



# The Dispatch



Newsletter of the

Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

Volume 12 Number 6

February 1995

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1995

Bethlehem Public Library  
Delaware Avenue, Delmar NY

Doors Open: 7:00 PM  
Program Begins: 7:30 PM

Because of an unexpected need to change the meeting line up, the previously announced songfest by the Cambridge High School Chorus has been canceled. In its place we will have an additional "potpourri" program, with two different topics. Leading off, we will have Eva Gemmill and Marie Hoffman of the Poestenkill Historical Society speaking on their editing of the Society's 1993 publication of Marcus Peck: Letters of a Civil War Soldier and His Family. Sgt. Peck enlisted in September of 1862 with Company H of the 169th N.Y.S.V. [Ed. note: the famed "Second Troy Regiment"], and with which he served for six months until his death of typhoid fever. While Peck never "saw the elephant," this is an interesting collection of letters from an observant and articulate young man, as well as from his family members here at home, which were kept by Peck and returned to them with his other belongings after his death. Copies of the book will be available at the meeting.

Additionally, our own Don Galvin will speak on and display a selection of "Patriotic Covers," which are postal envelopes printed with sentimental, patriotic or derogatory images relating to the prosecution of the war.

It promises to be an interesting evening!

## CDCWRT CALENDAR

**FEB 16:** **MARK BODNAR** will address the Lansingburgh Historical Society on Lt. Wm. Pohlman- An American hero." Meeting starts at 7:30 at the Herman Melville House, 114th and First Ave., Troy

**FEB 24:** **DAN LORELLO** will be speaking to the Kingston Round Table on "Lockwood Doty and the Bureau of Military Statistics."

**MAR 11:** **CABIN FEVER BANQUET:** Acclaimed author John M. Priest, who is presently working on his new two-volume history of the battle of the Wilderness, will be speaking on "battle tactics in the Wilderness." Mr. Priest will have his books on sale at the dinner. Additional details inside.

**APR 7:** **MEETING:** <sup>JUNE 9</sup> **RAY SMITH** will discuss the Mexican-American War as the training ground for the officer corps of the North and the South.

**APR 29:** **REVOLUTIONARY WAR TRIP-** To Fort Stanwix and Wood Creek in Utica, and the Oriskany Battlefield. Additional details inside.

**MAY 12:** **MEETING:** In another change of topics, **MICHAEL RUSSERT** will speak on Stannard's Brigade at the battle of Gettysburg.

**JUNE 9: MEETING: NANCY SHOUR** will tell us about Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, commander of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers (Union), the first all-slave regiment recruited for the Federal cause.

**SEPT 8; OCT 13; NOV 11 (BANQUET) AND DEC 8, 1995:** Remainder of the calendar year meeting dates. Details will follow. Mark them down, now!

### THIS MONTH'S TROY HISTORY LESSON

In honor of our lead off topic for this month's meeting, I am taking the liberty of printing two articles from the Troy Daily Times issue of Friday, September 26, 1862.

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**DEPARTURE OF THE REGIMENT--** The One Hundred Sixty-Ninth regiment has left us. Camp Corcoran is untenanted. Last evening the blue-coated soldiers "Folded their tents like the Arab, and silently passed away."

--The manner in which the departure of the regiment conducted, was highly creditable to officers and soldiers. From the apparent chaos of the camp visible during the afternoon, order was evoked ere nightfall, and at six o'clock the companies marched to the railroad track, at the Cemetery crossing.

--We could occupy columns describing the farewell scenes witnessed as the soldiers marched from the camp to the train. Nineteen cars were filled, and at half -past six o'clock, the regiment started- halting not a moment in the city- whizzing through the depot, where hundreds upon hundreds had gathered to view it flashing by- exchanging congratulations and leave-takings with friends on the way side- at last bidding Troy a long, and to many a last, farewell.

