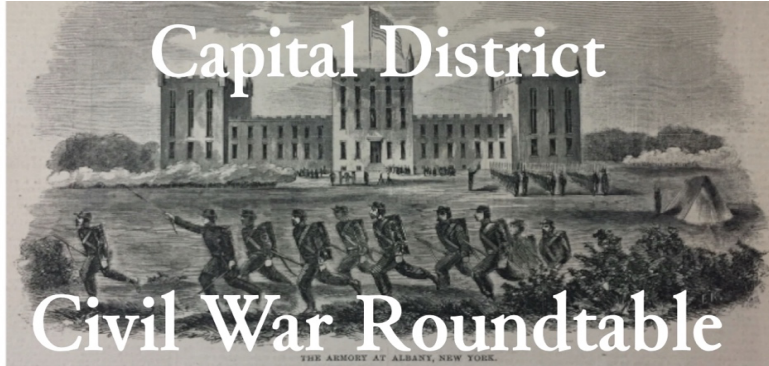


The Dispatch

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P.O. Box 11493 Loudonville, New York 12211

www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.com

TROY IN THE CIVIL WAR!

The History of the 125th NY Volunteer Infantry Through Artifacts

NEW DATE AND TIME

SUNDAY, APRIL 19th @ 11:00am



The roundtable's April 11 speaker, local historian Michael Marchand, will present a unique talk about the 125th NYVI through their artifacts he has collected over many years. Driven by the history of Troy's deep industrial and military legacy, Marchand began his journey in historical reenactments and led him to create a sizable collection of various Civil War artifacts and regional memorabilia. In this special program, Marchand will present an interactive "show-and-tell" on "*Troy in The Civil War*", highlighting the pivotal role of Rensselaer County and its citizens. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to see and handle original artifacts, explore local photographs, and learn about the 2nd, 125th, 169th regiments and the 21st NY cavalry, specializing in the 125th New York Regiment.

URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE CDCWRT TELEGRAPH OFFICE



TROY IN THE CIVIL WAR!

The History of the 125th NY Volunteer Infantry Through Artifacts

***NEW DATE SUNDAY,
APRIL 19 @ 11AM***

Due to an unforeseen issue with the Watervliet Senior Center, our April presentation will not be able to be held on Saturday, April 11. After discussing our options and not wanting to cancel another meeting due a situation beyond our control, we have decided to hold our meeting at the Watervliet Senior Center on **Sunday, April 19 at 11am.**

Again we apologize for the late notice.



volunteers to work the tables. If interested, please contact the board or email at cdewrt@hotmail.com.

March 2026 Financial News

As of March 19, the Roundtable has 32 paying members, a minimal change from last year. The treasurer reports the roundtable balance is a healthy \$8,406.65. This will allow the club to pay any upcoming lodging and honorarium expenses for the May and June speakers.



Civil War Sculptures

The roundtable is working with Rik Scarce to identify a Gettysburg retail store who will take some of Matt George's Ron Tunison's bronze sculptures and sell them on consignment.

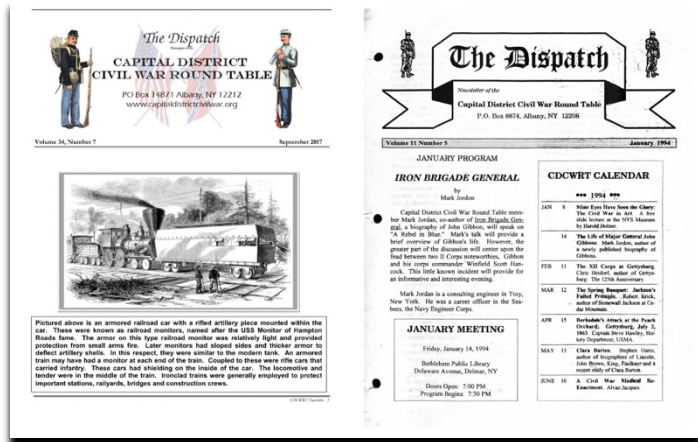
Programming News

The 2026-2027 presentation calendar is filling up fast. The four fall dates are filled. We scheduled a potpourri meeting for January and hope to get 3 or 4 members to volunteer and give a short 15-to-20-minute talk about a favorite Civil War topic. As of now, February, April, May, and June are open dates. If you have a talk, or know of a dynamic speaker we might be interested in booking, please contact a board member or email us at cdewrt@hotmail.com.



