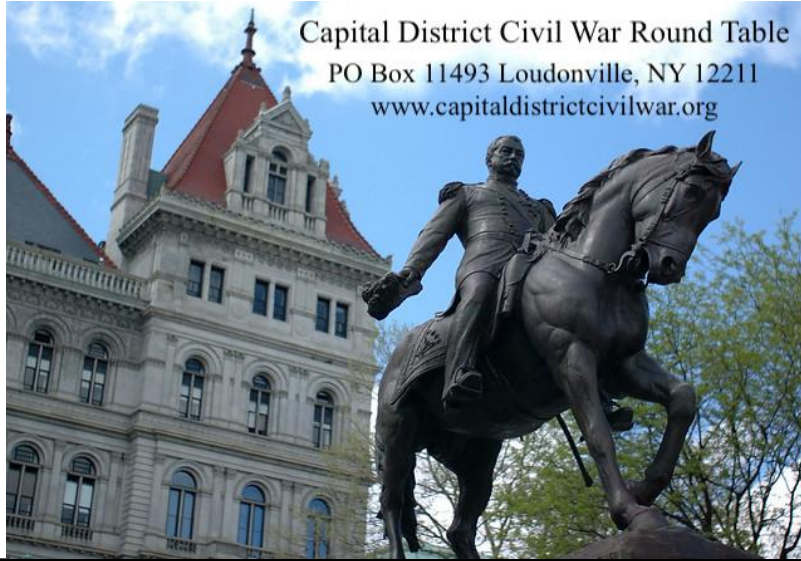


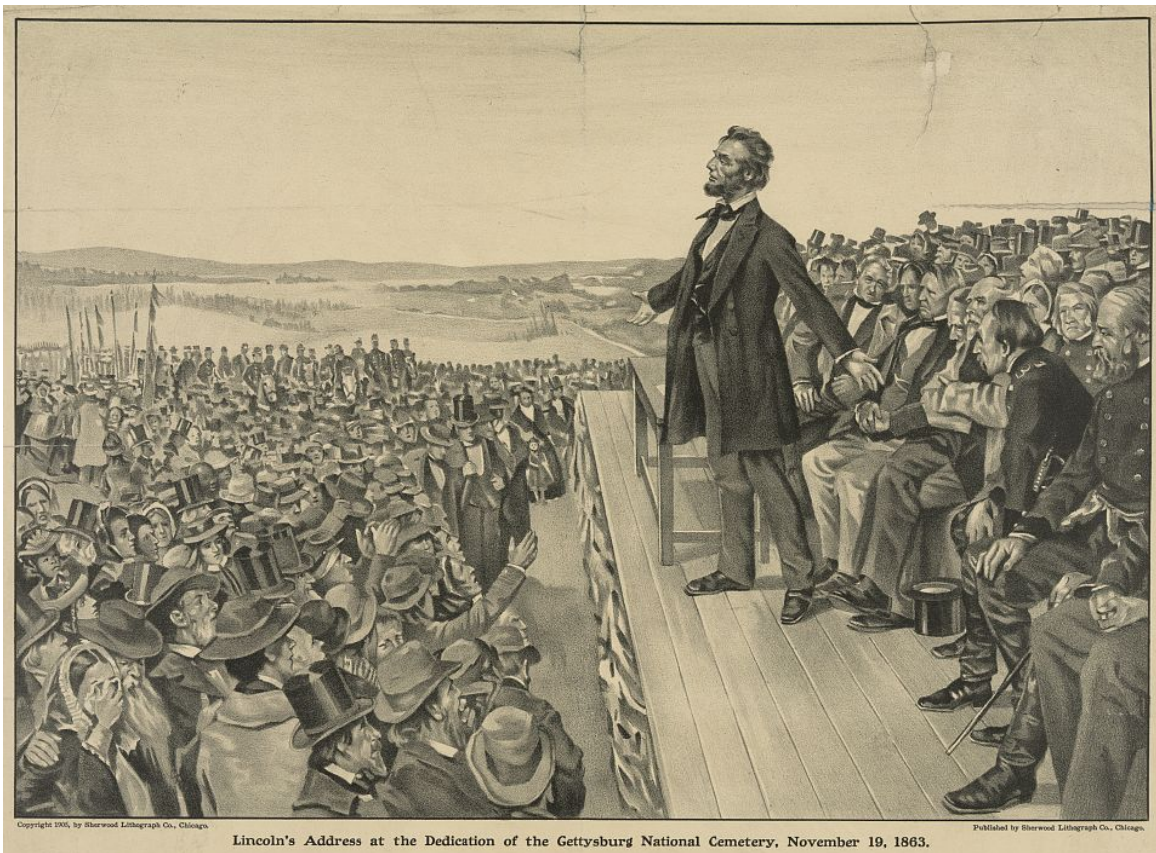
The Dispatch

Volume 39, Number 9

November 2022



Lincoln Comes to Gettysburg



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Lincoln's Address at the Dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery, November 19, 1863.

Published by Sherwood Lithograph Co., Chicago.

Lincoln's address at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. Pennsylvania Gettysburg, ca. 1905.
Chicago: Sherwood Lithograph Co. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003674448/>.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Friday, November 11, 2022

IN-PERSON MEETING AT THE WATERVLIIET SENIOR CENTER

**Brad and Linda Gottfried
Lincoln Visits Gettysburg: What
We Know and What We Don't**

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 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. |

Lincoln's 25-hour visit to Gettysburg is well known. This fast-moving presentation will cover Lincoln's visit in detail, painting a vivid picture of his time in Gettysburg during this seminal part of his presidency.

We know many aspects of his visit, such as why he was invited, how and when he arrived, where he stayed, many of his activities during his stay, his speech, etc., but there are many things that we are less sure of, such as did he visit the battlefield, and if so, where he went, the type of horse he rode, his mannerisms when he gave the address, if people applauded, whether he was ill during his stay, and what he thought of his speech.

Brad Gottfried earned a Ph.D. in Zoology and served as a college educator for over 40 years, rising to the presidency of two colleges before he retired in 2017. He has written 17 books

on the Civil War. He is also Gettysburg Licensed Town Guide and an Antietam Licensed Battlefield Guide.

Linda I. Gottfried earned a BFA and served as a graphic designer and development officer at several colleges and nonprofit organizations before retiring in 2015. She now spends her time as sculptor and enjoying retirement. Several of her pieces have won awards. The Gottfrieds have five children and seven grandchildren and they live in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania.

MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED

We will not have refreshments available.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 9: Living Historian Carolyn Ivanoff presents Clara Barton

January 13: our annual potpourri program

February 10: author Deirdre Sinnott

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 via Zoom on October 17, 2022.

The Operating Account balance was \$4,306.16. We had a new member join

at the last meeting, which brings the total number of paid members to forty-six.

The Preservation Account balance is \$4,266.69. In the past month we added \$352 to this account, largely due to Matt George and others who sold Round Table books and shirts at the Jay Street market in Schenectady.

The Board also discussed Secretary Rosemary Nichols' planned event to remember Kate Hewitt, the fiancée of General John Reynolds, who lived the final years of her life in the Capital District.

Elections for the Executive Board members will happen at the January membership meeting. There will be at least two openings on the Board. If you are interested in serving, please email us at cdcwrt@hotmail.com to learn more about the (few) expectations of Board members.

**LINCOLN COMES TO
GETTYSBURG: THE CREATION
OF THE SOLDIERS' NATIONAL
CEMETERY AND LINCOLN'S
GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**
(Emerging Civil War series)(Savas
Beatie, LLC, 2021) Bradley M. Gottfried
and Linda I. Gottfried [Kindle Edition]

Foreward by Doug Douds, Col. USMC
Ret, Professor U.S. Army War College

President Lincoln was invited to make "a few appropriate remarks" to dedicate the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg. It is often supposed by title alone that his Gettysburg Address followed the great

Union military victory at Gettysburg, the Civil War's bloodiest battle. However, after the battle of Gettysburg but before Lincoln's address, the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater occurred at Chickamauga and produced the war's second bloodiest battlefield. The defeat tarnished the luster of triple, summer Union victories at Gettysburg, Tullahoma, and Vicksburg. Again, the war's outcome and the fate of the Republic were uncertain.

