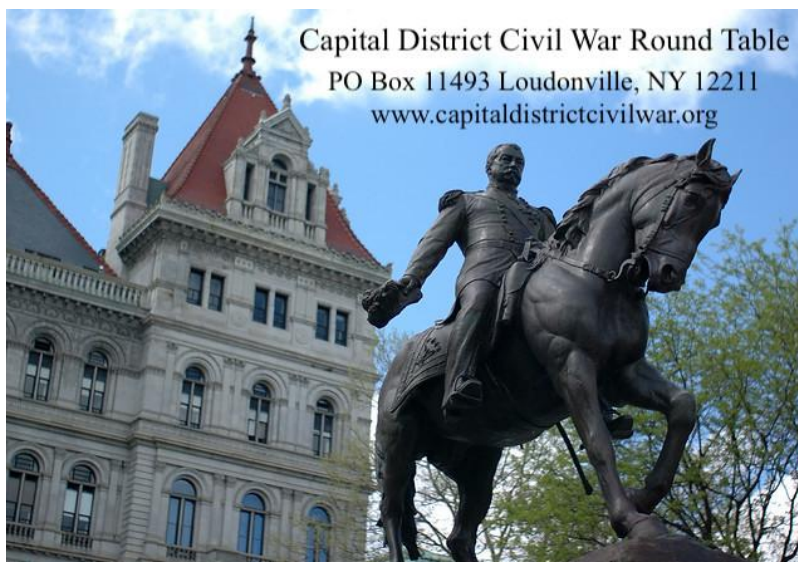


The Dispatch

Volume 40, Number 10

December 2023



The Experiences of the 17th Connecticut in Their Own Words



In this circa 1885 William Tipton image, William Henry Noble (second from left), a colonel in the 17th Connecticut, appears with Henry Allen (third from right), a veteran and chairman of the 17th Connecticut monument committee. Henrietta Noble, William's daughter, is at left next to Allen's wife. The other men are unidentified.
Image from <https://john-banks.blogspot.com/2014/05/gettysburg-death-of-17th-connecticut-lt.html>

DECEMBER MEETING

Friday, December 8, 2023

AT THE WATERVLIET
SENIOR CENTER

**Carolyn Ivanoff: Letter of
the 17th Connecticut**

Social Hour with light refreshments	6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Presentation	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Carolyn Ivanoff is a retired high school administrator and educator. She writes and speaks frequently on American history at local, state, and national venues. In 2003 Carolyn was named Civil War Trust's Teacher of the Year. In 2010, 2011 and 2013 her education programs received Awards of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. In 2016 she was honored by the Connecticut Council of Social Studies with the Bruce Fraser Friend of the Social Studies Award.

In 2018-19 Carolyn served as project coordinator for the 17th Connecticut Flagpole preservation and rededication project on Barlow's Knoll at Gettysburg National Military Park. This project was honored with a 2019 Award of Merit from CHLO for preservation. She writes and speaks on American history in a variety of formats and venues. We Fought at Gettysburg is her first book.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 12: our annual Potpourri Night. Contact Matt George if you are interested in making a short presentation (15 - 20 minutes)

February 9: Jennifer Burns will present on a topic to be announced.

March 8: Jan Wojcik returns to speak on the Pivot Point at Appomattox.

DUES ARE DUE

As you will notice, the Round Table's annual membership form is attached to this newsletter. The membership year begins January 2024. Anyone who wishes to renew or join at the December meeting may bring the completed form and payment to the meeting, preferably in an envelope so the check and form don't get separated. Those wishing to pay in cash should bring the exact amount as Treasurer Steve Muller will not be present to make change. Memberships and donations can always be mailed to the Round Table's P.O. Box. Payments received in December will be deposited in January. Donations to the Operating Account and/or Preservation Account are always welcome.

CDCWRT'S 2024 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, Steve Muller, and Rik Scarce are running for their current positions.

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.

BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board met via Zoom on November 13. The Preservation Account balance at this time is \$3,367.18. The Operating Account balance is \$3,451.42. There will be continued expenditures from this account for newsletter printings and program expenses.

The Board decided to create a student membership level for people from grade school through graduate school. Our hope is to encourage younger members to join and benefit from the outstanding presentations we have.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

The Round Table is having a special book sale at the January potpourri meeting. We'll have more books than usual available, including some series and special items. More details will be shared on the Round Table Facebook page as we get closer to the meeting date: Capital District Civil War RoundTable.

IN REMEMBRANCE

The Round Table lost several long-time members in recent months: J. J. Jennings, Francia McCashion, and Galen Richie. Links to their obituaries can be found at the Round Table Facebook page.

THE 17TH CONNECTICUT AT GETTYSBURG

by Rosemary Nichols

Reynolds Corps. Barlow's Division. Gettysburg First Day. All these phrases ring in the minds of scholars of the decisive three day battle at 'our battlefield' – Gettysburg.

It is unusual for our Round Table to focus our attention upon the experience of a Civil War regiment that is not from New York. Given the large number of New York regiments who served in the 11th Corps in the dramatic days at Gettysburg, however, we should draw many appropriate insights from a presentation of the Civil War experience of a regiment from the sister Union state of Connecticut.

The 17th benefits from the scholarly efforts of various descendants and friends. There is a blog and a web page, the 17thcvi.org, which has been regularly maintained since 1997 and has lots of interesting information. There is a section devoted to 'The Artwork of Henry Huss', a drummer in Company D. Huss made charming drawings of various aspects of the service of the 17th. Most of the artwork is post-Gettysburg when the regiment had been transferred for service in Florida, but the images show many of the places the 17th served after their dramatic engagement in Pennsylvania.

