



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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**URGENT FALL
TRIP BULLETIN**

**RESPONSE MUST
BE IN MAILBOX
BY AUGUST 4TH**

CDCWRT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Round Table will Friday, September 14th at 7:30 p.m. at the BURMASTER BARN AT THE PRUYN HOUSE as part of a Civil War Weekend, September 14th-16th. Mark your calendars now. More details and directions will appear in the September newsletter. The 125th NYSVI will be there. There will be tours, re-enactments, camp life, lectures, food for purchase, displays, gifts for purchase, and much more. This will be a great event for children also. It will be a perfect time to introduce students to living history just in time for back to school American history. Remember, if you go to the Guilderland Library, you will be the only one there along with Michael "Wrong-way" Barrett!

JULY MEETING

The July meeting was our annual picnic which was attended by 60-65 people. As usual the food was great, the company friendly, and the presentation by Bill Neiffer, Chaplain of the 125th NYVI, was both interesting, entertaining, and at times, emotional. The weather even was terrific. Hardtack was not on the menu.

BOARD MEETING

The July Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 24th. The treasurer's report indicated \$1305.06 in the general fund and

\$4873.91 in the Hennessy preservation fund. The RT grossed \$2180 at the 138th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. We also netted \$780 at the Masonic Civil War Encampment Weekend and \$86 at our picnic. Part of the proceeds will be used to purchase new stamps and postal cachets for Cooperstown and the 140th anniversary of the first battle of Manassas.

The Board also discussed the meeting schedule for the next 12 months, including our November conference on the Capital District during the Civil War.

A letter from David N. Duncan, Civil War Preservation Trust, was read, thanking the Round Table for its \$500 donation. "We are deeply honored by your generous support." Sue Knost also reported that several return customers at the Gettysburg event commented that our commemorative cachets going back to the 135th anniversary, are among the best they have ever seen. It was noted that while Gettysburg is always a big event, the Masonic Hall encampment also drew a nice crowd despite the marginal weather.

UP-COMING EVENTS.

Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Day, August 4-6, is always a big event for the CDCWRT. The new Legendary Baseball Stadium stamps will make this an exciting event. Joe Stracuzzi will be in charge of the RT activities that weekend. Volunteers are needed to help sell baseball items. Why not work ½ day and join in the festivities for ½ day?

The 140th Anniversary of the 1st Battle of Manassas on August 3-5, will be held in Leesburg, VA. Sue Knost and Matt George will represent the CDCWRT at this event with a special stamp cancellation and several new cachet designs. Why not volunteer to help, and see a large re-enactment event?

A Civil War Memorial Service to honor African-American Soldiers will be held at Catskill Point, Catskill, NY on August 25-26. An encampment and re-enactment will take

place, including infantry, artillery and cavalry. In addition there will be portrayals of Harriet Tubman. Kathleen Thomas' portrayal of John Brown's wife is profound. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Charles Swain, P.O. Box 77, Athens, NY 12015 or phone (518) 943-5241

The Ulysses S. Grant Cottage Historical Site at Mt. Macgregor, open for the season, is reached from Exit 16 of the Northway. Hours are 10-4, Wednesday-Sunday. Admission is charged. Call 587-8277 for information. The Sons of Union Veterans Encampment will occur on August 4th-5th, and a Victorian Picnic on August 19th.

OCTOBER TRIP

The main focus of this newsletter is the October trip from the 5th to the 8th, Columbus Day Weekend. *The absolute deadline for a deposit is Saturday morning, August 4th.* Your deposit must be in the Round Table's mailbox by that time. Please read the full itinerary below to appreciate the scope of this trip. The focus will be on Grant's 1862 campaigns and Hood's 1864 campaign into Tennessee. Those who have been on previous trips, know the excellent quality of the tour guides that Sue Knost has arranged for this adventure.

Friday, October 5th

Arrive at Albany Airport at 5:45 a.m. for flight departure at 6:45 a.m. USAir. There is one stopover in Pittsburgh, arriving at Nashville at 9:51 a.m. Depart by bus at 10:30 and arrive at Clarksville, TN for lunch at Shoney's. After lunch a short drive to Fort Donelson for an afternoon tour of the site of Grant's first major victory. Depart Donelson at 5:30 for Paris Landing Resort Park and dinner. After dinner, drive to Shiloh NMP (100 miles) to the Hampton Inn for check in.

