



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 18 Number 4

DECEMBER, 2000

**SEASON'S GREETINGS
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HAPPY CHANUKAH**

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**December Meeting
Friday 12/14/01
Guilderland Library
Western Ave.
Guilderland, NY
HOLIDAY PARTY**

SOCIAL HOUR	6:00 PM
BUSINESS MEETING	7:00 PM
PROGRAM	7:30 PM
PARTY	8:30-10:00

CDCWRT MEETING

The December meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Guilderland Library, and will also be our Holiday Party after the meeting. The first item on the agenda however will be to elect a new slate of officers and board members. Copies of the by-laws will be available at the meeting for anyone who did not receive one last year.

The proposed slate is as follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>Matt Farina</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Joe Stracuzzi</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Paul Rivenburgh</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Matt George</i>
<i>At-Large</i>	<i>Cindy Schechter</i>
<i>At-Large</i>	<i>Jon Olson</i>
<i>At-Large</i>	<i>Fran McCashion</i>

Nominations from the floor will be accepted as long as nominee, nominator, and second nominator are all members of good standing have dues paid as of December 2001.

Our speaker for the December meeting will be STEVE HOLLINGSHEAD, and his talk is entitled, "SECRETS OF THE BATTLEFIELD." Steve is a resident of Gettysburg, PA., and is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, where he earned an B.A. in film. He has worked as a member of Capitol Hill and White House

Press Corps, and has a long list of freelance credits with TV stations and networks across the country.

In 1991, he started NEW VISION PRODUCTIONS, a commercial photography and video production company, which produced a series of award-winning videos on the Civil War. Steve is a creative filmmaker with a passion for history. He involves the audience on both cognitive and emotional levels as he brings the reality of events home to the viewer in an unforgettable way.

This will be a great meeting to close out a momentous year. A number of items will be available for sale as gifts at the meeting. Drinks and snacks will be provided, but it would be wonderful if you could bring a few special foods or cookies for the party afterwards. Please call Anne Bergman (434-2552) or Fran McCashion (459-4209) if you would like to bring something.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The 4th Annual Northeast Conference on the Civil War was very successful. Friday night was attended by about 50 people who heard three short, excellent presentations. **Kim Howe** spoke about CW nurse, Catherine Lawrence. Kim's article was published in volume 1 of *The Journal of Women's Civil War History* which was available at the meeting. **Mark Silo** spoke about his completed book on the 115th New York, which was recruited from the Capital region. The regiment fought in less-known areas of the war, but it's high casualty rate placed it as one of Fox's "*Fighting 300*" Union regiments. Mark is looking for a publisher. Finally, **Nellie and Bill Edmonston** of Edmonston Publishers, gave another dramatic reading from *Memoirs of the 149th NYV*. Exhibits and books sales

rounded out the evening along with donuts and cider.

About fifty attendees were at the conference on Saturday. Member and historian, **Bob Mulligan** started the session with an overview of the contributions of New York State during the Civil War. The breath and depth of commitment was staggering. Next, **Christine Robinson** provided the audience a virtual tour of the Albany Relief Bazaar in February 1864 with the use of photographs of the successful fair. The funds raised placed it second only to the huge fairs in New York City and Philadelphia. Only at Albany could one buy a \$1.00 ticket to win the Emancipation Proclamation draft! **Dana Shoaf**, editor of *America's Civil War Magazine*, gave an excellent presentation on the other veterans' organization, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), which exists down to today. A newly released book about MOLLUS was available at the meeting. Finally, **Michael Russert** spoke about the career of Henry Slocum, a native of Syracuse and 6th Corps commander. Mike covered in detail the history of the charges brought by O.O. Howard against Slocum. The four excellent presentations were complimented by breakfast, lunch and snacks.

The Saturday night banquet was attended by about sixty members and guests. President of SHAF, **Tom Clemens**, gave an intriguing and fascinating presentation on the at least four Iron Brigades during the Civil War. Everyone enthusiastically agreed with Tom's conclusion that the 22nd NY was called the **first** Iron Brigade, at least 6 months before the mid-westerners. The Ron Tunison statue was won by Sue Engoltz. There were \$320 in statue tickets, and \$95 in the book raffle. The sale of books grossed

\$807.25, but more books will be for sale at the December meeting before bills are paid.

