



The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

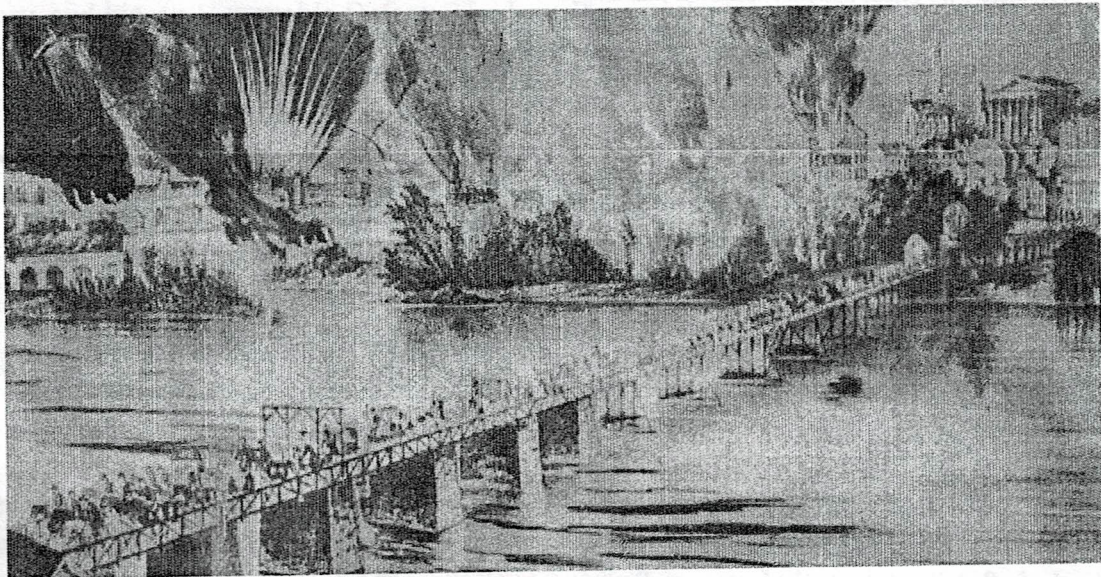
Capital District Civil War Round Table

P.O. Box 14871, Albany, NY 12212-4871

CDCWRT's web site: timesunion.com/communities/cdcwrt

Volume 19 Number 8

April, 2002



Currier and Ives Print of the Evacuation of Richmond (Library of Congress)

On April 1st, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee informed President Jefferson Davis that the Petersburg defensive line had collapsed, and that the Army of Northern Virginia was abandoning the perimeter. This began a frantic attempt to move the Confederate government out of Richmond. Archives and supplies that could not be saved were burned. Fires spread quickly and large portions of Richmond began to burn. An arsenal exploded. Depicted above are Jefferson and his cabinet crossing the James River Bridge on horseback. The conflagration lasted for three days, and the first Union troops to enter the city helped put out the flames.

**April Meeting
Saturday 04/13/02
Spring Banquet
Sovereign Best Western
Western Ave.
Albany, NY**

**SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 PM
BUFFET DINNER 7:00 PM
PROGRAM 8:30 PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

The April meeting of the CDCWRT will be the Spring Banquet, which will be held Saturday, April 13th, at the Sovereign Best Western Motel on Western Avenue in Albany. The guest speaker is noted author, William Davis, who will talk on "The End of the Confederacy." This topic is the subject of his recently released book. The flyer in this newsletter has additional information and a reservation slip for the buffet dinner.

**ALL DINNER RESERVATIONS
MUST BE IN THE POST OFFICE
MAILBOX BY SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH.**

Also enclosed in this newsletter are raffle tickets, which can be mailed in with you reservations. You need not be present to win. Prizes will be a variety of books, including an autographed copy of Davis' new book. Support your RT and buy some tickets!

There will also be a 'silent auction' item, a donated copy of the "Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg." This historic account of the reunion of the two armies, was donated by Roy C. Rawls in memory of his wife, Evelyn Ruth Packett Rawls. There are many fine photographs throughout the book. Funds raised from its sale will be donated to the Preservation

Account. A minimum bid of \$45.00 is requested.

MARCH MEETING

Despite his advanced age of over 150 years, Tom Carroll gave an excellent presentation in the form of a chronology about the construction of the Monitor and its naval engagement with the Virginia. Over 80 members were in attendance at the meeting. There was an extended question and answer period due to the intense interest in this event. The newsletter editor's fingers tripped over the keyboard and accidentally increased Dr. Carroll's tenure at R.P.I. by a factor of 10, thus making it appear he had personal first-hand accounts of the Monitor's construction. Sorry, Tom!

Dr. Carroll also announced that the Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway was successful in obtaining its matching grant. The CDCWRT was the first organization to contribute in this venture, and it made the last donation to put the match over the top. The grant obtained was for \$140, 000.