--A sad accident marred the departure of the regiment. A soldier of Capt. Murnane's company, named Anthony Tredoe, fell, or was pushed, from the platform of one of the cars, when opposite the ruins of the Sixth Street church, and was killed. The Deceased was seen at the camp just before the train started, and said good-bye to several of his friends. He was perfectly sober, and the accident is not believed to be the result of his carelessness.

The body was carried to the Police station, where Coroner Hall empanelled a jury, of which S.S. Dauchy is foreman. The inquest will be concluded to-night.

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**BRISK HUNT FOR STRAGGLERS--** The Police had a lively time last night, in hunting stragglers of the One Hundred Sixty-Ninth regiment, amid the numerous resorts of dissipation that they had chosen to squander their bounty in. Eighteen were taken to the Station during the night, and removed to jail this morning- there to remain until Lieut. Gager is "good and ready" to take them back to the regiment- They would have fared better if they had not played the renegade.

-- Most of the arrests were made without difficulty- keepers of saloons and houses of ill-fame allowing their "guests" to be removed by the ministers of the law. In one case, however, the demand to open the door was refused. As Chief Barron had gone home (it was four o'clock this morning), the advice of Mayor Thorn was sought. He detailed six policemen to surround the house, and lay a regular siege to it- not raising the blockade until the doors were opened. The garrison "surrendered at discretion" at eight o'clock this morning, and were marched to the Station as prisoners of war.

-- It is the duty of every good citizen and of all policemen, to assist Lieut. Gager in apprehending stragglers from his regiment. A soldier who received his bounty and is found absent from his post without good cause, merits the severest punishment.

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[Ed. note: It's interesting that the Police apparently wouldn't think of waking the Chief, but felt no such apprehension about rousting the Mayor at 4:00 a.m. Even more unusual, for Troy especially, the Mayor actually had a coherent plan for dealing with the problem! My, how things do change.

.....  
Here's an interesting follow-up from Monday, September 29, 1862.]

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**--FOLLOWING THE DRUM--**A lad named Dyer, only seven years of age, accompanied the One Hundred Sixty-Ninth regiment to New York- secreting himself in the cars, and claiming the

protection of the men. His father enlisted in the Black Horse Cavalry, and he was in search of his lost parent. Officer Ager went and brought him home yesterday.

## CDCWRT NEWS

### JANUARY MEETING

In excess of 75 members saw our own **Ron Tunison** discuss his work on the "Friend to Friend" statue which he was commissioned to sculpt for the Gettysburg National Cemetery Annex. Ron detailed his contacts with the Masonic Order and the National Park Service in obtaining the necessary approvals for design and placement, as well as his historical research to ensure design accuracy. He showed a number of slides taken while the work was in progress, and explained the process by which the statue changes from a small clay proposal model into a larger-than-life sized bronze masterpiece. Over all, an interesting evening delving into a topic of which most of us were not familiar. Thanks Ron!

### KUDOS

It is with great pleasure that I announce that long time member **Stephen W. Herrick** has been chosen to be the new Judge of the Criminal Court of the City of Albany. Steve was appointed by Mayor Jennings to fill a vacancy created by the elevation of his predecessor to the County Court, and will need to run for election to a full term this November. I am certain that the congratulations which we extend today will be repeated after his upcoming victory at the polls.

### MORE KUDOS

Civil War, the magazine of the Civil War Society, has an article in the Feb. '95 issue regarding the Civil War History Camp, a cooperative effort of the American Blue & Gray Association and the National 4-H Council. One of the participants quoted is **Jessica Venter**, daughter of **Bruce**. Some of you will remember that Jessica spoke to us about the Camp a few months ago, and she is apparently smitten, as her last quote is "[s]ign me up for next year!"

