

The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

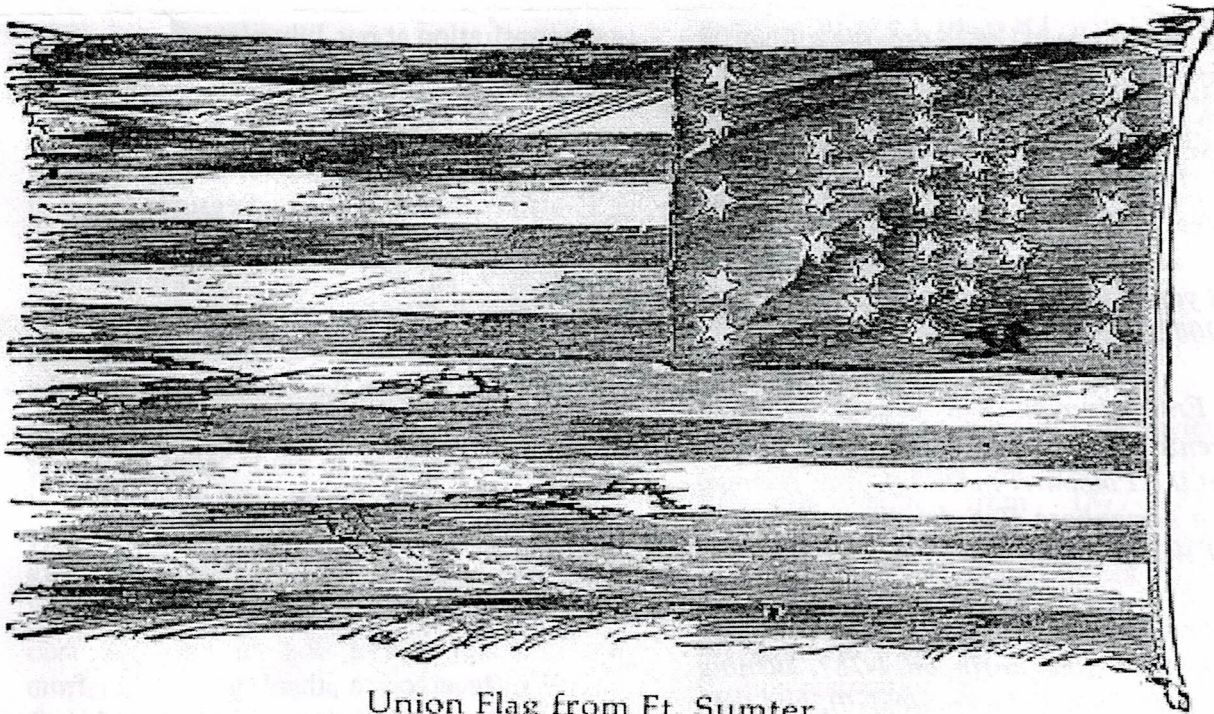
Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

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

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Union Flag from Ft. Sumter

**July Picnic
Sunday 07/14/02**

RAIN OR SHINE

**PEEBLES ISLAND
WATERFORD
Mouth of the Mohawk
NOON TO 6:00 PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

The July meeting of the CDCWRT will be held on Sunday, July 14th, at the picnic shelter on Peebles Island. This will be our 6th annual picnic!. The CDCWRT will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, soda, plates and condiments.

Members are asked to provide a favorite summertime dish, or chips and dips, or a salad, or a dessert to share with others. Please bring a serving utensil with your dish. Please contact picnic coordinator, Noreen Underhill at 371-4312, to let her know how many will be attending, and what you will be bringing by Tuesday, July 9th, 2002.

Entertainment will consist of Mike Sperenza and his rope-making machine (a hit at the Potpourri meeting), Ray Wemple and a semaphore flag demonstration, and Civil War foraging on Peebles Island. Rev War gun emplacements and battlements can be seen on the island. The park can be reached heading north on I-787, turning right onto Ontario St. (route 470), and then left on Delaware Ave. just before crossing the Hudson. From Troy, take Second Ave. north to the 112th Street Bridge, crossing the Hudson, and taking the first right onto

Delaware Ave. Brown NYS signs are posted from both directions. The park is about one mile after turning onto Delaware. There will be a small collection of RT items for sale including T-shirts, postal cachets, books, etc.

