

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

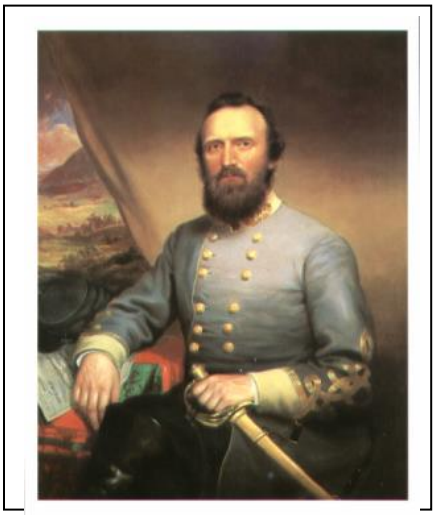
CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

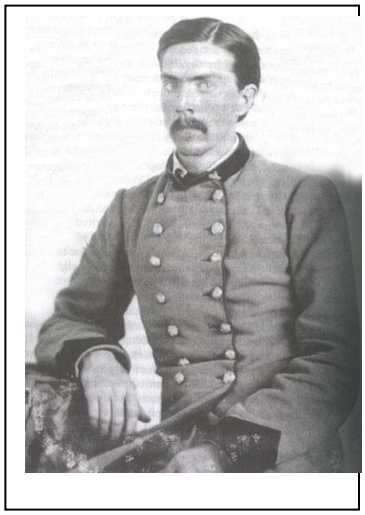
PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212
www.cdcwrt.net

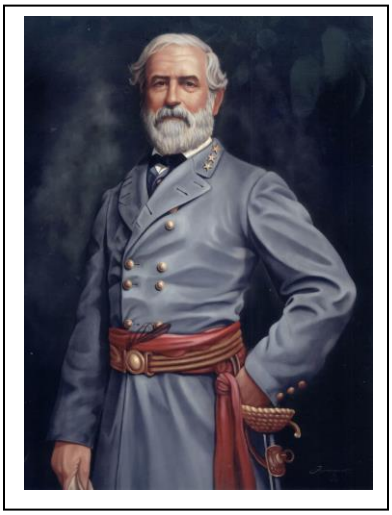


Volume 30, Number 5 May 20

"STONEWALL" JACKSON SHOT!
VICTIM OF FRIENDLY-FIRE INCIDENT







Gen. Thomas J. Jackson **Dr. Hunter H. McGuire** **Gen. Robert E. Lee**

(May 4, 1862 AP)

Rumors have been confirmed by aides of Robert E. Lee that 2nd Corps commander, Thomas Jackson, was serious wounded by friendly-fire the evening of May 2nd while directing a massive flank attack on Union 11th Corps in the Wilderness near Chancellors House. Jackson was struck three times by a volley delivered by soldiers of the 18th North Carolina Infantry. Dr. Hunter McGuire stated Jackson tolerated amputation of his badly damaged left arm near the shoulder. "He is resting comfortably," said McGuire. The 19 riders of Jackson's and A.P. Hill's staff were mistaken for Union cavalry in the bright moonlight. A member of Lee's staff quoted the Army commander as saying, "He has lost his left arm, but I have lost my right arm." Eight of the riders were also struck, killing four of them. Three more were captured when their horses bolted and ran into the Union lines. Members of the 18th NC said they did not know Jackson had ridden around their flank on the Orange Turnpike. J.E.B. Stuart has taken temporary command of Jackson's 2nd Corps.

MAY MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013
WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

"Fighting the Civil War": Treasures from the Collection of The National Civil War Museum

Wayne Motts

Social Hour	**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
Business Meeting	**7:00 – 7:15 p.m.**
Presentation	**7:15 – 8:15 p.m.**
Questions & Answers	**8:15 – 8:45 p.m.**

CDCWRT MEETING

The May meeting of the Capital District Civil War Round Table will be held on Friday, May 10, 2013. This meeting will be held at the Watervliet Senior Center, 1541 Broadway in Watervliet. Our special guest speaker will be Wayne E. Motts. His presentation is entitled, **Fighting the Civil War: Treasures from the Collection of The National Civil War Museum.**

