

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



Volume 29, Number 4 January 2012


# GEN. HANCOCK SERIOUSLY WOUNDED
# GEN. ARMISTEAD NEAR DEATH



**Maj.-Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock**

**Reports from the great battle fought in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania several days ago tell of the near simultaneous wounding of two old friends, literally yards apart, at the great charge on July 3rd. Confederate General Armistead was critically wounded leading his brigade against the position held by Union General Hancock's 2nd Corps. The two officers have known each other for years in the old army. Armistead lost two wives and several children to disease, and was a frequent visitor at the Hancock homestead. When the Rebellion started in 1861, the two friends separated and joined opposing armies. Armistead reportedly told Hancock, *"Goodbye, you can never know how much this has cost me."* Although Armistead's wounds did not seem serious, the fevers occurred and he is not expected to survive.**

# JANUARY MEETING
## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012
## WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
## 1541 BROADWAY
## WATERVLIET, NY

## Annual Potpourri Meeting
## J.J. Jennings
## Steve Muller
## Plus Two Exhibits

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| **Social Hour** | **6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** |
| **Business Meeting** | **7:00 – 7:30 p.m.** |
| **Presentation** | **7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** |
| **Questions & Answers** | **8:30 – 9:00 p.m.** |
| **More Socializing** | **9:00 – 10:00 p.m.** |

## CDCWRT MEETING

***The January meeting of the Capital District Civil War Round Table will be on Friday, January 13, 2012. This meeting will be our first of the New Year, and will be at the Watervliet Senior Center, 1541 Broadway in Watervliet. This is our annual Potpourri Meeting where members of the Round Table do short presentations on topics of interest or talk about Civil War relatives or artifacts.***

***The first short presentation is entitled*** **"The Myths and Facts about the Relationship between Hancock and Armistead."** ***J.J. Jennings will discuss the relationship between these two generals who knew each other before the war and who faced each other on the field at Gettysburg on July 3rd. Much of our belief is based on the writings of Michael Shaara and the movie Gettysburg. J.J. will give us the real story!***

***This year also marks the 150th anniversary of the naval engagement between the Monitor and the Merrimac[k] on March 9th 1862 at Hampton Roads, Virginia. Round Table member, Steve Muller, will present a short up-date on research on origin of the plates for the U.S.S. Monitor. Local belief is that the plates and support struts were rolled in Albany and Troy.***

***There will also be two exhibits. John Ackner of the Schenectady County Historical Society will display his large collection of Civil War historical patriotic covers. As soon as South Carolina seceded, both the Union and the Confederacy began to print mailing envelopes with patriotic depictions. Today we call these commemorative cachets. Some depict Ellsworth's death or Columbia or Hanging Jeff Davis.***

***Finally Pat Loz will display some letters and memorabilia of her Civil War relative, Sam Chapman, who was a member of Mosby's Raiders.***

## BOARD MEETING

At our last Board Meeting the board voted to send the $3000 collected as memorial donations for Sue Knost to the Civil War Trust to be used in the purchase of battlefield land at Gaines Mills, VA. This was also a 2.67:1 match, so that the matching donation in Sue's name amounted to $8,010. Sue's name will appear on a donation plaque in bold letters. We believe that Sue would have been in favor of the donation choice.

## NEW WEBSITE FOR CDCWRT

**After more than a year the CDCWRT has a new website that is easy to remember and simple to find. Our web master has maintained a temporary site during this time, while non-technical issues were sorted out. The new site is:**

**www.cdcwrt.net**

**Mike Affinito has done a terrific job maintaining the temporary site, and everything has been transferred to the new site. Please mark this down and visit your website.**

## 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.***

**Friday, February 10, 2012 will be the regular meeting for the CDCWRT. Our very special guest presenter will be Dr. Harry Bradshaw Matthews, Associate Dean and Director of the U.S. Pluralism Center at Hartwick College. He is also President of the U.S.C.T. Institute.**

**Friday, March 9, 2012 will be the regular scheduled meeting of the CDCWRT. Our Special speaker will be John McTague, a licensed Town Guide from Gettysburg. The title of his slide and lecture presentation will be "…. Never forget what they did here …: Abraham Lincoln's Visit to Gettysburg, November 18-19, 1863."**

**Friday, April 13, 2012 will be the regular scheduled meeting of the CDCWRT. Our special presenter will be Joseph W. Zarzynski, underwater archeologist and documentary film maker. His presentation is entitled *"The Search for the Jefferson Davis: Trader, Slaver, Raider."***

## WANTED

The Round Table is looking for someone or several members to serve as Refreshment Chair. The Round Table provides a budget for soda, water and snacks for meetings, but we need some volunteers to bring the items, set up for the meeting, and clean up afterwards. We generally have 10 meetings a year so if the task is divided by several volunteers, it would amount to 3-5 times per year. Anyone interested should talk to Fran McCashion or Mary Ellen Johnson.

