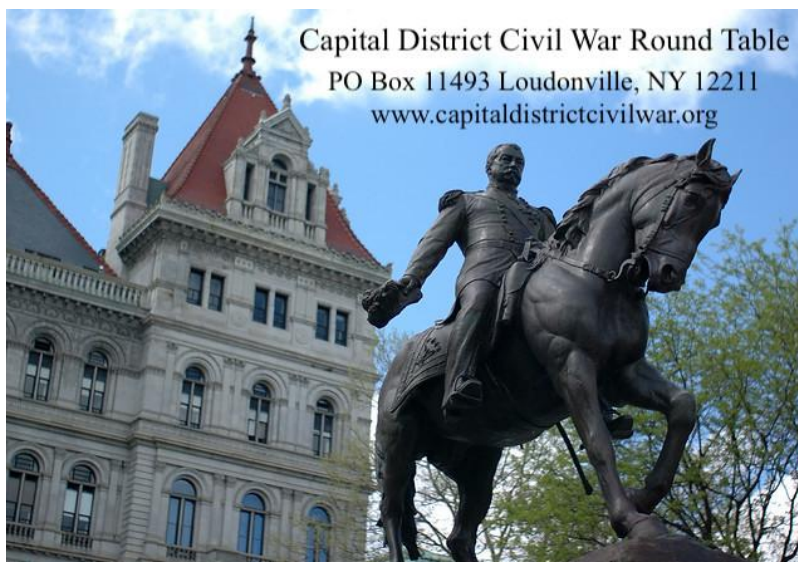


The Dispatch

Volume 40, Number 1

January 2023



**CDCWRT DONATIONS NOW TOTAL
\$2,547,047.76
IN ACTUAL AND MATCHING FUNDS**

2022 Donations

\$500 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve land at Cedar Creek and Cedar Mountain at a \$29 to \$1 match (value of \$14,500)

\$500 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve land at Williamsburg at a \$163 to \$1 match (value of \$81,500)

\$500 to the Gettysburg Foundation in appreciation for Wayne Motts

**WE HAVE DONATED \$223,995.26 IN ACTUAL FUNDS
OVER THE PAST THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS.**

JANUARY MEETING

Friday, January 13, 2023

**AT THE WATERVLIE
SENIOR CENTER**

ANNUAL POTPOURRI NIGHT

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Social Hour | 6:00 p.m. |
| Business Meeting and Election of Officers | 7:00 p.m. |
| Presentation | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. |

Potpourri Night has returned featuring three short presentations.

Bart Cohen will speak on local soldiers in the 54th Massachusetts regiment.

Gary Comley will speak on Charles McClelland of the 150th New York regiment.

Matt George will speak on the story of Colonel Allen H. Jackson of the 134th New York regiment.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 10: author Deirdre Sinnott presents on the 1835 Utica meeting of the New York Anti-Slavery Society

March 10: Bob Connor presents on James Montgomery - Abolitionist Warrior

April 14: Cody Eash will speak about General Buford's signalman: Aaron Jerome at the Seminary and Beyond

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. Please use a check or exact change if you pay in person at a meeting.

CDCWRT'S 2023 ELECTIONS

The election will be held at the January meeting, and any member in good standing (dues paid) may be nominated from the floor for any board position. Erin Baillargeon, Mark Koziol, and Steve Muller are running for their current positions. Rik Scarce is running for an At-Large position.

This leaves THREE open positions (secretary and two At-Large), which is nearly half of the Board. The time commitment to serving on the Executive Board is minimal. Please consider joining the Board to help our organization continue.

THANK YOU, MEMBERS

The Round Table wishes to thank Matt George, Edward Kokoski, and Philip Williamston for their donations to the Round Table. (Donations received between 11/20 and 12/14.)



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

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



Membership Form

2023 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Newsletter Preference: Email _____ OR Mailed Copy _____

_____ Email/Mailing address is the same as last year

If not: _____

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Membership Dues | \$35 |
| <small>(All dues go into the <u>Operating Account</u> to pay for newsletters, program expenses, and use of the meeting space)</small> | |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Additional Donation for the <u>Operating Account</u> | _____ |
|---|-------|

| | |
|--|-------|
| Donation for the <u>Preservation Account</u> | _____ |
| <small>(Preservation money pays for donations to preserve historic sites/lands, rental of the storage shed, and the Round Table's insurance)</small> | |

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 the CDCWRT website.

BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board met via Zoom on December 12. The Operating Account had \$4,027.03. The Preservation Account had \$4,626.80.

Matt George, our Program Chair, has speakers scheduled through June, 2023. The Board voted to donate \$500 to the Gettysburg Foundation in appreciation of Wayne Motts' leadership and passionate support of Civil War Preservation.

BUFORD'S VIEW

by Matt George

As I sit here early on a cold Christmas morning, my thoughts turn to both a song written in 1943 (by Walter Kent & Kim Gannon and sung by Bing Crosby) and the thousands of Civil War soldiers who spent Christmas cold, sick, and hungry in their winter quarters in Virginia and elsewhere. The song composed with WWII GIs in mind, more than applies to men shivering in tents near the Rappahannock, or in a Stafford Courthouse "shebang" or prisoner camps in various locations...

*"I'm dreaming tonight of a place I love,
Even more than I usually do, And
although I know its a long road back, I
Promise you, I'll be home for
Christmas, You can count on me,
Please have snow and mistletoe, And
presents under the tree. Christmas Eve
will find me, Where the love light
gleams, I'll be home for Christmas, If
only in my dreams."*

Somehow though, little episodes of the Christmas spirit were still reported during the war. One was the famous

story published in *Harper's Weekly* in 1886 called "Christmas on the Rappahannock," when Union and Confederate river patrols called an unofficial truce and gave each other Christmas presents. According to Reverend John Paxton of the 140th PA, this occurred on Christmas Day just after the battle of Fredericksburg. Another story more widely validated was that large numbers of men on both sides of the river joined each other in song to sing Christmas carols together. Similar accounts were attributed to troops in Europe during W.W.I. Perhaps there is hope for human empathy and the survival of the ideals of peace and goodwill towards man.

Soldiers did what they could to make Christmas like what they knew at home. A soldier names Alfred Bellard of the 5th New Jersey said that in order to make it look like Christmas, "a small tree was stuck up in the front of tent, decked off with hard tack and pork in lieu of cakes and oranges." Still for many, the holiday was a reminder of the extreme melancholy that seemed to dominate the entire country. Perhaps the most famous Christmas gift of the Civil War was General Sherman's "gift" to Lincoln on December 22, 1864.

To all the members of the Round Table:
"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

TRIVIA: Email answers to this month's trivia questions to jbuford63@aol.com

1) What was Sherman's gift to Lincoln in December, 1864?

2) What Union General was born on December 31, 1815 in Cadiz, Spain?

**CDCWRT
P.O. BOX 11493
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 | Mark Koziol |
| Treasurer | Steve Muller | Secretary | Rosemary Nichols |
| At-Large | Joyce Brooks | At-Large | (open) |
| At-Large | (open) | | |

THE NONCOMS

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