



# The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

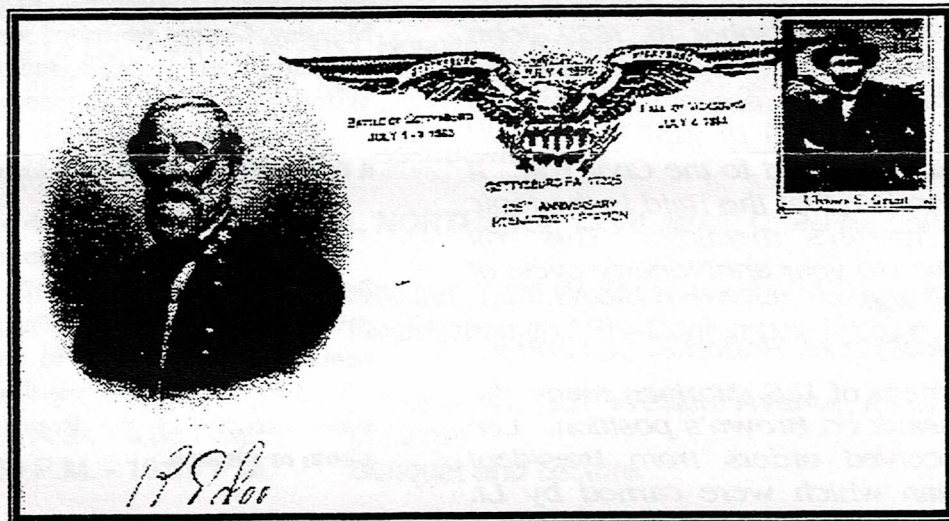
**Capital District Civil War Round Table**

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

CDCWRT's web site: [www.timesunion.com/communities/cdcwrt.htm](http://www.timesunion.com/communities/cdcwrt.htm)

Volume 17 Number 2

October, 1999



Pictured above is one of the most successful postal commemorative cachets that the CDCWRT has produced. A cachet is a special envelope depicting a special person, place or event. It is stamped with U.S. Postal stamp(s). A commemorative postmark (also called a special cancellation) is designed and must meet rigid standards of eligibility. Once authorized by the Postal Service, it becomes part of permanent postal history and records.

The pictured Lee cachet is based on an engraved series in the N.Y.S. Archives. The stamp is part of the 1995 Civil War Series of 20 stamps issued by the Postal Service. It is based on a photograph of Grant. The cancellation stamp is the spread eagle with the dates of the Battle of Gettysburg on the Lee side, and the date of the fall of Vicksburg on the Grant side. This stamp commemorates the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of both battles in 1998. The two generals face one another the following year at the Battle of the Wilderness. The envelope, stamp and cancellation are all related in Civil War history, making this a unique gift, souvenir, or collectible. Please read inside about other cachets.

The October Meeting  
Friday October 1, 1999

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY  
451 DELAWARE AVE.  
DELMAR, NY

DOORS OPEN: 6:30 PM  
SOCIAL & SNACKS  
MEETING BEGINS: 7:00 PM  
PROGRAM BEGINS: 7:30PM

### CDCWRT MEETING

*Welcome to the second meeting of the 1999-2000 season of the CDCWRT. This month's program will feature Ed Cotter, and is entitled "John Brown's Raid."*

*On Sunday, October 16, 1859, John Brown and a band of followers carried out a raid on the arsenal at Harper's Ferry. This was a precipitating event that ultimately lead to the Civil War. It is appropriate that the Raid is the topic of this month's meeting. This will begin the 140 year anniversary cycle of the Civil War.*

*Ironically, Col. Robert E. Lee and a Detachment of U.S. Marines made the final assault on Brown's position. Lee had received orders from President Buchanan which were carried by Lt. J.E.B. Stuart. Before his death, John Brown prophesized that he was "Now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away, but with blood."*

Please note the early opening of the meeting room to allow socializing and snacks BEFORE the business meeting and lecture. This will allow a more casual opportunity to meet people, look over books for sale or raffle, and review any exhibits. As noted in the past, we must be out of the Library by 9:00 P.M.

