



The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

CDCWRT's web site: www.cdcwrt.org

Volume 23 Number 3

November 2005



This 1917 Model T Ambulance was used by the American Field Service and U.S. Army Ambulance Service in France. It is on loan from the Gerald Sichel Trust Collection. Non-combatant volunteers provided ambulance service to the French Army. Authors Ernest Hemingway and E.E. Cummings served as ambulance drivers during WWI. When the U.S. entered the war in 1917, former American Field Service units became an official part of the American Army, but continued to serve the French. This vehicle on display in the library, is the only operating WWI ambulance of the six that have survived to today.

**NOVEMBER MEETING
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11TH**

**GUILDERLAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY
WESTERN AVENUE
GUILDERLAND, NY**

SOCIAL HOUR	6:00-7:00
BUSINESS	
PRESENTATION	7:00-7:30
Q&A – DISCUSSION	7:30-9:30

Stuart Lehman is an Education Coordinator with the Office of General Services where he develops and presents programs and conducts research for the New York State Capitol. Stuart formerly worked for the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. He worked at several Revolutionary War period historic sites in New York State. He began his career in historic interpretation with the National Park Service at Saratoga. Stuart is active in a number of local historical associations. His specialty is "living history," and he often portrays an 18th-Century doctor at Revolutionary War reenactments.

CDCWRT MEETING

The next meeting of this new season will be held on Friday, November 11th, at the Guilderland Public Library. Our guest speaker will be Stuart Lehman. His presentation is entitled "A Civil War Tour of the New York State Capitol."

How can a building, constructed after the Civil War, be a Civil War Site? Find out when Stuart W. Lehman presents a slide talk that will highlight some surprising connections between the Capitol and the events of 1861 to 1865.

We will look for the Civil War heroes and heroines carved in the stone on the "Million Dollar Staircase," and hear the wartime stories of some of the people who worked in the Capitol. We will experience the melancholy day in 1885 when General Grant lay in State in the Capitol lobby, and investigate the long-vanished former Capitol building where Lincoln visited. We will find how the Civil War still echoes in the halls of the Capitol 144 years later!

UP-COMING EVENTS

On Wednesday, November 2nd, the New York State Battle Flag Preservation Project commemorated the sixth installment of its exhibition series designed to raise awareness about the collection's conservation needs and to interpretively display conserved flags from the collection. Entitled, "A Precious Treasure, A Priceless Legacy," the flags will be exhibited on the second floor, adjacent to the Governor's Reception Room in the Capitol at Albany.

Flag presentation ceremonies in 1863, 1864 and 1865 celebrated the flags' return and honored the soldiers who served. By early 1867, over 170 volunteer regiments had deposited 800 flags with state authorities to create the New York State Battle Flag Collection. Each flag, in Major General Daniel Butterfield's words is, "... a precious treasure, a priceless legacy, for they shall tell your children's children of manhood and patriotism..." The flags will be on display for the next year. To see them and appreciate the sacrifices made for them,

will be an appropriate way to celebrate Veterans Day. The exhibit will include:

- 30th NYVI national color for which 10 color bearers received mortal wounds at Second Bull Run**
- 7th Independent Battery battle flag**
- 11th Independent Battery guidon (Havelock Battery)**
- 13th NYVI regimental color (Rochester Regiment)**
- 131st NYVI flank marker**
- 86th NYVI national color**
- 153rd NYVI flank marker**
- 25th Cavalry, NYV standard**
- 106th NYVI regimental color with 14 battle honors**
- 47th NYVI flank marker**

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On Friday, November 11th, 2005, at 11:30 am. at the New York State Military Museum, there will be the grand opening of the Museum's two new exhibits. They are entitled, *Fiery Trial and Sacrifice: New York and the First World War*, and *United for Victory: World War II*. The exhibits will be on display for a while, so if you can't attend the opening ceremonies, please try to get up to the Museum during the holidays. The Museum hours are Tuesday – Saturday, from 10:00 to 4:00. Admission is free.

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Saturday and Sunday, November 19th and 20th will mark the 142nd anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. This is celebrated as Remembrance Day Weekend in Gettysburg. It is a well-attended event every year. Members of the CDCWRT will be on hand as usual. Anyone interested in attending and/or working with the RT should contact Sue Knost or Joe Stracuzzi immediately.

