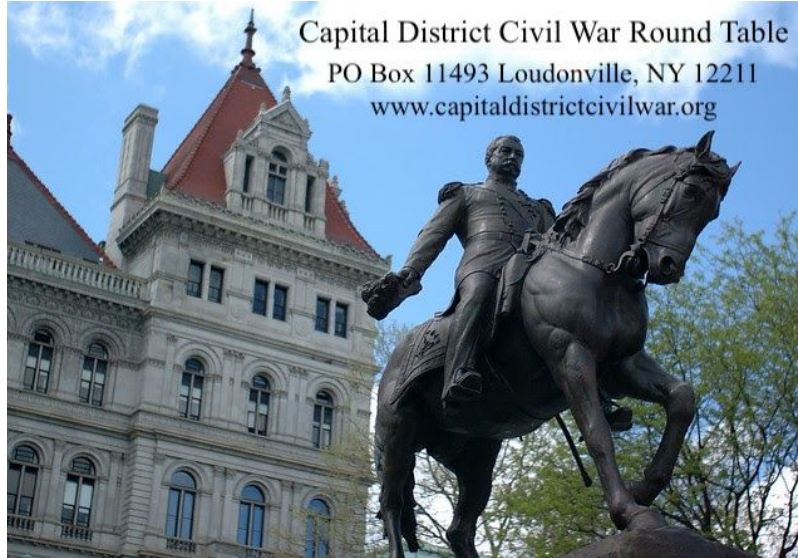


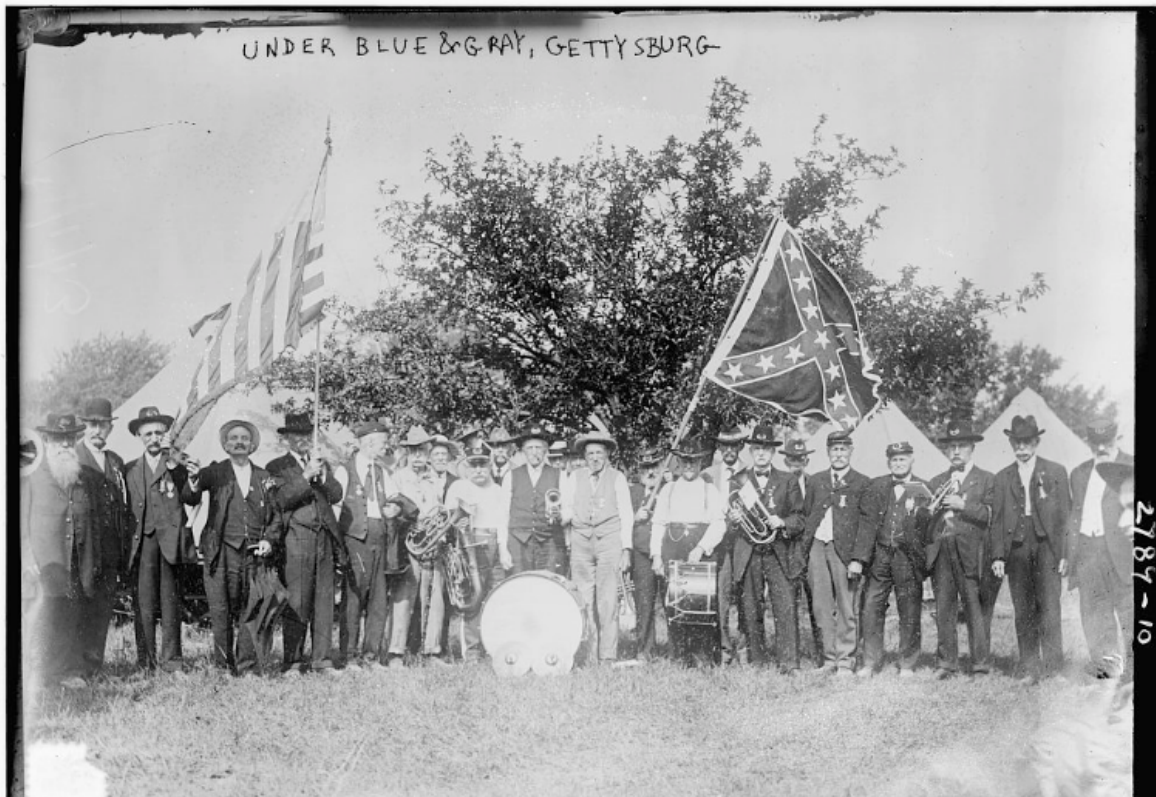
The Dispatch

Volume 38, Number 3

March 2021



Under Blue and Gray, Gettysburg



The Gettysburg Reunion (the Great Reunion) of July 1913, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Source: Library of Congress

MARCH MEETING

Friday, March 12, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM

CHRIS GWINN

“What Gettysburg Meant” Union and Confederate Veterans Reflect on America’s Most Famous Battle

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

Our speaker is Chris Gwinn. In 2014 Gwinn was selected as the new Supervisory Park Ranger for the division of Interpretation and Education at Gettysburg National Military Park. Gwinn has served as an Interpretive Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park since April 2012.

