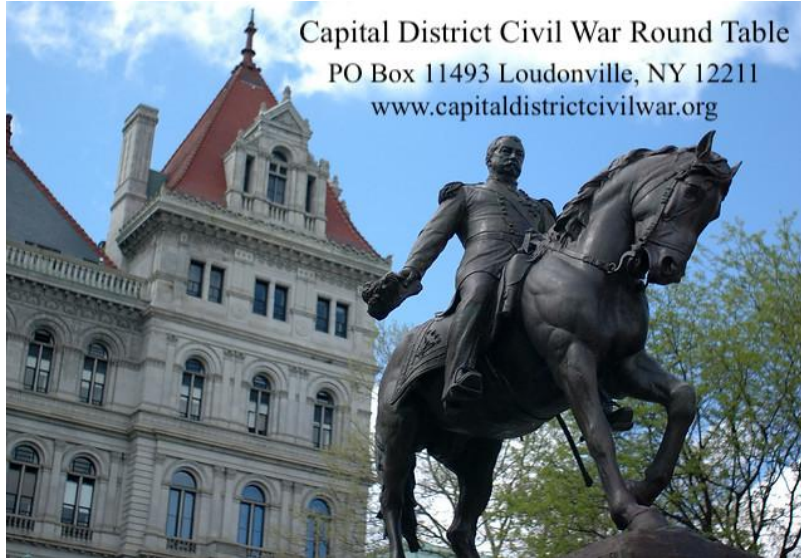


The Dispatch

Volume 39, Number 7

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Continuing the Tradition of Tintype Photography



Photographer Craig Murphy holding the 19th century wet plate collodion tintype he took of the Glens Falls Civil War monument 150 years after the dedication of the monument. Visit GlensFallsArt.com for more information.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Friday, September 9, 2022

IN-PERSON MEETING AT THE WATERVLIIET SENIOR CENTER

CRAIG MURPHY

Civil War Photography

| | |
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| 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. |

Craig Murphy takes photographs the old-fashioned way - making nineteenth century wet plate collodion images.

Wet plate images are created on metal (called tintypes), glass (called ambrotypes) or glass as a negative for printing. The collodion process was an improvement over the older daguerreotype method because it created a negative image that could be reproduced instead of creating a one-of-a-kind image.

In the 1850s and '60s photographers regularly traveled from town to town making portraits that are still viewable today. Photographer Craig Murphy of Glens Falls Art has his own mobile tintype studio so he can bring this medium to the public around Glens Falls, New York and

the Northeast. Check out GlensFallsArt.com to learn more.

MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED

We will not have refreshments available.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 10, 11, 25 and Oct. 16: the CDCWRT will be at the Jay Street market in Schenectady. See Matt George's column for details.

October 7: Professor Ken Aslakson of Union College

October 22: Kate Hewitt program

November 11: Author Brad Gottfried

December 9: Living Historian Carolyn Ivanoff

THANK YOU, MEMBERS

The Round Table wishes to thank Matt George for his continued donations to the Round Table and for his tireless work arranging speakers for our monthly meetings.

BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board met on June 13, 2022 via Zoom.

The Operating Account balance was \$4189.20, which represents

money from a total of forty-four paid members. This account pays for the Round Table's website and printed newsletters.

The Preservation Account balance is \$3578.46. This includes the initial \$214 raised by Matt George and Joyce Brooks at the Jay Street market.

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. Email cdcwrt@hotmail.com if you are interested in purchasing the series.



NINETEENTH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY GREW UP IN THE CIVIL WAR

by Rosemary Nichols

The National Archives website for photography in the Civil War says well the relationship between photography and that bloody conflict. NARA staff members Sandra Nickles and Joe D. Thomas wrote in 2019,

“The Civil War was the first large and prolonged conflict recorded by photography. During the war, dozens of photographers --both as private individuals and as employees of the Confederate and Union Governments-- photographed civilians and civilian activities; military personnel, equipment, and activities; and the locations and aftermaths of battles. Because wet-plate collodion negatives required from 5 to 20 seconds exposure, there are no action photographs of the war.”

