

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212
www.cdcwrt.org



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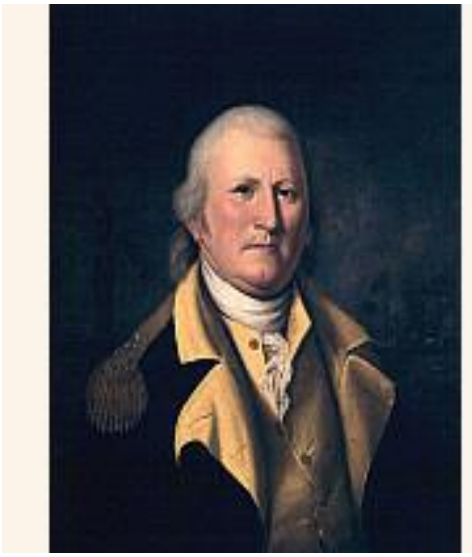
THE WAR BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



GEN. WILLIAM MOULTRIE

In South Carolina there are a number of places named 'Moultrie,' including streets, an island, a lake and a fort. The American Revolutionary War in the Carolinas was a brutal contest between the British and their Tory allies, and the patriots. Read inside about this unique patriot.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

After 144 years, 'newly discovered' images of Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration have come to light. They had been previously mislabeled. Additionly, two recently digitized images of Gettysburg may reveal Lincoln on his way to deliver his Gettysburg Address 145 years ago. Read about it inside.



GEN. THOMAS SUMTER

All students of the Civil War know that the war began with the shelling of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in April 1861. The fort was occupied by a small Federal force. The Federals had abandoned the surrounding forts, including Moultrie. Who was Sumter? Another American patriot. Read about him inside.

FEBRUARY MEETING
Friday February 8, 2008
Guilderland Library
2228 Western Ave.

THE WAR BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

SOCIAL HOUR	**6:00-7:00 PM**
BUSINESS	**7:00-7:30 PM**
PRESENTATION	**7:30-8:30 PM**
DISCUSSION	**8:30 – 9:00 PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

The monthly meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Guilderland Library on Friday evening, February 8, 2008. Our guest speaker will be author, **Fergus Madigan Bordewich,** ***and his presentation is entitled,*** **"The War Before the Civil War: The Underground Railroad and the Antebellum Struggle Against the 'Slave Power.'"**

Mr. Bordewich was born in New York City and raised in Yonkers. He grew up with a legend about the Underground Railroad in Yonkers, namely that an adjoining neighborhood was settled by fugitives who had come north via the underground. The story had a powerful impact on him. Later, in the course of his research, he was disappointed to learn the story had no basis.

In June 1998, Bordewich visited the site of the Dawn Institute, founded in 1841 in southern Ontario. This was a school and refuge for fugitive slaves, and a terminus for the Underground Railroad. He pondered who had helped them across the racial landscape of 19th-century America, through the war zone of antebellum politics, where fugitive slaves had no power, few rights, and little hope for protection. This resulted in his book, **"Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad, America's First Civil Rights Movement,"** ***published in 2005. The Wall Street Journal's review said that "Bound for Canaan" is "As close to a definitive history as we're likely to see."***

Mr. Bordewich is an independent journalist who has written for the New York Times, Smithsonian Magazine, American Heritage, the Atlantic Monthly, and many other publications. Among his other books are **"Killing the White Man's Indian: Reinventing Native Americans at the End of the 20th Century," "My Mother's Ghost," and "Washington: The Making of the American Capital," to be published in 2008.** ***He is currently at work on a new book about the Compromise of 1850 and the coming of the Civil War.***

Mr. Bordewich has written widely about human rights issues around the world, about international politics, about various crises from Kurdistan to Burma, as well as about American history.

MONTHLY MEETING

A large crowd was on hand to hear one of the best ever Potpourri Nights. Roger Tiberia spoke of the controversy between the 2nd Battery of the Vermont Light Artillery and the Vermont Historical Society over the soundness of an authentic Napoleon cannon. Pat Stedman related the story of an old bayonet that was among her late parents' possessions. Although it appeared to be of Civil War vintage, research indicated it to be an 1868 bayonet of French manufacture. It probably was captured during the Franco-Prussian War and brought back to Germany where it was modified. Ninety-two year old Archie Sherman, the grandson of a Civil War soldier in a Rhode Island regiment, showed an artifact his grandfather used in the war.

