



*The Dispatch*  
Newspaper of the

## CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

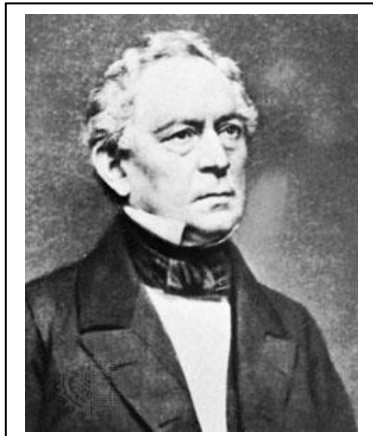
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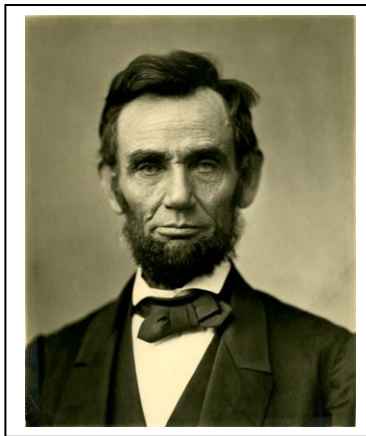
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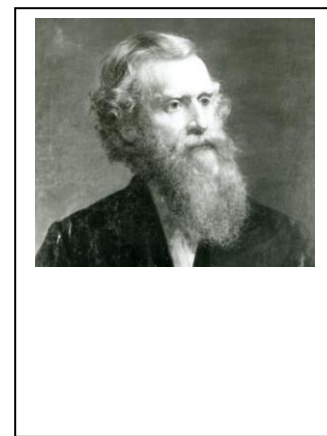
# DEDICATION OF CEMETERY TOMORROW EVERTT AND OTHERS TO SPEAK PRESIDENT TO SAY A FEW WORDS



EDWARD EVERTT



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



CHARLES ANDERSON

*AP – Gettysburg – November 18, 1863*

The consecration of the Soldiers' National Cemetery will occur tomorrow, November 19<sup>th</sup>. A crowd of over ten thousand is expected, along with governors of six states. The remains of over 1200 Union soldiers have already been reinterred in the cemetery. President Lincoln is expected to arrive tonight by train from Washington, and will stay at the home of David Wills, a local lawyer who organized the cemetery's creation.

World-renowned orator, Edward Everett will be the keynote speaker. The President was recently invited to say a few dedicatory remarks. The ceremony will begin around noon and will include music by Birgfield's band and the Marine band. The Baltimore Glee Club will sing a hymn written for the occasion, and a dirge.

# NOVEMBER MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER

1541 BROADWAY

WATERVLIET, NY

## The Lost Gettysburg Address

By Dave Dixon

Social Hour	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Presentation	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Questions & Answers	8:00 – 8:30 p.m.

*The regular meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Watervliet Senior Center on Friday, November 10, 2017. Our special guest speaker will be Dave Dixon, and the topic of his presentation is “The Lost Gettysburg Address.”*

*Few Civil War followers remember Edward Everett's oration that preceded Lincoln's masterpiece, but hardly anyone is aware of Kentucky native Charles Anderson's oration, which concluded the day's events. In his new book, Dixon recounts the unusual life story of Charles Anderson, a slave owner who sacrificed nearly everything to help Lincoln save the Union. Anderson's speech, which followed Lincoln's at*

*Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, remained lost for nearly 150 years until it was discovered recently. A transcript of this speech, along with rare photographs and a hand-drawn map of the Stones River battlefield, are all published in Dixon's book for the first time.*

*David Dixon earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California and his M.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts. He spent 35 years in marketing with Fortune 500 companies. David published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most have focused on black history and Union supporters in the Civil War South. David has since spoken at the 2016 Sacred Trust Talks at the Gettysburg, been interviewed on Civil War Talk Radio and has made appearances at historical societies, libraries, conferences, and private clubs across the country. He is one of the most popular speakers on the Civil War Round Table circuit.*

## TIME-LIFE CIVIL WAR BOOKS

A complete, 28-volume set of the Time-Life books (including index volume) is being offered for \$90 by Susan Wehner, 1630 New Scotland Rd, Slingerlands, NY. Susan was a docent at the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga. She is selling this set, and is donating other books to the CDCWRT. She can be reached at (518)461-0139 or by email at [susanwehner881@gmail.com](mailto:susanwehner881@gmail.com).

## UP-COMING MEETING/EVENTS

On Friday, December 8, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will be held in the usual location. The speaker is Pam Vittorio who will talk about an Erie Canal and the Civil War topic.