### NAME TAGS

The new name tags arrived in time for the January meeting, and will be available on Feb.10. In a

change from the previous announcement, the individual members who requested tags will be responsible for the payment of \$3.00, and the Round Table will pay the balance of \$2.81 each. This will ease the load on young **Noah Stracuzzi**, who got swamped at the January meeting collecting money for dues, books, magazines and the book raffle. Anyone who feels cheated by this change may request a refund by filing, in triplicate and supported by sworn affidavits from ten of your other cheapskate friends, with the Treasurer.

### BOOK RAFFLE

Thanks to all who brought in donations at the last meeting. This should hold us over for a few months, but please remember that we are always collecting.

### MAGAZINES FOR SALE

We still have a few copies of the last two issues of Gettysburg magazine, and these will be on sale for \$3.00 each, rather than the \$4.95 cover price. The latest issue contains a lead article regarding the great **Troy** war hero Major General Joseph B. Carr's brigade defending the Emmitsburg Road on July 2, 1863, and has thus been declared "an acceptable purchase" by yours truly.

### USED MAGAZINE SALE

Discussion is ongoing regarding having a used magazine sale at the April meeting. We have done this in the past, although not for some time. The plan is that the members who have old Civil War magazines laying around collecting dust may bring them in to donate. Everyone then has an opportunity to purchase issues they haven't seen for 50 cents each. You do your Spring house cleaning, and the Round Table makes more money for preservation.

### NON-CIVIL WAR TRIP

Details are being firmed up regarding our day trip to the Revolutionary War sites at Fort Stanwix (Utica) and the Oriskany Battlefield, on Saturday, April 29, 1995. We are extremely lucky to have secured the services of **Anthony Wayne Tommell** as our guide. Mr. Tommell is a long time National Park Service employee, is currently Chief of Interpretation at Fort Stanwix, and was a featured "talking head" on the A&E Network's Revolutionary War series, where he discussed the

battles at Saratoga. He is an acknowledged expert on the sites that we will visit.

We have arranged for a tour bus, which would leave the Crossgates Mall at 8:30 A.M., and arrive at Fort Stanwix at approximately 10:00 A.M. After touring the sites, we would be back in Albany by late afternoon. Additional details will follow.

### FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING: The Board met this past Wednesday night. Please remember that these meetings *are open to everyone*. The next Board meeting is on March 11, 1995 at 7:30 P.M., and the business portion is usually over in about one hour. The remainder of the seasonal schedule is March 29; May 3; and May 31, 1995. Meetings are held at Holmes and Watson, in beautiful and historic Troy. [Ed. note: Now, you knew I was going to work that in again somehow, didn't you?] Mark your calendar.

At the meeting, our new Treasurer **Matt Farina** reviewed the financial records given over by **Mark Silo**. A full year end accounting will be published in next month's Dispatch. The board also reviewed the speaker changes for the balance of this season, and the details of the Spring Banquet scheduled for next month (see the enclosed flyer.) Reports were received on the Ft. Stanwix trip, and the need for new organizational stationary. Additional fund raising possibilities were also discussed, including a used magazine sale, which will be scheduled for April.

Questions or comments on any of these matters may be addressed to any Board member.

### BANQUET RAFFLE PRIZE

As a special raffle prize at next month's Cabin Fever Banquet, we have an original pen and ink sketch by the noted artist Dale Gallon. The view is of the Lutheran Seminary, which is located on the appropriately named Seminary Ridge, scene of heavy fighting on the first day at Gettysburg. This has been donated by **Matt Farina**, and has been matted and framed by our own dear **Kathy Silo**. The completed piece will be on display, and tickets will go on sale, at the February meeting. Of course, we will also have a selection of other prizes available at the banquet.

### S.U.V. MONUMENT BENEFIT

The Col. George L. Willard Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans hosted a benefit showing of the critically acclaimed movie Glory, on Sunday, January 22, 1995, at the Proctor's Theater in Schenectady. Proceeds from the film will benefit the Camp's efforts to restore the Schenectady County G.A.R. monument in downtown Schenectady. The total cost of this project is expected to be between \$4,500 and \$5,000.