★ ★ ★

### CDCWRT NEWS

The first meeting of the 1999-2000 season occurred during a holiday week at the start of the school year. Nonetheless there was a very good turnout of 58 attendees to hear Connie Slaughter's excellent presentation of *The Battle of Wilson's Creek*. Connie also spent the long weekend touring Civil War New York with members of the Round Table. Sites included Grant's Cottage, Oakwood Cemetery, Grant's Tomb, and West Point. Other sites included the Empire State Building and the Baseball Museum in Cooperstown, where Connie's relative, Enos Slaughter, is in the Hall of Fame. Finally, she also attended Bob Mulligan's guided tour of the Saratoga Battlefield. Prior to leaving on Monday, Connie promised personalized tours for any Round Table member who visits Wilson's Creek. Those members who were at the meeting and battlefield tour, experienced a full weekend of military history.

Members who commented on the new format of the newsletter, will note changes in print size, among other items. We welcome comments and will try to respond to them. The front page will continue to highlight some activity of the Round Table with a photo or picture.

This month's item is a cancelled postal cachet. Later in this newsletter we will feature three cachet sets which will be for sale to members at the October meeting. Additional sets will be featured in up-coming newsletters. These would make excellent gifts for collectors, historians, and friends. Money collected from these cachet sales, supports the preservation activities of the Round Table.

To celebrate our fifteenth anniversary year, we are having a gala weekend beginning with our second conference held in Albany and concluding with the Sixtieth Anniversary showing of *Gone With the Wind* and Civil War exhibit at Proctors' Theatre in Schenectady NY. Events are scheduled separately to allow you to attend either or both, so **RESERVE YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL NORTHEAST CONFERENCE ON THE CIVIL WAR  
PERSPECTIVES AND INFLUENCES ON THE CIVIL WAR  
RAMADA INN - ALBANY NY  
NOVEMBER 12-13, 1999**

Our second annual conference on the Civil War will investigate a variety of topics that influenced or supported the waging of the war. From historian Clark "Bud" Hall's talk, "Mounted Victory: The Emergence of the Federal Cavalry as an Offensive Force within the Army of the Potomac" though the impact of the Civil War to create the industrial rise of the United States, we will look at both national factors heretofore not explored, and also examine the closely personal experiences of a young woman who was a nurse during the battle of Gettysburg. We close our conference talks with Dr. William G. Piston, author and professor, who will discuss "Longstreet: Lee's Tarnished Lieutenant". Dr. Piston will also be available for a book signing after dinner, along with several other authors who will have their books at our conference. Full details and schedule will be in the next issue of the Dispatch, with an early bird price for those who sign up in advance. Check our website next week for an advance look at the whole conference.

Noted authors and historians once again are on our roster of speakers. Publishers Dean Thomas of Thomas Publications and Bill Edmonston, of Edmonston Publishing, will provide our attendees with a complete selection of Civil War books at a very attractive discount for our conference. Our first awards to people who have made a significant contribution to education and awareness will be given during the conference banquet. Don't miss what promises to be another outstanding lineup during the last conference of the century!

**GONE WITH THE WIND SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
PROCTOR'S THEATRE, SCHENECTADY NY  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1999**

Three years have gone by since our last Civil War Heritage Day at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady NY. In conjunction with our second annual conference, Proctor's has agreed to show the digitally re-mastered version of *GWTW* on the largest screen in the Northeast (48') in their restored vaudeville theatre, which is also on the National Historic Register.

This is the fourth time that Proctor's will host our Civil War exhibit and show. Many Civil War groups will be on hand to highlight the region's Civil War heritage, and to answer questions about their group's activities and membership. This is a great way to meet other people and see what else is in our region.

