



The Dispatch



Newsletter of the

Capital District Civil War Round Table

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

Volume 12 Number 5

January 1995

JANUARY PROGRAM FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1995

Bethlehem Public Library
Delaware Avenue, Delmar NY

Doors Open: 7:00 PM
Program Begins: 7:30 PM

The January meeting will feature Ron Tunison, one of our own Round Table members, who is a nationally known and respected sculptor and artisan. Ron will be showing a slide presentation relating to the process by which he created his new "Friend to Friend" monument which is now installed in the National Cemetery Annex at Gettysburg. Commissioned by the Free Masons of Pennsylvania, the sculpture shows the mortally wounded Confederate general Lewis Armistead handing over his personal possessions to Union Captain Henry Bingham, with the request that they be delivered to Armistead's pre-war friend, Union Major General Winfield Scott Hancock. Both Armistead and Bingham were Masons, and the incident reflects the care and relief always required to be provided by one Masonic "friend" to another, even if they found themselves in the position of enemy.

A photographer by training, Ron is a history buff and reenactor. He is a founding member of the Society of American Historical Artists, and his latest work, coupled with his statue of General Samuel Crawford at the base of Little Round Top, makes Ron the only living artist with two monuments at the Gettysburg Battlefield Park.

Ron is nationally known for his extensive collection of bronze sculptures relating to incidents and personalities of the Civil war. He current project is a monument honoring the famed Irish Brigade, which is scheduled to be installed at Antietam Battlefield in September, 1996. As a special treat, a model of this will be on display at the meeting.

CDCWRT CALENDAR

- JAN 22: SONS OF UNION VETERANS** fundraising benefit at the Proctor's Theater in Schenectady. The movie GLORY will be shown. See inside.
- FEB 10: FEBRUARY MEETING** - the Cambridge High School Chorus will sing a selection of patriotic and sentimental songs of the Civil war, accompanied by Mike Russert's narration on the history of the music.
- FEB 24: DAN LORELLO**, our new Chairman & archivist with the State, will be speaking to the Kingston Round Table on how to research your Civil War ancestors by use of the records maintained by the State Archives.
- MAR 11: CABIN FEVER BANQUET:** Acclaimed author John M. Priest, who is presently working on his new two volume history of the battle of the Wilderness, will be speaking on "battle tactics in the Wilderness." Dinner will again be held at the Italian Community Center on Washington Avenue Extension. Additional details will follow next month..

CDCWRT NEWS

DECEMBER MEETING

The bad weather kept our annual "member potpourri" meeting from getting the usual crowd, but those who braved it were rewarded with excellent presentations by **Dr. Matt Farina**, who spoke on the irritable heart syndrome which bedeviled the soldiers, and befuddled the doctors, during the war. Also, **Bill Underhill** showed various pieces of his newspaper collection, and spoke on the reporting in the local papers, especially as it related to our local boys at the Second Battle of Manassas. Our thanks to each of them for a job well done.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After a particularly hard fought campaign (yeah, right!), **Dan Lorello** was elected as Chairman, **Sue Knost** assumes the Vice-Chair position, **Matt Farina** will be Treasurer, **Bob Johnson** scribbles in as Secretary, and **Richard Becker** and **Joe Stracuzzi** take on the At-Large seats on the Board. **Michael Barrett** continues on the Board for one more year as ex-officio member. Our congratulations to each of the Board members, and thank you for your time and concern. Without you, this could not and would not be the excellent organization that it has grown into. Keep up the good work.

MORE KUDOS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Michael Russert** for his dedication to this Round Table. Mike has been very active in a number of ways over the years, most recently as Program Chairman, and as anyone who has been to our meetings must surely agree, he has done yeoman's work in keeping us supplied with some of the very finest possible local and national speakers. I know I speak for all of us when I say that we owe Michael a great debt of gratitude, and we wish you the very best in your continuing educational pursuits.

EVEN MORE KUDOS

Our one and only honorary lifetime member, **John Hennessy**, has been honored by having his

book Return To Bull Run named as one of the 100 best Civil war books ever! The Civil War Society magazine article (Feb. '95), written by Gary Gallagher, breaks down the list into general histories, biographies & memoirs, individual battle histories, etc., and should be considered a "must have" list for the discerning bibliophile. John, of course, hits it big in the individual battle category. Congratulations, John, this is an honor you richly deserve!

