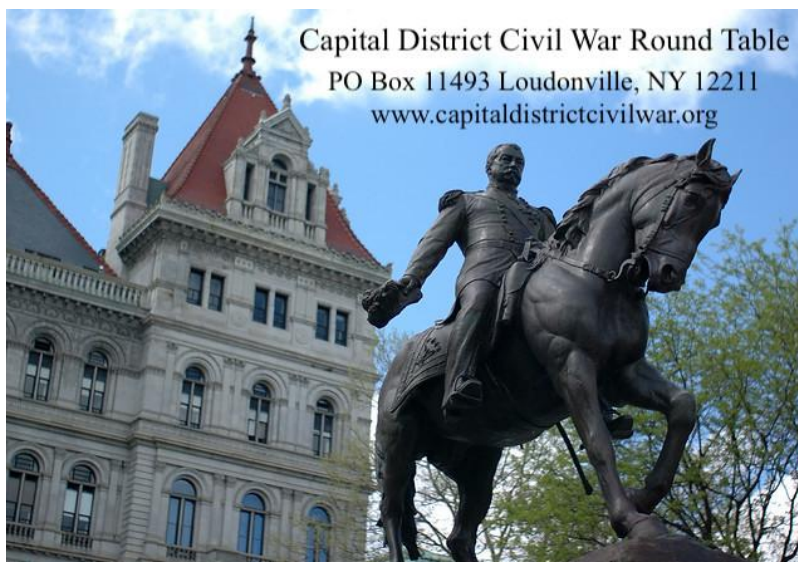


The Dispatch

Volume 38, Number 10

December 2021



A SILENT WITNESS TO THE SURRENDER



Lula McLean's doll witnessed Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. It was kept by descendents of Capt. Thomas Moore and now resides in the Visitors' Center at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

DECEMBER MEETING

Friday, December 10, 2021

IN-PERSON MEETING AT THE WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER

PAT SCHROEDER

“Don’t Touch That:
the Appomattox Collection”

Social Hour	6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Presentation	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Questions & Answers	8:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Patrick A. Schroeder graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has an M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech.

From 1986-1993, Pat worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote Thirty Myths About Lee’s Surrender, which is currently in its fourteenth printing. From 1994–1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial.

Pat Schroeder resides in Lynchburg, VA, and has worked as an independent researcher, author, historian, and tour guide. He has served as the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002 and Chief of Cultural Resources since 2018.

He has spoken to the Capital District Civil War Round Table several times on topics related to Appomattox. He has

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written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty-five Civil War titles. Many of these are available through Schroeder Publishing:
<http://www.civilwar-books.com>

MASKS ARE REQUIRED, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.

We will not have refreshments available.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 14: Potpourri night of “amateur” speakers, arranged by Matt George.

February 11: Matt Watros will present “Gabriel: a novel of the Civil War.”

March 11: Jerry Mikorenda’s presentation is called “America’s First Freedom Rider.”

DUES, DUES, DUES

The Round Table membership year starts January 1. The basic dues level is \$35, and members also have the option to make donations to the Operating and Preservation Accounts. The membership form is included in this newsletter. Payments can be made through the PayPal link on the Round Table’s website or mailed to the Round Table’s P.O. Box. Payments will be held for deposit until January.

CDCWRT’S 2021 ELECTIONS

The election will be held at the January 14 meeting, and any member in good standing (dues paid) may be nominated from the floor for any board position.

Erin Baillargeon, Steve Muller, and Rosemary Nichols are running for their current positions (President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively). Mark Koziol is running for Vice President.

This leaves THREE open At-Large positions, which is nearly half of the Board. The time commitment to serving on the Executive Board is minimal: attend monthly Zoom board meetings that last less than 45 minutes. Please consider joining the Board to help our organization continue.

THANK YOU, MEMBERS

The Round Table wishes to thank Byron Moak and Matt George for their donations to the Preservation Fund.

PRESERVATION OF ARTIFACTS

quoted from the National World War II Museum, New Orleans

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/preservation-artifacts>

“Use the following guidelines to keep your historic memorabilia in the best shape possible. Here we cover general hazards to artifacts and specific techniques for preserving textiles, paper, photographs, metal, leather and wood.

Seven Hazards To Historic Artifacts

The basic principle of preservation of historic memorabilia is DO NO HARM. The following hazards are recognized as some of the most dangerous to historic memorabilia.

1. LIGHT

Too much light speeds deterioration of photographs, textiles and printed or handwritten paper, furniture, etc. Historic objects should be protected from excessive light levels, and especially from sunlight and fluorescent light, which contain high amounts of ultraviolet radiation--which is the most harmful form of light. Place furniture, antique quilts and other memorabilia out of direct sunlight and/or fluorescent light.

2. TEMPERATURE

Too high or too low a temperature (or rapid temperature swings) can damage rubber, wood, metal, etc. Store or display historic memorabilia in spaces that have climate-control systems (heating and air conditioning). Do not store in sheds, attics and basements.

3. HUMIDITY

Humidity that is too high encourages pests and mold growth on paper, textiles and parchment, and promotes rust on metal. Humidity that is too low can cause objects to become brittle. Organic objects in particular absorb and release moisture depending on the relative humidity of their environment and need a stable humidity. Store historic memorabilia in an area that has a steady, constant humidity (45%–55%), and store or display historic materials away from heating and air conditioning vents.

4. PESTS

Different types of historic materials attract different types of pests. Roaches and silverfish are attracted to paper and books. Moths are attracted to protein fibers such as silk and wool. Termites are attracted to wood.

