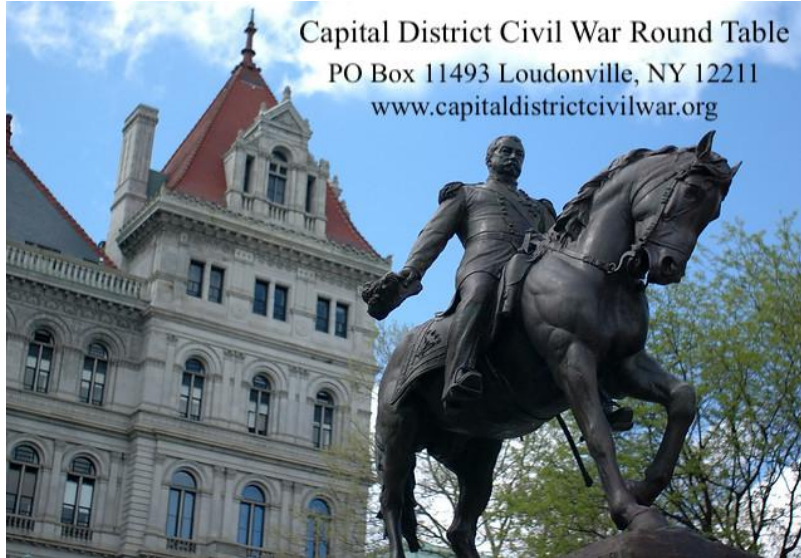


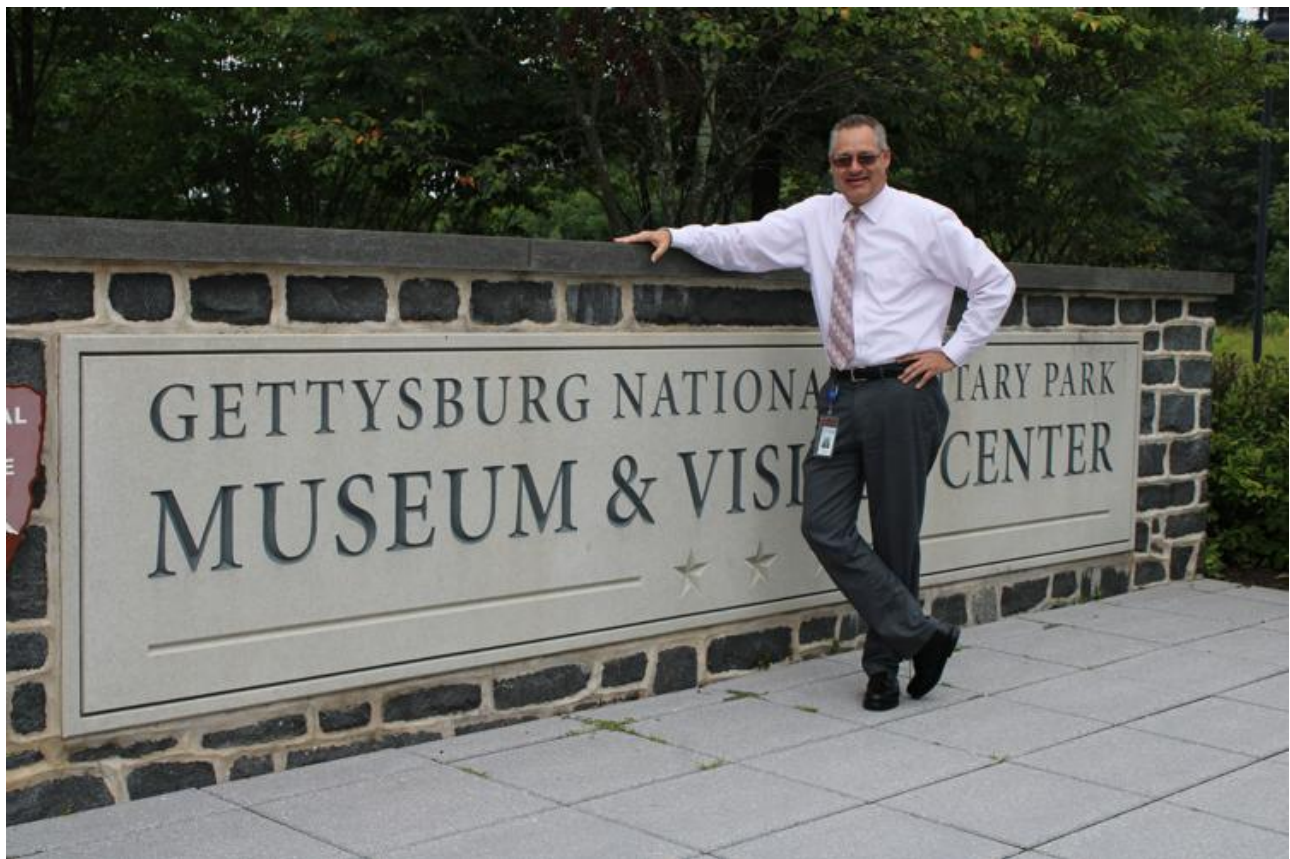
The Dispatch

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Preserving Gettysburg



Wayne Motts is the president and chief executive officer of the Gettysburg Foundation.