Emmitsburg to Gettysburg – Photo Tour of the 17th's March is almost literally a step-by-step photographic record of the amazingly preserved real estate the 17th traversed on their way from their overnight at Emmitsburg, Maryland the eleven miles to their

ultimate destination at 'Barlow's Knoll,' the site of their first day battlefield. The men came in from the south, passed through a much smaller though still easy to recognize Gettysburg, and marched by many of the major farms that still dot the modern battlefield, before arriving at their destination.

The website very briefly describes the unit's experience on the first day of the Gettysburg battle this way.

'Following the disaster in May 1863 at Chancellorsville, the 17th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry marched northwards with the rest of the Army of the Potomac. Now under General George Meade, the regiment faced it's (sic) second test in battle. Finding itself once more on the exposed and isolated right flank of the army, the regiment's second Lt. Colonel, Douglas Fowler, was also killed in action.'

Given the very detailed official report from Major Allen Brady immediately after the close of battle on July 4, 1863, the above three sentences do not do justice to the stubborn fighting and marching of the 17th during the three days of battle in July 1863. Major Brady concludes his report with these paragraphs:

'When the regiment entered the engagement on the 1st instant, it numbered 17 officers and 369 enlisted men. We report at the present time 9 officers and 120 enlisted men. Capt. Wilson French and Lieutenant Bartram are the only officers known to have been taken prisoner. The former was wounded in the first day's engagement. We are not aware that either of them was paroled.'

The regiment behaved gallantly. No troops in the world could behave better. Both officers and men are deserving of great credit for their coolness and bravery throughout the entire three days battle.

There are many deserving of special mention for bravery on the field, but they are so numerous I will not undertake to give their names. The coolness and bravery displayed by the officers and men of Company D exceeded anything I ever saw.'

Fulsome praise for an officer who was with the troops every step of the way between their rushed engagement on Barlow's Knoll through the two days they were placed near the Evergreen Cemetery.

Not incidentally, the webpage's custodian celebrates the book written by our speaker, Carolyn Ivanoff. [We Fought at Gettysburg: Firsthand Accounts by the Survivors of the 17th Connecticut Voluntary Infantry](#) will be available for sale and signing at our December 8 meeting.

Ms. Ivanoff is the very best example of a dedicated Civil War educator. Now retired from a career in education in Connecticut, Carolyn has turned her attention to a variety of services to the memory of the 17th Connecticut. On her way to the book which she will excerpt for us in December, Carolyn received the prestigious Teacher of the Year honor from the American Battlefield Trust as well as numerous honors from the Connecticut education community for writing and preservation efforts over the years of a very active retirement.



The Dispatch
Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



Membership Form

2024 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Membership Dues All dues go into the Operating Account to pay for newsletters, program expenses, and the use of the meeting space. (circle appropriate level)

Regular memberships can choose between emailed or mailed newsletters.

Regular: \$35

Student memberships come with only emailed newsletters.

Student: \$10

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: _____

Newsletter Preference: Email _____ OR Mailed Copy _____

_____ Email/Mailing address is the same as last year

If not: _____

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

BUFORD'S VIEW

by Matt George

I just returned from another excellent Remembrance Day celebration in Gettysburg. Except for one unfortunate situation, the ceremony and the luncheon were well worth the trip. At the last minute they changed the venue from the National Cemetery to the Majestic Theater in town. Because the House of Representatives threatened to shut down the Government, there was the possibility that they would have to cancel the event. The Cemetery comes under the auspices of the National Park Service which would have been forced to close the Cemetery. However, they were fortunate to be able to move the celebration to the theater. This still created a lot of inconvenience and difficulties in parking. Since very few people wanted to use the notorious Gettysburg Parking Garage, it meant relying on a local shuttle bus (Rabbit Transit) or getting rides to the Hyatt outside of town where the luncheon was being held. I got there about 30 minutes late but managed to get served just before the buffet line closed.

However, despite all this, the ceremony and luncheon were wonderful. The ceremony again included the swearing in of sixteen new citizens of the United States by a dignitary of the U.S. Immigration Services. The sincere smiles on their faces as they waved small little American flags was very moving. It was reassuring to know that these sixteen individuals were thrilled to be a part of one of the best democracies on earth. Hopefully this will continue to be the case in the future. Wayne Hill, as he has done for

many years, sang the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. But new this year was a young American Opera singer named J'Nai Bridges who sang "*Lead Kindly Light*" and "*He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*" as a tribute to Marian Anderson who sang at Gettysburg many years ago. Ms. Bridges received a prolonged standing ovation. She also sang at the luncheon.

The Keynote speaker was Susan Eisenhower, the granddaughter of the past President. She has written a new book entitled "*How Ike Led.*" Also recreating the Gettysburg Address was Graham Sibley, the Emmy nominated actor. He portrayed Lincoln in A&E's History Channel production of Lincoln. His rendition was one of the best I've heard. Other dignitaries included Doris Kearns Goodwin, Harold Holzer and Wayne Motts. Most of these individuals were also at the luncheon. At the luncheon, I was able to briefly talk with this month's speaker Carolyn Ivanoff.

TRIVIA: In 1866, who was the author of the following:

Reconstruction was a revolution that would "cause Northern industry, Northern capital, and Northern civilization to flow into the South, and make a man from New England as much at home in Carolina as elsewhere in the Republic". Author David Blight says this man "sought an overturning of history, the expansion of human rights forged from the fact of African American freedom – and from an idealism that soon would be sorely tested. Revolutions may or may not go backwards, but they surely give no rest to those who lead them". I wonder. Are we as a country still being tested?

**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	(open)
At-Large	Rik Scarce	At-Large	(open)
At-Large	(open)		

THE NONCOMS

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