## MEN AROUND TOWN



John Hennessy, founding and lifetime member of CDCWRT, is NPS historian at Fredericksburg, VA where Matt George had a battlefield tour.



JJ Jennings is at the recently restored headquarters of R.E. Lee at Gettysburg. He is pointing to the recognition of the CDCWRT in funding this project.

## BUFORD'S VIEW – NOVEMBER 2017

As promised, I will conclude my look at the Confederate Monument controversy with some final thoughts from Eric Foner's book *Battles For Freedom (2017)*. Again this book is a collection of essays written from 1977 through 2017. Foner's comments have come from an essay he wrote in 1999. As I have previously mentioned things have progressed since then. Both Foner and Vermont historian and Professor, Richard Loewen, note that there have been recent efforts to "diversify and modernize public history."

At the time Foner wrote this essay, he mentioned that Gettysburg was just beginning to abandon its neo-Confederate view of the Civil War. The park's directors have now developed "an ambitious plan to place military events there in the context of the era's social and political history, including the history of slavery." Now, in 2017, most of us have seen the new visitor's center and are aware that this plan has been realized. However, Foner said, "ultimately, public monuments are built by those with sufficient power to determine which parts of history are worth commemorating and what vision of history should be conveyed." Again, writing in 1999, Foner said "powerful forces remain resistant to change...."

One wonders to what degree these forces still remain today as powerful influences on public history particularly below the Mason-Dixon Line? Foner

believes that in regards to “the racism so powerfully embedded in our public history, what is surprising is not that monuments and markers erected a century ago reflect the views of the Jim Crow era, but that so many Americans remain wedded to these representations.” Foner makes the final point that it “is not that every monument to a slave holder ought to be dismantled but that existing historical sites must be revised to convey a more complex and honest view of our past, and that the statues of black Civil War soldiers, slave rebels, civil rights activists and the like should share public space with Confederate generals and klansmen, all of them part of American history.”

On October 5, Union College professors Kenneth Aslakson and Melinda Lawson (who will be speaking to our Round Table next year) held an open discussion forum on campus for students and anybody else called “The History of Confederate Monuments in the United States and the Lost Cause Ideology.” I talked to Professor Aslakson earlier this week. Ken said that the event was very successful and well attended. In fact it was such a success that they are hoping to do it again. They are not sure whether it will be on or off campus.

The professors both noted that the first surge of monument erection came just after the 1896 Supreme Court decision of Plessy vs Ferguson and the beginning of Jim Crow. The discussion included the most recent Dylan Roof trial and the Charlottesville white supremacist rally.

Ken concluded that “in both (time periods) the purpose is to assert a white supremacy.” In short, it seems the more important question should not be what heritage is not being preserved, but rather what is being promoted to the exclusion of anything else. One more final note: our own Round Table board member Mark Koziol was once a student of the Vermont history professor, Richard Loewen mentioned earlier.

Yesterday I attended the Capital District Council for the Social Studies mini-Conference at Bethlehem High School. I represented the Round Table as both a vendor and a presenter of the benefits of “using living history in the classroom.” As a result, I have been asked to do my Civil War Living History presentation to as many as three schools in the area.

I’m also taking a six week (meeting every other week) reading/discussion class at the Schenectady County Historical Society on the Women’s Rights Movement. The facilitator is Professor Foroughi whom you might remember was a speaker at our Conference a few years ago. Earlier this year, in the spring, the role was reversed in that I was the facilitator in the same type of reading class. Only it was, of course, on the Civil War. These programs are funded by a NYS Department of Humanities grant.

The book we are assigned to read this week is a biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton who had many local connections. She applied to Union College but was not accepted because she was a woman so she went Emma Willard in Troy. Her husband was a major abolitionist speaker.

In the last 5 weeks I’ve attended three excellent Civil War Conferences in Virginia. The first was a highly successful Organization meeting of Civil War Round Tables across the country. It was held in Centreville, Virginia. There were Round Tables represented from places like Puget Sound, State of Washington to Scottsdale, Arizona. It was so successful they plan to do it again next year.

For the past 5 or 6 years, I went to the Mosby Heritage Conference on Studies in Command. This year the topic was Harper’s Ferry and South Mountain. The tours were excellent and the speakers outstanding. They included Dennis Fry, Eric Wittenburg, Tom Clemens, John Hoptak, Ted Alexander, and Bob Krick. Gordon Rhea was there to

sell and sign his new book, *On To Petersburg*, the final book in his series on the Overland Campaign. Dennis Fry and Eric Witten-burg led the tours of Harper's Ferry and South Mountain. We were in places that were never before available.