Join Civil War Historian, Licensed Battlefield Guide, and CEO of The National Civil War Museum Wayne Motts as he presents a Power Point program high-lighting some of the most significant and special items held in the collection of this world class educational facility that have New York State connections. Opened in 2001, The National Civil War Museum is located in the capital of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg and is some 65,000 square feet in size with more than 21,000 square feet dedicated to exhibit and educational areas telling the complete story of America's most divisive conflict. The museum holds more than 24,000 artifacts, images, and paper materials related to the war. To learn more about the museum visit the website at http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Born and raised in central Ohio, Wayne graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.A. in military history in 1989. Moving to Gettysburg in 1990, Wayne earned a Masters Degree in American History from the Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in 1994. He was one of the youngest persons ever to complete the licensing process to be a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has guided parties around the famous field for 25 years. He has spoken to a wide range of historical bodies and groups on topics related to the American Civil War including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Wayne has published several pieces related to the American Civil War. He is considered the leading authority on Gen. Lewis Addison Armistead of Pickett's Charge fame and has published the only biography of the general entitled, Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Lewis A. Armistead, CSA. For ten years he was the research historian for renowned Civil War Artist Dale Gallon. Wayne was the Senior Research Historian for TravelBrains Corporation and in this capacity researched material to be included in a number of audio visual products related to the Civil War.

In 2004, he assumed duties as the collections manager of the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg. In 2005, Wayne was named executive director of the Society. He led this organization from January 2005 until April 2012 and assisted the Society and Lutheran Theological Seminary it the rehabilitation of Schmucker Hall one of the country's most significant Civil War structures. In April 2012, he accepted the position of chief executive officer of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The following list of up-coming events is provided to help Round Table members plan their long term calendars. These are events that involve our Round Table, especially events that provide opportunities to raise funds for our preservation activities. Some events may change as the year progresses, so members should check the list monthly. Details of Sesquicentennial Civil War events can be found on the web-site: www.nycivilwar150.org.

On May 22, 2013, Wednesday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Empire State College Campus, Matt Farina will present "Civil War Medicine: Myth and Reality" for the Civil War Speakers Series for the Academy for Lifelong Learning.

On May 25, 2013, Saturday, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the 7th Floor Librarians Room at the New York State Library, Matt Farina will be presenting the topic of "Civil War Medicine: Myth and Reality."

On June 8-9, 2013, Saturday and Sunday, the 21st Annual Peterboro Civil War Weekend will be held in Peterboro, NY on Route 20. There will be military and domestic encampments, period music and games, period shopping and tours of sites of the Underground Rail lroad in Peterboro. There will be exhibits on the Emancipation Proclamation and the U.S.C.T. Info: www.civilwarweekend.sca-peteroboro.org

On June 14, 2013, Ben Dixon will talk about a photographic study of the Gettysburg Battlefield. His presentation is entitled "Remembering America's battlefield from 1863 to today." This presentation will be at Roger Bacon Hall at Siena College.

On August 16, 2013, Friday, the CDCWRT will have its annual picnic at Schuyler Flatts for members and re-enactors. The Civil War Weekend at Schuyler Flatts will take place on Saturday, August 17, 10am to 5pm, and Sunday, August 18, 10am to 4 pm. There will be an encampment, skirmishes, cannon firing, drills, school for young soldiers, music and food. The CDCWRT will have its tents set up at the event and there will be 150th Anniversary postal cachets from Gettysburg available at the event.

On September 13, 2013, Katherine Hawkins will present "We Done Our Part: The History of the 3rd U.S. Colored Troops."

On October 11, 2013, Wayne Mahood will talk about the 126th NYVI, in a presentation entitled "Fight All Day, March All Night."

On Columbus Day weekend, October 11-14, the Green County Historical Society is planning a bus trip to Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and the Marine Corps Museum. More details will follow.

On November 1-3, 2013, the CDCWRT will sponsor the 1863 Sesquicentennial Conference.

On December 13, 2013, J.J. Jennings will present a "To Be Announced" topic.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

The April Board Meeting was held on April 15th. The treasurer reported $3374.11 in the regular account and $4143.73 in the preservation account. The November conference and Schuyler Flatts event were discussed. A $200 donation to the Civil War Trust was approved for a 13:1 match for Chancellorsville land acquisition. The funds were from memorial gifts recently given to the Round Table.

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Lincoln's Secret Visit to West Point
By Anthony Czarnecki

Anthony Czarnecki presented his research into Lincoln's trip to West Point in June of 1862; something he noted is often a footnote in Lincoln biographies. This trip was the President's longest journey away from the White House and his only trip to New York during his presidency.

As Czarnecki noted, the outcome of the Civil War was still very much undecided when Lincoln traveled to West Point fourteen months into the war. His determination to "not be a prisoner of the White House" led Lincoln to make several unannounced journeys to the Navy Yard, telegraph office at the War Department, and battlefields, all showing his preoccupation with the war. Lincoln even made eleven visits to the front for a total of forty-two days. These trips allowed Lincoln to see for himself the progress and strategies of the war.

