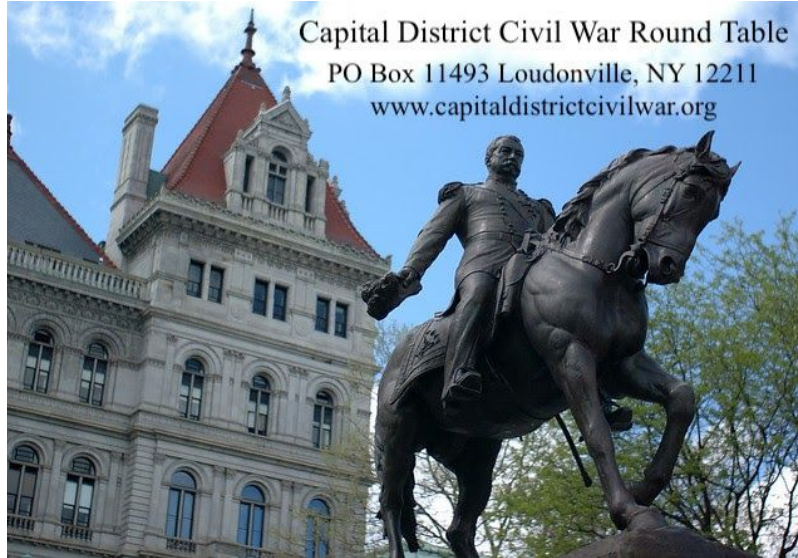


The Dispatch



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June 2020

Social Distancing in the 1860s



A satirical comic pokes fun at the ballooning crinolines of the mid-19th century.

Wikimedia Commons

STATUS UPDATE

We are subject to the New York State reopening parameters due to both the size of our group and our meeting location in a City of Watervliet building. The health of our members take precedence.

We have decided to cancel the June meeting, and we are not having our August picnic.

We hope to have our September 11 meeting, as previously scheduled, and to continue with our fall speakers. Phil Vitiello is slated to speak in September on the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley*.

Program Chair Matt George has speakers scheduled through June, 2021, and he's looking to reschedule our spring speakers: Chris Gwinn, Ralph Siegal, and Brandan Mills.

BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board last met in person on Monday, February 17. Our March meeting was scheduled to take place a few days after Governor Cuomo announced the "NY on Pause" order. We've continued to keep in touch through emails.

We suspended our April and May newsletters to curtail expenses, but we will resume regular newsletters when we resume our meetings.

At-Large member J.J. Jennings continues to monitor our mailbox, and Treasurer Steve Muller sends regular reports on the status of our Operating

and Preservation accounts.

The Operating Account balance is \$2,787.11 after paying the hosting fees for our website. The Preservation Account balance is \$1,899.63, which reflects some sales income from Matt Farina and insurance expenses.

We've held off on making donations, since summer fundraising events have already been canceled. We will discuss new donations in the fall.

You can donate directly to the CDCWRT using the PayPal link on our website (www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org) and make a one-time or recurring monthly donation.

THANK YOU, MEMBERS

The Executive Board would like to thank the following people for their contributions and support: Fran McCashion, Paul and Roberta Van Wagenen, Lee and Cindy Schechter, Leo McGuire, and Matt George.

THANK YOU, NICK!

For the past two years Board member Nick Thony has produced nearly thirty podcasts for the Round Table. (You can find them on our website and through our Facebook page.) He decided he wants to explore other areas of history beyond the Civil War, and so he will produce new podcasts under the name *The History Tavern*. We wish Nick the best with his endeavor and look forward to listening to his new podcasts through SoundCloud or iTunes.

BUFORD'S VIEW

by Matt George

I'm currently reading a good Civil War book called *"Seizing Destiny – The Army of the Potomac's Valley Forge and the Civil War Winter that Saved the Union."* It describes the pivotal winter of 1862 - 1863 between the "Mud March", Burnside's removal, and the appointment of Hooker and Chancellorsville. The authors are Albert Comer Jr. and Chris Mackowski. Our members might remember Chris' wonderful presentation to our Round Table on Spotsylvania a few months ago.

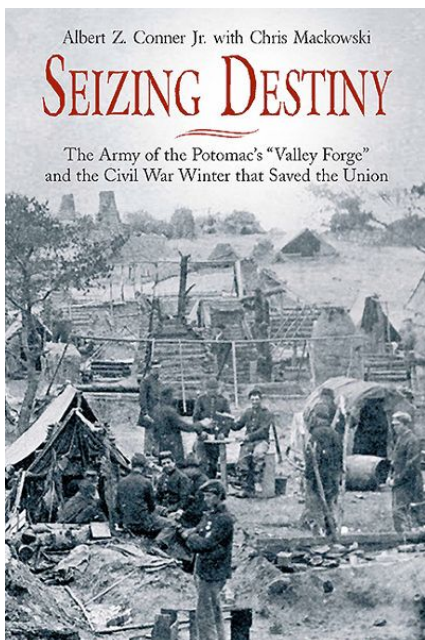
In spite of Hooker's many negative moral and personal attributes, he managed to rebuild the army from bottom up. He initiated vital logistical, ordinance, and administrative reforms. He insisted on proper troop care, rigorous inspections, and multiple drills. Promotions were based on merit. He also streamlined the army's command and control functions. He

organized a new cavalry corps and a better military intelligence organization. He declared war on poor conditions and instilled individual and unit pride (corps patches for example). Hooker's accomplishments "represent nothing less than the greatest non-battle turning point since Valley Forge in the American Revolution".

The Army of the Potomac overcame despair, illness, and demoralization and "seized their destiny and saved the nation through leadership, perseverance, patriotism and faith". This is an excellent look at a period of Civil War history that has not been studied in much detail. It is well researched with many primary sources.

As I type this, the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor's Center and outdoor restrooms are still closed. However, the park itself is open so that if you want to walk around by yourself and experience the land the soldier's fought on, you can do so. If this is still the case by early July, I hope to do just that. Maybe I'll be able to take some pictures which can later be enlarged.

I really hope we will be able to meet again by September. It will be great to see everybody again and hear great Civil war history presentations in person. As I mentioned in an earlier column, find some good book to read (Civil War related or not) to overcome the isolation we have been living with for months. I usually read several books at one time (different genres of literature – science, science fiction, novels etc.). It really helps what Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot calls "the little gray cells."



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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 \$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
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or email: cdcwrt@hotmail.com

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