

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



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LEE SURRENDERS ARMY AT APPOMATTOX GRANT OFFERS GENEROUS CONDITIONS



Pictured above is a panoramic image of the reconstructed parlor of the McLean House at Appomattox Court House. Ulysses S. Grant sat at the simple wooden table on the right, while Robert E. Lee sat at the more ornate marble-topped table on the left. The battle at dawn on April 9, 1865 had been brief with less than 700 soldiers killed, small compared to the hundreds of thousands dead by this time. Lee had hoped to push Union cavalry aside and head for Lynchburg and supplies. But as John Gordon's 2nd Corps broke through the cavalry, it was confronted by Union infantry which had come up during the early morning hours. "Tell General Lee I have fought my Corps to a frazzle and I fear I can do nothing….." When Lee received this message, he stated the inevitable. "Then there is nothing left for me to do but to go and see General Grant and I would rather die a thousand deaths." At 8:00 a.m. Lee rode out with three aides to meet Grant.

MARCH MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013
WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

"LEE'S LAST CASUALTY: THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF ROBERT PARKER"

CATHERINE M. WRIGHT

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.**

CDCWRT MEETING

The March meeting of the Capital District Civil War Round Table will be held on Friday, March 8, 2013. This meeting will be held at the Watervliet Senior Center, 1541 Broadway in Watervliet. Our honored guest speaker will be Catherine M. Wright, curator at The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA. Her presentation is entitled **"Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Robert Parker."**

The letters of Sgt. Robert Parker, 2nd Virginia Cavalry, provide a window into the daily life of an enlisted cavalryman, as well as highlight the unique story of the soldier believed to be the last man killed in action in the Army of Northern Virginia. In many ways, Parker was representative of the average Confederate soldier: a modest farmer in the antebellum years, his patriotic fervor spurred him at the beginning of the war to enlist in the Confederate cavalry. His letters reveal how home front and battlefront were closely intertwined, and the importance of correspondence in sustaining that connection and the will to fight. The role of the cavalry and Parker's tragic death are also highlighted in the program.

Catherine was born in Kansas City, MO, and grew up there and in Norfolk, VA. She received her bachelor's degrees in English and History from Truman State University (2003), and a master's degree in American History with a concentration in museum studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2006).

She is the editor of **Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry** ***(University of Tennessee Press 2008) and is a contributing historian to the online*** **Encyclopedia of Virginia.** ***Various national media outlets have interviewed her, including NPR and CNN, and she has appeared on the PBS program "History Detectives" and twice on the Travel Channel program "Mysteries of the Museum." She was formerly the curator at the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington, VA.***

DUES, DUES, DUES

This is a reminder that annual dues of $25 are payable NOW. Regular dues are used to cover any speakers' expenses for regular meeting, meeting refreshments, web site charges, and for the mailing of newsletters. About 50% of our membership has paid dues. Please do not jeopardize your membership by non-payment of dues.

Postage rates have now increased. Our printing costs have been minimal and printed newsletters have been donated to the CDCWRT because we are a 501c3 educational organization. If you wish to receive your newsletter by email, please contact any board member. This saves us postage, and allows you to receive the newsletter several days before the regular mailed newsletter arrives.

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.

On April 12, 2013, Tony Zarnecki will talk about Mr. Lincoln's secret visit to West Point in 1862.

On May 10, 2013, Wayne Mott will speak on the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA, and will bring some fascinating artifacts.

On June 14, 2013, Ben Dixon will talk about a photographic study of the Gettysburg Battlefield. His presentation is entitled "Remembering America's battlefield from 1863 to today." This presentation will be at Roger Bacon Hall at Siena College.

In August 2013, once again there will be a Civil War Weekend at Schuyler Flatts. The annual Round Table picnic will be that same weekend. The dates will be announced in next month's newsletter.

On September 13, 2013, Katherine Hawkins will present "We Done Our Part: The History of the 3rd U.S. Colored Troops."

On October 11, 2013, Wayne Mahood will talk about the 126th NYVI, in a presentation entitled "Fight All Day, March All Night."

On November 1-3, 2013, the CDCWRT will sponsor the 1863 Sesquicentennial Conference.

On December 13, 2013, J.J. Jennings will present a "To Be Announced" topic.

BOARD MEETING – Feb. 2013

There was no meeting since the February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Treasurer reports $4019.07 in the regular account and $3268.98 in the preservation account.

IN MEMORIAM

Over the past several months, the Round Table has witnessed the passing of several members. All have been longtime members. Susan Henningson, wife of Board member, Art Henningson died after a long courageous battle with cancer. Jon Olson died after his courageous battle with cancer. Bill Frueh, who developed blindness in childhood, was a member and a re-enactor. Bill passed in February.

The CDCWRT has recognized the passing of these members. However if individual members wish to make a donation to the Round Table in the memory of a deceased member, the Round Table will accept and acknowledge the donation. The donations will be accumulated and the funds will be forwarded to a suitable preservation activity (such as the Civil War Trust) in their honor.

NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

The conference is shaping up nicely and will again concentrate on New Yorkers in 1863 actions. NYS Historian Bob Weible will welcome attendees at the Empire Plaza. President Lincoln will deliver the Gettysburg Address. Bud Hall will be the keynote speaker Friday night, and will talk about Brandy Station. On Saturday Juanita Leisch will talk about 19th –Century women. Matt Farina will present Dr. Mary Walker who was awarded the Medal of Honor. R.L. Murray was a popular presenter at the last conference and will again cover New Yorkers in the war. J.D. Petruzzi will talk about NY cavalry at Gettysburg. Troy Harmon, NPS Ranger at Gettysburg will discuss New York at Gettysburg. Sunday is being arranged, but Chris Kolakowski is back and will discuss the western theater. We hope this whets your appetite and that you are already planning to attend with a friend in tow.