## JANUARY BOARD ELECTIONS

This is the proposed slate which will be voted upon at our January meeting. Any member in good standing can run as a candidate from the floor.
President – Matt Farina
Vice-President – Gene Gore
Treasurer – Fran McCashion
Secretary – Mary Ellen Johnson
At-Large – J.J. Jennings
At-Large – Art Henningson
At-Large – Erin Baillargeon

## ARCHEOLOGISTS DISCOVER SITE OF NEW CIVIL WAR POW CAMP

When word reached Camp Lawton that the enemy army of Gen. William T. Sherman was approaching, the prison camp's Confederate officers rounded up their thousands of Union army POWs for a swift evacuation, leaving behind rings, buckles, coins and other keepsakes that would remain undisturbed for nearly 150 years.

Archaeologists are still discovering unusual, and sometimes stunningly personal, artifacts a year after state officials revealed that a graduate student had pinpointed the location of the massive but short-lived Civil War camp in southeast Georgia. Discoveries were being displayed at the Statesboro campus of Georgia Southern University. They include a soldier's copper ring bearing the insignia of the Union army's 3rd Corps, which fought bloody battles at Gettysburg and Manassas, and a payment token stamped with the still-legible name of a grocery store in Michigan. "These guys were rousted out in the middle of the night and loaded onto trains, so they didn't have time to load all this stuff up," said David Crass, an archaeologist who serves as director of Georgia's Historic Preservation Division. "Pretty much all they had got left behind. You don't see these sites often in archaeology."

Camp Lawton's obscurity helped it remain undisturbed all these years. Built about 50 miles

south of Augusta, the Confederate camp imprisoned about 10,000 Union soldiers after it opened in October 1864 to replace the infamous Andersonville prison. But it lasted barely six weeks before Sherman's army arrived and burned it during his march from Atlanta to Savannah. Barely a footnote in the war's history, Camp Lawton was a low priority among scholars. Its exact location was never verified. While known to be near Magnolia Springs State Park, archaeologists figured the camp was too short lived to yield real historical treasures.

That changed last year when Georgia Southern archaeology student Kevin Chapman seized on an offer by the state Department of Natural Resources to pursue his master's thesis by looking for evidence of Camp Lawton's stockade walls on the park grounds. Chapman ended up stunning the pros, uncovering much more than the remains of the stockade's 15-foot pine posts. On neighboring land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he dug up remnants of the prisoners themselves — a corroded tourniquet buckle, a tobacco pipe with teeth marks in the stem and a folded frame that once held a daguerreotype. "They're not just buttons and bullets," Chapman said. "They're little pieces of the story, and this is not the story of battles and generals. This is the story of little people whose names have been forgotten by history that we're starting to piece together and be able to tell."

A year later, Chapman says he and fellow archaeology students working at Camp Lawton have still barely scratched the surface. In July, they used a metal detector to sweep two narrow strips about 240 yards long in the area where they believe prisoners lived. They found a diamond-shaped 3rd Corps badge that came from a Union soldier's uniform. Nearby was the ring with the same insignia soldered onto it.

The artifacts also yield clues to what parts of the country the POWs came from, including the token issued by a grocery store in Niles, Mich., that customers could use like cash to buy food. Stamped on its face was the merchant's name: G.A. Colbey and Co. Wholesale Groceries and Bakery. Similarly, there's a buckle that likely clasped a pair of suspenders bearing the name of Nanawanuck Manufacturing Company in Massachusetts. Hooks and buckles that appear to have come off a Union knapsack also hint that, despite harsh living conditions, captors probably allowed their Union prisoners to keep essentials like canteens and bedrolls.

The Georgia Southern University Museum plans to add the new artifacts to its collection from Camp Lawton in October along with a related acquisition — a letter written by one of the camp's prisoners on Nov. 14, 1864, just eight days before Lawton was abandoned and prisoners were taken back to Andersonville and other POW camps. The letter written by Charles H. Knox of Schroon Lake, N.Y., a Union corporal in the 1st Connecticut Cavalry, was purchased from a Civil War collector in Tennessee. Unaware that Camp Lawton will soon be evacuated, Knox writes to his wife that he hopes to soon be freed in a prisoner exchange between the warring armies. He doesn't write much about conditions at the prison camp, but rather worries about his family. He tells his wife that if she and their young son need money for food or clothing, there's a man who owes him $9. Knox also gives his wife permission to sell the family's cow.

