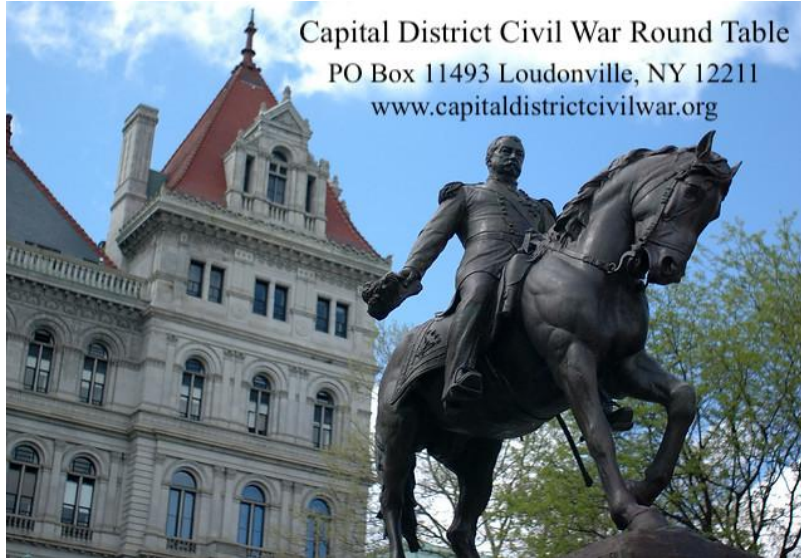


# *The Dispatch*

Volume 41, Number 1

January 2024



## **CDCWRT DONATIONS NOW TOTAL \$2,280,797.76 IN ACTUAL AND MATCHING FUNDS**

### **2023 Donations**

**\$500 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve land at Chancellorsville at a \$10.50 to \$1 match (value of \$5,250)**

**\$200 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve land at Brandy Station/Cedar Creek at a \$25 to \$1 match (value of \$5,000)**

**\$300 to the American Battlefield Trust to preserve land in Virginia at a \$30 to \$1 match (value of 9,000)**

**\$500 to the Watervliet Senior Center for use of their meeting room.**

**We have donated \$224,995.26 in actual funds over the past forty years for battlefield and historic preservation.**

# **JANUARY MEETING**

**Friday, January 12, 2024**

**AT THE WATERVLIEET  
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.

**Mary Ellen Johnson:** a Civil War soldier from Guilderland

**Steve Muller:** procurement during the War

**Rik Scarce:** becoming a Gettysburg Battlefield Guide

**Matt George:** who was Morgan Bulkeley

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**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.

**April 12:** Chuck Veit returns to present on the Monitor Raid

### **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 meeting may bring the completed form and payment to the meeting, preferably in an envelope so the check and form don't get separated. 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.

### **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.

## **SANITARY FAIRS AND THE ALBANY RELIEF BAZAAR**

[The following document was excerpted from an online publication of the NYS Museum.]

From the earliest days of the Civil War, northern civilians sought ways to contribute to the war effort. 1861 saw the establishment of the U.S. Sanitary Commission (USSC), ostensibly a philanthropic humanitarian organization with the goal of bringing modern medical relief to soldiers in the battlefield. Through an adjunct agency, the Women's Central Relief Association, the commission established a national network to distribute the many products of soldiers' aid societies—bandages, clothing, food, etc. A philanthropic purpose notwithstanding, the commission was led by men of strong political convictions who understood their work as a way to forge a sense of national patriotism and support for the war effort.

Between 1863 and the end of the war one of the chief public means of generating financial support for the work of the USSC was the holding of "sanitary fairs" in the cities and towns throughout the northern states. Largely coordinated by committees of upper-class society women in the various host cities, the fairs included elements as diverse as sales or auctions of donated goods, balls, receptions, parades, expositions (especially featuring military- and/or patriotic-themed displays), lotteries, and food concessions. Admission prices would range from 25 cents for a single day to five dollars for a "season" pass. Fairs would last from a few days

to several weeks. Overall the total raised through sanitary fairs reached almost \$4.5 million in Civil War money. In today's funds, that represents \$109,882,500.

The first sanitary fair was held at Lowell, Massachusetts in February 1863. However, it was the October 1863 fair held in Chicago—dubbed "The Northwestern Soldiers' Fair"—that popularized the concept, and became the model for other cities, including Albany.

One important, and frequently copied, feature of the Chicago fair was the organizers' reliance on pre-existing networks of women in charitable societies. Albany was no exception to this pattern in the planning of its grand 1864 extravaganza, the "Army Relief Bazaar."

The Albany Army Relief Association (ARA) met for the first time on November 2, 1861. "Mrs. Governor Morgan" (Eliza Matilda Morgan) presided over the meeting and "Mrs. William Barnes" (Emily Weed Barnes) was named the new organization's recording secretary. The minutes of the executive committee indicate that from 1861 to 1863 the association, true to its stated aims, worked to solicit donations of funds and supplies through direct appeals to local residents, businesses and organizations. The proceeds were sent to the USSC for distribution.