This monument, dedicated in 1875, was erected by the Edwin Forrest G.A.R. Post 14 and has suffered the ravages of time, pollution and vandalism.

A collection of artifacts from the Schenectady County Historical Society and the Schenectady County Historian's office, with the theme of "Schenectady County in the Civil War," were on display in the main Arcade. Display booths were also set up by the N.Y.S. Archives, the 125th Regimental Association, and the CDCWRT.

Several dozens of people came through the displays in the Arcade area, and several hundred enthusiasts viewed the movie the way it should be seen, on the big screen with stereophonic sound. All in all, it was an excellent way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and congratulations are offered to all those who arranged it, and thanks to those who participated.

Anyone who was unable to attend, but still wishing to donate to the monument fund may do so by making checks payable to SUV Monument Fund, P.O. Box 13681, Albany NY 12212-3681.

### HANCOCK GRAVE RESTORATION

The Old Baldy CWRT committee for the restoration and maintenance of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock's grave is selling tee shirts as a fund raiser. The shirts feature the Matthew Brady photo of the general on the front, and "Hancock the Superb" in Casablanca lettering on the back. Shirts may be ordered from Karin Jones, 552 Deerfield Drive, Norristown, PA 19403. Cost is \$15.00 each post paid. Available in Small, Med., Large, XL, XXL.

# February 1865

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Illinois ratifies the 13th Amendment; one day after passage by Congress.  General Sherman begins his invasion of the Carolinas.	2 Maryland, Michigan, New York, and Rhode Island ratify the 13th Amendment.	3 The peace conference in Hampton Roads, Virginia ends without agreement.	4 Illinois black law was repealed.
5	6 John C. Breckinridge became the Confederate Secretary of War.	7 Gold sold in Richmond, Va., at 4.600, in Philadelphia, Pa., at 2.12 1/2;  Maine ratified the 13th amendment.	8	9 Governor Bramlette, of Kentucky, advised the ratification of the constitutional amendment upon condition that the United States would pay Kentucky \$34,000,000 for her slaves.	10	11
12 General Sherman occupied Branchville, South Carolina.  The Electoral College officially re-elected Lincoln as President.	13 Indiana ratifies the 13th Amendment.	14	15	16	17 Louisiana ratifies the 13th Amendment.  General Sherman's Union forces entered Columbia, the Capitol of South Carolina. That night, the city burned, and Confederates charge that it was deliberate.	18 Charleston, S.C., evacuated by the Confederates and taken possession of by General Gilmore; a great amount of valuable property was destroyed, together with 6,000 bales of cotton; ammunition stored in the railroad depot exploded, and many lives were lost; General Gilmore hoisted the Union Flag over Fort Sumter
19 Fort Anderson, North Carolina, taken	20	21 Fort Armstrong, North Carolina, taken  Wisconsin ratifies the 13th Amendment.	22 Wilmington, North Carolina, the last major Southern port, is captured.	23	24	25
26	27	28	Compiled by Earle Lafean			

Created in 1984, the Capital District Civil War Round Table is an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held monthly at the Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar, New York. This newsletter is published ten times per year. Annual dues are \$15. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.



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To join or renew membership, send \$15 to the CDCWRT address below.

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### The Officers

Chairman	Dan Lorello
Vice-Chairman	Sue Knost
Treasurer	Matt Farina
Secretary	Robert Johnson
At-Large	Richard Becker
At-Large	Joe Stracuzzi
Ex-Officio	Michael Barrett

### The Troops

Programs	Nancy Shour
Newsletter	Michael Barrett
Preservation	Richard Becker
Field Trips	Mark Silo, Kathy Silo
Banquets	Michael Aikey, Kathy Silo
Refreshments	Nancy Shour
Membership	Kathy Silo, Russ Denegar
Video Library	James Carey
Historian	Ray Smith

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