This event occurs just one day before the original planned release of the film in Atlanta in 1939. Circumstances, however, delayed the actual release until December 15th. This movie has special significance for Schenectady, since the 134th NYVI is credited with winning the first engagement that opened the Cracker Line, allowing Sherman to begin the famous March to the Sea.

Exhibits will open at 11 in the Arcade and continue until 1:30. Arrangements are being made for a concert preceding the showing of the film. The movie will be shown at 2 p.m. with a brief intermission. A great day for families to see a variety of artifacts and exhibits, so mark this day on your calendar and join in the sixtieth birthday of one of the all-time great American movie classics!

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION...

The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage will present a concert on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 P.M. in Alsop Hall, in Wilton, NY. The 77<sup>th</sup> New York Regimental Balladeers will perform *Tenting Tonight*, which tells stories of the Civil War with music, words from soldiers' and civilians' diaries and letters, portraits, and landscape images of the period. A special section will also focus on Grant, with readings and photographs. Tickets are \$5.00 each, and may be obtained by sending a check and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Friends of U.S. Grant Cottage, PO Box 990, Saratoga Spa, NY 12866. Please write **CONCERT** on the envelope. You will receive tickets and directions by mail. Please call 584-8190 for more details.

The Friends also announced that their new video, *The General on the Mountain*, is now available by mail. Using period photographs and other original material, it traces the chronology of the cottage from its beginning to the home where Grant completed his memoirs and spent his final days. Cost of the video is \$15.00 plus \$1.05 tax for New York residents only AND postage of \$2.00 for book rate or \$3.20 for priority mail. The address is the same as above. Please write **VIDEO** on the front of the envelope.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

We are often reminded of the Civil War when some papers or relics surface. Sometimes the treasure is found in the trash, as was the case of the diary of Pvt. George H. Warner, 177<sup>th</sup> NYSV. His story is preserved in a publication, *No Sabbath on the Battlefield, The Diary of a Union Soldier from Berne, New York*.

When I was vacationing in Florida earlier this year, I was talking to a salesman about unrelated matters. The question of hobbies arose and I of course mentioned the Civil War. He in turn

related that a distant uncle was Joseph Kinsey, Co. E, 61<sup>st</sup> NC, Clingham's Brigade, Hoke's Div., ANV. This soldier spent most of the war as a POW on Johnson's Island. The salesman had a copy of the diary kept by Kinsey, the original now residing in the University of North Carolina. I sent him several Lee cachets, and he sent me a copy of the diary. I shared this with Sue Knost, who was pleasantly surprised to find Kinsey served in the same regiment as Sue's relatives.

Several weeks ago I was chatting with a nurse friend about the Civil War. She related to me that she found in the walls of a great grandfather's house she found packets of letters from a Civil War soldier to his family and friends back home. The letters were in the original stamped envelopes. She was unaware of their value. We are arranging for an appraisal of the letters and a look at the contents of them.

What brought all this to mind were several articles in *The Civil War News* about an unscrupulous dealer in artifacts who 'befriended' George Pickett V. George operates a storm window business in Wilmington, NC and had some of his relatives artifacts which he sold to Russ A. Prichard III for \$87,500. The items included the kepi Pickett wore on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, a uniform with Pickett's blood on it, letters to his future wife, a signed letter from Robert E. Lee, and other artifacts. Weeks later Prichard sold the collection to the City of Harrisburg, PA for a Civil War museum due to open in 2000 for \$880,000. In 1998 Pickett realized he had been taken. He brought suit and was awarded compensation and damages of \$850,000.

So keep your eyes and ears open to Civil War memorabilia around us, and make certain they are preserved and protected. Talk to the experts within our own Round Table. There is treasure still around and stories of soldiers still to be retold to future generations.

