



The Dispatch

Newsletter of the

Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

CDCWRT's web site: timesunion.com/communities/cdcwrt

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**\$100,000
WOW! WE DID IT!!**

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELD TRUST
PRUYN HOUSE – TEN BROECK MANSION
SAVE HISTORIC ANTIETAM FOUNDATION
FLORENCE STOCKADE – J.L. CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE
MALVERN HILL – PETERSBURG N. P. S.
CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST- OLD STONE FORT
FRANKLIN AND STONES RIVER BATTLEFIELDS
MUSEUM OF CIVIL WAR MEDICINE
HUDSON-MOHAWK INDUSTRIAL GATEWAY
GETTYSBURG PHOTO ARCHIVES AND N.P.S.
MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY
FT. LEE QUARTERMASTER MUSEUM**

The January Meeting
Friday, January 12, 2001
GUILDERLAND PUBLIC
LIBRARY
WESTERN AVENUE
GUILDERLAND, NY

SOCIAL HOUR 6-7 P.M.
BUSINESS MEETING 7:00-7:30.
PRESENTATIONS 7:30-9:00

CDCWRT MEETING

Our next regular meeting of the Round Table is the first meeting of the New Year, or the New Millennium, depending on your perspective. This will be our traditional POTPOURRI MEETING, where several members will present short but fascinating topics. Please note the site of this meeting will be at the GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

RT member Bob "Tennessee" Rawls will demonstrate a working model of the second generation Burden horseshoe-making machine. Bob is a machinist, and last year built a working model of Burden's first machine, which he demonstrated at the Burden Ironworks Museum. More than 90% of the horseshoes made during the Civil War were made at the Ironworks in Troy, N.Y. The rapid mass production of horseshoes was one of the many facets of the industrial advantage of the Union over the Confederacy.

Carl Blazejewski, a stamp and ephemera collector, will talk about "what to do" with those old Civil War letters your great aunt left you in her will. Carl is the owner of B Trading Company, and does appraisals for collections and estates. If you have something interesting, why not bring it along for Carl to comment upon.

RT member Matt Farina will talk about the cachets you own RT produces and sells.

These are destined to become the CW collector items in the future. A recent catalog of American ephemera and letters listed a 1965 First Day of Issue cachet canceled at Appomattox for \$30. Our cachets are rarer, and one 1995 First Day of Issue was recently seen on E-Bay for \$25. Not a bad return for a 5-year cachet.

FRIDAY WILL ALSO BE T-SHIRT NIGHT. WHY NOT WEAR YOUR NEW CIVIL WAR T-SHIRT YOU RECEIVED FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

CDCWRT NEWS

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting marked the changing of the guard as new officers and a new Board were elected unanimously. Congratulations are in order for the 'retiring' group, and congratulations and best wishes for the new group.

- President, Tom Smith
- Vice-President, Joe Stracuzzi
- Secretary, Matt George
- Treasurer, Paul Rivenburgh
- At-Large, Cindy Schechter, Fran McCashion, and Jon Olson
- Program Chair, Sue Knost
- Matt Farina will serve one year on the Board as Ex-Officio and will remain as Editor.

Matt Farina, the out-going president, thanked the members of his Board for a most enjoyable and successful two years. He commented on the growth of the RT in its goal of stimulating interest in all aspects of the Civil War period. He encouraged the membership to express their passion for history, and challenged the membership to become more active participants in the RT. A full text of his comments can be found on the Web-site.

The Board surprised Matt with a signed sculpture of "Stonewall" Jackson by Ron Tunison. Matt was briefly speechless, but recovered and expressed his deep thanks.

Ron Tunison spoke at the December meeting about his passion for military art and sculpture.

He was honored as the Round Table's "Artist of the Year 2000." A spectacular exhibited in the library complimented his presentation. There are still 1 or 2 signed sculptures of a limited edition, available to RT members.

The Treasurer's report for the year ending December 27, 2000 was \$6156.74 in the regular account and \$14,390.68 in the Hennessey Preservation Account. In a vote by the old and new Boards, \$16,650 was dispensed for preservation activities. (see below)

NEWS HEADLINE

From Matt Farina

One of the most pleasant activities of the Board is the duty to dispense monies collected to various preservation activities. A goal we all have been working towards was to reach a total of **\$100,000 IN THE YEAR 2000**. Thanks to the help of many people, especially Sue Knost, that goal was reached in my tenure as President. This is a most heartfelt honor for the Round Table and myself. The front page of this newsletter lists some of the recipients of funds for this year. A full listing with amounts will appear in the next newsletter. Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Tom Smith

Greetings! I hope this message finds you all in good health and spirits.

Thank you for your demonstration of support for me to serve as the President of the CDCWRT. I am deeply appreciative of this opportunity, and look forward to a successful stewardship. With the assistance of the Board members, other volunteers, and all members and guests, we will move into 2001 with continued energy and purpose for the preservation of the history, grounds, and memory of the men and women of the American Civil War.

Perhaps we should ponder the significance of this year. It is, of course, the 140th Anniversary of the beginning of the War of the Rebellion, marked by the bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 at 4:30 a.m. The events of the four years that followed, could never have been imagined.

As an organization, we are united in the common mission of maintaining educational programs to remember those circumstances and their results. The CDCWRT is proud of its heritage to deliver the most informative presentations to keep our membership current with the broad range of military, political, economic, and social issues that overwhelmed our country 140 years ago. Let us join together to march ahead into a year of increased understanding of The War, and generous financial efforts to enable others to share in this valuable history.

Please let us enjoy a very happy and healthy New Year! Thank you.

UP-COMING EVENTS.

- **FEBRUARY 10TH MEETING ON A SATURDAY AT GUILDERLAND.** This Saturday meeting will start with a lunch at noon and meeting at 1:00 P.M. The topic will be MARY TODD LINCOLN. There will be a CW exhibit in the library also.
- **GETTYSBURG SPRING MUSTER 2001 ON MARCH 30TH TO APRIL 1ST, ONLY \$199/PERSON A \$50 DEPOSIT BY THE JANUARY 12TH.** This year's trip will cover the crucial decisions and actions of Confederate forces on July 1st. Why was the Army of Northern Virginia unable to capitalize on their major victory? Join us and find out what went wrong.

IN MEMORIUM

The year also ended on a sad note with the death of RT member, Norm Sebastian. Norm was an avid CW buff and was a regular on our Fall trips. A number of RT members attended his memorial service on December 30th. Earlier in the Fall, the eldest son of long time members, Bill and Noreen Underhill, tragically died in an auto accident. The thoughts and sympathies of many in the Round Table are extended to both families in their time of sorrow.