Conduct regular inspections of historic objects that attract pests.

5. HUMAN BEINGS

Human beings are one of the greatest threats to historic objects, not only due to surface compounds, such as oil, sweat and make-up that they carry on their skin, but also because we continue to use historic objects. These oils and other surface substances are transferred to the object during handling. Wear cotton or nylon gloves when handling historic paper, textiles, photographs, and wooden and metal objects. Many objects are damaged because people handle them in inappropriate ways, such as trying on clothing, taking items to show-and-tell at school or even using them for their original purposes. All of these uses put undue strain on the objects and put them at risk for loss or damage.

6. CHEMICAL REACTION & AIR POLLUTANTS

Certain types of materials, such as metal and marble, react to chemicals present in the air. This is a particular concern for outdoor objects such as marble statuary, iron architectural elements, etc. Chemicals such as formaldehyde and acidic gases from wooden compounds can also harm historic objects.

7. INHERENT VICE

Some objects that are composed of incompatible materials, such as wood and leather or wood and paint, have built-in deterioration risks. Conduct regular inspections of these objects for any changes in condition.”

[The article continues with basic preservation techniques for various materials. It also includes links for online conservation resources. Please

go to the National World War II Museum’s website to read the full article.]

BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board met via Zoom on November 15. Treasurer Steve Muller reported that the Operating Account has \$3,077.35. The Preservation Account has \$3,152.54.

The Board discussed the importance of having new members to fill the vacant At-Large positions. We would like to have new voices included in our discussions and decision-making.

Board members discussed our intention to continue in-person meetings through next fall, if possible, while also live streaming or posting them on the CDCWRT Facebook page.

November speaker Chuck Viet also reached out to inform us - and you - that his latest book *A Lively Little Battle* on the battle of Fort Butler, near Donaldsonville, L.A. is available through Amazon, [lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com), and his website chuckvietbooks.com

BUFORD’S VIEW

by Matt George

On November 16-18 I attended the Lincoln Forum Conference in Gettysburg. There were many great speakers and well known attendees. including Harold Holzer, Jonathon White, Caroline Janney, Craig Symonds, Catherine Clinton, Allen Guelzo, Gary Gallagher, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Ty Seidle. I last heard Annette Gordon-Reed speak in a conversation with Harold Holzer



The Dispatch
Newspaper of the
**CAPITAL DISTRICT
 CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

PO Box 11493 Loudonville, NY 12211
 www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org



Membership Form

2022 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Newsletter Preference: Email _____ OR Mailed Copy _____

_____ Email/Mailing address is the same as last year

If not: _____

Membership Dues

\$35

(All dues go into the Operating Account to pay for newsletters, program expenses, and use of the meeting space)

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: _____

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

discussing Juneteenth a few months ago at the University Club in Albany. Tuesday night featured a short concert by Jay Ungar and Molly Mason.

On the first day I sat at the same table for lunch with representatives from the Lincoln Museum and Library in Springfield, Illinois. I related to them the details of my visit there three years ago and how great an experience it was. I mentioned the picture I took of the man portraying a USCT soldier on guard duty. He was very serious as he stood erect performing his duties. However, he broke into a smile when a little girl (kindergarten – 1st grade) touched his hand. Her teacher had just told her “it's ok, he's real” (unlike the many very life-like mannequins in the gallery). He continued to smile as he quietly held her hand. It was at that special moment in time that I took his picture. I told the lady at lunch that I still had the picture and although I didn't know his name, thought he might like the picture. She said he was attending the conference. Shortly thereafter I met him and he said he would like to have a copy. So, a few days ago I made two 8 x 11's copies and mailed them to him.

On Thursday afternoon we broke into small discussion groups on several topics related to Lincoln. I chose teaching about Lincoln and scholarship. It was the smallest group with only about ten to twelve people. When the conversation turned to lessons about Lincoln and the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments, one young teacher (I don't know what state he was from) agitatedly lamented that “I can't teach any of this. My principal and Board of Education won't allow it. It would be

considered ‘critical race theory.’” How tragic.

On Friday, November 19th I attended the ceremony at the Gettysburg Cemetery. This was at least the fifteenth year I've attended; I've lost track. It was well done again. The keynote speaker was historian Gary Gallagher. One of the highlights was the annual reading of the *Gettysburg Address*. This year it was performed by veteran actor Stephen Lang (*Gettysburg, Gods & Generals, Avatar*). He was brilliant...passionate, great cadence in his delivery, and a mid-western accent. The ceremony finished with the traditional and moving final oath of citizenship for fifteen recent immigrants from seven different countries.

I did another tour of Schenectady during the Civil War for the Schenectady County Historical Society back on November 5. The Princetown HomeSchool Co-op participated, and one of the mothers sent me this picture of me and the group of little ones. They loved the story of the 11th Pennsylvania and their mascot "Sallie" the dog.



I do not have new trivia questions for this month. All respondents who submitted correct answers to previous challenges can pick up their book prize at the meeting.

**CDCWRT
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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	Erin Baillargeon	Vice-President	Nick Thony
Treasurer	Steve Muller	Secretary	Rosemary Nichols
At-Large	J.J. Jennings	At-Large	Mark Koziol
At-Large	(open)		

THE NONCOMS

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Membership	Erin Baillargeon and Steve Muller		
Refreshments	Dean Long and Luanne Whitbeck		
Webmaster			
Education	Matt George		
Newsletter	Rosemary Nichols and Erin Baillargeon		