Rosemary Nichols spoke about the 'Stone Fleet,' which consisted of decaying whalers purchased by the government, filled with stones, and sunk in the entrance to Charleston harbor as part of the blockade. Bob Mulligan and Joe Meany spoke about an imaginary Confederate plot to steal the plans for the Burden horseshoe manufacturing machine in Troy. This urban legend has now become part of Troy's official history and has made the internet.

Finally, Joe Thatcher spoke about his Confederate relative who invented the coal torpedo, an explosive device molded in the shape of a lump of coal. Such a device may have been responsible for the ***Sultana*** sinking. One of three remaining original pieces was on display. Other displays included an 1862 English Tower rifle and some original watercolors of Gettysburg by Art Henningson.

BOARD MEETING

A Board Meeting was held on January 14, 2008. The treasurer reported $1,048.61 in the regular account and $6,196.76 in the preservation account. Up-coming events were discussed, including the picnic which will be in August. A $200 donation was made to 2nd Battery of the Vermont Light Artillery, and $100 was donated to the Lincoln Society in Peekskill for the Lincoln Depot Museum.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The following list of up-coming events is provided to help Round Table members plan their long term calendars. These are events that involve our Round Table, especially events that provide opportunities to raise funds for our preservation activities. Some events may change as the year progresses, so members should check the list monthly.

February 16-17, 2008, Saturday and Sunday, are the dates for the annual Covermania. This is a large stamp, cachet, and postcard show held annually in Albany. Anyone interested in stamp collecting will enjoy this free show where 50-60 exhibitors are usually present. All items displayed are for sale. CDCWRT will exhibit, and a special cancellation will be available. **NB DATE CHANGE**

March 14, 2008, Friday, is the date for the March meeting of the CDCWRT. Steve Muller will speak on "The Monitor and Merrimac: Little-Known Facts."

April 11th, 2008, Friday, is the date for the April meeting of the CDCWRT.

April 16th, 2008, Wednesday, marks the preliminary or 'soft' opening of the new Visitor Center at Gettysburg. The CDCWRT is exploring the possibility of our organization handling a special commemorative cancellation for the event.

On May 2nd-4th, 2008, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville will be celebrated in Virginia. There will probably be a re-enactor event associated with this. The CDCWRT provided a cancellation for the 135th anniversary. The cachet commemorating the wounding of Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was cancelled approximately 50 feet from the actual site. A few three cachet sets of the 135th are still available from the CDCWRT for $25.00. Contact Matt Farina, 190 Knoll Rd, Southern Pines, NC 28387 if interested.

On May 9th, 2008, Friday, the guest speaker for the May meeting of the CDCWRT will be Wayne Mott. Wayne is the Director of the Adams County Historical Society. The extensive collection is housed in the historical Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. Wayne will talk about the artifact preservation project the society is beginning.

June 7th and June 8th , Saturday and Sunday, mark the dates for the Peterboro Civil War Weekend. This annual event take place in Peterboro, NY on NYS route 20, near Syracuse. Peterboro was a stop on the Underground Railroad. More details will follow.

June 13th, 2008, Friday, is the date for the June meeting of the CDCWRT. Is anyone superstitious about this date? We have no speaker yet so stay tuned to this column.

July 1st through the 3rd marks the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. There are multiple events taking place on the two weekends that bracket the actual anniversary.

Starting with Friday, June 27th through Sunday, June 29th, is At High Tide, a re-enactor event with progressive battle scenarios. All proceeds will go to Adams County land preservation and conservation.

On Monday, June 30th and Tuesday, July 1st, the Adams County Historical Society is planning a major fund raiser. The CDCWRT would do a commemorative postal cancellation for this event.

On Tuesday, July 1st through Thursday, July 3rd, the National Park Service will commemorate the actual anniversary of the battle. There undoubtedly will be many activities taking place. This would be an excellent time to visit Gettysburg, but you should make reservations NOW.

On Friday, July 4th through Sunday, July 6th, the 145th anniversary will be celebrated by the 'usual' re-enactor organization. The committee expects 10,000 to 15,000 re-enactors. Information is available on line at www.gettysburgreenactment.com.

The CDCWRT will be organizing to possibly cover multiple events in this time frame. This would be an ideal opportunity to raise significant monies for battlefield preservation. However volunteers are desperately needed; the more volunteers, the more we can do. If you are planning on being in Gettysburg during this time frame, and would like to volunteer a half-day or more, contact president J.J. Jennings.

On July 26th and 27th, Saturday and Sunday, the Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Day will be celebrated in Cooperstown. The CDCWRT has been present at these events with our popular baseball items such as T-shirts and commemorative postal cancellations.

September also promises to be a busy month locally for the CDCWRT.

