sculpture, fine art prints, maps, shirts, and ties with intention these items would be sold, and revenue donated to places like Battlefield Trust.
- Matt George donated to us his RT history archives (1990-2024). These 23 three-ring binders contain a treasure trove of history from valuable newsletters, notices of reenactments, newspaper articles, and photos of Matt's travels to battlefields and conferences.
- Began a multi-year project to digitize Matt's collection of newsletters. The pdf files will be posted on the RT website
- Four Board members manned tables at the annual Grant Cottage Community Days in early June. Visitation and book sales was heavy and brisk. Next year's date is *June 13*: the same day as the last 2025-2026 RT meeting. We hope to have 2-3 members to volunteer to work the tables.



“From the first, I regarded myself as under obligation to my country to preserve the faces of its historic men and mothers.” – Matthew Brady

The Man Who Brought the Civil War Home to Americans

by Rosemary Nichols

Stuart Lehman will entertain us with his fine photographic display and explanation. This essay focuses on one of the major figures who created those images to interpret the Civil War to the North - Matthew Brady.

Born between 1822 and 1824 in Warren County near Lake George, New York, the youngest of three children of Irish immigrant parents, at 16 Brady moved to Saratoga Springs. There he met portrait painter William Page and became Page's student. 1839 saw the two travel to Albany and then to NYC where Brady continued to study with Page as well as Samuel Morse who had met Louis Jacques Daguerre in France in 1839. Morse returned to the US to enthusiastically push the new daguerreotype invention of capturing images. Brady soon became the center of the New York artistic colony that wished to study photography. Morse opened a studio and offered classes; Brady was one of the first students.



Advertisement for Brady's Gallery, New York City

By 1844 Brady was able to open his own photography studio at the corner of Broadway and Fulton Streets in NYC. The next year he began to exhibit his portraits of famous Americans. These images included Senator Daniel Webster and author Edgar Allan Poe. In 1849 Brady opened a second studio at 625 Pennsylvania Avenue in DC. There he met Juliet Handy. They were married in 1850 and lived on Staten Island. Brady's earliest images were daguerreotypes, for which he won many awards. In the 1850s ambrotype photography became popular, which gave way to the albumen print, a paper photograph produced from the large glass negatives familiar to all of us in Civil War photography.

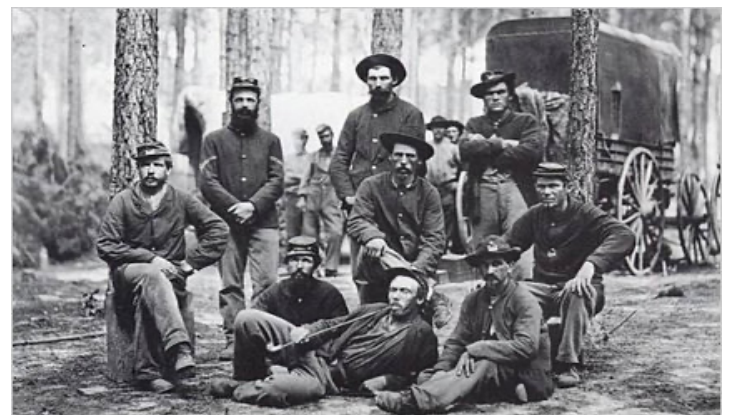
In 1854 the *carte de visite* became a popular novelty. Thousands of these small pictures (the size of a business card) were created and sold in the United States and Europe. Always a pioneer, in 1856 Brady placed an ad in the New York Herald offering to produce "photographs, ambrotypes and daguerreotypes". This inventive ad pioneered in the US the use of typeface and

fonts distinct from the text of the publication and from that of other advertisements.



Abraham Lincoln Parlor Card Carte de Visite by Matthew Brady

Initially the effect of the Civil War on Brady's business was a brisk increase in sales of *cartes de visite* to departing soldiers. Brady marketed to parents the idea of capturing their young soldiers' images before they might be lost to war. He soon had the idea of documenting the war itself. He first applied to his old friend, General Winfield Scott, for permission to have photographers travel to the battle sites. He made his application to President Lincoln who granted permission in 1861, with the provision that Brady finance the project himself.



Black wagon in the background was one of Brady's mobile darkrooms

His efforts to document the Civil War on a grand scale by bringing his photographic studio onto the battlefields earned Brady his place in history. Despite the dangers, financial risk, and discouragement by his friends, Brady was later quoted as saying, "I had to go. A spirit in my feet said 'Go,' and I went." His first popular photographs of the conflict were at the First Battle of Bull Run, in which he is reported to have gotten so close to the action he barely avoided capture. While most of the time the battle had ceased before pictures were taken, Brady came under direct fire at Bull Run, Petersburg and Fredericksburg.