Photograph by Alex Hayes/Gettysburg Times

https://www.standard-journal.com/news/local/article_8e4feabf-243e-5137-91f8-ca31a29bb709.html

JUNE MEETING

Friday, June 10, 2022

IN-PERSON MEETING AT THE WATERVLIIET SENIOR CENTER

WAYNE MOTTS

“Preserving Gettysburg”

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.

Founded in 1998, the Gettysburg Foundation is the philanthropic non-profit partner of the National Park Service whose mission it is “to preserve Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site, and to educate the public about their significance.” The foundation operates the main park visitors center and over the years has preserved land and buildings as well as undertaken educational initiatives to support the Gettysburg parks. Join the president and CEO of the Gettysburg Foundation for an inside look at all this public charity does to preserve and educate the public about Gettysburg.

A native of the Buckeye State, Wayne Motts grew up outside Columbus where his family founded and maintains Motts Military Museum in Groveport, OH. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a BA in military history and holds an MA in American History from the

Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. Wayne is currently the President & CEO of the Gettysburg Foundation. Before arriving at the Foundation in May 2021, Wayne was the CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a post he held for nine years and where he is now CEO emeritus. He has been a licensed battlefield guide at Gettysburg National Military Park for 34 years. He is the author of one book and the co-author of another related to Gettysburg and the Civil War.

We would like to have a strong showing at this meeting, so members are encouraged to bring a friend.

MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED

We will not have refreshments available.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 18: U.S. Grant’s Bicentennial Birthday Celebration. The Friends of Grant Cottage are holding a celebration from 10am - 5pm featuring music from the 77th NY Regiment Balladeers and living historian Steve Trimm as General Grant. www.grantcottage.org

May 29 - Oct. 16: the CDCWRT will be at the Jay Street market in Schenectady. See Matt George’s column for details.

September 9: Chris Mackowski’s program is yet to be finalized.

October 7: Matthew Borders and Joseph Stahl will look at the faces of Union soldiers at Antietam and South Mountain.

THANK YOU, MEMBERS

The Round Table wishes to thank Matt George for his donations to the Operating or Preservation funds.

BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board met on May 16, 2022 via Zoom. The Operating Account balance is \$4,120.23, which represents money from a total of 42 paid members. This account pays for the Round Table's website and printed newsletters. The Preservation Account balance is \$3830.72. In the past month this account has received \$134 from donations and merchandise sales.

Board Members met on May 21 to clean up and reorganize the Round Table's storage shed. We culled some postal covers (decorative envelopes) from our stock to make room for donated books.

Among the collection of donations is this 18-book series: *Voices of the Civil War*. All are in great condition; some are still in their original plastic. We hope to sell the series for \$100. Email cdcwrt@hotmail.com if you are interested.



MASTER PLANNING AT GETTYSBURG

by Rosemary Nichols

In many ways, Gettysburg National Military Park is “our” Round Table's Civil War battlefield. It marked important events with extraordinary performances by many New York regiments, including the 125th (the third Troy Regiment) which had memorable battles at Plum Run on the second day and the Stone Wall on the third day, and the 44th (Ellsworth Avengers) who fought their way into history at Little Round Top on the second day. For decades we have raised money for battlefield preservation at the Park on anniversary and Remembrance Day weekends.

For some of the two-million battlefield visitors in a typical year, Gettysburg was showing the effects of too many people on too little popular space. The last General Management Plan was proposed in 1962. Begun by then Park Superintendent Dr. John A. Latschar and finally presented to the public in November of 1999, the Gettysburg Record of Decision on the Final Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement set out an ambitious plan to restore the Gettysburg landscape to the way it looked to the soldiers fighting in July of 1863. The new General Management Plan is expected to be completed from 2018 to 2023.

In the years since it was finalized, the Plan has seen some notable successes and not a few controversies. Relocating the Visitor Center to somewhere other than the battle line at the Stone Wall on the final day was not

controversial. Removing the brick building that had for decades housed the Visitor Center was generally approved when it became clear the Park Service intended to restore, not discard, the famous electrical light exhibit that so charms children. Who could really object to better food service, an expanded museum shop, easier access to researchers in dedicated study space, and better bathrooms?

