

# The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

# CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



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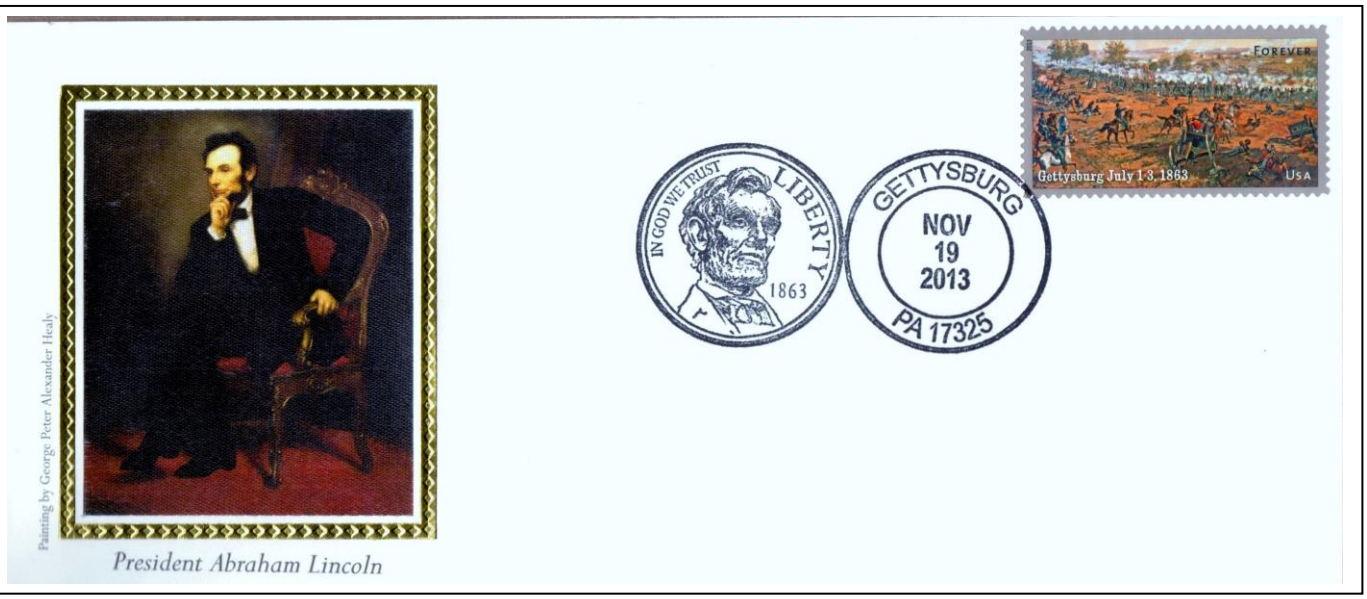
# 150TH GETTYSBURG ADDRESS ENVELOPE




**Pictured above is the business-sized No.10 silk-screened envelope that was cancelled at the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. The CDCWRT has a small supply of this and several other No.10 envelopes for sale at $10 each. Other Lincoln envelopes have double Lincoln stamps from the Lincoln bicentennial. There is also a supply of the smaller No.6 envelopes with printed images of Lincoln with three different cancellation stamp designs. These are $5 each.**

**The Round Table was the only organization at the Visitor Center on November 19, 2013. The limited numbers of envelope cancelled, makes these quite limited and desirable. If you would like one for yourself, your child or your grandchild, please contact Matt Farina at mafarina@aol.com. Cachets from previous sesquicentennial events are still available at $4 each or three for $10.**

# FEBRUARY MEETING
## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014

## WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
## 1541 BROADWAY
## WATERVLIET, NY

## DIVIDED BY WAR:
## THE CONFEDERATE FLAG
## THAT ALMOST FLEW OVER
## WATERFORD IN 1861"

## PAUL G. SCHNEIDER

| | |
|---|---|
| **Social Hour** | **6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** |
| **Business Meeting** | **7:00 – 7:15 p.m.** |
| **Presentation** | **7:15 – 7:45 p.m.** |
| **Discussion** | **7:45 - -8:15 p.m.** |

