

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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1862 – A YEAR OF BATTLES

The year 1862 was the first full year of the war with fighting throughout much of the South and West, hence, the title of this year's conference. While there were many, many battles that year, we have selected a few that were significant in some way.

1862 was also a year of "firsts." At Hampton Roads, the clash of the ironclads, Monitor and Virginia, forever changed the navies of the world. The Battle of Shiloh was the largest battle in the U.S. at that time. The country began to slowly realize the scale of casualties that were come. The Peninsula Campaign was George McClellan's plan to end the war. His army slowly moved towards Richmond, and it appeared success was in sight when the city's church spires could be seen from the Union lines. Then fate intervened in the wounding of Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston. The Battle of Seven Days marks the rise of Robert E. Lee as the premier Confederate general. While it took four months for McClellan to move up the peninsula, it took Lee just seven days to push him back. This was demoralizing for the North and energizing for the South.

In the western theater of war a relatively unknown general, Ulysses S. Grant, was making his mark. He successfully captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in February, earning him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. Shiloh was almost his undoing. The Battle of Antietam was Lee's first invasion of the north, and was the bloodiest single day in U.S. history to date. Antietam was also the battle where the photograph brought the reality of war to the public eye. It was also the first real test of a medical care system devised by Dr. Jonathan Letterman that is the backbone of military medicine in every modern army today.

It was also the year that Lincoln changed the scope and goal of the war with the draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. Antietam provided him the "victory" to announce the Proclamation to the public. This perhaps killed any hope in the Confederacy that Great Britain or France might recognize the Confederacy as a separate nation. The year 1862 ends with the Union debacle at Fredericksburg, Virginia. Lincoln throughout the year was looking for an effective commander for the Army of the Potomac, one who understood Lincoln's concerns, who was apolitical, and who had a long range plan to successfully end the war. The year 1862 ended with no end in sight, and a country that was becoming more demoralized on the home front as well.

OVERVIEW

This year's conference is jointly sponsored by the CDCWRT and the Department of History at Siena College. Most of the activities will take place on the College Campus in Loundonville. The Conference starts with a dinner at Massry Commons Dining Hall Friday, November 3rd, and continues in the Roger Bacon Hall on Saturday November 4th. On Sunday the conference continues in Serra Hall followed by a tour of the Burden Iron Works.

SPEAKERS

Bruce Eelman, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of History at Siena College. His area of expertise is American Civil War and 19-Century America. He will discuss the famous 44th New York Volunteer Infantry, known as Ellsworth's Avengers, in 1862.

Dennis Gaffney is an author and Adjunct Professor at the University at Albany-SUNY. He is also President of the Board of Trustees of the Albany Public Library. He will talk about local Civil War personages, both civilian and military.

John D. Hoptak is a historian and author, who is also a National Park Ranger at Antietam NMP. He is a Professor of American History at Leigh-Carbon Community College and the American Military University. John will discuss the Battles of South Mountain and the Battle of Antietam.

Christopher Kolakowski is Director of the Gen. George Patton Museum in and is Chief Curator of the National Army Reserve Museum. He has worked at the Perryville Battlefield and has authored Civil War articles. He is a member of the CDCWRT. He will provide an overview to events in 1862.

Steve Muller is a member of the CDCWRT. After a long career in the U.S. Department of State, he settled in Troy, NY. His interest in the city's industrial history led him to research the connections between Troy and the construction of the ironclad, *USS Monitor.*

R.L. Murray has a B.S. in History and an M.A. in Military Studies. He teaches in a New York high school and community college. He has published more than 20 short books on Civil War topics, including a series on New Yorkers in the Civil War. His articles have appeared in *Gettysburg Magazine* & *Civil War Times Illustrated.*

Frank A. O'Reilly is the historian at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. His book, *The Battle of Fredericksburg: Winter War on the Rappahannock,* won numerous awards. The battle was Lee's easiest victory over an incompetent Burnside, but the battle was far more complicated and intriguing with subtleties and surprises that challenge historians and students even today.

John V. Quarstein is an award-winning historian, preservationist and author. For thirty years he was Director of the Virginia War Museum. John is author of fifteen books including *A History of Ironclads, CSS Virginia: Sink Before Surrender,* and *The Monitor Boys.* He will talk about the battle, Virginia vs. *Monitor.*