Friday, September 12th, would be the start of the new 2008-2009 year for the CDCWRT.

On Saturday, September 13th and Sunday, September 14th, the Albany Rural Cemetery Civil War Days will be celebrated.

Saturday, September 20th and Sunday, September 21st, mark the Saratoga Springs Grand Army Event.

On September 26th, Friday, and September 27th, Saturday, the National Park Service will celebrate the Grand Opening of the New Visitor Center and the unveiling of the restored Cyclorama painting at the Visitor Center in Gettysburg. The plans for the center were discussed extensively in a newsletter in 2007. It is our hope that the CDCWRT can be part of this historical event.

October 10-13, 2008, Friday to Monday, Columbus Day Weekend: Possible Fall trip for CDCWRT???

Friday, November 14th, is the date for the November meeting of the CDCWRT.

On Tuesday, November 18th, the David Wills house will open in Gettysburg. Lincoln stayed at the Wills house the day before he delivered the Gettysburg Address. The final touches to the address may have been completed at the house.

On Wednesday, November 19th, guest speaker Ken Burns will talk on the 145th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address on Remembrance Day. The CDCWRT usually has a postal cancellation commemorating the event.

Saturday, November 22nd, marks the Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg. This is always a huge re-enactor event, and will be more so on a major anniversary year.

Sunday, December 7th, marks the Troy Victorian Stroll, as well as the 67th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. This is another local event where the CDCWRT is present to promote our organization and raise funds for preservation. Volunteers are always needed.

On Friday, December 12th, the CDCWRT will hold its annual elections and holiday party at the last meeting of the 2008 year.

THE END OF AN AFFAIR?

You may recall that one weekend in August 2006 a developer used a utility easement as grounds to lay water and sewer lines across 1900 feet of NPS land on Schoolhouse Ridge at Harpers Ferry. The developer argued the easement was all that was needed to proceed. The construction (destruction?) was started on a Friday night and was continued without interruption until Sunday night when complete. The park argued that the developer was required to follow a federal permitting process.

CWPT and several other organizations urged federal action against the developer because his actions set a dangerous precedent. The sewer and water lines greatly multiplied the value of adjacent land owned by the developer. The developer tried twice to have his land rezoned for intense commercial and residential development, including having it rezoned part of Charleston, WV more than twelve miles away because the same highway "connected" both sites (gerrymander extremis?).

After a year of no overt action, it was learned that the Department of the Interior was considering an about face because some officials felt the Department could

not win in court. It was learned that in the west, some parks simply allow holders of utility easements to undertake work without having to seek a permit.

Your Round Table had begun to consider a class action lawsuit against the developer because we had contributed money to purchase the affected land on Schoolhouse Ridge. Recently we learned the developer has declared bankruptcy, and the affair is over. Or is it? The NPS dodged a bullet this time. The developer chose a weekend where all senior NPS staffers were at a conference. It was also a holiday weekend when judges would be hard to find to issue a cease and desist order. Although the developer was aware of the permit requirement, and in fact had started the process, he planned his deception and campaign well. No one of sufficient authority or "b--ls" was available to immediately confront the developer. It then became apparent that the NPS did not employ a consistent permit process, despite the process requirements. This would make it difficult for the Department of Interior to win easily. Finally, at the time the U.S. Attorney General was fighting for his institutional existence, and prosecuting this case would have been the farthest thing in his mind.

So what do we do? Your editor feels that CWPT, with the support of other groups, including round tables, should write the NPS and recommend that this 'loop hole' be closed and that an agreed upon plan of action be developed now, so that it could be immediately implemented should this reoccur in the future.

FORTS AND THEIR NAMES

Did you ever wonder for whom Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie in Charleston harbor were named?

FORT MOULTRIE

The first fort on Sullivan's Island was still incomplete when Commodore Sir Peter Parker with nine warships attacked it on June 28, 1776. The American commander at the fort was Col. William Moultrie (1730-1805). He was born in Charleston, the son of Dr. John Moultrie, a native of Scotland, and was a veteran of the Cherokee War. He joined the rebellion as Colonel of the 2nd South Carolina Rgt. and after the war would be governor of South Carolina twice.

Moultrie was a simple, straightforward man, blunt, convivial, well liked, but he had serious flaws. "He was an officer of very easy manners, leaving to others many things to perform, which his own personal attentions would have much quickened." His failure to place the fort in a state of readiness in the months prior to the attack put the garrison at great peril. But what a fighter he was. He exuded confidence and coolness under fire. On the ramparts of Fort Sullivan he was calm, collected, in shirt sleeves, smoking his pipe, directing a fire well placed and decisive. So devastating was the Americans' fire that the rear of Commodore Parker's breeches were literally blown away, leaving "his posteriors quite bare". At one point Parker was the only man left on the quarterdeck. The battle was a glorious victory for the Americans and a stunning loss for the British.

