



# The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

## CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

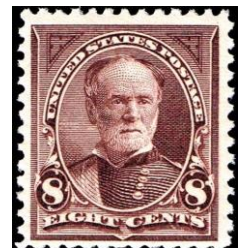
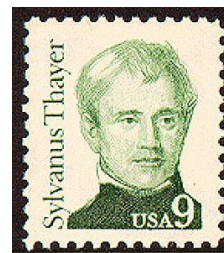
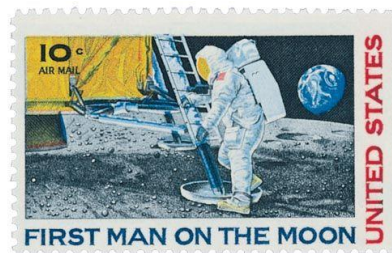
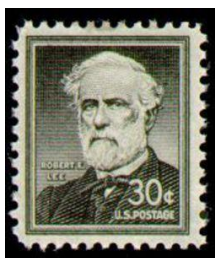
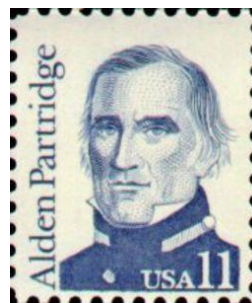
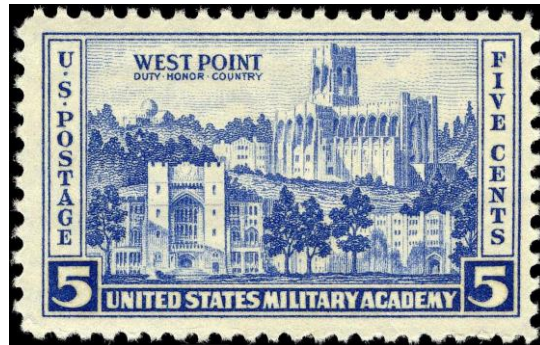
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### WEST POINT AND STAMPS



# NOVEMBER MEETING

Friday, November 9, 2018

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER

1541 BROADWAY

WATERVLIET, NY

**Patriot Fires: Forging a New  
American Nationalism in the  
Civil War North**

**Professor Melinda Lawson**

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 9, 2018. Our guest speaker will be Melinda Lawson, and the title of her presentation is, “Patriot Fires: Forging a New American Nationalism in the Civil War North.”*

*The Civil War is often credited with giving birth to the modern American state. The demands of warfare led to the centralization of business and industry and to an unprecedented expansion of federal power. But the Civil War did more than that. It brought about a change in American national identity, redefining the*

*relationship between the individual and the government.*

*When threatened by the rebellious South, the North came together as a nation and mobilized its populace for war. With no formal government office to rally citizens, the job of defining the war in patriotic terms fell largely to private individuals or associations, each with their own motives and methods. Through efforts such as sanitary fairs to promote the welfare of soldiers, the war bond drives of Jay Cooke, and the establishment of Union Leagues, Northerners cultivated a new sense of patriotism rooted not just in the subjective American idea, but in existing religious, political, and cultural values. Moreover, Democrats and Republicans, Abolitionists, and Abraham Lincoln created their own understandings of American patriotism and national identity.*

*Professor Lawson is Lecturer and Director of the Public History Program at Union College. She has a Ph.D. from Columbia University. In 2002 her book, Patriot Fires: Forging a New American Nationalism in the Civil War North, was published by University Press of Kansas. It is part of the American Political Thought series.*



## BOARD MEETING & MORE

The board met on September 24, 2018. The Treasurer reported \$841.53 in the regular account and \$2,934.46 in the preservation account. There will be a planned discussion with the general membership concerning an increase in dues to \$35 for 2019.

