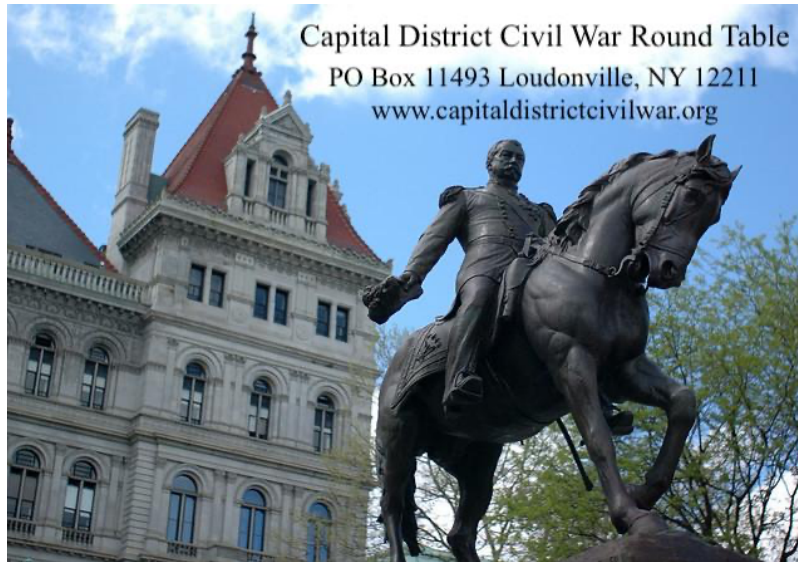


The Dispatch

Volume 42, Number 2

February 2025



FEBRUARY MEETING

Friday, February 14, 2025

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER

**“The Ethnographic Origins of
the 1860 US Cavalry Saber”**
by Daniel Flynn

Social Hour	6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Presentation	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



THIS MONTH'S PRESENTATION



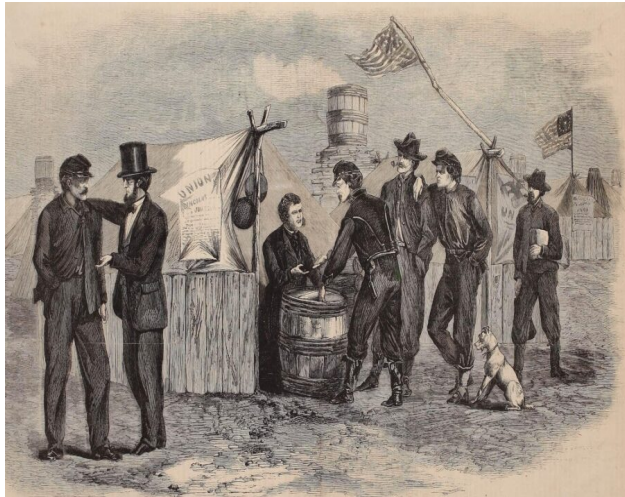
Join us as historian Daniel Flynn presents a talk entitled “*The Ethnographic Origins of the Model 1860 U.S. Light Cavalry Saber*” from its origins in 18th century France and its development into the cavalry swords used from the American Revolution to the Civil War.

Daniel Flynn, originally from Syracuse, New York and a graduate of Buffalo State College, is an avid collector and designer of custom swords.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14: "A Hudson Valley Reckoning"
by Debra Bruno

April 11: *The 77th NY Volunteer Infantry*
by Chris Carola



CDCWRT'S 2025 ELECTIONS

2025 Elections were held at the January meeting. The 2025 Board consists of:

President: Mark Koziol

Vice President: Bruce Reed

Treasurer: Steve Muller

Secretary: Shawn Connery

At-Large: Matt George (Program Chair)

At-Large: Vacant

At-Large: Vacant

2025 MEMBERSHIP INFO

We wish to thank those members who have already renewed memberships for 2025, and especially those members who no longer live locally but continue to

support our organization. Anyone who wishes to renew or join at the meeting may bring the completed form and payment to the meeting, preferably in an envelope so the check and form don't get separated. Memberships and donations can always be mailed to the Round Table's P.O. Box. Donations to the Operating Account and/or Preservation Account are always welcome.

BOARD UPDATE

The Board met on January 13th via Zoom. Much of the meeting was spent finalizing the transition of responsibilities from retiring Board members to other Board members. Another topic of continued discussion was days and times for Round Table meetings. As was discussed at the previous membership meetings, winter meetings on dark Friday nights might inhibit some members from attending. The new Board will continue to discuss alternatives with the membership to grow meeting attendance. There has been no decision to change the currently-scheduled presentations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Preservation Account income included \$131 from the book sale and raffle, \$338.02 in donations, and \$10 in merchandise sales. With no reported expenses, the account stands at \$4273.62.

The Operating Account income included membership dues of \$663.31 (accounting for 20 renewals) and donations.

Total income is \$1723.81, Minus printing costs of \$50, the grand total is \$4114.69.



Membership Form

2025 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Membership Dues All dues go into the Operating Account to pay for newsletters, program expenses, and the use of the meeting space. (circle appropriate level)

Regular memberships can choose between emailed or mailed newsletters.

Regular: \$35

Student memberships come with only emailed newsletters.

