

The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 14871 Albany, NY 12212

www.cdcwrt.net



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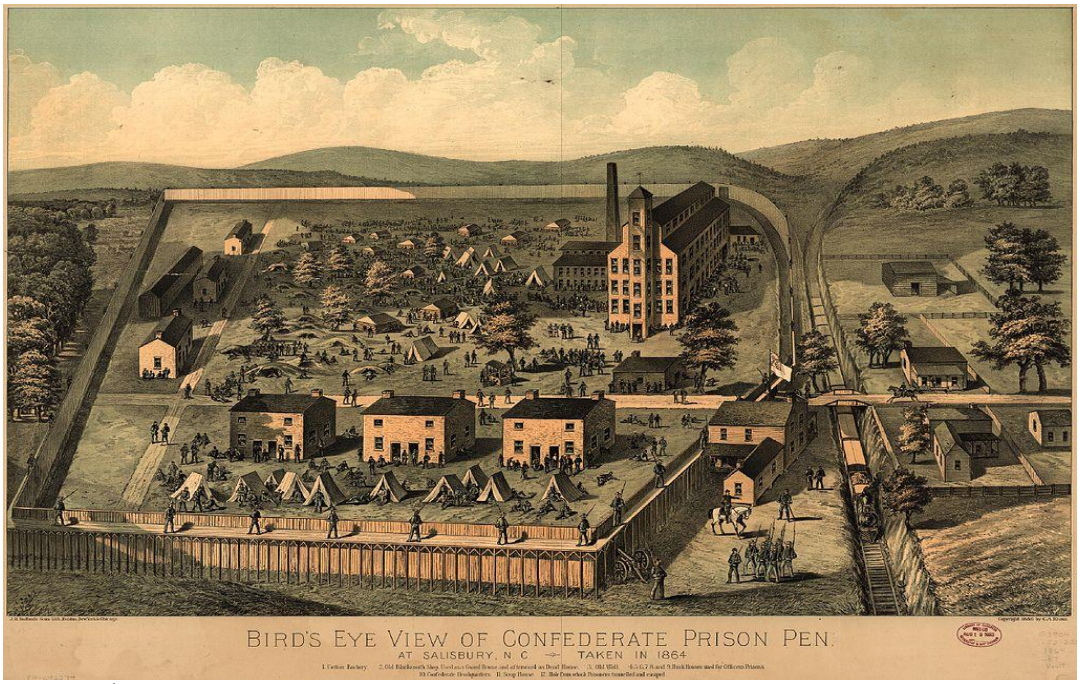

Salisbury was the 5th largest city in North Carolina. A prison, designed to hold 2000 men, was built there. The first group of 119 Union prisoners occupied the site in December 1861, and rose to 1400 by May 1862. Plentiful water and shade from oak trees, made the prison feel agreeable. In the early part of the war, prisoners were well cared for and even indulged in baseball as was recorded by Otto Boetticher. His drawing at Salisbury Confederate Prison is one of the first drawings ever of a baseball game in America. By October 1864 the prison held 5000, and 10,000 soon after that. Later when the prison became overcrowded and the death rate rose from 2% to 28%, mass graves were used to accommodate the dead. Approximately 3,500 – 5,000 unknown Union soldiers were buried in 18 trenches, 240 feet long. By February 1865, 3700 had been transferred to Greensboro and another 1500 to Richmond. By the time of Gen. George Stoneman's cavalry raid in April, the prison was a supply depot. Stoneman burned down the prison in April 1865 and a wood fence was built around the trenches. After the war, the Office of the Quartermaster General established a National Cemetery here a monument to the unknown dead was erected.

MARCH MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016

WATERVLIET SENIOR CENTER
1541 BROADWAY
WATERVLIET, NY

THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF A WATERFORD SOLDIER

Russ Vandervoort

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 March meeting of the CDCWRT will be held at the Watervliet Senior Center on Friday, March 11, 2016. Our special guest speaker is local historian and author, Russ Vandervoort, and the title of his presentation is,* "The Civil War Letters of a Waterford Soldier."**

The previously scheduled talk on Lincoln and Spiritualism was cancelled due to a speaker conflict. Russ has graciously agreed to fill in on very short notice.

