

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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TWO PRESIDENTS LIE IN STATE IN ALBANY





Pictured above are the final resting places for Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. Both presidents, while in route to their graves, lay in state in Albany. This month's presentation tells the story of the stops in Albany. There will be local photographs and artifacts also on display.

OCTOBER MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015
NOTE DATE CHANGE!

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

Victory Turned into Mourning: Farewell to Lincoln and Grant At the New York State Capitol

Stuart Lehman

Social Hour	**6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**
Business Meeting	**7:00 – 7:15 p.m.**
Presentation	**7:15 – 7:45 p.m.**
Discussion	**7:45 - -8:15 p.m.**

CDCWRT MEETING

The October meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Watervliet Senior Center on Friday, October 16, 2015. Our special speaker is CDCWRT member, Stuart Lehman. His presentation is entitled **"Victory Turned into Mourning: Farewell to Lincoln and Grant at the New York State Capitol."**

One hundred and fifty years ago as the nation mourned its martyred president, a special funeral train journeyed from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois. Albany, New York was one of the major stops on its route. On April 26th, Lincoln's body lay in state in the old State Capitol building while 50,000 people filed by to pay their respects. At the exact same time, over 400 miles to the south, assassin John Wilkes Booth was cornered in a tobacco barn, shot by a New York cavalryman, and died of his wounds.

Twenty years later the New York State Capitol was once again the scene of a somber farewell as President Ulysses S. Grant lay in state in the new Capitol Building.

This program will explore these solemn events and their connection to the New York State Capitol.

Stuart W. Lehman works with the New York State Office of General Services as an Assistant Curator for the New York State Capitol. He develops Capitol education programs, and tours, including "living history" programs. He also conducts research into the history of the Capitol Building. Previously he worked with the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites at Senate House, Herkimer Home, and Schuyler Mansion. On weekends he participates in Revolutionary War re-enactments as a Colonial Doctor. He lives in Guilderland, New York, and is a member of the CDCWRT.

He will also be bringing a small display of artifacts, including a model of Lincoln's funeral car, "The United States." He has some carte de-visites that were produced as souvenirs of the Lincoln Funeral. He has a rare copy of an excursion train schedule for the Grant Funeral in Albany for the West Shore Railway. Stuart will bring an 1881 NYS National Guard 9th Regiment Helmet of the type worn during Grant's funeral.

President Ulysses S. Grant died on July 23 1885 at Mount McGregor in Wilton New York. He passed away from throat cancer shortly after finishing his memoirs. The memoirs were published by Mark Twain and became a best seller. The royalties from the memoirs restored the Grant family's fortune that had been wiped out in a financial swindle.

On August 4, 1885 a special train transported his remains to Albany, where an elaborate funeral procession climbed State Street Hill to the Capitol. The Parade included General William T. Sherman, Governor David B. Hill, most of the New York Legislature, and a host of other dignitaries. The parade was organized and led by Civil War Hero General Winfield Scott Hancock. As many as 5 thousand people participated in the procession. It included Civil War veterans, active military units including several regiments of the New York State National Guard, and a number of civic societies. Military bands and German singing societies provided mournful music.

Upon the completion of the procession the body was borne into the State Street Lobby of the Capitol where it was placed on an elaborate bier. The lobby was festooned with black bunting and illuminated with new incandescent electric lighting. The entrances to the Capitol were also well decorated with black bunting and symbols of mourning. From 6:45 in the evening until 10:00 the next morning a steady line of mourners entered the Washington Avenue entrance of the Capitol in a double line, passed through the Hawk Street passageway, divided into single file on either side of the coffin, and after paying their respects, left through the State Street entrance. At times the mourners passed through at a rate of 6 thousand people an hour. Over 47 thousand mourners passed through the Capitol in less than 16 hours. That day the remains continued on their journey to New York City, for more funeral ceremonies and eventual burial.

UP-COMING MEETING/ EVENTS.

On November 7, 2015, Saturday, the CDCWRT will sponsor the 5th Annual Sue Knost Memorial Conference at Hudson Valley Community College. This will be a one day conference with a sit down lunch. The luncheon speaker will be Patrick Schroeder, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park historian. There will be no regular meeting in November.

FLAG IDENTITIES

Last month's flag identities were cut off in the newsletter. They are identified below.

Top Row: 1st version of Confederate national flag (Stars & Bars); the Republic of West Florida (later adopted as the Bonnie Blue Flag); flag of North Vietnam and now all of Vietnam.

Middle Row: Federal Republic of Somalia (lighter blue); battle flag of the Army of Tennessee (Northern Virginia if flag is square); the Naval Ensign of Japan (national flag of Japan is centered red ball without sun rays)

Bottom Row: flag of the Governor of Northern Ireland; flag of the 8th Alabama Regiment; flag of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (the harp on a field of green was the unofficial flag of Ireland in 18th & 19th Centuries; modern flag is green, white & orange vertical bars)

