

# The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

# CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212
www.cdcwrt.org



Volume 25, Number 4 December 2007


## THE NUMBER ONE ROUND TABLE IN USA IN 2006

## THE ONLY ROUND TABLE IN THE TOP 250 DONORS TO CWPT 2007

**MARCH 2007 - $5000 DONATION TO THE CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST GENERAL FUND**

**APRIL 2007 – DONATION OF THREE MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES TO WMHT SILENT AUTION - $390**

**OCTOBER 2007 – DONATIONS OF FRAMED CACHETS TO THE SILENT AUCTION OF THE HUDSON-MOHAWK INDUSTRIAL GATEWAY - $**

**OCTOBER 2007 –DONATION OF $500 TO THE PERRYVILLE BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**

**NOVEMBER 2007 – DONATION OF $2500 TO THE LUTHERAN SEMINARY AND ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT GETTYSBURG**

**DECEMBER 2007 – DONATION OF $2500 TO THE CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST FOR GLENDALE BATTLEFIELD LAND PURCHASE**

**DECEMBER 2007 – DONATION OF $2500 TO THE LUTHERAN SEMINARY AND ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**TOTAL OF $13,390 FOR 2007**

**The above listing is impressive for a Round Table that has a membership of around 200 on paper. How do we carry off this reputation? It is through the efforts of a dedicated cadre of members who sell postal cachets and t-shirts at a number of events throughout the year.**

**However, we need your support to continue this remarkable effort. Your purchase of a book, or T-shirt, or postal cachet helps. Talking-up your RT helps expand our membership. But we really need you to volunteer at our events. If you are interested, talk to any Board member.**

**DECMBER MEETING**
**Friday December 14, 2007**
**Guilderland Library**
**2228 Western Ave.**

**FOREIGN TROOPS IN THE CIVIL WAR**

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| **SOCIAL HOUR** | **6:00-7:00 PM** |
| **BUSINESS & ELECTIONS** | **7:00-7:30 PM** |
| **PRESENTATION** | **7:30-8:30 PM** |
| **DISCUSSION & PARTY** | **8:30 – 9:00 PM** |

# CDCWRT MEETING

***The monthly meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Guilderland Library on Friday evening, December 14, 2007. This will be the last meeting of the calendar year. At this meeting the membership will elect officers and board members for the year 2008. Elections will take place at the business meeting before the guest speaker presentation. A slate of individual running is listed in this newsletter***

***This meeting also is our annual holiday celebration. In addition to the usual fare provided by the RT, members are asked to bring some snacks or cookies to share. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with elections at the business meeting at 7:00 p.m.***

***Our special speaker for tonight is Michael Aikey, and his topic is entitled,*** **"Foreign Troops in the American Civil War."**

***Last year we heard that over 50,000 Canadians fought in the American Civil War, including over 15 as generals. We also know that the majority of 11th Corps spoke German and officers had to given orders in German. Likewise in the Shenandoah Valley Union soldiers stated, "I fights mit Siegel!" And of course there is the famous Irish Brigade. But there were other units of professional soldiers who were recruited from foreign services. The Garibaldi Guard was such a unit. Mike will discuss how these units were formed, how they functioned, and what happened to them.***

***Mike is a founding member of this Round Table and has been very active in the state's Military Museum and its vast collection. He is presently the Director of the New York State Military Museum and Veteran Research Center in Saratoga. He is involved in the preservation and cataloging of the collection, including the battle-flag collection. Since its opening several years ago, the exhibits at the museum have expanded greatly. A key part of Mike job is to increase the awareness of the public to the existence of the museum and its holdings.***

# MONTHLY MEETING

The CDCWRT member and author, Mark Silo spoke at the November meeting about his new book and the 115th NYVI. An enthusiastic crowd of about 65 members were on hand, including several who were important to Mark's research. Mark publicly recognized them and thanked them. Mark and the audience were treated to an additional surprise after his presentation. Several guests brought in portions of a collection of artifacts that belonged to one of the members of the 115th. When the 115th returned to Albany after the war, the unit's battle-flag was turned over to the state. Mark had noted in his presentation that the standard on the top of the flag-pole was missing, and presumably was taken by one of the members of the 115th. Well as it turned out, that was correct, but there in the library, for all of us to see, was the missing standard that was in the private collection that was brought to the meeting. A number of attendees were able to purchase autographed copies of the book at half-price. If anyone would like a copy for a holiday gift or for personal use, the RT still may be able to obtain some. Please contact J.J. Jennings or Sue Knost.