Lincoln had several reasons to visit West Point; he could confer with aging General Winfield Scott regarding the strategies of limited war and total war, he could satisfy his curiosity of the West Point curriculum which had trained many of his officers, and he could visit the foundry at Cold Spring which manufactured cannons for the Union war effort.

So, on June 23, 1862 Lincoln began his three-day trip to New York. Colonel Daniel McCallum, the superintendent of military railroads, organized a special train to bring Lincoln north along with his valet William Johnson. They arrived in New York City at midnight, transferred to the Hudson River line, and proceeded north to Garrison's Landing where they crossed the river on a steam-powered ferry. Lincoln stayed at the Cozzens Hotel just outside of the Academy and had a five-hour meeting with General Scott. They discussed maps, strategies, and Lincoln's frustrations with the lack of victories over the South. While this is possibly the only five-hour meeting of Lincoln's presidency, no written record of the discussion exists. Scott wrote a four-page memorandum of recommendations to Lincoln, including the suggestion that Lincoln should focus on Richmond.

The President then toured the military academy with Dennis Hart Mahan, Professor of Civil and Military Engineering, including the encampment grounds, stables, chapel, other buildings and grounds. He also met with his ten Presidential appointees to the Academy. Following lunch, he toured the foundry across the river at Cold Spring. There, the President attended the testing of Parrott rifled cannons, which were invented by Robert Parrott, the superintendent of the West Point Foundry, and saw the production process. Newspapers, which had received word of the President's visit, report that "he tramped delightfully about…as they were bored, rifled, and polished…Before [he] left he had seen all there was to see." That evening Lincoln attended a reception at the Cozzens Hotel and "appeared in best of spirits, full of joke and anecdote." He was even serenaded by the cadet band underneath his balcony. The next morning President Lincoln returned to New York City and then on to Washington D.C. in a record time of six hours and seven minutes.

When the President died, news of his death was read to the cadets by one of the appointees Lincoln met with in 1862. Afterwards, this young man lay on his bed and wept. The funeral train passed, attended by six of the ten men Lincoln appointed to West Point. This was the final historic train trip associated with President Lincoln. The first had been his inaugural trip to Washington; another was his trip to Gettysburg in 1863. Mr. Czarnecki argued that his 1862 trip to West Point should rank

among these in importance.

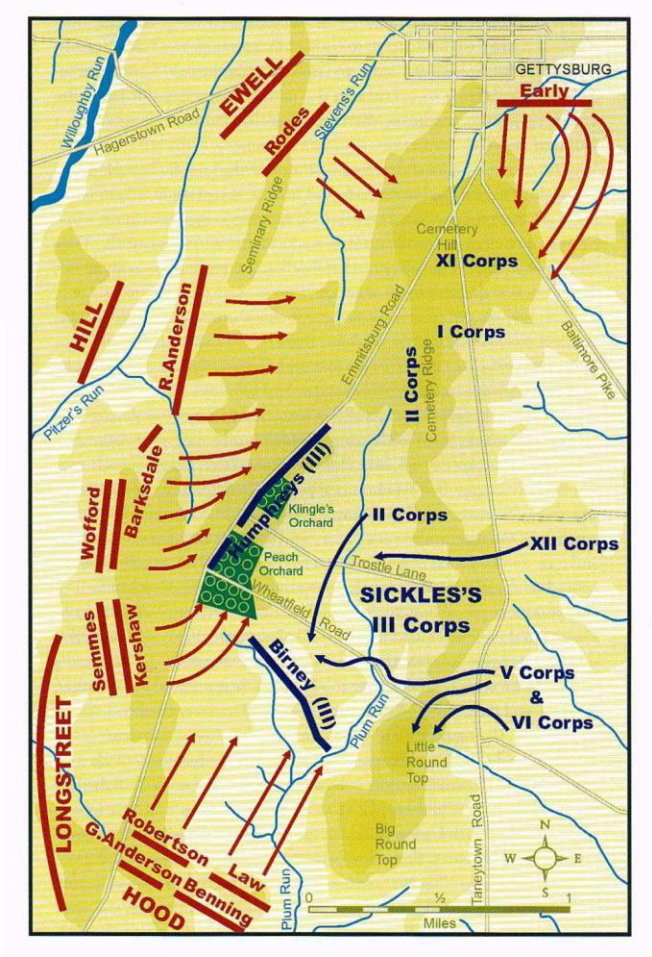
Lincoln's trip to West Point allowed him time to rethink the Union war strategy and retool the Union cause. His conversations with General Scott and Professor Mahan allowed him to receive recommendations from people in unique positions. Both men were sons of the South who remained loyal to the Union. They could also offer advice without fear of consequences. This trip strengthened Lincoln's self-confidence and offered him a fresh, new perspective. As one of his personal secretaries wrote, the president "gave himself night and day to the military situation… [he] pored over reports… [and] astonished generals with the extent of special knowledge and intelligent questions" he had.

