

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

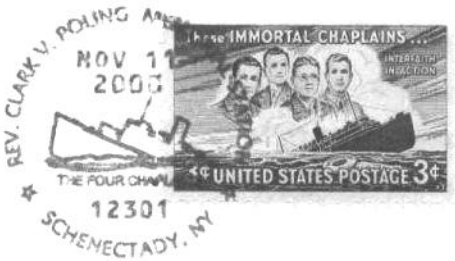
PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212
www.cdcwrt.org



VOLUME 24, NUMBER 9 MAY 2007

Military chaplains







Rev. Clark V. Poling was ordained in the Reformed Church and served in Schenectady. When a U-boat attacked the *USAT Dorchester,* Clark along with three other chaplains gave up their life-vests and went down with their ship. Poling was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Fr. William Corby
Chaplain, 88NYVI, Irish Brigade
Statue at the Wheatfield in GB
Later, President of Notre Dame
Died December 28, 1897

MONTHLY MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007
Guilderland Library
2228 Western Ave.

GENERAL MEETING

SOCIAL HOUR	**6:00-7:00 PM**
BUSINESS	**7:00-7:30 PM**
PRESENTATION	**7:30-8:30 PM**
DISCUSSION	**8:30 – 9:00 PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

The MONTHLY meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Guilderland Library on Friday, May11, 2007. Our guest speaker will be **CHRIS KELLY,** ***and his topic will be,*** **"CHAPLAINS IN THE CIVIL WAR."**

This is a somewhat unusual topic; yet it is so natural for the Civil War. Religion was extremely important to many Civil War soldiers. Lee and Jackson entrusted their fates and the actions of their soldiers in the hands of God. Chaplains were part of the army. Jackson had a personal chaplain who prayed with him. Jackson would not see his daughter until April 20, 1863. Julia was brought by he mother to Guiney Station where she was baptized by Rev. Mr. Lacey. General Lee was present. Jackson would die at Guiney Station on May 10th. Rev. Lacey was present. Lacey then buried Jackson's amputated left arm at Ellwood Plantation. On the Union side, Father Corby, chaplain for the Irish Brigade had a profound effect on the soldiers of the Brigade just before going into battle at Gettysburg. These are just two examples of the roles of the chaplain. Our speaker will discuss chaplains in a broader view.

Chris was born in Sydney, Australia to American parents, and grew up in Caracas, Venezuela. He is a graduate of Princeton University. He obtained a Masters in Divinity at the Episcopal Theological School of New Haven, CT, and a Doctor of Ministry from The University of the South at Sewanee, TN. He was Rector at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in West Palm Beach, FL for many years. He has retired to the North, and is Priest-in-Charge of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lake Luzerne, NY.

Chris's hobbies include the Civil War. He is a re-enactor, and of course is a chaplain. He will be in uniform for this presentation, and will discuss who were chaplains and what functions they performed during the War. I do not believe this topic has ever been covered in one of our Round Table meetings before. This should prove to be a most interesting and entertaining evening.

MONTHLY MEETING

A crowd of about 60 people heard author William Christen talk about Union spy, Pauline Cushman, at our April meeting. There were many question from the audience after this informative meeting. Bill also brought some original artifacts for the audience to view. There was great local original research in his book about Miss Cushman.

BOARD MEETING

The April Board Meeting was held on April 30th. The treasurer reported $1903.41 in the regular account, and $5599.65 in the preservation account. J.J. Jennings and Rosemary Nichols returned from the Annual Conference of the Civil War Preservation Trust. Our Round Table again received an award as one of the top 250 contributors to the CWPT preservation activities. There are over 38,000 members in CWPT. About 2000 individuals or groups contribute 25% of the funds for CWPT.

