



The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

Capital District Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 14871, Albany, NY 12212-4871

CDCWRT's web site: timesunion.com/communities/cdcwrt

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DECEMBER, 2000

**SEASON'S GREETINGS
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HAPPY CHANUKAH**

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The December Meeting
Friday, December 8, 2000
GUILDERLAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY
WESTERN AVENUE
GUILDERLAND, NY

SOCIAL HOUR 6-7 P.M.
BUSINESS & ELECTIONS 7-7:30
PRESENTATION 7:30-9:00
PARTY !!! 9:00-10:00

CDCWRT MEETING

Our next regular meeting of the Round Table is the year-end meeting at which time new officers and a Board are elected. After the business meeting, there will be a regular presentation. Following this, there will be a Seasonal Party. Please note the site of this meeting, the GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Our speaker for this meeting will be our own RT member, Ron Tunison. Ron is a nationally-known artist and sculptor. He is a founding father of the Society of American Historical Artists. Ron was commissioned to sculpt three major works on the Gettysburg Battlefield (Gen. Crawford, Masons' Friend to Friend, and 1st Delaware) and the Irish Brigade monument at Antietam. His work honoring the common soldier at Pamplin Park was featured in last month's newsletter.

Ron has been named ARTIST OF THE YEAR by the CDCWRT. This month's featured exhibit in the Guilderland Library highlights Ron's sculptures. Ron will talk about a retrospective of his life, how he came to be a leading military sculptor, and why he became involved with Civil War themes. If

you missed the fascinating tour of his studio in September, be sure NOT to miss this talk and exhibit. If you were on the studio tour, this will be a different look into the artist's mind. Come join us in celebrating Ron's exhibit. The exhibit is organized by Lew Warner of the CDCWRT.

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING HOLIDAY TREATS TO THE MEETING TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. SODA AND COFFEE WILL BE SUPPLIED. PLEASE, NO HARDTACK OR SALT PORK.

CDCWRT NEWS

NOVEMBER MEETING

The Third Annual Civil War Conference sponsored by the RT was a terrific meeting! It began Friday night with a dramatic reading by William and Nellie Edmonston. This style of entertainment was popular in the late 19th Century. The couple read from the papers of CW veteran, David Ritchie. Dr. Allen Ballard then read selections from his acclaimed book, *Where I'm Bound*. Between each selection Dr. Ballard played a guitar and sang several songs that were important to Blacks during the War. Boy, talk about living history! The audience listened spell-bound to each of the speakers.

Saturday featured a group of experts on CW photography who were second to none. The speakers themselves commented that this conference was one of the highest caliber. Photographer, Ron Gibson, brought his CW photographic field station and made wet plates, photographed models, developed and fixed the plates before our eyes, just as Garner and Brady had done.

There were sneak previews of a new video on Civil War photography by Greystone and a spectacular 3-D presentation of CW scenes. The well attended banquet finished the evening, but

not before an opportunity to buy CW books at discount prices from multiple authors and publishers. Kudos for another superb conference organized by Sue Knost.

BOARD MEETING

The Board met on Tuesday, November 28th and proposed the following slate of candidates for the RT.

- President, Tom Smith
- Vice-President, Joe Stracuzzi
- Secretary, Matt George
- Treasurer, Paul Rivenburgh
- At-Large, Cindy Schechter, Fran McCashion, and Jon Olson

Sue Knost will remain as Program Chair, and Matt Farina will serve one year on the Board as Ex-Officio and will remain as Editor.

Any member in good standing who is both interested and eligible for the Board, should contact any one of the present Board members to “throw his/her kepi into the ring.” Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the night of the meeting.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **ALBANY FIRST NIGHT** – The RT will sponsor a special postal cancellation December 31st at City Hall as part of the First Night activities. Volunteers are encouraged to talk to Sue Knost. If you attend the festivities, stop by and support YOUR round table.
- **JANUARY MEETING, FRIDAY 12TH** AT Guilderland Library will be our Potpourri Meeting. Tennessee Bob Rawls will demonstrate his working model of Burden’s second horseshoe-making machine. Matt Farina will talk about some of the special cachets that the CDCWRT has designed over the years. Carl Blazejewski of B Trading will present on “What to Do?” For those of you who have been handed CW letter with stamps and postmarks, or

have seen them at auctions or yard sales, this will help you find out what they are worth. Carl is a local philatelic dealer who specializes in auctions of classic Americana.

- **FEBRUARY 10TH MEETING ON A SATURDAY AT GUILDERLAND.** This Saturday meeting will start with a lunch at noon and meeting at 1:00 P.M. The topic will be MARY TODD LINCOLN. There will be a CW exhibit in the library also.
- **THE MONTH OF MARCH** will be very busy with CW activities at Guilderland. Our meeting will be Friday, March 9th. More details will follow next month.
- **GETTYSBURG SPRING TRIP ON MARCH 30TH TO APRIL 1ST, ONLY \$199/PERSON. A \$50 DEPOSIT MUST BE MADE BY THE JANUARY MEETING. THIS IS NON-REFUNDABLE IF THE TRIP IS A GO. MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH’S NEWSLETTER.**

MISCELLANEOUS

There are a number of items that will make excellent gifts for the season. These include CW books on photography, models of Tunison’s soldiers sculpture, and the First Day of Issue cancellations of the 20-stamp series on the Legends of Baseball. These very limited sets will make excellent gifts. Each set is \$60 for 20 cachets. Other sets will also be available. A new printing of our popular CW baseball T-shirts will also be available in black or blue print on a gray shirt.

Here is a trivia question from Martha Stewart—yes **the Martha Stewart!**