BOARD MEETING

The November Board Meeting was held on Thursday, November 29, 2001. The treasurer's report indicated \$2252.32 in the general fund. The final figure's for the conference and Fall banquet are not yet complete. The general book raffle netted \$95 and the Board added an additional \$5 to bring the total to \$100. This will be donated to the **Joshua Chamberlain Statue Fund**. The fall trip to Tennessee was an overwhelming success, and even finished with a slight positive cash balance which will be reported next month when all bills have been paid.

WEB SITE NEWS

By Jon Olson

Occasionally I 'm asked where a given article is located on the Web site. I'm aware that the site is somewhat difficult to navigate. So recently, I launched a **Site Specific Search Engine** on the Home Page where you can type in a keyword and find relating pages on just our site, not the whole Internet. The search engine isn't advanced as, say, Yahoo!, but it should help you more quickly find what you are looking for. Besides. It's free! Check it out!

The **Number of Visitors** to the site continues to grow. By the time you read this, the number of visitors since April 7, 1999 will have reached 19,000! But perhaps more significant that the net number of visitors, are the number of "unique (i.e. first time) visitors" and the number of "page reviews."

For the six-month period, May 2001-October 2001, we averaged 294 "unique

visitors” and 1027 “page reviews” per month. This level of activity puts us at or near the top of the most accessed *Times Union* Communities Web sites.

Do you know anything about bounty bonds from Rensselaer County--- Revolutionary War reenacting---Scott’s 900-- John Titcomb Sprague---the 4th NYVI? Inquiries on these, and several other topics, have been posted to the **Bulletin Board** page. Please take a few minutes to check out the Bulletin Board, and if you have some information you’d like to share with others, send an e-mail to me. There is a special link to the page right under the group photo on the Home Page.

If you are a new member, or are receiving a complimentary copy of this newsletter, and you would like to receive e-mail messages notifying you of periodic updates to the site, please send me you e-mail address and I’ll add you to my **Mailing List**. Note, to protect your privacy, I send such messages using the blind carbon copy feature so your address is not exposed to others.

Finally, I’m always looking for **New Material** for the site. If you have original material, or news about you activities, which you would like to share, please pass it along to me, preferably as an e-mail attachment, to: **jonolson@nycap.rr.com**. If you don’t have access to a PC, you may send hardcopy to me at: **PO Box 671, Newtonville, NY 12128-0671**.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The Victorian Stroll in Troy took place **Sunday, December 2nd**. The CDCWRT was again ensconced in the Troy Post Office. Patrick Sisti also appeared in the Post Office as Father Christmas. Sales at this event will be reported next month. However this

venue is used primarily to introduce the Round Table to the public and to recruit new members. And of course, it takes place in **historical Troy, the hub of Civil War manufacturing!**

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Our first meeting of 2002 will be Friday, January 11th, at the Guilderland Library. This will be our annual **Potpourri Night**, when several of our own members present brief topics. Tables will also be available for any member to bring in **artifacts/collections/or stuff to share** with other members. This will be a great time to talk about your interests, and a wonderful night to find out what projects or research other members are doing. You never know, you might just have that piece of information for which someone has been searching for years.

This is also our **Civil War T-Shirt Night**, so why not wear that new Civil War T-shirt or sweat-shirt that you received over the holidays. This will also be our **Old Civil War Magazine Exchange Night**. Bring in your old magazines as a donation to the Round Table, and acquire new or slightly used ones for \$0.50 apiece. We could also make this our **Bring in Your Uneaten Fruitcake and Holiday Candy Night**.

As we move into winter, there is always the risk of bad weather on Friday nights. In order to determine if a meeting has been cancelled because of inclement weather, please check the Web site **first**. If you can’t access the Web site, then call one of the Board members. Finally, we will also try to have it announced on the radio with other cancelled events.

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Watch this spot next month for information on **Covermania**. This is a stamp, cachet and postcard show held annually in Albany during the month of February. Last year over 80 dealers from the northeast were in attendance. The weekend event also features old letters, program covers, and other ephemera.