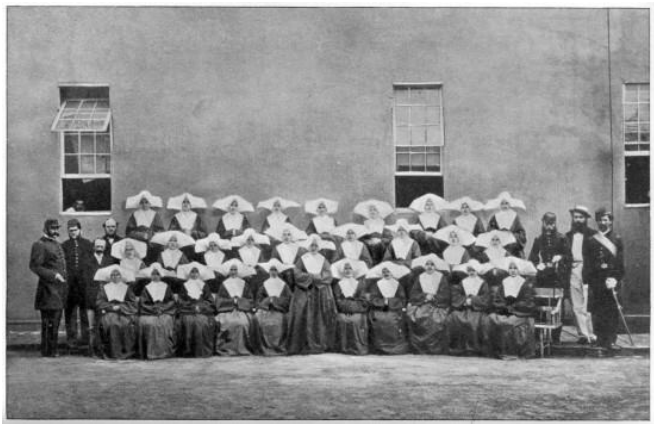
Brent Tharp, director of the campus museum, said his growing collection from Camp Lawton has definitely drawn Civil War buffs to visit from far beyond southeast Georgia.

Adapted from **Associated Press** August 18, 2011 and the Gen. John A. Logan Camp #4 SUV newsletter

# SATTERLY HOSPITAL AND THE SISTERS OF CHARITY

As we begin to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, one example of this service that should be highlighted is the work of the Daughters of Charity (formerly Sisters of Charity) at Satterlee Military Hospital. The sisters ministered to thousands of wounded and dying Civil War soldiers from 1862 until the hospital closed in 1865.

The 12-acre site where the Satterlee Hospital was located in West Philadelphia, bounded roughly by 40th to 44th Streets, from Spruce to Pine Streets, was at that time very rural, far removed from the cramped and crowded conditions of urban Philadelphia. The 'pure country air' afforded the soldiers an opportunity to rest and recover from their wounds. The hospital, initially called West Philadelphia Hospital, was renamed Satterlee Military Hospital in honor of Richard Smith Satterlee, a distinguished army surgeon. The surgeon in charge was Dr. Isaac Hayes, an Artic explorer before he joined the army. The hastily constructed buildings were completed in just over 40 days. The 2,500-bed facility was not quite finished when 22 Daughters of Charity arrived on June 9, 1862.



Initially, the hospital was fairly ill equipped, especially with regard to the accommodations for the sisters. Beverages were served in wash pitchers and the food in basins. The sisters ate their meals earlier than the officers, sharing just four eating utensils reserved for officers' use. The chapel was so small that some sisters had to exit the room so others could enter and receive Holy Communion.

Satterlee Hospital became a self-contained city when a tent city was built on the grounds in 1863. The hospital increased its capacity to accommodate 4,500 wounded soldiers. A 14-foot high fence surrounded the property, which now sprawled south to Baltimore Avenue and west to 46th Street. On the grounds there was a post office, clothing store, laundry facility, carpenter shop, printing shop, dispensary, library, and three kitchens referred to as restaurants.

Although the official capacity of Satterlee was 4,500, the actual capacity exceeded this number. After the Battle of Bull Run, the wounded arrived by the hundreds. After the Battle of Gettysburg, they arrived by the thousands, swelling the hospital population to more than 6,000. During the Battle of Gettysburg, the greatest number of wounded were admitted to the hospital in a single month. The following month of August saw the greatest number of deaths in any one month, averaging at least one per day. In just one year, patients consumed more than 800,000 pounds of bread, 16,000 pounds of butter and 334,000 quarts of milk.

During the war, more than 100 Daughters of Charity passed through the doors of Satterlee Hospital, ministering to the wounded soldiers' spiritual and medical needs. The tiny chapel was soon expanded to seat 400 worshippers. Many soldiers often arrived several hours before mass to obtain a seat. Several wounded soldiers contributed generously to outfit the chapel properly, purchasing a set of stations of the cross and taking great pains to decorate the chapel for feasts and special occasions.

The hospital's chaplain was Father Peter McGrane who was stationed at St. Patrick's at 20th and Locust Streets. Every day, Father McGrane traveled from St. Patrick's to Satterlee to say mass, hear confessions, instruct and baptize and frequently arrange for burial. He labored throughout the war ministering to the wounded

and dying. Archbishop James Wood also visited Satterlee several times to confirm many adult converts.

The practice of military medicine during the war was an eye-opening experience. The wounds caused by the new and improved artillery met the outdated medical practices of understaffed field hospitals, resulting in an epidemic of needless deaths. Conditions began to improve with the advent of permanent army hospitals like Sattelee, staffed by experiences surgeons and dedicated sisters.

During its four-year existence, more than 50,000 wounded soldiers were treated at Satterlee. The contributions made by the medical professionals and the Daughters of Charity who staffed the hospital are immeasurable.