To be clear, the regular account is funded primarily by annual dues and this covers fees related to speakers and printing and mailing of newsletters as the main expenses. The preservation account is primarily funded by the sale of postal cachets. The Board decides if a donation should be made to a specific preservation activity. Historically, most preservation donations have been made to help purchase battlefield land through national organization such as the American Battlefield Trust (formerly the Civil War Trust, CW Preservation Trust, APCWS). The legacy of the CDCWRT is the amount of monies donated. Preservation funds have not been used to fund 'regular' round table activities.

Recent examples of preservation funding include \$95 from the Clarksville History Day, \$460 from the Grant Cottage Civil War event, \$113 from the Schuyler Flatts event, and even \$166 from the sale of cachets to Southern customers in North Carolina and Alabama.

The \$834 from those events would require 28 more members to our round table to generate the same income from dues. Hence the discrepancy between the two accounts. Please keep that in mind when dues are discussed.

## WEST POINT STAMPS

I recently sold the last CDCWRT-designed cachet that pictured a Civil War general officer who was a graduate of West Point. There were 21 generals in the set, and the stamp used on the envelopes was the emblem of West Point that is at the main-gate entrance of the Academy. If memory serves me, we used 500 envelopes for each of the "popular" generals (Lee, Jackson, Grant) and 100 to 250 of the "lesser" generals. The new West Point stamp was placed on each envelope, and they were cancelled as "First Day of Issue."

The last envelope that was in my box of unsold, previous cancellations was that of Gen. Henry Heth, who "started" the Battle of Gettysburg. This got me thinking of what other U.S.P.S. postage stamps deal with West Point. I was familiar with the 1937 stamp of West Point buildings, but I decided to track down other stamps that depicted graduates of the academy. Here's the story.

On Saturday, March 16, 2002 the Post Office and the US Mint unveiled a new West Point Bicentennial stamp and coin. A First Day of Issue postmark was available at the Eisenhower Theater. Despite the fact that 55 million stamps were printed, the majority of the public never saw the stamp, and many post offices never made the stamp available. Small numbers of envelopes were canceled at West Point. Why, you ask?

Six months earlier, 9/11 had occurred, and security at West Point was extremely tight. So there was essentially no general public allowed on the grounds. In addition, the stamp was a 34-cent



stamp in a sheet of 20 stamps. However a postal rate increase to 37-cents was scheduled to take effect on 6/30/2002. There-after if one wanted to use the West Point stamp on first-class mail, an additional 3-cent stamp was needed. Hence post offices tended to not order the new stamp. Also in 2002, unused commemorative stamps were returned to postal stamp headquarters a year after they were released. The unused stamps were destroyed. This whole process involved a substantial amount of book-keeping for each post office. Post offices thus tended to order small amounts of commemoratives which would then be sold out before the year was up, avoiding the return policy. The switch to the "forever" stamps has eliminated this costly procedure. Hence, even though 55 million West Point stamps were printed, only a smaller number were used and were seen by the public.

There have been a few institutions of high learning that have appeared on postage stamps. But in at least one respect, the United States Military Academy at West Point can claim an advantage over any other institution of higher learning in the percentage of its graduates who have appeared on postage stamps of the world. Thirty-two West Pointers have been pictured on stamps, including thirty graduates and two other distinguished attendees of the academy -- Edgar Allan Poe and James (Abbott) McNeill Whistler -- who never finished the curriculum.

The senior West Point graduate honored on postage stamps is Alden Partridge of Vermont, class of 1806, an early superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, the founder of Norwich University in Vermont, and the father of the Reserve Officers Training Corps

(ROTC) system in the United States. He appears on a stamp in the current U.S. Great Americans Series. The second senior graduate is Sylvanus Thayer of Massachusetts, class of 1808, who succeeded Partridge as West Point superintendent in 1817 and served in that capacity until 1833. His methods of teaching and training cadets are still in use at West Point, and he generally is considered the "Father of the Military Academy." He, too, appears on one of the Great Americans Series stamps.