## CDCWRT MEETING

***The February meeting of the Capital District Civil War Round Table will occur on Friday, February 14, 2014 at the Watervliet Senior Center. Our special guest speaker will be Paul G. Schneider, and the title of his presentation is*** **"Divided by War: The Confederate Flag that Almost Flew Over Waterford in 1861."**

***Set within the broad context of the Civil War and its subsequent commemorations, "Divided by War" focuses on the experiences of one Waterford, New York family whose extended members find themselves separated by the conflict. Mr. Schneider's research uncovered here-tofore unknown information revealing facets of one family's efforts to bridge the formidable obstacles dividing them.***

***Paul Schneider is an independent historian specializing in 19th century American history with particular interests in manufacturing and industrial development in the eastern United States. As Director of the newly launched American Fire History Survey, he also is pursuing his interest in the American historic experience with fire: changing sources of ignition and fuels, and the evolution of firefighting methodologies, strategies, training, and equipment.***

***In 2012 he was awarded an Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residency in New York State History and Culture at the New York State Library. Mr. Schneider earned his MA in History Museum Training from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University College of Oneonta and his BA in American History with departmental honors from Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio.***

***Schneider retired in 2000 from the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites after a 27 year career encompassing historic research and administrative responsibilities. As the state's first Museum Security Specialist for 13 of those years, he oversaw security and fire protection of state historic sites and support facilities. From 2000-2006, as owner and sole proprietor of Heritage Protection, LLC, he provided protection expert consulting services to museums and cultural properties throughout the United States.***

## DUES ARE NOW DUE

The CDCWRT operates on the calendar year. This means that the annual dues of $25 for individuals are now due. Treasurer Fran McCashion will be collecting dues at the meeting, or dues can be mailed into the Round Table at the address on the front page. Student and family dues are posted on the last page of the newsletter, and may be discussed with Fran.

## 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. Other events have a Civil War connection and are sponsored by other groups. Details of Sesquicentennial Civil War events can be found on the web-site: www.nycivilwar150.org.***

***During the days from January 15 to February 16, 2014, there is a Civil War-related play opening in New York City at the Women's Project Theatre on West 55th Street. The play is entitled "Row After Row." Ticket price is $60 but a special group rate of $30 each for groups of 9 or more is available. Detail at: www.tickets@womensproject.org.***

**On February 15, 2014, Harry Bradshaw Matthews will speak on "The Role of the United States Colored Troops in the African American Freedom Journey" at 2:00p.m. at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. Matthews has previously spoken to the CDCWRT on the USCT.**

**On February 22, 2014, author David Fiske will give a presentation on Solomon Northup at 2:00p.m. in the Guilderland Public Library. Northup was a well-respected, educated, free, black man living in Saratoga Springs. He was lured away from his home and was sold into slavery in Louisiana for 12 years. He was finally able to communicate with friends in New York and return home as a free man. He published a book about his experience entitled, *Twelve Years a Slave,* which has recently been made into a movie. Fiske has co-authored a book about Northup entitled, *Solomon Northup: His Life Before and After Slavery.***

**Hudson Valley Community College in Troy is offering a series of one-day programs through its Center for Creative Retirement. Topics include Randy Patten on his collection of Civil War maps and photographs; Grant Cottage caretaker, Steve Trim, on Grant and Longstreet; Joe Thatcher on the coal torpedo. The programs are $10-15 each. For additional information and registration, please call (518)629-7339 or go to the website www.hvcc.edu/communityed.**

**On March 14, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our guest speaker will be Joanna Ortner, and the title of her presentation will be "Frances Harper and Black Women Abolitionists."**

**CHANGE: On April 11, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our special guest speaker will be William Howard, and his presentation is entitled, "The Civil War: Why No Great Art?"**

**On May 9, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Senior Center. Our guest speaker will be Bob Conner, and the title of his presentation is "General Gordon Granger: The Savior of Chickamauga and the Man Behind Juneteenth." (But you thought General George Thomas was the "Rock of Chickamauga! Come and hear the whole story!)**