BOARD MEETING

The March Board Meeting was held on Thursday, the 14th. The treasurer reported a balance of \$2662.99 in the general account, and \$4338.28 in the Hennessy Preservation account. The Program Chair announced upcoming events and meetings. These are listed in this newsletter but some specifics will not appear until next month.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The Antietam Trip, Friday, April 5th, will require your presence at the upper parking lot at Filene's at Crossgates by 7:00am. Please don't be late.

On April 25th, the George Washington exhibit will open in the Guilderland Library. This exhibit will be there for several weeks, and will include Washington's ceremonial sword and the Mason Bible upon which the oath of office was first taken. The CDCWRT has been asked to participate in this exhibit, and four display cases have items of interest for collectors and students in particular.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Friday, May 10th, at the Guilderland Library. The topic will be announced in next month's newsletter.

On June 8-9, Saturday and Sunday, Civil War Days will be held in Petersboro, NY. This small town on route 20 between Utica and Syracuse was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Each year reenactors, historians and vendors gather to celebrate the region's Civil War heritage. This has been a cancellation event for the CDCWRT for several years now.

Our June meeting will be held on Friday, June 14th, at Guilderland Library.

The American Battlefield Protection Conference will be held in Albany in August of 2002. This conference will attract nationally known historians and preservationists to Albany. The CDCWRT has been asked to participate in this event, which will be held at the New York State Museum Conference Center in Albany. More details will follow as they become available.

!!VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Join the now forming
ED BEARSS-BEMIS HEIGHTS Co. C

The CDCWRT is enlisting volunteers to act as guides to assist the U.S. Park Rangers at the newly reopening Victory Monument of Saratoga. The rededication will be on May 25th. The monument will be open on Wednesdays through Sundays until Labor Day, and then on weekends until October 20th. Hours will probably be from 10:00 to 4:30. Training will occur on May 4th from 10-3 at the Battlefield Visitor Center. Your tour of duty will be at your convenience, with the understanding that you will you staff the time slots that you select. The duties will be to talk to people waiting in line to climb to the top of the monument. You will not be required to join them! With enough volunteers, this could be as infrequent as once every two weeks.

Contact Joe Stracuzzi for enlistment papers and/or information at 229-1551 or mail requests to 3 Bradbury St., Clifton Park, NY 12065.

From *The Journal of Civil War Medicine* Clinton and Bush at Gettysburg

The 3rd Arkansas and the 1st Vermont clashed at Gettysburg. The 1st Vermont had a colonel named William Jefferson Clinton, who was wounded by soldiers of the 3rd Arkansas unit. Clinton was then replaced by Col. G.W. Bush, but records do not indicate what the G.W. stood for!

Nancy Farina will donate \$10 to the RT if anyone knows why the Purple Heart was awarded during the Revolutionary War, but not the Civil War. Send answer to editor.

Reservation form for annual Spring Banquet
****Please complete form and return by April 5, 2002***

The Last Days of the Confederate Government:
April 13, 2002
WILLIAM C. "JACK" DAVIS

WILLIAM C. "JACK" DAVIS will be the guest speaker for our annual spring banquet. His knowledge and expertise on the Civil War is legendary, and it is a special honor to have Mr. Davis as our guest for his presentation on the last days of the Confederate Government. In a rare appearance in the Northeast, Jack's presence at our banquet is part of a two week national speaking tour. He will share insights into the last days of the government, and highlight the people and events that were so much a part of the closing moments of the Civil War. He will excerpt highlights of his recent book as part of this special presentation.

Mr. Davis has twice been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History, and is the only three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works in Confederate History. His most recent books, *The Union that Shaped the Confederacy: Robert Toombs and Alexander H. Stephens*, published in February, and his *An Honorable Defeat: The Last Days of the Confederate Government* was published in June.

"Jack" joined Virginia Tech as Director of Programs for the new Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, as well as serving as Professor of History. In returning to Virginia he is in a way returning to his roots, since his Davis ancestors settled in nearby Carroll and Grayson Counties some 200 years ago, and virtually all of his ancestry goes back in the Old Dominion, some as far as 1610.

Our banquet will be held at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel (formerly the Ramada Silo), 1228 Western Ave, Albany NY. Displays, exhibits, book sales and raffles will begin at 6:00 PM. Cocktail hour is from 6:00 – 7:00, with cash bar available. Dinner buffet and program begin at 7:00.

All buffet dinners include soup, salad, and entrees, chef's accompaniments, dessert, and beverage... \$27.00 per person

Payment options: **Cash or Check made payable to CDCWRT**
c/o CDCWRT, PO Box 14871, Albany NY 12212-4871

Number of guests: _____ @ \$27.00 each Total enclosed: _____

Name(s) of parties attending: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip _____ Phone _____

Saturday night Banquet includes program, displays, and full buffet. Cocktails available but not included