Finally, Rosemary Nichols, J.J. Jennings and me were at the C.W.T. Conference at Fredericksburg. I had two superior tours. The first was a tour of the Brandy Station battlefield by our good friend Bud Hall, and the second was a tour of historic Civil War Fredericksburg (including the Chatham House and shoreline departure point of the pontoon boats) by our own John Hennessey. John was a founding member of our Round Table and is a life time member.

Finally, in early November the head of the Puget Sound Civil War Round Table, Mike Movius, will be visiting the Capital District area. He will be free on the weekend of the 4 & 5. He asked to visit various Civil War sites and venues in the area. We are, of course, more than happy to oblige. We hope to travel to places like the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga, the Grant Cottage on Mt. McGregor, the Abner Doubleday house in Ballston Spa, the Burden Iron Works in Troy, the Stephen Myers house in Albany, and others.

## WHY WERE THEY CALLED DOUGHBOYS?

For us today, and maybe for all Americans who will follow, the Doughboys were the men America sent to France in the Great War, who licked Kaiser Bill and fought to make the world safe for Democracy. The expression *doughboy*, though, was in wide circulation a century before the First World War in both Britain and America, albeit with some very different meanings. Horatio Nelson's sailors and Wellington's soldiers in Spain, for instance, were both familiar with fried flour dumplings called doughboys, the predecessor of the modern doughnut that both we and the Doughboys of World War I

came to love. Because of the occasional contact of the two nations' armed forces and transatlantic migration, it seems likely that this usage was known to the members of the U.S. Army by the early 19th century.

Independently, however, in the former colonies, the term had come to be applied to baker's young apprentices, i.e. dough-boys. Again, American soldiers probably were familiar with this usage, but were also possibly inclined to use it in a mocking fashion. The New World version of *doughboy* was a linguistic cousin to "dough-head", a colloquialism for stupidity in 19th-century America. In *Moby Dick*, Melville nicknames the timorous cabin steward "Doughboy." This important 19th-century literary usage suggests a negative comparison of the steward's pale face to the darker faces of the sunburnt whalers and "savage" harpooners. When *doughboy* was finally to find a home with the U.S. Army it initially had a similar disparaging connotation, used most often by cavalrymen looking down [quite literally] on the foot-bound infantry.

There is, however, an absence of literary citations clearly connecting either to the American military. *Doughboy* as applied to the infantry of the U.S. Army first appears, without any precedent that can be documented, in accounts of the Mexican-American War of 1846–47.

Several sources from the war with Mexico showing *doughboy* to be a nickname for infantrymen including:

*We "doughboys" had to wait for the artillery to get their carriages over.* **N.J.T. Dana [An infantryman]**

*No man of any spirit and ambition would join the "Doughboys" and go afoot.* **S. Chamberlain [A Dragoon]**

Sources like these clearly put to rest both the oft-stated proposition that *doughboy* as we mean it here was first applied in the Civil War and also the wilder suggestion that the usage was somehow a creation of the noted "Cavalry Couple", General and Mrs. George

Armstrong Custer. Both the Civil War and the Custers did help in spreading the use of *doughboy*. Clearly from the number of Civil War citations that can be identified, the term became known to a much wider audience because of the size and scope of the later conflict. The Custers, being the shameless self-promoters they were, probably can be credited for popularizing it as well because of its appearance in their published letters.

Somewhere, however, on the march back from Mexico's Halls of Montezuma, any definitive evidence explaining the new use of *doughboy* was waylaid. For the next 150 years lexicographers from *The American Language* to the editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary* would speculate on the reasons for the labeling of U.S. infantrymen as doughboys. Despite their distinguished credentials, these authoritative sources, all have the same dual problem as the present writer: there are just not a lot of reliable primary sources from that period and, of course, none of us were there. Absent the discovery of new material from the 1840s, an exploration into the origins of *doughboy* has but one way to proceed—looking at the pros and cons of the plausible theories and weighing the evidence. There are four such explanations each with their school of advocates, each with weaknesses in either evidence or logic.

**The Baked Goods Theory:** One suggestion is that Doughboys were named such because of their method of cooking their rations. Meals were often doughy flour and rice concoctions either baked in the ashes of a camp fire or shaped around a bayonet and cooked over the flames. This interpretation also suggests the baker's helper tradition of doughboy. This has to be taken with some reservations, however. The weakness of the "Baked Goods" theory lies in the question as to why this would come to only apply to the infantry. Did artillery gunners and quartermasters prepare their food differently? Were the infantry the only soldiers who had to cook their own food in the field?