Nickles and Thomas continued. “The name Mathew B. Brady is almost a synonym for Civil War photography. Although Brady himself actually may have taken only a few photographs of the war, he employed many of the other well-known photographers before and during the war. Alexander Gardner and James F. Gibson at different times managed Brady's Washington studio. Timothy O'Sullivan, James Gardner, and

Egbert Guy Fox were also employed by Brady during the conflict.”

Anyone who has had the privilege of attending a conference of the American Battlefield Trust or its earlier incarnations, knows that for many years a highlight of the meetings has been a photography lecture from Garry Adelman. He serves as the director of History and Education at the Trust. Garry presents a laughter filled evening, showing some of the most famous as well as newly discovered and obscure images of the Civil War. This is one of the most engaging, well-attended and educational parts of the ABT conferences.

Adelman is one of the founders and vice president of the Center for Civil War Photography. The other founders are President Bob Zeller, with the assistance of Chuck Morrongiello, who serves as the Center's Development Director. The Center is a nonprofit organization devoted to one of the most exciting and compelling areas of Civil War scholarship: photographs.

How do you get started, if you want to learn more about the Civil War through its photographs? Three of the major online sources were referenced in this article. They are:

the National Archives photography division (<https://www.archives.gov/research/still-pictures/civil-war>),

the American Battlefield Trust (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/topics/photography-civil-war>), and

the Center for Civil War photography (<https://www.civilwarphotography.org/>).

Your journey will be fascinating, and it's free of charge.

BUFORD'S VIEW

by Matt George

A week ago, I was notified that this year's Civil War Round Table Congress Conference was cancelled because there were not enough registrants. Although disappointed, I realized I did not have to cancel my train ticket to Chicago. Three years ago, I was able to spend one day in Springfield, Illinois while on my way to St. Louis for the Civil War Congress Conference that year. I had just the one day to visit the museum, which was a great experience. I did not see the Lincoln home or any of the other attractions in town.

I promised myself that I would return for a longer stay. So, I decided to take this opportunity to do so. I am able to take the same train from Albany to Chicago and then switch to a train going not to Kenosha, Wisconsin, but to Springfield. And it will be \$5.00

cheaper. I'll be leaving on September 15th and arriving back in Albany on the 20th. Sadly, this is the third year in a row the Civil War Congress Conference has been cancelled.

From September 30 to October 2 I'll be attending the Piedmont Heritage (formally Mosby Heritage Area) Conference in Middleburg, Virginia. I've been in attendance the last eight of nine years. It is a great conference with great speakers. This year the speaker list includes John Hennessey, Kevin Pawlak, Jeffery Wert, Allen Guelzo, Scott Patchan, and Eric Wittenburg. The topic this year is Second Bull Run. It includes a tour of the battlefield.

I hope to be going to the Lincoln Forum Conference and Lincoln Fellowship Luncheon in November.

We lost our original speakers in September and October. They have been replaced by Craig Murphy from Glens Falls taking about Civil War photography. In October the speaker will be Professor Ken Aslakson from Union College. His topic is yet to be determined.

The Round table has been raising money this summer at Jay Street Merchants Market. At the halfway point we have taken in close to \$450.00. There are five dates left: August 28, Sept. 10, 11, 25 and Oct. 16. I could use some help. If you can help let me know. The times are different on the Sundays.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS: There are two regular Trivia questions and one challenge one that has a possible link to today. Only the first two count for the free book. Email your responses to: jbuford63@aol.com

- 1) Which officer who started as a Private and fought throughout the war, was instrumental in building the Brooklyn Bridge?
- 2) Which Union General wrote Ben Hur? For whose trial was he the Judge Advocate?
- 3) Who said: "If we are to have another contest in the near future of our national existence, I predict that the dividing line will not be Mason and Dixon's but between patriotism and intelligence on one side, and superstition, ambition, and ignorance on the other."

**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

THE OFFICERS

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Erin Baillargeon | Vice-President | Mark Koziol |
| Treasurer | Steve Muller | Secretary | Rosemary Nichols |
| At-Large | Joyce Brooks | At-Large | (open) |
| At-Large | (open) | | |

THE NONCOMS

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|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 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 | Erin Baillargeon and Rosemary Nichols | | |