# BOARD MEETING

A Board Meeting was held on November 12, 2007. The treasurer reported $1,154.74 in the regular account, and $10,136.80 in the preservation account. The Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway Gala, held on November 7th, was a success with over $26,000 raised. Members of the CDCWRT set up and ran the silent auction. A number of framed cachets were donated by the RT for the auction.

Matt George reported on his trip to Perryville, KY for the 145th anniversary of the battle. He presented the CDCWRT's check for $500 for Division Membership for the RT for the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association. Former RT board member, Chris Kolakowski, is head of the association, and our membership will help in preservation activities there.

The Board also voted to send $2,500 to the Civil War Preservation Trust to support the purchase of 319 acres at the Glendale Battlefield in Virginia. Last month the Board also voted to send $2,500 to the Adams County Historical Society located in the Lutheran Seminary on the Gettysburg Battlefield. At this meeting an additional $2,500 was donated to the Adams County Historical Society.

Director, Wayne Motts, shared a small fraction of the artifacts at the Seminary with the RT on our October trip to Gettysburg. Wayne is preparing to contact various round tables in the country seeking a pledge of $5000 in five years from ALL the round tables that might respond.

Although our RT had predominately concentrated on the preservation of "dirt" over the past decade, the board has discussed in the past various ways to encourage other round table to contribute to preservation. There may be some 700 round tables in the country, and if each (on average) contributed $100 per year to the Civil War Preservation Trust, that would be $70,000 per year that could be used to purchase battlefield acreage. That would be a huge amount to use with matching grants that could amplify that amount conservatively to over $300,000 per year. Your Board has discussed the issuing of a challenge or matching funds to encourage other round tables in this effort. However, that would be a sizeable task for RT volunteers.

As Director, Wayne Mott has the time and support for fund raising. He is the best person to carry our message to other round tables. Our RT has given him he first $5,000 in two months. This money will go towards the appropriate preservation and conservation of Civil War material presently stored in the Seminary. Funding of course is coming from multiple sources, but hopefully our 'seed money' contribution will 'fall on receptive ears and multiply.'

# UP-COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, December 2nd, is the Victorian Stroll in Troy, NY.** The CDCWRT will have its usual display in the Troy Post Office, along with a special postal cancellation. A second site will also be manned at The Atrium in downtown Troy.

**Friday, January 11, 2008 will mark the fist meeting of the new year. This is the annual Potpourri Meeting, where several of our members are invited to make short presentations.** Anyone interested in presenting should contact Sue Knost or Rosemary Nichols. This is also T-shirt Night and Show and Tell Night for display of Civil War related artifacts.

# ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER

Our annual elections will be held at the start of the December meeting. Any member in good standing may run for any office. The nominating committee has a proposed slate of officers.

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|---|---|
| President | J.J. Jennings |
| Vice-President | Lew Warner |
| Treasurer | Fran McCashion |
| Secretary | Rosemary Nichols |

There are 3 At-Large positions. The following individuals have indicated interest in a position.

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|---|---|
| Laura Alpert | Mary Ellen Johnson |
| A. Howard Young | Fran McCashion |
| Chris Kelly | Ralph Rahm |
| Patty Pinchback | Art Henningson |
| Doris Owens | |

I do believe word has gotten out about those dinners we have at our board meetings!

If you are interested in running for any position, please contact Joe Stracuzzi at 229-9089.

# A SPECIAL SERIES

## *The Last Four Weeks of the War*

*By Edmund N. Hatcher*

**The collection of material for this work began shortly after the close of the War, by seeking from both North and South, files of daily and weekly papers published during the activity of the two great armies of the Union and Confederate forces. I have given each as it came directly from the press sentiment on those dates.**

**The contents are from the War Correspondents and editorials of the following papers: The Tribune, Herald and Times of New York; The Daily Rebel, Confederate Union and Mobile Register of Alabama; The Raleigh Progress and Confederate of North Carolina; The Richmond Dispatch, Sentinel, Whig, and Enquirer of Richmond, Virginia; The Daily Constitutionalist of Augusta, Georgia; The New Orleans Picayune, Philadelphia Inquirer, Washington Chronicle, Baltimore American, and the Cincinnati Commercial, Gazette, and Enquirer, as well as from files of papers of less prominence, that were issued during the War, many of which have been for years extinct.**