*Thanks to Christine McCoullough-Friend and the Sons of Union Veterans for this piece.*

## ALABAMA STILL TAXES FOR VETERANS OF CIVIL WAR

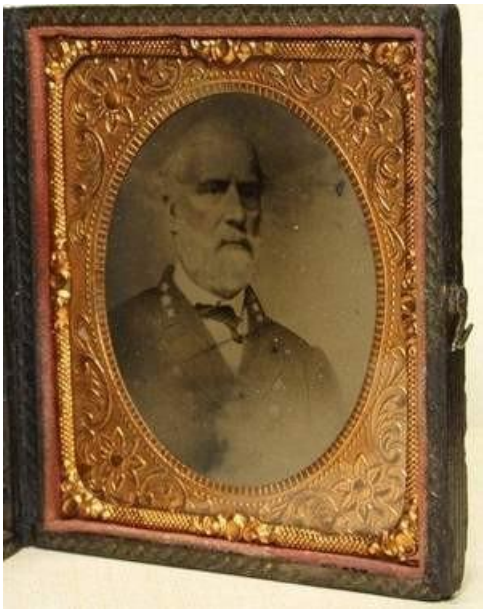
Although it has been many decades since the last of the more than 82,500 Alabamians that served in the Civil War died, the state is still collecting a tax that was levied to support Confederate veterans.

Alabama's property tax was first imposed to pay for pensions, then used to support a soldiers' home, which closed in 1939. A small portion of the tax now funds the Confederate Memorial Park in Mountain Creek, Ala., about 30 miles north of Montgomery.

For more information on the memorial park, see http://www.preserveala.org/confederatepark.aspx.

## RARE LEE PICTURE BRINGS $23,000 IN AUCTION

An item found in an overflow bin at a Goodwill in Murphreesboro, Tenn., turns out to have been quite a donation for the charity. The tintype, what is believed to be a rare photograph of Robert E. Lee, recently was auctioned by Goodwill online. The winner, Richard Schaffer of West Chester, W. Va., bid $23,001, a record haul for Goodwill.
See http://giveit2goodwill.org/releases/494.



## POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES 2012 STAMPS COMMEMORATING 150

The USPS has Announce the two new Civil War stamps that will be issued in 2012 commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The first stamp will commemorate the Battle of New Orleans which occurred when David Farragut took the Union fleet past Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip on the Mississippi on April 24, 1862. Following this, the city surrendered to Farragut. The lower Mississippi was blocked from this date on. Author Charles Dufour stresses the significance of this event in his book, ***The Night the War Was Lost.***

The second stamp will commemorate the Battle of Antietam. On September 17, 1862 the total number

of American casualties was almost 23,000, which included 3,650 killed and 17,300 wounded. By comparison, American casualties on D-Day in Normandy were about 6,500 with almost 3000 killed. Total casualties for Allied forces on D-Day were 9,000-12,000.

These stamps will be the first issued for both battles. The CDCWRT is planning to obtain a limited number of First Day of Issue envelopes for each stamp. They will cost $5.00 each for the standard #6 envelope and $10.00 each for the larger, silk-screened #10 envelopes. The RT has a very small supply of First Day Covers for the Fort Sumter stamp and the First Bull Run stamp which were issued in 2011. Anyone interested in covers should contact Matt Farina at:

mafarina@aol.com

## CIVIL WAR "DOG TAGS"

Unlike WWI, WWII and wars thereafter, government issued identification tags were virtually unknown during the Civil War. Many soldiers were fearful that should they be killed in battle, no-one would be able to identify them, so their fate would be unknown to their relatives or loved ones back home. In many cases, soldiers would simply write their name and address on a slip of paper and pin it to the inside of their uniform jacket. This gave sutlers, civilian merchants who typically followed the regiments from place to place, the idea of manufacturing and selling permanent identification tags.

These tags came in various styles, sizes and shapes – some were made from silver coins and others were made of brass with various emblems, pictures or slogans on the front side and the soldier's name, regiment and home stamped on the other. Some of the front sides included pictures of President Lincoln, the Union Shield, or slogans such as "War of 1861" or War Against Rebellion." There typically was a hole drilled in the top for a lanyard, string, chain or other device for wearing the tag.

In today's market, Civil War "dog tags" are not frequently found, but when made available sell anywhere from $300 to $800 or more, depending upon the quality and importance. I have two sets of "dog tags" in my personal collection:






This tag was sold to John L. Hubbard – Company "H" 15th New Hampshire Volunteers. He was from Walpole, NH and fought in the Siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana, in 1863.

The tag below was stamped from a quarter and sold to John P. Overton, Company "B" 23rd Virginia Infantry, a Confederate Unit. He was captured at Gettysburg and confined at Fort Mc Henry, MD – he was later transferred to Fort Delaware, DE and evidently had a change of heart and joined the 3rd Maryland Cavalry (US).

Thanks to Dr. Leonard J. Nyberg, Jr.
Camp #7 SUVCW and Camp Griffin Gazette