Brady employed Alexander Gardner, James Gardner, Timothy H. O'Sullivan, William Pyrell, George N. Barnard, Thomas C. Roche, and seventeen other men, each of whom was given a traveling darkroom, to go out and photograph scenes from the Civil War. Brady generally organized his assistants from Washington, DC and rarely visited battlefields personally.



Alexander Gardner

This may have been due to Brady's deteriorating eyesight in the 1850s. Many of the images in Brady's collection are thought to be the work of his assistants. Brady was

criticized for failing to document the photographs. So much of Brady's photography is missing information, it is difficult to know not only who took the picture, but also exactly when or where it was taken.



Union Burial Detail on the Miller Farm, Antietam Battlefield, 1862

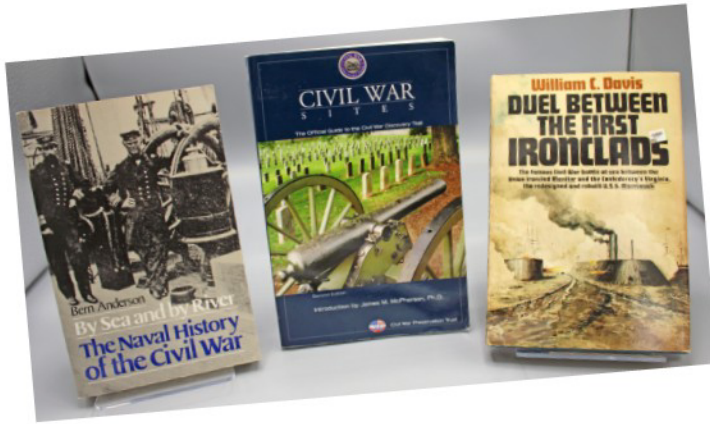
In October 1862 Brady opened an exhibition of photographs from the Battle of Antietam in his NYC gallery, titled *The Dead of Antietam*. Many images in this presentation were graphic photographs of Confederate corpses. This was the first time many Americans saw the realities of war in photographs, as distinct from previous artists' impressions.

Through his many paid assistants Brady took thousands of photos of Civil War scenes. Much of the popular understanding of the war comes from these images. There are thousands of photos in the National Archives and the Library of Congress taken by Brady and his associates, Alexander Gardner, George Barnard and Timothy O'Sullivan. The images provide a pictorial cross-reference of Civil War history though Brady could not photograph actual battle scenes. The photographic equipment was still in the infancy of its technical development and required that a subject be still for a clear photo to be produced.

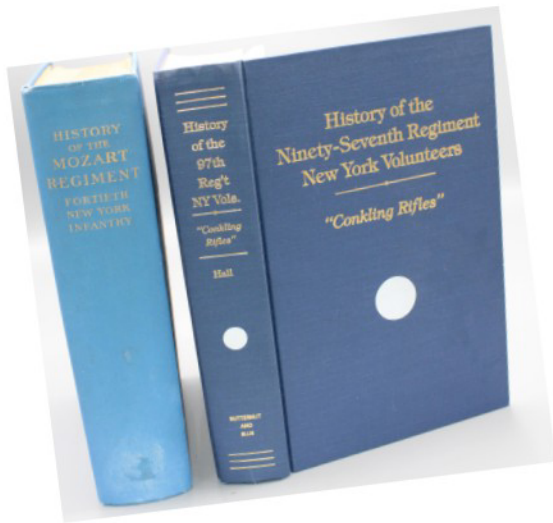
Civil War Books, Clothing Sale

“Come one, Come All” to the annual Capital District Civil War Roundtable’s book, t-shirt, sweatshirt sale, on Saturday January 10th, at the Watervliet Senior Center, 1501 Broadway (next door to public library), from 10 to 11 am.

We welcome you to stay and attend the January meeting.



Many books are \$5 for hardcovers, \$3 for paperbacks



Regimental history books priced higher



Unique neckties and shirts



The Dispatch
Newspaper of the

**CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

PO Box 11493 Loudonville, NY 12211
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Membership Form, 2026 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Membership Dues All dues go into the Regular Account (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

Pay for newsletters, program expenses, and the use of the meeting space.

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

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	Mark Koziol	Vice-President	Bruce Reed
Treasurer	Steve Muller	Secretary	Shawn Connery
At-Large	Rosemary Nichols	At-Large	Leo McGuire

THE NONCOMS

Program	
Membership	Steve Muller
Refreshments	Dean Long and Luanne Whitbeck
Webmaster	Mark Koziol
Education	
Newsletter	Rosemary Nichols and Shawn Connery