This will also mark the final weekend for the Cyclorama Building. The huge painting will be removed for restoration during the next two years. The Visitor Center and Cyclorama are slated to be demolished next spring and the area restored to its appearance as a woods at the time of the battle. A new and much expanded visitor center will be built in the area of the artillery park at the time of the battle.

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Sunday, December 4th, is the day for the Victorian Stroll in Troy. This 19th-Century event features merchants, street vendors, entertainment, carriage rides, readings, and songfests. The CDCWRT has been a long-time supporter of the event, and will have display tables in the Troy Post Office. There will be a special postal cancellation in addition. Volunteers are needed to man the two stations, and greet the public. If you come as a tourist, stop by, and perhaps purchase some unique gifts, which will support the Round Table. Please contact Sue Knost, Mike Spaulding, or Joe Stracuzzi for details if you would like to help.

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The December meeting of the CDCWRT will take place on Friday, December 9th at the Guilderland library. This is the annual holiday party meeting, and the election of officers. The planned topic for presentation is *Underwater Archeology of Civil War Shipwrecks* by Joseph W. Zarzynski. Plan on attending this holiday event. As usual, there will be items for sale for you holiday gifts. All proceeds go to our preservation fund.

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December 31st, First Night in Saratoga, marks the second year that the CDCWRT will be present at the NYS Military Museum in downtown Saratoga. A special postal cancellation will be available. The Museum is open and its two new exhibits will be opened to the public. Again volunteers are needed for this event at the busiest time of the year.

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Friday, January 13, 2006 will be the Round Table's annual Potpourri Night and T-Shirt Night at the Guilderland Library. Two or three brief presentations will be made by member of the Round Table. Display tables will also be available for anyone who would like to bring in items for the audience to see. There are already several volunteers who do not fear the Friday the 13th spell.

PAST EVENTS

The October meeting was a great success with a large crowd, an excellent speaker, and much audience interaction with comments and questions. The topic was the role of U.S. forces in World War I. While this was not a Civil War presentation, the 19th Century war was nonetheless felt. There was discussion of the evolution of weapons from the 19th to the 20th Century, and how this impacted upon strategy. The series continues at the Library with guest lecturers. Please consult the library website for dates and topic.

The display cases in the library have a large collection of artifacts, weapons, clothing, and other items, many of which were donated by members of the CDCWRT. These items plus the WWI ambulance in the lobby are well worth the trip to see them. Kudos for Lew Warner for his organization

of the display cases, and to Howard Young, Mike Spaulding, and Ray Wemple for their many artifacts on display.

Quoting from an e-mail from Lt. Col. Lance Betros: *"I would like to thank you (Tom Barnes from the Library) for the opportunity to lecture at Guilderland library earlier this month. You put on a first-class event, as reflected by the heavy turnout and the great discussion that ensued during the evening. Guilderland is lucky to have such a talented and progressive library staff in support of the community."*

Quoting from an e-mail from Tom Barnes: *"It's not over yet, but I just wanted to share the kudos with everyone for helping out with the WWI program, especially Lew for gathering and his fellow enthusiasts for sharing their 'displayables' and bodies (hence the heavy turnout). The contributions of other community members are also greatly appreciated. The West Pointers were very impressed with the care and time taken with the displays."*

About 75-100 people attended the dedication ceremonies at the Grant Cottage last month. In order to complete the transformation of the garage to a bookstore, small theater, and museum, the Board announced that had secured a personal loan for \$30,000. New York State officials (Bernadette Castro) then announced a \$15,000 matching grant. Our CDCWRT president, Matt George, was on hand to announce a generous donation by the RT as the first donation to use the matching funds, thus doubling out effective contribution.

President Matt George has been making the rounds at local schools and retirement villages. On October 21st he was at the Middle School in Delmar, and on November 7th he will be at the Seniors' Towers of

Colonie. Dressed in his Union soldier uniform, he has carried out living history presentations on the "life of Billy Yank."

BOARD MEETING

At the October Board Meeting our treasurer reported that there was \$2045.34 in the regular account, and \$15,239.10 in the preservation account. A motion was made and passed to provide a donation of \$1340 to the Civil War Preservation Trust for purchase of battlefield land in Franklin, TN. The coalition of groups is offering a 12.5 to 1 match for donations. Therefore our \$1340 is leveraged to \$16,750.

Another \$1000 donation was made to the Friends of Grant Cottage (see past events). Additional donations to other causes will be considered next month (November). A slate of candidates for the December elections will be drawn up.