Grant Cottage June 13 event

The 5th annual Grant Cottage Community days will happen on Saturday, June 13 from 10 am to 4 pm. The roundtable participated at last year's event promoting the organization and selling books and clothing. Brisk sales yielded a little over \$200 for battlefield preservation. We plan to attend the 2026 Community Days and are looking for CDCWRT April 2026



Classic Newsletters Online!

Matt George bequeathed to the roundtable his valuable collection of newsletters covering the mid 1990s to 2024. Shawn Connery and Bruce Reed are patiently digitizing these valuable documents and posting them on the website. Recently, the 1994 and 1995 newsletters have been posted. You can access the archive by clicking [here](#).

HARPERS FERRY COWARDS DEFEAT DETRACTORS

The 12,500 Union soldiers surrendered at Harpers Ferry on September 15, 1862, included the four New York regiments of Colonel George L. Willard's Brigade: the 111th, 125th, 126th and the 39th.

The New York units came from all over the state but all, with the exception of the 39th, were newly recruited in response to President Lincoln's call for an additional

300,000 soldiers to oppose the Confederate troops. The 111th was formed from soldiers recruited from Wayne and Cayuga Counties. The 125th, the second Troy regiment, was raised primarily from Rensselaer County, with two companies raised from New York City. The 126th was organized at Geneva. All these units were mustered in for three years' service on August 22, 1862. The 39th was formed as the 'Garibaldi Guards' in New York City in May 1861. Other surrendered units came from Ohio, Vermont, Maryland, and Illinois.



Col Dixon S Miles at Harper's Ferry, Va.

Colonel Dixon S. Miles oversaw the garrison protecting the arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Confederate Major General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson had been assigned by General Robert E. Lee to seize Harpers Ferry. Jackson's troops led the attack on Harpers Ferry from three directions. Miles had made the poor military

decision to keep the Union troops near the town instead of taking commanding positions on the surrounding heights.

While there were experienced Union troops at Harpers Ferry, such as the 39th NYVI, the vast majority of soldiers in Willard's brigade were new. Some of them had not been issued guns. Some who had guns had never fired them. For some, the reason the guns were not fired was because the soldiers had not been issued ammunition.



Harpers Ferry, Virginia

By the morning of September 15, Jackson had positioned nearly 50 guns on Maryland Heights and at the base of Loudoun Heights. He began a fierce artillery barrage from all sides and ordered an infantry assault. Miles realized that the situation was hopeless and proposed to raise the white flag of surrender. Before he could surrender personally, Miles was

mortally wounded by an artillery shell and died the next day.

After taking the parole of bitterly angry Union prisoners, Jackson's men rushed to join Lee in the Battle of Antietam. The humiliated Union troops marched under guard of their own comrades in blue first to Annapolis, Maryland and then by train on to Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois.

Harpers Ferry Cowards was the derisive nickname attached to the unfortunate federal units. They were scorned by the Union Army for the generally poor performance on Maryland Heights, leading to the subsequent surrender of the soldiers and the town.

New York provided the largest Union contingent at the Battle of Gettysburg, with over 23,000 men organized into 68 infantry regiments, 7 cavalry regiments, and 16 artillery batteries, making up one-quarter of the Army of the Potomac. Key units played pivotal roles in major actions, including the 44th NY at Little Round Top and the 125 and 126th NYVI during Pickett's Charge.

It was during the three-day battle at Gettysburg that the Harpers Ferry Cowards fully redeemed themselves. Willard's brigade performed excellently at Gettysburg. The evening of July 2 shouting "Harpers

Ferry, Harpers Ferry," the New Yorkers counterattacked Wilcox and Barksdale's brigades and drove them back with many casualties. On July 3rd the entire brigade participated in the repulse of Pickett's Charge at the now famous stone fence.

Four individuals in the brigade received Medals of Honor for their actions in the Gettysburg battle. One soldier was from the 125 NYVI: Harrison Clark from Chatham. Three other soldiers were honored from the 126 NYVI: Captain Morris Brown, Jr., Company A; Sergeant George H. Dore, Company D; and Private Jerry Wall, Company B. Most of the awards were for heroic efforts to preserve regimental flags whose color bearers had been killed or seriously injured.

The three days of battle at Gettysburg were very hard on the leadership of the brigade. In the words of their division commander, General Hays, "The history of this brigade's operations is written in blood..."

Colonel Willard was killed during the fighting at Plum Run on July 2. Colonel Eliakim Sherrill from the 126 NYVI took command of the brigade when Willard was killed. Sherrill was mortally wounded during Pickett's Charge, and Lieutenant Colonel James Bull took command.