Student: \$10

Additional Donation for the Operating Account _____

Donation for the Preservation Account _____

(Preservation money pays for donations to preserve historic sites/lands, rental of the storage shed, and the Round Table's insurance)

Total: _____

Newsletter Preference: Email _____ OR Mailed Copy _____

_____ Email/Mailing address is the same as last year

If not: _____

Please mail your payment to: CDCWRT
P.O. Box 11493
Loudonville, NY 12211-0493

* Early payments will be held and deposited in January.

* Credit/Debit card payments can be made through www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org

Sharing Valentines In The Civil War



In the loneliness and boredom of the front lines, Civil War soldiers of all ranks and affiliations reached out for any and all memories of home. One of the most fraught holidays for such remembrance was Valentine's Day. Whether it was remembering one's spouse, sweetheart, family members or children, sending a valentine on the February holiday was a simple way to remember the missing soldier or homebody with affection or humor.



Sending the loved one a paper memento of your affection became dramatically easier during the Civil War. This success was initially envisioned by a young woman from Massachusetts. Esther Howland (1828–1904) was an artist and entrepreneur who was responsible for popularizing Valentine's Day greeting cards in America.

After she graduated from Mount Holyoke College (then Mount Holyoke Women's Seminary) in 1847, at the age of 19, Howland received a valentine card from a business associate of her father's. The valentine was decorated with an elaborate fine lace border, ornate flower cut-outs and a small pale green envelope in the center that contained a verse appropriate for Valentine's Day. At this time, elaborate Valentine greeting cards were imported from Europe and not affordable to many Americans.

Determined she could make a better card, Howland convinced her father to order supplies from New York City and England. She made a dozen samples that her salesman brother added to his inventory for his next sales trip for their father's business. Hoping for \$200.00 worth of orders, Howland was elated when her brother returned with over \$5,000 worth of business for her.



Howland built a thriving business in Worcester, Massachusetts using an assembly line of friends to copy designs and help construct the cards. In the Howland Residence on Summer Street, a guest bedroom on the third floor was set up for Howland's newly founded business. Howland was in charge of cutting the basic design for the individual valentine while the assembly group was responsible for carefully copying each card. Howland also hired women who had

to work from home by preparing a box with all the materials required.

Howland suffered a knee injury in 1866 that forced her to be in a wheelchair. In 1870, Howland incorporated her business as the New England Valentine Company. She continued to work from her home until 1879 when she moved to a factory.] During that same year, Howland published The New England Valentine Co.'s Valentine Verse Book that consisted of 31 pages. The book was intended for customers who found a beautiful card but didn't like the verse that was inside.



Howland's cards were shipped nationwide and her business eventually grossed over \$100,000 per year.] Howland eventually sold the business to a competitor, George Whitney, in 1880 in order to take care of her sick father. In 1904, Howland fractured a femur and was bedridden for eight months. She died in her home at 9 Adams St in Quincy.

Howland certainly heeded the advice of Mount Holyoke founder Mary Lyon, who urged students to "Go where no one else will go. Do what no one else will do."

For her extraordinary success Howland is known as the "mother of the American valentine." At a time when most women didn't have the opportunity to be employed, let alone lead, Howland founded her card-making business and pioneered an entire industry.

Howland's business thrived throughout her 30-year career. By 1880, the New England Valentine Company was earning over \$100,000 in profits per year (equivalent to \$2.5 million today.)

But what would the poor soldier on the front lines far from home and the neighborhood stationery store do to reciprocate a Valentine. There is at least one charming example of the successful effort of a Confederate soldier who made the most of the material at hand.

In 1862 Confederate soldier Robert King made this basket weave folded card below for his wife from scrounged paper. Opened up it showed two crying lovers. This proved to be a particularly sad foretelling of his death.



BUFORD'S VIEW FEB.2025

Three new books have come that I'm looking forward to starting:

- 1) "The Great Abolitionist - Charles Sumner and the Coming of the Civil War" by Stephen Pileo 2024
- 2) "Boutwell -Radical Republican and Champion of Democracy" by Jeffery Boutwell 2025
- 3) "Religious Strife – How Warring Religious Nationalists Forged

**Lincoln's Union" by Richard
Cawardine 2025**

The Grant Cottage just emailed to let me know their 2025 season will begin in May 2025.



willing to talk to us. Gail Denisoff who is on the staff of the Schenectady County Historical Society has produced a blog post entitled "Schenectady's Own Band of Brothers" The Deforest Family of Rotterdam sent 5 sons (maybe 6) to serve in the Union Army. I'm trying to contact her now to see if she would talk to us about this remarkable family.

**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.

Contact the Capital District Civil War Round Table through
our website: www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org
or email: cdcwrt@hotmail.com

THE OFFICERS

President	Mark Kozial	Vice-President	Bruce Reed
Treasurer	Steve Muller	Secretary	Shawn Connery
At-Large	(open)	At-Large	(open)

THE NONCOMS

Program	Matt George	518-355-2131	Jbuford63@aol.com
Membership	Erin Baillargeon and Steve Muller		
Refreshments	Dean Long and Luanne Whitbeck		
Webmaster			
Education	Matt George		
Newsletter	Shawn Connery & Rosemary Nichols		