However. the British returned in 1780 and approached Charleston by land and sea. Now General Moultrie commanded the fortifications of Charleston and Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island. Moultrie was in the town when the British fleet forced passage of the fort with trivial loss. American gunnery that day made a mockery of the word. Charleston was now under siege and on May 8, 1780 British commander Sir Henry Clinton called for unconditional surrender. On May 11th, after a heavy artillery bombardment, the Americans surrendered. Losses at the siege of Charleston were light: the Americans lost 89 killed and 138 wounded. However, more serious for the cause were the 3371 men captured, of whom 2571 were Continentals. This meant there was no American army in the South. The British had 76 killed and 189 wounded.

Moultrie was imprisoned at Hadrell's Point near Charleston. His brother was a Tory, and the British tried to convert William by offering him and his family passage from South Carolina and a command in the British army outside the mainland colonies. Moultrie, who placed honor above assets, never recovered financially from his devotion to the cause, but he never had to hide from himself.

In 1793, when war broke out between France and England, a second Fort Moultrie was built as one of twenty new forts along the Atlantic coast. This fort was destroyed in a hurricane in 1804. A third fort was built of brick by 1809. By 1860 it was a part of a defensive ring around Charleston harbor that included Fort Sumter.

FORT SUMTER

The fort, named after a South Carolina Revolutionary War hero, was designed as part of a defensive system for Charleston Harbor. Plans were drawn in 1827 and construction began two years later. Located on a man-made island of sea shells and granite from northern quarries, it was a pentagonal structure, fifty feet high, with walls eight to twelve feet thick.

Thomas Sumter (1734-1832) was not a sympathetic character. Wearing his ego on his shoulder, he had few peers as a prima donna and could spot a slight, intended or not, around a corner. He was careless with security and lives. His penchant for bloody and repeated frontal assaults was unnecessarily costly. But of all his partisan foes Lord Cornwallis considered Sumter the most troublesome and obstinate. Sumter was a fighter who kept alive the flame of resistance and acted as a beacon for like-minded men at a time when others believed all was lost. He wore his old Continental blues with a cock's feather in his hat. Cockfighting was very popular at the time, and a champion was a chick of an old blue hen. In his uniform, Sumter reminded fans of Old Tuck, the blue hen's chicken. Sumter became known then and forever as the Gamecock, and in back country Carolina there could be no higher accolade.

Thomas Sumter was born of poor English immigrant parents on the Virginia frontier. He served during the French and Indian War and the Cherokee War of 1760 as a sergeant. He was chosen to accompany three Cherokee chiefs to London to meet King George III. He settled in Carolina with funds he was paid for his London trip. Years later he was convinced by radicals to turn against British policies. He raised a company of local militia who elected him their captain. In 1776 the Provincial Congress authorized new regiments, and Sumter was elected Lt-Colonel of the 2nd Regiment of Riflemen. In 1778, with Carolina no longer threatened, he resigned and returned home. The war caught up with him again in 1780 and he donned his old uniform. He joined with several units of militiamen and in June 1780 was elected Brigadier-General of the South Carolina militia.

After Horatio Gates, the hero of Saratoga, lost the second American army in the battle of Camden in Carolina, British cavalry commander Col. Tarleton, with a force of 160 men, caught a napping and unprepared Sumter and 800 men at Fishing Creek. Sumter lost half his force, over 1000 Tory prisoners, 1000 stand of arms, two artillery pieces, and stores of ammunition. Sumter barely escaped, riding bareback and partially clothed.

Many men would have been finished after such self-inflicted humiliation. But Sumter possessed a resiliency and an ability to inspire men when all seemed lost that defies explanation. A few weeks later, he had increased his corps by over 1000 men. In November he again met Tarleton in the battle of Blackstock's Farm, where Sumter inflicted 62% casualties while he suffered only 3 killed and 4 wounded. Sumter himself was one of the wounded, having been hit by six large buckshot. During his two month recovery, the new commander of the Southern Department, Gen. Nathanael Greene *(correct spelling),* and Daniel Morgan were able to destroy Tarleton at the critical battle of Cowpens without Sumter's interference.