The CDCWRT also helps to sponsor this event. Since it is local, this would be a great time for any new volunteers who would like to work a cachet event. You do not need to know anything special about stamps. The only requirement is a willingness to meet people and talk about one of your favorite topics, the Civil War. Anyone interested, please contact Matt Farina or Sue Knost.

MISCELLANEOUS

While visiting the Carter House on the Franklin Battlefield, the CDCWRT made a \$250 donation. The following is excerpted from a letter.

“The Carter House Association, Inc. has been very blessed this past year to have such wonderful friends, like yourselves. Your contribution has helped support our continuing efforts to manage this historic site. We are all joined together in our willingness to help further the preservation of the Franklin Battlefield.”

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I was asked to place this message in our newsletter for members of the CDCWRT.

“Thank you very much for inviting me to come to Albany and be part of your conference. I admire your concern and help of preservation, as well as your commitment

to learn more about the Civil War. I was delighted by the interest you showed in my talk, and appreciated the kind comments and suggestions I received from many of you about my discussion of the Loyal Legion. Thank you also, for the book. It is a very nice—and useful---memento of my pleasant stay in Albany.”

*Take Care,
Dana Shoaf*

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I know there are many baseball fans in the RT. A ten stamp series of legendary baseball stadiums was issued by the Postal Service. This is a highly desirable and collectible series, especially when combined with the Legends of Baseball set from last year. Sets of the stadium cachets will be available after the December meeting at \$3.00 apiece, or 2 for \$5.00, or a complete set for \$25.00

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BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOK!

The CDCWRT will have a variety of books for sale for gifts or stocking stuffers. They are 20-30% off, and there is no sales tax. Supplies are limited. Choose from:

Confederates Killed at Gettysburg - \$8.00

Dr. Mary Walker - \$8.00

White Roses – Civil War Nurses - \$5.50

Union Killed at Gettysburg - \$5.50

Roses of Intrigue-Women Spies \$5.50

John Wilkes Booth - \$5.50

Fated Stars-Virginian KIAs -\$8.00

When a Rose is Not a Rose - \$6.25

Little Round Top Tour Guide - \$6.25

Ghosts of Gettysburg V - \$4.75

Nothing But Glory - \$10.00

Journal of Women’s CW History -\$9.00

Early GB Battlefield Photos - \$7.00

Gettysburg Companion Photos - \$7.00
Gettysburg Then and Now - \$7.00
Monitors -\$14.00
Companions in Conspiracy - \$8.00
The Union Preserved - \$26.00
Pickett's Charge in History&Memory-\$20.
Lee's Retreat-A Guide (autographed)-\$8.00
Under the Crescent&Star-134th NYVI-\$20.
A Grand Terrible Drama - \$32.00
Gettysburg Magazine July 2001 - \$5.00
The Union Preserved: NYS in CW \$26.00
Union Blue: History of MOLLUS - \$24.00
Civil War Desktop Calendars -\$10.00
Pamplin Park Tunison pewter statues-\$19
CW Baseball T-shirts \$10-12 XL,XXL
Look for these items at the December meeting.

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On November 9th at the Watervliet High School, the 8th grade classes had a Civil War Day. First the students saw the film, **Glory**. Next they rotated through workshops that included Civil War music, the Underground Railroad in the Capital District, Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address, and the Civil War Soldier. RT members Joe Stracuzzi (Union) and Matt George (Confederate) portrayed soldiers and talk about the life of the soldier. The presentations were well received, and our two re-enactors earned \$100 for the RT.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!!

What would it be like if on one of our trips, we visited a site and there was no tour guide, or it was closed? ***This may happen in our own backyard.***

It has come to my attention, that after being restored, the Saratoga Victory Tower may not be open to the public next year. The reason is a lack of funding to pay personnel.

I have spoken to the Ranger in charge of this, and the idea of using volunteers was warmly received. However a final decision cannot be made until March or April 2002. In the meantime, I would like to come up with a list of those of us who would be willing to act as guides at this site.

