

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



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ALL THE DARING OF THE SOLDIER



BELLE BOYD

CONFEDERATE SPY

Library of Congress



PAULINE CUSHMAN

UNION SPY

Collection of New York Historical Society

Title from book by Elizabeth D. Leonard

MONTHLY MEETING
FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2007
Guilderland Library
2228 Western Ave.

GENERAL MEETING

SOCIAL HOUR	**6:00-7:00 PM**
BUSINESS	**7:00-7:30 PM**
PRESENTATION	**7:30-8:30 PM**
DISCUSSION	**8:30 – 9:00 PM**

CDCWRT MEETING

The MONTHLY meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Guilderland Library on FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2007. Our guest speaker will be author, William J. Christen, and he will speak on, **"Pauline Cushman: Spy of the Cumberland."**

Bill is a retired automotive engineer who has spent the last twenty-five years engaged in research about the culture of the 19th-century. For the last thirteen years, Pauline Cushman has been the focus of that interest. She was described in contemporary descriptions as "the Heroine of the People" who combined "all the daring of the soldier with the tenderness and modesty of the woman." She was one of the five best-known female spies of the Civil War.

In this first full biography, Bill Christen uses newly uncovered primary source material to draw a more complete and accurate portrait of this woman of the 19th-century, as she interacts with a cast of contemporaries ranging from P.T. Barnum to future president James Garfield.

Bill will sign copies of his book, which will be on sale for $5.00 below retail.

MONTHLY MEETING

Last month a crowd of about 65-70 people heard Tom Carroll talk about the Monitor, from its birth in the Troy area to its demise on December 31, 1862 off Cape Hatteras. He finished the evening with a discussion of the Monitor Replica Project for Troy. What would be the impact on tourism in the Capital District it a working replica of the Monitor were unveiled on the 150th anniversary of clash of the iron-clads in 2012? A feasibility study would be the first step, to determine if such a floating museum would be self-sustaining from tourism dollars. A number of inquiries have already been made, including the location of a number of 9-inch Dalgren cannons. Wealthy benefactors please apply.

BOARD MEETING

The March Board Meeting was held on March 19th. The treasurer reported $2052.87 in the regular account, and $10,401.89 in the preservation account. The program chair announced some changes in up-coming meetings. The fall trip was discussed at length, and it was decided that if the minimum number of attendees were not attained by June 1st, the trip would be canceled.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The May meeting of the CDCWRT will be on Friday, May 11th. Chris Kelly will be talking about the role of the chaplain during the Civil War. This is a topic change from last month's newsletter.

On Saturday, May 19th, the annual open house of the NYS preservation facilities at Peebles Island will occur. The island is located near the mouths of the Mohawk River, at the site of a historic ford during colonial times. One can view the remains of cannon emplacements that were built to defend the ford from capture by the British just before the Battle of Saratoga.

On Saturday, June 2nd, at Albany Rural Cemetery, there will be activities celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the French and Indian War, also known as the Seven Years War or the first world war.
On Friday, June 8th, the guest speaker will be Patrick Schroeder, historian at Appomattox. His topic will be announced in future newsletters.

The 15th Annual Peterboro Civil War Weekend will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 9th and 10th. Peterboro is located on route 20 between Utica and Syracuse. The event sponsors skirmishes, period entertainment, music, crafts, medical scenarios, and a Blue and Gray Ball. The town is

the site of the Gerritt Smith National Historical Landmark, which was part of the Underground Railroad. There will be tours each day. The CDCWRT staffs an information booth and sponsors a postal cancellation.

The National Park Service will celebrate the Battle of Gettysburg on the weekend of Friday, June 29th to Sunday, July 1st. The annual reenactment will occur on the following weekend, Friday, July 6th to Sunday, July 8th. The CDCWRT will be there on the first weekend selling postal cachets.

MISCELLANEOUS

"It appears we have appointed our worst generals to command forces, and our most gifted and brilliant to edit newspapers! I discovered by reading newspapers that these editor/geniuses plainly saw all my strategic defects from the start, yet failed to inform me until it was too late. Accordingly, I am readily willing to yield my command to these obviously superior intellects, and I will, in turn, do my best for the Cause by writing editorials – after the fact."
Robert E. Lee, 1863, after Gettysburg

This was sent to me by a good friend, a Texan living in Virginia. Some books about Lee that I have recently read, indicate that Lee was very concerned over the analysis of his decisions at Gettysburg. Lee even indicated to Davis that he would resign if the President had lost faith in the general's performance. The quote may reflect Lee's feelings, but I do not know if Lee would have expressed this much sarcasm. Can any reader confirm this as a quote by Lee?

FALL TRIP

The fall trip will be to Gettysburg on Columbus Day weekend, October 5-8, 2007. Stacey Kilts, who is in our Round Table and who is in training to become a licensed park service guide, will be our personal guide. Sue Knost is putting together a program that will as entertaining and educational as other tours we have sponsored. Because the bus transportation costs have risen dramatically, if the minimum number of **thirty participants** is not achieved by **June 1st**, the trip will be **canceled**. Fall is a great time to be at Gettysburg. **The cost of the trip is $425, and a $125 deposit must be made by June 1st. The deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE if the trip is a GO. If the trip is canceled because of low attendees, the deposit will be returned. The full cost of the trip ($425 per person) must be paid by August 1st.** The $425 covers bus transportation, 3 night stay in a motel next to the battlefield, snack, some lunches on the battlefield, and some dinners. More details will follow. This is a prime fall weekend in Gettysburg and a room alone is $125-150. The cost of the trip is a **bargin!**

SURROUNDED BY REBELS

John O. Dolson was a 19-year old from Minnesota, who was in Co. A, 2nd U. S. Sharpshooters. He died at Gettysburg. In 1871 the Ladies Memorial Association requested North Carolina's dead. They received the remains and a list compiled by Dr. Rufus Weaver, whose father had helped catalogue the dead in the weeks after the battle. The remains were reburied in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh. Most graves were marked with a small, numbered stone.

Years later, a retired Air Force intelligence analyst, Charles Purser, began a project to have Confederate gravestones placed. The 35th name on the original list was John O. Dobson, Co. A, 2nd N.C. Infantry, CSA. Glen Hayes worked for the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, and was researched the burial plots of every soldier who passed through Camp Letterman Army Medical Hospital at Gettysburg. A Union list and a Confederate list had been compiled. He discovered the two names, so similar, that he suspected a mistake. Either two men with nearly the same name had died in the same hospital on the same day, or the two men existed only by clerical error. John O. Dolson had $1.70 in his personal effects, which the hospital had sent to his sister in Minnesota. Hayes contacted Purser. Hayes could find no other record of Dobson. Purser found Dobson's casualty sheet which showed him buried in the same grave as Dolson at Camp Letterman. They concluded Dobson didn't exist. Dolson's family though he lay at Gettysburg. Instead he lay in Raleigh, still engaged with a Rebel line. His grave will be marked with a rounded, Union stone.
From the Sun News, Myrtle Beach, NC