



The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



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JOHN BROWN CIRCA 1856



BROWN FARM IN NORTH ELBA



I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood. I had, as I now think, vainly flattered myself that without very much bloodshed it might be done.

John Brown on his way to the gallows

John Brown began the war that ended American slavery and made this a free Republic. His zeal in the cause of freedom was infinitely superior to mine. Mine was the taper light; his was the burning sun. I could live for the slave; John Brown could die for him.

Frederick Douglas

MAY MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER

1541 BROADWAY

WATERVLIET, NY

**Mary Day Brown:
Times of Trouble**

By Sandra Weber

David Hodges

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, May 12, 2017. We will have two presenters in this unique performance. Sandra Weber will portray Mary Day Brown, the wife of the fierce abolitionist, John Brown. Her first person presentation will be accompanied by musician, David Hodges.

Sandra Weber and David Hodges, in period costume, weave narrative and song to present the life of Mary Brown. The poignant piece shows the significant role this plain woman played as the wife of radical abolitionist John Brown. It presents Mary's early life and marriage, as well as the later tragedies of bankruptcy, accidents, and death. The ending of the program focuses on the aftermath of the Harpers Ferry raid when Mary faced her hardest times of trouble.

Like most women of the 1800s, Mary Brown

remains in the shadow of her husband, radical abolitionist John Brown. The roles of Mary as wife, mother, nurse, head of household, confidante, and abolitionist have gone unexplored and unrecognized. The aim is to bring alive the persona of Mary, through her words and the words of those who knew her. We want you to meet her – and recognize her place in history.

Sandra Weber brings to the program ten years of research on Mary Brown. She has collected letters written by Mary to family, friends, editors of major newspapers, and prominent figures. In addition, she has examined Mary Brown literature; John Brown biographies and letters; and diaries, letters, and interviews of people who met Mary.

*Sandra Weber is an author, storyteller, and independent scholar with interests in the Adirondack region, Mary and John Brown, and women's history. Her publishing credits include ten books and numerous articles in journals such as *Civil War Times*, *Adirondack Life*, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, *History News Network*, *Adirondack Almanack*, and *Highlights for Children*. Sandra has presented lectures and dramatic portrayals throughout New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.*

*David Hodges has been playing guitar and bass for more than twenty years. He has performed with several bands throughout New York, Texas and Pennsylvania and recorded CDs with *Mad Factory* and *Evil Twin*. David currently plays with several bands in the North Country region.*



UP-COMING MEETING/EVENTS.

On Friday, June 9, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Amy Bracewell who will talk about Battlefield Preservation at Cedar Creek and Saratoga.

On Friday, September 8, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Ron Beaver who will talk about Civil War Railroads.

On Friday, October 13, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Judee Synakowski who will talk about Mary Todd Lincoln.

On Friday, November 10, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Dave Dixon who will talk about the Lost Gettysburg Address.

SPECIAL BOOK SALE!

The CDCWRT is sponsoring a special book sale at the JUNE meeting. Members can bring their own books to sell (the books do not need to be limited to the Civil War) so members can clean out some of their collections. Details of the sale will be announced at the May meeting. Members will need to register in advance by sending Round Table President, Erin Baillargeon, an email (embailargeon@hotmail.com and subject should be "CDCWRT books") so we know how many tables to set up. We ask that members donate a small percentage of their sales to the Round Table.

This will be a chance to clear out those shelves of the five books you bought several years ago about Teddy Roosevelt. You can then buy at a great price five new books about George Washington!

BUFORD'S VIEW – MAY

(A column by our Program Chair by Matt George.)

The Round Table will be represented at The Ten Broeck Mansion's Living History Day on

Sunday, May 7, from 12 noon to 4:00 PM. Anyone wishing to help, let me know. It is usually fairly well attended when the weather is decent. The live sheep shearing is always a big hit with kids.

Our April meeting was very well attended with 40 or more attendees. Terri Olszowy's talk on the Elmira Prison Camp was well presented and the Quality Inn did an excellent job in providing a room for us on short notice. We reportedly made \$85.00 on the book raffle.

The May meetings promise to be very entertaining. Sandra Weber is an author and a well-known storyteller, and David Hodges is an accomplished bass and guitar player. They will be giving a dramatic performance of the life of Mary Brown, wife of abolitionist John Brown.

The national meeting of Civil War Round Tables this September is drawing an increasing number of attendees. Matt George and Rosemary Nichols will be attending representing our Round Table. Also attending will be Regina Daly representing not only our Round Table but, also the Brunswick CWRT where she is also a member. There will be a representative attending from our friends at the Connecticut Civil War Round Table in Torrington.

The Reading/Discussion Program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities that was held in the Ravena/ Coeymans/ Selkirk Library ended this past Thursday. It finished on a much improved note in regards to attendance. The last two weeks we had 7 people attending. As a result of this 5 week program our Round Table will realize a \$750.00 donation. In addition, one of the attendees bought a shirt for \$20.00.

On Monday, June 5th I'll be giving my presentation on the Life of a Civil War Soldier to middle school students at the Robert C. Parker School in Wyantskill. Finally, a number of Round Table members will be attending the Civil War Trust Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee from June 7 to June 11.

**CDCWRT
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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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