The local Civil War soldier was Pvt. Charles W. Sheppard, who lived in Waterford. His story is told through a series of letters. Sheppard enlisted in December 1863, fought in 7 major battles, and was captured on August 24, 1864. He eventually died on January 25, 1865 in Salisbury Prison, NC.

DUES! DUES! DUES!

If there is a red mark near your name on the address portion of this newsletter, it indicates that you have not yet re-upped for another year. This may be the last newsletter you will receive if you remain in arrears. Please speak to Fran Mc Cashion.

BOARD MEETING

The February meeting was held on February 22, 2016. The treasurer reported $1,246 in the regular account and over $6,000 in the Preservation account.

There were 12 members who renewed their memberships and 3 new members joined. The CDCWRT will be participating in a number of events over the next several months. Volunteers are encouraged to talk to Matt George if you would like to help. Your attendance at these events is also encouraged, and more details will be announced in later newsletters.

The Civil War Trust has notified the CDCWRT that the round table is listed as a Brigade Level Color Bearer in the CWT. We have donated more than 100 times to preservation projects.

The website for the CDCWRT has been down for several weeks now, through no fault of the round table's webmaster. This has become unacceptable and the board is exploring a new location for our website. This has become a high priority for the board and hopefully we will have a new site within the month.

Finally, the board voted to donate $1,000 to the CWT to preserve a crucial piece of land at Fredericksburg. This is a 24:1match, so the donation will be leveraged to over $24,000.

UP-COMING MEETING/ EVENTS

On Friday, April 8, 2016, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Jamie Malinowski, who will talk about Commander Will Cushing.

On Saturday, April 9, 2016, the Siena College Day of Living History will take place from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. This year there will be even more participants than in years past. A sampling of the reenactors includes: The 2nd Albany County Militia, British 24th Foot, reenactors from Ft. Ticonderoga, Johnson Hall, Alexander's Battery Army of Northern Virginia, Historical Cricket, rope-making, children's toys and games and much more. This is free and open to the public.

On Friday, May 13, 2016, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor Mike Reetz, who will talk about Brigadier General Horace Porter.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5, 2016, the CDCWRT will participate in the King Solomon Masonic Lodge Civil War Days in Troy, NY. Details to follow.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12, 2016 the CDCWRT will participate in the Peterboro Civil War Weekend in Peterboro, NY. This village is an historic center for the Underground Railroad. More details to follow.

On Friday, June 10, 2016, the regular meeting of the CDCWRT will sponsor David Hochfelder, who will talk about the Freedman's Savings Bank.

On July 1-3, 2016, the 153rd Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg will take place in Gettysburg, PA. The CDCWRT will be sponsoring a postal cancellation at two locations. A cancel stamp has been designed for the 3 day event. A cottage has been rented for attendees from the round table and volunteers are encouraged to talk to Matt George. More details will follow.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 19-21, 2016 at Schuyler Flatts on the Hudson River, the annual historic military weekend will occur. The CDCWRT has scheduled its annual picnic on Friday of this weekend. Save this date.

UCALL SPRING COURSE AT UNION COLLEGE

Five lectures will be held at Union College as part of the spring program. All lectures are scheduled for Wednesday afternoons beginning at 12:30 pm.

APRIL 6, 2016: Matt Farina, MD will describe the medical advances that were made during the war and deal with some of the myths and truths of 19th Century medicine.

April 13, 2016: Union College Prof. Andrea Foroughi's talk will focus on the home front during the war where its direct consequences literally came home not only as battles were waged on their land, but also through guerrilla warfare, urban riots and frontier fighting.

April 20, 2016: Maxine Getty, retired Senior Master Sargent, US Air Force, will portray Mary A.R. Livermore, abolitionist, teacher, nurse and suffragette through her trials and tribulations during this turbulent time in our history.

April 27, 2016: Matt George, Civil War re-enactor, will portray a private from the 134th New York regiment on detached duty to educate the public about his war experiences and the motivations that prompted him and others to join the fight.

May 4, 2016: Michael Barrett, Executive Director of the Burden Iron Works Museum, will present a true story of the people and events, including the 1863 draft riots, which had a significant impact on the Civil War and made Troy a great city.