Two weeks after his trip to West Point, the President reorganized the command structure of the Union army and expanded the scope of the war. He created the position of Army Chief of Staff and reasserted his authority as Commander in Chief. Three weeks after his trip the second Confiscation Act was passed to seize slaves and other southern property. Four weeks after the trip Lincoln finished the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation was then released to the public, formally signed at the White House, and made permanent by the Thirteen Amendment. These changes in strategy and scope, Czarnecki argued, can all be traced back to his trip to West Point in June of 1862.

This excellent summary was provided by board member Erin Baillargeon.

LEE'S REAL PLAN AT GETTYSBURG – Part 2

The conventional interpretation for July 2 is that Lee's plan was to envelope the Union left, capture Little Round Top (LRT), deploy artillery there to bombard the Union position below and on Cemetery Hill. Gen. Longstreet wanted to sweep around the Round Tops, cut off the Taneytown Road and Union supplies, and position the Confederate army between Meade and Washington. Thrice, Gen. Hood asked permission to do this because his scouts noted Little Round Top was now occupied before his attack began. Later Hood claimed he knew Little Round Top was the key to victory.



Harmon contends that on the eve of July 1 and into early afternoon July 2 an attack against LRT was not considered imperative to victory. Neither Lee nor Meade deemed it of importance until after the battle when it was magically transformed into a Gibraltar. Statistics back up this supposition. 1819 Confederates assaulted LRT on July 2 as a last-minute shift and reinforcements never followed. In contrast 10,000 men assaulted Culp's Hill over a two day period. If LRT was vital to Lee's strategy, the attack would have been reinforced from the beginning.

Ewell's Corps was stretched out over the entire curvature of the Union fish-hook. Hill's Corps (now under Anderson) was deployed along Seminary Ridge, and had the smallest front. But Hill's Corps had been badly beaten up on July 1. Longstreet's Corps had 13,000 fresh troops, but were still minus Pickett's Division. Lee knew that if he attacked east of LRT to attack the Union flank and rear, would great overextend his army's battle line which was already twice as long as the Union line. Even if Hood captured LRT and managed to hold onto it, that part would have isolated from the rest of the army and vulnerable to Union 6th Corps coming up. Lee needed Longstreet's division to be tight enough in frontage to make an impact.

Union Chief of Artillery, Henry Hunt summed it up post-war. Lee mistook the troops in the peach orchard as the main line, and by attacking up the Emmitsburg Road, expected to roll-up the Union line in an oblique order of battle, constantly breaking in the end of the Union line, and gaining its rear. Longstreet was ordered to form his division of Hood's and McLaw 's on Anderson's right, so as to envelope our left and drive it in. After the war, Hood said in a letter that thrice he was told by Longstreet to attack up the Emmitsburg Road. The conventional interpretation has Hood attacking at a right angle to the Taneytown Road, east of LRT and away from the rest of the Confederate Army.

Lee favor oblique attacks which he used at Seven Pines, Gaines's Mill, Fraizer's Farm and Malvern Hill, and it was a favorite among other Civil War generals. Perfected by Frederick the Great and used by Napoleon, the oblique attack permitted the entire front of the attacking force to fire, whereas only the flanked end of the defender's line could return a volley. The drawback of an oblique attack was that to succeed, it required the defender to react slowly or not at all, and the attacker needed to strike quickly and vigorously.

The Union left was also geographically suited for an oblique attack. The peach orchard was an elevated artillery platform for support, and commanded the low-point of Cemetery Ridge near the base of LRT. Union guns there could not raise their muzzles enough to project a shell into the peach orchard, a mere 800 yards away. And although the height of LRT was ideal, the steep and rugged terrain made it inaccessible to more than a few pieces of artillery. But the main advantage of the peach orchard was is oblique orientation to Cemetery Hill. This would allow Confederate batteries to enfilade the northernmost part of the Union line. Lee referred to the orchard as the "desired ground" from which Longstreet's artillery could assault the "massed artillery of the enemy." Since LRT never had more than 6-8 guns on it, the massed artillery had to be Cemetery Ridge and Hill. The terrain of LRT required guns to be moved up by hand, in addition to the caissons. In addition there were few places to go into battery or allow rapid removal in case of assault. Thus LRT was as poor an artillery position as the low-point of Cemetery Ridge.