Lincoln's remarks followed Edward Everett, the keynote speaker at the November 19, 1863 dedication. As Everett's last words faded, the crowd cheered. A choir of men sang an ode. Then Abraham Lincoln rose, stepped forward and began his Gettysburg address. Lincoln delivered his 272 words in 10 sentences in just over two minutes.

Although Lincoln physically wore his prized stove-piped hat that day, he rhetorically wore three hats in his remarks. The three hats corresponded to three roles he occupied simultaneously: citizen, commander-in-chief, and president of the United States. He invited the audience to time travel with him and glimpse the battle of Gettysburg, the American Civil War, and the United States through the lenses associated with each of those roles...

How does Lincoln make the time travel happen in just over two minutes? His secret is that he anchors that travel by using the word 'here' nine times. On that high ground – Cemetery Hill, in Gettysburg– and from that moment two years into the national bloodletting that was the Civil War, Lincoln offers that

from *here*, you can look back and see where we have been. From *here*, you can see our present condition. From *here*, we can propel ourselves into the future.

The day after the event, Edward Everett wrote Lincoln to say, “I should be glad, if I could flatter myself, that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours as you did in two minutes.” Even then, he knew that Lincoln’s remarks sought a more elevated and timely destination. By not mention Union, slavery, or even Gettysburg by name, Lincoln’s words transcended space and time.

Lincoln said: *Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they

who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

BUFORD’S VIEW

by Matt George

This past Sunday I raised money at the last Jay Street Merchants event. I picked ten dates between May and October (Saturdays and/or Sundays). One date was cut short by 1 ½ hours because of rain. However, the other days saw relatively decent weather. I didn’t keep a running total but I’m guessing I made over \$800.00 total. The best days were when there were a lot of Union students present. When I talked with these students, I gave them a special Civil War quiz (not the 15 question “beginners quiz”). It consisted of three questions related to Civil War-connected Union graduates. Two were easy and one was difficult and not required to win a free prize. They will appear at the end of this column.

On Saturday, I traveled all the way to the St. Johnsville Library to hear a presentation of Civil War music by Wanda Burch and two others. The music was good, but the performance was poorly attended. There was only five people in the audience and nobody

in the room was under the age of fifty, The library room they held it in was more like a small art gallery packed with bronzes and artwork that one of founding members had personally collected around the turn of the 19th century,

On November 19 I'll be attending the traditional Lincoln Fellowship luncheon and the morning Remembrance Day event in the cemetery. The speaker this year is Pulitzer Prize historian Jon Meacham who will be discussing his just released new book: "And There Was Light - Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle." His highly successful previous book was "His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope." Fortunately, the luncheon is being held just outside of town and not at the Gettysburg Hotel downtown where the town operates a money-making scam of a parking garage. I'll be staying with Cousins Mark and Janet.

Preceding my arrival in Gettysburg, I'll be stopping one day (15th) in State College, Pa. to attend a meeting of the Central Pennsylvania C.W.R.T. Lynn and Julianne Herman who spoke to us

a while back about the Allegheny Arsenal explosion had invited me, and I accepted. However, they won't be there. They will be touring the Amazon! Their President assured me I will still be very welcome. The speaker will Brad Gottfried who will be speaking to us four nights earlier on the 11th. I'll be driving home on the 20th.

TRIVIA: There are two regular trivia questions and one challenge question. Email your responses to: jbuford63@aol.com

1) What Union College Graduate (law degree) won the famous Elizabeth Jennings case in 1854, was later President of the United States and is buried in Albany's Rural Cemetery?

2) What Union college graduate was Lincoln's Secretary of State and was responsible for the purchase of Alaska?

3) Challenge – What Union College graduate (law degree) was the Colonel of the local 134th New York Regiment when they fought at Gettysburg at the "Brickyard"?

**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 | | |