**I trust, after the reader has carefully read, -- and possibly wondered as to the accuracy of the contents, -- that it will have been found interesting.**

**I launch this work with the belief that it will bring to many, recollections that time has blurred, and recall the part you played in the great drama. With this accomplished, I have finished.**

**E.N.H.**

**(Sept. 30, 1891)**

## *SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1865*

***Ninth Army Corps, Petersburg, Union account***

At 5 o'clock this morning the Rebels came in great force to capture Fort Steadman. The time occupied in crossing the ground between the lines was but a moment, when they were in the rear of the fort. Here they formed in line of battle, and while one portion advanced on the fort, the other swept the right, in toward the Appomattox river, expecting to flank and capture the whole line to that point. They were met by the Seventeenth Michigan and driven back, after a severe fight.

The Rebels who attacked the fort were several times repulsed by the garrison, but their numbers being so superior to ours, they finally overpowered and took prisoners all who were in it. General Wilcox's command now came from the right, and drove the enemy from the line on the right of the fort. Gen. Hartranft's Division, on the left, was quick on the ground with reinforcements, and assaulted the fort from the rear, which the Rebels seemed determined to hold at all hazards. Three repeated charged were made, and then the fight was over. The Rebels surrendered

Our loss in killed and wounded and prisoners, is believed to be about 500, one-third of whom are probably prisoners. We have taken from the Rebels 1,800 prisoners, among whom are about forty officers. The Rebel General Terry, who had charge of the assault, is reported killed.

The Ninth Corps has, to-day, paid the Rebels back for their defeat at the Petersburg mine explosion, and in the future the Rebels will esteem them.

***Army of the Potomac, Petersburg, Union account***

The results of to-day's battle demonstrates the fact that the Rebels have lost heart in their cause. Large numbers are ready and willing to lay down their arms and give up the struggle. After they had gained possession of Fort Steadman, they began at once to plunder the baggage in the tents, in spike of their officers' protests. Those who remained in line fought with nothing like the enthusiasm exhibited last summer. When the Rebels determined to return to their lines, hundreds of their men ran and hid in our bomb-proofs, waiting for our boys to take them prisoners.

***Army of the Potomac, Petersburg, Union account***

President Lincoln, with Generals Grant and Ingalls, came up from City Point on a special train. They went into the field and witnessed the attack made by the Second and the Sixth Corps. This is President

Lincoln's first appearance on a battle-field. The position he occupied was in range of the enemy's bomb-shells, several of which exploded near him.

***Lee's Army, Petersburg, Confederate account***
At 11 o'clock this morning, General Lee attacked the Yankee Fort, Battery No. 5, near this city --- the one that has been pouring its shells through this city for a long time, --- and captured it with 700 prisoners and several guns. This will interfere with Grant's left wing, which is operating against the railroad. It is reported that Grant is moving heavy bodies of troops toward Weldon, to re-enforce Sherman. It is very cold to-night. The wind is piercing to our brave Southerners on the picket lines in front of this city.

***Cairo, Illinois, Union account***
A desperate fight occurred between twenty of our troops and seventy guerillas, thirty miles from Paducah, Kentucky, on Wednesday night. Twenty guerillas were killed including McdDougall, their chief. We lost Captain McGregor, who was killed. General Meredith has detachments out scouring the country with the expectation of cleaning the guerillas from the Kentucky shore.

***Augusta, Georgia, Confederate account***
The Yankees burned, destroyed and evacuated Dalton several days ago. About 1000 of Woodford's cavalry command moved to a point about eighteen miles north of Dalton, on a tour of observation.

***Louisville, Kentucky, Union account***
Yesterday 118 prisoners of war, embracing several officers, 102 privates and two citizens, left the Military Prison here for Camp Chase in Ohio. Among the lot were four seamen, of the defunct "Cofederate States Navy," captured near Kingston, East Tennessee, while trying to burn the United States boats on that stream.

***Goldsboro, North Carolina, Union account***
General Sherman entered the town, in person, while the bands played, the cannon boomed and the town generally was brim full of joy. On Thursday he reviewed the Army of the Ohio. Their appearance, he was frank to say, was not as gaudy as he had seen them, but, considering what they had done, and the time in which they had done what they did, he did not think they were an army to be ashamed of. He knew what they were worth and what they could do under such as General Schofield, and was proud of them. General Sherman, in his speech to-day, said, "We've whipped Johnston and can do it again."

