

P.O. Box 11493 Loudonville, New York 12211
www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.com

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

DECEMBER MEETING
SATURDAY DEC 13, 2025

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER



1501 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NEW YORK

SOCIAL HOUR 10:30AM
BUSINESS MTG 11:00AM

*Presentation Begins After The
Conclusion of the Business Meeting*

MEN OF MAINE
ANSWER THE CALL FOR
OUR GLORIOUS UNION!


3rd Maine Regiment
Col. Oliver Howard, Commanding

**RECRUITS
WANTED**

For Company A of this fine Regiment
Good Quarters, Uniforms and Rations from the day of Enlistment



“OTHER MAINERS AT GETTYSBURG”

presented by
Rik Scarce

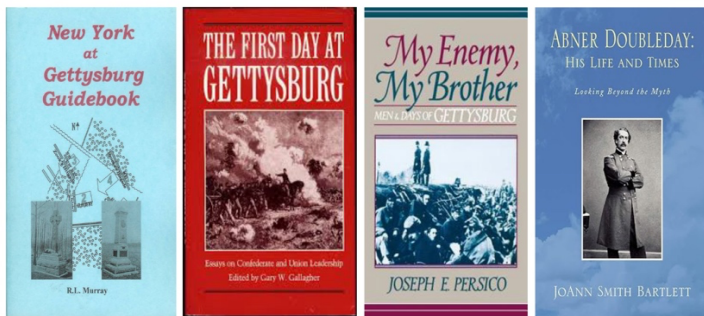
Gettysburg National Military Park
Licensed Battlefield Guide

While the fight of the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg is well known and rightfully appreciated, there were, to the surprise of many, other Mainers on the battlefield, and they played vital roles in the fighting on all three days of the largest fight of the Civil War. The struggles of those other Mainers will be presented through a

live-narrated film that features vignettes of the key moments in the battle that were shaped by their valor and biographical highlights of some of the central Maine figures during the battle and afterwards.

Rik Scarce is a proud member, and former Board Member, of the Capital District Civil War Round Table. He became a Licensed Battlefield Guide (LBG) at Gettysburg National Military Park in May 2025 and in June became the 600th LBG to give a tour—he has since led more than 100 others. Rik is the producer of two feature-length films, including an Audience Choice award winning exploration of barefoot running, and has published four books and numerous scholarly articles and book chapters. He is in his final semester as a college professor—in sociology, not history! —at Skidmore College, having previously taught at Michigan State and Montana State.

DECEMBER BOOK RAFFLE



For the December meeting's book raffle, Steve Muller has the following titles selected to win:

New York at Gettysburg Guidebook
by R.L. Murray

The First Day at Gettysburg
edited by Gary Gallagher

*My Brother, My Enemy: Men & Days
Of Gettysburg*

By Joseph E. Persico

Abner Doubleday: His Life & Times

By JoAnn Smith Bartlett

CDCWRT 2025-2026 UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

January 10, 2026

Terrible Earnestness & the Reality of War

Civil War Era Stereo Cards

by Stuart Lehman

Election of Board Officers &
Book & Memorabilia Sale

February 14, 2026

Civil War Medicine: Myth & Memory

ZOOM presentation at the WSC

by Dr. Matt Farina

March 14, 2026

The Virginia Campaigns of 1862

ZOOM presentation at the WSC

by Chris Kolakowski

April 11, 2026

The History of the 125th NY Vol Infantry

Through Artifacts

by Mike Marchand

May 9, 2026

John Wilkes Booth & His Sister Asia Booth

Clark: A Special Relationship

by Lisa Samia

June 13, 2026

Gettysburg's Unknown Soldier: The Life,

Death & Celebrity of Amos Humiston

by Mark Dunkleman



UPCOMING PRESENTER LISA SAMIA

Lisa Samia will discuss the history of siblings John Wilkes Booth and sister Asia Booth Clarke, and Lisa's research into Asia's life and times, during our May 9 meeting.

Lisa G. Samia is an Award-Winning Poet and author specializing in American Civil War History. Her latest accomplishments include being selected as the National Parks Artist in Residence for Stones River, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 2025, the National Parks Service Artist in Residence for Manassas National Battlefield Park in 2021, and the National Park Service Artist in Residence for Gettysburg National Battlefield Park in 2020, all for poetry.

Her third Civil War poetry and essay book in the series, *The Nameless and the Faceless of the Civil War: Gettysburg, Manassas & More*, earned her a book nomination from the International Edgar Allan Poe Festival & Awards in October 2024, in Baltimore, MD.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

At each meeting we will have a variety of items for sale from Matt George's Civil War collection, including:

- **Books in very good condition including battle histories, biographies, and NY State regimental histories**

- **Polo Shirts and t-shirts**
- **High quality statuary in a variety of sizes**
- **Framed and unframed prints**
- **Battlefield Maps**