Nothing has been worked out yet as to days, times, etc. I would just like to have a list of those who would be interested. We could call ourselves the "Ed Bearss Volunteer Co." or "Beamis Heights Regiment II" or something like that.

Please call and leave a message, your name(s) and phone number with Joe Stracuzzi, (518)383-7695.

TENNESSEE TRIP (PART TWO)

Grant's final position on April 6, 1862 was never a final foothold. The Confederate Army was all "used up" at the end of the day, with no reserves. The Union gunboats shelled the Confederates all night, keeping them awake, while the Union position was continually being supplied with fresh troops. The Union attacked the next day, recovered their lost camps, and pushed the Confederates back, but not before being bloodied themselves. The results of Shiloh became painfully evident. Johnson was unable to destroy one of four Union armies. Both sides realized that this war in the west was going to be a long haul. The troops on both sides were now blooded, and both armies were now composed of veterans.

The next morning, our group left Shiloh and drove to middle Tennessee and 1864. By November '64, John Bell Hood had replaced Joe Johnston, Sherman had pushed Hood out of Atlanta, and finally had

abandoned the pursuit in order to start his march to the sea. Hood's plan was simple – attack Nashville, which is in the Union rear and which is lightly defended, and draw Sherman back into Tennessee. Union Gen. Thomas began to fortify Nashville and he sent Scofield with 26,000 troops to delay Hood with 35,000 troops and 121 pieces of artillery.

We visit Spring Hill where Hood missed a golden opportunity to destroy 7000 Union infantry and capture 800 wagons. In the “Mystery of Spring Hill,” Hood lets his commanders stop yards away from cutting the retreat route of the Union forces. During the night the Union forces run the gauntlet with muffled wagon and artillery wheels, and all infantrymen's equipment tied down. Numerous officers reported to Hood's headquarters that the Federals were escaping, but there was no response. There is speculation that Hood was under the influence of morphine because of his painful wounds. The next morning at Rippavilla Mansion, there was an infamous breakfast where Hood blames all of his commanders. Cheatham was primarily blamed for Spring Hill, and was punished by ordering him to lead the attack at Franklin. Cleburne's courage was questioned, but he responded that he would take the works, or die trying. Forrest threatened to duel with Hood, if he were a whole man (his left arm was mangled and his right leg had been amputated).

The Union fortifications at Franklin consisted of a forward position in the middle, and a heavily fortified line, about two miles long, strongest in the center where the Carter House was located. Abatis and well-placed cannon defended the fortifications. The Federals expected to be flanked, not attacked frontally. Scofield had issued orders that his troops should retreat across the Big Harpeth River at 6PM if

Hood had not attacked before sunset. However, Hood sent 18 brigades of infantry, in a straight line across the open fields with no artillery support at around 4PM. Bands accompanied the 17,600 infantrymen (“tooters and shooters stepped off together). There was an hour of daylight left. This was larger than Pickett's charge at Gettysburg in ALL aspects of scale.

There were multiple attacks and repulses over the next six hours, where friend and foe became tangled in a seething mass of fighting men. Cannon fire at point blank range and clubbed muskets in the darkness. SD Lee's division attacked with torches. Cleburne, and his horse at full gallop, were struck by multiple bullets. Maj. Arthur MacArthur, of the 24th Wisconsin, was wounded in the shoulder and chest during hand-to-hand fighting. He ran his sword into the Confederate, killing him. But the Confederate shot MacArthur in the knee before dying. Some 9000 Confederates were hit within 450 yards of the lines, 3500 within 350 yards. More than 6000 Union defenders were hit. Twelve Confederate generals were lost. The Federals retreated at 3AM leaving their dead and wounded.

Most of the story of Franklin was provided by our superb guide, Tom Cartwright. His vivid descriptions and the mute testimony of the bullet-ridden walls at the Carter House, brought the battle to life. But there was no rolling terrain on which to visualize this fight. The city of Franklin has grown on the battlefield, and only the Carter House remains. No other site better demonstrated to our group what has and is still happening to Civil War battlefields. Try to interpret this epic struggle amid traffic, pizza smells, gas stations, and even a hot-air balloon. All of us were profoundly impressed by the importance of our preservation donations. (next month, finale).