Gwinn, a 2006 graduate of Gettysburg College, began working at Gettysburg as an intern in 2003 and has served the park in a variety of capacities. In addition to his service at Gettysburg, Gwinn, who holds a Master’s Degree in Public History, served in interpretation and education positions at a variety of parks over the past eleven years including Antietam National Battlefield, Boston National Historical Park, and the National Mall and Memorial Parks.

ZOOM DIRECTIONS

- 1) **Download** Zoom program from the Internet at <https://zoom.us/download>
- 2) Once in Zoom, **create** a username and password **OR log in** through other methods such as your Facebook account username and password.
- 3) On the Zoom main page, you will see four icons. To join a scheduled meeting, click **“Join”** in the upper right side. Enter the meeting ID number and passcode. **Meeting ID: 821 4982 5038**
- 4) Your computer **camera** will turn on. A pop-up box appears and asks if you want to join with **computer audio**. Click the blue **“Join”** icon.
- 5) Click the **“mute”** button seen on the left side of the bottom black bar so a slash appears across the microphone.

Please keep your microphone **MUTED** during the presentation to eliminate interruptions of background noise.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 9: Gary Morgan will present on the Raiders at Andersonville

May 14: David Dixon will give his presentation: “General Willich: Warrior for Social Justice”

June 11: Bruce Mowday will present “Three Views of Gettysburg”

THANK YOU, MEMBERS

The Round Table wishes to thank those members who also made donations to the Operating Account and the Preservation Account: Bill and Noreen Underhill, Bob O'Brien, Paul Spofford, and Matt George.

TALLY SIMPSON, C.S.A., REPORTS ON THE AFTER- MATH OF GETTYSBURG, JULY 1863

A letter from Tally Simpson to Carrie, in *Far, far from home; The Wartime Letters of Dick and Tally Simpson, 3rd South Carolina Volunteers*, (Oxford University Press, 1994), p 256-259.

*Bunker's Hill, Va
Saturday, July 18th /63*

My dear Carrie

It had been a very long time since I received a letter from you when your last arrived, and I'll assure you it afforded me much pleasure.

Ere this reaches its destination you will have heard of the terrible battle of Gettysburg and the fate of a portion of our noble Army. I am a good deal of Pa's nature--extremely hopeful. But I must confess that this is a gloomy period for the Confederacy. One month ago our prospects were as bright as could well be conceived. Gallant Vicksburg, the Gibraltar of the West and the pride of the South, has fallen the victim to a merciless foe. Port Hudson has surrendered unconditionally, and it is now reduced to a fact that cannot be disputed that the Mississippi is already or must very

soon be in the possession of the Yankees from its source to its mouth. And what good will the Trans Mississippi be to the Confederacy thus cut off?

A few weeks ago Genl Lee had the finest Army that ever was raised in ancient or modern times--and commanded by as patriotic and heroic officers as ever drew a sword in defense of liberty. But in an unfortunate hour and under disadvantageous circumstances, he attacked the enemy, and tho he gained the advantage and held possession of the battlefield and even destroyed more of the foe than he lost himself, still the Army of the Potomac [an earlier name for the Army of Northern Virginia] lost heavily and is now in a poor condition for offensive operations. I venture to assert that one third of the men are bare-footed or almost destitute of necessary clothing. There is one company in this regt which has fifteen men entirely without shoes and consequently unfit for duty. This is at least half of the company alluded to. The night we recrossed the river into Virginia, Harry's shoes gave out, and he suffered a great deal marching over rough turnpikes. But when he reached Martinsburg, he purchased a pair of old ones and did very well afterwards.

Tis estimated by some that this Army has been reduced to at least one fifth its original strength. Charleston is closely beset, and I think must surely fall sooner or later. The fall of Vicksburg has caused me to lose confidence in something or somebody, I can't say exactly which. And now that the gunboats from the Mississippi can be transferred to Charleston and that a

portion of Morris Island has been taken and can be used to advantage by the enemy, I fear greatly the result of the attack. I trust however, if it does fall, its gallant defenders will raze it to the ground that the enemy cannot find a single spot to pitch a tent upon the site where so magnificent a city once raised, so excitingly, its towering head. Savannah will follow, and then Mobile, and finally Richmond.