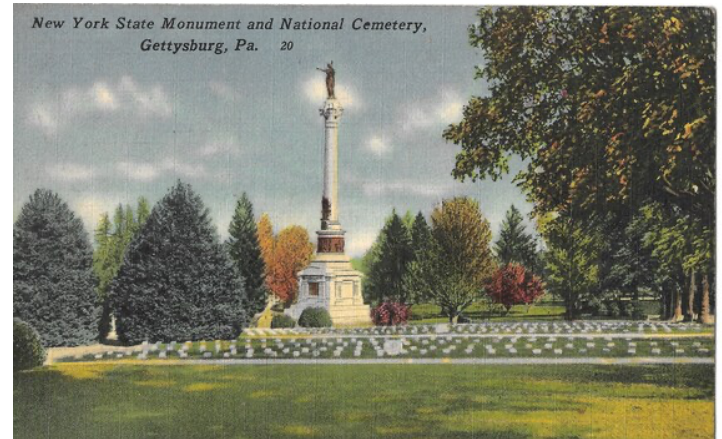


Figure 1 NY State Monument, Gettysburg Nat, Cemetery

NEW YORK AT GETTYSBURG By Rosemary Nichols

We are all familiar with the statement that in the Civil War New York provided more men, more materiel, and more money to the Union cause than any other state. The truth of that aphorism was powerfully demonstrated in the first three days of July 1863 at Gettysburg.

Beginning with the courageous cavalry stand on McPherson's Ridge on July 1 and continuing through the next two days until Lee's Confederates departed for their perilous journey back across the Potomac River, New York soldiers were literally everywhere on the Gettysburg battlefield.

This article focuses brief vignettes of famous elements of the three-day battle. There were many other units fighting bravely in many other incidents, but I wanted to keep this article within some bounds. In the future, I may do a piece on the rest of the New York units that fought at Gettysburg.

Brigadier General John Buford commanded almost 5,000 cavalry in the 1st Division when the experienced cavalry officer surveyed the ground in and around the little Pennsylvania community and decided this was "good ground" where the Union army could defeat Lee's second northern invasion.

In the 1st brigade of cavalry served the 8th NY (Rochester Regiment). The 2nd brigade had the 6th NY (2nd Ira Harris Guard), and the 9th NY (Stoneman's Cavalry). Though both brigades had men from all over New York, the 6th recruited heavily from New York City. Stoneman's Cavalry, by contrast, had troops drawn from all over the state.

After the intense fighting on the Emmitsburg Pike, the 2nd brigade was transferred to Heidlersburg Road, assigned to hold back the rebel line on the northern portion of the field until the 11th Corps arrived in much the same way as the entire 1st Division had successfully held back Heth's Confederates on the Emmitsburg Road until MG John Reynolds 1st Corps took the field on the western portion of the battlefield.



Figure 2: 76th NY Monument

Units in the 1st Corps included in BG Lysander Cutler's 1st Brigade were the 76th NY (Cortland Regiment), 84th NY (14th Brooklyn militia), 95th NY (Warren Rifles NYC), and 147th NY (Oswego Regiment).

The 2nd Brigade had the 9th NY (Hawkins Zouaves), 83rd NY (City Guards from NYC), 104th NY (Wadsworth Guards) and the 97th NY (3rd Oneida Regiment). Troops in the 3rd Brigade came from the 80th NY (Ulster Guard). These men represented a wide distribution of New York State soldiers.



Figure 3 147th NY Monument

The famed Irish Brigade was part of the 2nd Corps 1st Division 2nd Brigade. It was given special permission to recruit Irish soldiers. It was mainly composed of New York City regiments: the 63rd, 69th, 88th and 14 NY Independent Battery. The Brigade also included the 28th MA and the 116th PA.

The 11th Corps under the command of Oliver Otis Howard was composed primarily of soldiers of German extraction. Many of them had fought in the widespread rebellions across Europe in 1848 before emigrating to New York. These units were heavily recruited from New York City. In the 1st Division 1st Brigade under the command of BG Francis Barlow were elements of the 41st NY (DeKalb), 54th NY (Hiram Barney Rifles), and 68th NY (Cameron Rifles). The 2nd Brigade was commanded by BG Adelbert Ames. The 2nd Division, led by Brig. General Adolph von Steinwehr, included the 134th NY (recruited from Delaware, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, elements of the 136th (Ironclads from western NY), and the

154th (from central and western NY). The 3rd Division, led by Brig. General Alexander Schimmelfennig, included the 45th NY (5th German), 58th NY (Morgan Rifles), 119th NY (NYC), and the 157th NY (Madison and Cortland Counties).

James Pula, in a magisterial two volumes published recently by Savas Beatie, *Under the Crescent Moon with the XI Corps in the Civil War*, relies heavily upon the statements of officers and men at the time, and does much to restore the degraded reputation of the XI Corps after their terrible experience at Chancellorsville. The first volume covers the unit's experience up through Antietam. Volume 2 focuses on the Corps' experience through their transfer to the western theatre. It includes the Corps' fight at Gettysburg.