The destruction and removal of the Brutalist School Cyclorama building was more controversial, pitting historic architectural preservation advocates against the Park's management plan. Designed by noted modern architect Richard Neutra, the building of concrete and glass had become eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. A lawsuit successfully spearheaded by the architect's son Dion Neutra, who had worked with his father on the design of the building, required the Park Service to do an individual environmental impact statement. This was done, with a predictable outcome.

The Cyclorama painting depicts key elements of third-day battles. Major portions of the sky and all the artifacts originally installed by creator Paul Phillippoteaux had to be removed when the Cyclorama was installed in the Neutra-designed building. It was removed in 2005 and relocated to a purpose-built portion of the new Visitors Center. It opened in 2008. The Cyclorama was fully restored to its 1883 appearance and is displayed as it would have been originally with many artifacts on the floor in front of the painting.

Other elements of the Gettysburg master plan have not been especially controversial. The Peach Orchard, an important part of the second-day battle, was replanted in April 2008 and is maturing nicely. It is now possible to more easily envision the complicated troop movements through this ground.

Culp's Hill, occupied by Union troops on all three days of the Gettysburg battle, was the critical right flank of the defensive Union line anchored on Cemetery Ridge. After an extended restoration, it is now possible to see the Hill from the perspective of both the defending Union troops and their Confederate adversaries. In particular, the vegetation that had so encroached on the steep slope Confederate troops had to scale has been restored to an 1863 appearance. Many trees have been removed, but the restoration has been careful to keep a good quantity of the largest and oldest trees, which are probably not witness trees but certainly 19th century vegetation.

The master plan implementation for Little Round Top and the Devils Den will be controversial in the summer and fall of 2022. A Park Service announcement advised in March that Devils Den would be closed for six months to allow workers to undertake erosion control measures. This means the area will almost certainly be once again available to the public by Remembrance Day 2022.

Little Round Top's restoration will take significantly longer. The project, estimated to begin in late Spring 2022, will take approximately eighteen months to complete. During this time, Little Round Top will be CLOSED. Overwhelmed parking areas, poor

accessibility, safety hazards, and erosion will be addressed. That means there can be a major coming out celebration for Little Round Top for Remembrance Day 2023.

BUFORD'S VIEW

by Matt George

I just returned from an excellent American Battlefield Trust Conference in Chantilly, Virginia. One of the highlights was a tour of the Second Manassas Battlefield by John Hennessey. John, a few of our long time members will recall, was one of our Round Table's founding members. One of his more memorable descriptions was how a few Union troops valiantly held off Longstreet's forces to prevent what was already a bad Union defeat from becoming a total disaster (perhaps even the total destruction of Pope's entire army).

One of the major speakers at the Conference was Wayne Motts of the Gettysburg Foundation. His talk centered around the Foundation's recent efforts to make the battlefield interesting to a much more diversified range of visitors. One example he used was a story of an Islamic soldier from Iran who fought for the Union army.

This immediately brought to mind the potpourri speaker we had in January of 2017. Don Hahn, from Niskayuna, spoke about his ancestor Sigmund Weil who as a young Jewish German, immigrated to this country and joined the 150th New York to fight for his new country. He was killed at Gettysburg. The colonel of the 150th sent two letters home to the boy's father (one in English, one in German) extolling the

boy's bravery and that he was a great soldier. Many years later when Jerry Hahn was a baby, his family barely escaped Germany when Hitler took over and they fled to Holland. They barely escaped again when the Germans invaded Holland and they fled again to London. There they survived the Blitz. After the war the father tried to get a visa to America. After several unsuccessful attempts, he sent a copy of the letter showing that his ancestor fought and died for the Union Army. A short time later their request was accepted and the Hahns came to America.

While talking to Wayne the thought occurred to me: how amazing that on the fields of Gettysburg two young men, one German and Jewish and the other of the Islamic faith from Iran fought in the same army for the same cause. Wayne will be our speaker in June.

We still need a volunteer to help at the Jay Street, Schenectady Market

TRIVIA QUESTIONS: Any one who responds with the correct answers to these three trivia questions will earn a free book at our next meeting. Email your responses to: jbuford63@aol.com

1) What former late member of our Round Table created a monument of Patrick Cleburne in Ringgold, Georgia?

2) What local regiment fought well at the battle of Bristoe Station, Oct. 14, 1863 keeping the Confederates from cutting off the Union II Corps? Hint: it is also the local reenactment group.

3) What is the 84th New York Infantry Regiment's more popular designation?

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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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