**On June 13, 2014, the CDCWRT will meet at the Roger Bacon Hall at Siena College at 6:00 P.M. Our guest speaker will be Ron Coddington, and the title of his presentation will be "African American Faces of the Civil War." This program is co-sponsored by the Underground Railroad Workshop.**

## . BOARD MEETING

The January meeting of the Board of the CDCWRT was held on a frigid 01/20/14. The Treasurer reported $2772.41 in the regular account and $11,238.17 in the preservation account. The proposed slate of candidates was elected at the January meeting. A $400 donation was made to the Watervliet Senior Center. Programs are set through the June meeting of the CDCWRT. Peter Hess donated a box of his book, "People of Albany: the Civil War," which will be sold at round table events and used as gifts for speakers.

## WOMEN OF THE CIVIL WAR

Although almost all the fighting was performed by men during the Civil War, most women served on the home front in one capacity or another. However a much smaller group of women were directly involved with the war. If you attended the CDCWRT sponsored conference this past November, you heard about Dr. Mary Walker, the only females physician to officially serve in the Union Army, and the only woman to be awarded the Medal of Honor to date. But there are many fascinating stories about other women. Over the next serval newsletters we will ewxplore some of their stories that have been excerpted from several books. A bibliography will be presented at the end of the series.

**THE ROSWELL WOMEN:** Several years ago a speaker at one of the Round Table's meetings spoke about the textile mills in Lowell, MA and the women who worked in the mills. She briefly compared production in the South, and mentioned the mills in Roswell, GA and the women who worked there. They were taken as prisoners of war by Sherman's army and just vanished.

In 1835 Roswell King discovered that Vickery Creek could be dammed to provide abundant waterpower, and within three years Roswell Mills were fully operational. By 1850 the operation required 5 bales of cotton a day for production of shirting, yarn and osnaburgs, a coarse linen. About 150 women worked in the mills, 11 hours a day, six days a week. The war brought more demand for cloth, and Roswell boasted two cotton mills and one woolen mill. Similar to Lowell, many of the women lived in company apartment buildings.

In July of 1864, during the Atlanta Campaign, Gen. Joseph Johnston fortified the steep banks of the Chattahoochee River near Marietta, GA. Sherman's army did not want to attack these fortifications head-on, and sought bridge crossings over the Chattahoochee. One of the bridges was near Roswell. Sherman ordered cavalry commander, Gen. Kenner Garrard to head to Roswell and its bridge. As expected, the bridge had been burned before Garrard arrived on July 6th, but a ford was also known to be present near Roswell. Garrard was surprised to find that Roswell was a manufacturing center. He burned the three mills. Several thousand yards of cloth were confiscated. Another similar building was discovered, and was flying the French flag. Garrard decided this was a Rebel ruse, and ordered the building burned, ignoring the possibility of an international incident.

Sherman received Garrard's report the next day, and gave full approval to the burning of the mills, even though he had not ordered it. However the French flag incident infuriated Sherman, and he ordered the arrest of the owner and employees of the factory. They were to be charged with treason, and sent under guard to Marietta. In his long telegram to Garrard, Sherman further ordered him to:

***"Arrest all people, male and female, connected with those factories, no matter what the clamor, and let them foot it, under guard, to Marietta, whence I will send them by cars to the North. The poor women will make a howl. Let them take their children and clothing, provided***

***they have the means of hauling or you can spare them."***

The number of women treated as traitors and sent North, was unknown, but most estimates indicate 350-400 adults. Garrard and a reporter for the *New York Tribune* indicated the women were moved in Army wagons. Official Army records plus letters of eyewitnesses make it clear that the women reached Marietta. Reporting to Sherman, Gen. George Thomas said "the Roswell factory hands, 400 or 500 in number, have arrived. Most of them are women. I can only order them transportation to Nashville, where it seems hard to set them adrift. What had best be done with them?"