Third in seniority among West Point graduates honored on stamps is Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, class of 1828, who later became president of the Confederacy. He appears on two U.S. and eight Confederate stamps. Robert Edward Lee, class of 1829, was general-in-chief of Confederate Armies during the American Civil War, and most USMA graduates consider him the epitome of West Point honor and valor. His likeness appears on five U.S. stamps.

Montgomery Blair, class of 1835, is an interesting West Point graduate. He is honored on one U.S. and one Belgian stamp for his role in developing the Universal Postal Union (UPU) while serving as U.S. postmaster general from 1861 to 1864. One member of the Academy's class of 1840 has been honored on stamps. William Tecumseh Sherman of Ohio, Union general, appears on eight stamps of the United States, Guam, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico.

Ulysses Simpson Grant, class of 1843, commander-in-chief of Union forces during the American Civil War and eighteenth president of the United States, is pictured on thirty-seven stamps of the United States and its possessions.

He also is shown on two stamps of Portuguese Guinea and on one stamp each of Liberia and St. Vincent.

The American Civil War also accounts for the next two graduates of the U.S. Military Academy to appear on stamps. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, class of 1846, was Lee's ablest lieutenant; Philip Henry Sheridan, class of 1853, was Grant's cavalry leader. Both appear on stamps of the U.S. Army-Navy Series of 1936, along with Lee, Sherman, and Grant. Jackson, Lee, and Jefferson Davis also appear on the 1970 Stone Mountain issue and the 1995 Civil War collection of twenty stamps.

All of the next group of USMA graduates to appear on stamps were members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and all were involved in the building of the Panama Canal, a construction project that spanned a decade, 1904-14. George Washington Goethals, class of 1880 and chief engineer of the Panama Canal project, is shown on one U.S. and fourteen Canal Zone stamps. His subordinates, Harry F. Hodges, class of 1881; and David Gaillard, who gave his life to the canal, and William L. Sibert, both class of 1884, appear on a total of eight Canal Zone stamps.

Douglas MacArthur, class of 1903 and the youngest American brigadier general during World War I, was honored for his World War II service in the Pacific and for his Korean War service on one U.S., one Korean, and nine Philippines stamps. Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold, class of 1907, who built the greatest air force in history during World War II, appears on a stamp of the U.S. Great Americans Series. George Smith Patton Jr., class of 1909, is shown on one U.S., five Belgian, and four Luxembourg stamps for his

World War II service in the European Theater.

Dwight David Eisenhower, class of 1915, is pictured on the postage stamps (at least 37) of more countries than any other USMA graduate. His service as commander-in-chief, Europe and North Africa, during World War II and as thirty-fourth president of the United States has been honored on six stamps from the U.S., one from Brazil, two from Grenada, four from Korea, one from Liberia, one from Monaco, one from Panama, two from the Philippines, six from El Salvador, one from St. Vincent, seven from Togo, four from Uruguay, and one from Gibraltar. Finally, from World War II, Anthony C. McAuliffe, class of 1919, "the hero of Bastogne" is honored on one of the same Belgian stamps that depicts General Patton.

Finally, West Pointers from the classes of 1950 through 1955 who went on to become astronauts appear on a total of forty stamps world-wide. They are: Frank Borman, class of 1950, the first lunar circumnavigator; Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., class of 1951, and Michael Collins, class of 1952, of the first lunar landing team; Edward H. White II, also class of 1952, who gave his life to the astronaut program; and David R. Scott, class of 1954, and Alfred M. Worden, class of 1955, both of the Apollo 15 mission.

Undoubtedly I have missed some other graduates and/or stamps of the one named, but this gives you an idea of the scope of West Point alumni who have been recognized in the world of stamps.