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**The Button Theory:** Adherents of this theory hold that U.S. infantrymen wore coats with unique, globular brass buttons. These buttons are said to be reminiscent of the doughboy dumplings eaten by the soldiers and sailors of earlier days and which possibly had become part of American cuisine. In another variation, drawing additionally on the Baked Goods Theory, it is said that the product of the infantrymen's cooking efforts came to resemble the buttons on their uniforms. When I originally published this article, I could find no photos or illustration clearly showing the buttons on U.S. infantry uniforms, c. 1840s. In February 2002 I was contacted by a museum which displays military uniforms, informing me that US infantry uniforms of the period did, indeed, have globular buttons. But even if the claims about uniform buttons are validated, there is still a lack of primary evidence backing up the usage of *doughboy* in accordance with this line of thinking.

**The Pipe Clay Theory:** During the 19th century American enlisted men used a fine whitish clay called pipe clay to give "polish" to their uniforms and belts. It was a less than perfect appearance enhancer, however; in rainy weather the saturated clay came to look "doughy". Infantrymen would be more vulnerable to this effect as their comrades kicked up mud and dirty water from the many puddles they would march through. One reader has offered a variation on this from the memoirs of General Tasker Bliss. The general writes that flour [dough?] was used for this whitening function by the infantrymen along the Texas border from where the invasion of Mexico was launched.

The Pipe Clay theory, championed in the 20th century by Mr. Henry Mencken, has plausibility, but lacks documentation. [General Bliss's variation is a singular report that might have been subject to distortion over time, so it also needs corroboration.] On the main point, shouldn't there be some description of troops marching in the rain, looking "doughy", to support this? Besides, the routes the infantry took in Mexico tended

to be dry and dusty rather than wet and muddy and this leads us to the final of the four theories.

**The Adobe Theory:** In a nutshell—in marching over the parched terrain of the deserts of Northern Mexico the infantry stirred up so much dust that they took on the look of the adobe buildings of the region—hence, [after a few phonetic adjustments] *doughboys*. The cavalry-men who rode horses, the artillerists who rode caissons, and the quartermasters who rode wagons were all mounted above the worst of the dust cloud. It is also easy to visualize them collectively indulging in a little disparagement at the expense of their suffering colleagues. This theory has possibly the best "fit" to the facts of the campaign in Mexico as known, yet it has no backing from the historical record. It appears to be the product strictly of 20th-century speculation. Nevertheless, it is the favorite theory of *doughboy* chronicler Laurence Stallings and of this writer too.

For the next 70 years following General Scott's capture of Mexico City, *doughboy*, despite its uncertain origins, was used—sometimes mockingly—as a nickname for the American infantryman. It appears in firsthand accounts from the Civil War, the campaigns on the frontier and the Philippine Insurrection. "Doughboy Drill" became synonymous with close-order infantry drill and supplies of prophylactics for soldiers on pass became known as "Doughboy Kits."

Yet when the Great War and America's entry into it came, the usage of *doughboy* changed dramatically and we are left with some additional *doughboy* mysteries. Somehow, in a mere 19 months, *Doughboy* became the universally popular nickname of all the American troops sent to Europe pushing "Yanks" [recall that in the hit song "Over There" it was the "Yanks" who were coming...] and the newspaper publisher's inspiration of the moment, "Sammies", [after Uncle Sam] to the sideline.

Most interestingly, in World War I, *doughboy* became generalized in application, no longer limited to the infantry. All the army combat branches, aviators, logistical support troops and even the U.S. Marines [to their chagrin] were individually and collectively labeled *Doughboys*.

It seems to have been a bottoms up movement. In their letters home and their diaries volunteers, draftees and national guardsmen of every specialty just began referring to themselves as *Doughboys*. Their overseas newspaper, ***Stars & Stripes***, freely used and advocated the term as well. I was also shown a quote recently indicating that General William Siebert, influential first commander of the 1st Division and later chief of the Chemical Warfare Service, strongly encouraged the usage of *doughboy*.

And there is one final puzzle or maybe a bit of magic about the use of *doughboy* from the Great War up to today. *Doughboy* came to belong exclusively to the 4.7 million Americans who served in the Great War. The Army continued using some of the slang terms like "Doughboy Drill," but the troops of the 1920s and '30s, for the most part, did not use the term to describe themselves, nor did the public. In the Second World War the Doughboys' sons called to arms in stupendous numbers would be alternately known as the Yanks and GIs. Possibly the sad Bonus Marcher incident of the early 1930s [the veterans were all former Doughboys] played a role in de-popularizing the usage, but maybe America just decided the name "belonged" to the boys of the First World War.

***Thanks to Edward Thomas in "Roads to the Great War," October 1, 2017.***

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*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 \$30. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.*

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