## HELP WANTED...

Rowland R. Dadd, 1605 Lewis Road, Weatherford, OK 73096, telephone (580) 772-1605, has asked the CDCWRT in finding information on a relative. He is seeking information on the 130<sup>th</sup> NY, the 1<sup>st</sup> NY Volunteers, Co. B, or the 1<sup>st</sup> NY Dragoons. He is the great-grandson of Andrew S. Conklin of Sparta, NY. Andrew enlisted in the Volunteers in 1862 and was discharged June 9, 1863 at Fort Monroe, VA, suffering from typhoid fever. Mr. Dadd has a diary that Andrew kept, and is interested in obtaining more information about his relative.

Usually the CDCWRT has not listed such requests in the past. However we run this request for two reasons. First, the request was made as the result of a 'hit' on our web-site, demonstrating that the Round Table web-site is being 'surf'ed on the national level. Secondly, this is an ideal opportunity to recommend Dan Lorello's book, *The union preserved: A Guide to Civil War Records in the New York State Archives*. We all should remember to suggest this book to individuals seeking information on Civil War soldiers from New York State.

## CACHETS AND CACHETS

At the October meeting, three sets of cachets will be available for purchase. All three sets were cancelled at the 136<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

**The Artillery Commanders Set** consists of two cachets, one featuring Henry Jackson Hunt, Chief of Artillery of the Army of the Potomac, and the other featuring Edward Porter Alexander, Chief of Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. In preparing for Pickett's charge, Robert E. Lee ordered a two hour artillery barrage, the largest seen in the Western Hemisphere at the time. A Lee stamp suitably graces the Alexander cachet. Hunt's masterful placement of Union batteries did much to blunt Pickett's assault, preserving Gen. Winfield Hancock's battered line. Appropriately, a Hancock stamp occupies Hunt's cachet. Both are cancelled with a July 1, 1999, 136<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary Station cancellation stamp. The price for the set, with biography cards, is \$8.00.

**The Cavalry Commanders Set** consists of three cachets featuring John Buford, James Ewell Brown Stuart, and George Armstrong Custer. The role of cavalry during the Gettysburg campaign, starting with the Battle of Brandy Station to Lee's final retreat across the Potomac, was crucial to the eventual outcome. Buford delayed Lee's advance until the infantry arrived. Stuart's absence left Lee in the dark about the placement of Union forces. Custer stopped Stuart's assault on the Union rear which was to co-ordinate with Pickett's charge. The set of three cachets with varying stamps and cancellation stamps from the 136<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, is \$12.00.

**The Army of Northern Virginia Set** is a five cachet set that highlights the commanders of the ANV. Robert E. Lee of course is the commander in chief. First Corps commander is James Longstreet; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps commander is Richard S. Ewell; 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps commander is Ambrose Powell Hill; and finally J.E.B. Stuart is cavalry commander. The selected postage stamps include Chancellorsville (Lee's greatest victory), Gettysburg (the Lee-Longstreet disagreement), Stand Watie (Confederate cavalry) 'Stonewall' Jackson (whose death results in reorganization of the ANV), and Jefferson Davis (who planned the invasion with Lee). All are cancelled July 1, 1999. The cost of this unique set, with biography cards and hard-to-find old 'make up' postage stamps, is \$20.00. This truly a fine set for this price.

Finally, there will be a limited number of single cachets that relate to **John Brown's Raid**. The Robert E. Lee cachet as featured on the cover of *The Dispatch* will be available for \$5.00 as well as the J.E.B. Stuart cachet from the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. A John Brown cachet cancelled at the Civil War Days celebration at Peterboro, New York will be available for \$3.00. Peterboro, between Utica and Syracuse, was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

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## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe Stracuzzi reported that the balance in the regular account was \$2807.66 and the balance in the preservation account is \$8903.24. Last year the Board voted to have two separate accounts. The regular account is for the day to day operation of the Round Table and includes dues, newsletter expenses, monthly raffles, trips, etc. The preservation account includes expenses and revenues from activities where profits go exclusively to educational or preservation organizations. This includes cachet sales.

### PROGRAM CHAIR

Sue Knost discussed future programs from January to June 2000. These will be printed on an insert listing events for the full year. This insert can be pinned to a bulletin board so members will know the schedule for the entire year. This insert can also be distributed at Round Table events.