NAME TAGS

The order has been placed for new name tags, and they should be available at the January meeting. As previously announced, the Round Table pays the first \$3.00 of the cost and the individual members are responsible for the remainder, which should be less than \$3.00

BOOK RAFFLE

While several books were donated at the December meeting, we could still use additional ones for our monthly meeting raffle. All funds raised in these raffles are used exclusively for historical preservation purposes. This is a great opportunity to free up some shelf space in your library (which, of course, means you get to re-fill the space with new books!) and helps the Round Table maintain our reputation as one of the premier preservation fund raising Round Tables in the nation. All donations are welcome.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FOR SALE

For those of you who may have missed the November banquet, we still have a few copies of Gordon Rhea's book The Battle of the Wilderness, which happens to be another one of Gary Gallagher's choices as one of the 100 best Civil war books ever. These have been autographed, and will be sold first come, first served at the January meeting for the incredible price of just \$22.00, instead of the list price of \$34.95.

We should also have received the latest issue of Gettysburg magazine by the meeting, and these will go on sale for the dirt cheap price of \$3.00 each, rather than the \$4.95 cover price.

You can't say we don't do our best to keep you supplied with the best and latest in quality reading material, without unduly burdening your pocketbook. Now, what should you donate to the book raffle to make room for Gordon's book.....?

NEW CDCWRT ADDRESS

Just as a reminder to all of our out of town friends, we now have a new mailing address, which is shown on the masthead. Please change your records so we don't miss any of your news.

NON-CIVIL WAR TRIP

Discussion is ongoing regarding a possible day trip to the Revolutionary War sites at Fort Stanwix and Wood Creek (Utica) and the Oriskany Battlefield, probably in late May. We are thinking about a bus trip with a guide, and should be able to do it for less than \$20.00 per person. This would be a follow-up to **Bob Mulligan's** exceptional two day tours at the Saratoga Battle Park last year. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please feel free to contact any officer with your thoughts.

JANUARY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

The new Board met this past Wednesday night at Holmes & Watson, a delightful watering hole in downtown Troy. It has now been decided that this will be the location of most, if not all, of the Board meetings, so that Board members would no longer need to clean the house before everybody came over (just kidding, Sue). Actually, the choice was made so that individual members could join us at these meetings, *as they are open to everyone*. The next Board meeting is on February 1, 1995 at 7:30 P.M., and the business portion is usually over in about one hour. The remainder of the seasonal schedule is March 11; March 29; May 3; and May 31, 1995. Mark your calendar. Get involved, you can actually have some fun.

At the meeting, it was agreed that the Round Table would extend our participation in the reward fund offered for information leading to the recovery of the stone eagle which had adorned the top of the monument to Major General Von Steinwehr in the Albany Rural Cemetery. This was stolen in 1993,

and has not been seen since. Together with the reenactors of the 125th NY Regimental Association, and the Sons of Union Veterans, we are now extending the reward offer through 1995.

REBUTTAL: As the new editor of this newsletter, I feel it is absolutely imperative that I immediately address a vicious hoax committed upon you, and a defamatory aspersion upon me, by our former editor **Bob Johnson**. Bob claims that I have promised to, at least occasionally, write articles that are not about the beautiful and historic City of Troy. This is an outright lie, and everyone who knows me knows that my basic philosophy on American history is that "If it didn't happen in Troy, it's not worth knowing about, unless, maybe, it effected what happened in Troy." My entire study of the Civil War is predicated solely upon a desire to learn how Trojan industrialists made their fortunes; how it was that we came to have the second most destructive draft riot in the country; why there are so many war dead in our cemeteries; and why Troy wasn't immediately named as the new national capital after it became obvious that Washington, D.C. was in the path of any potential Confederate invasion.

So, to make a long story short, if you folks are expecting to read any non-Troy "history" in these pages, you'd better start submitting material for printing, because if I have to fill up the pages..... Well, as they say, forewarned is forearmed.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

SONS OF UNION VETERANS MONUMENT BENEFIT AT PROCTOR'S THEATER

Proctor's Theater in Schenectady will be the site of a benefit showing of the critically acclaimed movie Glory, on Sunday, January 22, 1995. Programs and displays will be open starting at 12:00 noon. All proceeds from the film will benefit the Col. George L. Willard [Ed. note: he's buried in Troy] Camp's efforts to restore the Schenectady County G.A.R. monument in downtown Schenectady, a project which is expected to cost between \$4,500 and \$5,000.

This monument, dedicated in 1875, was erected by the Edwin Forrest G.A.R. Post 14 and has suffered the ravages of time, pollution and vandalism.