JUNE MEETING

About seventy members of the RT had the opportunity to hear our own member, Ray Wemple, provide a professional, unique and most informative presentation on the history of the U.S. Signal Corps. Ray demonstrated that *passion*, about which I have spoken in the past. He was worried about doing this presentation, but five minutes into the presentation it was apparent to everyone, that Ray loved the topic, had done a tremendous amount of research on it, and was doing a top-notch job. With his assistant, he signaled, **Hi to CDCWRT**, using the "wigwag" system. Weather permitting, Ray will provide a field demonstration at our July picnic.

BOARD MEETING

The June Board Meeting was held on Thursday, the 20th. The treasurer reported \$3571.65 in the general fund account, and \$4193.19 in the Hennessy Preservation account. Total sales of cachets and T-shirts at Peterboro were \$690, but a supply of the West Point stamps were obtained before the postal rate increase at the end of June makes these stamps hard to find. New members were voted in. There was discussion of some up-coming events (see later). There will not be a July Board meeting, but there will be one in August on the 22nd.

We received a thank-you letter from David Duncan, Director of Membership & Development of the Civil War Preservation Trust.. *"On behalf of CWPT President Jim Lighthizer and the Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to thank you –a thousand times*

over—for your recent extraordinarily generous \$806.00 donation to our campaign to save 232 acres on School House Ridge at Harpers Ferry. --- After the \$8.3-to-\$1 match, your \$806.00 actually leverages \$6,690 for this critical piece of our nation's history.” He added in a hand written note, *“You good folks are a treasure! Also, though you'd like to know that the Shiloh project is on deck!”* This refers to Norm Sebastian's donation through the CDCWRT.

UP-COMING EVENTS

If you are staying in town for July 4th weekend, there will be a Civil War Days event on Saturday and Sunday, July 6th and 7th, at the Troy Masonic Hall on Brunswick Road. There will be an encampment and skirmish re-enactment, along with exhibits and vendors. The RT will be there to do a postal cancellation. Please join us and support local events.

The American Battlefield Protection Program will hold its 6th National Conference on Battlefield Preservation in Albany on August 16-18, 2002 at the Crowne Plaza. This is the only national conference that brings together all professions involved in the many facets of battlefield protection to discuss, exchange, and present ideas that lead to the long-term protection of our nation's historic battlefields. A bus tour of Saratoga National Historic Park and other sites led by **Edwin C. Bearss, NPS Historian Emeritus**, will be offered on August 16th. The bus tour will cost \$35 and include a box lunch. The conference registration fee is \$95 and includes the banquet Saturday night. The speaker will be President, Susan West Montgomery, and the topic will be ***The Politics of Preservation: Making the Case for Battlefield Protection.*** Additional

information is on the website www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp/.

The 140th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam will be celebrated on September 13th-15th near Hagerstown, MD. This is expected to be the largest reenactment event in 2002 with over 15,000 re-enactors expected. CDCWRT will be at this event and volunteers are needed. The RT is holding a block of rooms at the Four Points Sheraton for \$71.00 a night. Some rooms will be available after meeting the needs of volunteers. If you are interested in reserving a room, check with Sue Knost soon. These will be on a first come basis and commitment will be necessary on a first come basis.

After the August break, the September meeting of the CDCWRT will take place on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2002. This change in day is being made to accommodate our speaker, Mark Vinet, who will talk on “Canada and the American Civil War: Prelude to War.” The meeting is scheduled for the Guilderland Library.

The Saratoga Monument in Schuylerville has reopened after 15 years. It was originally built from 1877-1887 to commemorate the surrender of Burgoyne's British Army to American forces under the leadership of Horatio Gates after the battles at Saratoga. The NPS completed a \$2.4 million restoration last year. You can climb the 154-foot tower (188 steps) for a magnificent view of 3 states. The tower is open Wednesdays to Sundays from 9:30am to 4:30pm.