### FIELD TRIP

Final program adjustments were announced for the Chattanooga-Chickamauga trip with the venerable Ed Bearss as our guide.

### BY-LAWS CHANGES

It has been many years since the by-laws were last reviewed. At the same time, there have been changes in the operation of the Round Table. At the next Board meeting, recommended changes will be discussed, and these will be presented to the membership in the November and December meetings. The revisions/changes can then be voted upon at the December meeting.

### DONATIONS

The Board voted to donate 100 cachets to the Museum for Civil War Medicine and 100 cachets to the Antietam Battlefield. The funds from the sale of these cachets will be used for preservation projects at each location. The suggested price of each cachet is \$5.00.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST...

**Brandon Schechter, student Round Table member**, participated in the preservation march for the Opequon Battlefield (Third Winchester). He raised over \$1600 for his efforts, marching as a representative of the 156<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry. Brandon stated he hoped that by sharing the stories of the 156<sup>th</sup>, history would become more personal. He said the purpose of preservation is to guard the sites of sacrifice of ordinary people who 135 years ago did the extraordinary and suffered the unfathomable.

**Another student CDCWRT member, Roxanne Wegman**, participated as a re-enactor and minstrel this summer in Gettysburg. She was able to play with the renowned Second South Carolina String Band, and also performed a medley of Confederate songs at the Virginia monument. Roxanne, who turned 12 this summer, will play at the rededication of a Civil War Monument in Allentown, PA in October.

**The Adirondack Civil War Round Table** reports that the Civil War monument in downtown Glens Falls will be rededicated on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The ceremony will feature Civil War re-enactors and period music by Saxton's Coronet Band from Frankfort, Kentucky.

Several members have asked about obtaining **CDCWRT name tags**. The Round table in the past has paid part of the cost for name tags. Those new members who desire tags, and those old members who have lost tags and desire new ones, should submit your **PRINTED name** and \$7.00 to treasurer, Joe Stracuzzi. Checks will not be cashed until the necessary minimum number of requests have been received. When the tags are available, the tag and \$3.50 will be returned.



## CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Post Office Box 14871  
Albany, NY 12212-4871



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER, 1999

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1999 – Monthly Meeting

- Topic: "THE BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK"
- Guest Speaker: CONNIE SLAUGHTER

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999 – Monthly Meeting

- Topic: "JOHN BROWN'S RAID"
- Guest Speaker: ED KOTTER

#### OCTOBER 8-11, 1999 – 15th ANNUAL FALL FIELD TRIP

Chickamauga/Chattanooga National Battlefield Park and Atlanta Area

- Round-trip airfare from Albany to Atlanta
- Featured guide: ED BEARSS
- 3 nights hotel with CDCWRT Hospitality Room
- 1 dinner, 3 lunches, and 1 cookout hosted by the National Parks Service
- Side trips to Atlanta, the National Park Service Small Arms Museum, Stone Mountain, and Lookout Mountain

#### NOVEMBER 12-14, 1999 – 2nd ANNUAL NORTHEAST CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> — Ramada Inn, 1228 Western Avenue, Albany, NY

- 7:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. Registration and Pre-Conference Lecture

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> — Ramada Inn, 1228 Western Avenue, Albany, NY

- 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Lectures
- 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. Banquet and Lecture

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> — Proctor's Theater, 432 State Street, Schenectady, NY

- "Gone With the Wind"
- Civil war displays

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1999 – Monthly Meeting

*Holiday Party in the Century Ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Latham*

- Topic: "SANTA CLAUS AND THE CIVIL WAR"
- Guest Speaker: KEVIN RAWLINGS

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1999 – VICTORIAN STROLL in TROY, NY

- CDCWRT display at the U.S. Post Office, 400 Broadway

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999 – FIRST NIGHT in ALBANY (Happy New Year!!!)

- CDCWRT display at City Hall, Eagle Street