A collection of artifacts from the Schenectady County Historical Society and the Schenectady County Historian's office, with the theme of "Schenectady County in the Civil War", will be on display in the main Arcade.

Tickets for the movie are priced at \$2.00 and \$3.00 for adults, and will be available at the door. All displays and programs are free, although donations will gladly be accepted.

Anyone who is unable to attend, but still wishing to donate to the monument fund may do so by making checks payable to SUV Monument Fund, P.O. Box 13681, Albany NY 12212-3681.

[Ed. note: The CDCWRT has already contributed \$200.00 to this very worthy cause. I would hope that the membership could turn out in force to help honor our valiant ancestors, and to show our support for local preservation. Besides, there's no football that weekend.]

PRESERVATION REPORT

Outgoing Treasurer **Mark Silo** has drawn up a listing of the money which we have contributed to various historical preservation and educational organizations over the last four years. As you look this list over, you will understand how we have achieved the reputation as a preeminent preservation fund raiser. While much of these contributions have stemmed from the very successful West Point Seminar of 1990, and the various battle field tours we run every Fall, the money raised by dues, the book raffles and the banquets is also very important. It may not seem like much, but you can help. Pay your dues. Get your history minded friends or family to join up. Donate those old books that are just gathering dust. Contribute to the newsletter, whether notes or articles of your own, or just notifying of events that would be of interest (do not assume that we already know about things). Volunteer to staff one of the information booths we set up at

appropriate events. Consider speaking on a topic that interests you. Bring an item or relic from your collection to share at the meetings. Attend the banquets (not only is this an inexpensive night out, but you get to hear some of the very best and brightest of the authors and historians on the "cannonball lecture circuit"). This is your Round Table. With your help, we can continue to grow and improve. It is worth it.

CDCWRT PRESERVATION DONATIONS 1990 - 1994

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CIVIL WAR SITES	90 WEST POINT SEMINAR	\$2,022.83	
	90 FREDERICKSBURG TRIP	\$506.81	
	91 FISHER HILL	\$644.00	
	92 ANTIETAM TRIP	\$1,262.62	
	93 MALVERN HILL	\$750.00	
	93 MANASSAS TRIP	\$1,105.89	
	94 MALVERN HILL	\$1,000.00	
SAVE HISTORIC ANTIETAM FOUNDATION	90 WEST POINT SEMINAR	\$300.00	
	91 ANTIETAM TRIP	\$2,912.36	
	93 DONATION	\$200.00	
	93 MANASSAS TRIP	\$1,105.89	
			\$4,518.25
CEDAR PARK FOUNDATION	92 FUND RAISER	\$2,500.00	
	94 OLD BALDY FUND RAISER	\$250.00	
			\$2,750.00
NYS MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM	92 DONATION	\$500.00	
	93 DONATION	\$250.00	
			\$750.00
MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY	90 WEST POINT SEMINAR		\$500.00
GBPA	90 WEST POINT SEMINAR		\$250.00
GETTYSBURG N.M.P. (WENTZ ORCHARD)	90 WEST POINT SEMINAR		\$1,000.00
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY	CLIO HISTORICAL FUND (SEMINAR)	\$1,500.00	
	93 DONATION - KEATS FUND	\$200.00	
			\$1,700.00
FRIENDS OF GRANT COTTAGE	92 DONATION	\$100.00	
	93 DONATION	\$200.00	
			\$300.00
MEDAL OF HONOR PLAQUES	92 DONATION		\$400.00
SONS OF UNION VETERANS	94 G.A.R. MONUMENT FUND		\$200.00
GRAND TOTAL			<u>\$19,660.40</u>

Created in 1984, the Capital District Civil War Round Table is an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held monthly at the Bethlehem Public Library in Delmar, New York. This newsletter is published ten times per year. Annual dues are \$15. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.

The Officers

Chairman	Dan Lorello
Vice-Chairman	Sue Knost
Treasurer	Matt Farina
Secretary	Robert Johnson
At-Large	Richard Becker
At-Large	Joe Stracuzzi
Ex-Officio	Michael Barrett

The Troops

Programs	Nancy Shour
Newsletter	Michael Barrett
Preservation	Richard Becker
Field Trips	Mark Silo, Kathy Silo
Banquets	Michael Aikey, Kathy Silo
Refreshments	Nancy Shour
Membership	Kathy Silo, Russ Denegar
Video Library	James Carey
Historian	Ray Smith



16th
Lecture on Troy.
59th

To join or renew membership, send \$15 to the CDCWRT address below.

CDCWRT
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