When Sumter returned to command, he refused to cooperate with Greene and Morgan. In July 1871 he ordered a disastrous frontal assault against a heavily fortified British position at Quinby Bridge. After this battle, "Light Horse" Harry Lee (R.E. Lee's father) bitterly complained to Greene about Sumter. Sumter himself disbanded his force, sent his men home and he retired to North Carolina for the summer, infuriating Greene. After the war, Sumter served in the House and the Senate and as minister to Portugal and Brazil. He died in 1832 at the age of 98.

So now you have some background on the names of two Civil War Forts. Most of the information above has been taken from an excellent book entitled, ***"The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas,"*** *by John Buchanan, published in 1997.*

FROM THE SOUTH

As many of you know, your editor retired in October after forty years of medical practice. I am 'wintering' in Southern Pines, NC, where the average January temperature is 50-55 degrees with no snow. In fact, most of the state faces a severe drought with the water supply for the capital, Raleigh, down to 90 days. In the local newspaper of January 9th, I saw an

announcement for a CWRT meeting with the guest speaker none other that Ed Bearss. Naturally I went to the meeting and joined the Rufus Barringer Civil War Round Table. Ed gave a superb 90-minute presentation on Daniel Harvey Hill without once referring to a note.

Who was Rufus Barringer? He was a successful lawyer in North Carolina before the war. He married one of the three Morrison sisters. Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson and D. H. Hill married the other two sisters. He was a unionist at heart, but when his state seceded, he followed his state. He recruited 100 men and they joined the 1st Cavalry Regiment. Later, the 1st NC joined the 2nd, 3rd, and 6th Virginia Cavalry Regiments as the 1st Brigade under J.E.B. Stuart. In the grand review of Stuart's cavalry corps at Culpeper Court House in May 1863, the 1st NC was chosen to lead the entire column as a tribute to its fame and fighting spirit.

At Brandy Station the 1st NC routed the 10th NY Cavalry and captured its colors. Barringer was wounded in the face. After successive promotions, he rose to Brigadier General on June 6, 1864, and commanded the 1st Cavalry Brigade (Barringer's Brigade). After the fall of Petersburg, the brigade served as the rear guard for Lee's army. The unit was ordered to hold at all cost at Namozine Church where it was outnumbered ten to one. Barrenger was captured and was taken to General Sheridan, who provided him with lodging and breakfast. Rufus was taken to Petersburg where he met General Meade. Finally Rufus was sent to Federal headquarters at City Point. President Lincoln was visiting at that time and he wanted to meet with Barringer. The two men conversed pleasantly for a period of time, and they discovered that Barringer's brother, Daniel, had shared a desk with Lincoln while they were both in Congress.

Barringer had been involved in seventy-six battles and was wounded three times. After the war he resumed his practice of law.

ANOTHER LINCOLN RELATED PHOTO DISCOVERY

Three stereoscopic negatives at the Library of Congress were previously misidentified as the Grand Review of the Armies or the inauguration of President Grant. They recently were determined to actually show the crowd in front of the Capitol for the second inauguration of Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1865. Before this discovery, there were only two known images of the crowd gathered for the second inauguration taken from the same vicinity. The discovery was made by curator Carol Johnson, after a patron alerted her to the fact that two images that showed the same scene had radically different identifications in the collection. Johnson noted a curious notation (Lincoln?) in the library's printed index log for the negatives. That prompted her to take a closer look at the images.

The trees are leafless in all three images, so the mislabeled image could not have been taken in May 1865 at the time of the Grand Review. Other images of Grant's inauguration show that a platform was constructed that extended out from the steps of the Capitol, and no such platform is in the Lincoln inauguration images.

The three 'new' images show the crowd gathering for Lincoln's ceremony, but do not show Lincoln himself or the podium where the ceremony occurred. This discovery came about because someone took the time to take a careful, detailed look at the various images in question.

In a related story, two long-overlooked photos taken on the day of the Gettysburg Address may actually show the president himself. This would double the number of photos that are believed to include distant views of Lincoln at Gettysburg. The images show the vast crowd, the tall gatehouse of Evergreen Cemetery and a procession underway. Near the center a tall figure in a stovepipe hat, apparently on horseback, rises above the crowd. His back is nearly turned to the camera, but a black beard is visible along his jawbone. Nearby someone is carrying a flagpole topped with an eagle. In the second photo the figure is raising his white-gloved left hand in an apparent salute.

While it is very tantalizing to call the figure Lincoln, other experts, such as William Frassanito, give multiple reasons why the figure is not Lincoln, but another official. These images have come to light since the Library of Congress began digitizing a collection of Alexander Gardner negatives in 2000.
(from a press release of the Center for Civil War Photography and the Civil War News)