Figure 4 Gen George Greene Monument, Culps Hill

Brigadier General George Sears Greene commanded the 3rd Brigade 2nd Division of the 12th Corps. Greene, and his men earned everlasting fame for their stalwart defense of the extreme end of the Union right on Culp's Hill. Green's brigade was composed of five New York regiments: 60th (1st St. Lawrence), 78th (Cameron Highlanders), 102nd (Calcium Light, NYC), elements of the 137th (Ironclads, western NY) and the 149th (4th Onondaga).

Colonel Strong Vincent commanded the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division of the 5th Corps. In the four-regiment brigade were the 20th Maine, the 44th NY (Ellsworth's Avengers), the 16th Michigan and the 83rd Pennsylvania. That latter unit had the dubious honor of suffering the second highest number of battle deaths during the Civil War, second only to the 5th New Hampshire.

Seeing the strategic value of the 'little round hill', Vincent moved his brigade to protect what became known as Little Round Top without waiting for specific instructions. Vincent's final words to the members of his brigade as he placed them immediately next to the 20th Maine on the extreme left flank of the Union line was "Don't give up an inch." He was mortally wounded immediately thereafter. Many view Vincent, a Harvard-educated lawyer who recognized the military value of the little rocky hill, as one of the most underappreciated heroes of Gettysburg.

The history of the 44th is known to many of us. Born and raised in Mechanicville, Elmer Ellsworth was the earliest officer casualty of the Civil War. The 44th was initially recruited with the goal of representing every county in New York. When that ambition proved too challenging, the companies of the 44th were recruited generally from the Capital District. The regiment mustered in on August 30, 1861. By October 1862 battle deaths and disease left only 200 men of the regiment's original strength of 1100. Through military increases the regiment brought 460 men to the battle at Little Round Top. At the end of the three-day engagement the 44th had lost 26 killed, 82 wounded and 3 missing, earning them a place in Fox's Fighting 300.



Figure 5 Postcard of 44th NY Monument

The 'castle' on Little Round Top is the largest regimental monument and one of the 'must visit' sites on the Gettysburg battlefield. It was designed by Daniel Butterfield, the original Colonel of the 12th New York and Meade's Chief of Staff at Gettysburg and dedicated in 1893.

Many of us in the Round Table remember in detail the early travail of the 125th NYVI. Recruited in Troy and surrounding Rensselaer County communities, nicknamed the 3rd Troy Regiment, the 125th was part of an all New York brigade. It had 4 companies of the 39th (Garibaldi Guards), 111th (recruited in Cayuga and Wayne Counties), 125th and 126th (recruited in Ontario, Seneca and Yates Counties).



Figure 6 125th NY Monument

The 125th left Troy on August 30, 1862, and proceeded by rail to Martinsburg, VA. Days later it marched to and was engaged in the Battle of Harpers Ferry. A few of its number were killed and wounded during this battle,

and the regiment together with the rest of the garrison, totaling over 11,500 men, were surrendered to the Confederates on 15 September 1862.

With the other captured troops, the men were sent under parole to Camp Douglas, Chicago, to remain there while awaiting exchange, which was affected two months later on November 22. Thereafter the men of the regiment were known as "Harpers Ferry Cowards" though there was nothing they could have done to prevent their capture. Given 19th century views of soldier honor, this designation stung bitterly.

The 125th and its other brigade elements had the opportunity on July 2 to once again meet their Confederate captors. After standing in line at the soon-to-be famous stone wall, at 7 pm the brigade went to the support of the 3rd Corps. Shouting "Harpers Ferry, Harpers Ferry", the men charged and drove back Barksdale's Mississippi Brigade. Even the loss of their colonel, George L. Willard, as part of the charge, did not dim the unit's satisfaction. They had redeemed themselves and the epithet of "Harpers Ferry Cowards" for the 125th was erased. On July 3 the 125th was in front of the stone wall on the west side of what is now Hancock Avenue at the time of Longstreet's Assault.

These brief summaries of the highly engaged and justly famous of some New York regiments who fought at Gettysburg made legends both public and private when the fortunate soldiers returned home to their communities and families. These are by no means all the stories worth telling about New York units at Gettysburg.



Membership Form, 2026 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Membership Dues All dues go into the Regular Account (circle appropriate level)

Regular memberships can choose between emailed or mailed newsletters.

Regular: \$35

Student memberships come with only emailed newsletters.

Student: \$10

Additional Donation for the Operating Account

Pay for newsletters, program expenses, and
the use of the meeting space.

Donation for the Preservation Account

(Preservation money pays for donations to preserve historic
sites/lands, rental of the storage shed, and the Round Table's
insurance)

Total: _____

Newsletter Preference: Email _____ OR Mailed Copy _____

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If not: _____

Please mail your payment to: CDCWRT
P.O. Box 11493
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* Early payments will be held and deposited in January.

* Credit/Debit card payments can be made through www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org

CDCWRT
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LOUDONVILLE, NY 12211

Created in 1984, the Capital District Civil War Round Table is an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held monthly in various locations in the Capital District. This newsletter is published eleven times per year. Annual dues are \$35. The purpose of the organization is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of, all aspects of the Civil War period.

Contact the Capital District Civil War Round Table through
our website: www.capitaldistrictcivilwar.org
or email: cdcwrt@hotmail.com

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