



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

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Maxine Getty in mourning and David Getty in 79th New York Volunteers (Cameron Highlanders)

The Third Annual Picnic was a great success at the Peebles Island State Historical Park in Cohoes, NY. Bob Mulligan gave a walking tour of Revolutionary War fortifications on the Island. The North won the trivia contest, and as usual the commissary supplies were superb. The Gettys (pictured above) provided presentations on the 79th NYV and Victorian mourning customs.

The September Meeting
Friday September 10, 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 first meeting of the 1999-2000 season of the CDCWRT. This month's program will feature Connie Slaughter, assistant superintendent at Wilson Creek, Missouri. Connie's presentation is entitled, "The Battle of Wilson's Creek."

Missouri was a war torn border state in 1861. Events moved rapidly after peace talks broke down. Newly appointed Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon readied his Army of the West to deal the secessionists in Missouri a swift death blow. The battle was fought on August 10, 1861, and was a vicious affair. Lyon became the first general killed during the Civil War. There were over 2300 casualties, but the battle was over-shadowed by First Manassas. This first meeting of the new 1999-2000 year will provide us peek at a western battle that is not well known to us Easterners.

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.

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CDCWRT NEWS

You undoubtedly have noticed some changes in the format of *THE DISPATCH*. Dan Lorello, our editor for the past two and one half years, has retired as editor for personal reasons. The Board and the membership owe a debt of gratitude to Dan for the fine job he has done. When Dan assumed the role of editor, he indicated at that time, it was only temporary. How quickly that became more than two years! He volunteered at a time when there was a great need for someone with his skills and knowledge. Dan has decided to step down as editor because of heavy personal and family commitments. He will still remain active within the Round Table, and in fact will be a speaker for one of our monthly meetings. Until we can find another volunteer, we will be trying out new formats and ideas. Please give us feedback as to how we are doing and what you would like to see in *THE DISPATCH*.

This change also comes at a time when a new printer has been found for the newsletter. This will allow us the opportunity to try new formats, including pictures and color. The size of the newsletter may also increase since the cost of printing is now substantially less. Sue Knost has been able to arrange the printing through the CSEA.

The Board also lost another member this summer when Mark Bodnar resigned because of personal and work-related reasons. Mark was elected Vice-Chair, and has been program chair the previous two years. During his tenure, many memorable guest speakers appeared before this Round Table. His input and expertise will be missed. Mark will remain a member of the group, and hopefully will become more involved again in the future.

Tom Smith has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair and recently was appointed to that position by the Board. An At-Large position is now vacant on the Board, and interested parties should speak to any member of the Board.

WHILE YOU WERE AWAY..

A great deal has happened since the last regular meeting in June. The symposium, **The Union Preserved: New York and The Civil War**, cosponsored by the New York State Archives and the CDCWRT on June 11-12 was a success. Gov. George Pataki introduced Jeff Shaara, author of *Gods and Generals* and *The last full Measure* spoke of his father, Michael Shaara, and his father's interest in the Civil War. A large turnout was present at this dinner presentation. Charter member Dan Lorello spoke at the symposium, which also featured the release of the book, *The Union Preserved: A Guide to Civil War Records in the New York State Archives*. Dan compiled this book which was edited by Harold Holzer.

The CDCWRT also sponsored several postal cancellation events this summer. Members were present at Peterboro, NY, at the 136th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, at the Cooperstown Hall of Fame Induction Weekend, and the Living History Program at the Old Stone Fort at Schoharie where native Kate Lawrence, a Civil War nurse, was honored. A full treasurer's report of monies earned at these events will occur in a later newsletter. The Board and the membership recognize the volunteers who worked at these events.

The July 11th picnic at Peebles Island was also a great success. The weather cooperated and a warm sunny day was provided. Bob Mulligan gave tours of the Revolutionary War sites on the island, and Maxine and David Getty gave living history presentations. The food was plentiful and delicious. A special thanks also goes to member Phil Lechak, who not only traveled from Connecticut to attend the picnic, but also brought New England clam chowder and cooked all the hot dogs, hamburgers, and corn. He ran the clean-up, and has even VOLUNTEERED to do it all again next July.

ITEMS OF INTEREST...

Sculptor, historian and CDCWRT member, **RON TUNISON'S** latest bronze sculpture was unveiled at the new National Museum of the Civil War Soldier at Pamplin Park Civil War Site in Petersburg, VA on May 29th. It depicts two soldiers seated on the ground, cooking over a small fire, preparing salt pork, hardtack and coffee. A quotation from a soldier's letter is the theme of the sculpture: "My thoughts and heart are at home with you, but my duty is here with cause and comrades."

Please note that the **NEW WEB SITE** for our Round Table is listed in the letterhead of the newsletter. The site will be listed in every newsletter.

The 21st issue of **THE GETTYSBURG MAGAZINE**, July 1999, will be available at the next meeting for the price of \$5.00. This is a bargain for our members, since the newstand price is \$7.95 and the mail order price is \$10.95. This journal quality publication includes articles about Hazlett's Battery, the 134th New York Volunteer Infantry, and de Trobriand's Brigade in the Wheatfield. The cover depicts *The First Minnesota* by Don Troiani. Uncharacteristically, these may be an error in the depiction of a soldier from Co. D of the 125th NYVI fleeing the Confederate assault on day two.

DALE BLAIR OF THE AUSTRALIAN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE will be attending our October meeting. Dale is combining research and pleasure in the USA. He will talk briefly about the Aussie interest in the American Civil War. A small number of Confederate soldier's graves have been identified in Australia, and they are marked on the Australian's Day of Remembrance each year. Our chair, **MATT FARINA**, addressed the Australian Civil War RT in Melbourne in May of 1999. He found the Aussie's intensely interested. He presented members with gift stamp cachets and also sold a number of sets and T-shirts to the Down-unders.