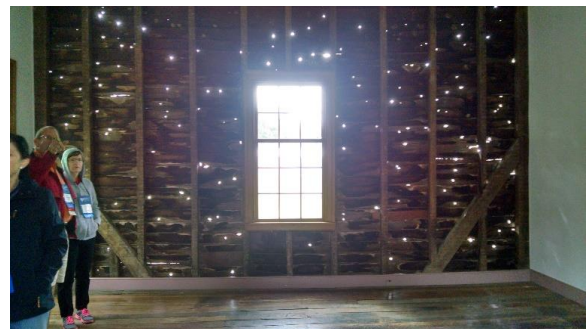
## **BUFORD'S VIEW- NOVEMBER 2018**

I had a great experience this October at 3 Civil War Conferences. The first was the Mosby Heritage Conference on Civil War Command. The topic this year was Antietam. Speakers included Dennis Frye, Brad Gottfried, Kevin Pawlek and longtime friend of our RoundTable, Tom Clemens. The Conference culminated on Sunday with a tour of the Antietam battlefield lead by Tom. Over the last few years a noticeable trend has been a more positive reconsideration of George McClellan by many historians especially Dennis Frye. Pawlek will be speaking to our Round Table later in 2019.



***Irish Brigade Monument at Antietam  
Artist: Ron Tunison  
Former CDCWRT member***

The second weekend in October Round Table members Rosemary Nichols, Al MCleod, J.J. Jennings and myself traveled to Franklin, Tennessee for the Civil War Trust Conference. This is, I believe, the 3<sup>rd</sup> time I've been there. Their recent efforts to preserve and interpret this battlefield have been inspiring. Both pizza shops are gone, more buildings restored and interpreted, lands acquired, foundations uncovered and battle lines marked with new signage. The stark evidence of the slaughter that occurred there is evidenced by the light shining through the hundreds of bullet holes in the Carter farm office which can NOW be seen from the inside.



***Inside of Carter Farm office  
Bullet holes in the wall***

J.J. was able to visit the grave of his Uncle Israel Jennings who was mortally wounded near the Carter house. The prevailing question that still remains is the degree of culpability of General Hood for destroying his army in a senseless attack against extremely strong fortifications. The spectacle of Pickett's charge fades in comparison to the image of a two mile long charge of 20,000 men towards their doom.



***Board-member J.J. Jennings  
Uncle Izzy's grave  
Franklin Battlefield Cemetery***

Finally, I traveled to the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table Symposium in Camden, New Jersey on the Navy in the Civil War. Other than getting lost in Camden for over an hour, it was an interesting and enjoyable Conference. What was unique, was its location. It was held on the Battleship New Jersey. Could there be a better venue to discuss the Navy's role in Civil War than the stern of battleship with a beautiful view of the city of Philadelphia? Chuck Veit was to be one of the speakers. Chuck has spoken to our Round Table many times. Sadly, it was announced he could not make it as he had fallen and seriously injured his head. We were told that it was not thought to be life threatening. Hopefully, Chuck makes a complete recovery. Chuck was replaced by Bruce Tucker who did a first person living history presentation as Admiral Farragut

discussing his role at the battle of Mobile Bay. This presentation was, I thought, the best of the Conference.



***USS New Jersey (BB-62)  
Iowa-class battleship  
9 16-inch caliber Mark 7 guns***

On Nov. 16, J.J. Jennings and I travel to Gettysburg for the Remembrance Day activities and to raise a little money for battlefield preservation. We will return on the 20<sup>th</sup>. On November 27th I will be forced to curtail my activities as I become even more bionic. I am scheduled to get a new titanium right knee and thus my knees will be a matched set. Hope to see everyone on Friday when Union professor Melinda Lawson will discuss her book "Patriot Fires: Forging a New American Nationalism in the Civil War North"

## **THE GREAT WAR**

Don't forget that November 11, 2018 marks the Centennial Anniversary of the end of the "war to end all wars." The last U.S. veteran of WWI died years ago. However many of us older members will remember making donations to veterans groups, and receiving a small, red paper poppy to wear in your lapel button-hole. Very few students today know little about this war. Even our grown-up "children" know little about it. However Great Britain, France, Italy, Australia and Germany will mourn the loss of a generation of men.

**CDCWRT  
P.O. BOX 11493  
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211**

*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 \$35. 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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