Lee's goal was to unite the two widely separated wings of his army. He needed Ewell and Longstreet to converge on a point of impact where numerical superiority could be brought to bear on a single point in the enemy's line. Lee had used this maneuver at Chancellorsville and Second Manassas. He was willing to divide his forces in the face of the enemy, and take the risk that they could fight therir way through and converge. Lee appeared to be following the principles of Baron Jomini in his military manual, ***The Art of War.*** Lee and other Civil War generals had great respect for Jomini.

(to be continued next month)

THIRD SUE KNOST MEMORIAL NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

The conference speaker list is now complete! Dave Hubbard will be speaking about Baseball and the Civil War. Baseball was played by troops of both armies during the war. This helped advance the popularity of this past-time to become the American sport in the 1900s.

The dinner on Friday night will be served by Nicole's Restaurant of Albany. They have an excellent reputation, and served the audience at the Gateway Gala last October when the Round Table was honored.

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville

This month's front page highlights the 150th Anniversary of Lee's greatest, but most costly victory. Gen. Joseph Hooker had restored an esprit' de corps to the Army of the Potomac, and surprised not only Lee, but even his own detractors, when he made a surprise flank move on Lee. Hooker said Lee would either abandon the Rappahannock line or be crushed between two powerful Union wings. Lee would repeatedly divide his force in the face of a superior foe. Longstreet and 1st Corps were still in North Carolina. Lee leaves Jubal Early with 12,000 men to hold Fredericksburg against Sedgwick's wing. After the fighting around Zoan Church on May 1, Hooker withdraws to a strong defensive position at Chancellorsville. But he has also yielded the initiative to Lee.

On May 2 Lee discovers that Hooker's right flank, held by Howard's 11th Corps, is dangling and unsecured. He and Jackson devise a plan to move most of Jackson's Corps around Hooker, and attack the dangling flank, rolling up Hooker's right. Jackson takes 30,000 men and leaves Lee with 17,000 to hold Hooker's army in place. Jackson's movement is detected, but when he turns south, Hooker is convinced that Jackson is leaving the field and Lee's fighting is a diversion to cover the retreat.

It takes all day for Jackson to circle through the Wilderness on narrow roads. He starts his attack a 5:15pm with 21,000 men in two ranks stretching 1 ½ miles long. 11th Corps is crushed and the right flank of Hooker's army is pushed back 2 miles before the attack bogs down. Jackson still has A.P. Hill's Division which is fresh and ready for action. Evening has fallen but there is an unusually bright moon this night. Jackson is considering a night attack to push Hill to capture the United States Ford and trap Hooker on the same side of the river. While scouting the Union position, Jackson is wounded by his own men. His left arm will be amputated. After initially doing well, he develops pulmonary complications and will die on May 10. Hill is also wounded later that night, and JEB Stuart takes command of the 2nd. Corps.

On May 3, Lee unites with Stuart and push Hooker into a pocket with the river at his back. Meantime Sedgwick has driven Early out of Fredericksburg, and is threatening Lee's rear. Lee again divides his army and pushes Sedgwick into a pocket against the river. Hooker's wing remains defensive, and this allows Lee to move superior numbers against Sedgwick on May 4. But alas, Lee's attacks are delayed and uncorrdinated. Sedgwick slips away in the night across Scott's Ford. On May 5 Lee moves his army to attack Hooker but rain delays the attack. Hooker escapes across US Ford in the early hours of May 6. Lee wins but is furious he was unable to destroy a portion of the Union army.

Lee was out numbered 61,000 to 134,000. Union casualties were 19,000 compared to Lee's 13,000. Killed were 1600 for each army. Wounded were similar, 9600 Union and 9000 Confederate. The difference was in the captured/missing: 6000 Union and 200 Confederate. The casualties were 14% of Hooker's army and 22% of Lee's army.

Lee loses Jackson and 12 brigade commanders. When Lee goes to Gettysburg, he will have 2 new, untested corps commanders, 3 new division commanders, 7 new brigadier generals, and 6 brigades commanded by the senior colonel in that brigade. Nearly 1/3 of his cavalry will be led by officers who have not previously served with the Army of Northern Virginia. This weakness in his command structure will be critical at Gettysburg two months later.

served