***Montgomery, Alabama, Confederate account***
A Federal column of from 1,500 to 1,800 strong, struck the Alabama and Florida Railroad seventy miles below here – in the neighborhood of Garland station – yesterday morning. The passenger train which left here Thursday afternoon was captured by the enemy. The passengers were robbed and the cars destroyed. They stated that they were on their way to Greenville, forty-three miles below here.

***Mobile, Alabama, Confederate account***
Our preparations for the protection of this city are complete. We are now able to meet any force Canby can get together to besiege the city. We have provisions for at least six months, and now the ship is ready – let the foe come on. He should, however, be met and whipped before he reaches our defenses. Once there, he will commence digging, and in a short time will have works as strong as those thrown up at Vicksburg. Let Canby be met, if possible, before he has an opportunity to accomplish much. Shall we protect Mobile or not? This is in your hands and should be answered at once.

***New York City***
Gold is quiet. Prices opened at 157 ½ , but was found too high, and fell back to 153 ½.

***Raleigh, north Carolina, Confederate account***
Much unjust abuse has been heaped upon the cavalry under Gen. Wheeler. The marauding and plundering charged to them has been done by others. A more orderly or well-behaved set of men than Gen. Wheeler's cannot be found anywhere. We are of the opinion that the Yankee sympathizers know more than Wheeler's men as to where, when, and how the plundering is done, as the woods here are full of them.

***Washington, D.C., Union account***
North Carolina refugees, who have just reached this city, say that two-thirds of the people in and about Fayetteville, are Unionists. Provisions they report as being plenty, but money is very scarce. Flour is worth, in Confederate money, $750 per barrel; corn meal, $60 per bushel; men's shoes, $250 per pair; shoddy coats are sold at $500. One dollar in gold is worth $125 in Confederate money.

A gentleman just arrived from Richmond, says that the Rebels admit that Sherman's army has damaged them to the amount of $50,000,000. He represents the strength of the Rebel army at Richmond as all of 60,000, excluding 10,000 home-guards and emergency men. He does not believe that Johnston has to exceed 45,000 men, though he has drawn several divisions from Richmond. Deep gloom prevails in Richmond as everybody seems to believe that the day of reckoning is not far off.

***Richmond, Virginia, Confederate account***
The Yankee papers chronicle the rise in the price of flour here to $1,500 per barrel, which occurred a few days ago. This is certainly proof of the fact that every occurrence in Richmond is immediately known in Washington. How can success be possible, with every movement we make being known by the enemy the very instant it occurs? This city is evidently alive with Unionists, who no doubt, are in some way connected with a secret-service which is hard at work against us.

The marching of so many of our troops (Pickett's Division), through the streets of this city to-day, has led us to believe that there is foundation for the rumor afloat, that Lee is about to evacuate.

## *SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1865*

***Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, Union account***
General Sheridan's whole cavalry force crossed the James River at Deep Bottom to-day to join Grant. Everything goes to show that a decisive movement is near.

***Washington, D.C. Union account***
The forces in East Tennessee, under command of General Stoneman, have in their rapid advance, recovered more than one hundred miles of railroad and are driving the enemy, which is in confusion, before them. General Stoneman is noted for putting in an appearance at a time when the enemy are not looking for him.

***Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, Union account***
It is noticed that the enemy are weakening their force in our front. General Ord is wide awake and will possibly make an assault along this line from the James River to the Appomattox before the day is over.

***Augusta, Georgia, Confederate account***
Broad Cloth. This article is now held at two thousand dollars per yard in this city. Gold, $60 stiff; silver, buying at $55, selling at $60; Cotton, 99 cents per pound, very few sales; whiskey $100 to $200 per gallon; eggs, $6 to $7 per dozen; corn meal, $40 per bushel; butter, $10 to $13 per pound.

***Canton, Mississippi, Confederate account***
We are informed that the Legislature has decided that Georgia is going to operate against the government in arming negroes. We guess the negroes will go into the service regardless of the Legislature. This fight must be won, and the slaves must be used in it when necessary.

***Lisbon, Portugal***
The Confederate ram, Stonewall, has arrived here from Ferrol, where she left the Federal war steamers, Niagara and Sacramento, which are reputed to have shunned a conflict.