These cities will be a loss to the Confederacy. But their fall is no reason why we should despair. It is certainly calculated to cast a gloom over our entire land. But we profess to be a Christian people, and we should put our trust in God. He holds the destiny of our nation, as it were, in the palm of his hand. He it is that directs the counsel of our leaders, both civil and military, and if we place implicit confidence in Him and go to work in good earnest, never for a moment losing sight of Heaven's goodness and protection, it is my firm belief that we shall be victorious in the end. Let the South lose what it may at present, God's hand is certainly in this contest, and He is working for the accomplishment of some grand result, and so soon as it is accomplished, He will roll the sun of peace up the skies and cause its rays to shine over our whole land. We were a wicked, proud, ambitious nation, and God has brought upon us this war to crush and humble our pride and make us a better people generally. And the sooner this happens the better for us.

Carrie, I feel satisfied that this kind of chat does not suit you, and before you reach this point in my letter you will pout that sweet, rosy lip pout and say, "Well I'll declare, Bud Tallie certainly

has got the blues, and I despise to hear him talk so." You may censure me, but I can't help it....

BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board met via Zoom on February 22. Matt George, our Program Chair, has speakers scheduled through the fall of 2021. We hope that by then we can have in-person meetings.

Treasurer Steve Muller reported that the Preservation Account has \$2,892.03. The Operating Account has \$4,546,64 in it. Thank you to all the members who decided to renew their membership this year.

The Board has been pleased with the number of people who join our Zoom presentation meetings or watch the recorded video on our Facebook page. Members are welcomed and encouraged to share the meeting information with interested friends.

BUFORD'S VIEW

by Matt George

The correct answers for last month's trivia questions were:

- 1) Goodyear manufactured the waterproof blanket issued to many Union soldiers during the Civil War.
- 2) Colonel Rufus Dawes of the 6th Wisconsin took 250 Confederate prisoners at the railroad cut, and he was the great grandson of William Dawes of Revolutionary War fame.
- 3) George Nixon (73rd Ohio) was mortally wounded at Gettysburg, and

he was the great grandfather of Richard Nixon.

We had three people who responded with correct answers: Jeff Falace (3rd time), Sharon Schrefiels (2nd time), and, I'm happy to report, one of our Round Table's longtime friends, Tom Clemens. Tom is the President of SHAF (Save Historic Antietam Foundation). He was the Chief Historian at Harper's Ferry for twenty years.

We have had an enduring relationship with Tom and SHAF. In 2001 we donated \$6,700.00 to preserve a Signal Tower site. We were one of the first to give funds for this cause. This location was made famous by an Alexander Gardiner photograph. Since 1990 we have donated at least \$15,000.00 to SHAF. This was the result of Dana Shoaf (a board member of SHAF) leaking news of the impending purchase to the late Sue Knost.

I was very happy to hear from Tom and gratified that he reads our newsletter and my column. In a series of emails Tom notified me of a current fund-raising effort SHAF is making with connections to our area. SHAF acquired at auction (thanks to the efforts of their Treasurer Bill Maharay) a beautiful and accurate battlefield map from the time of the battle and surrender at Harper's Ferry. It was drawn by a soldier (chief musician) in the 115th N.Y. The 115th N.Y. was drawn from the Fonda and Amsterdam areas (Fulton and Montgomery counties). The most recent Regimental history was written by our own Mark Silo in 2007. Of course, the entire regiment along with another local regiment (125th N.Y.) were captured as a group, paroled and sent to Camp

Douglas. SHAF was looking to reimburse Mr. Maharay the \$1,400.00 he paid to purchase the map at auction. I've since learned from Tom that the fundraising goal has been reached. The soldier who drew the map was Melvin W. Cole and he mustered out as the regiment's chief musician. Tom has discovered that later in life Cole said his occupation was "painter." However, it is uncertain if he meant artist or house painter. Cole is a major family name in the Fulton/Montgomery County area. Tom knows little else about Cole's post war history.

There is one other little bit of trivia in respect to the 115th N.Y. For a few years after I retired from teaching, I became friends with a fellow while we graded Teacher Certification Exams. His name is Dave Sammons and we still exchange Christmas cards. Dave's ancestor was Simeon Sammons who was the Colonel of the 115th N.Y.

Our only speaker opening in 2021 is November 12th. Unfortunately Tom is speaking to the Chicago CWRT that weekend. However, he said he would love to speak to us in 2022.

Here are this month's trivia questions:

- 1) Who commanded the Union forces on the north end of the Antietam battlefield?
- 2) A few years ago (2009) the remains of an unknown soldier were found near the cornfield at Antietam. He was thought to be possibly from N.Y. Where was he brought to be buried?
- 3) What long time member of our Round Table served on the Honor Guard?

**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 \$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

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