Saturday, October 6th

Depart 7:30 a.m. for Shiloh NMP for all day tour. At 5 p.m. return from park to dinner site for banquet. Lodging remains at Hampton Inn.

Sunday, October 7th

Depart from Shiloh for Columbia/Spring Hill area (120 miles) to meet tour guide. Tour Battle of Franklin sites. Lunch at the Bunganut Pig. Afternoon tour of the Carter House. Depart for hotel at 5:00 p.m. in Franklin. Free night.

Monday, October 8th

Depart hotel at 8:00 a.m. for Stones River National Battlefield (48 miles) in Murfreesboro. After tour, lunch at Shoney's. Afternoon tour of Jackson House. Around 3:30 p.m. leave house for airport, arriving around 4:30 p.m. Flight departs at 5:50 p.m. and arrives in Albany at 10:54 p.m. with one stop. Remember, we cross a time zone, so the return is not that long.

The cost covers airfare, bus rental, three nights hotel, all meals except for Friday lunch and Sunday dinner, banquet, and tour guides. The cost will be \$550. **A \$200 deposit must be sent in by August 4th. A minimum of 30 attendees is required. All money will be refunded if the minimum is not met. If the trip is a go on August 4th, your deposit is non-refundable if you decide to back out. However, you can replace yourself, and recoup your deposit, up until September 5th when names will be needed for tickets.** This trip is rated moderately vigorous. Send deposits to Paul Rivenburgh, Treasurer.

ON OUR COVER

There still are a limited number of cachets from the 138th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg commemorative cancellation. The cachets are \$3.00 apiece or two for \$5.00. Please contact Matt Farina or Sue Knost for details.

MISCELLANEOUS

The July 2001 issue of *Gettysburg Magazine* is available from the Round Table for \$5.00. A supply will be present at the September meeting.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

One of the perks for being editor of the newsletter is the fact that I get to read all the complimentary newsletters sent to us by other Round Tables. The list is slowly growing, and we now receive newsletters from as far away as South Carolina and Florida. I peruse the articles, special events, programs and editorials. Sometimes there are such interesting items that I recycle them in our monthly publication. It's interesting to see what other Round Tables do, and how they do it.

Tuesday night, after the Board meeting, I was looking over the most recent crop. I plan to retire (at least in part) in a few years. Nan and I plan to spend most of the year in Albany, but the winters in Virginia. I could be active in the CDCWRT when in Albany, and I was planning to join the CWRT of Alexandria, VA, the third oldest Round Table in the country. I was stunned to read the following:

As we have been unable to identify officers to take the major leadership positions in the Round Table for next year, the following was determined by the 23 people in attendance at the June 18 meeting:

- 1. There will be no dues charged for the 2001-2002 season.*
- 2. There will be no monthly programs, Symposium or monthly newsletter for the 2001-2002 season.*
- 3. We will put out a call via newsletter in early February for officers for the 2002-2003 season.*
- 4. If an officer slate is determined by May 1, 2002, planning for a normal 2002-2003 season will commence.*
- 5. If an officer slate cannot be determined by May 1, 2002, the Round Table will be disbanded and any funds remaining in the Treasury will be donated to the Fort Ward Museum and Historical Site.*

At a time when interest in the Civil War is perhaps at an all-time high since the centennial, the Alexandria CWRT cannot find leadership and commitment. In a city that is literally two hours away from Manassas, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Petersburg, Cold Harbor, Appomattox and Richmond, interest has waned to such a degree that no one can infuse the passion for History into its dwindling membership.

I look at our vibrant RT with its large membership, excellent programs, commitment to preservation, and spirit, and I am thankful to be part of it. But I have been a member long enough to realize that the faces of many earlier members have not been seen it quite a while. I know that a hard-working core of members comprise the engine of this organization, and that 'burn-out' can occur here also. When I first became president of the RT, I made a plea for volunteers and more active participation. There was a modest response to that request. As we stand at the start of a new program year, I make that request again. Bring a friend to a meeting; attend a conference or special event; buy a cachet or raffle ticket; volunteer to help with meetings; become more active. In up-coming newsletters there will be a host of activities for which we will need volunteers. There will be some special programs and events. There will be unique items to purchase or win in raffles. I never want to see a similar announcement in *The Dispatch*.