

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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



Volume 29, Number 9 June 2012

NEW ORLEANS FALLS



The Anaconda Plan was to blockade the Confederacy to prevent supplies from reaching or leaving the South. If the Mississippi River could be controlled, it would divide the Confederacy. In January 1862, a blockading squadron with David G. Farragut in command entered the river and sailed up to Forts Jackson and St. Philip, 70 miles below New Orleans. From April 18-28 Farragut bombarded the forts and fought his way past them. The city refused to surrender. Farragut however refused to destroy the city. On May 1st, Union Gen. Benjamin Butler and 5000 soldiers occupied the city. He enforced strict military law. He taxed the wealthy and employed the poor to clean up the city and pump sewerage out of the city preventing the usual summer yellow fever epidemics. Many of the poor supported him indirectly. His harsh policies however also earned him the title "Beast" Butler.

The loss of New Orleans was significant. Modern historians feel that the night Farragut sailed past the forts was "the night the war was lost" for the South. This year the U.S.P.S. issued a stamp commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the campaign.

JUNE MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012
WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

The Civil War-
Week by Week

Dennis Gaffney

Social Hour	**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
Business Meeting	**7:00 – 7:30 p.m.**
Presentation	**7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
Questions & Answers	**8:30 – 9:00 p.m.**
More Socializing	**9:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

CDCWRT MEETING

The June meeting of the Capital District Civil War Round Table will be held on Friday, June 8, 2012. This meeting will be held at the Watervliet Senior Center, 1541 Broadway in Watervliet. Our guest speaker will be Dennis Gaffney who will speak about his new book, **THE SEVEN-DAY SCHOLAR: THE CIVIL WAR: EXPLORING HISTORY ONE WEEK AT A TIME.**

Dennis is an adjunct professor at the University at Albany-SUNY. He is also a journalist who has written for the New York Times, Mother Jones, Reader's Digest, and the American Experience website. He is also the President of the Board of Trustees of the Albany Public Library. Dennis will also be speaking at our conference in November 2012.

Dennis has collaborated with Peter Gaffney on the Civil War Book, and their most recent book entitled, The Seven-Day Scholar: The Presidents: Exploring History One Week at a Time. Peter is Senior VP, Programing, Scheduling and Acquisitions for the History Channel.

A Note from the President and Editor:

This meeting marks the last meeting beforev the summer recess, but unlike school summer vacation, you should not take a recess from the Civil War during this 150th Anniversary. There are plenty of activities locally that will not tax your gas budget, And you should attend these because they are sponsored by groups that are trying to keep Civil War history alive and meaningful. Your support will provide then with encouragement and succor.

If this newsletter gets printed early enough, you can attend the Masonic Temple Civil War Weekend in Troy on June 2-3rd. Why not visit Grant's Cottage? There was a very nice article in the Bethlehem Spotlight (God forbid that the TU runs a Civil War article). Mark your calendar NOW with the date for the CDCWRT Picnic August 17th and the Civil War Heritage Days at Schuyler Flatts August 18-19th. Stop fretting about early snowfalls and mark your calendar NOW AGAIN for our banquet on Friday, November 2nd with guest speaker Chris Kolakowski, who will talk about 1862 in general. I want to see twice last year's attendance at the conference on Saturday & Sunday, November 3-4, 2012. We are making it easier to attend. The conference will be held at Siena College, so there is no Northway driving!

The National Park Service reports that over the past decade, the average age of visitors to almost all parks has risen from 49 years to 59 years. Overall numbers of visitors is also down. This means that fewer younger people are visiting parks, whether it be natural beauty like Yellowstone or historic interest like Shiloh. The average age of our membership has risen also, and parallels the NPS. Meeting audiences have dwindled from the 50-70 in the 1990s t0 35-45 now. Retired members should grab their married children by the ears and drag them to a meeting! Grandparents should hide the i-pads of their grandchildren and bribe them to attend. Teach them history; the schools certainly don't.

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. Details of Sesquicentennial Civil War events can be found on the web-site: www.nycivilwar150.org.

On Thursday-Saturday, June 7-9, 2012 there will be a conference at the Albany Law School entitled "*Civil War on Trial.*" The conference will deal with legal issues that arose during the Civil War. The Archives Partnership Trust is a sponsor.

Saturday, June 9, 2012 the CDCWRT will get culture! Albany Pro Musica, a highly respected choral group, will present a special Civil War music program.

Friday-Sunday, July 6 – 8, 2012 is the 149th Anniversary Re-enactment in Gettysburg. This year the re-enactment is on the weekend after the actual anniversary date of the battle. The CDCWRT will have sites at the re-enactment and the visitor center for the sale of cachets. Any interested volunteers should contact Matt George.

Friday, August 17th is the CDCWRT picnic. Saturday and Sunday August 18-19, 2012 is the Schuyler Flatts Civil War Weekend. Join us for the picnic and activities on the weekend.

Friday, September 14th will be the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. Our presenter will be Laurence Hauptman. The topic of his presentation will be *"General Wool and the New York City Draft Riots."*

Friday, October 12th will be the regular meeting of the CDCWRT. Our presenter will be Vicki Weiss, and her topic will be *"Civil War Monuments in New York State."*

Friday – Sunday, November 2-4, 2012 will be the second Sue Knost Memorial Conference entitled "*1862: And the War Came."* Most of our speakers have all confirmed and include Chris Kolakowski, Bruce Eelman, Frank O'Reilly, Steve Muller and John Quarstein. The conference will occur at the facilities at Siena College.

Friday, December 14th will be the regular holiday meeting of the CDCWRT.

Second Thoughts from the President/Editor

Last year CDCWRT member, Regina Daly, made us aware of an October bus trip to Gettysburg that was organized by the Green County Historical Society. It was comparable to a Sue Knost tour except there was less walking and you got to bed before 11:30 pm. The enclosed flyer provides information on this year's tour to Antietam and Harpers Ferry with a stop at the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Ed Bearss and Dennis Frye are the guides and it's all for $375.

I do not believe anyone in the CDCWRT can organize this trip any cheaper, nor get anyone better at the tour guides. You will be at Antietam about 5 weeks after the 150th Anniversary events and the actual battle date of September 17, 1862.

Now that a recent re-evaluation of Civil War deaths indicates that 750,000 deaths occurred, Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American history. The preliminary Emancipation Proclamation was announced after the battle. The first real war-time photographs brought to the public the real cost of war. The battle was the first large test of the reorganized medical care system in the Union Army. The North also lost the best chance of ending the war earlier by destroying Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. See it!