Sherman replied "I have ordered General Webster at Nashville to dispose of them. They will be sent to Indiana." On July 21`st, Indiana's *New Albany Ledger* carried an article stating that 219 women and children arrived in the city on the Nashville train. The officer in charge of the detachment reported at 1500 women and men were waiting in Nashville for transportation north, beyond the Ohio River.

No formal justification of the deportation was ever offered by U.S. officials. Since the United States did not actually declare war on the Confederacy, the factory workers should not have been charged with treason. Given the economic status of the women, their ties with home were severed once they reached Indiana. Newspaper stories indicate that they were actually dispersed in Indiana. No additional information has been uncovered in Roswell Historical Society, the Georgia State Archives or the Atlanta Historical Society. For all practical purposes this is a strange tale of the vanishing of 300-400 women prisoners of war in the Civil War.

## JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting was our members' meeting where two members, Bob Shuey and J.J. Jennings told us intriguing stories of their searches for their Civil War ancestors.

Bob Shuey began by describing a young teacher from Pennsylvania, Anson B. Shuey, who joined the Union army in response to President Lincoln's call for troops in April 1861. Anson served and escaped capture near Alexandria, Virginia before his ninety-day enlistment ended. He then rejoined in 1862, leaving behind his wife and young son. One month before his scheduled discharge in 1864, Anson was shot in the leg below his knee. His leg was amputated, but he bled to death in a hospital near Winchester, Virginia and was buried in a blanket near the field hospital. He was twenty-three years old. Family records said that Anson's body was re-interred in a wooden box, and the grave was marked with a wooden head-marker.

Jumping ahead in time to June 2013, Bob was at a gun-show in Gettysburg, looking over a table of relics, when he found a wooden head-marker with the name "A. B. Shuey" spelled out in small, round-head tacks. Bob eventually was able to purchase the marker, which seems to have been discarded when Anson's body was disinterred and sent back home. So, after years of portraying Anson Shuey in reenactments, Bob now has a tangible link to his Civil War ancestor.

Long time RT Member JJ Jennings spoke about "Finding Private Jennings".

In the fall of 1864 after Sherman's capture of Atlanta Confederate General John Bell Hood devised a plan to invade Tennessee in an attempt to draw Sherman out into the open where Hood might defeat him. Sherman chased Hood for two weeks before deciding that this was futile and returning to Atlanta to get ready for his "March to the Sea". Sherman ordered Union General George Thomas (of Oakwood Cemetery fame) to gather what troops he could at Nashville and deal with whatever the Confederates threw at him. Hood's invasion was highlighted by two major battles: the Battle of Franklin and the Battle of Nashville. Although at the end of the Battle of

Franklin (Nov 30th, 1864) Hood could claim a technical victory as he controlled the field, it had come at a terrible price. Over 2,000 Confederates were killed outright or would die of their wounds and 6,000 more were either wounded or captured. Included in this total were 6 Confederate generals who were killed including the famous Confederate General Patrick Cleburne.

After Franklin Hood besieged Thomas in Nashville but with insufficient troops to properly invest the town it was only a matter of time. In Mid-December Thomas gathered his forces and drove Hood from Nashville and Tennessee effectively destroying Hood's army. The entire campaign was a disaster to the Confederacy and a major triumph for the Union.

In 2001 CDCWRT under the direction of the late Sue Knost took a trip to Tennessee including a stop in Franklin. We were appalled to discover that 90-95% of the Franklin Battlefield had been lost to development including the spot were General Cleburne had been killed which was then a Pizza Hut.

In 2004 JJ was contacted by his long lost step-brother Pat. Pat sent JJ genealogical research on their father's side of the family that included 10 generations all the way back to 1657. However JJ did not examine the records all that closely and missed his first opportunity to "Find Private Jennings".

In 2005 the good citizens of Franklin began a campaign to "Reclaim" portions of the battlefield starting with a golf course on the Eastern edge of the field. They called themselves "Franklin's Charge". When this proved successful they really got serious and in conjunction with many groups including Civil War Trust (and Round Tables such as ours) began buying properties. One of the first was the Cleburne Pizza Hut which they tore down and replaced with a small park. After many successes of reclamation in 2010 Franklin's Charge hosted the Civil War Trust Grand Review. JJ went (and presented Franklin's Charge with a check from CDCWRT). He was able to pick up a new book on the Battle of Franklin and later that year the Secretary of the Charge, Stacey Watson, sent him a box of books to raffle off for fundraising.