Colonel Clinton D, MacDougall

The 111 NYVI regiment was commanded by Colonel Clinton D. MacDougall until he was wounded on July 3. Lieutenant Colonel Isaac M. Lusk took command until he, too was wounded, when Captain Aaron P. Seeley took over the regiment. The 39 NYVI was commanded at Gettysburg by Major Hugo Hillebrandt. He also was wounded on July 3.

When the dust began to settle on Gettysburg's streets and fields on July 4, there was no more inclination among their fellow soldiers to refer to the New York regiments and their compatriots from other units as cowards. Given reasonable training with their unfamiliar weapons, and ammunition to fire those guns, the new soldiers unfortunate enough to have been surrendered at Harpers Ferry were at least the equal of the other troops in the Army of the Potomac during those momentous days in early July.

Modern Organizations: In the Capital District, we are fortunate to have a reenactment/living history unit that celebrates the achievements of one New York regiment that achieved fame at Gettysburg as well as two heritage organizations. The 125th NY Volunteer Infantry Regimental Association describes themselves as “a dedicated *group* of living historians committed to authentically portraying the soldiers of the original 125th New York.” The group portrays Company “C” of the original 125 NYVI, recruited from Lansingburgh, Troy, Sand Lake, Pittstown and Schaghticoke.



Colonel George Willard

There is also the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, Albany, NY. The Mission Statement of that group declares “The paramount mission of the Col. George Lamb Willard Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), is to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and all those who fought to

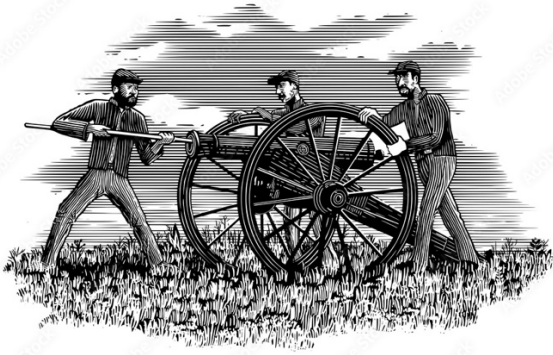
CDCWRT April 2026

preserve the Union. We organize and support programs that preserve any monument related to the Civil War. Our members carry on the core values of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty to serve the Order, each other and our community.”

Members of our Round Table may fondly remember the rededication ceremony on July 31, 2021 – the anniversary of General George Thomas' 1816 birthday – held once the storm damaged fencing around the monument located in Oakwood Cemetery had been repaired and restored. For years this handsome monument has been under the good caretaking of the Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154. Together with Oakwood Cemetery, the group reconstructed the fence and finials of the original General Thomas grave site and raised the descriptive tablet of General Thomas off the ground.

Capital District CWRT Board Member Leo McGuire is a longtime member of these groups. Anyone with any questions about participation or membership opportunities should reach out to him at the next monthly meeting.

A sister organization, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has the same stated mission as the Sons, though much of its information is private.



Capital District
Civil War
Roundtable
2026 Presentations

Social Hour Starts At 10:30 am / Presentation at 11:00 am

May 9th

John Wilkes Booth & Asia Booth Clarke

A Special Relationship

presented by Lisa Samia

June 13th

Gettysburg's Unknown Soldier

The Life, Death, & Celebrity of Amos Humiston

Presented by Mark Dunkleman

September 12th

The 11th N.Y. Light Artillery During the Civil War

Presented by Dennis Doyle

October 10th

The 117th N.Y. Volunteer Infantry

Presented by Jim Pula

November 14th

Civil War Stereo Cards

Presented by Stu Lehman

December 12th

American Revolutionary War Swords

Presented by Daniel Flynn

Watervliet Senior Center
1501 Broadway Watervliet, New York 12189

CDCWRT
P.O. BOX 11493
LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211

Created in 1984, the Capital District Civil War Round Table is an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held monthly in various locations in the Capital District. This newsletter is published eleven times per year. Annual dues are \$35. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.

Contact the Capital District Civil War Round Table through
our website: www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org
or email: cdcwrt@hotmail.com

THE OFFICERS

President	Mark Koziol	Vice-President	Bruce Reed
Treasurer	Steve Muller	Secretary	Shawn Connery
At-Large	Rosemary Nichols	At-Large	Leo McGuire

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Refreshments	Dean Long and Luanne Whitbeck
Webmaster	Mark Koziol
Education	
Newsletter	Rosemary Nichols and Shawn Connery