

The Dispatch

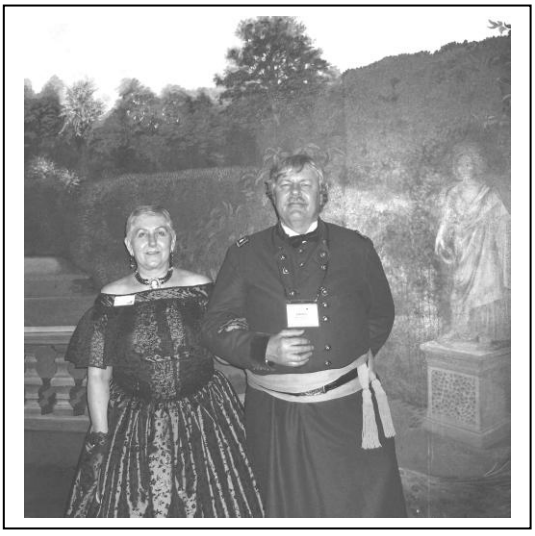
Newsletter of the

Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

CDCWRT's web site: ***www.cdcwrt.org***

Volume 23 Number 9 **May 2006**





Pictured above (left) are Rosemary Nichols, Secretary of the CDCWRT, and General Ord in period dress at the CWPT Annual Conference in Memphis. On the right are Rosemary and J.J. Jennings, Board member of CDCWRT. Both were present at the conference to receive an award to your Round Table as Round Table of the Year for 2006. The award recognizes the group's efforts in raising funds for battlefield preservation. The rate of development of unprotected battlefield land is so rapid, that there will be virtually no more land to protect within the next five years.

MAY MEETING

Friday May 12, 2006
Guilderland Library
2228 Western Ave.

SOCIAL HOUR	**6;00-7:00PM**
BUSINESS MEET	**7:00-7:30PM**
PRESENTATIONS	**7:30-8:30PM**
Q&A	**8:30-9:30PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

***The May meeting of the CDCWRT will be held in the Guilderland Public Library on Friday, May 12tht, 2006 at 7:30pm. Our speaker will be James Odell. Jim's topic will be* "CIVIL WAR TRAINS."**

The Civil War marked the first time railroads were used extensively in warfare. The First Battle of Manassas was altered when fresh Confederate reinforcements arrived on the battlefield by rail from the Shenandoah Valley. The Battle of Corinth was fought over a key railroad intersection. The Confederates moved 1st Corps all over the South to support the army in the West. Ultimately it was the railroads that moved the armies and supplies that overwhelmed the Confederacy. Jim will cover this important, but often overlooked, topic.

CWPT AWARD

The Civil War Preservation Trust, the largest national Civil War preservation group with over 77,000 members, presented the Capital District Civil War Roundtable with the 2006 Civil War Roundtable of the Year Award. Held in conjunction with their annual conference – held this year in Memphis, Tennessee, the award was presented at CWPT's 7th annual awards ceremony and dinner banquet on Saturday, April 22, 2006. Accepting the award for the CDCWRT were board members, Rosemary Nichols and J.J. Jennings.

After receiving the crystal plaque, the dynamic duo handed President James Lighthizer, a check for $2000, and issued a challenge to all the round tables in the country to donate $5/member to CWPT before the next annual meeting. That alone could raise $100,000 additional funds for the purchase of battlefield land, almost all of which will be gone within the next five years.

UP-COMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 20th, is the Annual Open House at Peeples Island, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This is the NYS historical preservation facility, which is open to the public with demonstrations on how various artifacts are preserved and restored. The CDCWRT and various other preservation groups are invited to have information tables at the open house. Volunteers are needed, and should contact Sue Knost.

Take 787 to Cohoes, turn right onto route 470 (Ontario St.), turn left onto Delaware Ave. just before the bridge over the Hudson. The facility is one mile down the road. Look for the brown road signs.

On June 9th, Friday, the guest speaker for the CDCWRT will be Ron Soodalter. Ron is an author, and his presentation is entitled, *Hanging Captain Gordon.* Slave trafficking was a capital offense for 42 years. Yet only one man was hanged in that time. Why was Gordon that man? Ron's presentation will focus not only on the Gordon case, but on the government's continued refusal to enforce its own laws

prohibiting the slave trade. He will cover the period, the laws, the city that was the epicenter of the slave trade in the U.S. **(namely New York!),** and President Lincoln's involvement in the case, as well as his views on slavery itself and the slave trade (which were different).

June 10-11, Saturday and Sunday, mark the 14th Annual Peterboro Civil War Weekend in Peterboro on route 20 between Utica and Syracuse. There will be a soldiers' encampment, period entertainment and performances, Civil War music, and crafts. There will be walking tours of the Gerrit Smith National Historic Landmark and Heritage NY Underground Railroad sites. There will be a skirmish on Saturday and Sunday, and a Blue and Gray Ball Saturday night. Our RT and other groups have information tables at this event, and a special postal cancellation will be available.

June 24-25, Saturday and Sunday, marks the 10th Annual Civil War Encampment at Prospect Park, Troy, NY. This is hosted by the 77th NYVI. There will be skirmishes each day, including artillery. The CDCWRT and the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway Museum will have displays and a special postal cancellation. Breakfast is available both days and a dinner is available on Saturday. This event was previously held at the King Solomon Masonic Temple in Troy, but had outgrown the site. This is becoming a great local event that deserves our support.

July 1-3, Saturday – Monday, marks the 143rd Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. These are the same dates as the original battle in 1863. The re-enactment is entitled, *High Tide of the Confederacy – Turning Point of the Civil War.* There will be battle scenarios every day, as well as walks on the battlefield with Park Service Rangers. This is a major event for the CDCWRT. Volunteers are needed. Plan ahead now, since rooms are very limited in motels for this event. Info is at www.gettysburgreenactment.com.

The weekend of July 28-30 marks the Induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY. The CDCWRT usually has tables for sale of postal cachets and other items at this event. Details will follow in later newsletters.

THE FALL TRIP

Our fall trip to Civil War Philadelphia is scheduled for **Columbus Day weekend**, leaving Friday, October 6th, and returning on Monday, October 9th. We would travel by Brown Bus Company. The complete cost would be **$549.** A solid commitment of 25 is needed. A non-refundable **deposit of $100 will be required by Friday. June 9th.** If we do not have the necessary numbers and deposits by the deadline date, deposits will be refunded, and the trip scrubbed.

The tour will include so Revolutionary War sites such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, and Valley Forge. Civil War sites will include the Civil War Museum and Hancock's final resting place. Both Meade and Hancock will be featured on this tour.

MISCELLANEOUS

There is $2894.86 in the general account, and $4703.65 in the preservation account. Jewelry will be available at the May meeting in time for Mothers Day. The trip to the Seward House, Tubman Museum and Women's' Suffrage Museum was a great overnight trip. This can be a day trip for the summertime.