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Conference Agenda

Friday, November 3, 2012	
5:00 pm to 6:15 pm	Registration and Reception at Massary Commons at Siena College
6:15 pm to 7:30 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm to 8:00 pm	Welcome by President of Siena College and President of CDCWRT
8:00 pm to 9:15 pm	**Chris Kolakowski – AN OVERVIEW OF EVENTS OF 1862**
Saturday, November 4, 2012	
8:30 am to 9:15 am	Coffee & doughnuts, exhibits, vendors at Roger Bacon Hall, Room 202
9:15 am to 10:15 am	History Dept. Student presentations **Lindsay Davenport – THE MUTINY OF THE 20TH NEW YORK** **Cassandra Jane Werkling – ORSELL COOK BROWN OF THE 44TH NYVI**
10:30 am to 11:30 am	**Bruce Eelman – "A GREAT CURIOSITY TO SEE BATTLE": ELLSWORTH'S AVENGERS IN 1862**
11:45 am to 12:45 pm	**R.L. Murray – NEW YORK'S SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR: THEIR VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES**
1:00 pm to 2:15 pm	Box Lunch provided; exhibits; vendors
2:15 pm to 3:30 pm	**John Hoptak – THE BATTLES OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN AND ANTIETAM**
3:45 pm to 5:00 pm	**Frank O'Rielly - FREDERICKSBURG: From Stonewall to Stone Wall**
5:00 pm	**RAFFLE DRAWING: 1st prize – framed print or chess set or $100** **2nd-4th prizes – books and framed art work** **Do not need to be present to win**
Sunday, November 5, 2012	
8:30 am to 9:00 am	Coffee and doughnuts at Serra Hall, West Room
9:00 am to 10:00 am	**Dennis Gaffney – LOCAL CONNECTIONS TO THE CIVIL WAR**
10:00 am to 10:45 am	**Steve Muller – LATEST RESEARCH: LOCAL MONITOR CONNECTIONS**
11:00 am to 12:00 am	**John Quarstein – BATTLE OF IRONCLADS: MONITOR VS VIRGINIA**
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	Box Lunch provided and then travel to Burden Ironworks in Troy
1:15 pm to 3:30 pm	**Tom Carroll - TOUR OF THE BURDEN IRONWORKS**

COSTS 1. Dinner alone, Friday $45 per person (includes raffle ticket)

2. Saturday Conference alone, $70 per person (includes one raffle ticket, box lunch, coffee breaks, handouts)
3. Dinner and Saturday Conference - $105 per person (includes cachet, raffle ticket, box lunch, coffee breaks and handouts)
4. Sunday Conference alone, $30 per person (includes coffee break, box lunch)
5. Saturday and Sunday Conference alone, etc. $90 per person
6. Dinner, Saturday & Sunday Conference, etc. $120 per person

There are seating limits for both the dinner and the conference. Early registration for both dinner and/or conference is strongly recommended. Choices for dinner include beef, chicken or fish. Appetizers of cheese/vegetable/fruit platter free. Cash bar at the dinner.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM AND RETURN TO:

Fran McCashion phone (518) 459-4209
84 Frederick Ave
Colonie, NY 12205

ATTENDEES 1._____ DINNER CHOICE _____
2._____ DINNER CHOICE _____
3._____ DINNER CHOICE _____

ADDRESS: _____
_____

PHONE: _____

COSTS: FRIDAY DINNER ONLY: $45 X Number ___ = _____

SATURDAY CONF ONLY $70 X Number___ = _____
DINNER & SATURDAY CONF $105 X Number ____ = _____

SUNDAY CONF ONLY $30 X Number _____ = _____
SATURDAY & SUNDAY CONF $90 X Number _____ = _____
DINNER, SAT. & SUN. CONF $120 X Number _____ = _____
GRAND TOTAL = _____

DESCRIPTION OF DINNER CHOICES

Appetizers: cheese, vegetable, fruit platters

Fresh baked dinner rolls with butter

Salad: pear and fresh spinach salad with feta cheese and a balsamic vinairgette

Main course – choose one

1. Apricot and goat cheese chicken- lightly breaded breast of chicken rolled with dry apricots and goat cheese, served with a brown sauce
2. Prime rib
3. Parmesan encrusted tilapia – sautéed tilapia with crusted parmesan with chive butter sauce

Sides included: oven-roasted potatoes, green beans and carrot medley, butternut squash

Dessert: Cora's red velvet cake with white icing

Coffee or tea

PLEASE MAKE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS KNOWN ON YOUR RESERVATION FORM.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS WILL BE SENT TO THOSE ATTENDING.

CIVIL WAR HONOR ROLL: FOR A $10 DONATION YOU CAN LIST YOUR CIVIL WAR RELATIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO YOU, ALONG WITH A BRIEF BIO WITH PICTURE IF YOU HAVE ONE AVAILABLE.

IF YOU WILL BE OUT OF TOWN AT THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE, THEN PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A SPONSOR FOR A $50 DONATION. YOU WILL BE THANKED AT THE CONFERENCE AND IN A SERIES OF NEWSLETTERS OVER THE YEAR.