In late 1863, the executive committee of the ARA began considering the possibility of holding a fair or bazaar to generate greater community interest, and amplify its already successful fundraising efforts. From that point

through the early spring of 1864, the Army Relief Bazaar became the association's chief activity. The planning and arrangements for the fair were taken over by a special committee headed by the leading political and businessmen of Albany and the surrounding communities.

The bazaar opened to the public on February 22, 1864, and closed on March 30. It was held in specially constructed buildings located in still-existing Academy Park. The central halls of the fair were lined with an assortment of national and regional booths depicting the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Schenectady, Spain and Japan, Troy, the Aborigines, Gypsies, Italy, Russia, and Saratoga Springs, as well as the Netherlands, Switzerland and "the Orient." There was a Floral Hall, a substantial "curiosity shop," a grand dining hall, a military trophy room, a perfumery (naturally co-located with the French booth), an orchestra or speakers' stand, a fair post office (which issued its own specially-printed stamps), and an autograph booth.

The fair issued its own satirical newspaper, *The Canteen*. In its first issue, dated February 22, 1864, *The Canteen*, in a burst of hyperbole, declared that the fair had magically risen like the palace of Aladdin, and when the interior arrangements are perfected the fair was predicted to rival the oriental halls in its crowning splendors. The festoons and overhanging arches of evergreens, the rich display of colors, the fair ladies

adorned with the varied costumes, the battle-scarred banners as they have come from war's embrace. And the whole brilliantly illuminated with a blaze of gas issuing in countless jets will form a scene of rare and dazzling beauty.

The income derived from sales at these attractions—as well as from general admissions was substantial. Throughout the Bazaar, lotteries were held to raise additional funds. Drawings were held at all of the booths. For instance, in the first week, the Shaker Booth raffled a Shaker doll; the Indian booth, an inlaid portfolio (won by poet and one-time State Librarian, Alfred B. Street); the Swiss booth, a music box and a cuckoo clock. Without question, however, the most important prize to be raffled at the bazaar would be the hand-written preliminary draft of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

## BOARD UPDATES

The Executive Board met via Zoom on December 13. Rosemary Nichols joined to share some insights from the CWRT Congress's discussion of challenges faced by Round Tables and possible approaches to address them. One idea the CDCWRT Board already decided on was creating a student-membership level. The Board would also welcome input from the membership regarding presentation meetings in the fall of 2024 and into 2025.



**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](http://www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org)



## **BUFORD'S VIEW**

**by Matt George**

Well, it's January and time for our own members to participate in our annual potpourri night. This year four volunteers will give presentations on four topics of interest to them. Mary Ellen Johnson of the Guilderland Historical Society discusses the experiences of a Civil War soldier from Guilderland. Board Member-At-Large Rik Scarce will explain the process of studying to become a licensed battlefield guide at Gettysburg. The final exam might be the most challenging history exam he has experienced. Our Treasurer Steve Muller will discuss the intricacies of Civil War procurement. Finally, yours truly will briefly give a talk entitled "Civil War Baseball – Who was Morgan Bulkeley?" I encourage our members to attend to support these volunteers. We will also have on sale an assortment of books, our Civil War sweatshirts (really useful this time of year) and other items.

Our good friend Pat Schroeder is once again running his free conference at Longwood University in February. I've been to this Conference a few times. It usually features good speakers, and it is FREE. However, there is still the cost of gas and the hotel. The biggest consideration is the long drive through western Virginia in the winter and the threat of snow. Going is still a possibility.

I just recently purchased a new Civil War book entitled "Silent Cavalry – How Union Soldiers from Alabama Helped Sherman Burn Atlanta and Then Got Written Out of History" by Howell Raines. The First Alabama Cavalry, U.S.A. was a regiment of mountain Unionists. Including sixteen formerly enslaved men supported Sherman's efforts in Atlanta. This new research is fascinating. The efforts of these soldiers became intentionally lost in the Lost Cause deluge after the war. Why am I not surprised? The complaint that there is nothing new in Civil War historical research is not true. This is a quote from the inside of the dust cover of the book: "Raines brings to light a conspiracy that sought to undermine the accomplishments of these renegade southerners – a key component of the Lost Cause effort to restore glory to white southerners after the war, even at the cost of the truth." Raines is originally from Alabama and is a Pulitzer Prize journalist. I'm looking forward to reading this book.

**TRIVIA:** Email answers to this month's trivia questions to [jbuford63@aol.com](mailto:jbuford63@aol.com)

The 1st Alabama scouted and fought near what mountain in Georgia? A Union soldier, who was wounded at the battle there, had a son whom he named after the mountain where he was wounded. Who was his son and what is his connection to baseball?

**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](http://www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org)  
or email: [cdcwrt@hotmail.com](mailto: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**

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		