ELECTIONS

At the December meeting we will elect new officers and board members for the next year. This is the proposed slate:

President	Matt George
V-President	Ilew Warner
Treasurer	Mike Spaulding
Secretary	Rosemary Nichols
At-Large	Mary Ellen Johnson
At-Large	Fran McCashion
At-Large	J.J. Jennings

Nominations for any position can be made from the floor at the December meeting. Nominees must be members in good standing, with dues paid. Likewise, those proposing nominations must also be member in good standing.

ODDS AND ENDS

Round Table member Roxanne Wegman recently completed cadet basic training at the United States Military Academy at West Point. The 6 ½ week training course, known as Beast Barracks, is widely considered to be one of the most challenging periods of a new cadet's career. Go Roxanne!!

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A recent letter in **The Civil War News** warns Civil War enthusiasts about **fraudulent relics being offered on e-Bay**. Many of these are Confederate medals and bullets embedded in wood. The wood was found to be less than 30-years old. The only Confederate medals issued during the Civil War were the Davis Guard medals given after the action at Sabine Pass. Other medals were presented to individuals by parent states or civilians. Other medals, such as the Cross of Honor and the Immortal 600 medal, were issued after the war.

Neither e-Bay nor the FBI were interested in pursuing the guilty parties. As we approach the holiday season, remember, **Buyer Beware**.

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The Patrick Cleburne Society began raising funds in 2001 for a bronze statue commemorating the general who is often called the "Stonewall" of the West. The sculpture is complete and is ready for casting, but the work will cease unless an additional \$25,000 is raised.

Round Table member, Ron Tunison is the premier historical sculptor of military art. He has been working on the eight-foot statue for two years. Those of us who have visited Ron's studio know what the next stage in casting involves. To help raise funds, a

small bronze bust is free for any donation of \$250 or more. For more information, go to the group's Web site at www.patrickcleburne.com.

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The country's oldest Buffalo Soldier, 1st Sgt. Mark Matthews, was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on September 19th. When he died on September 6th, he was 111 years old. Five thousand blacks joined infantry and cavalry units after the Civil War ended. They fought Indians, especially in the Southwest, guarded forts and stagecoaches, and laid telegraph lines and roads.

Matthews served under "Black Jack" Pershing when he pursued Pancho Villa. Matthews also trained recruits in horsemanship at Ft. Myer and fought in the South Pacific in World War II.

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Here's a bit of Civil War trivia for you. **Florena Budwin is believed to be the first woman buried in a National Cemetery.** She enlisted with her husband, a Pennsylvania captain in the Civil War. He was killed and she was captured and was sent to the Confederate prison in Florence, North Carolina. This 23-acre stockade was similar to Andersonville, and built in September of 1864. By October it held over 12,000 Union prisoners. A Confederate doctor discovered that soldier Budwin was a female, and she stayed to nurse prisoners. She was given a private room, and women in Florence donated food and clothing to her. She died of illness on January 25, 1865, and was buried in the prison cemetery with over 2300 Union burials. The prison cemetery became a National Cemetery in 1865.

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Recently the History Channel was looking for re-enactors for a story about the sinking of the hospital ship, *Sultana*, which was being filmed at Lake George.

The Round Table was helpful in getting the word out and coordinating re-enactors. For our efforts, the production company gave a \$300 donation to the CDCWRT.

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We received a letter from Stephen R. Beard, 3433 Oak Creek Dr. West, Colorado Springs, CO, 80906-4518. He is researching the 21st Cavalry and especially his great grandfather, Samuel C. Adams, who served with the unit out of Troy, NY. Adams enlisted in Springwater, NY. And mustered out in Livonia. He died in Oxford, MI at the age of 94. Mr Beard is interested in any documents or pictures of the 21st NY Cavalry, especially Co. K.

FINAL WORDS

It may be just coincidence that our next meeting is on 11/11, which was originally called Armistice Day. WWI ended at 11:11am on November 11, 1918. Later the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all our former and present military. Like many of our national holidays, they have become shopping days with big sales, and the true meaning is lost. Burned in our collective memory are the events of 9/11. No one of us would think of having a "HUGE" sale on 9/11, if it were to become a national day. Well that's the way past generations felt about their special days. We would be aghast if our children's children went shopping on our 9/11 remembrance day. Next Friday, take a few minutes to remember, truly remember.