***Pensacola, Florida, Union account***
General Steel's command, at Nutshell's Fork, to-day came in contact with about eight hundred Rebels, After a severe fight the enemy scattered into the woods, while many were captured.

***Goldsboro, North Carolina, Union account***
General Sherman, after leaving Fayetteville, decided to form a junction near Goldsboro. The enemy, General Hardee's forces, consisting of the Carolina and Georgia troops, released from Charleston and Savannah, had retired in the direction of Raleigh. It was necessary to deceive him as to the line of march, and make him believe Raleigh was the point proposed. Accordingly, the corps of General Slocum's command, the Twentieth, moved up the road, where it halted, and allowed Kilpatrick's cavalry to pass and take the front.

The fighting at this point was very severe. The enemy's infantry charged our cavalry repeatedly. Soon after Generals Sherman and Slocum arrived in person, and the infantry of the left was ordered to advance. The enemy's works were carried, and he was forced from his position with the loss of his guns and his caissons. One division after another of our infantry was now pushed in upon the right and left. The enemy stubbornly fell back before each attack, and when night set in still held the cross-roads. During the night, however, he retired in the direction of Raleigh, leaving his killed and wounded on the field.

## *MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1865*

***Richmond, Virginia, Confederate account***
The situation in North Carolina becomes more and more interesting. With his army scarcely half organized, General Johnson has been able to resist the advance of the enemy, from the time he left the Cape Fear. On three occasions he has given Sherman a severe lesson in the art of war, while at Kinston he was severely punished by General Bragg. The Battle of Bentonville, on Sunday the 19th, was a triumph to our arms. On the 20th the enemy was entrenched, and no fight occurred. On the 21st there was heavy skirmishing and some severe fighting, in which the enemy was badly handled. General Johnson maintains his position, and will be ready to meet the enemy at all points.

***New York City, Union account***
The World of this morning, in its editorials, advises the Confederacy to lay down their arms at once and trust to chances.

***White Oak, North Carolina, Union account***
Early this morning heavy firing began and continued throughout the day. Our advance scouts say that Kilpatrick is fighting the Rebel General Hampton., between Goldsboro and Smithfield. Our cavalry are driving the enemy and at dark the firing grew more indistinct. The sudden sweep of Kilpatrick's cavalry upon Hampton must be a surprise. We are on the banks of the Neuse River, half-way between Goldsboro and Kinston. The country is well kept and supplies are abundant.

***Army of the Potomac, Union account***
Orders were to-day received at the various field hospitals to remove the sick and wounded to City Point and keep the hospitals in readiness for any emergency that may arise.

***Mobile Bay, Alabama, 13th & 16th Corps, Union acct***
Our army began to-day the bombardment of the Spanish Fort. This is the Rebels' strongest fortification at this point. It has sixteen heavy guns. The enemy have been expecting this movement no doubt. The Rebel force in Mobile is reported at six thousand in the city, and the same number at Blakely, on this side of the bay at Mobile. Generals Canby, Granger and Smith are at their posts and we hope soon to say that Mobile's lights are out.

***Selma, Alabama, Confederate account***
There is a report prevalent that a cavalry force, eight thousand strong, was coming from the North, by way of Tuscaloosa. Forrest no doubt will be able to take care of this party, should there be any truth in this report. There seems to be three Federal columns – one from four thousand to six thousand last heard of at Pollard – another operating on Spanish Fort, probably ten thousand in number, and the north Alabama column, if there is one, of eight thousand. We do not believe the Federals could raise such a force.

***Richmond, Virginia, Confederate account***
General Lee telegraphs that his attempt to break the Federal lines on Saturday was not successful. A full report of the result is not known here, but quite enough is current to convince us that the Army of Northern Virginia has had a severe blow. From the report, which is from an official source, General Gordon assaulted the enemy's works at Hare's Hill, capturing several pieces of artillery and mortars, as well as many prisoners. The General's dash upon the enemy was a success. He swept a portion of their line, capturing several prominent and annoying forts and batteries, but was not able to hold them without being compelled to withstand heavy assaults, so it was deemed best to fall back upon our own works, which was done.

Even in face of this news, General Lee's dispatch is expressive of a nervous feeling on his part. We will pray for news not in keeping with that from General Lee, and hope to-morrow to state that General Lee's dispatch was but a rumor.