J.J. presented a check for $5000 to CWPT President, Jim Lighthizer, for the purchase of land at the Mansfield Battlefield. Thanks to the efforts of CWPT, donated funds were leveraged to 15 to 1 with matching grants. **Thus our $5000 donation was leveraged to $75,000.** Our total donations to preservation activities now exceeds $325,000 in actual and matched funds. Almost all remaining battlefield land that has not yet been sold for development, will be gone within the next five years. In order to preserve our Civil War heritage, the CDCWRT has had as its primary goal, to assist in the purchase of battlefield land. To impress the attendees of the CWPT Conference, former RT member, Chris Kolakowski, led a tour of the Seven Days Battles. He pointed to an Interstate 64 overpass as the location of the heart of the Seven Pines Battle, where Joe Johnston was wounded.

Robert E. Lee was then made commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, and he forced McClellan to withdraw, ending the Peninsula Campaign of the Union Army.

In other matters, it was reported that the Department of the Interior concluded that the unauthorized laying of sewer and gas lines across a portion of the battlefield at Harpers Ferry was carried out maliciously and illegally. The matter has been referred to the Justice Department. We hope that an example will be made of the developers who carried out this act.

UP-COMING EVENTS

On Saturday, May 19th, the annual open house of the NYS preservation facilities at Peebles Island will occur. The island is located near the mouths of the Mohawk River, at the site of a historic ford during colonial times. One can view the remains of cannon emplacements that were built to defend the ford just before the Battle of Saratoga.

On Saturday, June 2nd, at Albany Rural Cemetery, there will be activities celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the French and Indian War, also known as the Seven Years War or the first world war.

On Friday, June 8th, the guest speaker will be Patrick Schroeder, historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. His topic will be "The Myths Around Lee's Surrender at Appomattox." Schroeder has published two books about these stories. This will be a highly entertaining talk will tell what really happened at Appomattox, and will separate myth from fact.

The 15th Annual Peterboro Civil War Weekend will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 9th and 10th. Peterboro is located on route 20 between Utica and Syracuse. The event sponsors skirmishes, period entertainment, music, crafts, medical scenarios, and a Blue and Gray Ball. The town is the site of the Gerritt Smith National Historical Landmark, which was part of the Underground Railroad. There will be tours each day. The CDCWRT staffs an information booth and sponsors a postal cancellation.

The National Park Service will celebrate the Battle of Gettysburg on the weekend of Friday, June 29th to Sunday, July 1st. The annual reenactment will occur on the following weekend, July 6th- 8th. The CDCWRT will be there on the first weekend selling postal cachets.

MISCELLANEOUS

U.S. Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) spoke eloquently to the Senate on April 18th, urging the Senate to support fully the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act at the $10 million a year level. The key to the success of the Preservation Program is that it achieves battlefield preservation through collaborative partnerships between state and local governments, the private sector and non-profit organizations, such as the Civil War Preservation Trust. With such matching grants, more than $30 million has been raised to save 14,100 acres of land in fifteen states.

If you watched the WMHT TV Raffle this month, you may have noticed that the RT donated three membership packages to be raffled. This supports our local public television and gets our RT name and objectives broadcast to a large audience.

Jon Olson confirmed that the quote in last month's newsletter was attributed to Robert E. Lee in one form or another. Thank you Jon.

FALL TRIP

The fall trip will be to Gettysburg on Columbus Day weekend, October 5-8, 2007. Stacey Kilts will be our personal guide, and will take us to places on the battlefield that are usually not seen by visitors. Because the bus transportation costs have risen dramatically, if the minimum number of **thirty participants** is not achieved by **June 1st**, the trip will be **canceled**. **The cost of the trip is $425, and a $125 deposit must be made by June 1st. The deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE if the trip is a GO. If the trip is canceled because of low attendees, the deposit will be returned. The full cost of the trip ($425 per person) must be paid by August 1st.** The $425 covers bus transportation, 3 night stay in a motel next to the battlefield, snack, some lunches on the battlefield, and some dinners. More details will follow. This is a prime fall weekend in Gettysburg and a room alone is $125-150. The cost of the trip is a **bargin!**