In amongst those books, however, was a second book about Franklin that dealt with specific regiments that fought there. JJ did not realize there was a second book and because of that, missed another opportunity to "Find Private Jennings".

In 2013 JJ went to the Civil War Trust Conference in Vicksburg. In addition to meeting many preservationists and touring Vicksburg, they met members of "Franklin's Charge" including Ms. Watson and the author of the books, Eric Jacobsen. Upon returning from Mississippi JJ learned that his brother Pat had died. JJ, feeling a bit nostalgic, pulled out the package of materials he had been sent 9 years earlier and after closer examination realized that his Great-Grandfather, Oliver Wesley, had had a brother who at the age of 42 had died in Nashville in January 1865. Israel Freeman Jennings, a farmer from Ohio and father of 7, had died in the south during the war. JJ asked the obvious question, why?

Well it was (and is) pretty obvious why. additional research (accompanied by some seriously expletive laced verbiage) including the realization that he had had this information for YEARS (genealogical research and two books) and didn't realize it, lead JJ to "Find Private Jennings". Israel Freeman (now affectionately referred to as "Uncle Izzy") was with the 175th Ohio Volunteers. Mustered in for 1 year in September of 1864, they participated in one major battle...Franklin. Uncle Izzy was shot during the battle and died of his wounds in Nashville in January 1865 and is buried in the Nashville National Cemetery. JJ had been able to "Find Private Jennings".

The final ultimate irony is that this year the Civil War Trust is having their Annual Conference...in Nashville and Franklin. This will be JJ's third trip to Franklin. But this time he will walk the ground (albeit over developed as it is) where "Uncle Izzy" and the 175th Ohio fought so long ago. And he will most assuredly go visit the Nashville National Cemetery.

## FORT ZACHARY TAYLOR

Ft. Taylor, at Key West Harbor, was one of the most important forts in the U.S. because it defended the waters around Key West, the Straits of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. In 1845 construction began on the 3-tiered, trapezoidal-shaped, masonry fort which was built on a shoal 1200 feet from the shore, and connected by a causeway. It consisted of 4 buildings: the barracks faced the shore, and the other three were for armaments. Forty cisterns, for fresh water storage, were located underneath the fort. By 1860 the fort was able to hold troops and cannon, but was not completed until 1866.

As Florida prepared to leave the Union in 1861, U.S. Army Artillery Capt. John Brannan and his men marched into the fort and claimed it for the Union. Federal troops retained control throughout the war, and it became the base of operations for the Union Navy's East Gulf Coast Blockade Squadron. Close to 300 vessels were captured and detained by the squadron, and because of its formidable defenses, the fort never saw hostile action.

The fortress remained useful during the Spanish-American War with changes to accommodate improved coastal artillery weapons. In 1898, the two top tiers of the fort were removed, and two new batteries, Osceola and Adair, were built. The Army used Civil War cannon that remained at the fort as fill to help support the newer battery walls. This project was completed by 1905.

During World War I, Ft. Taylor was part of the new Coastal Artillery Corps. Long-range cannon and rapid-fire cannon were emplaced on the batteries to protect the harbor. These in turn were removed and were replaced with two anti-aircraft batteries in World War II, when the fort served as a military training site. The fort was officially retired from military service in 1947, but in 1962, it saw brief use during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The fort became fully land-locked in 1965 with fill deposited from dredging of the Key West Channel. In 1976 the U.S. Department of the Interior deeded Fort Taylor to the State of Florida, and in 1985 it was opened to the public as part of the State Park system.

About 20 Civil War cannon have been recovered, including 8-inch Columbiad (9200 pounds), 10-inch Rodman Gun (15,000 pounds) and 10-inch, 300-pounder Parrott Rifle (26,900 pounds).



